



**International
Handball
Federation**



Council Meeting No. 7

30.09.2024 – Cairo EGY



Present

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)
Mansourou AREMOU (BEN)
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)
Anna RAPP (SWE)
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)
Dr Frantisek TABORSKY (CZE)
Per Morten SØDAL (NOR)
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO)
Gonzalo PEREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP, virtually, partly)
Charles OMBOUMAHOU (CGO)
Bader AL-THEYAB (KUW)
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)
Ricardo BLAS (GUM, virtually)
Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX, virtually)

Marcel MANCILLA BRAVO (CHI)

Amal KHALIFA (EGY)
Patric STRUB (GER)

Excused:

Joël DELPLANQUE (FRA)
Yoshihide WATANABE (JPN)
Per BERTELSEN (DEN)

President
IHF Vice-President Africa
IHF Vice-President Europe
Treasurer
Executive Committee Member
Executive Committee Member
PRC Chairman
CCM Chairman
CD Chairman
AC Chairman
IHF Representative Africa
IHF Representative Asia
IHF Representative Europe
IHF Representative Oceania
IHF Representative North
America and the Caribbean
IHF Representative South and
Central America

General Director
Competitions Director

1st Vice-President
IHF Vice-President Asia
COC Chairman

MEETING TIME: 10:00-13:15

Notes: These minutes constitute a record of decisions taken and only contain the most important spoken contributions. The proceeding of this meeting was recorded. The record is kept at the Head Office in Basel.

President Moustafa as usual abstained from voting.



Agenda

1. Minutes

- 1.1.** Council Meeting No. 6, 16 April 2024 in Créteil, FRA
- 1.2.** Executive Committee Meeting No. 7, 29 June 2024 in Skopje, MKD

2. President's activities

3. Competitions

- 3.1.** Paris 2024 Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments – Report
- 3.2.** 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in MKD – Report
- 3.3.** 2024 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in CHN – Report
- 3.4.** 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2024 in EGY – Report

4. Finances

- 4.1.** Auditors' report 2023

5. IHF Regulations

- 5.1.** Player Eligibility Code – Motion from CRO

6. IHF bodies

- 6.1.** 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in EGY – Date and participation fee

7. Continents

- 7.1.** Report from the continents

8. Miscellaneous

- 8.1.** Wheelchair handball in IHF and new challenges
- 8.2.** Council decisions made by electronic communication



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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting held in Cairo, Egypt. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health. Furthermore, he seized the opportunity to express his gratitude and appreciation towards the President of the Egyptian Handball Federation Interim Committee, Prof. Mohamed Elamin, for the successful organisation of the 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship held in Cairo from 16 to 21 September 2024 as well as the 17th IHF Men's Club World Championship which is currently being played in the New Administrative Capital, Egypt.

Prof. Mohamed Elamin, who joined the meeting during the opening, also welcomed the Council members to Egypt, stating that the Egyptian Handball Federation is honoured to host the 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship as well as the 17th IHF Men's Club World Championship. He confirmed the great efforts exerted by the Organising Committees of the aforementioned competitions as well as of any upcoming events to be hosted in Egypt to ensure a successful high-level organisation of the events. He also stressed the availability of the Egyptian Handball Federation to continue its close collaboration with the IHF to further develop handball in Egypt as well as worldwide.

President Moustafa conveyed his congratulations to the Egyptian Handball Federation for winning the 2024 African Championship titles in the men's senior, men's junior as well as men's youth category, which proves the outstanding progress of handball in Egypt.

1. Minutes

1.1. Council Meeting No. 6, 16 April 2024 in Créteil, FRA

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 6th Council Meeting, which was held in Créteil, France, on 16 April 2024, including all the Council decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 6 held in Créteil, FRA, on 16 April 2024.

1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 7, 29 June 2024 in Skopje, MKD

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 7th Executive Committee Meeting, which was held in Skopje, North Macedonia, on 29 June 2024, including all the Executive Committee decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Executive Committee Meeting No. 7 held in Skopje, MKD, on 29 June 2024.

2. President's activities

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an overview of the President's activities since the last IHF Council meeting in April 2024, stressing that it is just a summary in view of the



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many activities carried out by the IHF President between the two IHF Council meetings:

16 April 2024: Attendance at draw event for the Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Maison du Handball in Créteil, France.

1 May 2024: Attendance at The International World Games Association (IWGA) Annual General Meeting 2024 in Esslingen, Germany, the meeting agenda including various reports and the announcement of the host of The World Games in 2029 – Karlsruhe, Germany.

8-12 May 2024: Visit to Ankara, Türkiye, following the invitation of Zoran Radojicic, Mediterranean Handball Confederation (MHC) President, and Uğur Kılıç, Turkish Handball Federation President; attendance at the 20th Men's Mediterranean Handball Confederation Championship and the MHC Congress; discussion about the current status as well as the further development of handball in the Mediterranean, and in Türkiye in particular.

15 May 2024: Virtual meeting with Ms Rana Al-Saeed, Secretary General of Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC), to discuss the cooperation between the Jordan Olympic Committee and the IHF as well as the further development of handball in Jordan focusing on grassroots level, coaches' development and female athletes and coaches.

22 May 2024: Attendance at the ceremony of signing the contracts between the IHF, the Egyptian Handball Federation and Sports United for the next three editions of the IHF Men's Club World Championship (in 2024, 2025 and 2026) as well as the IHF Men's Intercontinental Championship (in 2025, 2027 and 2029), the agreement marking the rebranding of the IHF Men's Super Globe and celebrating the comeback of the Intercontinental Championship.

29 May 2024: Attendance at the draw event for the 29th IHF Men's World Championship in Croatia, Norway and Denmark in January 2025 at the Vatroslav Lisinski Concert Hall in Zagreb, Croatia.

8-9 June 2024: Attendance at the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 Men 2024 staged at the LANXESS arena in Cologne, Germany, and participation in the 30th General Assembly of Forum Club Handball (FCH).

25 June-1 July 2024: Attendance at the matches of the final stages of the 24th IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship, which took place in North Macedonia from 19 to 30 June; meetings with the Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia, Prof. Hristijan Mickoski, the Minister of Sport and former handball player, Borko Ristovski, the President of the Macedonian Handball Federation, Zhivko Mukaetov, and their Secretary General, Filip Miloshevski; 7th IHF Executive Committee Meeting on 29 June, the agenda including several financial matters as well as recent and upcoming IHF competitions.

4 July 2024: Meeting at the IHF Head Office between the IHF and Thomas Zangger, Managing Director of Planconsult, an independent consulting firm based in Basel, regarding the new IHF house in Basel; several discussions about the acquisition of the different buildings.

22 July-12 August 2024: Attendance at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games; working lunch with IOC President Dr Thomas Bach at Pierre Mauroy Stadium in Lille on 7 August; attendance at the successful showcase event for beach handball, organised at the headquarters of the French Handball Federation, the Maison du Handball, in Créteil from 27 to 29 July; IHF Gala Dinner on 28 July; attendance at various meetings and activities related to the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement, including but not limited to the 142nd IOC Session on 23/24 July and the ANOCA Extraordinary General Assembly on 31 July.

21 August 2024: Attendance at draw event for the 2024 IHF Men's Club World Championship in the New Alamein City in Egypt.

2 September 2024: Meeting in Egypt with the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr Ashraf Sobhy, the President of the Egyptian Handball Federation Interim Committee, Prof. Mohamed Elamin, and the Chairman of Sports United, Mohamed Yehia Lofy, to discuss the preparations for the 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship and the 17th IHF Men's Club World Championship.

16-21 September 2024: Attendance at the 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Cairo, Egypt, which featured an increase in the team line-up, from six to eight participating teams.



The Council took note of and approved the President's activities and appreciated the efforts he made for the worldwide development of handball.

3. Competitions

3.1. Paris 2024 Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman who presented his report on the Paris 2024 Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments which were held in Paris (preliminary round) and Lille (quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals) from 25 July to 11 August 2024. He highlighted that in both tournaments many matches were very close, thus leading to an attractive competition. However, he also proposed to have a discussion about possible alternatives to the existing competition system, such as changes to the preliminary round. Regarding the competition itself, the CCM Chairman stated that many interruptions occurred due to the fact that the ball had to be changed, which is a general problem in today's handball. The reasons are either too much resin or not enough resin on the ball (the ball's ability to bounce being limited by resin), but also deliberate interruptions as a psychological strategy. He added that more data on this issue will be collected. Moreover, he emphasised that a discussion about the future use of the video replay system needs to take place.

Regarding the performance analysis, the CCM Chairman pointed out that the attack effectiveness in the men's tournament has been stable for the last three Olympic Games editions. In the women's tournament, however, it is decreasing. The same applies to the number of goals scored per match. The number of assists played per match/team is slightly increasing for the men, whereas it remains on a stable level in the women's category. With respect to the participating teams, he stated that Egypt was the only non-European side able to compete for the medals in the men's category.

As shown by several indicators, e.g. number of attacks performed per match/team, attack effectiveness, number of goals scored per match/team, shot effectiveness, number of assists per match/team, number of goalkeeper saves per match/team and goalkeeper effectiveness, the performances in the men's tournament were on the same level as at the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. One of the reasons for the clear differences compared to the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship in Poland/Sweden is the smaller number of participating teams in the Olympics, resulting in close matches from the very beginning of the event. In the men's competition, Denmark showed the most variable and innovative tactical game concept and were an example of the trend towards more situational, flexible defensive play. Furthermore, the CCM Chairman referred to some trends in the individual technical-tactical repertoire, such as creative passes.

In the women's competition, the performance results achieved at Paris 2024 were lower than those of previous Olympic tournaments. The CCM Chairman stated that an analysis as to whether this is a short-term development or a general trend in international women's handball needs to be carried out. The CCM Chairman summarised that the trend is towards more seven-against-six attacks in decisive moments. Moreover, several technological innovations, such as tracking systems or a digital playing field, could be observed at Paris 2024.

President Moustafa seized the opportunity to congratulate the newly elected Chairman of the IHF Athletes' Commission (AC) on his new role, wishing him every success in his tasks. The AC Chairman thanked President Moustafa, adding that this position provides a great opportunity for fruitful discussions with the IHF to create the best possible conditions for the athletes. He also stated that the Paris 2024 Olympic Games were a great tournament from an athlete's point of view. President Moustafa invited the AC Chairman to the IHF Head Office



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in Basel, Switzerland, for further discussions.

The IHF Representative South and Central America took the floor, expressing the wish of the South and Central America Handball Confederation (SCAHC) to use the video replay system during their continental championships. At the same time, he raised concerns about the high costs of the video replay system, stating that it would be too expensive if the system became obligatory in all National Federations. While President Moustafa pointed out that the use of the video replay system will remain optional for the National Federations, Executive Committee Member Narcisa Lecusanu emphasised that the investment might be worth it, especially with regard to close matches.

President Moustafa then gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who presented his report on the Paris 2024 Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments. He emphasised that the referee performances in both competitions were satisfying, thus increasing the attractiveness of the individual matches. Compared to previous events, the referee performances in the women's competition improved, which was one of the key objectives before the tournament. The PRC Chairman explained that a few mistakes occurred towards the end of some tight matches and the use of the video replay was not optimal. He then provided some exemplary video clips.

Referring to the punishments, the PRC Chairman stated that the respect between players, coaches, referees and delegates was good, as, for example, there were very few punishments on the benches, especially at the beginning of the tournament. The AC Chairman took the floor and remarked that, in his opinion, some fouls were checked with the help of the video replay system, while similar cases were not. The PRC Chairman agreed that this needs to be discussed for future competitions. Furthermore, the AC Chairman commented that it was difficult to understand some referee nominations, as the same referee couple officiated consecutive matches of a team in some cases. The PRC Chairman emphasised that the PRC tried to avoid these situations, but as certain criteria regarding the nationality of the referees had to be met, the remaining options were very limited in some cases.

Referring to the preparation for the event, the PRC Chairman informed that the focus was placed on the pivot zone, wing situations, steps, 7-metre vs offensive fouls and simulations, overreactions and provocations. Special attention was also paid to the last minutes and the use of the video replay. He then provided more details on the online and on-site preparation. With respect to the referee nominations during the event, the PRC Chairman outlined that 13 couples were nominated in each tournament, adding that the nominations for the first four match days had been decided before the start of the Olympics, whereas the remaining nominations were determined on a day-by-day basis.

The PRC Chairman summarised that it is important to show a strong reaction against simulating and overreacting, as this is a threat to the image of handball. In addition, the video replay system shall be used in a better way, especially towards the end of the matches. He stressed the importance of promoting more female and non-European referees to perform on the highest level. He also provided an outlook for the future, stating that the PRC will start to prepare the three-referee system and intensify the Advanced Referee Training Programme (ARTP).

President Moustafa thanked the CCM and PRC Chairmen for their reports and highlighted the fantastic atmosphere which prevailed in the handball arenas throughout the matches of the Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments thanks to high-quality performances shown by the participating teams. He also referred to the tremendous spectator figures, stating that the France vs Germany match in the quarter-finals of the women's handball competition delivered a world record attendance for a women's match, with 26,548 spectators attending, while the four quarter-finals in the men's handball competition saw over



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100,000 spectators.

President Moustafa added that the Paris 2024 Olympic Handball Tournaments also attracted a high media attention in new handball markets such as USA, as proven by the article titled *"I found true love in Paris. Its name is team handball"* published by the American daily newspaper The Washington Post on 1 August 2024 (a copy of the article was presented to the Council members). He confirmed that the IHF will continue to join forces with USA Team Handball, the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and the LA 2028 Organising Committee in the further promotion of handball, aiming to make handball flourish in the USA while leaving a handball legacy on and beyond the road to the 2028 Olympic Games.

Decision

The Council took note of the report on the Paris 2024 Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments presented by the CCM and PRC Chairmen.

3.2. 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in MKD – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman who presented his report on the 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship which took place in Skopje, North Macedonia from 19 to 30 June 2024. He pointed out that the coordination between the volunteers/staff and the IHF Event Delegates was good, as they could draw from their experience of previous IHF events. However, he also mentioned that less spectators were attending the matches, partly due to the summer holidays.

The CCM Chairman pointed out that the goal difference was very high in 19 matches of the preliminary round (16 goals and more). As shown by several indicators, e.g. number of attacks performed per match/team, attack effectiveness, number of goals scored per match/team, shot effectiveness, number of assists per match/team, number of goalkeeper saves per match/team and goalkeeper effectiveness, the performance level was similar to that of the 2022 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in SLO. However, the number of technical faults increased significantly by 11.9 %, considering that too many technical faults were committed in several matches of the final round. He concluded that the performance level fluctuated in many matches, even among the best teams. He also stated that the individual defence training needs to be improved. While only three non-European teams made it into the top 16 (EGY, KOR, CHN), especially the development of China and Egypt was very positive.

President Moustafa then gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who presented his report on the 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship. He informed that the PRC nominated a group of experienced referees, who showed good performances throughout the event. While the observers could have been stricter, the PRC Chairman emphasised that the average result of 5.20 was the highest result ever reached at a women's younger age category event.

The PRC Chairman explained that the referee group included 20 couples and one extra reserve referee, adding that two fitness coaches and a physiotherapist supported the group. Regarding technology on site, the PRC Chairman remarked that the TV signal did not work well in one of the venues, emphasising that such problems must be avoided in the future.

Referring to the preparation for the event, the PRC Chairman pointed out that the referees were monitored before the competition by the PRC Expert Group for Recruitment and Development as well as by the FITGOOD PRO team. The mini course, which was held over two days, focused on technical topics, such as the number of steps, the pivot zone, passive play and a strict punishment line against attackers. He mentioned that the



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results of the tests were satisfying, considering that all referees passed the rules test. President Moustafa thanked the CCM and PRC Chairmen for their excellent work.

Decision

The Council took note of the report on the 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in MKD presented by the CCM and PRC Chairmen.

3.3. 2024 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in CHN – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman who presented his report on the 2024 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship which was held in Chuzhou, People's Republic of China from 14 to 25 August 2024. He highlighted the high standard of the hotels in terms of price/performance ratio and the excellent organisation of the opening and award ceremonies. Executive Committee Member Narcisa Lecusanu agreed, praising the organisation carried out by the Chinese Handball Association.

Regarding the competition itself, the CCM Chairman stated that many interruptions occurred due to the fact that the ball played with resin had to be changed. Furthermore, the CCM Chairman observed negative behaviour of the coaches when communicating with their players, which leads to high emotional stress for the youth players and, ultimately, a negative image of the sport. He emphasised the importance of finding solutions, e.g. amendments to the relevant regulations, so that such behaviour may be punished.

As shown by several indicators, e.g. number of attacks performed per match/team, attack effectiveness, number of goals scored per match/team, shot effectiveness, number of assists per match/team, number of goalkeeper saves per match/team and goalkeeper effectiveness, the performances of the top teams were on the same level as at the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in MKD. However, he also stated that the average goal difference in the preliminary round was too high. He pointed out that the number of technical faults increased compared to the 2022 edition, reminding the attendees that the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship was played with a resin-free ball, while a ball with resin was used this year. He summarised that the performance level fluctuated in many matches due to deficits in the long-term talent development system. He also stressed the importance of improving the individual defence training. While only three non-European teams reached the top 16 (JPN, BRA, CHN), especially the development of China and Japan was very positive.

The CCM Chairman also informed the attendees about the activities held on the fringes of the event. From 21 to 24 August 2024, an IHF Coaching Course comprising 25 teaching units took place. The content modules were development of defensive play in youth training, training of one-against-one in attack and methodical tools/guidelines. Theoretical tests were carried out as group work including a presentation. For the practical part, the participants demonstrated training sessions with a youth team and received direct feedback from the IHF officials.

Furthermore, the CCM Chairman reported on a meeting with the President of the Chinese Handball Association, Ms Wang Tao. In the named meeting, Ms Wang Tao informed about the plans to develop and establish talent centres in up to five selected provinces as a first step. In addition, an expert group shall be established in China with talented (younger) coaches and multipliers for the education of coaches, considering that such expert group should constantly be supported by the IHF CCM. Moreover, the CCM Chairman remarked that the IHF licence structure shall be implemented in China, as three courses are planned for 2025. The Chinese Handball Association also expressed their interest in hosting another Women's Youth/Junior World Championship.



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Referring to the competition structure, the CCM Chairman proposed modifications, such as the ratio match days/rest days, to be more appropriate for this age category. He also suggested a mandatory arrival at the venue two days before the start of the event to guarantee sufficient preparation. Moreover, he pointed out the necessity to discuss the structure of the preliminary round to avoid matches with high goal differences, as these encounters provide no learning effect for the teams, cause high psychological stress for the players concerned and, ultimately, damage the image of the championship. In this discussion, possible consequences for the planned Women's U16 World Championship also need to be taken into account. The CCM Chairman proposed a more targeted (and mandatory) use of qualified, experienced coaches as supervisors in countries outside of Europe to support talent promotion in the women's youth sector. In addition, an overall concept shall consider which specific measures may be used to promote international women's handball more specifically at all levels. Furthermore, the CCM Chairman presented his idea of an IHF Forum on three topics, namely youth handball development in continents outside of Europe, further development of competition systems in the youth sector and ideas and concepts for the further development of women's handball.

President Moustafa then gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who presented his report on the 2024 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship. He stated that the PRC was highly satisfied with the performances of the 22 referee couples who were supported by a fitness coach and a physiotherapist during the entire event. He highlighted that the level of the referees improved significantly compared to the 2022 edition and that most of the matches were under full control. He emphasised that it was clearly the best youth competition from a refereeing perspective in this period, pointing out that the referees nominated for the youth event were almost on the same level as the referees nominated for the 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in MKD. He added that the average result of the observation (5.13) improved compared to the result at the previous Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in 2022. However, he also identified some issues during the event, especially the lines for sanctions, 7-metres and the number of steps. He explained that a change of the observation report is planned for the 2025 IHF Men's World Championship.

President Moustafa stressed the great atmosphere as well as the excellent spectator numbers throughout the matches of the 2024 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship. He expressed his hope that handball will continue on this path.

Decision

The Council took note of the report on the 2024 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in CHN presented by the CCM and PRC Chairmen.

3.4. 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2024 in EGY – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman Dr Frantisek Taborsky who reported on the 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship, which took place in Cairo, Egypt, from 16 to 21 September 2024. Referring to the tournament preparations, he explained that on 9 June 2023, the IHF invited the National Federations to submit a letter of intent and presented the hosting information and guidelines for the event. On 6 July 2023, the IHF asked the Continental Confederations to provide more detailed information on the planned qualification tournaments for the Four-a-Side World Championship. In its meeting on 31 October 2023, the IHF Council decided to award the event to the Egyptian Handball Federation while on 19 January 2024, the IHF informed the Egyptian Handball Federation about dates, place, venue, number of teams, accommodation, registration and participation fees.



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The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman added that the 2024 Wheelchair Handball World Championship has been the second edition of the competition that took place in Egypt following the first edition successfully staged in 2022. Therefore, the Egyptian Handball Federation had already gained some experience in terms of organisation and special requirements for wheelchair handball competitions.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman reported that eight teams from five continents took part in the competition, as Brazil, Chile, Egypt, France, Japan, India, Portugal and the USA were divided into two groups of four teams each, with all teams progressing to the quarter-finals. He remarked that the knockout stage provided two huge surprises, as France defeated World and European Six-a-Side champions Portugal in the quarter-finals, while wild card recipient USA won against reigning champions Brazil in the semi-finals. Hosts Egypt sealed the title, winning against USA in the final, while Brazil claimed the bronze medal. He summarised that especially the attendance of new participating teams (USA, FRA, JPN, POR) increased the performance value of the entire tournament. In eight out of a total of 24 matches (33 %), the winner was decided only in the third set or in a shoot-out.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman seized the opportunity to express his gratitude to the Egyptian Handball Federation for the successful organisation of the event. At the same time, he stressed the necessity to look for further potential organisers of wheelchair handball competitions.

The IHF Representative Asia took the floor, explaining that some Asian countries (namely Afghanistan and I.R. Iran) are interested in practising wheelchair handball; however building mixed teams, involving both male and female players, as provided for in the current Rules of the Game for Wheelchair Handball, is not allowed in their countries for cultural and religious reasons. The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman remarked that the inclusion of both male and female players in wheelchair handball teams is a great step forward from his point of view and should thus be maintained.

Decision

The Council took note of the report on the 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2024 in EGY presented by Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman Dr Frantisek Taborsky.

4. Finances

4.1. Auditors' report 2023

The Treasurer took the floor, referring to the complete auditors' report which the Council members had received as part of the working documents prior to the meeting. She presented to the Council the report of the external IHF auditors (Copartner Revision AG) who audited the financial statements of the IHF, comprising the balance sheet as of 31 December 2023, the income statement, the cash flow statement, and notes for the year 2023. The external auditors confirmed in their report that the financial statements for the year 2023 comply with Swiss law and the IHF Statutes and Regulations.

The Treasurer also presented to the Council the report of the internal IHF auditors who verified the bookkeeping and annual accounts (balance sheet and profit and loss accounts) of the IHF for the financial year 2023. The internal auditors confirmed in their report that the bookkeeping and annual accounts are consistent with the provisions of Swiss law and IHF Statutes as well as IHF Council and Executive Committee decisions.



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The Treasurer conveyed her thanks to the IHF General Director and the Financial Department for their great efforts and the excellent collaboration.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the internal and external auditors' report 2023 to be presented to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress.

5. IHF Regulations

5.1. Player Eligibility Code – Motion from CRO

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented a letter and motion from the Croatian Handball Federation dated 3 September 2024 to amend Article 6.3.1 of the IHF Player Eligibility Code while extending the age limit stipulated in Article 6.3.2.2 (in terms of naturalised players) from 18 to 21 years. She remarked that the same age limit of 21 is also applicable in some other team sports. The CD Chairman, who is at the same time President of the Croatian Handball Federation, took the floor and provided more detailed information on the motion and several key arguments for the proposed amendment.

Article 6 – National Players

6.1. National team players shall meet the following conditions:

- a. Citizenship of the country concerned.
- b. With the exception of the conditions specified in Articles 6.2 and 6.3 below, any player who has participated in a match (either in full or in part) in an official competition of any category or any type of handball for one national team may not play an international match for another national team. Official matches are considered to be: the qualifying matches for a continental championship, matches in a continental championship, qualifying matches for IHF World Championships and Olympic Games, matches in IHF World Championships and Olympic Games and other competitions recognised by the International Handball Federation as listed in Appendix 1.

6.3. Change Eligibility to Play for a National Federation

6.3.1. Conditions

Players who hold more than one nationality and do not fulfil the conditions specified in Article 6.2 may change sporting nationality, even after having already represented a different senior national team, provided that they:

- a. comply with Article 6.1.a, and
- b. have been living in the territory of the federation concerned for more than 36 consecutive months (this residency requirement does not apply if the player obtained citizenship of the relevant federation before the age of 21 and has never played for any national team), and
- c. Have not played in any national team of another country in the three years preceding their first appearance in the national team in an official match. Official matches are considered to be: the qualifying matches for a continental championship, matches in a continental championship, qualifying matches for IHF World Championships and Olympic Games, matches in IHF World Championships and Olympic Games and other competitions recognised by the International Handball Federation as listed in Appendix 1.

6.3.2. Limitation per National Team

1. With the exception of Article 6.3.2.3, a national team playing in an official match of the International Handball Federation may have only two players on its team who changed their sporting nationality based on Article 6.3.1.



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2. Players who acquired citizenship (passport) of a country before having reached the age of 21 shall not be considered as players who changed their sporting nationality based on Article 6.3.1.

3. The limitation provided for in Article 6.3.2.1 shall not be applicable to those National Federations being part of the IHF New Markets' Project (listed in Appendix 2). This list will be reviewed annually by the IHF Council based on the development of the National Federations concerned.

In case any of the National Federations concerned reaches the position of a performance place at the IHF World Championship, the continent of the National Federation in question will not benefit from this performance place. The performance place concerned will be allocated to the continent of the next ranked National Federation.

Key Arguments for the Amendment:

1. Empowerment of Young Players:

- Allowing players to decide at the age of 21 ensures that the choice is their own and not influenced by their parents or legal representatives. This respects the players' autonomy and their ability to make significant decisions about their careers as fully mature individuals.

2. Fair Representation:

- Many players with multiple nationalities face difficulties under the current regulations. For example, players who have never represented another national team and hold multiple nationalities by birth should not be classified as "naturalized" players, which limits their participation due to the current two-player restriction per match.

3. Examples of Unresolved Cases:

- Češko Diano Neris (born 2004, BIH/CRO): Holds dual citizenship but cannot play for Croatia due to not meeting the 36-month residency requirement.
- Bebek Mihael (born 2002, BIH/CRO): Holds dual citizenship by birth but cannot play for Croatia due to the same residency requirement.
- Mandić Matej (born 2002, BIH/CRO): Although meeting the residency requirement, he is incorrectly classified as a naturalized player, affecting team composition limits.

Connection to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) Provisions:

1. Article 8 – Right to Respect for Private and Family Life:

- The proposed change respects the players' right to private life and their ability to make personal decisions without undue interference. By allowing players to choose their national team at 21, the motion supports their right to make significant decisions about their careers independently, free from parental influence, thus respecting their personal development and individual rights.

2. Article 14 – Prohibition of Discrimination:

- The current regulation's residency requirement can disproportionately affect players who hold multiple nationalities but have not resided in the concerned country for the stipulated period, leading to indirect discrimination based on national origin or other status.
- The motion's proposal to allow players with multiple nationalities to choose their national team without being classified as "naturalized" players (and thus limited in number per match) seeks to eliminate this discrimination. It ensures that players are treated equally and fairly, regardless of their residential history or dual nationality status, promoting equal opportunities in line with Article 14 of the ECHR.

Justification:

1. Respect for Individual Rights:

- The motion respects the players' right to self-determination, which is a fundamental aspect of their private



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life under Article 8.

2. Elimination of Indirect Discrimination:

- By allowing players to choose their national team without residency constraints, the motion eliminates indirect discrimination, ensuring equal treatment and opportunities in line with Article 14.

Conclusion:

The proposed change to the IHF Player Eligibility Code enhances compliance with the ECHR by upholding the right to respect for private and family life and prohibiting discrimination. This ensures young players can make autonomous decisions regarding their national team representation, promoting fairness and equality in international handball. By integrating these human rights principles, the motion not only aligns with legal standards but also strengthens the ethical framework governing player eligibility in international sports.

Note: The wording of the arguments/justifications is according to the original communication received from Croatian Handball Federation.

Remark from IHF Legal Department: Due to the fact that all three conditions stipulated in Article 6.3.1 must be fulfilled, the "and" highlighted in yellow needs to be maintained.

Decision

With one abstention, the Council approved the motion of the Croatian Handball Federation to amend Articles 6.3.1 and 6.3.2.2 of the IHF Player Eligibility Code.

6. IHF bodies

6.1. 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in EGY – Date and participation fee

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress which had been awarded to the Egyptian Handball Federation by the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress. She explained that the proposed place for the next Congress is Sharm El Sheikh while the proposed dates of the Congress lie between 3 and 9 November 2025. In addition, she informed the attendees about the official communication dated 29 September 2024 received from the Egyptian Handball Federation, proposing a daily accommodation fee of USD 350 (per person in single room) and USD 300 (per person in double room). President Moustafa stated that the exact date for the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress shall be decided at a later stage in order to be able to react to current developments.

Decision

Further to the authorisation of the IHF Congress, the Council unanimously approved the daily accommodation fee (USD 350 per person in single room; USD 300 per person in double room) for the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress proposed by the Egyptian Handball Federation. The exact date of the Congress is yet to be determined.

7. Continents

7.1. Report from the continents

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Representative Asia who briefly reported on the recent activities of the Asian Handball Federation (AHF), informing that the 18th Asian Men's Junior Championship took place in Amman, Jordan, from 14 to 25 July 2024, with 13 participating teams. As this event served as qualification



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for the 2025 IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship, the first four teams (JPN, KOR, BRN, KSA; reserve team: IRI) will represent the Asian continent at this competition. From 3 to 14 September 2024, the highly successful 10th Asian Men's Youth Championship (qualification for 2025 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship) took place in Amman, Jordan, with 13 teams taking part in the event. From 20 to 29 September 2024, the 7th Asian Women's Club League Championship was staged in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The IHF Representative Asia also provided an outlook for the AHF events that will take place later this year, including but not limited to the 3rd Asian Men's & Women's Youth Beach Handball Championship (16-25 October 2024 in Bangkok, Thailand), the 27th Asian Men's Club League Championship (12-23 November 2024 in Doha, Qatar), and the 20th Asian Women's Championship (1-12 December 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan). While two Coaching C Licence Courses have recently been staged, two additional C Licence Courses, one B Licence Course and one D Licence course will be organised later this year. He outlined that the main target of the AHF is to ensure that all coaches participating in AHF Championships of all categories hold an IHF Coaching Licence by the end of 2025. The IHF Representative Asia also stated that several countries already requested referee courses, refreshment courses or courses to obtain the continental badge (IND, INA, MDV). Referring to other activities, he highlighted the start of the Yemeni Handball League Competitions organised by Yemen Handball Federation, the Morsinghi Handball Nursery Summer Coaching Camp 2024 organised by the AHF and Handball Association India in July/August 2024 as well as the AHF Anniversary (Golden Jubilee of 50 years).

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor and started his activity report with a review of the European Handball Federation's (EHF) competitions of the 2023/2024 season. He stated that the 2023/2024 European club season opened with 247 registered teams (131 men's teams, 116 women's teams). With respect to the national teams, he pointed out that the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in Germany was a great success, adding that the European teams continued to perform well on the international stage. A total of 16 European teams participated in the 2024 IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in MKD, and ten of these sides landed a spot in the top 10. 17 European teams took part in the 2024 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in CHN and nine European teams ranked in the top 10, including the top three spots. Various other younger age category competitions, such as the European Universities Games Debrecen-Miskolc 2024 in Hungary, were staged in Europe during the summer. Moreover, numerous courses took place, including young referee evaluations, as well as the trainings embedded in the "Respect Your Talent" framework. The IHF Vice-President Europe then provided an overview of the current EHF activities, informing that several competitions at club level (e.g. Men's and Women's EHF Champions League, Men's and Women's European League, Men's and Women's European Cup) and national team level (e.g. Women's EHF EURO 2024 in AUT, HUN and SUJ) are taking place in the coming weeks and months. He also referred to current administrative activities, including but not limited to various meetings and events planned to be held on the fringes of the final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 in Vienna, such as the 17th EHF Conference of Presidents, the 16th Extraordinary EHF Congress and the EHF Excellence Awards & EURO Gala. He mentioned that the Presidents of the Continental Confederations have been invited to attend the final weekend of the Women's EHF EURO 2024 and to take part in a coordination meeting to further strengthen the cooperation between the continents, in coordination with the IHF. The IHF Vice-President Europe also highlighted the upcoming move of the EHF to their new base, the European Handball House in Vienna, in January 2025 following the inauguration planned for 15 December 2024. Referring to the competitions at the beginning of 2025, he explained that the men's club competitions (Champions League, European League, European Cup) will experience a hiatus in January in view of the Men's World Championship in CRO/DEN/NOR, whereas the women's competitions will resume. Furthermore, numerous EHF meetings are planned to be held in the first three months of 2025.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Africa who briefly reported on the CAHB African Men's Junior Handball Championship (qualification for 2025 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship), which was held in Mahdia, Tunisia, from 9 to 16 September 2024, with eight participating teams. In addition, the CAHB African Men's Youth Handball Championship (qualification for 2025 Men's Youth (U19) World



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Championship) took place in Mahdia, Tunisia from 19 to 26 September 2024, with eight teams taking part in the event. He highlighted the excellent and fruitful cooperation between the African Handball Confederation (CAHB) and the IHF, emphasising that the CAHB will continue to work closely together with the IHF to further promote handball throughout the African continent while resolving any existing problems, such as visa issues.

The IHF Representative South and Central America took the floor, starting his report with an overview of various indoor and beach handball events which have recently been organised by the South and Central America Handball Confederation (SCAHC). At club level, the continental championships in the men's and women's category were held with 12 and 9 participating teams, respectively, whereas the younger age category events (junior, youth) were postponed. Moreover, he emphasised that more coaches, especially IHF Multipliers, and competitions are needed at grassroots level. In addition, Handball at School courses shall be held in every National Federation. He stressed that handball as a sports product is designed to provide benefits for players, spectators and sponsors alike. The IHF Representative South and Central America highlighted the importance of finding creative solutions in order to reduce the costs. He also requested to enforce Gerflor as the official flooring supplier during all continental events in South and Central America, in particular qualifications for Olympic Games and World Championships, including but not limited to the Pan American Games.

President Moustafa then gave the floor to the IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean who reported on the 2024 North American and Caribbean Senior Club Championship (qualification for the 2024 IHF Men's Club World Championship) held in Newark, USA from 10 to 13 July 2024 and the upcoming IHF Trophy competition in the men's youth category that will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 19 to 25 November 2024. In addition, a Trophy competition in the men's junior category will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 3 to 9 December 2024. A Coaching D Licence Course was held in the Dominican Republic from 2 to 6 July 2024. The IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean also informed the attendees that a meeting between representatives of the North America and Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC) and the IHF Education Department will soon take place to coordinate the related continental activities for 2025.

The IHF Representative Oceania took the floor, providing brief information on the activities of Oceania Continent Handball Federation (OCHF) in 2024. In Guam, for example, OCHF is working with the Department of Education to incorporate handball in physical education programmes in public and private schools. He reported that the biggest hurdles are to secure funding for equipment and fit handball into an already developed curriculum. If this programme is successful, it will be easy to adopt it in the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and possibly Nauru and Marshall Islands. Furthermore, he stated that many of the OCHF Member Federations have recently decided to follow his recommendation to focus on developing beach handball in their countries. In addition, he reported that representatives of the National Olympic Committee of Fiji approached him after the Paris 2024 Olympic Handball Tournaments, aiming to strengthen the further development of handball in Fiji. He also conveyed his gratitude to the IHF, especially President Moustafa and the General Director, for granting support to the Cook Islands Handball Association in terms of their coaching and refereeing programmes, as they are currently preparing for the Cook Islands Games, a multi-sport event, including handball, taking place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, from 4 to 19 October 2024.

Decision

The Council took note of the activity reports provided by the continental representatives.



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8. Miscellaneous

8.1. Wheelchair handball in IHF and new challenges

President Moustafa gave the floor to Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman Dr Frantisek Taborsky who reported on the current situation of wheelchair handball. He started his presentation with an overview of the development of wheelchair handball over the last years. On the initiative of President Moustafa, an IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group was established by the IHF Council in 2018 and an initial information exchange took place during the 2019 IHF Congress in Gothenburg, SWE. In addition, all National Federations received a questionnaire about their activities and/or plans regarding wheelchair handball. Following the evaluation of their feedback, several main problems for the further development of wheelchair handball activities were identified, such as the unclear or fragmented organisational structure and missing links to the IHF, inconsistent and different Rules of the Game, competition with other wheelchair team sport games, limited human and economic resources, high costs and difficulties with the organisation, especially when travelling across longer distances.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman reminded the attendees that a mutual IHF/EHF Championship was planned in Kristianstad, SWE in November 2020, but it had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, several core tasks were fulfilled, as unified Rules of the Game for Wheelchair Handball Six-a-Side and Four-a-Side, a Competition Manual for IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championships and Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules and Regulations were established. In addition, the IHF has been in regular contact with the IPC as a Recognised Member. He pointed out that the IHF's application for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games submitted in 2022 was not approved by the IPC, as some criteria, such as the organisation of two World Championships within the last six years, were not met, adding that a new application for the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games is planned to be submitted by the IHF by 2026.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman then provided an overview of the current situation of wheelchair handball in the Continental Confederations. On the Asian continent, India, Japan and Pakistan are among the most active federations, while Egypt is currently the only nation in Africa in which wheelchair handball activities are taking place. He stated that the IHF is very satisfied with the development of wheelchair handball in Europe, as many European nations are highly active and organise various competitions on a regular basis. He emphasised that more countries might be interested in implementing wheelchair handball in case the discipline becomes a Paralympic Sport. With regard to the situation of wheelchair handball in North America and the Caribbean, he highlighted the work accomplished in the USA. In addition, he proposed to present wheelchair handball on the fringes of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, similar to the beach handball showcase event at Paris 2024. In South and Central America, various wheelchair handball activities are taking place. However, he remarked that the coordination with SCAHC needs to be further strengthened.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman stressed the importance of activating the continental handball bodies, for example by creating working groups. Moreover, as many National Federations as possible shall have at least one contact person responsible for wheelchair handball. In addition, the Continental Confederations shall establish contact with continental bodies of Paralympic Sports while the National Federations shall get in touch with the respective National Paralympic Committees.

With respect to the current main tasks of the IHF in terms of wheelchair handball, the Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman pointed out the necessity to find an organiser for the 2026 Wheelchair Handball World Championship. Furthermore, the Wheelchair Handball Classification



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Rules and Regulations need to be revised. An objective for 2025 is to educate new nominees for wheelchair handball. He also emphasised that it is a permanent task for the IHF to further improve the Rules and Regulations for wheelchair handball.

While the IHF is supporting both versions of wheelchair handball (Four-a-Side and Six-a-Side), the Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman explained that Four-a-Side is preferred in view of the application for the Paralympic Games, as the chances of being recognised by the IPC increase if fewer players are involved. In addition, the smaller number of players makes it easier for smaller countries to build teams. The Four-a-Side version also leads to fewer difficulties when travelling across longer distances, as it is less expensive in terms of transport, wheelchairs, etc. Furthermore, the matches are more attractive in many cases.

Decision

The Council took note of the information about the current situation of wheelchair handball provided by Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman Dr Frantisek Taborsky.

8.2. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- ***Organisation of IHF Men's Super Globe 2024-2026 & Intercontinental Championship in EGY***

Reference was made to the organisation of future editions of the IHF Men's Super Globe, taking into account that the contract between the IHF and the Saudi Arabian Handball Federation on hosting four editions of the IHF Men's Super Globe in 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023 in Saudi Arabia has come to an end.

Negotiations took place with several potential host nations, including but not limited to Qatar and Japan (through IHF TV Partner Sportfive), Germany as well as Egypt. The Egyptian Handball Federation offered to organise three consecutive editions of the IHF Men's Super Globe in Egypt, starting from October 2024, to be staged during a period of three years. The Egyptian Handball Federation as well as Sports United, the company that would be responsible for organising the event, agreed to comply with all the provisions stated in the IHF's standard contract for the organisation of the IHF Men's Super Globe, except for the following:

- ✚ Total prize money for the participating teams to be paid by the organiser:
To be reduced from USD 750,000 to USD 500,000
- ✚ Fee to be paid by the organiser in return for receiving TV and marketing rights for the matches from the IHF:
To be reduced from EUR 750,000 to EUR 300,000

According to the event contract, eight teams shall participate in the Men's Super Globe while one additional team to be nominated by the Arab Handball Federation may take part in the event at the Arab Handball Federation's expense.

In addition, the Egyptian Handball Federation proposed to host three editions of the Intercontinental Championship (previously organised under the name of Intercontinental Cup) in Egypt, starting from 2025, to



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be staged during a period of three years. The exact conditions for hosting the Intercontinental Championship are yet to be agreed upon between the IHF and the Egyptian Handball Federation.

The offer received from the Egyptian Handball Federation is not comparable with the outcome of the negotiations with the other potential host nations, where the IHF would be obliged to invest funds instead of receiving an income. Therefore, and in due consideration of the handball level and the necessity of keeping handball sustainable in Egypt, it was proposed to accept the compromise as communicated above. In view of the highly successful organisation of IHF events in Egypt in the past, the planned three consecutive editions of both the IHF Men's Super Globe and the Intercontinental Championship in Egypt (to be staged during a period of three years) are expected to be another tremendous success for the benefit of the further development and promotion of handball in Egypt.

Furthermore, in order to place higher value on the event concerned and for the sake of clarity, it was proposed to change the name of the "IHF (Men's/Women's) Super Globe" to "IHF (Men's/Women's) Club World Championship" as from the 2024 edition.

Date of communication: 2 May 2024

Date of decision: **7 May 2024**

- ***Wild cards for 2025 Men's World Championship***

Reference was made to the two available wild cards for the upcoming 2025 Men's World Championship in CRO/DEN/NOR, which shall be awarded by the IHF Council.

As outlined in the memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, one wild card for the 2025 Men's World Championship shall be awarded to **USA** according to the decision of the IHF Council dated 18 October 2018.

For the second wild card for the 2025 Men's World Championship, the IHF received corresponding official requests from nine National Federations. According to the procedure applied in the past, wild cards are awarded without criteria; however some criteria were considered when addressing this issue to the Council.

As explained in the memorandum, the IHF consulted with IHF TV Partner Sportfive to receive their input from a TV and marketing point of view. Due to the fact that most of the wild card applicants are on a very similar performance level and following internal discussions, it was proposed to follow the proposal of Sportfive and to award the second wild card for the 2025 Men's World Championship to **SUI** in order to increase the popularity of handball in the best possible way, as according to Sportfive's evaluation the highest impact in terms of TV viewers and reach would be achieved in Switzerland.

Date of communication: 17 May 2024

Date of decision: **23 May 2024**

- ***IHF Athletes' Commission – Confirmation of election result***

Reference was made to the election of the IHF Athletes' Commission which took place during the Olympic Games currently being held in Paris from 26 July 2024 to 11 August 2024 in order to renew the composition of the Athletes' Commission for the 2024-2028 period.

On 5 June 2024, the IHF sent a communication to all IHF Member Federations, asking them to submit their candidatures for the position of a Member of the IHF Athletes' Commission by 30 June 2024. The following candidatures were submitted:



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- ✚ Mr Pedro MARTINEZ CAMI (ARG)
- ✚ Mr Mohammad SANAD (EGY)
- ✚ Mr Gonzalo PEREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP)
- ✚ Mr Dika MEM (FRA)
- ✚ Ms Xenia SMITS (GER)
- ✚ Ms Ana GROS (SLO)

As the IHF Executive Committee shall check the candidates' eligibility to stand for election according to Article 3.1.a of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission, the IHF Executive Committee studied the submitted candidatures and confirmed on 14 July 2024 that all six candidates fulfil the criteria stipulated in Article 4.2.1 of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission and are thus eligible to stand for election. General information on the candidates was published on the IHF website on 15 July 2024.

On 26 July 2024, the IHF sent a communication to all teams participating in the Paris 2024 Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments, informing them that the voting would be conducted as paper ballot voting during the preliminary round of the Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments, e.g. on the fringes of a match at the Handball Arena or at a training session of the team. All athletes participating in the Olympic Handball Tournaments were entitled to vote according to Article 4.4.2 of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission.

Report of the Election Commission, composed of IHF Executive Committee Member Ms Narcisa Lecusanu, IHF Vice-President Africa Mr Mansourou Are mou and IHF Representative Asia Mr Bader Al-Theyab, which undertook the election process as well as the counting of the votes cast according to Article 4.4.2 of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission, taking into consideration that 406 athletes were eligible to vote and 327 ballot papers were cast, out of which 326 ballot papers were valid.

The Election Commission determined that the candidates for the members of the Athletes' Commission received the following number of votes:

1. Gonzalo PEREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP)	203 votes
2. Dika MEM (FRA)	178 votes
3. Ana GROS (SLO)	173 votes
4. Xenia SMITS (GER)	165 votes
5. Pedro MARTINEZ CAMI (ARG)	69 votes
5. Mohammad SANAD (EGY)	69 votes

According to Article 4.5.1 of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission, the largest number of votes cast were obtained by the candidate Gonzalo PEREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP, 203 votes). Furthermore, in view of Article 3.1 of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission, according to which the Athletes' Commission is composed of five members, and due to the tied result between Pedro MARTINEZ CAMI (ARG, 69 votes) and Mohammad SANAD (EGY, 69 votes), the Election Commission proposed to confirm both of them as elected members. However, Pedro MARTINEZ CAMI (ARG) withdrew his candidature by email dated 4 August 2024.

Based on the aforementioned, the following athletes have been elected to the IHF Athletes' Commission:

1. Gonzalo PEREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP)
2. Dika MEM (FRA)
3. Ana GROS (SLO)
4. Xenia SMITS (GER)



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5. Mohammad SANAD (EGY)

According to Article 4.4.2 of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission, it was proposed to confirm the election result of the IHF Athletes' Commission for the following four-year term 2024-2028. In addition, as per Article 16.1.2 of the IHF Statutes and Article 5.1 of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission, it was proposed to provisionally approve Mr Gonzalo PEREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP) as chairperson of the IHF Athletes' Commission until the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress which shall give its definite confirmation.

Date of communication: 9 August 2024

Date of decision: **15 August 2024**

- ***IHF Women's U16 / Men's U17 World Championships – Regulations***

Reference was made to the IHF Council decision taken in its meeting in Créteil, France, on 16 April 2024, according to which the concept for the new IHF Women's U16 / Men's U17 World Championships elaborated by the working group composed of the Chairmen of IHF CCM, PRC and COC was approved.

Summary of the regulations regarding the Women's U16 / Men's U17 World Championships developed by the IHF Head Office in coordination with the IHF CCM Chairman, following the IHF Council's authorisation. During the preparation process, further details have been discussed and the initial concept has been amended accordingly. In general, the provisions included in existing regulations shall apply while this summary outlines variations/differences as well as basic elements of the regulations.

Based on these key elements, the IHF Head Office shall proceed with finalising the regulations on the Women's U16 / Men's U17 World Championships accordingly, which shall be integrated into the Regulations for IHF Competitions. In addition, the provision related to the allocation of places for the Women's Youth (U18) / Men's Youth (U19) World Championships shall be updated to the effect that the winner of the Women's U16 / Men's U17 World Championships qualifies for the respective Women's Youth (U18) / Men's Youth (U19) World Championship.

Date of communication: 21 August 2024

For information only (no Council decision)

- ***2025 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship – Change of host nation***

Reference was made to the organisation of the 2025 IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship, which was planned to take place in Slovenia in accordance with the decision made by the IHF Council on 28 February 2020 to award the hosting rights for the event to the Slovenian Handball Federation.

As outlined in the memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, the Slovenian Handball Federation informed the IHF in January 2024 about financial difficulties they have been facing, requesting the IHF to release them from the duty of organising the 2025 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship, aiming to avoid further damage to the Slovenian Handball Federation.

In order to find the best possible solution for the event, the IHF started to look for alternative host nations. After discussions with several interested nations, only the Egyptian Handball Federation was very keen to host the event. They confirmed their willingness to host the event by official letter dated 15 May 2024, ensuring that full support will be granted by the Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports.

The Egyptian Handball Federation agreed to a daily participation fee of EUR 170.- per person and the 2025 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship would be hosted in different venues in Egypt, some of which have



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been used at the 2021 IHF Men's World Championship and other international handball events. The date of the event shall remain unchanged (6-17 August 2025).

The IHF Council confirmed the change of the host nation of the 2025 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship from Slovenia to Egypt according to the aforementioned conditions.

Date of communication: 28 August 2024

Date of decision: **4 September 2024**

The date and place of the next IHF Council meeting will be communicated by email.

President Moustafa thanked the participants for the constructive meeting and closed the session. He conveyed once again his wishes for continued good health and safety to all participants.

INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Moustafa', written over a faint, large background image of a handball.

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President