



EUROPEAN HANDBALL FUTURE

CONTENTS

Report from the Executive Committee	4
Report from the Competitions Commission	6
Report from the Methods Commission	8
Report from the Beach Handball Commission	10
Report from the EHF Court of Handball	12
Report from the EHF Court of Appeal	14
Report from the EHF Court of Arbitration Council	16
Report from the Nations Board Men	18
Report from the Women's Handball Board	20
Report from the Comptrollers	22

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members



Michael Wiederer
President



Predrag Boskovic
First Vice-President



Henrik La Cour
Vice-President Finances



Bozidar Djurkovic
Chairman CC



Jerzy Elias
Chairman MC



Ole R. Jorstad
Chairman BC



Stefan Lövgren
Member



Gabriella Horvath
Member



Anrijs Brencans
Member



Gerd Butzeck
Member



Nodjialem Myaro
Member

Former Members

Xavier O'Callaghan
(until 9/2018)

Narcisa Lecusanu
(until 3/2018)

Report

The Executive Committee (EXEC), in accordance with the EHF Statutes, is the decision-making body for all matters that arise between congresses; at the same time, it serves in the supervisory function to the professional staff.

The composition of the Executive Committee ensures that the interests of European handball and its stakeholders are represented at the highest level. The four quadrants encompass the Finance Delegation (President, First Vice-President, Vice-President Finances), the Technical Delegation (Chairpersons of the Technical Commissions), the Members (representing the National Federations), and the Stakeholder Representatives; a total of 11 Members overseeing the electoral period.

2016 saw major change within the Executive Committee, there was a new President, Vice-President, Vice-President Finances, one new Chairman coming from the Competitions Commission, three new Members, as well as two new Stakeholder Representatives from the Professional Handball Board and the Women's Handball Board (both representatives changed in 2018).

Over the course of the 2016-2021 electoral period, the Executive Committee held 23 meetings of which 20 were held in various locations around Europe and mostly in the frame EHF events. The eleven Members of the Executive Committee have shown a remarkable presence and active participation, which went beyond the specific tasks as given through the Statutes, additional responsibilities designated by the Executive Committee, as well as representation at EHF competitions and events.

Of the activities undertaken, decisions on the top products, the EHF EUROS for men and women and as well the club competitions fall under the responsibility of the EXEC in particular, supervising the processes which take place with the stakeholders. Here, the coordination of the developments in the club system needed an enhanced dialogue in order to avoid a break-away situation as it happened in other team sports.

The respective tender processes for the new marketing agreements for national team and club competitions, here together with the daughter company EHF Marketing, were supervised by the Members of the Finance Delegation and as well in their function as Members of the EHF Advisory Board, and after presentation were confirmed by the Executive Committee. As a basis for a proper and transparent tender process, a new long-term Memorandum of Understanding was concluded with the club stakeholder in 2018, guaranteeing a common approach to the project but as well a common responsibility. With this, a clarification was reached as to what concerns the release of male and female national team players.

Presented regularly at the Conferences of Presidents, the distribution keys disclosing the financials were communicated openly; this transparency was not only seen as an internal measure but, as highlighted in the sports and especially media world, as an example for good governance, which does not only support the market approach of the EHF, but as well the position of handball in general.

Many of the topics having their basis at the level of the Technical Commissions such as the successful implementation of the first EHF EURO with 24 teams for men in 2020, and for women to come in 2024, have either their origin or at least the steering process in the Executive Committee and can be found in the reports of the commissions and delegations.

The same holds true for the stakeholder boards; here, on the men's side, Nations Board, the newly founded European Handball League Board, the Professional Handball Board, as well as the Women's Handball Board were supported by Members of the Executive Committee and delivered valuable input and proposals to the Executive. It may be said that the system of participation in these coordination bodies is complex and resource consuming, at the same time it secures a democratic process, which cannot be challenged after the decision making as it provides the different positions by the stakeholder representatives on the way to the result and it creates a better and common understanding.

These processes and procedures grew even more important when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world and resulted in a crisis for all: both socially and within structures, but mostly the individuals and consequently sport, and very much our sport of handball due to the parameters imposed surrounding team, contact, and indoor activities. In this situation, and now for 14 months, the cooperation regarding activities on the sporting field, but as well administratively was essential.

To find a balance of the activities - national and international, club and national teams, and this, bearing in mind the protection of the individuals, players and officials, spectators and organisers, was a central task for all being active in their function and needed a mutual understanding of the 'bigger picture'.

In the light of this situation and the new challenges faced, the foreseen administrative events such as conferences and meetings were carried out, and those sporting events which were feasible were brought to the stage.

The work of the Executive Committee, both internal and with the commissions and especially the staff in the EHF office with the Secretary General in the lead, was openminded and encompassing the sense of a trustful cooperation. This collaboration between the elected and the professional staff was evident prior to the latest mandate being built up in such a way, but rather strengthened faced with such circumstances.

This enabled the European Handball Federation to prepare strategic decisions on the basis of professional expertise and, on the other hand, for the professionals to execute the daily business with the necessary backing in order to achieve the required results in the function period 2016 to 2021.

COMPETITIONS COMMISSION

Members



Bozidar Djurkovic
Chairman



Jan Kampman
Member



Carmen Manchado Lopez
Member



Dragan Nachevski
Member



Emeric Paillason
Member



Thomas Hylle
Member

Former Member

Radoslaw Wasiak
(until 6/2018)

Report

The responsibility of the Competitions Commission (CC) is to deal with all the competition matters of the EHF events, especially with the European handball calendar, the competitions' playing systems and regulations.

The Congress in St. Wolfgang saw the change in the chairman's position as Bozidar Djurkovic took over for a new period. Meanwhile, two members – Carmen Manchado (Women's competitions) and Dragan Nachevski (Refereeing) were re-elected and Jan Kampman (Men's competitions) was voted in for the first time. At a later stage, two more members were nominated by the Forum Club Handball – Emeric Paillason for the Men's club competitions and Thomas Hylle for the Women's club competitions.

Extraordinary period

Through and through it has been an unprecedented and extraordinary period across all areas of the Competitions Commission between November 2016 and April 2021. Amid the implementation of thousands of matches, the commission outlined, administered and supervised several major changes of the playing formats in what was almost a full array of the existing EHF competition structure. In addition, since February 2020, the CC had to tackle the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic with all its consequences on the playing calendar in the two seasons.

The sombre consequences of the pandemic and the subsequent impact it had and continues to have on the world of sport at times seemed insurmountable and acquiescence was the only option. Once again, the Competitions Commission and the team in the office in Vienna merged years of experience to forge an alternative path for handball.

From the feasibility study on indoor handball, situation analyses and stakeholder inputs to the various adaptations of strategies when the pandemic delivered new obstacles, the CC played a pivotal role in bringing handball back to the courts.

National teams

On the field of the national team competitions, the biggest change came when the Men's EHF EURO was extended from 16 to 24 participants for the 2020 event. It was also the first time the competition was staged in three countries - Norway, Austria and Sweden. Before that, the Men's EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia and the Women's EHF EURO 2016 in Sweden and 2018 in France went down in the history books as thriving events underlining the ongoing progress of the brand.

However, a special remark has to be devoted to the execution of the Women's EHF EURO 2020 in Denmark, which was successfully staged despite all the hurdles of the coronavirus restrictions as one of the first major sports events in Europe since the pandemic started. As a pioneer post-Covid event and a best practice example, it paved the way for competitions not only within the EHF.

When looking beyond the 2021 congress, the preparations are in full swing towards the first extended Women's EHF EURO, when 24 teams will descend on venues in Switzerland, Hungary and Austria for the first time in 2024.

Also, the system of the Younger Age Category underwent an important face-lift as the former qualification structure has been replaced by a combination of the EHF EUROs and EHF Championships. As a sign of proactive handling of the Covid-19 impacts, a unique edition of the Men's 19 EHF EURO and Men's 19 EHF Championships has been added to the playing calendar of summer 2021 in order to enable this generation a proper competition platform.

Club teams

In the club competitions area, the main reform took place in the summer of 2020, when the changes synchronised with the arrival of the new EHF partners Infront and DAZN, affected the competitions across all three tiers. The EHF Champions Leagues in both genders grant a place only for the 16 best sides of the continent. The former EHF Cup has been transformed into a new second-tier competition, EHF European League, with 24 teams in the men's and 16 in the women's version. Since 2020/21 both competitions will peak at the final tournaments in what will be a fresh novelty for the EHF European League Women. The former Challenge Cup has been renamed the EHF European Cup.

The position of Cologne and Budapest as extremely fitting venues for the culmination of both the EHF Champions League and entire club season has been confirmed and strengthened over the last years. The VELUX EHF FINAL4 in December 2020 also became the first men's tournament under the EHF umbrella, which took place in a Covid-free bubble.

New technologies

Several distinct technologies were introduced already before 2017 but the last five years witnessed a great boost in terms of their use and variability. The technological exploits from the instant replay, goal-line cameras, goal-lights and the substitution area system to the electronic team timeout or the player tracking have become a fixed part of the EHF pinnacle events on both the national team or the club level.

Technical Refereeing Committee

The EHF's Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC) operates within the framework of the Competitions Commission as its sub-committee and a think tank in refereeing matters. The TRC members are nominated by the EHF Executive Committee. It consists of six members and is chaired by Dragan Nachevski.

The committee includes the following members:

- Jiri Konecny (CZE) – responsible for the young referee programme
- Jutta Ehrmann-Wolf (GER) – responsible for female refereeing
- Oyvind Togstad (NOR)
- Miroslaw Baum (POL)
- Antonio Marreiros (POR)

Since 2016 the group focused on the realignment of the tactical overview that incorporated not only the internal officiating procedures but, for example, also re-evaluated the competitions landscape that changed for the 2020/21 season. Among additional key activities was the tailored preparation of the referees for the top national team events – the Men's EHF EURO and Women's EHF EURO.

In 2020, based on the changes to the officials' structure, the TRC effected a comprehensive performance analysis of referees and delegates with preparation via virtual sessions and during the competition through the application of the instant replay system. Overall, the changes were well-received. The structure will be amended further based on the input obtained and, in fact, was already introduced in the preparatory activities for the Women's EHF EURO 2020.

METHODS COMMISSION

Members



Jerzy Elias
Chairman



Marta Bon
Member



Peter Kovacs
Member



Klaus Feldmann
Member



Pedro Sequeira
Member

Former Members

Sjors Röttger
(until 12/2018)

Klaus Feldmann
(until 11/2019)

Report

As ever, it has been an incredibly active period for the Methods Commission since the last EHF Congress with the commission busy overseeing its vast and far-reaching responsibilities in coaching and technical matters, education and training and the development of European handball at grassroots level.

RINCK Convention

The Methods Commission continued to oversee the valuable work of the RINCK Convention, as it works on mutual recognition of standards and certificates in the field of coaches' education in handball. By preserving and safeguarding the regional and national characteristics of coaches' education, the RINCK Convention facilitates the direct admission to work as a handball coach in Europe.

One of the major steps taken in 2020 saw, following the recommendation of the Methods Commission, a 'RINCK Convention Panel' integrated into the commission's structure and the first meeting was held. In 2021, the panel will focus on all topics concerning licensing as well as increasing support for signatory and non-signatory Members.

As part of the RINCK Convention, three EHF Master Courses, which consist of three modules, took place, the most recent one, which ended in 2021 was completed online due to the Covid-19 pandemic but remained a huge success. Two RINCK Convention seminars were held, in February 2017 and 2019.

Wheelchair handball and handball for players with learning disabilities

Strides continue to be made in the promotion and development of wheelchair handball within the commission's remit.

The commission has continued its work on wheelchair handball classification and collaborated with the International Handball Federation on the topic.

In 2020, the commission placed great emphasis on the development of wheelchair handball. Not only did this result in the Executive Committee decision that referees and delegates officiating the matches would have their own status, but the ongoing cooperation with the International Handball Federation within the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group saw the ratification of all competition guidelines and other documents.

On the court, three European Wheelchair Handball Nations' tournaments took place, in Sweden in 2016, in Portugal in 2017 and most recently in Croatia in 2019.

In early 2020 a memorandum of understanding was signed with Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia with the common aim to promote and develop handball for players with learning disabilities. The first activities are to be realised later in 2021.

Grassroots

With education at the core of the MC activities, the Commission held numerous events in 2019, including the 5th EHF Scientific Conference, with the title 'Handball for Life', which focused on grassroots handball.

The commission oversaw the participation in the European Week of Sport for four successive years, leading to the EHF becoming an official EU partner of the campaign.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, attention shifted significantly to important social media campaigns to be active at home – which encourages those to get fit through the use of handball, by practising and sharing skills.

Further partnerships to help involve handball at grassroots level were established, with iCoachKids and GOALCHA becoming official partners of the EHF.

For the first time ever a European Handball summit was organised as an online conference, focused on the topics children's handball, education and wheelchair handball and was attended by more than 780 participants from 58 different countries.

EHF CAN

The work of the EHF's Competence Academy & Network also went from strength to strength over the past few years with the strengthening, development and success of the European Handball Manager programme in Cologne and the academic EHF Master Coach course in association with University Las Palmas.

Moreover, EHF Club/Federation Manager seminars were held in 2017, 2018 and 2019 in Cologne, while the EHF Young Coaches' Workshop was also held during that time.

Technology and innovation

The commission has seen huge developments made with the use of technology and analysis. In 2019, on a technological level, an EHF multi-departmental collaboration with partner Kinexon resulted in advancements and new implementations in the area of player tracking.

Through the iBall, which was unveiled in Cologne, a wealth of statistical information can be collected, with the processed data to be analysed by commission Members and experts nominated by the EHF.

This concept has been used at both the Men's and Women's EHF EUROs in 2020 with a wealth of statistical analysis giving never-before-seen insights into the sport to further assist nations, coaches and players in their quest to improve standards.

This approach led the EHF Methods Commission to appoint a team consisting of EHF Competition Commission Member Carmen Manchado from the University of Alicante, EHF Methods Commission Member Marta Bon from the University of Ljubljana and Petra Platen from the University of Bochum to analyse the raw data gathered at the EHF EURO.

The scientifically valid results from this analysis, first presented by Manchado at the recent EHF Conference for Secretaries General, can help the teams involved to develop new strategies, effective methods and specific programs in their training.

The raw data interpreted by Manchado and her team foresees the covered distances, velocities, accelerations, changes of direction, impacts and jumps.

The future

In September 2020 an internal departmental change within the European Handball Federation was announced, with the business groups of Additional Activities and Education & Development merged.

Both groups joined forces to create one new department titled Sport & Game Services, which encompasses grassroots – one of the seven pillars of the new EHF Master Plan.

This restructured area, which was unveiled at the Secretaries General Conference, will remain under the guidance of senior directors Helmut Hörtsch and Doru Simion. Within the department the four focus areas are: players, coaches, education and development.

BEACH COMMISSION

Members



Ole R. Jorstad
Chairman



Marco Trespidi
Member



Ivan Sabovik
Member



Jelena Rakonjac
Member

Former Members

Juan Carlos Zapardiel
(until 11/2019)

George Bebetos
(until 2/2021)

Report

The Beach Handball Commission has enjoyed an incredibly productive and successful period since the last Congress in its role of administrating and supporting the European Handball Federation's beach handball department.

From events and competitions to officiating and to promotion and development of the sport, beach handball within the EHF has gone from strength to strength as it continues to progress and develop all at levels of the game.

The major highlights over the past four years include the organisation and playing of two EHF Beach Handball EUROS in 2017 and 2019, the initiative of a new registration system for players, the launch of a new corporate identity plus the work that saw beach handball included at the European Games in 2023 for the first time.

Events & Competitions

On the sand, the success of the main competitions falling under the EHF's responsibility were heralded as a triumph. The EHF Beach Handball EURO in 2019 in Poland was the biggest in the tournament's history and that is set to be eclipsed this year when the EURO heads to Varna in Bulgaria in July.

However, the commission's role in the organisation of events and competitions went beyond just the action on the sand and since 2016 it has helped introduce a number of new concepts to strengthen beach handball.

On the technology development side, goal-line technology, instant video replay and the digital scoresheet came into effect to assist officials in the top events since 2018, while a new 'coaches' challenge' system was tested at the Champions Cup in 2019 for the first time.

At national team level, a ranking system was introduced in line with the system used for indoor handball, a qualification concept for senior EUROS was also implemented and for the first time in 2019 a national team week was placed in the calendar to give national teams a training opportunity.

Having worked hard to ensure the sport is seen by wider audiences, one of the biggest achievements came in late 2020 when it was announced that beach handball will be included in the European Games for the first time in 2023. Additionally, a strong cooperation with the European University Sports Association (EUSA) continues to flourish and, in 2019 the first EUSA-EHF European Beach Handball Championship was held in Zagreb.

At club level, a new points concept for ebt tournaments was introduced in order to rank events and to take into consideration their efforts on promotion, marketing and development, including branding, TV production, younger age category events and mini beach handball.

Officiating

The past four years have seen strides made to support beach handball officials with the implementation of several new components linked to officiating.

A new structure of the education courses was introduced in 2019 for beach handball officials, as courses were established at ebt tournaments instead of the ebt Finals. Educational video material and eLearning courses were also introduced for officials.

Furthermore, it was made mandatory for candidates to participate to national courses first, before entering a EHF courses, while at the major events, beach handball experts met to discuss the development of the rules.

Promotion & Development

Since 2016 much work has been undertaken to help grow and develop beach handball's profile in the sport's quest to become recognised and enjoyed by a larger audience.

Perhaps one of the biggest achievements came in 2020 when the new beach handball corporate identity was launched. In line with the EHF's complete brand makeover to mark the beginning of the media and marketing partnership with Infront and DAZN, beach handball's inclusion saw the unveiling of a new logo and brand guidelines.

The introduction of the new look was the gateway to new ideas involving Infront and DAZN to help define the image of the sport, especially that on television. Furthermore, it meant all outward communication, including concepts for draws, music, television graphics, editorial and social media coverage, was revised and refreshed.

As the competitive events were cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic, the commission accelerated their off-court activities. A key element to moving forward with the vision of taking beach handball from a recreational sport to a top discipline was the approval by the Executive Committee of the long-term strategic plan formulated by the BC Members.

The development of the sport was also tackled head-first with the introduction of the Beach Handball Forum – a series of online conferences connecting the main stakeholders and experts in the sport to discuss the future of beach handball. Among the topics covered include players registration, event management, education, mini beach handball, grassroots and marketing.

Game design and coaching

Strides have been made in recent years developing beach handball at grassroots level, following the introducing of a mini beach handball project, which resulted in creating recommendations of how to develop beach handball aimed at children.

This idea was expanded with the production of short education videos in order to explain the main parts of the game and providing training exercises. A new curriculum for coaches' education were additionally started.

Standards of the sport have evolved, with the introduction of qualitative analysis of the EHF Beach Handball EURO to help raise analysis of performance while a working group was set-up to implement university curricula for the sport, developing a learning structure to incorporate content, learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

The future

The reshaping of beach handball, as it edges closer to being on par with indoor handball, the Beach Commission continues to work on a comprehensive transfer and licensing procedures that will come into effect with the 2022 handball cycle.

With a busy summer of competition on the horizon in 2021 with the scheduled EHF Beach Handball EURO and YAC events and club competitions, the Beach Commission could not dream of a better way to resume European competition.

EHF COURT OF HANDBALL

Members



Panos Antoniou
President



Kristian Johansen
Vice-President



Elena Borrás Alcaraz
Member



Ioannis Karanasos
Member



Libena Sramkova
Member



Yvonne Leuthold
Member



Urmo Sitsi
Member



Viktor Konopliastyi
Member

Former Vice-President

Henk Lenaerts
passed away on
5 January 2020

Report

The present EHF legal system, composed of two instances and an independent court of arbitration (ECA), marks the 10th anniversary in 2021 as it entered into force in 2011 at the Congress in Cologne.

The second period since the implementation of the current system started right after the Congress in St. Wolfgang, Austria in November 2016 where several new faces emerged from the election. Panos Antoniou (CYP) took over the presidential function, while five new court Members bolstered the team: Vice-President Kristian Johansen (FAR) and Members Elena Borrás Alcaraz (ESP), Liběna Šrámková (CZE), Yvonne Leuthold (SUI) and Urmo Sitsi (EST). Henk Lenaerts (NED) took up the other vice president function and Viktor Konopliastyi (UKR) and Ioannis Karanasos (GRE) were re-elected from the previous term.

Unfortunately, in January 2020, the EHF had the sad duty to announce Henk Lenaerts's death. "We lost our beloved Vice-President Henk Lenaerts, so suddenly and unexpectedly. Rest in peace, dear friend, esteemed colleague and wonderful man, Henk," said CoH President Panos Antoniou.

Since the beginning of the new election term, the legal bodies were conducting steps towards a reform, which was implemented for the first time at the Men's EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia. Since its premiere at this tournament, the Court of Handball and the Court of Appeal acted as ad hoc bodies and are now competent at these events instead of the two legal instances composed of delegates present at the event.

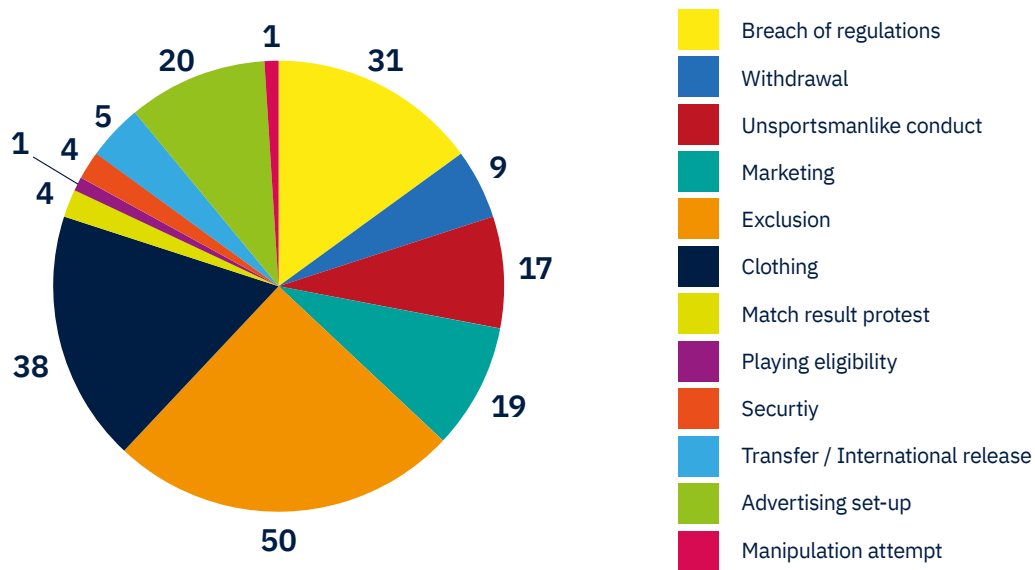
Antoniou commented after the introduction of the reform: "This first try was a success; the extensive amount of cases was handled and solved with independence, impartiality and quickness. We do believe it represents another positive milestone in the continuous development of the EHF legal system."

As the body of first instance, the CoH has dealt with almost 200 cases (199 as of 31 March) over the last four years including 75 cases which were handled by the CoH while acting as the ad hoc body (tournament's disciplinary commission).

Looking back at the cycle, a dense but diverse, challenging and interesting legal landscape can be observed.

The biggest number of cases were related to exclusions, i.e. direct disqualifications (50), clothing (38) and regulation breaches (31).

Numerous cases (39 in total) reflected the current professional development of the sport such as TV minimum requirements, playing hall standards or advertising boards. Other case matters included, but were not limited to, security and player eligibility. Judgement was also rendered in matters of transfers, unsportsmanlike conduct and doping infringements. During the EHF EUROs, the CoH acted as an on-site body, while the violations centred mainly around direct disqualification and clothing.



As proven by the small number of cases taken to second instance, the proficiency of the Court of Handball was demonstrated during the whole cycle.

Following the loss of Lenaerts, the position of Vice-President is open to a new candidate. Furthermore, having reached the age limit, President Antoniou will step down from his position after serving one term in this function.

The outgoing president said: “I would like to thank all the national federations and the handball clubs on our continent for the confidence they have shown in us and reassure them, once again, that all the decisions of our legal body have always been based on objectivity, impartiality and neutrality.”

EHF COURT OF APPEAL

Members



Markus Plazer
President



Jens Bertel Rasmussen
Vice-President



Nicolae Vizitiu
Member



Robert Czaplicki
Member



Maxim Gulevich
Member



Roland Schneider
Member



Milan Petronijevic
Member



Janka Stasova
Member



Ketevan Koberidze
Member

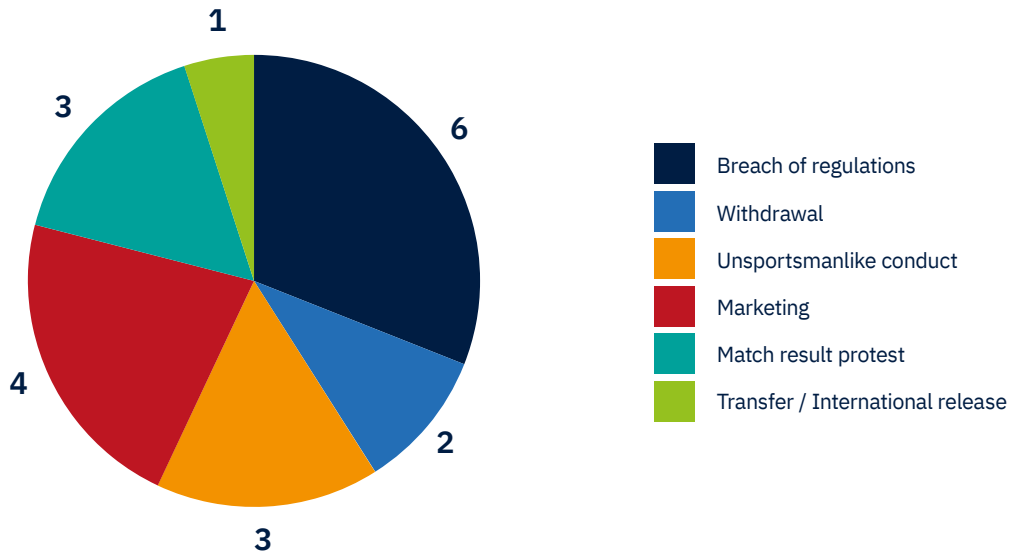
Report

Within the EHF legal framework and its Member Federations and Associated Federations, the EHF Court of Appeal (CoA) represents the second instance for legal adjudication. The CoA is responsible for all issues relating to international handball competitions in Europe, such as decisions upon issues relating to international player transfers and violations of regulations - including those of an administrative nature.

The previous congress in 2016 at St. Wolfgang, Austria confirmed Markus Plazer (AUT) as the re-elected President of the CoA as also the Vice-President Jens B. Rasmussen and three Members Nicolae Vizitiu (MDA), Roland Schneider (SUI) and Milan Petronijevic (SRB) retained their positions in the court. Robert Czaplicki (POL) and Maxim Gulevich (RUS) were elected as new Members, while Janka Stasova (SVK) and Ketevan Koberidze (GEO) were nominated as additional members.

Over the course of four years, the CoA provided decisions in 20 cases, the most – eight – coming during the 2017/18 season. Among the wide variety of cases, six involved breaches of the regulations, followed by four cases in the marketing area and by three unsportsmanlike conducts and match results protests each.

In 2017, the CoA became part of a reform, which saw a change in the handling of the legal cases at the national team tournaments. Since its premiere at the Men's EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia, the Court of Appeal now acts together with the Court of Handball as ad hoc bodies and are now competent at these events. Previously there were two legal instances composed of delegates present at the event. So far only in the case of two matters, the claimants were trying to seek a reversal of the first instance decisions.



President of the Court of Appeal Markus Plazer said: “In order to function, every organisation needs rules and guidelines which ensure compliance with those requirements and punishments for their violation. These conditions provide legal certainty for all Members of the organisation. Our two-tiered legal system also intends to preserve this legal certainty. I believe that our legal system has worked very well so far.”

In a year-by-year overview, there was no change in the activity within the CoA in 2017 with three cases sent to the second instance for review. The undertakings of the CoA were similar to that of the previous season in 2018. The 2017/18 season saw a three-fold increase in cases compared to the previous season with the number of first instance cases (approx. 15 per cent) appealed to the second instance remaining stable and upholding the efficiency of the Court of Handball.

In 2019, the EHF legal bodies continued to strengthen the reputation of a fair and transparent system that provides the solid foundation of the EHF legal framework. The various regulations, in addition to the ‘List of Penalties’ and the ‘Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions’, are made available to every Member Federation and club team involved in EHF competitions. This allows for an evidential overview prior to any action taking place in the arenas and on the court.

Three cases were submitted to the CoA for adjudication during the 2019/20 season: international release, which was partially granted, a withdrawal from competition that was found in favour of the plaintiff and one case of unsportsmanlike conduct that was rejected in its entirety. While acting as an on-site body during the Men’s EHF EURO 2020, no cases decided by the Disciplinary Commissions were appealed.

For three consecutive years, the small number of appeals handled confirms the proper functioning of the EHF first instance and indicates the acceptance of necessary sanctions for violations and infringements of the written regulations by the parties.

Markus Plazer praised the work of his colleagues from the first instance body.

He said: “The few cases in the second instance not only confirm the excellent work of the Court of Handball but are also proof that all parties accept that sanctions must be imposed in the event of infringements.”

EHF COURT OF ARBITRATION COUNCIL

Members



Francesco Purromuto
President



Jacques Bettenfeld
Vice-President



Bogdan Sojkin
Vice-President

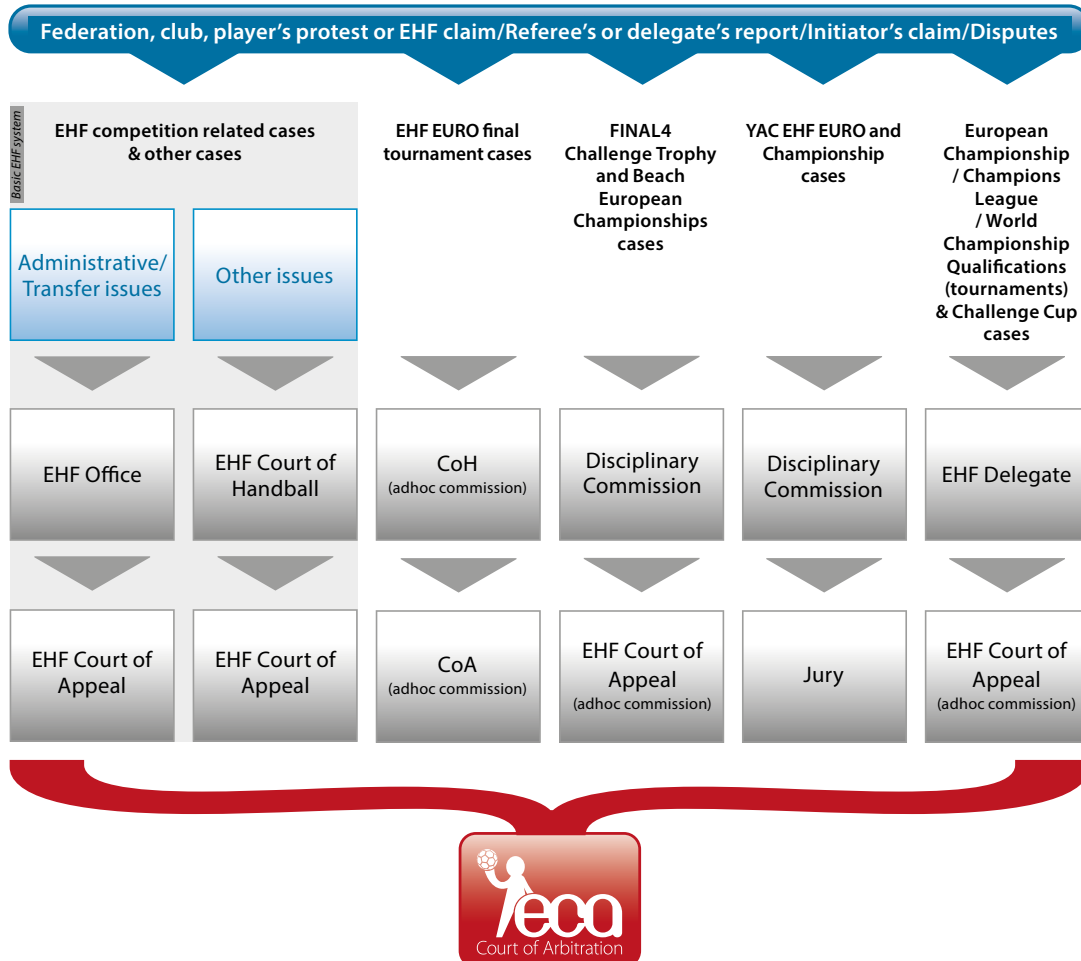


Wouter Lambrecht
Vice-President
(since 2018)

Report

The present EHF legal system, composed of two instances and an independent Court of Arbitration (ECA), entered into force in 2011 at the Extraordinary Congress in Cologne.

The ECA Council's main responsibility is to safeguard the independence of the ECA. Hence, it handles the general organisation and administration of the ECA, its representation towards the EHF Congress, reviews, assesses and subsequently appoints the list of arbitrators, appoints substitute arbitrators within the course of proceedings and may take various procedural decisions such as interim measures.



Francesco Purromuto (ITA) was elected as the council’s new president at the 2016 EHF Congress in Austria alongside two vice-presidents Jacques Bettenfeldt (FRA) and Bogdan Sojkin (POL). However, it was also decided at the Congress that the ECA Council would be opened to stakeholders to ensure that ECA remains an independent and modern court of arbitration. Therefore, in 2017, one Vice-President of the ECA Council, Wouter Lambrecht (BEL), was nominated by the Professional Handball Board.

During the present term of office, the ECA professional arbitrators have dealt with nine cases, two of which are still pending.

Acting as 3rd Instance	3
EHF involved	4
Jurisdiction	7
Total*	9

**Some cases fall under more than one category.*

Decisions passed at the EHF Ordinary Congress 2016 have been implemented leading to the integration of new arbitrators from the various EHF stakeholders.

A third ECA Vice-President was welcomed with Wouter Lambrecht’s nomination submitted on behalf of the stakeholders via the Professional Handball Board to ensure a fair representation of the stakeholder groups. The 2017/18 season saw the ECA called upon to review and adjudicate three cases.

By 2019 the EHF Court of Arbitration (ECA) had 64 registered arbitrators across Europe; a number that allows any claimant a wide choice of independent representation. In the same year, two cases were adjudicated by the EHF Court of Arbitration (ECA); whilst one case was dismissed for lack of jurisdiction, the other case that was opened in 2018 found resolution. The organisation and administration of the ECA continued to be supported by the four Members of the ECA Council. Additionally, the Council undertakes reviews and assessments of sample cases. However, the primary focus of the Council is to safeguard the independence of the ECA, thus ensuring the integrity of all its actions.

Both cases submitted to the arbitral chamber in 2020 were dealing with contractual matters, and the EHF was not involved.

In the new term the organisation and administration of ECA will be supported only by three Members of the ECA Council instead of the current four. Vice-President Bettenfeldt, after having served three terms, and Vice-President Sojkin, having reached the age limit for candidature, will vacate their positions in 2021. While two positions – the president and one of the vice-presidents, will be elected by the Congress, the second vice-president will be nominated by stakeholders’ representatives.

NATIONS BOARD MEN

Members



Morten Stig Christensen
Chairman



Philippe Bana
Deputy Chairman



Mark Schober
Member



Marek Goralczyk
Member



Ingo Meckes
Member



Stephen Neilson
Member

Report

Since the creation of the Nations Board for men's handball in 2010, the Members have engaged at the highest level of the sport-political spectrum within European handball.

The Nations Board is the primary stakeholder, with the six Members elected by Congress to serve the welfare and interest of the EHF Member Federations. As the organisation evaluated the numerous and varying options concerning the international calendar, the input of the Nations Board was crucial, as any decision taken would, and eventually did, affect every EHF Member Federation.

When competitions were eventually postponed or cancelled, it was the support of the 50 Members reflected through the Nations Board that enabled the tough decisions to be broadly accepted.

EHF EURO regulations working group

In 2017 the Nations Board continued to engage for all issues relating to and having influence on national team events. At the Conference for Secretaries General in Paris an in-depth presentation on the Board and how they serve the National Federations was given.

At the meetings that took place in 2017 through the open discussions that covered a wide range of topics such as financial distribution, regulations, media and marketing rights, it was the input from the Nations Board which resulted in a working group being formed to tackle the broader spectrum of the EHF EURO Regulations.

The Nations Board also played a significant role in the structure of the match schedule and the EHF EURO Cup - the latter being an element that has since been implemented as part of the road to an EHF EURO event.

Infront & DAZN partnership in focus in 2018 and 2019

The primary EHF stakeholder group representing the national Member federations, the Nations Board, held two official meetings in 2018, presenting all the EHF activities which have a specific relation to the 50 Member, and two associated, federations that form the EHF.

From national team events to changes in organisational regulations, the Nations Board was privy to the latest developments within the EHF and had the opportunity to give feedback and make recommendations to the EHF Executive Committee or bring information and suggestions to the Professional Handball Board, where the national federations are also represented.

It also dealt with many changes that would come into play for the EHF and its Members ahead of the media and marketing agreement with Infront and DAZN, Members of the Nations Board were invited to be part of working groups such as 'EHF Structure 2020+' which eventually presented recommendations to the EHF Congress, and which were subsequently ratified.

The Infront and DAZN deal was also high on the Nations Board's priority list, as primary EHF stakeholder group representing the national federations in all matters relating to men's handball, heavily invested in the activities of the European Handball Federation in 2019.

With the future youth and senior national team events enveloped in the deal, the Members of the Nations Board conducted scheduled meetings and were also part of working groups and coordination meetings aimed at ensuring that the interests of the national federations were represented and safeguarded.

The six Members of the Nations Board, representing all levels of European men's handball, made a significant contribution to the work around the Younger Age Category competitions in the future, as well as treating the main topics in this area by providing valuable input on matters such as the EHF EUROS, the international calendar, and current and future structural changes within the EHF.

2020 and beyond

In 2020, it was necessary to change the general structure of the meetings with the stakeholder groups to include joint meetings of common interest; thus, the Nations Board convened with the European Handball League Board for exchanges of information on men's handball prior to the main sessions.

The next meeting of the Nations Board, in March 2021, will be the final gathering in the current form as, in accordance with the 2018 Congress decision, the structure of the stakeholder group will be overhauled, ushering in the National Committees. The reconstituted Nations Board will see its chairperson take a seat on the Executive Committee.

WOMEN'S HANDBALL BOARD

Members



Nodjialem Myaro
Chairwoman



Pirje Orasson
Deputy Chairwoman



Leonor Mallozzi
Member



Deja Ivanovic
Member



Narcisa Lecusanu
Member



Liudmila Bodnieva
Member

Report

The Women's Handball Board (WHB) continues to go forward as it raises the image and popularity of women's handball and to strengthen youth handball.

Following a club and federation survey carried out by the WHB, the Women's Handball Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2021 were updated and shared with the federations during the three common workshops (2017, 2018, 2020) and whilst exchanging best practices, also encouraging them to follow and strengthen women's handball together.

The WHB developed and activated a network full of initiatives in respect of Women's Handball in the areas of education, development and promotion.

Education

With the aim of strengthening female leadership, there were initiatives for further education of female coaches, sports managers, delegates, referees in indoor and beach handball, all of which were executed in cooperation with the EHF CAN; all together 60 female participants were supported by the EHF, including 22 young coaches, seven EHF Master Coaches, 14 club managers and five European Managers, all obtaining the respective licence or certificate. A programme for mentoring of coaches in women's youth handball has been implemented to support the coaches working with young girls.

Development

In this area, focus was turned to youth handball, to support players aged 16-20 years in a huge development stage as a person and as an athlete in order to reduce drop out and to create a better players' environment, with particular emphasis on the Respect Your Talent initiative.

Under the WHB initiative, the talent development programme Respect Your Talent was created with the objective to contribute to sustainable pathways of talented handball players across Europe, based on stimulation of skills, empowering personal development on and off the court, enforcing ambition for the competitive pathway and strengthening the European handball community. It is important at an early stage to create awareness that the player is responsible for his or her talent development, as a handball player and as a person.

The Respect Your Talent programme is linked to the EHF YAC EURO/Championships with two activities: Player of the Match Event and Respect Your Talent Camp, which are executed as part of the EHF Master Plan for both women and men and supported with digital training sessions, Respect Your Talent Toolkit and Ambassador Sessions.

All training sessions at the camp, toolkit and ambassador sessions are delivered to the players by former and active elite players with support of experts in the areas of dual career, on-camera interview skills and social media, wellbeing, anti-doping, match fixing and sports law. These tools support the young players and contribute to stable and efficient professional development of their handball career and their personalities. The ambassador inspires the players to become role models for their peer group. The Respect Your Talent programme is attractive for the players, who are motivated to support the idea and be part of the Respect Your Talent community.

The EHF has taken the social responsibility to work with the YAC All-Star team players and to show a best practice example to federations and clubs of how important it is to develop the player with a career and an appropriate education, encouraging them to follow. The Train the Trainer activity from the Respect Your Talent programme will contain a set of expert workshops empowering national federations and clubs to implement Respect Your Talent activities within their own handball systems. All details of the Respect Your Talent programme can be found on the EHF Home of Handball online at respectyourtalent.eurohandball.com.

Promotion

When it came to promoting, the WHB focus has been to empower female leadership and promotion of the role models, all in connection with the Women's EHF EURO promotion. The campaign of EURO Ambassadors "Handball Inspires" in 2018 and podcast activity in 2020 were initiated. To strengthen the position of women in handball the following leadership awards were presented: Female coach of the season, National team female head coach and All-Star team awards at the YAC EURO/Championships. To improve the presentation of women's handball a photo project at the YAC events and Respect Your Talent Camp as well a mobile reporter programme were initiated.

Full support of the EHF to women's handball in 2020+

Finally, the EHF with the updated development strategy and the new media and marketing partnership agreement with Infront and DAZN aligned women's handball with men's in respect of the EHF national team and club competitions as well as media communication and engagement. This is a huge step forward, a great opportunity for women's handball, but also a big commitment and obligation, which necessitates further investment in women's handball to ensure the required expansion and quality of players, clubs and national teams.

COMPTROLLERS

Members



Alain Koubi
Member



Robert Pretenthaler
Member



Thomas Ludewig
Substitute since 6/2018

Former Member

Jutta Ehrmann-Wolff
(until 3/2017)

Report

The EHF Comptrollers serve as internal auditors to the European Handball Federation. It is an elected body that prepares reports for the Executive Committee and the Congress and which meets after the statutory audits according to Austrian Associations Act (Vereinsgesetz).

With Alain Koubi (FRA) and Jutta Ehrmann-Wolff (GER) being elected as new Members, while Robert Pretenthaler (AUT) was initially confirmed in his role as substitute, a new period started for the EHF Comptrollers at the EHF Congress in November 2016 in St. Wolfgang.

When Ehrmann-Wolff only shortly afterwards was nominated and elected to the Technical Refereeing Committee, Pretenthaler was confirmed as her successor by the EHF Executive Committee in early 2017. The EHF Congress 2018 in Glasgow then elected German Thomas Ludewig as new substitute. Koubi, Pretenthaler and Ludewig are the body's three current Members.

In 2017, the EHF Comptrollers – together with Vice-President Finances Henrik La Cour and Chief Finance Officer Andrea Moser – continued to uphold their obligation to oversee the accounting practices within the EHF and EHF Marketing. The Comptrollers' first meeting took place in April 2017 followed by a second meeting in October. The Comptrollers were also present at key strategic meetings where financial presentations were made. At the Comptrollers' recommendation, petty cash management guidelines were issued and approved by the EHF Finance Delegation in September 2017.

In 2018, the EHF Comptrollers, in cooperation with authorised external auditors, undertook and concluded their annual examination of the EHF accounts of 2017. In their second function as a Comptrollers Council of EHF Marketing GmbH, the finances for the year 2017/18 were examined in the presence of, and in cooperation with, the men's and women's club representatives.

A recommendation was made regarding credit balances which several national federations held with the European Handball Federation. It was recommended that a decision should be taken by the EHF at the political level in order to avoid getting involved in financial transactions of individual Member federations.

In 2019, the EHF Comptrollers and the Comptrollers Council met, as scheduled, in Vienna on three occasions. The oversight body was tasked with reviewing the 2018 EHF accounts and the EHF 2018/19 business year. The trio of Comptrollers performed the examination of the accounts of both organisations in compliance with the EHF Statutes.

A comprehensive report was delivered to the Executive Committee and the Congress upon completion of the external audit. The Comptrollers attested that the EHF activities of 2018 and the EHF Marketing business year of 2018/19 were undertaken with the full cooperation of the EHF Finance Department. Altogether, the external auditors and internal control confirmed that the organisation continues to deliver on all financial obligations, in accordance with the planning.

Following the Comptrollers' recommendation regarding the credit balances which several national federations held with the EHF, the matter was presented to the Finance Delegation and a resolution was adopted to the effect that the credit balance on any federation's account should not exceed a total of EUR 150k at the balance sheet date. This resolution was also communicated to the Executive Committee.

In 2020, the Comptrollers executed their duties by examining all financial records pertaining to the 2019 EHF accounts and the 2019/20 EHFM business year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic all meetings in 2020 were organised in the form of video conferences. The work of the Comptrollers and the Comptrollers Council was underpinned by the external audits conducted in 2020. In accordance with the EHF Statutes, the outcome of the inspections was delivered to the Executive Committee for ratification prior to being presented at the 15th Ordinary EHF Congress in 2021. Accordingly, the results of the 2019/20 EHFM business year were delivered to the General Assembly of EHF Marketing GmbH in November 2020. The reviews of the EHF and EHFM financial activities were undertaken with the full cooperation of the EHF Finance Department.



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