

BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION | MEETING 1 | 2024

Date Time:	Thursday, 29 February 2024 / 14:00– 18:00 Friday, 1 March 2024 / 09:00 – 16:00
Venue:	Vienna, AUT
Participants:	
BC	Gabriella Horváth (HUN) Chairwoman Mário Bernardes (POR) Promotion and Development Marek Góralczyk (POL) Events and Competition Jiri Opava (CZE) Officiating Marco Trespidi (ITA) Game Design and Coaching
EHF Office	Tobia Pisani Beach Handball Manager Alexandra Horváth Beach Handball Coordinator

1. Welcome

The EHF Beach Handball Commission (BC) Chairwoman Gabriella Horváth welcomed the members of the commission to the first meeting in 2024. It was noted that many topics will be discussed.

1.1. Minutes BC Meeting 09/2023

The minutes of the last meeting in September 2023 were approved without any comments.

1.2. Technical Delegation (TD) Meeting

G. Horváth informed on the TD meeting held on 29 February, the minutes will be available.

2. Online Testing & eLearning

2.1. Status Update - Last Test Results and Statistics of the Officials

Alexandra Horváth shared the results of the last testing period and a presentation of the statistics of the beach handball officials: currently, the number of active beach handball Referees is 102 – (39 women and 63 men) from 24 NFs; and the number of active beach handball Delegates is 70 (18 women and 52 men) from 27 NFs.

2.2. Development of Online Testing for Officials

2.2.1. Review December 2023

Nearly 250 new questions were implemented for the online testing, elaborated according to the terminology of the Rules of the Game and the Beach Handball Glossary.

As of 2024, the amount of online testing periods will be reduced from 3 to 2:

- Start of the season (Test: 4 – 18 December 2023, Re-test: 22 December 2023 – 5 January 2024)
- Midseason (Test: 6 – 20 May 2024, Retest: 24 May – 7 June 2024)

The EHF Office will investigate internally the topic of creating a platform within the eLearning system for referees and delegates to practice for the online tests.

2.2.2. Online Workshop April 2024

In addition, a mandatory workshop for EHF Beach Handball Officials will be organized on the 11th of April 2024 to provide guidelines and updates on the upcoming season.

2.3. Online Teaching Materials for Referees

The teaching materials for Referee were updated in collaboration with the University of Las Palmas. The new videos with the latest rule interpretation are now published on the EHF beach handball website.

3. European Beach Handball Tour (ebt)

3.1. ebt Season – status

A. Horváth shared a presentation regarding the ebt season data and statistics. For the current season, 19 tournaments in 8 countries and 106 teams from 20 NFs (previous season: 113 men's and 83 women's from 20 NFs) are registered. 14 ebt National Observers were nominated by NFs. The season 2023/2024 will be the 20th for ebt, and several activities are going to be organized to celebrate this milestone.

3.2. ebt Finals 2024

The ebt Finals 2024 will take place in Lacanau (FRA) from 13 to 16 June 2024. The site visit was held in December and the overall conditions are promising. 14 teams per gender are registered. The preparation of the event is ongoing following the schedule.

3.3. ebt future concept

The ebt competition is being reviewed by BC Member Marek Góralczyk and a plan will be presented at the following meeting.

3.3.1. New ebt website

The brand new ebt website was released on 21st February 2024. The website has been meticulously designed to provide a modern and user-friendly interface, ensuring a seamless and enjoyable browsing experience.

4. Beach Handball EURO

4.1. EHF YAC16 Beach Handball EURO 2024

The EHF YAC16 Beach Handball Euro 2024 will be played in Varna (BUL) from 4 to 7 July 2024. 18 women's and 16 men's teams registered. The preparation of the tournament is ongoing following the schedule, and good collaboration with the BUL Federation.

4.2. EHF Beach Handball Championships 2024

The senior qualification tournament for the EHF Beach Handball EURO 2025 will take place in Varna (BUL) from 11 to 14 July 2024. The registration is ongoing.

4.3. Event Calendars for the Upcoming Years

The calendar covering the period 2024-2025-2026 can be found in the appendix (attachment 1). The bids for hosting the events 2025 are going to be shared in the upcoming weeks. A careful analysis will be carried out to identify which method and age group can guarantee the best development for young athletes and if the structure of the EHF Beach Handball YAC Competitions should be renovated in the future. As the responsible of the area, Góralczyk will present a proper plan at the following meeting.

5. EHF Beach Handball Champions Cup (ChC)

5.1. Champions Cup 2024 – Status Update

The last club competition in 2024 will take place in Porto Santo (POR) from 10 to 13 October 2024. 16 teams per gender will take part. The collaboration with the local organiser is very positive and the expectations for the third edition of the tournament in Porto Santo are high. An evaluation of the future editions of the event is needed.

6. EHF Education Courses 2024

6.1. Course Plan for 2024 / EHF Officials

The first Education Course for EHF Beach Handball Delegate and Referee will be held alongside the ebt Finals 2024 and 4 delegates and 8 referee candidates are going to be selected. The registration process was opened on the 4 March 2024. The second course will be organized alongside the EHF Champions Cup 2024 in Porto Santo, which will accommodate 4 delegates and 8 referee candidates. Opava presented the idea of the EHF Beach Handball Referee Candidate focusing on young talents and emerging countries' referees. The detailed plan will be shared with the BC in the upcoming months.

The plan for the Education Courses 2025 will be evaluated during the next BC Meeting, considering the number of the active beach handball officials.

6.2. Course Plan for 2024 / Coaches

The EHF Coaches' Courses – Beach Handball Specialisation 3 are going to be organized in Lacanau (FRA) alongside the ebt tournament as well as alongside the EHF Beach Handball Championships in Varna (BUL). The detailed information and the registration process details are going to be shared with the NFs shortly.

6.3. Online Workshop with NT Coaches – Rules and Game Development

An online workshop with European NT Coaches will be organised before the start of the season. The agenda will be focused on the opportunities in terms of the development of the game and the potential change of the rules to improve the quality and the spectacularisation of beach handball games. The meeting will be held online on the 25 April 2024.

6.4. Nomination of the EHF Experts

The list of the EHF Expert candidates with beach handball expertise was reviewed and shared with the Method Commission and Sport & Game Services department. The confirmation of the profile will be done in the upcoming months. The list will become official once confirmed by the EHF ExeC in April and valid by 1 July 2024.

7. EUSA Games 2024

7.1. Status Update

The event for the University teams will take place in Debrecen (HUN) from 22 to 24 July 2024. 12 teams per gender will be part of the competition. Marco Trespidi (ITA) is the Technical Delegate and the BC agreed on Ana Diez Fernandes (ESP) as Technical Delegate assistant, she will be nominated shortly after her confirmation. EHF is providing the materials (goals, line systems and balls), nominated the Officials (4 referee pairs and 4 delegates) and will support remotely the TD before and during the event.

8. Publications

8.1. Beach Handball Studies 2023

Trespidi has given an update on the ongoing beach handball studies and publications in cooperation with the EHF Experts.

- Goalkeeping – The study was delivered by Valérie Nicolas (FRA) and Tamás Neukum (HUN) and the internal review is ongoing.
- Differences between Men’s and Women’s Beach Handball – The estimated publication time of the study is expected by the EHF Experts Gorm Andersen (DEN) and Alexander Novakovic (GER) by May 2024.
- Development and Preparation of the Danish and Spanish Women’s National Team – The research is carried out by Morten Frandsen Holmen (DEN) and Juan Pablo Murillo (ESP) as quantitative and qualitative research on the preparation and evaluation of the EHF Beach Handball EURO 2023. The paper is delivered and the internal review is ongoing.

8.2. Plan for 2024

Trespidi presented the plan for beach handball publications for 2024.

- Mental preparation for the shoot-out in beach handball – The research will be done by EHF Expert Bojana Jelacic.
- Physical Preparation – In 2024 a new study is expected to be published in cooperation with Carmen Machado, MC Member, and Marco Cardinale, Executive Director of Research and Scientific Support at Aspetar in Qatar.

9. IHF Matters

9.1. Worldwide Planned Activities

The updated international beach handball activities are as follows:

- 8 to 12 May 2024 – Beach Handball Global Tour – Marica, BRA
- 18 to 23 June 2024 – Men’s and Women’s Beach Handball World Championships 2024 - Pingtan, CHN
- 27 to 29 July 2024 – Beach Handball Showcase - Paris, FRA
- 15 and 16 August 2024 – Beach Handball Global Tour – Cadiz, ESP
- 7 to 9 November 2024 – Beach Handball Global Tour Finals – Doha, QAT- TBC

- 7 to 11 May 2025 – Beach Handball Global Tour – Marica, BRA, TBC
- 17 to 22 June 2025 – Men’s and Women’s Youth (U17) Beach Handball World Championships – Hammamet, TUN
- 24 to 27 July 2025 – Beach Handball Global Tour, Venue, TBC
- 7 to 17 August 2025 – The World Games 2025, Chengdu, CHN (exact dates of the beach handball tournament TBC)
- November 2025 – Beach Handball Global Tour Finals – Doha, QAT

During the Olympic Games 2024 in Paris, a beach handball showcase event will take place from 27 to 29 July in front of the Maison du Handball (FRA Federation HQ) in an area that will be a fan zone during the Olympics. 4 teams per gender, 3 of which will be of all-star type and the France national teams. A professional production company will organise the event under the IHF umbrella.

9.2. Online Meeting with IHF Beach Handball Working Group

The online meeting between the BC and the IHF Beach Handball Working Group was held on the 29th of February between 17:00 to 19:00. Important topics such as coordination of the overall event calendar, the development of the rules of the game, the beach handball promotion and the officials' nominations were discussed during the meeting. The minutes are available.

10. Miscellaneous

10.1. Review of the Competitions' Regulations

The competitions' regulations need to be updated in different aspects and a joint plan with the legal department will be developed in this respect.

10.2. Beach Handball Webinar

Three slots are available for holding a webinar in the topics of beach handball. The BC agreed on the following topics.

- How can beach handball contribute to indoor handball?
 - Lecturer: Gabriella Horváth
 - Date: week 16 (15-19 April 2024)
- Differences between men's and women's beach handball
 - Lecturer(s): Gorm Andersen & Alexander Novakovic EHF Experts
 - Date: week 20 (13-17 May 2024)
- Beach handball physical preparation
 - Lecturer: Marco Cardinale
 - Date: at the end of the season (November)

10.3. National Federations Survey data result and analysis

A survey was sent to the NFs to understand the status of beach handball activities in every country. The data will be relevant for improving the planning of beach handball projects for the coming years.

10.4. Beach Handball Nations Ranking

The Beach Handball Nations Ranking 2023 was developed based on the results of the National Teams, Senior and YAC, over the last 3 years. The ranking will be published at the beginning of March.

10.5. Mini Beach Handball at School Project Update

The EHF Expert Alex Gehrler is leading the activity, with support from the EHF Office. The school lessons were held in October, November and December 2023, the written documentation will be finalised in the upcoming months. The video documentation is planned to be held in May 2024. The outcome of the project will be published on the EHF channels and shared with the NFs, with the aim to replicate the same model in other countries for a widespread promotion of beach handball on a school level.

10.6. EHF Beach Handball Development Programme

EHF reiterates its willingness to continue supporting NFs for the development of beach handball activities in their countries and to enlarge the number of active National Federations. In 2024 the European Handball Federation will support 9 countries with beach handball materials (BEL, CRO, DEN, ITA, NED, POL, POR, SUI, SVK). Further requests should be evaluated in the upcoming months.

10.7. EHF Conference for Secretaries General

Beach Handball will be present at the EHF Conference for Secretaries General, taking place in Copenhagen (DEN) from 20 to 22 March 2024. A presentation about the status of the beach handball activities, promotion and plan for the future seasons will be shared with the NF.

10.8. Open Topic

10.8.1. Event Structure for the Future

The overall structure of the beach handball competitions needs a review. BC Member Góralczyk is responsible for providing a plan of action at the following BC meeting in August 2024.

10.8.2. Master Plan

The BC members reviewed the status of the Master Plan in their specific areas of competence and confirmed the allocation of tasks accordingly.

10.8.3. Club Workshop

Bernardes presented the overall idea and the possible lecturers at the club workshop which is planned to be held in September 2024. Further development of the idea will be presented at the next meeting.

With the agenda completed, Gabriella Horváth Chairwoman thanked the members of the Beach Handball Commission for their contribution and closed the meeting.

8 March 2024

For the minutes: Tobia Pisani

Alexandra Horváth

ASSIGNMENT OF TASKS

2. Online Testing & eLearning

2.2.2. Online workshop April 2024 | Preparation of the topics Opava/EHF Office

3. European Beach Handball Tour

3.2. ebt Finals 2024 | Preparation of the event EHF Office

3.3. ebt Future concept Góralczyk

4. Beach Handball EUROS

4.1. YAC16 BH EURO | Preparation of the event EHF Office

4.2. BH Championships | Preparation of the event EHF Office

4.3. Event Calendar for the Upcoming Years | Review of the YAC Competition system Góralczyk

5. EHF Beach Handball Champions Cup (ChC) 2024

5.1. Preparation of the event EHF Office

6. EHF Education Courses 2024

6.1. EHF Education Courses 2024

Preparation of the courses

Nomination of EHF Experts

Opava/Trespidi

EHF Office

6.3. Online Forum with NT Coaches – Rules and Game Development

Preparation of the workshop

Trespidi/EHF Office

7. EUSA Games 2024

Coordination with EUSA

Preparation of the event

Nomination of TD Assistant

Trespidi/EHF Office

Trespidi/EHF Office

EHF Office

8. Publications

8.1. Beach Handball Studies 2023

Publications | Coordination among the EHF Experts

Internal review

Trespidi

EHF Office

8.2. Plan 2024 | Preparation of the plan and coordination among the EHF Experts

Trespidi

9. IHF Matters

Regular exchange of information EHF/IHF

EHF Office

10. Miscellaneous

10.1. Review of the Competitions' Regulations

Review of the competitions' regulation

Góralczyk/EHF Office

10.2. Beach Handball Webinars

EHF Office

10.5. Mini Beach Handball in Schools | Coordination of the project

EHF Office

10.6. EHF Beach Handball Development Programme | Coordination of the project

EHF Office

10.7. EHF Conference for Secretaries Generals | Preparation

G. Horváth/EHF Office

10.8. Open Topics

10.8.1. Events Structure for the Future

Góralczyk

10.8.2. Masterplan | Regular updating of the projects' status

All members

10.8.3. Club Workshop | Development of the idea, coordination with lecturers

Bernardes

ATTACHMENT 1 – BEACH HANDBALL EVENT CALENDAR

2024

Competition	Date	Venue
Beach Handball Global Tour_Stage 1	8 - 12 May 2024	Marica (BRA)
ebt Finals	13 - 16 June 2024	Lacanau (FRA)
Beach Handball World Championships	18 - 23 June 2024	Pingtan (CHN)
YAC16 Beach Handball EURO	4 - 7 July 2024	Varna (BUL)
Beach Handball Championships	11 - 14 July 2024	Varna (BUL)
EUSA Games	22-24 July 2024	Debrecen - Miskolc (HUN)
Beach Handball Olympic Showcase	27 - 29 July 2024	Paris (FRA)
Beach Handball Global Tour_Stage 2	15 - 16 August 2024	Cadiz (ESP)
Champions Cup	10 - 13 October 2024	Porto Santo (POR)
Beach Handball Global Tour Finals	7 - 9 November 2024	Doha (QAT) - TBC

2025

Competition	Date	Venue
Beach Handball Global Tour_Stage 1	7 - 11 May 2025	Marica (BRA) - TBC
ebt Finals	5 - 8 June 2025	TBD
U17 Beach Handball World Championships	17 - 22 June 2025	Hammamet (TUN)
YAC17 EURO	3 - 6 July 2025	TBD
EHF Beach Handball EURO	8 - 13 July 2025	TBD
Beach Handball Global Tour_Stage 2	24 - 27 July 2025	TBD
The World Games 2025	7 - 17 August 2025*	Chengdu (CHN)
Champions Cup	9 - 12 October 2025	TBD
Beach Handball Global Tour Finals	November 2025 - TBC	Doha (QAT)

*exact dates of BH tournament TBC

2026

Competition	Date	Venue
ebt Finals	4 - 7 June 2026	TBD
YAC16 EURO	2 - 5 July 2026	TBD
Beach Handball Championships	9 - 12 July 2026	TBD
Champions Cup	8 - 11 October 2026	TBD