
13TH MEETING OF THE (MEN'S) EUROPEAN HANDBALL LEAGUE BOARD

EHLB Meeting Notes 08.04 2024

Participants

European Handball League Board

Nikolas Larsson Chairman | SWE
Etienne Capon Member 5 | FRA
Siniša Ostoić Member 6 | CRO

JJ Rowland EHF (responsible for the notes)

Apologies:

Frank Bohmann Vice Chairman | GER
Patrice Hitz Member 2 | SUI
Thierry Wagner Member 3 | LUX

1. Welcome and Introduction

Noted that Bohmann and Hitz would not be able to attend due to sickness. Wagner has informed that due to change of personal/work circumstances he will no longer continue in the EHLB.

2. EHLB – Meeting n°12 | 10/2023 - Review & Follow-up

It was confirmed that digital meetings have taken place with leagues 12/13 December.

Noted that Forum Club Handball has made progress with the topic of player agents, signing a memorandum of understanding with the European Handball Agent Association.

Development of Women's Handball League Board discussed, to be formalised at the Women's EHF F4 in Budapest – noted that common working formats, joint topics should be identified for discussion. Larsson has attended meetings to date and sees the importance of working together in the future.

3. Planned Summit in June 2024

Invitations to be sent out in next two weeks. Information provided in digital feedback already to leagues. Third summit planned for June 2024 in Cologne. Goal is 20 participants. Key note ideas: digital platforms from Bundesliga Germany; how to achieve get reach, supporters into arenas plus

digital initiatives; possible invitations DYN and Infront Labs, also to talk about streaming, WSC and content production. Larsson informed that average reach has tripled on social media due to steady flow of content produced by WSC amongst clubs in Swedish league.

Summit invitation will include business talks Friday and Saturday, which already has good keynotes. Therefore league summit can focus more on internal topics; for league representatives, the issue of video replay/assistant was suggested, EHF proposed that its partner, VOGO, may be willing to attend and present its product.

Conclusion: three areas/key notes/breakouts required. Participants can decide which to attend.

EHLB will look to cover one night hotel plus ticket. Other costs with participants, will look at whether it is possible to cover two nights. Proposed was also a get-together – not dinner – but a drink Friday afternoon after Handball Talks.

Potential invitation to women's leagues was discussed. Noted that it is not necessarily within remit of EHLB to also support women's leagues. Topic will be followed up with Hausleitner.

4. By-election /co-opt person

Following confirmation that Thierry will step down, either new elections required in June at Summit or a person to be co-opted for the next two year period ahead of elections in 2025. Correct procedures to be checked with EHF.

5. Forum Club Handball/Players Agents

Discussions with organisation European player agents have taken place. Agreement of mutual understanding now signed by Forum Club Handball, Women's Forum Club Handball and EHAA. Further discussions also taken place with IHF – to make regulations clearer and improve them. Noted that there are no consequences in place for non-compliance with the regulations which is a problem.

Situation in different nations highlighted: new rules caused some problems in Denmark, Swedish league, regulations are applied through contracts where agents are involved. There is a clear transparency for whether agent is working for player or club. Noted too that in Sweden, fees for player agents have come down.

6. Feedback to stakeholders

Next digital feedback to leagues will take place 16 April at 16:00 CET.

7. Women's Handball League Board

The new Women's League Board General Assembly will take place on fringes of Women's EHF FINAL4 on 1/2 June 2024. EHLB will look at how it might be able to assist in this development.

8. SMART Project

Additional funding for the years up to Congress 2024/2025 has been agreed with the EHF – to support Summit organisation. Next GA will be held in 2025. Larsson noted that there is still €8,500 in the bank.

9. EHPU

Nothing to report, no coordination or communication has taken place.

10. Annual competitions plan

Current year – no problems

Next season – no known changes

Question raised whether scheduling of Women's EHF FINAL4 2025 is an issue for leagues to be able to finish by the date of this event – due to potential late start 2024/25 as a result of Olympic Games in summer 2024. Larsson noted that Swedish league is investigating playing between Christmas and New Year. The general question of whether club seasons men/women must end with FINAL4 events was raised and will be followed up at PHB.

What happens after 2024/25 is in discussion. 2026 onwards – the EHLB underlined that it also wants to be stakeholder in discussions for any new club competition system from 2026/27.

11. PHB Meetings

No additional comments.

12. Next meetings

Summit III 7-9 June 2024

Autumn meeting 14 October 2024