

S T A T U T E S
of the
EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION (EHF)

1. NAME, OBJECTS AND HEADQUARTERS

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 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, minihandball and beachhandball competitions held in Europe and entered by members of National 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, shall be subject to sanctions pursuant to 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 Secretariat and members shall take place in these languages exclusively.

The official language for EHF officials 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 one of the three official EHF languages.

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

- 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.
- 2.4 Members that fail to meet their obligations in spite of written admonition may be suspended by the Executive Committee.
- 2.5 Membership shall end by dissolution, withdrawal or exclusion of the federation. Withdrawals can be made only at the end of a year upon 6 month's advance notification.

3. EHF BODIES

The EHF bodies are:

1. The Congress
2. The Conference of Presidents
3. The Executive Committee
4. The Comptitions Commission
5. The Methods Commission
6. The Beach Handball Commission
7. The Arbitration Tribunal
8. The Comptrollers

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 Secretariat 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 10 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 Secretariat not later than 10 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 Chairman 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.

A member that has not fulfilled its financial obligations towards 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.

3.1.6 Voting and election shall, in principle, be 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 run-off 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 run-off 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 run-off vote shall be held in the case of a tie. In the case of another tie the draw shall decide.

In the case of joint elections, candidates shall be elected according to the number of votes cast on their behalf. A run-off vote shall be held in the case of a tie between the last two or more candidates. In the case of another tie the draw shall decide.

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 obtains 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 run-off 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.
 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 Arbitration Tribunal.
 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 chairman of the Competitions Commission.
 5. Election of the chairman of the Methods Commission.
 6. Election of the chairman of the Beach Handball Commission.
 7. Election of three additional members.
 9.
 1. Election of 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. Approval of three Chairmen of CC Committees
 10. Comptrollers:
 1. Election of two comptrollers.
 2. Election of one substitute.
 11. Arbitration Tribunal:
 1. Election of the President.
 2. Election of two Vice-Presidents.
 3. Election of five additional members.
 12. Council of the EHF Court of Arbitration:
 1. Election of the President
 2. Election of two Vice-Presidents

13. Delegate nominations for the IHF Congress:
 1. The EHF President assumes the office of IHF Vice-President of Europe.
 2. European member of the IHF Council.
14. Motions.
15. Regulations and their amendments.
The EHF Executive Committee is charged with taking decisions on the issuance and amendment of competition regulations. Provisions regulating financial matters shall be passed by the Congress.
16. Award of events and official competitions, with the right of delegating to the Executive Committee.
17. Setting membership fees, approval of the budget for the next two-years.
18. Member admissions and expulsions.
19. Election of honorary members according to Executive Committee nominations.
20. Declaration and amendments for the Rules of Arbitration for the EHF Court of Arbitration.
21. Decisions on other points of business, as submitted to the Congress by the Executive Committee.
22. Award of Ordinary Congresses.

The agenda shall comply with requirements.

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 (3 minutes)
- Presentations by bidders for the Men's and Women's EChs (10 minutes)
- Presentations by bidders for YAC EChs (5 minutes)
- Presentations by bidders for the next EHF Congress (5 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 Congress by law or statutes. It may delegate tasks to the General Secretariat 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 nine members:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Treasurer
4. Chairman of the Competitions Commission
5. Chairman of the Methods Commission
6. Chairman of the Beach Handball Commission
7. Three additional members for special assignments

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 may provide only one Executive Committee member. Excepting functions pursuant to paragraph 3.1.8 point 12, 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.

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 must 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 68.

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 one of the three EHF languages, 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, German, or French.

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 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. He shall represent the EHF in court, as plaintiff or defendant, as well as in financial matters. If he should be unable to attend, the Vice-President shall exercise these rights without requiring any special authorization.

Under Austrian law, the representative function may be assigned to the Secretary General.

- 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 placed at the site of the EHF. The Secretary General shall conduct the EHF headquarters. The Secretary General shall be employed by the Executive Committee and shall participate in Executive Committee meetings in a consultant capacity.

4. THE TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS

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 chairman and four individually elected members as well as three coopted chairmen of the CC Committees, who shall be approved on each ordinary EHF Congress for a two years term of office.

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. Club competitions

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

4.1.2. The further CC members shall be assigned as follows:

5. Chairman CC Committee Men's Clubs
6. Chairman CC Committee Women's Clubs
7. Chairman CC Committee National Teams

4.1.2.1. CC Committee Men's Clubs

The objective of the Committee is to contribute to the planning, running and development of the men's club competitions.

The Committee will consist of five persons. Three are to be nominated by the National Federations out of their club system. Two of the nominees must belong to the nations holding the first two positions in the European club competition tables at the end of the season preceding the Congress. The third member is elected by the National Federations, from a list of nominated persons, for which each National Federation may nominate a candidate. Two members are to be named by the EHF Executive Committee.

No two members can be nominated by the same federation.

The three national representatives are responsible for nominating a chairperson as well as a vice chairperson, chosen from the three national representatives, in the event that the Chairperson is hindered.

4.1.2.2. CC Committee Women's Clubs

The objective of the Committee is to contribute to the planning, running and development of the women's club competitions.

The provision under item 4.1.2.1. shall apply analogously regarding the structure of the body and the nomination of members.

4.1.2.3. CC Committee National Teams

The objective of the Committee is to contribute to the planning, running and development of national team competitions.

The provision under item 4.1.2.1. shall apply analogously regarding the structure of the body and the nomination of 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 chairman and four individually elected members with responsibility for:

1. Methods and coaching
2. Education and training
3. Youth, school sports, and non-competitive sports
4. Development

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 (BC)

The Beach Handball Commission 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 chairman and four 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

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 ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL

All disputes concerning sporting issues or members that result from the application of internal EHF legislation shall be decided by the EHF Arbitration Tribunal.

The EHF Arbitration Tribunal is a separate and independent body responsible for adjudication within the framework of the legal system of the EHF and its Member 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 Arbitration Tribunal shall hear cases and pass decisions as a senate of three members. The decision-making process may be conducted in writing.

Unless proceedings before the EHF bodies have been closed earlier, legal disputes may be brought before the EHF Court of Arbitration after a period of six months has passed since the matter was brought before the EHF bodies (see pt. 9.6.).

- 5.1. The Arbitration Tribunal
The Arbitration Tribunal (ARB) shall consist of 8 members
1. President
 2. Two Vice-Presidents
 3. Five additional members

The members of the EHF Arbitration Tribunal are barred from holding, within the EHF, any other office elected by the Congress.

The provisions in clauses 3.3.3., 3.3.4. and 3.3.6. shall apply analogously to the Arbitration Tribunal.

6. THE COMPTROLLERS

The comptrollers 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 hold any other EHF function and 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. FINANCES

- 7.1 The official EHF currency shall be Euro (EUR, €). Any change thereto shall require a two-third majority of the members present at the Congress.

7.2 Primary sources of EHF funding shall be:

1. Membership fees
2. A share of income from EHF events, 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 rented properties
9. Further income

7.3 EHF financial liability shall be limited to its assets. Individual member federations or Executive Committee members shall not be liable under law.

8. **ACTIVITIES**

8.1 Official EHF competitions are primarily:

1. European Championship for national teams
2. Youth European Championship for national teams
3. Junior European Championship for national teams
4. European Cup for national champions (Champions League), Cup winners, EHF Cup and City Cup
5. European Championship for Club teams
6. European qualifications for World Championships and Olympic Games
7. Minihandball competitions
8. Beachhandball 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 organizers in case that the organizers of events do not keep to the prescribed dates.

8.2. Further EHF Activities are primarily:

1. Organization of meetings, working groups, and cooperation visits
2. Organization 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

- 8.3. Cross-border club competitions or leagues for adults shall be deemed to be in conformity with the Statutes only if they meet the requirements listed below:
1. Approval by the competent National Federations
 2. Exercise of control by the National Federations with regard to the structure of the competition, organizational and technical matters, and disciplinary procedures
 3. Complete information provided to the EHF

The above rules do not apply to tournaments.

9. ARBITRATION

- 9.1. The EHF Arbitration Tribunal, within its scope of responsibility, conducts EHF arbitration 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.
- 9.2. In all EHF tournaments, ad hoc bodies' decisions (e.g. disciplinary commission, jury) shall be internally final.
- 9.3. The Legal Regulations as amended shall govern. The decisions passed by the second instance ad hoc body and the EHF Arbitration Tribunal shall be final and end the stages of appeal of the EHF internal proceedings.
- 9.4. 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 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.

- 9.5. Competence of administration of justice

Unless otherwise stipulated in the regulations concerned or in the provisions set out below, primary arbitration in matters

- regarding the rules of the game and in matters concerning bilateral disputes in connection with competitions between Member Federations shall be exercised by the Arbitration Tribunal,
- in administrative matters by the EHF Office,
- and in all other cases by the Executive Committee.

Administrative decisions may be appealed against to the EHF Arbitration Tribunal.

9.6 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 (ECA). Recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited.

9.7. 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 by the body of first instance.

10. STATUTE AMENDMENTS; DISSOLUTION

10.1 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.

10.2 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 (3.1.4 and 1.4).

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.

11. FINAL PROVISIONS

11.1 Should EHF statutes and regulations fail to address a point, IHF regulations shall apply.

11.2 These Statutes were adopted by the Founding Congress in Berlin on November 15, 1991 and last amended at the Ordinary Congresses in Rome on 13 October 2007 and in Lillehammer on 26 January 2008.

The present Statutes take effect on 26 April 2008.

STAT 13 / 13.10.2007 and 26.01.2008