



DRAW INFORMATION

EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN 2022/23
GROUP PHASE DRAW

Friday 1 July 2022, 11:00 CEST
Vienna

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EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SEASON 2022/23



EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

2022/23 SEASON

Playing system and dates



<p>Group Phase <i>Draw required</i></p> <p>A B</p> <p>A1* B1* A2* B2* A3 B3 A4 B4 A5 B5 A6 B6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p>Play-offs <i>No draw required</i></p> <p>M1 B6 V A3 M2 A6 V B3 M3 B5 V A4 M4 A5 V B4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p>Quarter-finals <i>No draw required</i></p> <p>M4 V A1 M3 V B1 M2 V A2 M1 V B2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p>EHF FINAL4 <i>Draw required</i></p> <p>SEMI-FINALS 3rd PLACE MATCH FINAL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>17-18 June 2023</p>
<p>R1: 14-15/9/22 R2: 21-22/9/22 R3: 28-29/9/22 R4: 5-6/10/22 R5: 26-27/10/22 R6: 2-3/11/22 R7: 23-24/11/22</p> <p>R8: 30/11-1/12/22 R9: 7-8/12/22 R10: 14-15/12/22 R11: 8-9/2/23 R12: 15-16/2/23 R13: 22-23/2/23 R14: 1-2/3/23</p> <p><small>* Top two places of Groups A and B proceed directly to the Quarter-finals.</small></p>	<p>1st leg – 22-23 March 2023 2nd leg – 29-30 March 2023</p>	<p>1st leg – 10-11 May 2023 2nd leg – 17-18 May 2023</p>		

I SEEDING FOR THE GROUP PHASE DRAW

With still a few months to go until the EHF Champions League Men 2022/23 throws off on 14/15 September, the 16 participating teams will get to know their group phase opponents during the draw in Vienna on Friday 1 July.

The line-up of teams for the new season in Europe's top flight was confirmed on Monday, which leaves just one question: who is going to play against who in the group phase?

The group phase draw takes place in Vienna on Friday 1 July at 11:00 CEST and will be streamed live on EHFTV and the EHF Champions League Facebook page, with further coverage on EHF's dedicated social media channels and eurohandball.com.

For 2022/23, the competition format remains the same as in the past two seasons: two groups of eight teams each, with the top-six ranked teams qualifying for the knockout phase. Both the group winners and runners-up from each group will be heading directly into the quarter-finals, and the teams ranked third through sixth will advance to the play-offs.

So, how will the 16 teams be divided into the two groups at Friday's draw?

First of all, each team has been allocated to one of those four pots based on the current seeding:

POT 1	POT 2
BARÇA (ESP)	GOG (DEN)
SC MAGDEBURG (GER)	LOMZA INDUSTRIA KIELCE (POL)
PSG HANDBALL (FRA)	FC PORTO
PICK SZEGED (HUN)	RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LASKO

POT 3	POT 4
CS DINAMO BUCURESTI (ROU)	ELVERUM HANDBALL (NOR)
THW KIEL (GER)	HC PPD ZAGREB (CRO)
HBC NANTES (FRA)	AALBORG HÅNDBOLD
TELEKOM VESZPRÉM (HUN)	ORLEN WISŁA PŁOCK

Draw procedure

Based on those pots, the draw procedure will follow these five steps:

- STEP 1: A team from Pot 1 is drawn to Row 1 or 2 (4x)
- STEP 2: A team from Pot 2 is drawn to Row 3 or 4 (4x)
- STEP 3: All teams from Pot 3 are allocated to Rows 5 and 6 (no draw)
- STEP 4: Aalborg and Plock are allocated to Row 7 or 8
- STEP 5: Elverum and Zagreb are drawn to Row 7 or 8

Some teams have to be allocated due to the country protection rule, as two teams from the same nation cannot be drawn into the same group.

I EHFTV

The OTT platform of the EHF and EHF Marketing, EHFTV has established itself over the past decade as a meeting point for all handball fans. The option to watch EHF games for free, live and on-demand, as well as the opportunity to enjoy additional content created for the EHF competitions on a regular basis, has made EHFTV a unique and highly-appreciated OTT service in the sport market. The general approach of EHFTV remains, offering the best handball content for free. This approach is complemented with the option to register to the portal for free. This registration gives the handball fans the option to watch games live and on-demand, but also allows fans to improve and personalise their fan experience during the season.

On EHFTV, matches from every EHF competition are available, complemented with highlights, the best goals and saves and plenty of additional content created exclusively for the portal. Since 2020 the new EHFTV has been designed to be fully adaptable to all devices, regardless of whether fans are at home or on the go, the best handball action is accessible any time and from anywhere. Once the fans enter in the EHFTV, they find an adapted filter menu, an improved navigation through the portal and the option to personalise the favourite competition and/or club directly on their registration account. These features permit all users to find, select and enjoy the best handball in an easy manner.

Furthermore, the state-of-the-art video player, which also includes a multi-screen feature, guarantees the best quality and the perfect conditions to follow the EHF Champions League, whenever it is played.



I HANDBALLS GET FRESH LOOK FOR THE NEW SEASON

News season, new look! The official SELECT SPORT match balls for the 2022/23 season of the EHF Champions League appear in a high-class and fresh design. In line with the competition's brand identity introduced in 2020, the new EHF Champions League ball showcases the use of flashes of gold colour.

The hand-sewn ball is made of extremely hard-wearing synthetic leather material and a patented zero-wing bladder inside the ball ensures optimal roundness.

The new balls were first introduced at both EHF FINAL4 2022 events - for women, on 4/5 June in Budapest; for men, on 18/19 June in Cologne.

Only one click away - the Home of Handball Shop

The new official SELECT SPORT match balls as well as more products of the EHF's official supplier can be purchased in the Home of Handball web shop on shop.eurohandball.com. Since its launch in autumn of 2020, customers can get their hands on official match balls and replica balls of all EHF Competitions (EHF Champions League, EHF European League, EHF EURO) and also benefit from worldwide shipping.



I ROAD TO COLOGNE

The EHF FINAL4 Men is the culmination of the European handball season. The two-day event sees the best four men's teams in Europe playing to decide the ultimate winner of the EHF Champions League Men. The 2023 edition will take place on 17/18 June in Cologne, which hosts the event for the 14th straight time and will continue to do so until 2026.

On the eve of the 2022 semi-finals it was confirmed that Cologne's LANXESS arena will host the EHF FINAL4 Men and Europe's best handball players for another two years, until 2026. The European Handball Federation and its marketing company, EHF Marketing GmbH, as organisers of the EHF FINAL4 Men signed a new deal with the City of Cologne, LANXESS arena and the federal state of North-Rhine Westphalia which sees the EHF FINAL4 Men return for two more events. The current contract runs through to 2024.

The success story between the EHF FINAL4 Men, the LANXESS arena and the City of Cologne started in 2010 when the first event was held in front of a capacity crowd of 19,750 spectators. The decision to create a new format for the final phase of the EHF Champions League was seen as crucial for the growth of handball across Europe. The aim was to create a flagship event, one that could compete on the international sports market and make the Europe's leading club competition even more attractive to fans, partners and sponsors. The success of all previous editions of the EHF FINAL4 up to date showed that this format has been the right strategy. It has set new standards in organisation and entertainment; it is not just four games played over two days but an event that combines outstanding sports and unique entertainment.

After two years of pandemic with the EHF FINAL4 being played behind almost closed doors in 2020 and in front of only 1,000 fans in 2021, the 13th edition in 2022 followed in the footsteps of previous events with a sold-out arena and 19,750 spectators witnessing Barça's 37:35 victory after penalty shoot-out in the final against Lomza Vive Kielce from Poland, making the Spanish side the first to successfully defend the title since the inaugural EHF FINAL4 was played in 2010. Ticket sales for the EHF FINAL Men 2023 have already started, with 10,000 tickets sold already for the tournament which will take place on 17/18 June 2023. More information on ticketing can be found [online on eurohandball.com](https://www.eurohandball.com).





CLUBS

EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN 2022/23
GROUP PHASE DRAW

POT 1



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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: light green
Player short: light green
GK shirt: blue or yellow

Dark

Player shirt: blue and red
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green or black



Playing hall

Palau Blaugrana
Av. Aristides Maillol, s/n
08028 Barcelona
Spain
Capacity: 7,585

BARÇA



- earned their 10th CL trophy in June, beating Lomza Vive Kielce on penalties at the EHF FINAL4
- beat Bidasoa Irun for their 17th ASOBAL Cup victory and the 11th in a row in June
- lost only three group phase matches in 2021/22
- right back Dika Mem and right wing Aleix Gómez were named to the CL All-star Team 2022
- this is the second season under coach Carlos Ortega, who is signed until 2024
- will announce new signings early in July

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 26
Winners (10): 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2004/05, 2010/11, 2014/15, 2020/21, 2021/22
Final (4): 2000/01, 2009/10, 2012/13, 2019/20
Semi-finals (4): 2007/08, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2018/19
Quarter-finals (4): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2011/12, 2015/16
Last 16 (2): 2003/04, 2017/18
Main Round (1): 2008/09

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2002/03, Runners-up 2001/02
Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 1993/94, 1994/95
IHF European Champions Cup: 1990/91
IHF Super Globe: 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018

Spanish league: 29 titles (1969, 1973, 1980, 1982, 1986, 1988-92, 1996-2000, 2003, 2006, 2011-22)

Spanish cup: 26 titles (1969, 1972-73, 1983-85, 1988, 1990, 1993-94, 1997-98, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2009-10, 2014-2022)

POT 1



Club contact

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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: green
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: red or green



Playing hall

Getec Arena Magdeburg
Berliner Chaussee 32
39114 Magdeburg
Germany
Capacity: 7,800

SC MAGDEBURG



- sealed their CL spot after beating Kiel to the Bundesliga title
- EHF European League Men runners-up 2022, losing 39:40 to Benfica in the final
- returning to the CL for the first time since 2005/06
- won the CL in 2001/02
- IHF Super Globe champions 2021, after defeating Barça in the final
- said farewell to goalkeeper Jannick Green (to PSG) and line player Magnus Gullerud (Kolstad) at the end of last season

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 5
Winners (1): 2001/02
Semi-final (1): 2003/04
Quarter-final (1): 2002/03
Last 16 (1): 2005/06

Other

EHF European League: Winners (1) 2020/21, Runners-up (1): 2021/22
EHF Cup: Winners (3) 1998/99, 2000/01, 2006/07
IHF European Champions Cup (forerunner of CL): Winners (2) 1977/78, 1980/81
EHF Champions Trophy: Winners (2) 2000/01, 2001/02

German league (12): 2001, 2022 (GDR league: 1970, 1977, 1980, 1981-85, 1988, 1991)
German cup (7): 1996, 2016 (GDR Cup: 1970, 1977, 1978, 1984, 1990)

POT 1



Club contact

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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green



Playing hall

Stade Pierre de Coubertin
82, Avenue Georges Lafond
75016 Paris
France
Capacity: 3,500

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN HANDBALL



- missed out on the EHF FINAL4 2022 due to a 62:63 aggregate loss to THW Kiel in the quarter-finals
- now in their 10th straight CL season and their 11th overall
- still to win the title after five EHF FINAL4 appearances; reached the final once, in 2016/17
- new signings include Jannick Green (SC Magdeburg), Andreas Palicka (Redbergsliids), Dominik Mathe (Elverum) and David Balaguer (Nantes)
- departures include Mikkel Hansen (Aalborg), Nedim Remili and Benoit Kounkoud (Kielce), Yann Genty (Limoges) and Vincent Gérard (Saint-Raphaël)

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 11

Final (1): 2016/17

Semi-finals (4): 2015/16, 2017/18, 2019/20, 2020/21

Quarter-finals (4): 2013/14, 2014/15, 2018/19, 2021/22

Last 16 (1): 2005/06

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2006/07, Last 16 2003/04

French league: 9 titles (2013, 2015-22)

French cup: 5 titles (2007, 2014-15, 2018, 2021, 2022)

POT 1

PICK SZEGED



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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: light blues/
white stripes

Player short: dark blue

GK shirt: white or yellow

Dark

Player shirt: dark blue
with stripes or gold blue

Player short: blue or
gold blue

GK shirt: black



Playing hall

Pick Arena

Városi Stadion
Felső Tisza-Part 1-3
6723 Szeged
Hungary
Capacity: 8,300

- now into their 21st CL season
- have never reached EHF FINAL4
- went out in last season's play-offs to SG Flensburg-Handewitt (57:60 on aggregate)
- secured victory in the Hungarian league in June by beating Telekom Veszprém 30:29 in Veszprém
- Juan Carlos Pastor has led the club since 2013
- left back Nik Henigman is the only major departure over the summer, leaving for Saint-Raphael

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 21

Quarter-finals (5): 1996/1997, 2003/2004, 2014/15, 2016/17, 2018/19

Play-offs (2): 2020/21, 2021/22

Last 16 (8): 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007, 2010/2011, 2012/13, 2015/16, 2017/18, 2019/20*

Main Round (1): 2007/2008

Group Phase (3): 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2011/2012

Qualification (1): 2013/14

* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2015, Quarter-final 2001

Last 16: 1994/95, 1999/2000

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-final 1993/94, Quarter-final: 2002/03, 2008/09

Hungarian league: 5 titles (1996, 2007, 2018, 2021, 2022)

Hungarian cup: 7 titles (1977, 1982-83, 1993, 2006, 2008, 2019)

POT 2



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GOGsport



gogsport

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: red
GK shirt: green/white/red

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: white/red/green



Playing hall

Jyske Bank Arena
Orbaekvej 350
5220 Odense
Denmark
Capacity: 4,000

GOG



- last played the CL in 2019/20, finishing third in group C
- have reached the quarter-finals on three occasions: 1995/96, 2004/05, and 2006/07
- last season made it to the EHF European League quarter-finals, losing by five goals on aggregate to RK Nexe
- beat Aalborg 27:26 away in the final of the Danish league to seal their Champions League spot
- notable departures include star right back Mathias Gidset and goalkeepers Torbjoern Bergerud and Viktor Hallgrímsson; new signings include Swedish keeper Tobias Thulin

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 9
Main Round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09
Last 16 (2): 2004/05, 2006/07
Group Matches (4): 1995/96, 1996/97, 1998/99, 2000/01, 2019/20

Other

EHF European League: Quarter-finals 2020/21
EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 1999/00, 2001/02, 2005/06
Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 1995/96, Quarter-finals 1993/94, 1997/98

Danish league: 8 titles (1992, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2022)
Danish cup: 10 titles (1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2019)



POT 2



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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
GK shirt: blue

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green



Playing hall

Hala Legionów
ul. Łaszka Drogosza 2
15-116 Kielce
Poland
Capacity: 4,200

LOMZA INDUSTRIA KIELCE

- coming off one of their best CL seasons, after losing to Barça on penalties in the EHF FINAL4 2022 final
- line player Artsem Karalek was named MVP of the EHF FINAL4 2022
- have won 11 straight Polish Superliga titles, but lost the final of the Polish Cup 27:34 to Orlen Wisła Płock last season
- CL All-star Team best coach Talant Djujshebaev has been in charge since 2014
- PSG's Nedim Remili and Benoit Kounkoud are among a raft of signings for 2022/23
- changed their name to Lomza Industria Kielce after signing a new sponsorship deal before the new season

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 20

Winners (1): 2015/16

Runners-up (1): 2021/22

Semi-finals (3): 2012/13, 2014/15, 2018/19

Quarter-finals (1): 2017/18

Play-offs (1): 2020/21

Last 16 (7): 1993/94, 1994/95, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2019/20*

Last 32 (2): 1996/97, 1998/99

Group Matches (3): 1999/2000, 2003/04, 2010/11

* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 1997/98, 2005/06

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals 1995/96

Polish league: 19 titles (1993-94, 1996, 1998-99, 2003, 2009-10, 2012-22)

Polish cup: 17 titles (1985, 2000, 2003-04, 2006, 2009-19, 2021)

POT 2

FC PORTO



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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: blue and white (stripes)
Shorts: blue or white
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

Dark

Player shirt: Yellow
Player shorts: yellow
Goalkeeper shirt: dark blue



Playing hall

Dragao Arena
Via Futebol Clube do Porto
4350419 Porto
Portugal
Capacity: 2,225

- coming into their fourth straight CL season
- fell 56:64 on aggregate to Montpellier in the play-offs last season, after finishing fifth in group B
- known for their loyal fanbase
- best result in Europe was third in the EHF Cup in 2019
- welcoming new signings including Aalborg centre back Nikolaj Læsø this season; departures include Diogo Silva and Djibril M'Bengue

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 13

Play-offs (2): 2020/21, 2021/22

Last 16 (1): 2019/20*

Group phase (2): 2013/14, 2015/16

Qualification (7): 1999/00, 2004/05, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2014/15

* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF Cup: 3rd: 2018/19; Group Phase: 2014/15, 2016/17; Last 16 1998/99, 2010/11, 2011/12
Cup Winner's Cup: Quarter-final 2000/01, 2001/02; Last 16 1996/97, 2007/08

Portuguese league: 23 titles (1954, 1957-60, 1963-65, 1968, 1999, 2002-04, 2009-15, 2019, 2021, 2022)

Portuguese cup: 9 titles (1976-77, 1979-80, 1994, 2006-07, 2019, 2021)

POT 2



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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: yellow-blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: blue, green,
orange

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: blue, green,
orange



Playing hall

Dvorana Zlatorog
Opekarniška cesta 15
3000 Celje
Slovenia
Capacity: 4,827

RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LAŠKO



- Celje were crowned champion of the Slovenian league for the 25th time in history and will enter their 27th season in the CL
- the Slovenian side will make its comeback in the CL after a one-season absence, prior to that, Celje had compiled nine straight participations in the competition
- Celje lifted the CL trophy once, in 2003/04, while playing the semi-finals six times, the last one in 2005
- for Alem Toskic it will be his first CL season as Celje head coach
- the club only announced one signing so far for next season : young Serbian centre back Vukasin Antonijevic

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 27

Winner (1): 2003/04

Semi-final (6): 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99,

1999/2000, 2000/01, 2004/05

Quarter-final (2): 2001/02, 2005/06

Last 16 (5): 1995/96, 2006/07, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2019/20

Main Round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09

Group Phase (7): 1993/94, 1994/95, 2010/11, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19

Qualification (1): 2009/10

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2009/10

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 2002/03, 2011/12

Slovenian league: 25 titles (1991-2001, 2003-08, 2010, 2014-20, 2022)

Slovenian cup: 21 times

POT 3



Club contact

Club Address

CS Dinamo Bucuresti
Sos. Stefan cel Mare
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Romania

Media contact

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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: red
GK shirt: grey

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
GK shirt: dark green



Playing hall

Sala Polivalenta Bucuresti
Calea Piscului Nr. 10,
sector 4
020121 Bucuresti
Romania
Capacity: 5,000

CS DINAMO BUCURESTI



- made sure they would be back in the CL after winning the Romanian league for a second year running
- last season finished seventh in group A, with four wins and 10 losses
- left wing Alex Pascual and left back Raul Nantes were both All-star Team nominees last season
- coached since last season by Xavier Pascual, who previously took Barça to three CL titles
- Barça's Ali Zein is one of a number of signings for Dinamo this season, alongside Czech right back Stanislav Kasperek

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 9

Last 16 (1): 2019/20*

Group phase (5): 2005/06, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2021/22

Qualification (2): 1995/96, 1997/98

* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF European League: Group Phase: 2020/21

EHF Cup: Semi-finals: 2003/04; Last 16: 2001/02, 2004/05

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals: 2002/03

Challenge Cup: Final: 2000/01, Semi-finals: 2007/08

City Cup: Semi-finals: 1999/2000

European Champions' Cup: 1 title (1965)

IHF Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up: 1983

Romanian league: 18 titles (1959-62, 1964-66, 1978, 1986, 1995, 1997, 2005, 2016-19, 2021, 2022)

Romanian cup: 7 titles (1979, 1982, 1988, 2017, 2020-22)

POT 3



Club contact

Club Address

THW Kiel
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24161 Altenholz
Germany

Media contact

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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
Goalkeeper shirt: black

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: red



Playing hall

Wunderino-Arena-Kiel
Europaplatz 1
24103 Kiel
Germany
Capacity: 10,285

THW KIEL



- four-time CL champions, finished third at EHF FINAL4 2022
- had two All-star Team members last season: goalkeeper Niklas Landin and best defender Hendrik Pekeler
- after two back-to-back Bundesliga victories in 2020 and 2021, lost 2022 final to Magdeburg
- head coach Filip Jicha is now in his fourth season in charge
- star centre back Sander Sagosen missed EHF FINAL4 after breaking his ankle; 2022/23 is set to be his last season at Kiel
- squad is bolstered by Tomas Mrkva (from Bergischer) and Eric Johansson (Elverum) among others

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 25
Winners (4): 2006/07, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2019/20
Final (4): 1999/2000, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2013/14
Semi-finals (6): 1996/97, 2000/01, 2012/13, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2021/22
Quarter-finals (8): 1998/99, 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2020/21
Group Phase (2): 1994/95, 1995/96

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 1997/98, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2018/19
Champions Trophy: Winners 2006/07; Runners-up: 2000/01, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2007/08
German league: 22 titles (1957, 1962-63, 1994-96, 1998-2000, 2002, 2005-10, 2012-15, 2020-21)
German cup: 12 titles (1998-2000, 2007-09, 2011-13, 2017, 2019, 2022)

POT 3



Club contact

Club Address

HBC Nantes
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44200 Nantes
France

Media contact

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 [HBCNantes](https://www.instagram.com/HBCNantes)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: grey/black
Player short: grey/black
GK shirt: yellow, blue or green

Dark

Player shirt: purple/yellow
Player short: purple
GK shirt: yellow, blue or green



Playing hall

H ARENA

Palais des Sports de Beaulieu
7-9 rue André Tardieu
44200 Nantes, France
Capacity: 5,400

HBC NANTES



- after reaching the European League quarter-finals last season, Nantes will make their comeback in the CL in 2022/23
- the young French side already reached the EHF FINAL4 twice in history, in 2018 and 2021
- in the French league they finished second behind Paris Saint-Germain
- the team will undergo several changes this summer, as goalkeeper Emil Nielsen (Barça), right wing David Balaguer (PSG) and right back Kiril Lazarov (retirement) left the club
- expect some new faces on the bench as well, as coach Gregory Cojean will take over from Alberto Entrerrios. Cojean was Entrerrios' former assistant for three seasons

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 5
Runners-up (1): 2017/18
Quarter-finals (1): 2018/19
Last 16 (1): 2016/17

Other

EHF European League: Quarter-finals 2021/22
EHF Cup: Runners-up 2012/13, 2015/16; Quarter-finals 2013/14
French Cup: 1 title (2017)
French League Cup: 2 titles (2015, 2022)
Trophee des Champions: 1 title (2017)

POT 3



Club contact

Club Address

Telekom Veszprém HC
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Hungary

Media contact

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[@telekomVeszprem](https://twitter.com/telekomVeszprem)



[@handballVeszprem](https://www.instagram.com/handballVeszprem)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: black

Dark

Player shirt: red/black
Player short: black
GK shirt: yellow



Playing hall

Veszprém Arena
Külse Kádártai ut
8200 Veszprém
Hungary
Capacity: 5,096

TELEKOM VESZPRÉM HC



- last season, the Hungarian side reached the EHF FINAL4 and finished fourth after having been eliminated by Kielce in the semi-final and defeated by THW Kiel in the third place match
- lost to Szeged for the second straight season in the Hungarian league final after having conceded a buzzer-beater in the second leg
- “Epitők” already took part in seven EHF FINAL4s since 2010, but have never lifted the trophy in Cologne so far
- played four CL finals in history, the last one dating back to 2019
- signings for next season include line player Dragan Pechmalbec (Nantes), right wing Mikita Vailupau (Meshkov Brest) and left wing Bjarki Mar Elisson (Lemgo)

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 28
Final (4): 2001/02, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19
Semi-finals (6): 2002/03, 2005/06, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2019/20, 2021/22
Quarter-finals (10): 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2012/13, 2020/21
Last 16 (4): 1993/94, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2017/18
Group Phase (3): 1994/95, 1995/96, 2007/08

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2008, Finalists 1997
SEHA-league: 2 titles (2015, 2016)

Hungarian league: 26 titles (1985-86, 1992-1995, 1997-99, 2001-06, 2008-17, 2019)
Hungarian Cup: 29 titles (1984, 1988-1992, 1994-1996, 1998-2000, 2002-05, 2007, 2009-18, 2021, 2022)

POT 4



Club contact

Club Address

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2403 Elverum
Norway

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[@elverumhandball](https://www.instagram.com/elverumhandball)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
GK shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
GK shirt: green



Playing hall

Terningen Arena
Hamarvegen 112
2418 Elverum
Norway
Capacity: 2,400

ELVERUM HANDBALL



- back in the CL after winning their third national title in a row and their successful upgrade request from the EHF European League
- upcoming season will be Elverum's eighth season in the CL, their seventh straight
- their best performance in the competition is their qualification for the play-offs last season, where they were defeated by Paris Saint-Germain
- the Norwegian club has taken the habit to play their most prestigious games in Lillehammer, as they did when they hosted THW Kiel last season
- while major players such as Dominik Mathé (PSG) and Eric Johansson (Kiel) will leave Norway this summer, the club already signed seven new players

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 9

Play-offs (2): 2020/21, 2021/22

Group Phase (5): 2015/16, 2016/2017, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20

Qualification (1): 2013/14

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 2010/11

EHF Cup: Group Phase 2012/13

Norwegian league: 6 titles (2013, 2017, 2018, 2020-22)

Norwegian Cup: 4 titles (2019-22)

POT 4



Club contact

Club Address

HC PPD Zagreb
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10000 Zagreb
Croatia

Media contact

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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: red

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: yellow



Playing hall

Arena Zagreb
Laniste b.b.,
10000 Zagreb
Croatia
Capacity: 15,200

HC PPD ZAGREB



- booked their ticket for the 2022/23 Champions League edition after getting their nineteenth national title in a row
- took part in the group phase last season but did not manage to qualify for the play-offs
- last time Zagreb qualified for the CL knockout stage was in the 2018/19 season
- Zagreb won the CL forerunner - IHF European Champions Cup twice, in 1992 and 1993
- Croatia national team players David Mandic and Sandro Obranic will leave the club this summer
- however, Zagreb managed to sign six new players already, including Montenegrin sharpshooter Vuko Borozan

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 29
Final (4): 1994/95, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99
Semi-finals (1): 1999/00
Quarter-finals (7): 2000/01, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2008/09, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16
Play-offs (1): 2020/21
Last 16 (5): 2005/06, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2018/19
Main Round (1): 2007/08
Group Phase (8): 1993/94, 1995/96, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2017/18, 2019/20

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 2004/05, Semi-finals 2006/07
IHF European Champions Cup: 2 titles (1991/92, 1992/93)

Croatian league: 30 titles (1992-2019, 2021, 2022)
Croatian cup: 28 titles (1992-2000, 2003-2019, 2021, 2022)

POT 4



Club contact

Club Address

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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
GK shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: red
Player short: white
GK shirt: black



Playing hall

Sparekassen Danmark
Arena
Willy Brandts Vej 31
9220 Aalborg Ost
Denmark
Capacity: 4,666

AALBORG HÅNDBOLD



- after reaching the EHF FINAL4 in 2021, Aalborg made it to the quarter-finals last season, before being defeated by Veszprém
- finished second in the Danish league, after GOG defeated them in the final
- this was the first time since 2018 that Aalborg did not manage to win the title in the Danish league
- the upcoming season will be Aalborg's eighth participation in the CL, Their best performance dates back to 2021, when they lost in the final to Barça
- the club signed Danish superstar Mikkel Hansen for next season and have already announced the arrival of Niklas Landin for 2023

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 8
Final (1): 2020/21
Quarter-final (1): 2021/22
Last 16 (2): 2013/14, 2019/20*
Group Phase (3): 2010/11, 2014/15, 2017/18
* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-final 2003/04, Group Phase 2015/16
Challenge Cup: Round 4 2002/03

Danish league: 6 titles (2010, 2013, 2017, 2019-21)
Danish cup: 2 titles (2019, 2022)

POT 4



Club contact

Club Address

Orlen Wisła Płock
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09-400 Płock
Poland

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[sprwisla](https://www.instagram.com/sprwisla)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: blue
GK shirt: navy blue

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: red



Playing hall

ORLEN Arena

Pl. Cebry Papieskiej 1
09-400 Płock
Poland
Capacity: 5,467

ORLEN WISLA PŁOCK



- will make their return in the CL after a two-seasons absence
- in the meantime, the Polish club reached twice the EHF European League Finals, including last May, when it was defeated in the semi-final by the eventual trophy holders Benfica (19:26)
- the Oilers earned their CL ticket for next season after the EHF EXEC confirmed their upgrade request
- finished second in the Polish league behind Kielce, but beat their arch rivals in the Polish Cup final
- Plock reached the Champions League Last 16 five times in the last ten years, including the last one in 2019
- while Polish national goalkeeper Adam Moravski will leave the club in the summer, Plock drafted seven new players already, including Croatian goalkeeper Kristian Pilipovic

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 15
Last 16 (5): 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19
Group Phase (3): 2016/17, 2017/18, 2019/20
Group Matches (5): 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2008/09
Qualification (1): 2012/13

Other

EHF European League: Third place 2021/22, Fourth place: 2020/21

EHF Cup: Quarter-final 1993/94

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 1996/97

Polish league: 7 titles (1995, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2011)

Polish cup: 11 titles (1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2022)

I 2021/22 TOP SCORERS

Rank	Player	Club	Goals
1	Aleix Gómez (ESP)	Barça (ESP)	104
2	Dika Mem (FRA)	Barça (ESP)	100
3	Petar Nenadic (SRB)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	93
4	Felix Claar (SWE)	Aalborg Håndbold (DEN)	88
	Gasper Marguc (SLO)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	88
6	Kamil Syprzak (POL)	Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)	86
7	Yahia Omar (EGY)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	83
8	Tobias Grøndahl (NOR)	Elverum Handball (NOR)	81
	Hampus Wanne (SWE)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	81
10	Arkadiusz Moryto (POL)	Lomza Vive Kielce (POL)	79
11	Raul Nantes (BRA)	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti (ROU)	78
12	Ivan Cupic (CRO)	HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)	75
	Timur Dibirov (RUS)	HC Vardar 1961 (MKD)	75
	Alex Dujšebaev (ESP)	Lomza Vive Kielce (POL)	75
	Mikkel Hansen (DEN)	Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)	75
	Eric Johansson (SWE)	Elverum Handball (NOR)	75
	Manuel Strlek (CRO)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	75
18	Kristian Bjørnsen (NOR)	Aalborg Håndbold (DEN)	73
	Hugo Descat (FRA)	Montpellier HB (FRA)	73
	Niclas Ekberg (SWE)	THW Kiel (GER)	73
	Dylan Nahi (FRA)	Lomza Vive Kielce (POL)	73

I PAST WINNERS

Year	Club	Nation
2022	Barça	ESP
2021	Barça	ESP
2020	THW Kiel	GER
2019	HC Vardar	MKD
2018	Montpellier HB	FRA
2017	HC Vardar	MKD
2016	Vive Tauron Kielce	POL
2015	FC Barcelona	ESP
2014	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	GER
2013	HSV Hamburg	GER
2012	THW Kiel	GER
2011	FC Barcelona Borges	ESP
2010	THW Kiel	GER
2009	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2008	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2007	THW Kiel	GER
2006	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2005	FC Barcelona-Cifec	ESP
2004	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	SLO
2003	Montpellier HB	FRA
2002	SC Magdeburg	GER
2001	Portland San Antonio	ESP
2000	FC Barcelona	ESP
1999	FC Barcelona	ESP
1998	FC Barcelona	ESP
1997	FC Barcelona	ESP
1996	FC Barcelona	ESP
1995	Elgorriaga Bidasoa	ESP
1994	TEKA Santander	ESP

I ALL-TIME CLUB STANDINGS 1993–2022

TR	Name of the club	MP	W	D	L	GF:FA	GD	P	NP	%
1	Barça ESP	350	267	22	61	10949:9154	+1795	556:144	(26)	79,43%
2	THW Kiel GER	328	217	24	87	9957:8901	+1056	458:198	(25)	69,82%
3	Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	332	220	18	94	9791:8843	+948	458:206	(27)	68,98%
4	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	252	146	21	85	7250:6828	+422	313:191	(17)	62,10%
5	Montpellier HB FRA	250	136	19	95	7184:6878	+306	291:209	(21)	58,20%
6	HC PPD Zagreb CRO	316	124	33	159	8154:8361	-207	281:351	(29)	44,20%
7	Lomza Vive Kielce POL	212	123	17	72	6382:6087	+295	263:161	(16)	62,03%
8	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško SLO	260	117	15	128	7325:7253	+72	249:271	(24)	47,88%
9	Pick Szeged HUN	232	112	20	100	6410:6350	+60	244:220	(20)	52,59%
10	Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	168	111	12	45	5081:4608	+473	234:102	(12)	69,64%
11	BM Atletico Madrid ESP	144	111	5	28	4502:3803	+699	227:61	(10)	78,82%
12	HC Vardar 1961 MKD	188	83	21	84	5144:5241	-97	187:189	(15)	49,73%
13	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	176	75	18	83	5250:5200	+50	168:184	(18)	47,73%
14	Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	134	72	17	45	3971:3774	+197	161:107	(9)	60,08%
15	HSV Hamburg GER	98	68	9	21	3088:2670	+418	145:51	(7)	73,98%
16	Portland San Antonio ESP	100	64	6	30	2929:2594	+335	134:66	(9)	67,00%
17	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP	122	61	8	53	3440:3386	+54	130:114	(12)	53,28%
18	KIF Kolding København DEN	118	54	9	55	3330:3361	-31	117:119	(12)	49,58%
19	HC Motor UKR	120	48	11	61	3394:3511	-117	107:133	(9)	44,58%
20	Orlen Wisła Płock POL	136	44	11	81	3594:3833	-239	99:173	(14)	36,40%
21	HC Meshkov Brest BLR	142	40	14	88	3842:4134	-292	94:190	(12)	33,10%
22	Aalborg Håndbold DEN	98	39	7	52	2782:2889	-107	85:111	(8)	43,37%
23	HBC Nantes FRA	72	35	12	25	2110:2021	+89	82:62	(5)	56,94%
24	HC Metalurg MKD	102	35	6	61	2516:2718	-202	76:128	(10)	37,26%
28	GOG DEN	72	27	6	39	2075:2134	-59	60:84	(10)	41,67%
29	FC Porto POR	66	25	9	32	1785:1843	-58	59:73	(6)	44,70%
30	CS Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	64	25	5	34	1835:1930	-95	55:73	(7)	42,97%
31	Elverum Handball NOR	86	23	9	54	2369:2607	-238	55:117	(8)	31,98%
34	SC Magdeburg GER	40	24	3	13	1166:1077	+89	51:29	(5)	63,75%

I HISTORY: 29 YEARS OF EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

1993/94

Final: ABC Braga vs TEKA Santander

22:22/21:23 (43:45)

The inaugural year of the Men's EHF Champions League saw the classic home and away knockout matches being replaced with a totally new system: 32 teams in two qualification rounds, eliminating 24 clubs. The remaining eight teams were placed into two groups of four. TEKA Santander and ABC Braga topped their respective groups and faced each other in the final. Santander narrowly kept the upper hand and started what should become an eight-year Spanish club winning streak in the Men's EHF Champions League.

1994/95

Final: Elgorriaga Bidasoa Irun vs Badel Zagreb

30:20 / 26:27 (56:47)

The final of the EHF Champions League's second season became the match of a lifetime for Irun's Nenad Perunicic, nicknamed "the canon" or "Il Conquistadore" by the fans. He was his team's key player in the final and, in his first year in Spain, not only he lifted the EHF Champions League but also the national championship trophy with Irun.

1995/96

Final: FC Barcelona vs Elgorriaga Bidasoa Irun

23:15 / 23:23 (46:38)

In the season that was marked by the "Bosman decision", which had substantial effects on transfer regulations and transfer fees in sport, FC Barcelona won their first EHF Champions League title. No other should be capable of dethroning the Catalan side for the next four years.

1996/97

Final: FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb

31:22 / 30:23 (61:45)

In their second consecutive EHF Champions League Final Barcelona dominated both matches against Badel Zagreb. And while the Spanish side celebrated their second EHF Champions League triumph, the Croatian side had lost their second final. Also in 1996/97 the so called "fast break" was born due to a rule change, making handball more attractive and athletic than ever before.

1997/98

Final: FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb

28:18 / 28:22 (56:40)

Barcelona beat Zagreb once more to win their third consecutive EHF Champions League title. But at least as much news as the repeated triumph made the wedding of Barcelona player Inaki Urdangarin who married Christina, youngest daughter of Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, on 4th October 1997.

1998/99

Final: Badel Zagreb vs FC Barcelona

22:22 / 18:29 (40:51)

Once again there were tears in Zagreb and joy in Barcelona. The Spanish team beat Zagreb in their third consecutive final and lifted the EHF Champions League trophy for the fourth time in a row. Zagreb's coach Velimir Klajic had to admit that Barcelona "at this moment in time, were quite simply the best club team in the world."

1999/00

Final: THW Kiel – FC Barcelona

28:25 / 24:29 (52:54)

THW Kiel became the first German team to make it into the Final but even a 28:25-victory in the final's first leg was not enough to end Barcelona's EHF Champions League winning streak. Backed by half of the Spanish national team and international stars like Christian Schwarzer and Tomas Svensson, Barcelona won their fifth title.

2000/01

**Final: Portland San Antonio – FC Barcelona
30:24 / 22:25 (52:49)**

For Barcelona it was a whole new feeling to watch another team celebrating at the end of the Champions League Final. Following five consecutive titles an era came to end when Spanish King Juan Carlos handed the huge trophy to Portland San Antonio at the end of all-Spanish Final.

2001/02

**Final: Fotex Veszprem vs SC Magdeburg
23:21 / 25:30 (48:51)**

One year after Barcelona's dominance had ended in the EHF Champions League, the dominance of Spanish clubs also came to an end, when SC Magdeburg became the first German team to win the competition. And late at night, at the end of a glittering party, Stefan Kretzschmar and coach Alfred Gislason were still up for jokes: "Training is on the agenda. The entire team is going to run through the whole town until 08:00 tomorrow morning," they said.

2002/03

**Final: Portland San Antonio – Montpellier HB
27:19 / 19:31 (46:50)**

A new star was born during the finals of the 2002/03 EHF Champions League season. Montpellier's Nikola Karabatic scored 11 goals in the first leg in Spain and another six in front of his home fans, enabling his team to turn around the eight goal defeat from the first leg and to become the first French side to win the CL.

2003/04

**Final: Celje vs Flensburg- Handewitt
34:28 / 28:30 (62:58)**

In March 2003 the EHF had decided on a new structure for the competition. Three teams from Spain and Germany now had a starting slot. Two representatives from Hungary, Slovenia, Denmark and Croatia would start in the Group Phase. Overall 32 teams (8 groups of 4 teams each) made up the Group Phase. Flensburg had

profited from the new system but Slovenian side Celje was too strong in the final.

2004/05

**Final: BM Ciudad Real vs FC Barcelona Cifec
28:27 / 27:29 (55:56)**

Following four years without being present in the final, Barcelona won their sixth EHF Champions League title. And while the spectator record for one match was 10,000 fans, the whole city celebrated Barcelona's victory. "We did a lap of honour in the Stadion Nou Camp in front of 100,000 spectators and were celebrated by the whole town," remembers Barcelona's Dane Lars Krogh Jeppesen.

2005/06

**Final: Portland San Antonio vs BM Ciudad Real
19:25 / 28:37 (47:62)**

Spanish businessman and BM Ciudad Real president, Domingo Diaz de Mera, had put together a team that proved to be unbeatable in the 2005/06 Champions League season. Mera bought superstars from all over Europe and the team around Olafur Stefansson, Mirza Dzomba, Didier Dinart et al. paid justified Mera's expenses when they beat Spanish rival San Antonio in the final.

2006/07

**Final: SG Flensburg- Handewitt vs THW Kiel
28:28 / 27:29 (55:57)**

The EHF Champions League, through the efforts of the 2005 founded EHF Marketing GmbH, became a unified look. Since 2006, TV spectators across Europe know they are watching a men's EHF Champions League match when they see the distinct blue lagoon and black supplied by flooring specialists Gerfloor in addition to the season's individual yellow and blue handball supplied by adidas. On the sport side of things, Kiel won their first EHF Champions League title, beating arch rival Flensburg-Handewitt.

I HISTORY: 29 YEARS OF EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

2007/08

BM Ciudad Real vs THW Kiel 27:29 / 31:25 (58:54)

In the 2007/08 season a second Group Phase with four groups of four teams each replaced the Last 16-matches and the quarter-finals. The first teams of each group qualified for the semi-finals and in the final 2006 champion Ciudad Real faced 2007 champion THW Kiel. The Spanish side prevailed and could win their second EHF Champions League trophy.

2008/09

THW Kiel vs BM Ciudad Real 39:34 / 27:33 (66:67)

THW Kiel and BM Ciudad Real faced each other in the final for the second year in a row and even though Kiel had won the first leg of the final by five goals, it was Ciudad Real that won the EHF Champions League for a second consecutive time. Kiel were still in the lead by 20:16 after 39 minutes but with a series of 10:3 goals within 11 minutes Ciudad Real turned the match in their favour.

2009/10

FC Barcelona Borges vs HW Kiel 34:36

In the 2009/10 season the number of participating teams in the first Group Phase was reduced from 32 to 24. Four groups of six teams each were formed and the first four teams qualified for the knockout phase which replaced the second group phase. For the first time the VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournament, which combined the Semi-finals and the Final, was held in Cologne, Germany, to decide the champion. THW Kiel won their second title when they beat Barcelona.

2010/11

FC Barcelona vs Renovalia Ciudad Real 27:24

Since 2010 the event is known as the VELUX EHF Champions League. 40,000 fans stormed

to Cologne to attend the VELUX EHF FINAL4 weekend and TV viewing audience figures went to a new height. 310 million viewers from 76 countries worldwide watched 2,800 hours of TV transmissions 2010/11. Barcelona extended their lead as the most successful club in EHF Champions League history when won their seventh title, beating Ciudad Real in the Final.

2011/12

THW Kiel vs BM Atletico Madrid 26:21

The German powerhouse sensationally lost in their first home match of the season against Montpellier, but no other team was able to overcome THW Kiel throughout the remaining of the season. Gíslason led his team to the third trophy in the club's history becoming the first coach who won with two different teams. Defending champions from Barcelona were eliminated in the quarter-finals by AG København, but the Danish side was stopped in the semi-final by Atlético Madrid, who made it to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 for the fourth time in a row.

2012/13

FC Barcelona vs HSV Hamburg 29:30 AET

HSV Hamburg go into the new season as the defending champion. For the first time the extra-time had to decide the winner. In 20 years of EHF Champions League history there have only been two champions, Montpellier in 2003 and Celje in 2004, who neither came from Spain nor from Germany. The All-Stars team of the 20 years were announced: Goalkeeper Tomas Svensson (SWE), Left Wing Stefan Kretzschmar (GER), Left Back Filip Jicha (CZE), Line Player Andrei Xepkin (ESP), Centre Back Jackson Richardson (FRA), Right Back (Oláfur Stefansson), Right Wing Mirza Džomba (CRO), Best defender Didier Dinart (FRA)

2013/14

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs THW Kiel 30:28

For the third year in a row a team from Northern Germany prevailed as SG Flensburg-Handewitt took both of their opponents at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 by surprise. In the semi-final the “Vranjes boys” eliminated giants of FC Barcelona after a penalty-shoot-out thriller and made the Cinderella story perfect by beating their neighbours from Kiel 30:28 in the final.

2014/15

FC Barcelona vs MKB-MVM Veszprem 28:23

The defending champions from SG Flensburg-Handewitt were eliminated already in the Last 16 as well as Rhein-Neckar Löwen. The end of the three-year-old reign of Bundesliga was sealed only in Cologne as THW Kiel were unable to repeat their 2014 semi-final win against Veszprem. However, the effort of Hungarian champions for their premiere trophy were denied by FC Barcelona who rose to the throne for the eighth time in the EHF history.

2015/16

KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs MVM Veszprem 39:38 after 7m shootout

This final went down to history books of the Champions League as a breathtaking classic. Deep in the second half Veszprem were leading by nine goals, still Kielce put up a spirited fight to force the extra-time. Even the additional ten minutes could not solve the thriller and in the 7m shootout Kielce were luckier with Julen Aguinagalde’s last effort clinched the maiden title for the Polish champions adding only fifth country to the list of winners.

2016/17

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Vardar 23:24

For the first time in history no German team made it to the EHF FINAL4. The sold-out arena still saw yet another edition of some showcase handball and three out of four matches ended in only one goal differences. HC Vardar beat the buzzer for two days in a row as Luka Cindric

sank FC Barcelona Lassa in the semi-final and Ivan Cupic clinched the maiden title for the Macedonian team in the final against PSG sending their country into a handball frenzy.

2017/18

HBC Nantes vs Montpellier HB 27:32

In its 25th anniversary the European top flight once again underlined the rule that favourites cannot take anything for granted in this fierce competition. No fewer than three French teams made it to the final tournament in Cologne and after both finalists from the previous edition (Vardar and PSG) failed in the semi-finals it was a showdown between two pre-season underdogs HBC Nantes and Montpellier HB in the final. Mainly courtesy of a brilliant performance of their playmaker Diego Simonet Montpellier returned to the European throne after 15 years and became the first team from Group C or D with this achievement.

2018/19

HC Vardar vs Telekom Veszprém HC 27:24

The Macedonian champions unexpectedly returned to the throne. Despite losing several key players in the summer and during the season Vardar reached their third VELUX EHF FINAL4 in a row. After having stunned Barcelona in the semi-finals they held the upper hand throughout the whole final over Veszprem, whose losing streak in the Champions League finals was extended to four games. After what many saw as the club’s last shot at glory tens of thousands of people were welcoming the champions in the streets of Skopje.

I HISTORY: 29 YEARS OF EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

2019/20

THW Kiel vs Barça 33:28

For the first time in the history of the competition, the final of the EHF Champions League could only be played halfway through the following season. In March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic put the Champions League on hold after the group phase. The Last 16 and the quarter-finals had to be cancelled, but the EHF FINAL4 could be played - on 28/29 December, more than six months after its initial date. It didn't seem to bother Kiel, who had returned to the competition in the 2019/20 season after one year in the EHF Cup. The German side didn't arrive as the tournament favourites in Cologne, but edged Veszprém in the semi-finals before upsetting Barça 33:28 in the final to claim their fourth title, but first in eight years.

2020/21

Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold 36:23

Two clubs who had a stunning season, each in their own way, made it all the way to the final in Cologne in June 2021, and this time favourites Barça truly delivered and took their ninth title. In what was head coach Xavi Pascual's last match in charge, the Spanish champions eased past Aalborg to complete a perfect season: 20 matches played, 20 matches won - a feat never seen before in the EHF Champions League. The success story of Aalborg was also impressive: the Danish side didn't have an outstanding group phase campaign but grew stronger and stronger as the season progressed. They beat Flensburg in the quarter-final to get to their maiden EHF FINAL4, where they defeated PSG in the semi-final, only for their fairy-tale run coming to an end in the final.

2021/22

Barça vs Lomza Vive Kielce 37:35 after penalties

In the lead-up to the season's climax, the defending champions suffered just three defeats - two of them in the group phase against Kielce. However, when it mattered most Barça held the upper hand even though there was a lot of luck involved. For the second time in history, a penalty shoot-out had to determine the champions. After Ludovic Fabregas, who returned to the line-up from an injury just before the EHF FINAL4, scored the trophy-clinching goal the Catalan giants added a tenth CL silverware to their trophy cabinet and became only the first club which defended the title at the EHF FINAL4. After two corona-hit editions, the 2022 event was played again in front of a sold-out crowd which was treated not only by a great final but also by another thriller in the third place match, when THW Kiel defeated Veszprém also only after a penalty shoot-out drama. What a prelude to the anniversary 30th season it was!

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