



**International
Handball
Federation**



Council Meeting No. 12

20.09.2021 by video conference



Present

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)
Joël DELPLANQUE (FRA)
Mansourou AREMOU (BEN)
Bader AL-THEYAB (KUW)
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)
Anna RAPP (SWE)
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)
Dr Frantisek TABORSKY (CZE)
Per BERTELSEN (DEN)
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)
Dr François GNAMIAN (CIV)
Charles OMBOUMAHOU (CGO)
Yoshihide WATANABE (JPN)
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)
Ricardo BLAS (GUM)
Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX)
Marcel MANCILLA BRAVO (CHI)

Jean BRIHAULT (FRA, partly)

Amal KHALIFA (EGY)
Patric STRUB (GER)
Marisa STERLY (GER)

President
1st Vice-President
IHF Vice-President Africa
IHF Vice-President Asia
IHF Vice-President Europe
Treasurer
Executive Committee Member
Executive Committee Member
COC Chairman
CCM Chairman
MC Chairman
IHF Representative Africa
IHF Representative Asia
IHF Representative Europe
IHF Representative Oceania
IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean
IHF Representative South and Central America

Chairman of the IHF Working Group of Candidatures
for IHF Positions / Adviser for the IHF New Markets'
Project in USA

General Director
Competitions Director
IHF Head Office

MEETING TIME: 14:00-17:10

Notes: These minutes constitute a record of decisions taken and only contain the most important spoken contributions. The proceeding of this meeting was recorded. The record is kept at the Head Office in Basel.

President Moustafa as usual abstained from voting.



Agenda

1. Minutes

- 1.1. Council Meeting No. 11, 15 July 2021 by video conference

2. President's activities

3. Competitions

- 3.1. Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games – Review
- 3.2. 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP – Preview
- 3.3. 1st Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in 2022

4. 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress

- 4.1. Organisational details
- 4.2. Report of the Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions
- 4.3. Motions to the Congress
- 4.4. IHF President's Development Award
- 4.5. Bidder of the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress

5. IHF bodies

- 5.1. Beach Handball Committee
- 5.2. Athletes' Commission

6. Finances and marketing

- 6.1. Auditors' report 2020
- 6.2. IHF budget 2022 and 2023
- 6.3. IHF-Gerflor partnership 2022-2025
- 6.4. IHF-Sportfive partnership

7. IHF Regulations

- 7.1. Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball
- 7.2. Rules of the Game for Beach Handball (Athlete Uniform Regulations / Motion from NOR)

8. Continents

- 8.1. Report from the continents

9. Miscellaneous

- 9.1. IHF New Markets' Project in USA
- 9.2. Council decisions made by electronic communication



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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting held by video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health.

1. Minutes

1.1. Council Meeting No. 11, 15 July 2021 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 11th Council Meeting, which was held by video conference on 15 July 2021.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 11 held by video conference on 15 July 2021.

2. President's activities

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an overview of the President's activities since the last IHF Council meeting in July 2021, stressing that it is just a summary in view of the many activities carried out by the IHF President between the two IHF Council meetings:

20-21 July 2021: Attendance at the 138th Session of the International Olympic Committee in Tokyo, Japan.

23 July - 8 August 2021: Attendance at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. President Moustafa hosted several guests during the Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments, including but not limited to IOC President Dr Thomas Bach for the men's bronze medal match between Egypt and Spain.

27 July 2021: Meeting with Molten Corporation (held virtually) to discuss the resin-free balls project and the use of the resin-free ball at the 2022 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in GEO.

4 August 2021: Meeting with representatives of Japan Handball Association in Tokyo to discuss the growth and development of handball in Japan.

12 August 2021: Attendance at the draw event of the 25th IHF Women's World Championship in Castelló, Spain.

20 August – 5 September 2021: Attendance at various meetings with the Egyptian Handball Federation Interim Committee in Cairo, Egypt to resolve different issues, including but not limited to the creation of the National Federation's statutes.

7-10 September 2021: Attendance at the 9th International Forum "Russia – Country of Sports" in Kazan, Russia. On the fringes, President Moustafa met with Handball Federation of Russia President Sergey Shishkarev, Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation Oleg Matytsin and Republic of Tatarstan President Rustam Minnikhanov to discuss the progress of handball in Russia, the handball development on the levels of grassroots and national teams as well as the Handball@School project. Moreover, President Moustafa met with Minister of Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Belarus Sergey Kovalchuk.

13 September 2021: Attendance at the meeting with European Handball Federation and Forum Club Handball in Basel, Switzerland. During the IHF-EHF Mutual Meeting, the participants discussed the player agents, refereeing matters, beach handball, upcoming IHF and EHF events as well as the next Ordinary IHF Congress. In the subsequent IHF-EHF-FCH Joint Meeting, the attendees dealt with the issue related to the player agents as well as the IHF New Markets' Project, with a focus on the Japan Handball Association whose representatives partially attended the meeting by video conference.

16 September 2021: Attendance at the funeral of former IHF PRC Chairman Manfred Prause who had passed



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away on 5 September 2021 at the age of 81 in Offenburg, Germany. President Moustafa paid tribute to Manfred Prause who made a unique contribution to modern day handball across the world and leaves a great legacy. On the fringes, President Moustafa paid a visit to IHF Honorary Secretary General Raymond Hahn (FRA) in the latter's hometown.

Decision

The Council took note of and approved the President's activities and appreciated the efforts he made for the worldwide development of handball.

3. Competitions

3.1. Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games – Review

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who presented a summary of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Handball Tournaments held from 24 July to 8 August 2021. Despite the difficulties and challenges encountered due to the COVID-19 pandemic and strict measures, the tournaments were managed smoothly thanks to the close and fruitful cooperation with the IOC and Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, but also with external partners including but not limited to Omega, Atos, Oris, Sports Entry and Tomasoff. He briefly outlined the COVID-19 sport-specific regulations applicable at the Olympic Handball Tournaments. Unfortunately, no spectators were allowed at all venues including the Yoyogi National Stadium during the Olympic Games following the announcement of state of emergency by the Government of Japan. All stakeholders attending the Games had to follow strictly the Playbooks developed by the IOC, including for example daily tests for all stakeholders and a daily health protocol to be announced in a mobile application. With the exception of one positive COVID-19 case, all COVID-19 tests among the stakeholders were negative. France became the third country in the Olympic history to win both gold medals (men's and women's tournament) at the same Olympic Games. The video proof system was successfully used for the first time at Olympic Games in partnership with Omega.

As in the previous Games, the same match scheme and one-venue concept were used. Due to the tight match schedule, it is proposed that the CCM and COC consider an alternative schedule and match scheme for Paris 2024, taking into account different elements including but not limited to throw-off times, single sessions, media and the Olympic Broadcasting Services.

The General Director took the floor, presenting a social media report of Tokyo 2020 with key achievements. She stated that the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games were the IHF's second most successful championship in terms of total reach after the 2021 Men's World Championship in Egypt, which is remarkable given that no video content was allowed by the IOC. In addition, according to the report published by Redtorch, the IHF ranked among the top 10 International Federations for growth in Facebook 'likes' during Tokyo 2020. She added that the IHF reached new Twitter records, however, the huge amount of global attention from the beach handball situation could not be ignored as this factor had a strong impact on the IHF's coverage at the start of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. She briefly presented general Tokyo 2020-related figures of the IHF's social media channels in Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and concluded that the combination of all figures and insights proves the IHF's audience is highly engaged in the content provided by IHF on an ongoing basis.

President Moustafa thanked the Competitions Director and the General Director for their reports. He also thanked the COC Chairman, the CCM Chairman, PRC Member Bjarne Munk Jensen and all other stakeholders involved for delivering successful Olympic Handball Tournaments in Tokyo.



The Council took note of the review of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games provided by the Competitions Director and the General Director.

3.2. 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP – Preview

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who presented a preview of the upcoming 2021 Women's World Championship to be held in four venues (Castelló, Granollers, Llíria and Torrevieja) in Spain from 1 to 19 December 2021.

He informed that the draw event was held on 12 August 2021 in Castelló. Due to COVID-19 situation and outstanding qualification events in Asia and South & Central America, not all qualified teams were known. He remarked that a situation where some teams are not known at the time of the draw is not ideal and should be avoided in the future. He added that according to the IHF Council decision of 6 August 2021, wild cards have been awarded to POL and SVK (please refer to agenda item 9.2). He informed that the nominated referees and technical delegates were invited to the event and confirmed their participation. The official announcement with all technical and regulations-related information has been sent to the qualified teams.

The Competitions Director then presented a memorandum dated 17 September 2021 regarding the continental qualification in Asia (started on 15 September 2021) which has been facing huge challenges related to the COVID-19 situation. The Asian qualification event was scheduled to take place in KOR, but had to be moved on a very short notice from KOR to JOR due to the decision of the Korean government, according to which no sports events shall currently take place in KOR. Originally, it was planned that 13 nations are taking part in the event in KOR. However, due to the relocation of the event from JOR to KOR, the situation has changed for some federations. The teams of CHN, IND and THA that originally registered for the event in KOR were not able to join the event in JOR. In addition, AFG had to cancel their participation due to their current political situation. The Asian Handball Federation succeeded to involve the teams of JOR, SYR and PLE in the competition to have the requested 12 teams in accordance with Chapter 2, Article 1.1.3 point b of the Regulations for IHF Competitions. However, just two days prior to the event in JOR, the team of QAT that had registered for the event withdrew from participating, i.e. only 11 teams are participating.

According to Chapter 2, Article 1.1.3 point c of the Regulations for IHF Competitions, Asia would lose one place and would be represented at the upcoming Women's World Championships with five teams. Hence, pursuant to Chapter 2, Article 1.1.3 point d of the Regulations for IHF Competitions, one additional place shall be given to the Continental Confederation of Europe. In accordance with the respective performance criteria, this place should be awarded to the National Federation of POL. Consequently, it was proposed that the IHF Council shall withdraw the wild card that has been awarded to POL and shall thus have the right to re-award it.

It is recommended that the IHF Council re-award the wild card, which is being withdrawn from POL, to the National Federation of CHN. As commonly known, CHN is a highly important market for the IHF with many ongoing projects, which will be largely strengthened after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chinese Handball Association expressed their wish to participate in the 2021 Women's World Championship, considering that they fully commit to participating and are ready to start the preparation for the Women's World Championship immediately.

The IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that awarding a wild card to a team that has not taken part in the respective continental qualification event due to a relocation is in general not a good solution. The IHF



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Representative Europe proposed to consider awarding a wild card to USA, another highly important market for the IHF, taking into account that USA participated in the continental qualification event.

The IHF Vice-President Asia took the floor, stressing that CHN did not participate in the Asian Women's Championship in JOR due to the Chinese government's decision on travel restrictions. He asked the Council to agree to the proposal to award a wild card to CHN.

President Moustafa emphasised that CHN is ready to start the preparation for the Women's World Championship immediately. Referring to the remark of the IHF Representative Europe, he commented that CHN would show a better performance level at the Women's World Championship.

Since the draw has already taken place, China would be assigned to Group H on the position of Asia 6, while Poland would remain in Group B. The positions Asia 1 to Asia 5 would be determined in accordance with the top five positions of the ongoing Asian Women's Championship finishing on 25 September 2021.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided by the Competitions Director regarding the 2021 Women's World Championship in ESP. According to Chapter 2, Article 1.1.3 of the Regulations for IHF Competitions, Asia will lose one place and will be represented at the upcoming Women's World Championships with five teams only while one additional place shall be given to the Continental Confederation of Europe, more precisely to POL as first substitute nation. As a result, the Council decided to withdraw the wild card which had been awarded to POL as per its decision dated 6 August 2021.

In view of the ongoing IHF New Markets' Project in China, the Council considered the major importance of the Chinese market for the further development of handball not only in China, but also worldwide. Hence, the Council decided to award a wild card for the 2021 Women's World Championship to Chinese Handball Association. Due to the fact that the draw event for the World Championship concerned has already taken place, CHN will be assigned to Group H on the position of Asia 6.

3.3. 1st Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in 2022

President Moustafa gave the floor to Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman Dr Frantisek Taborsky who expressed the difficulties of finding a host nation of the 1st Six-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship, which was initially planned to be held in 2020 in cooperation with the European Handball Federation, but had to be postponed until 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IHF received a letter from the SCAHC President dated 16 September 2021, expressing the SCAHC's interest in hosting the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in BRA in the first half of 2022. This initiative is supported by the Brazilian Handball Federation and the Brazilian National Paralympic Committee, taking into account that wheelchair handball has been played in South and Central America for a long time.

In addition to five active South and Central American teams (ARG, BRA, CHI, COL and PAN), the Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman expressed his hopes that at least two teams from Europe and one team from Asia will participate in the first World Championship. He used the opportunity to ask the Asian Handball Federation to nominate a person responsible for the coordination of wheelchair handball in Asia.



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Decision

The Council unanimously agreed that the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship will be hosted in BRA in the first half of 2022. The IHF Head Office shall establish contact with BRA to receive all relevant details about the organisation of the event.

4. 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress

4.1. Organisational details

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the Council that the IHF is continuously monitoring the development of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the related travel and entry restrictions which would affect the organisation of the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress in Antalya, TUR. A final decision on whether the Congress is to be held as a physical meeting or virtually (by video conference) will be taken in due course, considering that all stakeholders will be informed accordingly.

In case the Ordinary IHF Congress is decided to be held virtually, all IHF Council Members will be invited to Basel to attend the different sessions from a common meeting place while the Member Federations' representatives will attend virtually. In order to ensure that all technical and legal requirements are fulfilled, the IHF has been in contact with the legal voting system provider and the notary who were involved in the organisation of the IOC Session held virtually in March 2021 as well as of most of the International Federations' General Assemblies held virtually since the beginning of the pandemic.

President Moustafa expressed his hopes that it will be possible to welcome the Congress delegates in person. However, he confirmed that the IHF is ready for both options (virtual and physical meeting of the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress).

Decision

The Council took note of the organisational details provided regarding the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress. A final decision on whether the Congress is to be held as a physical meeting or virtually (by video conference) will be taken in due course.

4.2. Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions


Referring to the elections to be held at the upcoming Ordinary IHF Congress, President Moustafa gave the floor to the Chairman of the IHF Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions Mr Jean Brihault who reported to the Council on the tasks carried out by the named working group composed of Mr Jean Brihault as Chairman and Mr Jörgen Holmqvist (IHF Honorary Member) and Mr Francisco V. Blázquez García (President of Royal Spanish Handball Federation) as members. He thanked President Moustafa and the IHF Council for appointing him again as Chairman of the working group after he had chaired the working group concerned in 2013 and 2017. The duty of the independent electoral working group is to ensure the compliance of the candidates' applications (standing for IHF positions) with the conditions stipulated in Article 13.7 of the IHF Statutes. The working group shall inform the Council and report to the Congress on its decisions. All candidatures for the different IHF positions submitted before the deadline of 6 August 2021 have been communicated to the working group. Mr Brihault thanked the General Director for the excellent preparation of the documents communicated to the working group members. He reported that the working group met virtually on 30 August





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2021 and studied the following candidatures received by 6 August 2021 in terms of their compliance with the criteria as stipulated in Article 13.7 of the IHF Statutes:

President

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA	✓		EGY	15.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria








1st Vice-President

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Joël DELPLANQUE	✓		FRA	03.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
	Andreas MICHELMANN		✓	GER	05.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

Treasurer

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Anna RAPP	✓		SWE	15.06.2021	Fulfilling all criteria


Two (2) members to the Executive Committee

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Narcisa LECUSANU	✓		ROU	15.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
	Frantisek TABORSKY	✓		CZE	30.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
	Faisal BAQER		✓	KUW	05.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
	Tjark DE LANGE		✓	NED	05.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
	Ali ESHAQI		✓	BRN	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
	Asaduzzaman KOHINOOR		✓	BAN	28.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
	Stephen NEILSON		✓	GBR	15.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria




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Chairperson of Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Per BERTELSEN	✓		DEN	03.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria




Chairperson of Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Per Morten SØDAL		✓	NOR	23.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

Chairperson of Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Dietrich SPÄTE	✓		GER	05.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Hyung-Kyun CHUNG		✓	KOR	02.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

Chairperson of Medical Commission (MC)



Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Dr François GNAMIAN	✓		GIV	09.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria*
 Dr Lidi Kédéka BESSI KAMA		✓	TOG	14.07.2021	Not fulfilling criterion of 6-years high-level involvement in handball (Medical Commission Chairperson not a member of TOG NF's board)
 Dr Kyungtai LEE		✓	KOR	02.08.2021	Not fulfilling criterion of 6-years high-level involvement in handball (Medical Commission Chairperson not a member of KOR NF's board)

* Candidature withdrawn on 1 September 2021



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Chairperson of Commission for Development (CD)

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Ahmed AL-SHAABI		✓	QAT	27.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Tomislav GRAHOVAC		✓	CRO	02.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

Chairperson of Arbitration Tribunal

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Zoran RADOJICIC	✓		MNE	03.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

Ten (10) Members of Arbitration Tribunal


Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Abdulla AL-HAYYAN	✓		KUW	03.08.2021	Letter of nomination and CV missing; however application form signed by President of KUW NF is sufficient proof of the support of the NF to the candidature; previously submitted CV is considered acceptable.
 Agata DZIARNOWSKA	✓		POL	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Matea HORVAT	✓		CRO	02.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Pedro MOURAO	✓		POR	03.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Juan María PÉREZ ORTIZ	✓		ESP	05.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Maxim GULEVICH		✓	RUS	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Rémy LEVY		✓	FRA	03.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Juan Pablo MONTES MERY		✓	CHI	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

The Council members unanimously agreed that the IHF Congress shall be asked to authorise the IHF Council to fill any vacant places of the IHF Arbitration Tribunal.










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Chairperson of Arbitration Commission


Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Lovro BADZIM		✓	CRO	02.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

Ten (10) Members of Arbitration Commission



Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Mouadh BEN ZAIED	✓		TUN	02.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Nurul Fazal BULBUL	✓		BAN	28.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Miguel FERNANDES	✓		POR	03.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Filip MILOSHEVSKI	✓		MKD	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Elena BORRÁS ALCARAZ		✓	ESP	05.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Yevgen PETRUSHEVSKIY		✓	UKR	06.08.2021	Not fulfilling criterion of legal qualification; attendance at some legal classes during studies is not considered sufficient.
 Elizabeth Ling YANG		✓	HKG	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

The Council members unanimously agreed that the IHF Congress shall be asked to authorise the IHF Council to fill any vacant places of the IHF Arbitration Commission.

Chairperson of Ethics Commission





Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Hussein Moustafa FATHY	✓		EGY	26.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

Five (5) Members of Ethics Commission

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Amatékoé KANGNI	✓		TOG	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
 Jorge PULIDO VÁZQUEZ	✓		MEX	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria



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	David BARRUFET BOFILL	✓	ESP	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
	José COSTA	✓	POR	03.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria
	Dorjsuren JARGALSAI KHAN	✓	MGL	19.07.2021	Fulfilling all criteria; no legal qualification
	Roman LEBEDENK O	✓	RUS	06.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

The Council members unanimously agreed that a law degree or an equivalent level of competence is also required for the chair and membership of the IHF Ethics Commission (similar to the procedure applied at the previous IHF elections in 2017). Consequently, Mr Dorjsuren JARGALSAIKHAN does not fulfil the criterion of legal qualification. As a result, the IHF Council proposed the following composition of the IHF Ethics Commission to the IHF Congress as per Article 6.2 of the IHF Legal Provisions:


Chairperson:

- Hussein Moustafa FATHY (EGY)

Members:

- Amatékoé KANGNI (TOG)
- Jorge PULIDO VÁZQUEZ (MEX)
- David BARRUFET BOFILL (ESP)
- José COSTA (POR)
- Roman LEBEDENKO (RUS)

Two (2) internal IHF auditors and one (1) substitute auditor

	Candidate	Re- election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Ulisses PEREIRA	✓		POR	03.08.2021	Fulfilling all criteria

The Council members unanimously agreed that the IHF Congress shall be asked to authorise the IHF Council to appoint a second internal IHF auditor and one substitute auditor.

Mr Brihault explained that in terms of linguistic skills, the working group has not been able to assess the ability of the candidates to speak English. Therefore, the working group agreed to leave this responsibility with the IHF Council and suggested that the candidates should have a dialogue with a person to be determined. The same shall apply to candidates standing for re-election, considering that the requirement of having a good command of the English language has been incorporated into the Statutes as per the 2019 IHF Congress decision.

He added that the working group recommended the following for the future:

- A candidate may have been involved in high-level handball for a number of years, but in their National Federation the chairperson of the medical commission is not a member of the board according to their statutes. Therefore, it should be considered whether the criterion of 6-years high-level involvement in handball should apply to the chairperson of the IHF Medical Commission.
- A law degree or an equivalent level of competence should also be required for the Ethics Commission



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chair and membership; a corresponding provision should be included in the IHF Statutes.

- In order to avoid any potential issues, a provision should be included in the Statutes, stating that any decisions and judgements taken by the independent electoral working group are final (appeal possibilities to be defined).

President Moustafa thanked Mr Brihault for his report regarding the IHF Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions, conveying his gratitude to the working group members for their efforts in ensuring the compliance of the candidates' applications with the conditions stipulated in the IHF Statutes, aiming to increase the transparency in the electoral process.

Decision

The Council took note of the report provided by the Chairman of the IHF Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions, which shall be presented to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress.

The Council unanimously decided that the IHF Congress shall be asked to authorise the IHF Council to fill any vacant places of the IHF Arbitration Tribunal and IHF Arbitration Commission and to appoint a second internal IHF auditor and one substitute auditor.

The Council unanimously decided to propose the following composition of the IHF Ethics Commission to the IHF Congress as per Article 6.2 of the IHF Legal Provisions:

Chairperson:

- Hussein Moustafa FATHY (EGY)

Members:

- Amatékoé KANGNI (TOG)
- Jorge PULIDO VÁZQUEZ (MEX)
- David BARRUFET BOFILL (ESP)
- José COSTA (POR)
- Roman LEBEDENKO (RUS)

4.3. Motions to the Congress

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director to present the motions from the IHF President dated 6 August 2021 regarding the IHF Statutes:

Article 12 – Bodies

to add a new point:

9. Any IHF body may hold meetings and take decisions via teleconference, videoconference or any other appropriate electronic means.

Justification:

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, all IHF bodies have been forced to organise their meetings virtually due to severe travel and entry restrictions. The present motion aims to provide a legal framework for any future cases of force majeure, resulting in the impossibility for any IHF body (Congress, Council, Executive Committee, Commissions, etc.) to organise a physical meeting.

The IHF Representative South and Central America stressed the importance of ensuring that the electronic voting system used at the Congress allows for a strictly confidential voting process. The General Director informed that the IHF has been in contact with the legal voting system provider and the notary who were involved in the organisation of the IOC Session held virtually in March 2021 as well as of most of the International Federations' General Assemblies held virtually since the beginning of the pandemic. President



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Moustafa confirmed that the remark of the IHF Representative South and Central America will be taken into consideration.

The IHF Vice-President Europe shared the experience from the hybrid EHF Congress held in April 2021 featuring attendees both physically and virtually. He confirmed that the electronic voting system was successfully used, adding that the IHF could benefit from the EHF's experience.

Article 19.1 – International Events – Rights

1. The IHF is the original owner of all the rights emanating from competitions (World Championships and Olympic Handball Tournaments including all relevant qualifications, World Cup, Intercontinental Cup, Super Globe, beach handball competitions, e-sports) and other events (Congresses, symposia, courses) coming under its respective authority, without any restrictions as to content, time, place and law.
2. The IHF may entrust the Continental Confederations with the organisation of qualifications for championships under full supervision of the IHF. The IHF shall confirm the results of these qualifications.
3. In the case where this qualification is integrated into a continental championship, all rights belong to the Continental Confederation concerned.

Justification:

- In view of the IHF's plans to establish an e-sports initiative by developing a top handball video game in the near future, "e-sports" need to be included in the Statutes in order to ensure the protection of the related intellectual property rights.
- The amendment highlighted in yellow has already been approved by the IHF Council in its meeting on 27 February 2020, and is to be submitted as a separate motion to the next IHF Congress.

The General Director confirmed that the IHF had two virtual meetings with EA Sports and is currently awaiting their feedback to proceed with the development of a top handball video game.

Decision

The Council took note of the motions from the IHF President dated 6 August 2021 regarding the IHF Statutes, which will be submitted to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress.

4.4. IHF President's Development Award

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the IHF President's Development Award which is granted to two IHF Member Federations every two years at the Ordinary Congress of the IHF according to Article 2 of the IHF Regulations for Awards. It is awarded for particular services to the development and spread of handball in the Member Federations' own countries and/or throughout the world. The IHF President's Development Award is granted to two applicants on two levels:

1. Handball developed countries
2. Emerging federations

The General Director informed that the IHF received applications from the following National Federations within the deadline (6 August 2021):

- COL (Emerging federations)
- CZE (Handball developed countries)
- KOR (Handball developed countries)



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As the recipients are selected and the award granted by the IHF Council at the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the applications were submitted to the Executive Committee which, by email communication of 17 September 2021, recommended to award the IHF President's Development Award to COL (category: emerging federations) and CZE (category: handball developed countries).

Decision

Further to the recommendation of the IHF Executive Committee, the Council unanimously decided to grant the IHF President's Development Award to COL (category: emerging federations) and CZE (category: handball developed countries). The awarding shall take place during the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress.

4.5. Bidder of the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented the application submitted by the Polish Handball Federation for organising the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress, taking into consideration that POL is the only bidder for the event concerned. The awarding of the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress will be on the agenda of the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress.

POL proposed to organise the Congress in June 2023 at the International Congress Centre (ICC) in Katowice (40km from airport, 1-3km from Congress hotels), which is one of the largest business/entertainment arenas in Poland including several multifunctional halls (2,839m², 2,715m² and 2,583m²) and conference rooms.

The following accommodation fees were proposed by POL:

- For official delegation (up to three persons): 300 EUR in a single or double room per person and per night during the official Congress period
- For accompanying persons: 255 EUR in a single or double room per person and per night during the official Congress period

The bid also included information on the proposed hotels, visa issues, budget and social programme while the voting system, equipment of the Congress meeting room, transportation and venue dressing will be provided according to the bidding conditions.

In order to ensure that all IHF requirements are met, President Moustafa asked the General Director to examine the application of POL carefully and to carry out an inspection before officially presenting the bid to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress.

Decision

The Council took note of the application of POL for hosting the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress. An inspection shall be carried out to ensure that all IHF requirements are fulfilled. Afterwards, the complete bid shall be submitted to the IHF Council and eventually to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress.

5. IHF bodies

5.1. Beach Handball Committee

President Moustafa referred to the last IHF Council meeting dated 15 July 2021 during which the EHF's motion



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regarding the introduction of an IHF Beach Handball Commission was presented. He informed that the motion was further discussed between IHF and EHF and gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Europe to provide further details.

The IHF Vice-President Europe outlined that the concept of the IHF Beach Handball Committee is slightly different from the initially proposed IHF Beach Handball Commission, taking into consideration that the chairperson of the Beach Handball Committee is not elected by the Congress, but appointed by the Council. The IHF Beach Handball Committee aims to further promote beach handball in the long term by having a more official status compared to the existing IHF Beach Handball Working Group. He added that the EHF, in a discussion with the IHF leadership, agreed not to submit the EHF's initial motion but to follow the proposal of introducing an IHF Beach Handball Committee to be formed by the IHF Council.

Decision

The Council unanimously decided to form an IHF Beach Handball Committee to strengthen the promotion and development of beach handball worldwide.

5.2. Athletes' Commission

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the information related to the election of the members of the IHF Athletes' Commission, which was communicated to the Council on 29 July 2021 (please refer to agenda item 9.2). Out of the 360 athletes (15 athletes per participating team) entitled to vote, only 41 athletes cast their vote during the stipulated timeframe. Consequently, the quorum (181 votes) was not achieved as per Articles 13.3.4 and 13.5.4 of the IHF Statutes. She pointed out that the entire matter will be thoroughly studied in consultation with the IHF legal bodies.

It was proposed to appoint an IHF Interim Athletes' Commission until the voting process has been repeated and the corresponding election result has been confirmed by the IHF Council, taking into consideration that the Interim Athletes' Commission would be composed of the eight candidates eligible to stand for election, with Ms Karolina KUDLACZ-GLOC (POL) as Chairwoman of the commission, aiming to further promote gender equality and female representation within the IHF bodies.

Decision

The Council unanimously decided to appoint an IHF Interim Athletes' Commission until the voting process has been repeated and the corresponding election result has been confirmed by the IHF Council. The Interim Athletes' Commission shall be composed as follows:

Chairperson:

- **Ms Karolina KUDLACZ-GLOC (POL)**

Members:

- **Mr Gonzalo CAROU (ARG)**
- **Mr Aleh ASTRASHAPKIN (BLR)**
- **Mr Marco ONETO (CHI)**
- **Mr Vincent GERARD (FRA)**
- **Mr Johannes BITTER (GER)**
- **Mr Gergely HARSANYI (HUN)**
- **Ms Crina PINTEA (ROU)**



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6. Finances and marketing

6.1. Auditors' report 2020

Internal IHF auditors:

The Treasurer took the floor, presenting to the Council the report of the internal IHF auditors who verified the bookkeeping and annual accounts (balance sheet and profit and loss accounts) of the IHF for the financial year 2020. The internal auditors confirmed in their report that the bookkeeping and annual accounts are consistent with the provisions of Swiss law and IHF Statutes as well as IHF Council and Executive Committee decisions.

External IHF auditors:

The Treasurer presented to the Council the report of the external IHF auditors (Copartner Revision AG) who audited the financial statements of the IHF, comprising the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, the income statement, the cash flow statement and notes for the year 2020. The external auditors confirmed in their report that the financial statements for the year 2020 comply with Swiss law and the IHF Statutes and Regulations.

The Treasurer added that the IHF earned a profit of CHF 5,160,300 in 2020, which will benefit the further development and promotion of handball worldwide. She conveyed her thanks to the IHF General Director and the Financial Department for their great efforts and the excellent collaboration.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the internal and external auditors' report 2020 to be presented to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress.

6.2. IHF budget 2022 and 2023

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Treasurer who presented to the Council the IHF budget proposal for 2022 and 2023. She underlined the healthy financial status of the IHF, adding that most of the expected income for 2022 and 2023 is dedicated to be invested into the different IHF projects, which have been tailored to assist the National Federations and further develop handball worldwide. She remarked that the budget for 2023 is higher than for 2022 due to the organisation of two Senior World Championships and the Ordinary Congress in 2023.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the budget proposal for 2022 and 2023 to be presented to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress.

6.3. IHF-Gerflor partnership 2022-2025

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an offer from IHF Partner Gerflor to extend the partnership with the IHF during the period from 2022 to 2025.

After several meetings and an exchange of communication with Gerflor, Gerflor agreed to maintain the same



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conditions of the last IHF-Gerflor partnership contract (2018-2021). In case of purchases, the prices shall remain the same as of the last partnership contract, considering that the same quality of floors will be guaranteed by Gerflor.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the offer from Gerflor to extend the partnership with the IHF during the period from 2022 to 2025, taking into consideration that the same conditions of the last IHF-Gerflor partnership contract (2018-2021) should be maintained.

6.4. IHF-Sportfive partnership

President Moustafa referred to the revised offer submitted by Sportfive in terms of TV and marketing rights which was discussed during the last IHF Council meeting on 15 July 2021 and was again sent to the Council members by email on 27 July 2021 (please refer to agenda item 9.2). He informed the Council about his further negotiations with Sportfive, considering that a more favourable offer on TV and marketing rights was submitted by Sportfive, including the following IHF events:

- IHF Men's and Women's World Championships (TV: existing contract until 2025, i.e. all editions from 2027 until 2031; marketing: all editions from 2023 until 2031)
- IHF Men's and Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments (TV and marketing: existing contract until 2024, i.e. one edition of OQTs in 2028)
 - As for the above-mentioned events, the following services are included:
 - All matches produced and delivered by Sportfive
 - Global media & sponsorship rights distribution / sales
 - Full implementation of all marketing materials (e.g. LED, static boards, etc.)
- IHF Men's Junior (U21) and Men's Youth (U19) World Championships (all editions from 2023 until 2031)
- IHF Women's Junior (U20) and Women's Youth (U18) World Championships (all editions from 2022 until 2030)
- IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships (all editions from 2022 until 2030)
- IHF Beach Handball Global Tour (all editions from 2022 until 2031)
 - As for the above-mentioned events, the following services are included:
 - Supervision on production towards host
 - International signal distribution (access point to be defined)
 - Global media & sponsorship rights distribution / sales
 - Host to receive local media and marketing rights to be defined
 - Supervision and service offering towards host on marketing implementation

For the venue advertising rights, the IHF partners' contracts shall be respected throughout the duration of the contract with Sportfive until 2031. The remaining rights will be awarded to Sportfive.

The Council members unanimously approved the revised offer of Sportfive in terms of TV and marketing rights for the above-mentioned IHF events until 2031 and congratulated President Moustafa on the very favourable offer submitted by Sportfive thanks to his successful negotiations, considering that the IHF-Sportfive partnership will be highly beneficial for the further development of handball in the future.



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Decision

The Council unanimously decided to accept the offer of Sportfive in terms of TV and marketing rights for the above-mentioned IHF events until 2031. The Council authorised the IHF office together with the IHF President and Treasurer (cosignatory) to conclude the contractual provisions which shall consider all obligations of Sportfive and IHF.

7. IHF Regulations

7.1. Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman (at the same time acting Chairman of the IHF Rules Working Group) who provided an overview of the tests in regards to the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball which were successfully implemented in HUN, KOR, QAT, SWE and URU in 2020 and 2021. He then presented the following amendments to the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball, which had been communicated to the Council prior to the meeting:

Rule 7 – Playing the Ball, Passive Play

7:12 When a tendency to passive play is recognised, the forewarning signal (*hand signal no. 17*) is shown. This gives the team in possession of the ball the opportunity to change its way of attacking in order to avoid losing possession. If the way of attacking does not change after the forewarning signal has been shown, the referees can whistle for passive play at any moment. If no shot on goal is taken by the attacking team after a maximum of **6 4** passes, then a free throw is called against this team (*13:1a, procedure and exceptions see Clarification No. 4, section D*).

Clarification No. 4 – Passive Play

D [...] If the team in possession does not make a recognisable attempt to get into position to take a shot on goal (*decision-making criteria see D1 and D2*), then one of the referees decides that this is passive play at the latest when no shot on goal is executed after **6 4** passes (*7:11-12*).

Justification:

- The proposal comes mainly from the coaches' side and is supported by the statistics collected so far, considering that most teams do not use 6 passes to finish the attack after the forewarning signal for passive play has been shown.
- This amendment would offer a more attractive game when the referees show the passive play hand signal, as it would prevent persistent infringements (and subsequent interruptions) when a team is close to the 6th pass.

Rule 8 – Fouls and Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct warranting an immediate 2-minute suspension

8:8 Certain unsportsmanlike actions are by their nature seen as more severe and warrant an immediate 2-minute suspension, regardless of whether the player or the officials had received a warning earlier. This includes:



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- a) protests involving loudness with forceful gestures, or provocative behaviour;
- b) when there is a decision against a team in possession, and the player with the ball does not immediately make it available to the opponents by dropping it or putting it down on the floor;
- c) blocking the access to a ball that went into the substitution area;
- d) when the shot of a player, who is unhindered and throwing in an open play situation, hits the goalkeeper's head.

Justification:

- The proposal aims to protect the health of the goalkeepers.
- This amendment will have a dissuasive effect that will reduce the number of cases in which a goalkeeper's head is hit by a ball.

Rules 1, 10, 15 and Clarification No. 5

1:8 The centre line connects the midpoints of the two side lines (see diagrams 1 and 3).

To add a new 1:9:

1:9 In the middle of the centre line, a centre circle (diameter of 4m) will be mandatory for IHF events and senior professional handball leagues. In order to ensure the fast execution of the throw-off, the centre line should not cross the centre circle.

The throw-off is taken in any direction from the centre circle. It is preceded by a whistle signal, following which it must be taken within 3 seconds (13:1a, 15:7 3rd paragraph). The player taking the throw-off must take up a position with both feet inside the centre circle while standing (15:6), and remain in this position until the ball has left his hand (13:1a, 15:7 3rd paragraph) (see also Clarification No. 5).

Comment:

National Federations are entitled to apply the centre circle rule also for younger age category leagues.

Current 1:9 to become 1:10

10:3 With the exception of matches provided for in Rule 1:9, the throw-off is taken in any direction from the centre of the court (with a tolerance sideways of about 1.5 metres). It is preceded by a whistle signal, following which it must be taken within 3 seconds (13:1a, 15:7 3rd paragraph). The player taking the throw-off must take up a position with at least one foot on the centre line, and the other foot on or behind the line (15:6), and remain in this position until the ball has left his hand (13:1a, 15:7 3rd paragraph) (see also Clarification No. 5).

The teammates of the thrower are not allowed to cross the centre line prior to the whistle signal (15:6).

15:1 Prior to the execution, the thrower must be in the correct position prescribed for the throw. The ball must be in the hand of the thrower (15:6).

During the execution, except in the case of the goalkeeper throw **and throw-off**, the thrower must have one part of a foot in constant contact with the floor until the ball is released. The other foot may be lifted and put down repeatedly (see also Rule 7:6).

The thrower must remain in the correct position until the throw has been executed (15:7, 2nd and 3rd paragraph).

Clarification No. 5

As a guiding principle for the interpretation of Rule 10:3, the referees should keep in mind the objective of



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encouraging teams to make use of a quick throw-off. This means that the referees should avoid being pedantic and should not search for opportunities to call back or penalise a team trying to throw quickly.

For instance, the referees must avoid letting note-taking or other tasks interfere with their readiness to check the player positions quickly. The court referee should be ready to whistle at the very moment when the thrower reaches the correct position, assuming that there is no clear need for corrections of other player positions. The referees must also keep in mind that the teammates of the thrower are allowed to move across the centre line as soon as the whistle is blown. (This is an exception from the basic principle for the execution of formal throws.)

Although the rule states that the thrower must step on the centre line and be within 1.5 metre from the centre, the referees should not be excessively precise and concerned about centimetres. The main thing is to avoid unfairness and uncertainty for the opponents regarding when and where the throw-off is taken.

Moreover, most courts do not have the centre point marked, and some courts may even have the centre line interrupted due to advertising at the centre. In such cases, both the thrower and the referee will obviously need to estimate the correct position, and any insistence on exactness would then be unrealistic and inappropriate.

Comment:

Clarification No. 5, 3^d and 4th paragraph are not applicable for matches provided for in Rule 1:9.

Justification:

- As the development of handball is making the sport faster, we observed many mistakes related to the execution of quick throw-offs. This rule change would facilitate both the flow of the game and the referees' observation.
- This amendment was tested in Hungary, Republic of Korea, Qatar and Uruguay, and positive feedback was received from all stakeholders involved.

The IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball were disclosed to the German media by an IHF Rules Working Group member before being presented to the IHF Council. He stressed the importance of discussing any proposed amendments to the Rules of the Game within the Council first, considering that the media should be informed only after the Council took a decision. He urged the CCM Chairman to study this unacceptable behaviour internally within the IHF Rules Working Group. President Moustafa thanked the IHF Vice-President Europe for his remark and requested the CCM Chairman to investigate the matter and provide a corresponding report to the IHF within a week.

The General Director informed that after the Council's approval, the amendments concerned shall be announced at the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress, and reported to all Member Federations by the Head Office. They shall be published by 1 March 2022 and come into force on 1 July 2022.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the amendments to the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball, which shall be announced at the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress, published by 1 March 2022 and come into force on 1 July 2022.



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7.2. Rules of the Game for Beach Handball (Athlete Uniform Regulations / Motion from NOR)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director to present the motion dated 5 August 2021 submitted by NOR in regards to the Athlete Uniform Regulations in the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball:

"The beach handball playing uniforms shall be changed from today's regulation into more flexible choices. The players should have 2-4 options to choose from, securing a comfortable uniform that the players would like to use, securing both developing the sport and the individuals. The changes take effect immediately for all competitions under the IHF Governing body. The Norwegian Handball Federation kindly asks for the Council's support to change this, or our fellow national federations during the congress in November."

Following the motion of NOR which came along with a huge media campaign, the IHF Beach Handball Working Group proposed to include three different options in the Athlete Uniform Regulations for Beach Handball, which would provide female athletes with more options when choosing a uniform. However, they underlined the importance of standardising the format of the uniforms in the Regulations and of stipulating that an entire team must wear identical uniforms, considering that it is not allowed for a team to wear different types of uniforms.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, explaining that detailed revisions and suggested modifications of the men's and women's beach handball uniforms were discussed during the EHF Beach Handball Commission meeting and approved by the EHF Executive Committee. The uniform regulations are proposed to be amended for both the men's and women's players' uniforms, in the spirit of equal treatment of genders and meeting modern requirements. This would allow certain flexibility for the teams to find a comfortable individual and creative solution, as it would offer a free choice within the given measures (the format of the uniforms in the Regulations should be standardised and all players of one team must wear identical uniforms).

The Treasurer remarked that she is in favour of providing different options of the uniform to the teams, enabling each National Federation to take a decision according to their preference. However, she stressed that all players of a team must wear identical uniforms.

President Moustafa stated that he is in favour of having one unified uniform (to be complied with by all teams) rather than offering flexible options. He added that it is not attractive to see one team wearing a uniform not identical to the other team's uniform on the field of play.

For the sake of the promotion of gender equality and beach handball development worldwide, the 1st Vice President, the Treasurer and the IHF Vice-President Europe stressed that flexibility by offering different options is fundamental in the modern sports world. The IHF Vice-President Asia also asked to take into consideration the dress code of female players from Muslim countries.

President Moustafa concluded that the matter requires further examination by beach handball experts before taking a final decision. He proposed to ask the IHF Beach Handball Working Group and the EHF Beach Handball Commission to reconsider the matter related to the Athlete Uniform Regulations and propose one unified uniform for female athletes and one unified uniform for male athletes within one week to be submitted to the IHF Council for decision.

The letter from the European Handball Federation (EHF) dated 14 September 2021 was presented to the Council. In their letter, the EHF asked the IHF Council to enable the EHF and the local organisers in Sicily, ITA to use the newly adapted regulations in the EHF Beach Handball Champions Cup from 7 to 10 October 2021,



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in case one of the club teams might activate them. Furthermore, the EHF proposed to reconsider the date of implementation of the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball (currently 1 July like in indoor handball). As 1 July is in the middle of the high season for beach handball in most cases, the date of implementation could be changed to 1 January.

Decision

The Council agreed to ask the IHF Beach Handball Working Group and the EHF Beach Handball Commission to reconsider the matter related to the Athlete Uniform Regulations and propose one unified uniform for female athletes and one unified uniform for male athletes. The revised proposal of the IHF Beach Handball Working Group and the EHF Beach Handball Commission shall be submitted to the IHF Council for decision within one week.

8. Continents

8.1. Report from the continents

President Moustafa asked the continental representatives to provide a brief report on the handball activities in the continents.

The IHF Vice-President Asia informed the Council about the following handball events in Asia:

- 23rd Asian Men's Club League Championship held from 12-21 June 2021 in Jeddah, KSA
- 18th Asian Women's Championship taking place from 15 to 25 September 2021 in JOR
- 9th Asian Women's Youth Championship to be held from 20 to 29 November 2021 in Almaty City, KAZ
- 20th Asian Men's Championship to be held from 18 to 31 January 2022 in Dammam, KSA
- 16th Asian Women's Junior Championship to be held from 12 to 21 February 2022 in Tashkent, UZB

In terms of courses, he outlined that the IHF Multiplier Course for Asian Handball Federation which was planned to be held during the 2021 Men's Super Globe has been postponed until further notice. Furthermore, the Coaching Development Level-3 course was held virtually by the Handball Federation of India from 14 to 28 July 2021. In addition, the AHF is organising an online refreshment and qualification course for Asian lecturers in 2021.

The IHF Vice-President Europe informed the Council that it was the busiest summer the EHF and its structural bodies have ever had, including 11 younger age category events in various countries. With the support of the engaged organisers and despite all the challenges of the pandemic and the restrictions caused, all tournaments were carried out successfully and with no case during the tournament. In terms of education and training, the following activities have taken place:

July:

- 2021 EHF YAC EURO and Championship Analyses
- EHF YAC EURO Injury Analysis

September:

- EHF partnership with EU European Week of Sport (EWOS)
- Preparation of the 2021 EHF Scientific Conference in November

In addition to an overview of the competitions (national team events, club team events, beach handball competitions) and EHF meetings, his report also provided brief information about upcoming activities:



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October:

- Full competition month including club competitions and national team activities;
- Meetings of the stakeholders bodies e.g. Nations Committee Men, Nations Committee Women, European Handball League Board, Nations Board, Professional Handball Board, and Women's Handball Board.

November:

- Competitions month club and national teams;
- EHF Scientific Conference (remote);
- General Assembly of EHF Marketing GmbH;
- EHF Executive Committee Meeting;
- Extraordinary EHF Congress with the awarding of the 2026 and 2028 Men's and Women's EHF EUROs;
- 30 years EHF Jubilee celebration.

The IHF Representative Oceania took the floor, reporting that he is exerting his utmost efforts to send a competitive team from the Oceanian continent to the upcoming IHF Men's Super Globe in KSA, and thanked the President and the General Director for their support.

The IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean briefly presented the continental activities since the last IHF Council meeting. With the global COVID-19 pandemic that led to the border closure of some countries in the continent, he was very grateful that the three events, i.e. the NACHC Women's Championship, the Men's Super Globe Qualifier, and the Last Chance Qualification Tournament of the Junior Pan American Games, were organised. He expressed his hopes that the involvement of one IHF referee couple from FRA in the mentioned continental events will lead to further IHF referees from North America and the Caribbean in the future.

Decision

The Council took note of the activity reports provided by the continental representatives.

9. Miscellaneous

9.1. IHF New Markets' Project in USA

President Moustafa asked the Adviser for the IHF New Markets' Project in USA, Mr Jean Brihault, to provide a brief update of the situation of handball in USA. Mr Brihault pointed out that due to the travel restrictions imposed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, travelling to the USA has been impossible for Europeans in the last 18 months. Therefore, extensive work has been accomplished with the help of virtual meetings.

Major development of beach handball has taken place in the southwestern part of the USA, essentially California. In regards to indoor handball, four locations for collegiate handball are being established, considering that IHF Partner Gerflor has offered USA Team Handball exclusive and permanent handball flooring.

Mr Brihault reported that he has been in regular contact with USA Team Handball CEO Ryan Johnson for administrative purposes. Despite highly challenging circumstances in view of COVID-19, the 2021 NACHC Women's Championship, which served as the qualification event for the 2021 IHF Women's World Championship, was successfully organised in Elgin, USA from 22 to 25 August 2021. Unfortunately, several side events that were planned to be held on the fringes of the NACHC Women's Championship, including but



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not limited to Handball@School, refereeing and coaching courses and further education seminars, had to be cancelled due to the applicable travel restrictions caused by COVID-19.

President Moustafa thanked Mr Brihault for the efforts exerted with regard to the further development of handball in USA and stressed the importance of the preparation of the USA handball teams for the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

Decision

The Council took note of the report provided by the IHF Adviser for the New Markets' Project in USA.

9.2. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- ***IHF-Sportfive partnership***

Reference was made to the IHF-Sportfive partnership which was discussed during the IHF Council meeting held by video conference on 15 July 2021.

After the Council had approved in principle the extension of the IHF's partnership with Sportfive in its meeting on 19 February 2021 and after several negotiations, Sportfive submitted the following offer regarding TV and marketing rights on 14 July 2021, which was communicated to the Council on the same day:

- IHF Men's and Women's World Championships (TV: existing contract until 2025, i.e. all editions from 2027 until 2031; marketing: all editions from 2023 until 2031)
- IHF Men's and Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments (TV and marketing: existing contract until 2024, i.e. one edition of OQTs in 2028)

As for the above-mentioned events, the following services are included in the offer:

- All matches produced and delivered by Sportfive
- Global media & sponsorship rights distribution / sales
- Full implementation of all marketing materials (e.g. LED, static boards, etc.)

- IHF Men's Junior (U21) and Men's Youth (U19) World Championships (all editions from 2023 until 2031)
- IHF Women's Junior (U20) and Women's Youth (U18) World Championships (all editions from 2022 until 2030)
- IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships (all editions from 2022 until 2030)
- IHF Beach Handball Global Tour (all editions from 2022 until 2031)

As for the above-mentioned events, the following services are included in the offer:

- Supervision on production towards host
- International signal distribution (access point to be defined)
- Global media & sponsorship rights distribution / sales
- Host to receive local media and marketing rights to be defined
- Supervision and service offering towards host on marketing implementation



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The Council members were asked to study the offer thoroughly and submit their corresponding input. In case of unclear points or concerns regarding any point, the issue will be submitted again to the next IHF Council meeting.

Date of communication: 27 July 2021

Date of decision: **31 July 2021**

- ***IHF Athletes' Commission – Election***

Referring to the brief information provided during the last IHF Council meeting on 15 July 2021 related to the IHF Athletes' Commission, an update was given on the procedure applied so far as well as the current status in view of this year's election.

On 4 June 2021, the IHF sent a communication to all IHF Member Federations, informing them that the current mandate of the IHF Athletes' Commission which was elected at Rio 2016 ends with the Olympic Games being held in Tokyo from 23 July 2021 to 8 August 2021. Therefore, an election is taking place on the fringes of the mentioned event in order to renew the composition of the commission for the 2021-2024 period. The Member Federations were asked to submit corresponding candidatures by 30 June 2021.

As the IHF Executive Committee shall check the candidates' eligibility to stand for election according to Article 3.1.a of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission, the IHF Executive Committee studied the submitted candidatures and confirmed on 13 July 2021 that eight candidates fulfil the criteria stipulated in Article 4.2.1 of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission and are thus eligible to stand for election. General information on the candidates was published on the IHF website on 14 July 2021.

On 23 July 2021, the IHF sent a communication to all teams participating in the Tokyo 2020 Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments, informing them about the voting process which was carried out electronically from Monday, 26 July 2021, 10:00 AM (Tokyo local time) to Wednesday, 28 July 2021, 10:00 AM (Tokyo local time). As per Article 4.4.2 of the Regulations for IHF Athletes' Commission, the election result shall be confirmed by the IHF Council.

Out of the 360 athletes (15 athletes per participating team) entitled to vote, only 41 athletes cast their vote during the stipulated timeframe. Consequently, the quorum (181 votes) was not achieved as per Articles 13.3.4 and 13.5.4 of the IHF Statutes.

The IHF exerted its utmost efforts to encourage all participating athletes to vote, considering that the information on the online voting procedure was passed on to the team leaders during the Technical Meeting on 23 July 2021, and was afterwards sent to the teams by email followed by several reminders. Additionally, the IHF approached the teams directly on site, inviting their athletes to cast their vote online.

The entire matter related to the election of the members of the IHF Athletes' Commission will be thoroughly studied in consultation with the IHF legal bodies.

Date of communication: 29 July 2021

For information only (no Council decision)

- ***2021 Women's World Championship in ESP – Wild cards***

Reference was made to the official requests received from National Federations to be awarded a wild card for the 2021 Women's World Championship in Spain. According to the procedure applied in the past, wild cards are awarded without criteria; however some criteria were considered when addressing this issue to the



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Memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, informing that SVK and POL have underlined their interest in being awarded a wild card for the 2021 Women's World Championship by offering special projects to develop handball on different levels. At the same time, both nations took part in the qualification process of the European Handball Federation and were nominated as first (POL) and second (SVK) substitute nation, based on the following results: POL - 14th of the European Championship 2020; SVK - best 1st ranked team of qualification phase 1.

Proposal to confirm the request of the two nations and to award the corresponding wild cards for the 2021 Women's World Championship to Poland and Slovakia.

Date of communication: 3 August 2021

Date of decision: **6 August 2021**

The date and place of the next IHF Council meeting will be communicated by email.

President Moustafa thanked the participants for the constructive meeting and closed the session. He conveyed once again his wishes for continued good health and safety to all participants.

INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Moustafa', positioned above the name of the president.

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President