
MINUTES TO THE 8TH MEETING OF THE EHF NATIONS BOARD

Date: Monday, 14 October 2024
Time: 16:00 – 18:00
Venue: Renaissance Wien Hotel | Paris

Participants NB:

Mark Schober	Chair GER
Pirje Orasson	Vice Chair EST
Morten Stig Christensen	Member DEN
Nodjialem Myaro	Member FRA
Leonor Mallozzi	Member POR
Jari Henttonen	Member FIN new NB Member

Participants EHF:

Martin Hausleitner	Secretary General
Markus Glaser	Chief Sports Officer
Attila Heim	Head of National Teams
Marsha Brown	Corporate Liaison Minutes
Anna Lamprecht	Women's Handball Coordinator

Resigned/Excused: Ingo Meckes Member | SUI

1. Welcome and Introduction

The NB Members were welcomed to the meeting by Chair Mark Schober.

2. NB Meeting 04/2024 – Minutes & Follow-Up

With no additional comment, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Input Nations Committee Women (NCW)

The NCW revisited several topics which included, but not limited to, the September W-NTW which raised questions, and through clarification it was reiterated that the placement falls within the parameters of the MoU with the Clubs specifically the 29 days. Though NFs have chosen not to use this week for official activities over time, it remains in place for use. Thus, to enable the efficient rundown of the Women's EHF EURO 2026 PRCTS, the week will be used for the EHF EURO Cup Final. The W-NTW are not in discussions (see minutes to the common meeting) and are fixed until further notice.

Women's Competitions Conference | May 2025: in a first step, the event is viewed as a workshop for discussion and brainstorming solutions for key areas of development. The NCW will return to the topic specifically at the next session of the NCW in March 2025. It is noted that input from the Competitions Conference cannot influence the dates in the 2026/27 Calendar as they are already fixed.

Female Referees: considering the upcoming Women's EHF EURO, the NCW discussed ways to increase the number of female officiators.

IOC Olympic Games: with the IOC re-categorising the current disciplines, it was mentioned that the distribution of (national) funding in some NFs is reliant on handball's position in the within the Olympic Games.

Beach Handball Summit: it is suggested that indoor handball representatives are part of the summit in January 2025. The summit seeks to re-envision the sport and formulate a clear strategy as to the next steps for the sport considering its exclusion from the next Olympic cycles (2028, 2032); the showcase event in Creteil did not attain the desired results. The issues (market reach, profitability, professionalism) were appraised.

Wheelchair Handball: due to the complexity of the issue, it was questioned as to whether the EHF could do more concerning the positioning of the sport at the IOC level.

Women's EHF EURO 2026 PRCTS: looking to the event and the qualification process, the increase in the number of teams required for the qualification process, concerns were raised concerning registration and the possibility of some NFs and their respective teams only wanting to participate in Phase 1. The reality of the situation is to be seen following the completion of the registration process. Nonetheless, it is emphasised that it is the duty of the National Federations to get the teams ready for this level of competition.

4. Input Nations Committee Men (NCM)

The topics of the NCM included, but were not limited to, the next meeting of the Emerging Nations Round Table on 1 June in Budapest, the international calendar respectively, the National Team Weeks, as well as the two sessions (men/women) of the Competitions Conference in Spring 2025. The NCM also referred to the meeting where it was proposed that the stakeholders be part of the conversation; more specifically, the collection of data via an online survey was recommended to evaluate the gaps between men's and women's handball to identify the prominent areas primed for development.

Also, the matter of personality rights was mentioned at the NCM meeting; the EHF has endeavoured to discourse with partners (Grundfos, LIDL) to create awareness as it is a costly matter and not within the scope of the organisation. Currently, there are guidelines in place concerning posters, AV images, etc.)

5. Input EHF

YAC Match System: with the conclusion of the 2024 summer events and in view of the 2025 events, as well as based on the input and feedback of the National Federations, the new YAC playing system was distributed in September following approval of the Executive Committee. The NB acknowledged the understanding and receipt of the information concerning the new system. Based on feedback and input being delivered adjacent (from e.g. trainers, sport directors), the NB underlined that all such information/communication must go through official channels to avoid any misunderstanding.

5th Team Official: though not mentioned at the common meeting, SG Hausleitner mentioned the request to have a 5th Team Official on the bench starting with the EHF EUROs in 2026. To move forward with the idea, a decision would have to be taken by the EHF Executive Committee by April 2025 for the notion to be implemented into the respective regulations. Therefore, the discussion

process must begin in 2024 with the reasoning behind the need/desire for a 5th Team Official and how this would be (i.e. Physiotherapist, Goalkeeper Trainer, Media representative, etc.) at the implementation stage.

6. Summary and Follow-up Discussion

16th Extraordinary EHF Congress - Motions: it was emphasised that a concerted approach is needed to bring the administrative sanctions to the level of the Regulations. The necessity of the change was once again emphasised; currently minor infractions are still put going before the legal instances incurring the inefficient expenditure of time and financial resources i.e. late submission of required documentation (whereabouts, doping controls, etc.), furthermore some infringements are simply outdated (i.e. Fax Machines) as the 'Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions' as well as the 'List of Penalties' have not been updated in over 15 years.

It was mentioned again that the sanctions/penalties be determined by the Executive Committee and that the EHF Office administrate the penalties; it was underlined this resolution would not bar the way of a National Federation that would take a matter further to the legal instances. As the matter will be treated at the Congress level once again in December, it was suggested to provide an overview of the sanctions to the National Federations for better understanding of the situation and as to why the motion will be represented.

7. Preparation PHB and WHB

The NB agreed that the following topics would be raised at the respective meetings of the Professional Handball Board and the Women's Handball Board.

- Men's Competitions Conference (9/10 April 2025, AUT) and Women's Competitions Conference (12/13 May 2025, AUT)
- Suggested online survey- Data Collection in view of the Competitions Conferences
- International Calendar – National Team Weeks - Spring/Autumn
- Beach Handball Summit (20/21 January 2025, AUT)
- Emerging Nations Round Table (1 June 2025, HUN)
- Personality Rights
- Transgender Matters (WHB Only) [*SG Hausleitner mentioned that there are cases to the topic currently awaiting decision at the ECJ; this information was stated the MESGO opening session*].

8. Miscellaneous

The following topics were mentioned, briefly discussed, and summarised for brevity.

IHF MU17/WU16 World Championships: following on from the information provided during the common meeting; the NB restated that the National Federation remained against the events planned in October 2025 in Egypt (MU17) and in 2026 (WU16) for several reasons. Nonetheless, it was reiterated that the EHF will use the respective ranking to select the participating teams accordingly.

Integrity: SG Hausleitner recapped that all cases raised were handed over to the authorities; investigations followed, and interviews were conducted. All investigations were closed due to lack of evidence, and it was determined that there was no fraud on the side of the referees; as a result, two referees couples were reinstated, and the couple from Serbia were released from EHF activities permanently. Concerning D. Nachevski, the suspension remains in place through 2026.

Master Plan: Hausleitner briefly mentioned the regular meetings taking place with the Federations and the ongoing projects.

Presentation of Business Cases: the point of the EHF together with the National Federations finding the right balance when creating business cases was raised. Leading off from the long-standing discussions over sleeve advertising, as well as image rights, the topic of the involvement of future EHF EURO organisers in creating business cases was reopened by Member Christensen.

It was agreed that the EHF was good at making commercial contacts; however, this can at times leave the Federation(s) with a limited opportunity to create their own business case(s). Thus, the question as to the next steps comes to the fore. It is understood that there are some Federations that are not in the position to make such step; however, some Federations are in the position to, and other are trying. In a direct correlation, it was suggested that the situation be considered in terms of the organisational role (should there be a company where chances and risks are equal).

Therefore, this discussion topic should remain open, especially considering the developmental changes such as the unavailability of advertising packages and commercial rights that NFs were previously able to purchase. Within the discussion, it was made clear that the National Federations have defined windows where the optimisation of business cases (monetisation) is possible. In response, Hausleitner stated that consideration is needed as to the opportunities and who can use them, also space needs to be given to the 'successful' Federations who can.

NCM Vacated Position: in September, Ingo Meckes assumed the role of Chief Sport Officer within the German Handball Federation. Thus, as it is outside of the EHF guidelines to have two elected members from the same country in a committee, Meckes vacated his position within the Nations Committee Men and, respectively, the Nations Board. It was noted that Vice Chair Henttonen would assume the role until the end of the current electoral period.

With no additional topics raised, Chair Schober closed the meeting.

For the Minutes: M Brown