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**STATUTES**

**of the**

**EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION  
(EHF)**

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## **1. NAME, OBJECTS AND HEADQUARTERS**

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- 1.1. The "European Handball Federation" (EHF) is a federation of Europe's National Handball Federations. It is one of the Continental Federations that comprise the International Handball Federation (IHF). It is an independent legal entity. Its name and symbol (logo) may be registered.

The IHF statutes, regulations and resolutions shall be binding for the EHF and all its members.

- 1.2. The EHF aims at the continued development and promotion of handball in Europe and is not profit-oriented. In order to accomplish the said purpose, the EHF may operate educational facilities and institutionalize education and training programmes.

The federation formed by European National Handball Federations serves the exchange of interests and experience, the organisation of International handball competitions as well as the representation of European interests in the International Handball Federation.

Official international handball, mini handball and beach handball competitions held in Europe and entered by members of National Handball Federations shall be subject to the authority of the EHF. Exceptions therefrom shall be Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cup as well as other recognized competitions.

- 1.3. The EHF encourages friendship and mutual understanding among members, does not discriminate on the basis of politics, race or religion, and rejects any illegitimate practices in sports.

Contravention of these principles, be it through the rejection of referees, non-appearance at a match, failure to grant entry visas to players, managers, referees, EHF representatives, EHF functionaries and sports journalists, raising performance levels through the administration of forbidden substances such as doping, any kind of corruption, bribery or undue influence, including receiving, offering or accepting any kind of undue advantages or gifts, shall be subject to sanctions pursuant to EHF and IHF regulations.

- 1.4. The EHF has its headquarters in Vienna. Any change shall require a majority of three quarters of the members present at the Congress. The Federation's field of action shall be Europe.

Any disputes arising from the activities of the EHF shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the competent court in Vienna. Austrian law shall govern.

- 1.5. The official EHF languages are English, German and French. In the event of any dispute, the English text shall prevail. Communication between the EHF Office and members shall take place in these languages exclusively.

The official language at EHF competitions shall be English.

Eligibility to serve in any EHF function as an elected member, a delegate or a referee shall be conditional upon a command of -English.

Members' motions to the Congress shall be submitted in written form in one of the three official languages. Simultaneous interpreting will be provided at the EHF Congress in English, German, French and Russian.

## **2. MEMBERSHIP**

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- 2.1. Membership shall be open to European National Handball Federations. Admission and exclusion of members shall be decided on by the Congress (general assembly). Admission and exclusion of federations from other continents shall require a majority of three quarters of the members present at the Congress.
- 2.2. Members shall recognize the EHF statutes and regulations as well as decisions reached by its bodies. They shall pass this obligation on to their members and require their members to pass it on in turn.
- 2.3. Members that fail to meet their obligations in spite of written admonition may be suspended by the Executive Committee.
- 2.4. Membership shall end by dissolution, withdrawal or exclusion of the federation. Withdrawals can be made only at the end of a calendar year upon six months' advance notification.

## **3. EHF BODIES**

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The EHF bodies are:

1. The Congress
2. The Conference of Presidents
3. The Executive Committee
4. The Competitions Commission
5. The Methods Commission
6. The Beach Handball Commission
7. The Professional Handball Board
8. The Nations Board
9. The Women's Handball Board
10. The Committees and Boards
11. The EHF Court of Handball
12. The EHF Court of Appeal
13. The EHF Court of Arbitration Council
14. The Comptrollers
15. The EHF Anti-Doping Unit

### 3.1. THE CONGRESS

3.1.1 The Congress shall be the highest EHF authority.

3.1.2 The Ordinary Congress shall be held every two years, prior to the IHF Congress.

Members shall be informed of the venue and date not later than six months before the event. Motions from members must be made in writing, and be in the possession of the EHF Office not later than four months before the Congress date. Congress documents and agenda shall be sent to members not later than two months prior to the Congress date.

3.1.3 An Extraordinary Congress shall be called if a minimum of ten percent of the members with voting right demands it in writing stating the reasons, or on request of the comptrollers, or if the Executive Committee decides to hold it.

An Extraordinary Congress must be held within four months after receipt of the request. Members shall be informed without delay of the venue, date and reason. Further motions from members must be made in writing, and be in the possession of the EHF Office not later than ten weeks before the Congress date. Congress documents and agenda shall be sent to members not later than one month prior to the Congress date.

3.1.4 Motions submitted past the deadline or in the course of the Congress may only be dealt with at the discretion of a majority of two-thirds of the members present at the Congress concerned. The Chairperson may require that any motions and proposed amendments submitted during the Congress be presented in writing to be admitted for consideration. Statute amendments, changes to the headquarters site or dissolution of the EHF may not be the subject of such motions.

3.1.5 Each member shall have one vote. It may delegate a maximum of three representatives to the Congress. Delegates' names shall be communicated to EHF in writing with the registration and delegates must be able to prove their identity. For an Extraordinary Congress, the Executive Committee may reduce their number. Members registering female representatives will receive a bonus per female delegate. This bonus will be defined by the Executive Committee at least six months prior to the Congress and the corresponding information will be conveyed to the members together with the information referred to in 3.1.2.

A member that has not fulfilled its financial obligations towards the EHF shall not have the right to vote. Decisions in that respect shall be taken by the Executive Committee and announced at the beginning of the Congress.

No one shall have the right to represent more than one member federation.

3.1.6 Voting and election shall, in principle, be conducted by an electronic voting system. In individual cases, the Congress may decide on either open or secret ballot with simple majority.

Unless otherwise specified in the statutes, the majority of votes cast shall carry the vote. In event of a tie a second ballot shall be held. Any proposal failing to receive a majority after the runoff shall be rejected. In case a qualified majority is specified in the statutes, the basis shall be the number of delegates present at the Congress venue during the vote.

To be valid, elections require the absolute majority of votes cast. If no candidate obtains such a majority, a runoff election shall be held for the two candidates with the most votes. In the second round, the relative majority of votes cast shall decide. A runoff vote shall be held in the case of a tie. In the case of another tie, the female candidate shall be regarded as elected. If the tie is between candidates of the same gender, a draw shall decide.

In the case of joint elections, candidates shall be elected according to the number of votes cast on their behalf. A runoff vote shall be held in the case of a tie between the last two or more candidates. In the case of another tie, the female candidate shall be regarded as elected. If the tie is between candidates of the same gender, a draw shall decide.

Representatives of both genders shall be elected to the EHF bodies – Executive Committee, Technical Commissions, Court of Handball and Court of Appeal – under the conditions mentioned below.

In case of EHF bodies having more than five (5) members - EHF Executive Committee, EHF Court of Handball and EHF Court of Appeal - both genders shall be represented by at least two (2) persons. Within the Technical Commissions, both genders shall be represented by at least one (1) person. In order to achieve the required number of representatives of both genders, gender representatives may be elected.

In order to elect all positions for EHF bodies with more than five (5) members, at least one (1) candidate of the underrepresented gender shall be available for each EHF body with more than five (5) members.

The top casting candidate(s) of the underrepresented gender is/are to be regarded as elected under additional members (according to 3.1.8.8.7, 3.1.8.11.3 and 3.1.8.12.3 of the EHF Statutes) in case only one (1) or no candidate was elected for the respective body until that stage of election.

In case there is no nomination of the underrepresented gender for EHF bodies with more than five (5) members, the number of positions shall be reduced by one (1) and the vacant position as well as the further gender representative shall be nominated by the EHF Executive Committee after the Congress within due course.

All remaining candidates for additional members of the respective bodies are elected according to the votes cast.

The Congress shall have the right to pass resolutions regardless of the number of members present.

The procedure for voting on the awarding of events shall be analogous to the procedure used for elections. If none of the bidders obtain an absolute majority, a second vote shall be taken on the two bidders who received the most votes in the first round. In the second round, a relative majority of votes cast shall decide. In the case of a tie, a runoff vote shall be held. In the case of another tie, the decision shall be taken by drawing lots.

3.1.7 Unless the Congress decides otherwise under special circumstance, resolutions shall be put in force three months after the Congress.

3.1.8 The Congress shall pass resolutions on the following business:

1. Election of tellers. Tellers of both genders shall be elected by the Congress.
2. Declaration of the lawful convocation of Congress.
3. Minutes of the previous Congress.
4. Reports:
  1. Report by the Executive Committee.
  2. Report by the Competition Commission.
  3. Report by the Methods Commission.
  4. Report by the Beach Handball Commission.
  5. Report by the EHF Court of Handball.
  6. Report by the EHF Court of Appeal.
  7. Report by the EHF Court of Arbitration Council.
5. Financial report for the previous two-year period.
6. Comptrollers report.
7. Formal approval of the Executive Committee's conduct of business.
8. Executive Committee:
  1. Election of the President.
  2. Election of the Vice President.
  3. Election of the Treasurer.
  4. Election of the chairperson of the Competitions Commission.
  5. Election of the chairperson of the Methods Commission.
  6. Election of the chairperson of the Beach Handball Commission.
  7. Election of three/two additional members.
  8. Election of up to two (2) gender representatives (in case one gender is not represented or is underrepresented)

9. Technical Commissions:
  1. Election of three/four members of the Competitions Commission.
  2. Election of four members of the Methods Commission.
  3. Election of four members of the Beach Handball Commission.
  4. Election of a gender representative to the Competitions Commission (in case one gender is not represented).
  5. Election of a gender representative to the Methods Commission (in case one gender is not represented).
  6. Election of a gender representative to the Beach Handball Commission (in case one gender is not represented).
10. Comptrollers:
  1. Election of two comptrollers.
  2. Election of one substitute.
11. EHF Court of Handball:
  1. Election of the President.
  2. Election of two Vice Presidents.
  3. Election of six/five additional members.
  4. Election of up to two (2) gender representatives (in case one gender is not represented or is underrepresented)
12. EHF Court of Appeal:
  1. Election of the President.
  2. Election of the Vice President.
  3. Election of five/four additional members.
  4. Election of up to two (2) gender representatives (in case one gender is not represented or is underrepresented)
13. EHF Court of Arbitration Council:
  1. Election of the President
  2. Election of one Vice President
14. EHF Nations Board:
  1. Election of six members
15. Women's Handball Board:
  1. Election of three members
16. Delegate nominations to the IHF Congress:
  1. The EHF President assumes the office of IHF Vice President of Europe.
  2. European member of the IHF Council.
17. Motions.



18. Regulations and their amendments.  
The EHF Executive Committee is charged with taking decisions on the issuance and amendment of competition regulations and the List of Penalties. Provisions regulating financial matters except the List of Penalties shall be passed by the Congress.
19. Awarding of events and European Championships for Men and Women, with the right of delegating to the Executive Committee.
20. Setting membership fees, approval of the budget for the next two years.
21. Member admissions and expulsions.
22. Election of honorary members according to Executive Committee nominations.
23. Declaration and amendments of the Rules of Arbitration for the EHF Court of Arbitration.
24. Decisions on other points of business, as submitted to the Congress by the Executive Committee.
25. Awarding of Ordinary Congresses.

The agenda shall be set according to the Congress needs.

#### 3.1.9. Speaking time

Speaking time is not subject to any limitation, with the following exceptions:

- Personal presentations such as those given by candidates for the Executive Committee (three minutes)
- Presentations by bidders for the Men's and Women's EChs (ten minutes)
- Presentations by bidders for YAC EChs (five minutes)
- Presentations by bidders for the next EHF Congress (five minutes)

#### 3.1.10. Delegation of authorities

The Congress may delegate decisions and authorities to the Executive Committee by a simple majority of votes.

### 3.2. THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

- 3.2.1 The Conference of Presidents is a consultative body of the EHF. It serves the exchange of experience, the formation of opinions, and information.
- 3.2.2 The Conference of Presidents is convened by the Executive Committee as required and is normally held in years between EHF Congresses.

3.2.3 Eligible to attend are the Presidents of the member federations or a substitute nominated by them.

### 3.3. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

3.3.1. The Executive Committee is the EHF's executive body. It is responsible for all tasks not expressly assigned to the Congress by law or statutes. It may delegate tasks to the EHF Office and to the Competitions Commission (CC), the Methods Commission (MC), or the Beach Handball Commission (BC) and appoint temporary working groups for special matters. Details shall be laid down in the rules of procedure.

3.3.2. The Executive Committee shall consist of eleven/twelve members:

1. President.
2. Vice President.
3. Treasurer.
4. Chairperson of the Competitions Commission.
5. Chairperson of the Methods Commission.
6. Chairperson of the Beach Handball Commission.
7. Three/two additional members for special assignments.
8. Chairperson of the Professional Handball Board.
9. Chairperson of the Women's Handball Board.
10. Up to two (2) gender representatives (in case one gender is not represented or is underrepresented).

3.3.3. Executive Committee members shall be individually elected by the Congress for a four-year period of office. The period of office shall coincide with that of the IHF.

Each Member Federation shall nominate the same candidate for a maximum of two different functions within all EHF bodies.

Each member federation may provide only one Executive Committee member with the exception of the PHB and WHB chairpersons who are nominated by the respective bodies. Unless expressly defined herein or in the organisation agreement of the EHF (majority) owned entity, members of the EHF Executive Committee may not hold any other elected or nominated function in the EHF or in EHF (majority) owned entities. Moreover excepting functions pursuant to paragraph 3.1.8 point 16, the EHF Executive Committee members must not hold simultaneous membership of the IHF Council or any IHF Commission.

The Congress may depart from this rule and may, in addition to the nomination of the IHF Vice President Europe and the IHF Council Member Europe, resolve to make additional nominations for IHF functions.

President, Vice-President and Treasurer must not hold the function of a President or a Treasurer in their National Federations. Any candidate for such a position commits to withdraw from the respective position within the National Federation in case of being elected by the EHF Congress.

After serving three terms of office in a top/core function within the EHF – President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Chairpersons of Technical Commissions – the respective person shall assume only functions which are of the same or of higher rank in comparison with their former position.

If a member serving on the EHF Executive Committee assumes a function in the IHF that is not compatible with this provision, s/he shall resign from the Executive Committee at the next Ordinary Congress.

- 3.3.4. First time Executive Committee memberships shall be subject to a written nomination from the member federation concerned. Both the respective member federation and the Executive Committee may make the nomination for re-elections.

An Executive Committee member may serve in the same function a maximum of three terms of office and, at the time of election or re-election, shall not have attained the age of sixty-eight.

Deadline for the nomination of candidates: candidates shall be nominated not later than three months before the respective Congress, otherwise a two-third majority shall be required for admission at the Congress.

General requirements to be met by candidates:

- Submission of a curriculum vitae
- Proof of command of English, if necessary
- Commitment to be available for meetings and activities within the customary timeframe

In the first nomination made in writing, the member federation shall confirm that the candidate has the linguistic ability to participate in a meeting in English.

Candidates for elections are given the opportunity to present themselves to the Congress in person and to demonstrate the adequacy of their linguistic abilities to the Congress.

During the election process, the candidates should also be present in the hall as far as possible.

Should an Executive Committee member retire in the course of her/his period of office, a substitute shall be elected at the next Congress to complete the remainder of the period of office. In the meantime, the Executive Committee may appoint a temporary substitute.

The term of office of newly elected Executive Committee members shall commence immediately following the Congress.

- 3.3.5. The President shall represent the EHF internally and externally and chair Congress sessions and Executive Committee meetings. S/he shall represent the EHF in court, as plaintiff or defendant, as well as in financial matters. If s/he should be unable to attend, the Vice President shall exercise these rights without requiring any special authorization.

Under Austrian law governing non-profit organizations ("Vereinsgesetz"), the Secretary General is likewise authorized to represent the organization.

- 3.3.6. Actual needs shall govern the frequency of meetings and their agendas. Half of all Executive Committee members may request, in writing, that a meeting be held within two months.

The Executive Committee may also make decisions using the written process.

The Executive Committee shall take its decisions with a simple majority of votes.

- 3.3.7. The EHF headquarters is located at the seat of the EHF and is managed by the Secretary General. The Secretary General shall be employed by the Executive Committee for an indefinite period of time and shall participate in Executive Committee meetings in a consultant capacity.

## **4. THE TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS**

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### **4.1. THE COMPETITIONS COMMISSION**

The Competitions Commissions (CC) is the EHF's technical body for competitions. It is subordinate to the Executive Committee, which may assign to it areas of authority and responsibility in addition to those laid down in EHF statutes and regulations.

The CC shall consist of a chairperson and four/five members. Three/four of these members are individually elected and one is defined by the EHF recognized interest group.

- 4.1.1. The responsibility for the directly elected CC members shall be assigned as follows:

1. Men's competitions
2. Women's competitions
3. Refereeing
4. Gender representative (in case one gender is not represented).

- 4.1.2. The further CC member responsible for club competitions shall be assigned as follows:

1. Elected and nominated by any such group recognised by the EHF as representing the interests of the clubs participating in EHF competitions.
2. The election and nomination of the member club competitions by the group representing the interests of the clubs may be replaced by the EHF Executive Committee if required.
3. Mutual rights and duties between the EHF and the group representing the interests of the clubs shall be defined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which creates the basis for the cooperation.
4. The office period of the member club competitions is four years.

The provisions under items 3.3.3, 3.3.4 and 3.3.6 shall apply analogously to the CC and the CC members.

#### 4.2. THE METHODS COMMISSION

The Methods Commission (MC) is the EHF's technical body for methodical matters. It is subordinate to the Executive Committee, which may assign to it areas of authority and responsibility in addition to those laid down in EHF statutes and regulations.

The MC shall consist of a chairperson and four/five individually elected members with responsibility for:

1. Methods and coaching
2. Education and training
3. Youth, school sports, and non-competitive sports
4. Development
5. Gender representative (in case one gender is not represented).

The provisions under items 3.3.3, 3.3.4 and 3.3.6 shall apply analogously to the MC and the MC members.

#### 4.3. THE BEACH HANDBALL COMMISSION

The Beach Handball Commission (BC) is the EHF's technical body for competitions and non-competitions-related matters concerning Beach Handball. It is subordinate to the Executive Committee, which may assign to it areas of authority and responsibility in addition to those laid down in the EHF statutes and regulations.

The BC shall consist of a chairperson and four/five individually elected members with responsibility for the following business areas:

1. Events and Competitions
2. Officiating
3. Game Design and Coaching
4. Development and Promotion
5. Gender representative (in case one gender is not represented).

The provisions of clauses 3.3.3, 3.3.4, and 3.3.6 shall apply analogously to the BC and its members.

### **5. THE LEGAL BODIES**

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The EHF Court of Handball and the EHF Court of Appeal are separate and independent bodies responsible for the adjudication and arbitration within the framework of the legal system of the EHF and its member federations and associated federations.

All bodies and organs acting in the area of adjudication/arbitration shall be independent and not bound by any instructions in the exercise of these duties.

The EHF Court of Handball and the EHF Court of Appeal shall hear cases and pass decisions as a senate of three members. The decision-making process is, in principle, conducted in writing.

Legal disputes may be brought before the EHF Court of Arbitration, if the case has not seen resolution within a period of six months after being put before the EHF legal bodies (see pt. 13.6).

#### 5.1. THE EHF COURT OF HANDBALL

The EHF Court of Handball (CoH) is responsible at first instance for disciplinary adjudication within the framework of the EHF legal system and its member federations and associated federations, i.e. punishing violations of regulations including those of an administrative nature not under the competence of the EHF Office, for settling disputes between handball and/or EHF related entities and/or individuals, and for deciding upon any other issue relating to international handball competitions in Europe and/or EHF activities.

The EHF Court of Handball shall consist of nine/ten members:

1. One President.
2. Two Vice Presidents.
3. Six/Five additional members.
4. Up to two (2) gender representatives (in case one gender is not represented or is underrepresented)

The provisions in clauses 3.3.3, 3.3.4 and 3.3.6 shall apply analogously to the EHF Court of Handball and its members.

#### 5.2. THE EHF COURT OF APPEAL

The EHF Court of Appeal (CoA) is responsible at second instance for disciplinary adjudication within the framework of the EHF legal system and its member federations and associated federations, i.e. punishing violations of regulations including those of an administrative nature, for deciding upon issues relating to international player transfers between the member/associates federations as well as upon any other issue relating to international handball competitions in Europe and/or EHF related entities and/or individuals.

The EHF Court of Appeal shall consist of seven/eight members:

1. One President.
2. One Vice President.
3. Five/Four additional members.
4. Up to two (2) gender representatives (in case one gender is not represented or is underrepresented)

The provisions in clauses 3.3.3., 3.3.4. and 3.3.6. shall apply analogously to the EHF Court of Appeal and its members.

### 5.3. THE EHF COURT OF ARBITRATION COUNCIL

The role and competence of the EHF Court of Arbitration Council (ECC) are defined in the Rules of Arbitration for the EHF Court of Arbitration.

The EHF Court of Arbitration Council shall consist of three members:

1. One President.
2. One Vice President.
3. One Vice President nominated with simple majority for a period of four (4) years by the Professional Handball Board.

The provisions in clauses 3.3.3, 3.3.4 and 3.3.6 shall apply analogously to the EHF Court of Arbitration Council and its members.

## 6. THE COMPTROLLERS

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The Comptrollers (COMPT) are responsible for the business control and the examination of the EHF's account in respect of the correct accounting and the use of the EHF funds according to the statutes. They give a written report to the Congress. They can recommend that the Executive Committee engages an external auditing company.

Each member federation may provide only one comptroller. The comptrollers must not represent the Treasurer's member federation.

The provisions under items 3.3.3, 3.3.4 and 3.3.6 shall apply analogously to the comptrollers.

## 7. PROFESSIONAL HANDBALL BOARD

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7.1. The Professional Handball Board (PHB) is the EHF platform for stakeholders of European men's handball – national teams, clubs, leagues and players.

It plays an advisory role through the supply of reports and analyses to the Executive Committee.

It contributes to the decision making process through its chairperson who is a full member of the Executive Committee.

It is the duty and commitment of the members of the Professional Handball Board to individually and collectively contribute to the global progress and development of handball in Europe through their analyses and contributions.

7.2. The Professional Handball Board in particular shall be in charge of:

1. The coordination of and collaboration between the stakeholders,

2. The articulation between stakeholders and EHF bodies,
  3. Proposals in the area of competition structure including measures to increase the market value of European competitions,
  4. Contributing to the work of the EHF on the position of handball in its relation to the outside world: the world of sport and more particularly the International Handball Federation and the Olympic Committee as well as the political and administrative world, more particularly the European Commission,
  5. Supplying reports and opinions on the request of the Executive Committee or the commissions,
  6. Fulfilling missions assigned by the EHF Congress.
  7. Nomination of one (1) ECC Vice-President in accordance with clause 5.3.
- 7.3. Mutual rights and duties between the EHF and each stakeholder group will be defined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which creates the basis for the cooperation within the Professional Handball Board.
- 7.4. The various stakeholders will each be structured and elect an internal board respecting the principles of democracy and transparency. The modalities thereof will be defined for each stakeholder in a specific document submitted to the EHF Congress for approval. The body responsible for national teams is the Nations Board, it is structured within the EHF statutes.
- 7.5. The PHB shall consist of altogether eight members out of the different interest groups and two nominated by the EHF Executive Committee.
- The chairperson of the PHB will be elected by the eight stakeholder representatives and will become a member of the EHF Executive Committee with all ensuing rights and duties.
- In detail the PHB is composed as follows:
- Two representatives elected by the EHF Congress, representing the interests of the national teams participating in EHF competitions,
  - Two representatives elected and nominated by any such group recognised by the EHF as representing the interests of the clubs participating in EHF competitions,
  - Two representatives elected and nominated by any such group recognised by the EHF as representing the interests of the leagues (or similar structure representing top level handball within the nations) with clubs participating in EHF competitions,
  - Two representatives elected and nominated by any such group recognised by the EHF as representing the interests of the athletes participating in EHF competitions,
  - Two representatives of the EHF Executive Committee to be nominated by the EHF Executive Committee.
- The President and the Secretary General of the EHF participate in the meetings of the PHB without voting rights.
- 7.6. The function period will be four years for all representatives. The PHB shall meet at least twice a year.



- 7.7. The EHF Executive Committee remains the only decision-making body between Congresses. Unanimous proposals provided by the PHB to the EHF Executive Committee shall be considered with special attention.
- 7.8. Specificities concerning the working articulation between the PHB and the Executive Committee are to be supplied in the Memorandum of Understanding.
- 7.9. The chairperson of the PHB is entitled, in individual cases, to invite experts to contribute opinion to special subjects under study in the PHB. Contact with the EHF Secretary General will have to be established prior to any official invitation so as to ensure proper care of the EHF finances.
- 7.10. In case the implementation of the PHB cannot be executed within a reasonable period of time, the Executive Committee may propose a transitory arrangement so as to benefit from the inputs and expertise of the stakeholder groups that have already designated their representatives on the PHB.

## **8. WOMEN'S HANDBALL BOARD**

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- 8.1. The Women's Handball Board (WHB) is the strategic platform of the EHF for the increased development and improved participation of women's handball including the participation of the related stakeholders - national teams, clubs, leagues and players.

It plays an advisory role through the supply of reports and analyses to the Executive Committee.

It contributes to the decision making process through its chairperson who is a full member of the Executive Committee.

It is the duty and commitment of the members of the Women's Handball Board to individually and collectively contribute to the global progress and development of handball in Europe through their analyses and contributions.

- 8.2. The Women's Handball Board shall be in particular in charge of:
1. The strategic development of women's handball including the increase of the participation of the sport in all areas,
  2. The representation of women's handball in all areas of the sport,
  3. Contribution to the planning, running and development of women's competitions,
  4. Recruitment of girls and women in clubs, federations and in different groups interested in handball,
  5. Making women's handball more visible among media, sponsors and politicians,
  6. The coordination of and collaboration among the stakeholders,
  7. Proposals in the area of competition structure including measures to increase the market value of European competitions,

8. Contributing to the work of the EHF on the position of handball in its relation to the outside world: the world of sport and more particularly the International Handball Federation and the Olympic Committee as well as the political and administrative world, more particularly the European Commission,
9. Supplying reports and opinions on the request of the Executive Committee or the commissions,
10. Fulfilling missions assigned by the EHF Congress.

8.3. The WHB shall consist of altogether six members, both female and male, out of the different interest groups and two nominated by the EHF Executive Committee.

The chairperson of the WHB will be elected by the six representatives of national teams, clubs, leagues and players and will become a member of the EHF Executive Committee with all ensuing rights and duties.

In detail the WHB is composed as follows:

- Three representatives elected by the EHF Congress, representing the interests of the national teams participating in EHF competitions,
- One club representative nominated by the EHF Executive Committee representing the interests of the clubs participating in EHF competitions,
- One league representative nominated by the EHF Executive Committee representing the interests of the leagues,
- One athletes' representative nominated by the EHF Executive Committee representing the interests of the athletes participating in EHF competitions,
- Two representatives of the EHF Executive Committee to be nominated by the EHF Executive Committee.
- The President and the Secretary General of the EHF participate in the meetings of the WHB without voting rights.

8.4. Representatives of national teams will be elected by the Congress as follows:

- One member out of the nations ranked 1 to 6
- One member out of the nations ranked 7 to 24
- One member out of the nations ranked 25 to 50

8.5. The three members representing the stakeholder groups – clubs, leagues and players will be nominated by the EHF Executive Committee. The modalities for the nomination of the representatives of the stakeholder groups will be defined by the EHF Executive Committee. The nominated representatives shall not be members of the EHF Executive Committee.

8.6. The period of office will be four years for all representatives. The WHB shall meet at least twice a year.

8.7. The EHF Executive Committee remains the only decision-making body between Congresses. Unanimous proposals provided by the WHB to the EHF Executive Committee shall be considered with special attention.

- 8.8. Specifics concerning the working articulation between the different stakeholder groups, the WHB and the Executive shall be defined in the Memorandum of Understanding.
- 8.9. The chairperson of the WHB is entitled, in individual cases, to invite experts to contribute opinions on special subjects under study in the WHB. Contact with the EHF Secretary General will have to be established prior to any official invitation so as to ensure due consideration of the EHF finances.

## **9. OTHER COMMITTEES AND BOARDS**

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### **9.1 EHF NATIONS BOARD**

The Nations Board (NB) shall deal with all national team matters in the field of men's handball.

The Nations Board shall consist of six members who are elected by the Congress. The period of office is four years, elections take place at each Ordinary Congress. Every member federation has a statutory right to participate on the basis of the men's nations' ranking as follows:

rank 1 + 2	1 place each	2
rank 3 – 6	1 place	1
rank 7 – 12	1 place	1
rank 13 – 24	1 place	1
<u>rank 25 – 50</u>	<u>1 place</u>	<u>1</u>
total number of places		6

The elected members of the Nations Board internally elect a chairperson and a deputy chairperson as NB-members of the Professional Handball Board. Chairperson and deputy may not come from the same ranking group.

- 9.2. Further boards and expert committees shall be added to the EHF structure as appropriate based on their fields of work.

## **10. EHF ANTI-DOPING UNIT**

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- 10.1. The EHF Anti-Doping Unit (EAU) shall deal with the organization and handling of anti-doping activities in handball in Europe (controls, non-intentional doping, education for young athletes, NADAs, TUEs, whereabouts, violations, etc.).
- 10.2. The unit shall consist of a chairperson nominated by the EHF Executive Committee and an office staff member.
- 10.3. Further members may be nominated by the EHF Executive Committee.

- 10.4. Anti-doping measures are implemented on the basis of the EHF Regulations for Anti-Doping. The EHF Regulations for Anti-Doping shall be in compliance with the WADA Code and the IHF Anti-Doping Regulations. The responsibility regarding decisions on the EHF Regulations for Anti-Doping shall be with the EHF Executive Committee.

## **11. FINANCES**

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- 11.1. The official EHF currency shall be Euro (EUR, €). Any change thereto shall require a two-third majority of the members present at the Congress.
- 11.2. Primary sources of EHF funding shall be:
1. Membership fees
  2. A share of income from EHF events including intellectual property rights, according to regulations
  3. Awarding of television and advertising rights
  4. Sponsors and partnership agreements
  5. Donations
  6. Income from publications, selling of material and seminar fees
  7. Capital gains
  8. Income from rental properties
  9. Further income
- 11.3. EHF financial liability shall be limited to its assets. Individual member federations or Executive Committee members shall not be liable under law.

## **12. ACTIVITIES**

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- 12.1. Official EHF competitions are primarily:
1. European Championship for national teams
  2. Youth European Championships for national teams in different divisions
  3. Junior European Championships for national teams in different divisions
  4. European Cup for national champions (Champions League), Cup winners Cup, EHF Cup and Challenge Cup
  5. European Championship for club teams
  6. European qualifications for World Championships and Olympic Games
  7. Mini handball competitions
  8. Beach handball competitions
  9. European Masters Competitions
  10. European Challenge Trophies

All competitions shall be organised for male and female teams. Regulations shall be issued for each competition.

The Congress may resolve to have additional competitions organised.

The Executive Committee has the right as well as the obligation to nominate substitute organisers in case that the organisers of events do not keep to the prescribed dates.

Members elected as organisers of any EHF competitions have the obligation to organise, prepare and stage such competitions in accordance with the EHF statutes and regulations. They commit to act accordingly towards all other members. Any failure to comply with such obligation and commitment may be sanctioned according to the applicable EHF legal regulations.

12.2. Further EHF activities are primarily:

1. Organisation of meetings, working groups, and cooperation visits
2. Organisation of courses and seminars
3. Publications in all media
4. All steps for the development of handball
5. Management and support of development projects
6. Renting of office space
7. Activities within the scope of the Social Fund, including charity events benefiting the Fund
8. Participation in joint-stock companies
9. Organisation and handling of anti-doping measures

12.3. Cross-border competitions

Participation in cross-border competitions for national teams or clubs shall be permitted only if such competitions/games have been duly authorized by the National Federations concerned and the EHF and, in the case of intercontinental competitions, by the International Handball Federation as well.

The conditions for participation in competitions, with due regard to clause 2.2 of the EHF statutes, are regulated by the relevant national and international competition regulations. A written statement to this effect shall be an integral part of the registration procedure.

Cross-border club competitions and leagues for adult players shall, moreover, be deemed to be in conformity with the statutes only if they are subject to the control of the National Federations in terms of competition structure, organisational and technical matters, and disciplinary procedures.

The above rules do not apply to tournaments.

## **13. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

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13.1. The EHF Court of Handball and the EHF Court of Appeal, within their scope of responsibility, conduct EHF legal proceedings with due regard to the uniform application and interpretation of EHF Rules and Regulations as well as the IHF Rules of the Game, taking into account all changes and deviations from these that the EHF can and may practice.

- 13.2. In all EHF tournaments, ad hoc bodies' decisions (e.g. disciplinary commission, jury) shall be internally final.
- 13.3. The Legal Regulations as amended shall govern. The decisions passed by the second instance ad hoc body and the EHF Court of Appeal shall be final and end the stages of appeal of the EHF internal proceedings.
- 13.4. All disputes between the EHF and the National Federations, among the National Federations, among National Federations and their clubs concerning cross-border matters, disputes arising in connection with EHF competitions as well as disputes among players, players' agents, the EHF, National Federations, and clubs may be brought before the EHF Court of Arbitration.

In other disputes, jurisdiction shall rest with the EHF Court of Arbitration if this is in the interest of the maintenance of legal certainty and legal principles as well as the clarification of key issues of a sports-political nature.

13.5. Competence of administration of justice

Unless otherwise stipulated in the regulations concerned or in the provisions set out below, adjudication/arbitration:

- of administrative infringements punishable according to the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions and of issues relating to international player transfers between the EHF member/associated federations is exercised by the EHF Office in the first instance,
- of all other cases, including disciplinary adjudication within the framework of the EHF legal system and its member/associated federations, settlement of disputes between handball/EHF related entities and/or individuals and of issues relating to international handball competitions in Europe and/or EHF activities, is exercised by the EHF Court of Handball in the first instance.

Any and all decisions made by the EHF Office and the EHF Court of Handball may be appealed to the EHF Court of Appeal.

13.6. EHF Court of Arbitration (ECA)

After exhaustion of the EHF's internal channels, action may be filed with the EHF Court of Arbitration, in accordance with the rules set out in sections 577 et seq ZPO (Austrian code of civil procedures), within 21 days after delivery of the decision, else the case shall be forfeited. The proceedings are governed by the Rules of Arbitration of the EHF Court of Arbitration.

13.7. Initiator of Proceedings

An Initiator of Proceedings shall be appointed by the EHF Executive Committee for a period of two years.

The Initiator of Proceedings shall be responsible for ensuring a fair balance in all legal proceedings conducted within the EHF. This shall be done specifically by instituting legal proceedings and/or initiating their institution. In addition, the Initiator of Proceedings has the right to appeal against decisions taken.

#### **14. STATUTE AMENDMENTS; DISSOLUTION**

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- 14.1. Motions for statute amendments must be sent to members in writing together with the agenda and shall require for adoption a two-third majority of those members present at the Congress.
- 14.2. Motions for a dissolution of the EHF or removal of its headquarters shall be communicated to members in writing together with the agenda and shall require for adoption a majority of three quarters of the members present at the Congress (clauses 1.4 and 3.1.4).
- 14.3. In the event of a dissolution of the EHF or the discontinuation of the favoured purpose the Congress shall decide on the disposal of EHF's remaining assets which shall be used solely for favoured purposes according to §§ 34ff. BAO (federal tax code) in the interests of European handball.

#### **15. FINAL PROVISIONS**

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- 15.1. Should EHF statutes and regulations fail to address a point, IHF regulations shall apply.
- 15.2. These statutes were adopted by the Founding Congress in Berlin on November 17, 1991 and last amended at the Ordinary Congress in St. Wolfgang, Austria on 18 November 2016.

STAT 18.11.2016