

## **"It was the right decision to give this championship to Korea"**

### **Interview with Leon Kalin, COC President**

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Leon Kalin is President of the IHF Commission of Organizing and Competition (COC) and therefore one of the men in charge for the 17th Women's Junior World Championship held in Korea. The IHF-website talked to the 52 years old Slovenian about his first impressions from this tournament.

#### **Mr. Kalin, how pleased are you with the start of this 17th Women's Junior World Championship?**

**Leon Kalin:** What had been decided during our prearrangements has now been put into practice in full details by the organisation. To us it is important that all teams and even the IHF nominees are very pleased with the hotels, the logistics and the preparation of this event. It is the first time ever that we have reached such a high level of organisation for a Juniors World Championship. Exactly this we tried to reach when the IHF created a new manual for the organisation of such an event. Hopefully our next hosts will keep these standards during the upcoming tournaments.

#### **So the Korean federation did a great job?**

**Kalin:** Yes, absolutely! It was the right decision to give this championship to Korea. The Korean Handball Federation is an important part of the IHF family in this part of the world. And to improve the standards and the development of handball in Asia means a lot to the IHF.

#### **What about the level of handball that is shown in the tournament?**

**Kalin:** The level of handball is quite high in the World Championship. In group A and D you find at least four really good teams, in group B and C there are not less than three. And even when you look at the „underdogs“ like Argentina you will shortly recognize that they have improved to a really good level of women's handball.

#### **What are your favourites for the title?**

**Kalin:** I think at today's match day 4, we will have a lot of decisions regarding the Main Round. Until now Montenegro has shown a very good performance, not only because they haven't beaten Russia. Aside Montenegro you have to name Norway, Germany, France and of course the host Korea. But it will be exciting to see who will really make it in the end. Generally all these teams present handball on a top level.