
MINUTES TO THE 174TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Date | Time: 18 April 2024 | 14:00-16:30
19 April 2024 | 09:15 – 10:45

Venue: Renaissance Wien Hotel | Strassburg I &II

Executive:	Michael Wiederer	President
	Predrag Bošković	First Vice President
	Henrik La Cour	Vice President Finances
	Božidar Djurković	Chairman Competitions Commission
	Pedro Sequeira	Chairman Methods Commission
	Gabriella Horvath	Chairwoman Beach Handball Commission
	Stefan Lövgren	Member
	Franjo Bobinac	Member
	Francisco V. Blázquez Garcia	Member
	Bente Aksnes	Member
	Mark Schober	Chairman Nations Board
	Xavier O’Callaghan	Chairman Professional Handball Board
	Leonor Mallozzi	Chairwoman Women’s Handball Board
Office:	Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
	Bernhard Binder	Chief Finance Officer
	Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
	Vesna Lazic	PA to the President
	Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Minutes

1. Welcome, Programme, Agenda

President Wiederer opened the two-part session held in Vienna; moving into the agenda, he noted the dense timetable covering the two days and expected a swift handling of the topics in the first half of the meeting whilst recognising that certain items would require discussion. Acknowledging the comment from Member Schober, the documentation supporting the meeting was over 800 pages.

2. EXEC 01/2024 – Minutes / Follow-up

With no additional comment or question, the minutes to the 173rd Executive Committee meeting held in January in Cologne, Germany are adopted by the Executive Committee.

3. Business Reports

3.1. Secretary General

With the extensive report covering the daily EHF business activities, made available to the Executive Committee Members, Secretary General Hausleitner highlighted the following points.

Personnel | EHF Office: the recruitment process in several departments is ongoing; actions taken to develop personnel are also mentioned in the report.

2024 Activities: The list of activities covers the time until June 2024, some of which are in the final stages of preparation such as the Referee Convention, the inauguration of the Women's European Handball League Board in Budapest, the European Handball Talks in Cologne, as well as the last Executive Committee meeting of the season in Oslo which will be followed by the EHF Champions Leagues draw event in Vienna on 27 June. Thus, the list mirrors the challenges faced by the office staff in the organisation of these activities and events, which requires the coordination of the interests of the stakeholders also preparing various changes in the competition regulations. Information regarding other meetings i.e. the Sustainability Board and the Grassroots Convention is also detailed in the report but is also on the agenda.

Business Development: the EHF is currently in negotiations with a company that produced an app and analysing the possibility of becoming a shareholder with the objective to deliver a training app to the handball community, and use the opportunity to develop training for all age categories in keeping with the 'Circle of a Handball Life', and to benefit from the data mining the app.

Technical Partner Negotiations: with many of the agreements with technical partners expiring in 2024, the EHF began negotiations with various partners (Kinexon, Swiss Timing, Accredito, etc.) with the view to extending cooperations (by the end of the summer) and to provide a clear picture of partnerships going forward.

14th Conference for Secretaries General: Hausleitner underlined the excellent cooperation with the Federations. The range of topics incited intense discussions in the breakout forums. He also thanked the EXEC members for their presence in Copenhagen. The topics handled at the 14CfSG are listed in the extensive documentation presented to the Executive Committee but are also reflected in the upcoming motions as well as future initiatives.

2024 Excellence Awards: the location for the next edition has been selected and the 2-part voting process has been determined. After the Final4 in Cologne, the voting for the team of the year will start to be followed by the voting for the player of the year in the autumn. The event also foresees the induction of legends into the 'Hall of Fame'.

Equipment Partners: the EHF is currently in negotiations with Hummel and moving in the direction of better conditions; also in discussion are referee equipment packages. Regarding the Women's EHF EURO 2024, the EHF is also working to find a sleeve advertiser. An updated report will be given at the next meeting in June.

Infront Partnership: Hausleitner spoke on the positive collaboration towards the organisation of the EHF EURO in Germany. This was a clear success for Infront, as well as the EHF. Prior to,

during, and after the event there were various meetings and debriefs. Following the event and based on the written reports, Infront wishes to find a new strategy for EHF TV as they envision a pay model, which would mean a change in the current partner, the changes in YouTube features also need to be considered; this led to an intensive (and currently ongoing) discussion where the benefits versus the challenges are being debated.

Media: the department delivered all the EHF EURO 2024 GER reports; the Executive Summary, the Digital Report, as well as the TV Report. The Digital Report offers the deepest insight into the event presenting a clear picture of what worked and what did not. This is the basis for the evaluation intended to move the product towards more success and eliminate what is no longer working. Hausleitner highlighted the success of the collaboration with the participating national federations who generated 40% of the reach by using the content delivered by the EHF. The TV Report summarising the figures showed stability; the event resulted in increased broadcasting hours, excellent social media figures across all platforms, and tremendous visibility. Moreover, the EURO 2024 unveiled two pieces of long format content capturing many emotional moments. ‘Kretzsche - The Handball Punk’ had its official screening at a cinema during the EURO; the event promotional film, ‘Here to Win’ was distributed to 8 major broadcasters and the national federations are also promoting the films on their platforms.

Masterplan: reference was taken to the detailed report submitted to the Executive Committee covering the current initiatives. Hausleitner highlighted the result of the Emerging Nations Round Table, new contacts to the smaller federations were established in relation to the Masterplan; the EHF is currently working on the evaluations, also providing recommendations and advice. The National Federations, in cooperation with the EHF, are documenting processes in a detailed way to preserve a record of ‘Best Practice’ examples and are using the administrative event platforms, such as the conferences, to highlight them. To this end, Hausleitner used the activities out of POR and underlined that the EHF now sees well-developed federations coming with the approach to strengthen the 6 to 10 age groups, the design plan focuses on early education, and it was deemed an area where the EHF could support the most. The POR plan was subsequently approved by the Executive Committee.

3.2. Legal Management

Wiederer, referencing the accompanying written report, underlined the large amount of work undertaken to ensure that the rundown of the legal activities is handled in a professional way, and emphasised the importance of running proper processes.

Turning to integrity measures, he felt it important to mention the new second instance review of the Nachevski case; the Court of Appeal had returned the case to the Court of Handball and, followed by the challenging of the initial panel. Thus, a new panel was installed to review the case and it decided again to suspend D. Nachevski. This decision will be challenged another time by the lawyers and result in a treatment by the second instance CoA. Following on from this, it was mentioned that the cases of the three referee couples were handled by the EHF

legal department in cooperation with the police force. Two couples accepted the request to attend an interview in Vienna, and one couple (upon their legal advice) did not. It was underlined that all cases are closed based on a lack of evidence of wrongdoing. Consequently, the EHF Initiator of Proceedings determined that against the two couples that attended the interview no legal proceedings will follow and they will be reintegrated into the officiating pool; against the third couple, due to a lack of cooperation, a case will be initiated.

EHF EURO Regulations | Revision: it is apparent that there remain many old and outdated statements within the documents which are to be removed, as these are only editorial changes, no approval of the Executive Committee is required. However, the full list was presented to the EXEC. Additional motions mentioned in the addendum to the Legal Report are to be treated by the Executive Committee by Circular decision only after a conference with the EHF Nations Board has taken place where the motions will be discussed.

Ratification of IHF Regulations: various regulations were recently confirmed respectively previous decision on regulations communicated by the IHF. Upon closer review it is clear that some of the IHF decisions can only be implemented if they are validated by the respective Continental Federation i.e. IHF Referee Age Limit (see AP 8.1.) Therefore, with specific reference to the IHF Equipment Regulations and the recent amendments therein, the IHF settled the matter, and the document was updated and distributed.

3.3. European Anti-Doping Unit

The Executive Committee took note of the report submitted by the EAU. For the sake of completeness, it was reported that the EAU is awaiting information on the case concerning a Swiss national team player from a Champions League club before further action is taken at the EHF level.

3.4. Sustainability Board

Expanding on the report at hand, Franjo Bobinac, Chairman of the EHF Sustainability Board spoke on the activities and steps undertaken since the establishment of the SB in January. With the support of the Executive Committee and the nominated experts, the framework was established and developed. Now out of the EHF Sustainability Strategy unveiled in 2023, the action plans surrounding the three key pillars – Sustainable Governance, Environmental Sustainability, and Social Sustainability – will be cemented.

Bobinac informed the Executive Committee that the work plan will not only tackle issues of climate change within the sphere of the sport, but also broader issues that underline the complexity of the task, such as doping, corruption, safeguarding, and even the construction of the new EHF office building. Another step is education and communication with the handball community, where the opportunity to learn from experts on how to improve in such areas was highlighted. The SB is currently defining the vision statement. In closing, it was expressed that

it would be possible to encourage players to be the ambassadors and promoters of sustainability.

Taking note of the report, Wiederer noted that having seen the presentations of the World Championship applicants, sustainability is a key element of all applications, therefore, on the top-level of handball, there is already a strong awareness for sustainable events.

3.5. EHF Services & Infrastructure GmbH

Supplementing the report from the 4th meeting of the EHF SI Advisory Board, Hausleitner led with the latest information the construction of the building, the topping out ceremony, the meetings to matters of internal fixings and furnishings, and noted that there were many decisions still to be taken. EHF Marketing will occupy the building in December 2024, the EHF will make the transition to the new building in January 2025. The timeline for the official handover (keys) and the date of the soft opening during the EHF EURO remain unchanged. The intent of the EHF to host the majority of all meetings in the new building in the future was reiterated.

CFO Binder informed on the initiative to attain the Austrian ‘KlimaAktiv’ certification through the use a heat pump system, photovoltaic energy sourcing, charging stations for green vehicles, etc.; this is the 2nd best accolade that can be achieved by businesses in the country. He confirmed that the project was still within the granted budget and that a tax refund had been secured. Finally, i the EHF SI GmbH underwent a full financial examination (task assigned to the EHF Comptrollers); a financial loss (EUR 180k) for the full year of 2023 was reported and according to the planning.

3.6. EHF Marketing GmbH

As evidenced in the reports provided, the business of EHF Marketing is proceeding accordingly. Full transparency is upheld as there is a clear progression of information exchange and decision making via the Club Boards and the Advisory Board. EHF continues to engage with Infront, and also continues to work in close cooperation with the Clubs on many issues such as structure, legal aspects, and finances. The next meeting will be the EHF Advisory Board in Budapest in June.

The awarding of the Final4 events lies with the EHF Executive Committee in close coordination with EHF. Thus, it was noted that negotiations are ongoing with the partners in Cologne looking to a prolongation of the men’s CL Final4 agreement and with the Hungarian Handball Federation and its agency regarding the women’s Champions League Final4 in Budapest. Concerning the European Leagues, the host situation is still undertaken on a year-to-year basis. Following the women’s event in Graz, it will be evaluated to determine if EHF can bear to carry the project. The first men’s European League Final4 on a neutral ground will be in Hamburg, and then EHF will open negotiations with the city about the future.

4. Finances

4.1. Finance Delegation 03/2024 – Minutes and Decisions

Vice President Finances, Henrik La Cour gave an account of the matters, including requests dealt with at the most recent meeting of the Finance Delegation (FD) in March. In addition to the standard reports covering the area of transfer income and federation accounts, the FD also received information on the EHF EURO compensations as well as the next steps towards achieving status as an international association.

The matter of ‘Adaptation of Fees’ was a central point of the meeting as it will impact the budgets of 2024 and beyond. The European Consumer Price Index increased by 6,36% and thus well above the threshold of 5% and index adaptation must be applied according to the decision of the EHF Congress 2023 in Basel. The application of this adaptation will effect the following areas: entry fees for all competitions, daily allowances (also in relation to IHF payments), other fees (late entry, deposits, etc.), legal fees incl. penalties and fines, and solidarity payments. Except for the EHF EURO events, the referee and delegate packages remain unchanged.

Furthermore, the Men’s EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers share was adapted to equal shares also for the EURO Cup participants. Overall, the 2024 budget will receive an additional income of EUR 36k but will also have to bear additional expenses of EUR 125k; this will be reflected in the updated budget in June 2024.

The Executive Committee confirmed the application of the index linked increases.

4.2. Status Accounting 2023

Vice President Finances Henrik La Cour stated that all documents were delivered to the auditor and the figures have only slightly changed; the loss of EUR 3,4 Mio will be offset in 2024. The final result was presented in January and subsequently the statutory audit was finalised on 9 April with no major remarks, and prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee the EHF Comptrollers concluded their examination of the 2023 accounts; the report will follow. Total revenues amounted to EUR 22,7 Mio., and total expenditure reached EUR 18,8 Mio. For information, EHF EURO 2024 deferrals are EUR 7,7 Mio. In accordance with procedure, all final accounting will be presented at the EHF Congress in 2025.

4.3. Budget 2024

Referring to the document at hand, CFO Binder informed the Executive Committee that concerning the final accounting of the EHF EURO 2024 GER further clarifications with the OC are taking place, but a conclusion is expected within the next weeks.

The adaptation of fees discussed under AP 4.1. has not been included in the actual budget. Therefore, the budget will be adapted and presented at the meeting in June. The payments

according to the Congress decision to the National Federations and, respectively, the Clubs are concluded. Over 250 clubs delivered released players to the national teams for the event.

Overall, the EHF can await estimated revenues of EUR 25,62 Mio and expenses of EUR 29.5 Mio which are offset by accruals carried forward from 2023 for the January EURO event totalling EUR 7,75 Mio. For the two-year period 2023-2024, a minor loss of EUR 31k can be expected.

5. Commissions – Minutes / Reports and Decisions

5.1. Technical Delegation

Chairman Božidar Djurković briefly summarised the topics discussed by the Technical Delegation (TD) that met on 29 February in Vienna. Overall, the theme of the meeting was game development; the TD were satisfied with the implementation of the instant video replay (VR) at the most recent events, the necessary evaluation in preparation for the women's event will be undertaken. YAC events, the Referee Convention, the Masterplan, the Excellence Awards, as well as education were also discussed; further details can be found in the report of the Technical Delegation as well as across the agenda.

5.2. Competitions Commission

As the minutes to the meeting were submitted to the Executive Committee, CC Chairman Djurković continued by providing an overview of the most recent meeting of the Competitions Commission.

The 2023/24 season is going well, all matches except those with a team from ISR were played according to schedule. Both Champions Leagues and the Men's European League will resume at the end of April; the Women's European League is concluded, and the Finals are scheduled. The Women's EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers are concluded, the teams of FAR, POR, SVK and TUR qualified as 3rd ranked teams; the Final Tournament Draw will take place in Vienna on the same day as the EXEC meeting. In the men's competitions, one Play-Off round remains in the 2025 Men's World Championship Qualification Europe. The 11 KO matches are planned for 8 – 12 May.

To the 2024 YAC events, the office is working in close coordination with the organisers in the final preparation stages in SLO, MNE, KOS, and SVK. The bidding documents for the 2025 YAC events will be distributed following the EXEC meeting and the decision about the daily rates; the awarding of the events is planned for June 2024.

In the area of officiating, the next EHF Referee Candidates Courses are scheduled in April and July. It is intended that the successful couples will be nominated to the YAC event in August as with the Youth and Junior Women's World Championships in China and North Macedonia, there is the matter of availability. Currently, there are no major issues in this area. The 2nd EHF

Heads of Refereeing Convention will take place in Vienna over the coming weekend, various external speakers incl. IHF PRC Chairman Per Morten Sodal will be present.

The EHF Calendar for the seasons 2024/25 and 2025/26 is concluded and published; both seasons are similarly constructed and with minimal changes. The season 2026/27 needs to be carefully prepared as this is the first season where changes in playing systems might become an option. Additionally, the question of a 5th official on the bench at the future EHF EURO events was raised during the CC meeting, this topic will be evaluated. The Coaches' Challenge is currently on standby and is not considered a priority. The focus in this area is on a continuous implementation of VR and the buzzer.

In closing, the Executive Committee took note of the request from the PHB Chairman, Xavier O'Callaghan to move the VR/Coaches' Challenge topic forward and took note of the TD and CC reports.

Competitions Commission | Motions to the Executive Committee

All motions were presented in full written format; for brevity, the motion is summarised with a brief description of the content and the decision of the Executive Committee. This is found at the end of the document.

5.3. Methods Commission

Chairman Sequeira was supported by a visual presentation and opened with the topic of the relaunch of the RINCK Convention. Some of the adaptations include a 'Fast Lane' for players and coaches as well as more competence-based education pathways. The 2024 EHF Master Coach PRO License will resume with Module 2 in July; the evaluation of participants will be undertaken by a panel of 8 to 10 experts. The IHF activities in this area is to be checked to ensure that there is no overlap, English language proficiency is to be established with each participant, and the MC will consult the BC in relation to beach handball level 3 coaching.

Moving on, Sequeira lauded the success of the introduction of the Grassroots Convention where the concept of the Grassroots Charter was unveiled. With the mission of creating a handball community, expanding the fanbase, and the potential handball workforce, the Charter targets the National Federations with the purpose of developing the sport at the Grassroots level. The tenets of the Charter are to create, support, monitor, measure, and reward. The next presentation of the (updated concept) Grassroots Charter can be at the 16th Conference of Presidents/EHF Extraordinary Congress.

In his report, Sequeira mentioned the ongoing preparations of the next publications coming from the Methods Commission titled the EHF Analyst Manual and the EHF Injury Prevention Manual offering insights on handball injury prevalence, prevention, and tools for coaches to manage injuries effectively.

Lastly, Sequeira turned the attention of the Executive Committee to the list of experts. The list has been updated to include 31 new additions to the list bringing the total of experts to 121 covering the areas of beach handball (19), officiating (22), and education and coaching (80). The Executive Committee took note of the report and approved the List of Experts as presented.

5.4. Beach Handball Commission

With the report at hand providing an overview of the upcoming events, as well as other activities including the Olympic showcase event at Maison du Handball, it is noted that the education courses in 2024 will run parallel to the ebt Finals (June) and the Champions Cup (October). Additionally, the distribution of the bid documents for the EUROs (planned for July 2025) was also completed prior to the meeting and Chairwoman Horvath underlined that the BC wants the return to the concept of holding the competitions in the same venue having the YAC and Senior competitions played over the course of two consecutive weeks.

Turning to a key topic for the Commission, Horvath mentioned the efforts undertaken to have a better coordination with the IHF (working group) in relation to beach handball matters, specifically the international calendar. She noted the willingness shown by the representatives within the working group and hope that the cooperation can be undertaken in a smart way leading to good practice in the coming years. It is necessary to develop beach handball as a product, subsequently longer preparation times are needed. In the area of officiating, it is preferred that the nominations be carried out in January to have enough preparation time; as the IHF nominations come rather later, the referees are left with an uncomfortable choice of which nomination to accept. Additionally, regarding player registration, the BC continue to work on the topic, especially in view to the Olympic Games ambitions. In response to the question regarding transfers, Horvath stated that it is necessary for all professional beach handball players to have a status, some National Federations allow for a dual status. There is a need to monitor the number of players but noted the challenges using an example of non-European players being part of ebt team delegations of keeping the seasonal competition accessible.

In response to the subject matter, President Wiederer made additional comments shedding more light on the current situation with the IHF, he pointed out that at the most recent meeting of the IHF Council, the European representatives, with a document at hand detailing all relevant information, were unable to bring the topic of beach handball to the table as other topics to priority and not information on beach handball were provided.

Furthermore, in the submitted event report, beach handball is listed as part of the 2027 European Games in Istanbul, TUR. Horvath stated that it is imperative to have a qualification system for this event and will prepare accordingly considering the EU Games. In the coming days, the EHF will send a letter to the Handball Federation of Türkiye encouraging them to

approach the TUR NOC on this matter. Moreover, the EHF continues to strive for a meeting with the EOC leadership and continues to receive no reaction from the side of the EOC.

Following the conclusion of AP5, the Chairmanship of the meeting reverted to President Wiederer.

6. Stakeholder Groups / Committees and Board

6.1. Common meeting NCM/NCW/NB/EHLB

NB Chairman, Mark Schober, provided an overview of the meetings where the YAC events were given focus, he mentioned that the existing system will remain in place and an analysis will take place after two years having seen a cycle of men's and women's YAC events. The matter of the daily rate at these events was discussed and a proposed increase was accepted by the Nations Board. Personality rights were discussed across all stakeholder groups, though it led to much discussion, no solution was found, and the topic remains open. Wiederer added that the discussion illuminated the interests of the various groups i.e. promotion, commercial, etc. He estimated that this matter would be easier to regulate within the National Federations and conceded the complexity of the situation and saw the need for a clear proposal based in a common understanding. In closing, Schober noted the success of the Emerging Nations Round Table where the NCM/NB agreed should be repeated in 2025; all other topics dealt with by the NB are reflected in the agenda.

6.2. Minutes / Reports Committees / Boards

The EHLB meeting took place with a reduced number of participants; EHLB Member 6, Thierry Wagner resigned his post and will be replaced in the future. Topics discussed included the EHAA – FCH agreement to which the EHLB were involved to a degree, as the agreement would result in additional tasks for the leagues. The EHLB reiterated that it was seeking cooperation with the WEHLB in the future. Furthermore, the EHF-EHLB agreement regarding finances was prolonged. Making a comparison with the FCH and despite the work undertaken in the EHLB, it was noted that enlarging the stakeholder group was challenging highlighting the discrepancies between the leagues (professional, semi-professional, and smaller leagues), the league and player stakeholder groups continue to struggle with support. Nonetheless, the intent remains positive, and the situation has improved.

6.3. Professional Handball Board

PHB Chairman, Xavier O'Callaghan briefly reiterated the topics mirrored across the groups such as personality rights and elaborated further on the EHAA-FCH agreement underlined that the recipient of the service (be it the player or the club) is the party that is obligated to pay the service provider (agent). With the system controlled by IHF regulations, O'Callaghan voiced the concern of the FCH as to who will enforce the regulations using the example of a player not being allowed to sign a new contract if 12 or more months remain on the current contract. The IHF will be approached on this matter.

The FCH also discussed throw-off times based on the request by clubs to seek for an adaptation of the times (18:45 → 18:00 & 20:45 → 20:00); the request was acknowledged, and possibilities are to be explored. The FCH, in alignment with the current agreement, reiterated that after the Final4 in Cologne, no additional matches are to be played at a club level to ensure that all players enter the vacation period as agreed. Thus, the request from a league in France was denied by the EHF as per the regulations.

Closing his report, O'Callaghan mentioned the situation around the 'Coaches Challenge'; the clubs wish to see the tool implemented as there remains a financial investment in a system that is not fully used.

6.4. Women's Handball Board

WHB Chairwoman, Leonor Mallozzi, opened her report by speaking on the educational and developmental initiatives supported by the WHB i.e. sending participants to the next editions of the Master Coach and Handball Manager, as well as beach handball courses. Furthermore, and reflecting on the large goal differences seen in some matches of the EHF EURO Qualifiers, Mallozzi underlined the need to develop teams in a consistent manner by utilising the YAC events to provide the required experience and to take advantage of the international sporting environment.

In view of the imminent 1st General Assembly of the Women's Handball Leagues in May in Budapest, there will be the subsequent foundation of the WEHLB, out of which two members will be selected to serve on the WHB. Hausleitner added that the invitation would be transmitted only through the EHF Member Federations where the objective is to motivate and encourage the functionality of the women's leagues. It is foreseen that the procedure will be analogous to the established men's board i.e. nominations in accordance with the ranking; the nominations will be formation with the elections of 2025. The next Women's Handball Conference will be held on the fringes of the EHF EURO and many topics are being prepared. For both meetings, the WHB will encourage the National Federations to participate. Wiederer added as a result, in the stakeholder meetings in October 2024 and March 2025, the WHB should be extended by two members, to enable a fair integration to the stakeholder structure and to allow for a handover of activities and information. The Executive Committee upon request approved the extension of Women's Handball Board for the stated period. The Executive Committee also approved the nomination of Trine Nielsen, nominated by the Women's Forum Club Handball to replace Radmila Petrovic who resigned from position.

Continuing, the WHB also deliberated on the topic of sustainable development of women's handball, the RYT App which is now available lends to the ideas of the WHB; the new area of nutrition will be available from June, and players will also have the chance to interact with the handball ambassadors online where knowledge is to be transferred and experiences shared. Looking to the development of the player, and the person, it is the duty of the handball community to provide players with the opportunity to develop their careers; grassroots

activities as well as the Masterplan will also play an important role in helping players avoid the dropout rate. In closing, Mallozzi mentioned the workshops scheduled in April and May 2024; another activity within the digital sphere is the element 'Train the Trainers' targeted at those persons who train young players and to motivate them to take part in the online sessions. Currently, there are over 150 persons registered.

7. Organisation of Events / Competition Topics

7.1. Events Report | Update

The comprehensive report at hand, like always, covers all competition events and their respective status; the necessity to invest in women's handball was underlined.

Referring to the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in Germany, several reports were delivered, analysing the organisation and the background of the rundown. The EHF Commissions and Boards received data and topics listed for further activities on the respective field. Conclusions will lead to decisions for implementation in upcoming events.

Younger Age Category Events 2024 | a total of 11 competitions will be played over the summer including the Masters, three beach handball events, the European Open, and the Championships and EUROs of the M18 and M20, alongside the Women's Youth and Junior World Championships. A comprehensive evaluation of the YAC events will take place after the conclusion of the women's YAC events in 2025.

2025 is free of the senior EUROs and is viewed as a preparation year; with the new daily rate agreed, the bid documents pertaining to the 2025 YAC events will be distributed following the meeting and to enable an efficient organisation, an expedited bid process is to be expected. The bid documents for the 2026 events will be sent out in the autumn. In 2024 and 2025, the YAC EUROs are to be TV produced and will be televised on various public channels.

Women's EHF EURO 2024 | counting down to the event, the intensive work will commence. Scheduled activities include the EHF EURO Officials seminar in August as well as the Heads of Delegation seminar in the autumn.

Men's EHF EURO 2026 | The Qualifiers draw took place in March in Copenhagen; the Organisers and the EHF are currently working on the areas of set-up, venues, and ticketing.

Women's EHF EURO 2026 | Since the announcement of the host nations, no new information is available; Hausleitner stated that the 5 organisers are ambitious, and an exciting event can be expected. The kick-off meeting EHF-OCs will take place on 30 April in Katowice.

Men's EHF EURO 2028 | Concerning the venues, with a focus on Madrid, meetings continue to take place.

Women's EHF EURO 2028 | No report.

EHF EUROs 2030 & 2032 | 15 National Federations have registered their interest in hosting an event in 2030/2032. The deadline for official bids, which are to be evaluated by the Executive Committee, is known. Moreover, the dissent concerning the 'Host City Fee' has been acknowledged by the EHF. As no countries from other continents applied for the World Championships in 2029/2031 all IHF events will take place in Europe which has an impact on European awarding.

7.2. National Team Activities

Please refer to AP 5.2.; with the EHF EURO 2024 Qualifiers concluded, the final tournament draw will take place shortly after the conclusion of the current meeting. It is reiterated that the draw for the men's EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers has taken place, and the national teams of Russia and Belarus are still excluded. A brief discussion relating to the EHF EURO Qualifiers took place and mentioned the release from phase one obligations, which resulted in appreciation as it will enable smaller federations to organise matches; the example of GBR, who had 2000 onsite spectators was given. The release from obligations is a motivation to increase visibility and attract potential organisers.

7.3. Club Competitions

With all competitions running smoothly and with the motions having been dealt with under AP 5.2., CSO Glaser added that information pertaining to upgrades, downgrades, etc. was distributed to the National Federations. The matter of places in the Champions Leagues will be dealt with at the next meeting of the Executive Committee on 20/21 June in Oslo, Norway. The 2024/2025 Champions Leagues draw will be broadcast live from Vienna on 27 June. Looking to the future, Glaser stated that should changes be wished in the 2026/2027 season - because no changes, as per agreement, can be made prior to that season - discussions need to start soon to be ready in time; he highlighted that any changes are also connected to the competition calendar and currently, the calendar is prepared until 30 June 2026.

7.4. Other Competitions

No special report.

8. International Institutions

8.1. IHF Information

The latest IHF Council meeting took place on Tuesday, 16 April at the Maison du Handball in Créteil, France. Europe delivered a comprehensive written report, and did also impart some information, and based on the schedule, the meeting was also purposefully kept short to enable the Council to attend the draw for the Olympic handball tournament. President Wiederer and Vice President Bošković outlined the topics discussed and noted that the focus was on rules and regulations. The following information from the meeting was imparted.

- **IHF Referees Age Limit:** will increase to 55 years; this will take effect as per 1 July 2024.

- **Equipment Regulations:** recently implemented amendments to IHF equipment regulations were reiterated during the meeting where permitted and non-permitted items i.e. nose/face guards, player undershirts, etc. were listed. It was mentioned that this did cause issues at the start of the EHF EURO in GER, which were eventually corrected.
- **Officiating Remuneration:** the IHF recently implemented an increase in the fees paid to referees and delegates officiating at the World Championships. This decision impacted the EHF during the EURO in Germany where a solution was found. However, the EHF regulations regarding remuneration and daily allowances according to the decisions taken are laid down.
- **Awarding World Championships:**
 - **2029 Men** France/Germany | **Women** Spain
 - **2031 Men** Denmark/Iceland/Norway | **Women** Czech Republic/Poland
- **2024 Wheelchair World Handball Championship:** the event is planned for September and in Egypt; the national team USA was issued a 'Wildcard' for participation and the high costs were mentioned.
- **MU17 World Championship:** the IHF has presented proposals which will see the competition comprised of 16 teams with three teams coming from each continental federation. The objective of the event is player development thus the concept sees the competition following pedagogical guidelines and with changed regulations; October 2025 is being evaluated as a potential initiation period. A formal decision was not made as there was no full concept as a basis presented.
- **Beach Handball** and the topic of resin-free handball were not on the agenda.

9. Other Partners

No further information was given; please refer to AP.3.1.

10. 2024 Activities – Status

The outline of the summer activities and the respective nominations were made available to the Executive Committee members; Schober noted a conflict in his availability, and it was noted that a solution would be pursued.

11. Various

No additional topics were raised.

With the agenda completed, President Wiederer thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their contribution to the various discussions and closed the meeting.

COMPETITIONS COMMISSION | MOTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Motion	Summary	Decision
1	<p>Club Competitions Colour of Dresses</p> <p>The home club must play in the “away dresses” in case the colours of the playing kits occupy the two colours of the guest team.</p> <p>Validity EHF Club Competition Regulations as of the 2024/2025 Season.</p>	Approved
2	<p>Club Competitions Mandatory Match Recording</p> <p>In matches where there is no TV signal the game must be recorded by the home club with one camera. It must be uploaded to the EHF platform(s).</p> <p>Validity EHF European League Men and Women and EHF European Cup Men and Women Regulations as of the 2024/2025 Season.</p>	Approved
3	<p>Club Competitions Minimum Guaranteed Access to Clubs for the Production of Long-Form Content</p> <p>Clubs need to guarantee a minimum access to the team, players and infrastructure to EHF Marketing and its partners for audio-visual shooting sessions related to the creation of long-form content (e.g. documentaries).</p> <p>Validity EHF Champions League Men and Women, EHF European League Men and Women regulations as of the 2024/2025 Season.</p>	Approved
4	<p>Club Competitions Elimination of the €1 ticket</p> <p>Elimination of the obligation of the home team to provide 50 tickets for EUR 1 to the guest club.</p> <p>Validity EHF Champions and European League Men Regulations as of the 2024/2025 Season.</p>	Approved
5	<p>Club Competitions Late Entry – Players from Non-European Clubs</p> <p>Adapting the restriction for the eligibility of players in the EHF club competitions (via late entry) returning from a non-European club.</p> <p>Validity All EHF Club Competition Regulations as of the 2024/2025 Season.</p>	Approved
6	<p>Club Competitions Qualification path for EC participants in EHF European League Men</p> <p>All participants of the special qualification path from the European Cup must play a qualification in the EHF European League Men</p> <p>Validity EHF European League Men Regulations as of the 2024/2025 Season.</p>	Approved

Motion	Summary	Decision
7	<p>Club Competitions Limitation of teams from one country in the EHF European League Men</p> <p>The maximum number of teams from one country should not exceed 4 teams.</p> <p>Validity EHF Champions and European League Men Regulations as of the 2024/2025.</p>	Approved
8	<p>National Team Competitions Lifting the compulsory 1-match suspension after a direct red card at the YAC EHF EUROs </p> <p>All direct red cards received during a match at the YAC EHF EUROs must not result in a compulsory 1-match suspension as per the current regulations but must be evaluated based on video evidence and the referees' report.</p> <p>Validity Immediate effect - already for the YAC EHF EUROs 2024 <i>*VP Finances La Cour agreed with the spirit of the motion but disagreed with the wording. The objection was noted.</i></p>	Approved
9	<p>National Team Competitions Increasing the Daily Rates for the EHF YAC Events</p> <p>Due to several factors such as the post-pandemic global economic situation, the unchanged daily rates for years, the comments from the national federations as well as the recommendations from the respective bodies of the EHF an increase of the daily rates (EUR 170 for the YAC EUROs and EUR 130 for the YAC Championships) for the YAC events is proposed.</p> <p>Validity As of the Publishing of the Regulations & Bidding Manual for the 2025 EHF YAC Events.</p>	Approved
10	<p>National Team Competitions Women's EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers & EURO Cup System</p> <p>Since Women's EHF EURO 2026 is co-hosted by 5 nations, a new system is needed for the Women's EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers & EURO Cup with two groups of four teams.</p> <p>Validity As of the publishing of the Women's EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers & EURO Cup Regulations. <i>*The playing system was not voted on and will return to the Executive Committee in June.</i></p>	Approved in Part
11	<p>National Team Competitions Adapting the Men's EHF EURO 2028 Qualifiers Regulations for Phase 1 and Promotion Round</p> <p>Changes in the registration procedure for the Men's EHF EURO 2028 Qualifiers Regulations for Phase 1 and Promotion Round</p> <p>Validity As of the publishing of the Men's EHF EURO 2028 Qualifiers Phase 1 and Promotion Round Regulations</p>	Approved