

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

1. COMPETITIONS

1.1 TYPES

According to article 7.1 of the Statutes, the European Handball Federation (EHF) organizes Men's and Women's European Championships as well as for the younger age categories (YAC) Men's 18, 20, Women's 17, 19 (English: ECh, German: EM, French: ChE).

In addition to the above-mentioned competitions the EHF organizes the Beach Handball European Championships (Beach ECh) where specific regulations mainly apply.

1.2 RHYTHM AND DATES

All EChs take place in a 2-year rhythm.

- For men and women in even years
- For men's 18 and 20 in even years (M18, M20)
- For women's 17 and 19 in odd years (W17, W19)

1.3 PRIZES

1.3.1 Winners (places 1-3)

The first three teams will receive, for up to 16 players and for the remaining number of officials (a total of 24 altogether), the following medals and documents:

1 st place and European Champion	gold
2 nd place	silver
3 rd place	bronze

Furthermore the 4th ranked team will receive prizes (trophy, etc.).

1.3.2 Participants

All other teams as well as the appointed EHF officials and the members of the Organizing Committee shall receive commemorative medals.

1.3.3 EHF General Secretariat

One complete set of medals and diplomas shall be provided to the EHF General Secretariat.

2. ADMINISTRATION

2.1 ANNOUNCEMENT

2.1.1 The official announcement of an ECh is based on the respective application documents for official championships.

2.1.2 The allocation of an ECh to a local organizer is decided by the EHF Congress. The EHF Congress has the right to delegate this matter to the EHF Executive Committee. The fulfilment of the criteria established by the EHF Executive Committee is required for the respective application to be tabled at the Congress.

2.1.3 Each European Handball Championship is an EHF event. All questions relating to the organization and carrying out of such a championship have to be forwarded to the EHF and are subject to the EHF's consent.

2.1.4 Venues

The playing venues shall be proposed by the local organizer and are subject to EHF approval following the examination and inspection of halls, hotels, distances etc.

2.2 RIGHT OF PARTICIPATION

Any EHF member federation which has satisfied its obligations towards the IHF and the EHF is entitled to participate in an ECh. Under exceptional circumstances, permission may be granted by the EHF Executive Committee for a temporarily admitted federation to take part in an ECh.

2.3 REGISTRATION

2.3.1 Entries for the ECh are to be submitted to EHF General Secretariat within a preliminarily fixed period; at the same time the registration fee has to be paid. After the expiry of the deadline, the entry fee will be doubled. After another four weeks the federation concerned shall be fined with a total of EUR 2,250 and shall be excluded from the respective competition.

2.3.2 In principle, entries submitted after the set deadline cannot be accepted as they adversely affect the technical preparations of such an event and the carrying out of the event by the EHF.

2.4 DRAW

2.4.1 Qualification

Based on the entries received, the EHF determines the qualification mode. The qualification shall be drawn publicly. The seeding for the draw shall be based on the previous results. The criteria to be applied are structured on previous national team competitions. Decisions taken by the EHF are final.

2.4.2 **Final rounds**

With the exception of the organizer (valid for all European Championships) and the five best ranked teams from the preceding ECh (men and women), the final round participants shall be decided by qualification matches.

The preliminary round groups in the final tournament shall be decided by a public draw in the organizer's country. The seeding for the draw shall be based on the previous results. The draw shall be carried out by the EHF.

For the final tournament in a European Championship for women and men the organizer may choose its desired group at the appropriate point.

In the case of a participant withdrawing clause 2.5.3 shall apply.

2.4.3 **Number of participants in the final round**

16 teams in the Men's and Women's ECh

16 teams in the Men's 18, 20 ECh

16 teams in the Women's 17, 19 ECh

The organizer qualifies automatically for the final round and must not participate in the qualification phase(s). At Men's and Women's ECh the five best ranked teams from the preceding ECh also qualify for the final tournament. The fore-mentioned teams do not participate in the qualification. The remaining contestants are decided by qualification.

2.4.4 **ECh for the younger age categories (M18, M20, W17, W19)**

Beside the organizer, the two top ranked teams of a European Championship for the younger age categories qualify directly for the subsequent European Championship of the subsequent age category. The remaining places will be decided by qualification tournaments.

2.5 **WITHDRAWAL, FAILURE TO COMPETE**

In the case that a team withdraws or fails to compete, the team shall be penalized in accordance with the European Championship Regulations and the EHF Arbitration Regulations.

2.5.1 Any federation withdrawing or failing to play in a Men's or Women's European Championship, following the drawing of the qualification, shall be suspended for the next European Championship (in the same category - including qualification). Furthermore, the team shall be liable to pay compensation to the organizer and to the EHF for extra expenses resulting from the withdrawal and from any nomination of a substitute nation. This point shall also apply for withdrawals from or failures to play in European Championships of the younger age categories.

2.5.2 Any federation which registers for a European Championship and then withdraws from the event at a later date shall forfeit its entry fee and lump-sum advance payment and shall be fined as follows:

Withdrawal up to:

a) 1 week before the draw of the qualification

EUR 1,875

- | | |
|---|------------|
| b) 1 day before the draw of the qualification | EUR 3,750 |
| c) any later date | EUR 15,000 |

The failure to play at a scheduled qualification match shall be punished with a fine of EUR 15,000 to EUR 30,000.

- 2.5.3 If a contestant should withdraw, the substitute nation nominated by the EHF shall take the respective place. There shall not be a new draw.

3. FINANCES

3.1 PARTICIPANTS

The following costs shall be borne by the participants. This point also applies to qualification matches.

3.1.1 Travel expenses

The travel expenses for the entire delegation of participants to and from the competition venue (to be defined by the EHF for the ECh final round) shall be borne by the participant.

3.1.2 Visa costs

All expenses arising from the procurement of visas shall be borne by the participants.

3.1.3 Fees

a) Entry fee

Nations participating in a European Championship shall pay an entry fee amounting to EUR 1,125 (Men's and Women's ECh, Men's and Women's WCh qualification) or respectively EUR 375 (qualification ECh and WCh of the younger age categories) to the EHF.

b) Participation fee

Nations participating in the final rounds of Men's and Women's European Championships shall pay a lump-sum special solidarity contribution of a total amount of EUR 3,000 per delegation (player, official, etc.). This special solidarity contribution shall be assigned to the EHF special fund.

Nations participating in the final rounds of other European Championships shall pay the participation fee, approved by the EHF, to the organizer of the event directly.

c) Lump-sum advance payment

Together with the entry fee, all participants in European Championships shall make a refundable (or for the use of other purposes) advance payment to the EHF. The advance payment per team shall amount to EUR 3,750 for Men's and Women's ECh and EUR 1,875 for EChs for the younger age categories. In the case of a withdrawal this amount shall be forfeited to the EHF.

The EHF Executive Committee shall set a permanent deposit of between EUR 0 and EUR 5,625 for each National Federation, depending on the frequency of its participation in competitions. Therefore National Federations do not have to transmit the advance payment as stipulated in the first paragraph.

If the frequency of participation changes, the amount of the individual permanent deposits may be adjusted by the EHF Executive Committee.

3.1.4 Accident and health insurance

Federations participating in the ECh shall arrange, at their own expense, accident and health insurance for all members of their delegation, including officials, technical staff and players. The organizer and the EHF as well as their partners are not responsible for any claims resulting from accidents or illnesses. Accident and health insurance coverage is arranged by the EHF for the nominated EHF officials for the duration of their assignment.

3.1.5 Number of days

The number of days is the basis for the calculation of the individual participation fees (for final tournaments of the younger age categories). The total is generally calculated from 12:00 noon on the day of arrival to 12:00 noon on the day of departure; this means that even though the day of arrival and the day of departure are actually two calendar days, they are to be calculated as one day only when charging the fee (additional meals such as breakfast on the arrival day and possibly lunch and dinner on the departure day have to be paid extra).

3.1.6 Additional days of stay

If the organizer agrees, the participating teams may arrive before the competitions or leave later, but have to pay the extra costs themselves. The local organizer is obliged to inform the participating teams about the expenses per person for additional days in due time prior to the competition.

3.1.7 Additional delegation members

Each team is allowed to participate in a European Championship with a delegation of not more than 24 persons (21 persons within responsibility of organizer according to point 3.2.2), provided that the expenses for the additional persons are borne by the participating team.

3.1.8 Special regulations

The EHF Executive Committee may issue special financial agreements for European Championships for the younger age categories.

3.2 ORGANIZER

The costs mentioned in the subsequent points shall be borne by the organizer. The points are applicable for qualification matches.

3.2.1 Expenses in the host country

All expenses incurred in the host country in connection with the matches shall be borne by the organizer. This includes the expenses for local transport from the place of arrival.

3.2.2 Expenses for board and lodging

Expenses for board and lodging for a maximum of 21 persons (max. 16 players, max. six team officials) per federation, beginning one day before the first match and ending one day after the last match.

The accommodation for the participants shall be inspected on the same occasion as the inspection of the playing arenas.

3.2.3 EHF officials

Reimbursement of officials (refer to definition point 4.2.) nominated by the EHF:

a) Travel expenses (refunded on production of receipts/proof of ticket purchase):

- Travel by train/bus/boat:

Reimbursement of first class return tickets for train/bus/boat;

- Travel by plane:

Reimbursement of return tickets in Economy Class;

- Travel by car (allowed up to a maximum distance of 600 km one way):

Reimbursement of first class return tickets for train/bus/boat;

- Taxi journeys in the home town or during a trip:

(e.g.: transfer between airports) may be refunded upon the presentation of the respective receipts;

- Travel by car in the home town (to and from airport or train station): may be charged with EUR 0.50 per driven kilometre.

b) All expenses incurred within and outside the host country in connection with matches;

c) Any expenses for visas;

d) Daily allowances amounting to EUR 55 per day, for every travel day and the duration of the stay;

e) Expenses for board, lodging and transport during the assignment at the European Championship.

The above-mentioned points apply to both the qualification matches as well as the final rounds.

The host federation shall ensure that all EHF officials can leave the host country with all funds paid to them by the host during the period of their stay, without any deductions or other problems.

- 3.2.4. The organizer of a European Handball Championship shall be obliged to conclude an organizer's third-party insurance.

3.3 TELEVISION, RADIO, FILM, VIDEO AND ADVERTISING RIGHTS

- 3.3.1 In all matches, television, radio, film, video and advertising rights for qualification matches are owned by the organizer.

The EHF has the right to display, free of charge, a band of advertising with a maximum length of 6 m within the range covered by the TV cameras. If the EHF wishes to use this right, it shall inform the organizer in writing no later than 6 weeks prior to the match. Otherwise the EHF waives this right.

The EHF shall be allowed to use, free of charge, existing television footage for production and broadcasting of a magazine/programme at a later date (utilisation of secondary rights).

- 3.3.2 The EHF alone shall have the right to award television broadcasting rights, radio broadcasting rights and film rights (incl. video taping) as well as advertising rights in playing arenas for the final round in the Men's and Women's European Championships.

A share of this income will be given to the local organizer in accordance with the preliminarily concluded agreement.

- 3.3.3 Television, radio, film, video and advertising rights for the final rounds of ECh for the younger age categories are the responsibility of the local organizer.

In all matches, the EHF has the right to display, free of charge, a band of advertising with a maximum length of 6 m within the range covered by the TV cameras. If the EHF wishes to use this right, it shall inform the organizer in writing no later than 6 weeks before the match. Otherwise the EHF waives this right.

EHF shall be allowed to use, free of charge, existing television footage for production and broadcasting of a magazine / programme at a later date (utilisation of secondary rights).

3.4 VIDEO RECORDINGS

- 3.4.1 **At qualification matches**

All teams involved shall be permitted to make video recordings for teaching and training purposes. Such recordings shall be made only by one person using one

camera. These video recordings shall be used for the purposes of internal team and match tactic information only and shall not be exploited commercially.

3.4.2 At the ECh final round

Upon application to the EHF, all teams shall be permitted to make video recordings for teaching and training purposes. Persons wishing to record a match on video who do not present a permit issued by the EHF may be asked to leave the hall. On account of the conditions in a hall restrictions may have to be imposed for that hall upon agreement with the EHF.

Video recordings, however, may only be made by one member of the respective delegation, using one camera. Such video recordings shall be used for the purposes of internal team and match tactic information only and shall not be exploited commercially.

After the European Championship final round the organizer shall provide the EHF, free of charge, with VHS video cassettes of matches specified by the EHF.

3.5 PRESS CONFERENCE

In the Men's and Women's European Championships, for the preliminary round and main round matches the head coach of each of the two teams which have played last shall attend the press conference, scheduled to take place 15 minutes after the match. In addition one player from each team (which played last) should be at disposal upon request. As of the semi-finals and finals, participation in the post-match press conference for at least the head coach and a player playing last is obligatory.

4. PARTICIPATING PERSONS

4.1 PLAYERS (ENTRIES AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION)

4.1.1 Registration for ECh finals

4.1.1.1 Two copies of the provisional registration, for up to 16 players and up to six team officials (function to be stated) must be submitted in writing to the organizer, no later than one month prior to the beginning of the final round. The final registration shall be announced on the occasion of the Technical Meeting (at least two copies) with the following details:

a) EHF delegates

First name, name, date of birth, function within the delegation

b) Players

Player number, first name, name, date of birth, club, body height, weight, number of international matches (indicating A, B, national teams for the younger age categories)

The list of players given to the organizer must be complete, with a copy to be sent to the EHF General Secretariat.

- c) Colours of the first and second set of clothing, clearly stating colours of shirts and shorts and colours of the first and second set of clothing for the goalkeepers.

4.1.1.2 Late registration

If a team has nominated fewer than 16 players, it may nominate one additional player of its free choice during the tournament.

4.1.2 **Nationality**

Matches in connection with a European Championship are carried out as international matches. Players participating in a National Team competition must therefore be in possession of the citizenship of the respective nation. Proof of nationality has to be given by presenting the passport or the identity card. In addition, every player participating in National Team competitions shall be eligible to play for that country in accordance with the IHF regulations.

A player who cannot present either a passport or an identity card for the nation concerned shall not be allowed to enter the match.

4.1.3 **Playing eligibility in a certain competition**

A player who has already played for a National Federation in the same competition (qualification phases, final tournament) shall not be eligible to play in matches of another National Federation.

4.1.4 **Registration for qualification tournaments**

With reference to point 4.1.1.1 all participating teams have to nominate up to 16 players at the Technical Meeting. In the case that a team nominates fewer than 16 players, it has the right to register one additional player for the tournament at a later date.

4.1.5 **Eligibility to participate**

Players not registered correctly by the announced date shall not be eligible to participate in the final round.

4.1.6 **Participation of suspended and/or players not eligible to participate**

Deployment of a player who has been suspended and/or is not eligible to play will result in the match being scored as lost with the same result, but in any case with 0:10 goals and 0:2 points, as decided by the EHF Competitions Commission/ECh Disciplinary Commission. In ECh final tournaments, the team concerned may be excluded by the ECh Disciplinary Commission from any further participation in the current competition.

The Federation concerned may be fined with up to EUR 15,000 as decided by the competent body (cf. clauses 1.1 and 1.5 of List of Penalties).

4.2 EHF OFFICIALS

EHF officials are EHF representatives, delegates, referees, office staff members as well as any other persons nominated by the EHF.

4.2.1 Nomination

The EHF appoints referees (substitute referees) for all matches and may nominate further EHF officials. Their names will be forwarded to the federations concerned in good time.

4.2.2 Information to EHF officials

The nominated EHF officials shall be informed about all necessary details by the organizer, no later than one month prior to the first match.

4.2.3 Refusal by EHF officials

If an EHF official is unable to fulfil a nomination, she/he shall immediately inform the following:

- a) the EHF General Secretariat
- b) the organizer

without delay by phone and subsequently in writing. The EHF will take care of the necessary nomination of substitutes.

4.2.4 Duties of the EHF delegates

4.2.4.1 The EHF delegate shall verify and ensure the orderly conduct of the event before, during and after the match and prevent any occurrences that may lead to a protest or a repetition of the match. The safety and security of players, referees, delegates and spectators shall be ensured. All measures shall be taken that are necessary to maintain safety and security. The provisions of the Rules on Safety and Security Procedure shall be implemented.

4.2.4.2 The EHF delegate shall observe and assess the referees' performance. A delegate is not a chief referee. Responsibility on the playing area rests solely with the referees. Nonetheless, the delegate shall interrupt the match if necessary and bring errors that may lead to a protest to the referees' attention. Errors in this context do not mean decisions made by the referees on the basis of their observation of facts. The delegate shall not take decisions but only make recommendations. When on duty, the delegate shall always carry a copy of EHF Regulations as well as the Rules of the Game.

4.2.4.3. The officially appointed delegate shall always sit at the time-keeper's desk to have a good view of the substitution area at any time and to be able to intervene if necessary (see IHF Substitution Regulations).

- 4.2.4.4 The EHF delegate shall take care that those involved in European Championship matches only wear advertisement on their sports and training clothing which is in compliance with the IHF Advertising Regulations.

5. TECHNICAL PART

5.1 RULES OF THE GAME, TIME-KEEPING AND SUPERVISION

5.1.1 Matches

ECh matches shall be played in accordance with the valid version of the IHF Rules of the Game.

5.1.2 Time-keeping and score-taking

The halls for all ECh matches shall be equipped with an electric time-keeping and score-taking apparatus which can be read without difficulty and be operated from the time-keeper's table. It is the official time-keeping apparatus and must be in full working order.

5.1.3 Reserve clock

As a reserve, a large clock (approx. 25 cm in diameter) with minute and second hands must be available at the time-keeper's table.

5.1.4 Match report

In accordance with the registration at the Technical Meeting (compare point 4.1.1.1), the EHF, in co-operation with the local organizer, shall prepare the match reports with the player names (maximum 16) and the team officials (maximum six) nominated for the competition. It is the responsibility of the team official in charge (signee) on the match report to reduce the number of listed players to a maximum of 14 and the number of listed team officials to a maximum of 4. This must be completed one hour before the beginning of the respective match.

In case of a player being injured, he/she may be replaced before the beginning of the match.

5.1.5 Time-keeper

- 5.1.5.1 For the two minute suspensions the time-keeper shall have a sufficient number of cards (A4) at his/her disposal (please see the EHF sample) for noting the numbers of the suspended players and the end of the period for which they have been sent off. These cards shall be placed on the time-keeper's table, where visible and in a vertical position, clearly legible for both teams.

- 5.1.5.2 For the Team Time Out the time-keeper shall have at least two green cards showing the capital letter "T" at her/his disposal. These shall be handed over to the responsible member of the respective team at the beginning of each half-

time of the regular playing time. A team manager requests the Team Time Out by presenting the green card at the time-keeper's table.

5.1.6 Supervision

The score-taker, time-keeper and hall speaker shall be appointed by the organizer. The EHF may appoint one or more delegates/representatives for each match.

5.2 PLAYING HALL AND BALLS

5.2.1 Playing halls

European Championship matches shall be played in halls on playing areas measuring 40 x 20 metres plus the safety and security spaces required according to the IHF Rules of the Game. The playing halls for ECh finals will be inspected for compliance with the rules in due time prior to the competition by an EHF official.

5.2.2 Playing balls in ECh final rounds

European Championship matches shall be played with balls approved by the EHF, which will be forwarded to the organizer at its disposal. Those balls shall be used in such a way that the referees may choose between two new balls before each match.

5.3 CLOTHING

5.3.1 Clothing and players

- 5.3.1.1 The team must have two sets of playing dothes in different colours for their court players. In case of multi-coloured shirts, only one of the colours - and not the main colour - may be repeated in the other set of clothing. Players must wear clearly legible numbers, which should range from 1 to 20, the figures being at least 20 cm high on their backs and at least 10 cm high on their chests.

In addition, in final tournaments of the Men's and Women's European Championships, the players' names shall be displayed in Latin letters on the backs of their jerseys, above the players' numbers, in clearly legible letters of a minimum height of 10 cm respectively in the area being reserved for printing.

Players acting as goalkeepers must wear clothing that differs from both sets of clothing of their court players. The goalkeeper is permitted to wear the team's court clothing, not being used in that particular match, if the other conditions can be fulfilled.

Players are allowed to wear thermo-trousers as long as the colour matches the team clothing.

The two sets of clothing for court players as well as for goalkeepers shall be presented by each delegation at the Technical Meeting prior to the beginning of the competition.

5.3.1.2 The team captain must wear an armband on the upper arm. It must be at least 4 cm wide in a contrasting colour.

5.3.1.3 Sleeve advertising

In European Championship final tournaments, the teams shall co-operate with the respective EHF marketing partners with regard to the display of advertising on the sleeves of players' uniforms. The team official in charge (signee) shall verify, in good time before the match, whether all players carry the agreed sew-on logos on both sleeves of their uniforms.

5.3.1.4 During the duration of the competition (final round, qualification tournament), each player shall wear the same players' number, regardless of her/his position (goalkeeper or court player).

5.3.2 Change of clothing

5.3.2.1 If the referees consider that the clothing of the two teams is likely to cause confusion, the team listed second shall change its clothing to ensure that there is not any confusion.

At any European Championship final round the dress colour fixed at the Technical Meeting shall be used (plan of dresses).

5.3.2.2 The same rule shall apply if a request of this kind is made by the television.

5.3.3 Advertising on the players' clothing

5.3.3.1 Advertising is allowed on players' match and training clothing.

5.3.3.2 The provisions laid down in the "Regulations on Advertising" are an integral part of these Regulations.

5.3.4. Non-obedience of the applicable points

Non-obedience of one or more of the stated regulation points, and/or the Regulations for Advertising on Clothing, will result in a punishment as stated in the EHF Regulations. In addition the respective National Federation will be required to reimburse all damages occurred.

5.4 MATCH SYSTEM

5.4.1 Qualification

The qualification phase(s) shall be played either in a group system and/or as home and away matches, in accordance with the preliminary playing schedule fixed by the EHF. A change to the preliminarily fixed match order / match

schedule or the holding of home as well as away match in one country is subject to the consent of the other group participants and the EHF.

If a federation, aside from the usual home matches, also carries out one or several of its away matches in its home country, it shall lose the right to qualify for the next round ahead of equally placed teams from other groups.

The qualifications for ECh for the younger age categories shall be held in the format of a tournament, in which the nation ranked first according to the preliminarily drawn nation ranking has the first right to organize the event.

5.4.2 **Final rounds**

The final round of a European Championship shall be played in the format of a tournament. It shall consist of a preliminary round and a main round as well as placement matches, semi-finals and finals.

5.4.2.1 **Women's and Men's ECh final round**

The final round will be played in the format of a tournament with 16 teams consisting of preliminary round, main round, placement matches, semi-finals and finals.

Preliminary round

The preliminary round shall be played in four groups consisting of four teams each, in which all teams compete against each other (round robin system).

Places 13 to 16

The teams ranked last in each group depart after the preliminary round and will be ranked 13 to 16 according to the following system:

- a) Number of points gained in the preliminary round;
- b) In the case that the number of points is the same, the goal difference of all matches shall be the deciding factor;
- c) In the case that the number of points and the goal difference are the same, the ranking shall be based on the greater number of plus goals of all matches;
- d) In the case that the number of points, the goal difference and the greater number of plus goals are the same, the team which played in the preliminary round against the higher ranked teams according to the final ranking will be ranked higher.

Main round

After the completion of the preliminary round, the main round will be played in two groups with six teams in each group. The respective preliminary round results from the matches against opponents which also go through to the main round remain valid for the ranking of the main round.

Placement matches (places 5 to 8)

Basically the teams ranked three and four from the main round then go on to play placement matches. The teams ranked 3 and 4 in one group will play against the teams with the same ranking from the other group.

Non-holding of placement matches (places 9 to 12)

According to the playing system, teams ranked 5 and 6 from the main round depart after the completion of the main round. The teams with the same ranking in the main round are placed according to the following system:

- a) The number of points gained after the end of the main round;
- b) In the case that the number of points is the same, the goal difference of all matches shall be the deciding factor;
- c) In the case that the number of points and the goal difference are the same, the ranking shall be based on the greater number of plus goals of all matches;
- d) In the case that the number of points, the goal difference and the greater number of plus goals are the same, the team which played in the main round against the higher ranked teams according to the final ranking will be ranked higher.

Semi-finals and finals (places 1 to 4)

The first and second ranked teams of the respective group in the main round play semi-finals. The first ranked team from one group plays against the second ranked team from the other group and vice versa.

The losers of the semi-finals play for the third and fourth place, the winners for first and second place.

5.4.2.2 **ECh final rounds for the younger age categories**

The final round will be played in the format of a tournament with 16 teams, with a preliminary round, a main round, an intermediate round, cross matches, placement matches, semi-finals and finals.

After the main round and the intermediate round, cross matches, placement matches, semi-final and final will be played, with all places to be played for - each team at least 7 matches.

5.4.3 **Match schedules**

5.4.3.1 **Qualification**

Please refer to the respective match schedules in the appendix. The matches will be held on/during the preliminarily fixed playing dates / playing periods.

Match dates may be altered upon mutual consent by the federations involved. If possible, the matches have to be held in the preliminarily fixed match order and not after the preliminarily fixed match date. Consent of the EHF must be obtained.

5.4.3.2 **Double matches**

In the second phase of qualification - play off matches (home and away), no double matches at one venue are permitted. Exceptions (security, disciplinary decisions, etc.) are subject to a respective decision of the EHF.

5.4.3.3 **Final rounds**

Based on the playing schedules in the appendix the EHF shall draw up the definitive match schedule, together with the playing times for the actual competition, in cooperation with the organizer. The EHF decision is final.

5.4.3.4 **Match interval**

In ECh final tournaments, the interval between a team's match starting times shall not be shorter than 18 hours. Exceptions to this rule will only apply in urgent cases.

5.5 RANKING IN THE QUALIFICATION AND FINAL ROUND (PRELIMINARY ROUND AND MAIN ROUND)

5.5.1 Qualification matches, preliminary round matches and main round matches shall be played in 2 x 30 minutes with a half-time of 10 minutes. There shall be no extra time.

Points are awarded as follows:

- a) win = 2 points
- b) draw = 1 point
- c) match lost = 0 points

5.5.2 Teams are ranked by adding the points gained.

5.5.3 If two or more teams have gained the same number of points from the group matches, the teams will be ranked as follows:

5.5.3.1 During the group matches:

- a) goal difference in all matches;
- b) greater number of plus goals in all matches;
- c) alphabetic order

5.5.3.2 After the completion of the group matches:

- a) Results in points gained in the direct encounter of the teams;
- b) goal difference in the direct encounter of the teams;
- c) greater number of plus goals in the direct encounter of the teams;
- d) goal difference in all matches (achieved by subtraction);
- e) greater number of plus goals in all matches.

If a ranking is still not possible, a draw decides the ranking. The draw shall be carried out by the EHF, if possible in the presence of the responsible team officials.

5.5.4 Qualification in two legs (home and away match)

For matches which are carried out in two legs - home and away match - (without extra time) the score shall be given as follows:

- a) win = 2 points
- b) draw = 1 point
- c) match lost = 0 points

Teams are ranked by adding the points gained.

If, after completion of the two matches (without extra time), both teams have gained the same number of points, the teams will be ranked according to the subsequent mentioned criteria:

- a) Goal difference;
- b) greater number of goals in the away match;
- c) penalty throws.

5.6 PLACEMENT MATCHES, CROSS MATCHES, SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS

5.6.1 If a placement match, semi-final or final ends in a draw, there shall be a five minutes break followed by an extra time of 2 x 5 minutes, with a 1-minute half-time break and a changeover without any break.

5.6.2 If the match is still undecided after this first period of extra time, there shall be another break of five minutes followed by a second period of extra time of 2 x 5 minutes, with a 1-minute half-time break and a changeover without any break.

5.6.3 Rules on the execution of penalty throws

If there is no winner after the second period of extra time, the match will be decided by penalty throws as follows:

- a) Prior to the penalty throws, each team nominates five players eligible to play at the end of the match by handing over a list with the numbers of five players. Each of the nominated players shall execute one throw, alternating with their opponents. Teams may choose the order of their throwers freely.
- b) The goalkeepers may be chosen freely and substituted in accordance with the Rules of the Game. Goalkeepers may act as throwers and throwers as goalkeepers.
- c) The goal to be used shall be fixed by the referees. The referees draw lots for deciding which team throws first. The team winning the draw has the right to decide whether it wishes to throw first or last.

- d) If the match is still undecided after the first round of penalty throws, the process will be repeated until a decision is reached. The other team begins. In the second set of five throws each, a further five players entitled to play have to be nominated (players having already thrown may be nominated again).
- e) A decision in the second round of penalty throwing is reached once there is a difference in goals after both teams have executed their throws.
- f) Players and goalkeepers eligible to play are those players on the match report who are not disqualified, excluded or suspended when the whistle finished the second extra time.
- g) Serious violations during the penalty throws will be punished by disqualification in all cases. If a court player or a goalkeeper is disqualified or injured, a substitute with playing eligibility shall be nominated.
- h) During each individual throw, only the player executing the throw, the defending goalkeeper and the referees may be in the respective half of the playing court.
- i) In the case that the number of players eligible to play is lower than five, the team concerned has the right to nominate players for a second throw during the same round.

5.7 TRANSMISSION OF RESULTS AND FINAL LEAGUE TABLES AFTER QUALIFICATION MATCHES AND FINAL ROUNDS

- 5.7.1 It is the daily duty of the organizer to pass on all the final results, half-time results, the information on the number of spectators and any other news to the press, press agents and the EHF General Secretariat at the end of the match day.
- 5.7.2 Tables showing results after the completion of the matches in the respective round or group may be published only after being officially approved by the EHF.

6. PROTESTS AND APPEALS

6.1 IN CONNECTION WITH ALL ECH MATCHES PROTESTS ARE NOT PERMITTED AGAINST:

- a) Date, time, venue and draw of the matches;
- b) nomination of referees and delegates;
- c) referee decisions on facts in accordance with the Rules of the Game.

6.2 PROTESTS AND APPEALS AT THE ECH FINAL ROUNDS

- 6.2.1 Protests shall be handed over in writing to the EHF delegate within one hour after the end of the match. At the same time a protest fee amounting to EUR 375 has to be paid. If the protest is granted, the protest fee will be refunded; otherwise it will be forfeited to the credit of the EHF.
- 6.2.2 Reasons for the protest shall be submitted in writing to the ECh Disciplinary Commission in one of the three official EHF languages not later than 9.00 a.m. local time, the day after the match.
- 6.2.3 The deadlines and fees for protests apply equally for any additional information submitted in connection with the European Championship final round.
- 6.2.4 The ECh Disciplinary Commission will award its decisions on protests as well as disqualification of players or teams by 12 a.m. the same day.
- 6.2.5 The ECh Disciplinary Commission shall consist of three members and two substitute members, being recruited from the EHF officials at the venue and nominated by the EHF.
The ECh Disciplinary Commission takes its decision by simple majority; grounds of bias shall be challenged in accordance with the EHF Arbitration Regulations.
- 6.2.6 Appeals against decisions taken by the ECh Disciplinary Commission may be filed to the Jury in writing. The Jury is the highest legal body at European Championship final rounds.
The Jury shall consist of three members and two substitute members being recruited from the EHF officials at the venue and nominated by the EHF. Members of the Jury must not be members of the ECh Disciplinary Commission. The Jury takes its decision by simple majority; grounds of bias shall be challenged in accordance with the EHF Arbitration Regulations.
- 6.2.7 An appeal against a decision taken by the ECh Disciplinary Commission shall be filed in writing by 8.00 p.m. on the same day as the decision is announced. A fee of EUR 750 must also be forwarded with the appeal. If the appeal is dismissed by the Jury, the deposit will be forfeited. The Jury shall come to a decision by 9.00 a.m. on the following day at the latest. The decision of the Jury is final.
- 6.2.8 In principle the actual costs for personnel and material arising from the activities of the ECh Disciplinary Commission and the Jury shall be charged in connection with the procedure. The respective points within the EHF Arbitration Regulations shall apply for deciding upon proceeding costs.
- 6.2.9 The time limits stipulated do not apply to decisions of the ECh Disciplinary Commission and the Jury, which may be taken forward with a fine according to the relevant points in the regulations.

6.3 PROTESTS AND APPEALS AT QUALIFICATIONS

- 6.3.1 Protests shall be forwarded to the EHF delegate in writing within one hour after the end of a match; in the absence of an EHF delegate it shall be handed over to the first named referee.
Reasons for the appeal shall be given in writing in one of the official EHF languages together with a protest fee amounting to EUR 375. The EHF General Secretariat shall be in the receipt of the documentation regarding qualification matches in the format of first and second leg matches within 48 hours, regarding group matches within 24 hours after the completion of the match. The EHF Competitions Commission is the responsible body for the arbitration in first instance. If the protest is granted, the protest fee shall be refunded, otherwise it will be forfeited to the credit of EHF.
- 6.3.2 A written notice of appeal against the decision awarded by the body of first instance / Competitions Commission together with the reasons given for the appeal and the appeal fee amounting to EUR 750 shall be forwarded to the EHF General Secretariat. The EHF General Secretariat shall be in receipt of the documentation within three days of the service of the decision awarded by the body of first instance.
Appeals will be dealt with by the Court of Appeal as the EHF body of second instance. The decisions of the Court of Appeal are final.
- 6.3.3 For protests and appeals in connection with qualification tournaments (ECh for the younger age categories) point 6.3. applies; first instance decisions shall be taken by the EHF delegate at the venue.

7 SPECIAL REGULATIONS

7.1 TRAINING SCHEDULE

- 7.1.1 The organizer has to draw-up a training schedule which shall be approved by the EHF at least two months prior to the beginning of the tournament. The training schedule shall be fixed in such a way, if possible, that teams playing against each other do not practice in succession.
- 7.1.2 Teams playing in qualification matches and participating in final rounds shall have the opportunity to train in the official competition hall at least once prior to their first match.

7.2 BANQUET

After the finals the organizer shall hold a banquet to close the European Championship, inviting the teams still present together with their officials, as well as the EHF officials. Participation at the closing banquet should be compulsory, in the name of courtesy and as a gesture of friendship.

7.3 QUALIFICATION FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Based on the places available to the continents in World Championships, the three top ranked teams in the Women's and Men's European Championships and the two top ranked teams in the final tournament of the European Championships for the younger age categories shall qualify directly for the subsequent World Championship. Further places will be played for in a separate qualification depending on the number of places available for Europe. These qualifications will also be played according to the present regulations.

7.4 DOPING CONTROL

Doping control shall take place in accordance with the Anti-doping Regulations. The Anti-doping Regulations plus attachments are an integral part of the ECh Regulations.

8 ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

Integral parts of these regulations are:

- EHF-Regulations on Advertising on Clothing
- EHF Rules on Safety and Security Procedure
- EHF-Arbitration Regulations

APPENDIX

Playing schedule for ECh final round with 16 teams.

Playing schedule for ECh final round with 16 teams - for the younger age categories

Playing schedule for ECh qualification tournaments and groups with 3 / 4 teams

ECh, October 2003/mf

European Championship - Final Round

Men's and Women's

Playing Schedule for 16 Teams (10 Days, 48 Matches)

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
A 1	B 1	C 1	D 1
A 2	B 2	C 2	D 2
A 3	B 3	C 3	D 3
A 4	B 4	C 4	D 4

Arrival Day

Preliminary

Round

	Group A		Group B		Group C		Group D	
	match no.		match no.		match no.		match no.	
1. Playing Day	1	A 1 : A 3	7	B 1 : B 3	13	C 1 : C 3	19	D 1 : D 3
	2	A 2 : A 4	8	B 2 : B 4	14	C 2 : C 4	20	D 2 : D 4
2. Playing Day	3	A 4 : A 1	9	B 4 : B 1	15	C 4 : C 1	21	D 4 : D 1
	4	A 3 : A 2	10	B 3 : B 2	16	C 3 : C 2	22	D 3 : D 2
3. Playing Day	5	A 1 : A 2	11	B 1 : B 2	17	C 1 : C 2	23	D 1 : D 2
	6	A 3 : A 4	12	B 3 : B 4	18	C 3 : C 4	24	D 3 : D 4

Rest Day / Departure teams ranked 13 to 16

Main Round

	Group I		Group II	
	match no.		match no.	
4. Playing Day	25	1. A : 2. B	34	1. C : 2. D
	26	2. A : 1. B	35	2. C : 1. D
	27	3. A : 3. B	36	3. C : 3. D
5. Playing Day	28	1. A : 3. B	37	1. C : 3. D
	29	3. A : 1. B	38	3. C : 1. D
	30	2. A : 2. B	39	2. C : 2. D
6. Playing Day	31	2. A : 3. B	40	2. C : 3. D
	32	3. A : 2. B	41	3. C : 2. D
	33	1. A : 1. B	42	1. C : 1. D

Rest Day / departure teams ranked 9 to 12

Placement matches

		Place 5-8
		match no.
7. Playing Day	Place 7/8	43 4. I : 4. II
	Place 5/6	44 3. I : 3. II

Semifinals

	Place 1-4
	match no.
7. Playing Day	45 1. I : 2. II
	46 2. I : 1. II

Departure teams ranked 5 to 8

Finals

	Place 1-4
	match no.
8. Playing Day	47 L 45 : L 46
	48 W 45 : W 46

Departure Day

European Championship - Final Round

Men's 18, 20 and Women's 17, 19

Playing Schedule for 16 Teams

(56 matches, 2 rest days, 7 matches per team)

Preliminary Round							
Group A		Group B		Group C		Group D	
A 1		B 1		C 1		D 1	
A 2		B 2		C 2		D 2	
A 3		B 3		C 3		D 3	
A 4		B 4		C 4		D 4	
Playing schedule							
match no.	match no.		match no.		match no.		
1. Playing Day	1 A 1 : A 3	7 B 1 : B 3	13 C 1 : C 3	19 D 1 : D 3			
	2 A 2 : A 4	8 B 2 : B 4	14 C 2 : C 4	20 D 2 : D 4			
2. Playing Day	3 A 4 : A 1	9 B 4 : B 1	15 C 4 : C 1	21 D 4 : D 1			
	4 A 3 : A 2	10 B 3 : B 2	16 C 3 : C 2	22 D 3 : D 2			
3. Playing Day	5 A 1 : A 2	11 B 1 : B 2	17 C 1 : C 2	23 D 1 : D 2			
	6 A 3 : A 4	12 B 3 : B 4	18 C 3 : C 4	24 D 3 : D 4			

Main Round				Intermediate Round			
Group I		Group II		Group III		Group IV	
1.A		1.C		3.A		3.C	
1.B		1.D		3.B		3.D	
2.A		2.C		4.A		4.C	
2.B		2.D		4.B		4.D	
Playing schedule				Playing schedule			
match no.	match no.		match no.		match no.		
4. Playing Day	33 2. B : 1. A	37 2. D : 1. C	25 4. B : 3. A	29 4. D : 3. C			
	34 1. B : 2. A	38 1. D : 2. C	26 3. B : 4. A	30 3. D : 4. C			
5. Playing Day	35 2. A : 2. B	39 2. C : 2. D	27 4. A : 4. B	31 4. C : 4. D			
	36 1. A : 1. B	40 1. C : 1. D	28 3. A : 3. B	32 3. C : 3. D			
Semifinals and cross matches				Cross matches			
Place 1-8				Place 9-16			
match no.	match no.		match no.		match no.		
6. Playing Day	Place 5-8	45 3. I : 4. II	Place 13-16	41 3. III : 4. IV			
	Place 5-8	46 3. II : 4. I	Place 13-16	42 3. IV : 4. III			
	SF 1	47 1. I : 2. II	Place 9-12	43 1. III : 2. IV			
	SF 2	48 1. II : 2. I	Place 9-12	44 1. IV : 2. III			
Finals and placement matches				Placement matches			
Place 1-8				Place 9-16			
match no.	match no.		match no.		match no.		
7. Playing Day	Place 7/8	53 L 45 : L 46	Place 15/16	49 L 41 : L 42			
	Place 5/6	54 W 45 : W 46	Place 13/14	50 W 41 : W 42			
	Place 3/4	55 L 47 : L 48	Place 11/12	51 L 43 : L 44			
	Final	56 W 47 : W 48	Place 9/10	52 W 43 : W 44			

Playing Schedules for Qualification Groups

Playing Schedule with 3 teams (home and away matches):

Round	Match	Match N°
First	1 - 3	(01)
Second	3 - 1	(02)
Third	3 - 2	(03)
Fourth	2 - 3	(04)
Fifth	2 - 1	(05)
Sixth	1 - 2	(06)

Playing Schedule with 3 teams (tournament):

Round	Match	Match N°
First	3 - 1	(01)
Second	2 - 3	(02)
Third	1 - 2	(03)

Playing Schedule with 4 teams (home and away matches):

Round	Match	Match N°	Match	Match N°
First	1 - 3	(01)	2 - 4	(02)
Second	3 - 1	(03)	4 - 2	(04)
Third	4 - 1	(05)	3 - 2	(06)
Fourth	1 - 4	(07)	2 - 3	(08)
Fifth	2 - 1	(09)	4 - 3	(10)
Sixth	1 - 2	(11)	3 - 4	(12)

Playing Schedule with 4 teams (tournament):

Round	Match	Match N°	Match	Match N°
First	1 - 3	(01)	2 - 4	(02)
Second	4 - 1	(03)	3 - 2	(04)
Third	1 - 2	(05)	3 - 4	(06)