

MINUTES TO THE 2ND MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S EUROPEAN HANDBALL LEAGUE BOARD

(Parallel to the meeting of the EHLB)

Date:	Monday, 14 October 2024	
Time:	14:00 – 16:30	
Venue:	Renaissance Wien Hotel Munich	
WEHLB Participants:	Christoph Wendt	Member 1 Chair GER
	Karolina Bryl-Prokop	Member 2 Vice Chair POL
	Merilin Must	Member 3 EST
	Tonje Nøstvold Lunde	Member 4 NOR
	Thomas Christensen	Member 5 DEN
	Gwenhael Sampel	Member 6 FRA
EHF Office:	Doru Simion	SGS Senior Director

1. Welcome

Christoph Wendt, Chair of the Women's European Handball League Board (WEHLB) opened the meeting by greeting the participants and aiming to progressively start the working process. The minutes to the first meeting of the WEHLB meeting from June 2024 were adopted with no further remark or comment.

2. WEHLB Principles and Mission

The WEHLB is an advisory body that supports the decision-making process and emphasises the active participation of the Women's European Handball Leagues in following area(s): European calendar, competition matters, technical issues, and other matters of sporting interest. The main objectives were listed as follows:

- identifying, monitoring, and analysing issues in the given areas which, where necessary, are to be summarised and submitted to the European Handball Federation for further treatment.
- aiming to share & exchange knowledge and gaining visibility.
- reducing the existing and persisting gap regarding men's activity
- support of Emerging, Middle, & Top-Ranked Nations
- collaboration & coordination, optimisation & harmonisation

3. Round-table exchange – internal | external communication - tasks repartition

The WEHLB for women's handball shall convene twice a year reserving the right to hold extraordinary meetings. The meetings are to take place prior to the meetings of the EHF Women's Handball Board (WHB).

The next WEHL General Assembly (June 2025, Budapest) is defined as main event for which an administrative design and the conceptual framework are to be considered in terms of organisation (“save the date”, invitation, further communication) and final programme:

- for content (among others best practice) | Thomas Christensen
- administration and information | Tonje Nøstvold Lunde
- the EHF support and assistance is required (accommodation | event venue).

4. Information | Flow & Strategy

Short brainstorming on the most efficient way to keep the leagues across Europe informed and updated: one WEHLB member acting as the ‘meeting | sharing point’. In a first step, a survey will be addressed - designing and defining the contents, respectively the main topics to question, in late October 2024. A draft proposal is shared tackling mainly:

- structure and governance of the leagues (independent, cooperation NF, run by NF)
- status in terms of refereeing & sport jurisdiction, marketing | sponsoring, personal
- competitions, playing format, period/s, participation in European club competitions
- development targets
- expectations WEHL

to be provided to the European National Federations and leagues in the first half of November 2024. A timetable for regular online WEHLB meetings shall be defined and commonly agreed on. In terms of task repartition, the following members of the board agreed to take over the communication with:

- Group 1 ranked 1- 9, top-ranked league | Gwenhael Samper.
- Group 2 ranked 10 - 33, middle-ranked league | Karolina Bryl-Prokop
- Group 3 ranked 34– 50, ‘emerging’ status included, lower-ranked league | Merilin Must

5. Competitions Calendar / National & International Calendar: Commonalities and Discords

The exchange reveals a wide diversity, related to:

- number of matches, match-days, audience, marketing | sponsoring
- governance | independent vs. dependent
- working contracts | working permission
- players’ status | professional, amateur
- legal framework for youngsters – enrolment
- how to keep the youngsters involved | development of players – grassroots, basic activity/s
- how to keep lasting the female players’ career | maternity leave | protective measure/s
- mentoring | tutoring | guiding
- TV broadcasting & media: visibility | owned and operated platforms
- competition structure and calendar
- common point, respectively concern:
 - missing a regular competition week/national level due to inserting of a second EHF NTW/September, which extremely disturbs the national competition.

- missing a certain harmonic synchronicity: employing the same day/s and hour/s for regularly attracting the audience (visual and ‘in presence’) by creating and inserting ‘competition habits’).
- high expectations linked to the EHF Competition Conferences (separate men and women)

6. Common Meeting EHLB – WEHLB

- common work | cooperation with men’s leagues, necessarily required:
 - the exchange in plenum shows a similarity linked to the questionable aspects (i.e. international calendar, governance, how to reach the audience, ‘best practice’, etc.).
- international – national calendar: competition structure needs to (co-)involve the entire chain of stakeholders.
- exchanging the respective contact lists for efficiently covering the leagues’ landscape
- interactive involving the EHF Partners (i.e. EHPU (European Handball Players’ Union) - contact, exchange, needs to expand over Europe).
- to design a lucrative networking platform for common exchange
- March & October shall consist separate sessions and common meetings.

For Minutes: D. Simion

Vienna, 22 October 2024