



**International
Handball
Federation**



Council Meeting No. 3

07.10.2022 by video conference



Present

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)
Joël DELPLANQUE (FRA)
Mansourou AREMOU (BEN)
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)
Anna RAPP (SWE)
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)
Dr Frantisek TABORSKY (CZE)
Per BERTELSEN (DEN)
Per Morten SØDAL (NOR)
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO)
Charles OMBOUMAHOU (CGO)
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)
Ricardo BLAS (GUM)
Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX)
Marcel MANCILLA BRAVO (CHI)

Amal KHALIFA (EGY)
Patric STRUB (GER)
Marisa STERLY (GER)
Hristo BOSKOSKI (MKD, partly)

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

General Director
Competitions Director
IHF Head Office
IHF Head Office

MEETING TIME: 14:00-16:15

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.

The IHF Council and Congress have not confirmed yet the IHF Vice-President Asia and the IHF Representative Asia.



Agenda

1. Minutes

- 1.1. Council Meeting No. 2, 4 March 2022 by video conference
- 1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 1, 18 May 2022 by video conference
- 1.3. Executive Committee Meeting No. 2, 6 July 2022 by video conference

2. President's activities

3. Competitions

- 3.1. 2022 Youth and Senior Beach Handball World Championships in GRE – Report
- 3.2. 2022 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in SLO – Report
- 3.3. 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in MKD – Report
- 3.4. The World Games 2022 in USA – Report
- 3.5. Overview of bidders for upcoming Beach Handball World Championships
- 3.6. Resin-free ball

4. IHF bodies

- 4.1. Decisions of IHF Ethics Commission
 - 4.1.1. Conduct of former Egyptian Handball Federation's Board of Directors
 - 4.1.2. Conduct of Norwegian Handball Federation President

5. Finances

- 5.1. Auditors' report 2021
- 5.2. IHF investment – Julius Bär

6. Continents

- 6.1. Report from the continents
- 6.2. Asian representatives in the IHF Council

7. Miscellaneous

- 7.1. 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. 2, 4 March 2022 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 2nd Council Meeting, which was held by video conference on 4 March 2022.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 2 held by video conference on 4 March 2022.

1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 1, 18 May 2022 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 1st Executive Committee Meeting, which was held by video conference on 18 May 2022.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Executive Committee Meeting No. 1 held by video conference on 18 May 2022.

1.3. Executive Committee Meeting No. 2, 6 July 2022 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 2nd Executive Committee Meeting, which was held by video conference on 6 July 2022.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Executive Committee Meeting No. 2 held by video conference on 6 July 2022.

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 March 2022, 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:

9 March 2022: Participation in virtual meetings with the Hellenic Handball Federation and the International Committee of the Mediterranean Games (ICMG) to discuss the 2022 IHF Men's and Women's Senior and Youth (U18) Beach Handball World Championships in Greece as well as the 2022 Mediterranean Games in Oran, Algeria



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12 March 2022: Attendance at National Olympians Association showcase and Gala dinner in Egypt

17 March 2022: Attendance at Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) Apparatus World Cup 2022 in Egypt

26 March 2022: Attendance at Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) Pentathlon World Cup 2022 in Egypt

27 March 2022: Meeting with the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Egypt to discuss the possibility of the country to host upcoming handball events, including the CAHB African Men's Championships in 2022 and 2024 as well as the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in September 2022

27/28 March 2022: Attendance at Electoral Congress of the Arab Handball Federation in Egypt

30 March 2022: Lecture at the Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) in Egypt

31 March 2022: Symposium of the Egyptian-Japanese University of Science and Technology in Egypt

16 April 2022: Signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the Egyptian Olympic Committee and the Egyptian Paralympic Committee in Egypt

19 April 2022: Participation in 33rd Board of Trustees meeting of Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award held virtually

23 April 2022: Attendance at Electoral General Assembly of the Egyptian Olympic Committee in Egypt

24 April 2022: Meeting with the Egyptian Handball Federation Interim Committee in Egypt to discuss several topics such as the organisation of the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt

26 April 2022: Attendance at 100-years celebration of the Fédération Équestre Internationale in Lausanne, Switzerland

3 May 2022: Meeting with Forum Club Handball (FCH) in Basel

4 May 2022: Meeting regarding IHF New Markets' Project in USA with Forum Club Handball and USA Team Handball in Basel and virtually

5 May 2022: Meeting regarding IHF New Markets' Project in USA with the European Handball Federation and National Federations of USA, Hungary, Denmark, Spain, Germany, Sweden in Basel and virtually

11 May 2022: Participation in consultation call with IOC President and IF Presidents regarding the current situation in Ukraine

19 May 2022: Virtual attendance at International World Games Association (IWGA) Annual General Meeting

20 May 2022: Virtual attendance at Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) General Assembly

20 May 2022: Virtual attendance at 139th IOC Session

24 May 2022: Signing of Memorandum of Mutual Understanding and Cooperation with the Czech Handball Association and the National Sports Agency of the Czech Republic in Basel

30 May 2022: Virtual meeting with Hummel to discuss the fruitful partnership between IHF and its sports equipment supplier as well as a possible extension of the contract

8 June 2022: Attendance at 46th Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) General Assembly in Lausanne, Switzerland

16 June 2022: Meeting with Sportfive in Hamburg, Germany to discuss the ongoing cooperation between the IHF and its TV rights holder

18/19 June 2022: Attendance at EHF FINAL4 Men in Cologne, Germany

21-26 June 2022: Attendance at 10th IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships in Greece

2 July 2022: Attendance at Draw for the 28th IHF Men's World Championship in Katowice, Poland

4 July 2022: Visit of the President of the Saudi Arabian Handball Federation to IHF Head Office in Basel

7 July 2022: Participation in consultation call with IOC President and IF Presidents regarding the current situation in Ukraine

8 July 2022: Participation in 1st Meeting of IHF Medical Commission held virtually



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11-18 July 2022: Attendance at 25th CAHB African Men's Championship in Egypt

18 July 2022: Attendance at 2022 Fencing World Championships in Cairo, Egypt

25 July 2022: Attendance at Press Conference of the UIPM 2022 Pentathlon World Championships in Alexandria, Egypt

9 August 2022: Meeting with the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Egypt within the framework of the preparations for the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt

11 September 2022: Meeting with IHF CCM and PRC Chairpersons in Egypt to discuss the implementation of several projects, refereeing matters and the preparation of the upcoming 2023 IHF Men's World Championship as well as a meeting with the commission chairpersons of the Organising Committee of the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt to discuss organisational matters and resolve any pending issues

14 September 2022: Participation in consultation call with IOC President and IF Presidents regarding the current situation in Ukraine

22-25 September 2022: Attendance at 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt

23/24 September 2022: Meeting with IOC President Dr Thomas Bach and President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Abdel Fattah El Sisi, in Cairo to discuss the situation of sports and the Olympic Movement in Egypt

Furthermore, since March 2022, President Moustafa has taken part in different meetings with representatives of the Egyptian Olympic Committee and the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr Ashraf Sobhy, to study the proposed changes to the Sports Law according to the IOC's authorisation letter sent to President Moustafa in his capacity as Representative of the Olympic Movement in Egypt. In addition, he attended regular meetings with the Egyptian Handball Federation Interim Committee to discuss the new statutes and the convocation of the General Assembly.

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. 2022 Youth and Senior Beach Handball World Championships in GRE – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to Mr Hristo Boskoski, who is responsible for beach handball at the IHF Head Office, to present the report of the IHF Beach Handball Working Group about the 2022 Youth and Senior Beach Handball World Championships, which took place in Heraklion, Greece from 14 to 19 June 2022 and 21 to 26 June 2022, respectively. He stated that the two tournaments were the first beach handball events since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the first tournaments with 16 teams. He informed about the financial problems of hosts Greece before the tournaments, which affected the preparation, stating however, that with IHF's support, the hosts were eventually able to organise a very successful event. He presented the final ranking, praising the good performance level of the teams despite their lack of practice due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was perceivable during the matches. Referring to the venue, he informed that the tournament was played in the Karteros Beach Sports Centre, a venue built for the 2023 Mediterranean Beach Games, specifying that the venue was suitable and had great infrastructure. He remarked that transportation was excellent, adding, however, that the athletes were staying in too many different hotels, which should be avoided in the future, despite the fact that no team complained about this



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aspect. Furthermore, he informed that, for the first time, Sportfive obtained the broadcasting rights for the events and sold them to 39 territories, while the exact number of TV spectators is yet to be communicated, adding that only matches played on the central court have been broadcast.

Referring to the performance of the referees and delegates, he reported that the combination of experienced and new delegates was very good.

Decision

The Council took note of the report regarding the 2022 Youth and Senior Beach Handball World Championships in GRE.

3.2. 2022 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in SLO – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who presented the report prepared by the COC Chairman concerning the 2022 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship which took place in Slovenia from 22 June to 3 July 2022. He informed that a new version of the match schedule had to be created since it was the first younger-age category event with 32 participating teams, adding that a questionnaire was sent to the head coaches during the World Championship, asking them for their feedback on the new match schedule, which was in general very positive. He reported that the tournament was held in three halls instead of four for financial reasons, stating, however, that the matches should be played in four venues again in the future. He presented a short overview of the halls, stating that, while all venues were suitable in general, several issues occurred regarding the temperature and the ventilation system, which were resolved quickly. Referring to the training halls, transportation, and food, he informed that no problems occurred. He also reported on the high number of COVID-19 cases affecting several teams at the tournament and resulting in the early departure of one team. Before presenting the final ranking, he stated that many new delegates participated in the competition, who had been educated by the COC Chairman prior to the tournament and showed good performances.

Decision

The Council took note of the report prepared by the COC Chairman regarding the 2022 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in SLO.

3.3. 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in MKD – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who presented the report prepared by the COC Chairman concerning the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship which took place in North Macedonia from 30 July to 10 August 2022, also with 32 participating teams for the first time. He expressed his gratitude to the organiser North Macedonia who stepped in as host on short notice after Georgia asked the IHF to be exempted from the obligation to host the event in their letter sent on 23 March 2022. The Competitions Director reported that the tournament also took place in three venues, stressing, however, that they would prefer to continue hosting the youth and junior events in four halls in the future. He informed that transportation went smoothly, and the hotel and food were very good, adding that no problems related to COVID-19 occurred during this competition. Referring to the delegates, he stated that several new delegates participated, who had attended an online course and conducted a rules test prior to the World Championship. He added that the resin-free ball, which was created by the IHF to revolutionise handball and allow countries in which the use of resin is prohibited to play with a high-quality ball, was tested at the Women's Youth (U18)



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World Championship.

Decision

The Council took note of the report prepared by the COC Chairman regarding the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in MKD.

3.4. The World Games 2022 in USA – Report

President Moustafa gave the floor to Mr Hristo Boskoski who presented the report of the IHF Beach Handball Working Group about The World Games 2022, which took place in Birmingham, USA from 11 to 15 July 2022. Mr Boskoski stressed that the approach to the preparation was different from the preparation for the World Championships in Greece, considering that The World Games are a multi-sport event organised by the International World Games Association. He reported about several issues, which were mostly resolved before the start of the event, such as problems regarding visas and travel, specifying that Denmark could not participate due to travel issues, while Vietnam did not receive the visas in time. After presenting the ranking and highlighting the great level of performance at the competition, he explained that beach handball shared the venue with other sports, which made the sport more visible. He informed about the great interest for beach handball, adding that many people came to see the beach handball matches and praising the presentation team, who created an exciting atmosphere during the entire competition. As President Moustafa asked about the spectator interest, Mr Boskoski informed that, compared to several other sports, beach handball attracted more interest. Mr Boskoski also reported about the visit of IOC President Dr Thomas Bach on 14 July, stating that a show had been organised on that occasion and President Bach had a chance to talk to the athletes. Referring to the referees and delegates, he stressed that they showed in general a very good performance.

Decision

The Council took note of the report regarding The World Games 2022 in USA.

3.5. Overview of bidders for upcoming Beach Handball World Championships

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an overview of the bidders for the upcoming Beach Handball World Championships, stating that BUL, CHN, GER, HKG, OMA (application submitted after the deadline), and TUN have sent letters of intent to host the 2024 Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships, while GER, HKG and TUN have sent letters of intent to host the 2025 Men's and Women's Youth (U17) Beach Handball World Championships, informing that the applications will be reviewed by the IHF.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Europe, who asked the IHF to coordinate the dates of the beach handball competitions on international and European level, considering that beach handball is growing worldwide. He added that beach handball competitions should be included in the international calendar to enhance the coordination and avoid overlapping of competitions. President Moustafa agreed, specifying that beach handball will feature in many international and multi-sport events in the next years, such as the ANOC World Beach Games 2023, the Mediterranean Beach Games 2023, the World Games 2025, as well as at the Beach Handball Showcase Event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.



Decision

The Council took note of the overview of bidders for the upcoming Beach Handball World Championships.

3.6. Resin-free ball

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman to report on the new resin-free ball which was used as official match ball at the 2022 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in North Macedonia for the first time.

The CCM Chairman pointed out that the development of the resin-free ball is a long-term project whose technical focus was not only on the reduction of the size and weight of the ball but also on the creation of a whole new surface, recalling that one of the reasons for the IHF to develop this ball was to offer a high-quality alternative to those countries in which the use of resin in sports halls is prohibited. He explained that the ball has been tested between 2015 and 2020 in cooperation with the French national teams but has not been used in younger age category tournaments before since they had mostly been cancelled in the past two and a half years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CCM Chairman stated that a summary of the analysis will be presented to the Council, while the new World Handball Magazine Tech includes more detailed analyses, pictures, statistics, and more relevant information about the resin-free ball.

After presenting the most important technical criteria of the Molten d60 resin-free handball, the CCM Chairman reported that it was surprising for many experts, stakeholders and spectators that the matches of the 2022 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship could be played with the resin-free ball without facing any major problems. He explained that, apart from very few exceptions, it was not necessary to exchange the ball during any of the World Championship matches, pointing out that the quality of the ball remained high even until after each match. He stressed the importance of taking into account the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on talent training in 2020 and 2021 as well as the fact that the tournament was the first-ever IHF Youth World Championship with 32 teams, which explains the performance gap between the teams.

The CCM Chairman explained that their analysis focused on evaluating if the teams adapted their tactics to the new resin-free ball, if the use of the resin-free ball negatively affected the quality of the game and how to evaluate the player ratings. 30 out of the 32 participating teams stated that the resin-free ball had no major impact on their tactical match concept, which is also confirmed by the qualitative match analyses. He referred to video analyses showing that almost all tactical techniques as well as individual and cooperative playing styles were possible with the resin-free ball. For instance, new World Champions Korea could easily implement the typical Korean game philosophy with very attractive playing styles while emerging nations such as India and Iran were also able to play attractively and successfully, especially in attack. He summarised that the teams were able to play equally well with the resin-free ball, regardless of their level of performance. Furthermore, he outlined that no major differences in some key match statistics have been observed compared to previous Youth World Championships. Referring to some technical mistakes that occurred in terms of ball handling issues, he stressed that long-term training with the resin-free ball is of utmost importance to get used to the ball. For goalkeepers, the resin-free ball proved clearly favourable, considering that the effect of hits to the head was not that significant, which helps to protect the health of goalkeepers in the future.

The CCM Chairman shared a video showing highlights of the matches, before concluding that the resin-free ball should be used in younger age categories and during longer periods of time (for example during entire championship seasons of the National Federations). He added that further technical ball tests and tests in the



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men's youth sector will be conducted and that a concept for the long-term use of the ball at international events such as continental qualifications and Youth World Championships shall be created. According to the opinion of many experts and team leaders involved in the 2022 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship, the use of resin-free balls is an undisputed method for learning basic techniques and corresponding playing skills.

President Moustafa gave the floor to Mr Kiyooki Nishihara, responsible for International Sales/Sports Marketing/Corporate Management at Molten, who remarked that Molten and the IHF have been working on the resin-free ball for nine years, emphasizing that Molten is glad that the resin-free ball has now been successfully used at the Women's Youth World Championship in North Macedonia for the first time. He stated that he was impressed by the ability of the young female players to adapt to the new ball. However, he pointed out that some minor issues have been identified, which need to be improved, stressing that Molten will continue to work on the further development of the ball and is looking forward to seeing the ball being used also in men's youth tournaments in the future. President Moustafa thanked Mr Nishihara for the great cooperation, adding that he held a meeting with Molten representatives in Egypt on 20 September 2022 to discuss the further development of the ball, during which Mr Nishihara promised that Molten will continue to work on the further improvement of the ball.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Europe who praised President Moustafa for having taken the initiative to start the discussion about the resin-free ball with Molten, agreeing to the fact that the development of a resin-free ball is important since the cleaning of sports halls where resin is being used is a major problem, especially in younger age categories. He added that the IHF and Molten should also work with flooring specialists to analyse the use of the ball on different floors. Furthermore, he stated that only little information about the ball was available on continental level before the present meeting, which is why he could not present more considerations from the EHF before having discussed the details with the EHF technical commissions. He stressed, however, the different performance level of senior teams compared to youth teams, specifying that the use of the ball would have to be very carefully introduced to senior players, since the ball might be met with scepticism on professional level.

The IHF Vice-President Europe also referred to the proposal to use the ball at international events such as continental qualifications in the future, pointing out that the Continental Confederations have to fulfil contracts concerning the use of balls, which is why the implementation of the ball on continental level would need to be thoroughly discussed in advance.

President Moustafa thanked the IHF Vice-President Europe for his remarks and informed that the IHF will create a working group composed of the CCM and PRC Chairmen as well as a male and a female professional player to prepare a concept for the future and work on the further improvement of the ball. The CCM Chairman agreed, adding that PRC and CCM experts should also be involved in the working group. Answering to the IHF Vice-President Europe's request to be involved at a certain stage, President Moustafa stated that, as a first step, he would like to ask the technical experts and professional players to collaborate on a concept, before presenting it to the Continental Confederations in a joint meeting. He added that sample balls will be sent to the Continental Confederations to test the ball while several balls have already been delivered to the European Handball Players Union.

Decision

The Council took note of the report presented by the CCM Chairman regarding the use of the new resin-free ball at the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in MKD and agreed on the creation of a working group chaired by the CCM and PRC Chairmen to prepare a concept for the future and work



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on the further improvement of the ball. The input of the working group shall be presented to the Council.

4. IHF bodies

4.1. Decisions of IHF Ethics Commission

4.1.1. Conduct of former Egyptian Handball Federation's Board of Directors

The General Director took the floor and referred to the case related to the conduct of the former Egyptian Handball Federation's Board of Directors, which was studied by the IHF Ethics Commission that decided on 6 April 2022 to impose on the President and members of the former Board of Directors of the Egyptian Handball Federation a one-year ban from participating in any activity related to handball, including any event, participation in Assemblies of any kind, or the appointment of members of the former Board of Directors to positions within the International Handball Federation, the African Handball Confederation and the Egyptian Handball Federation, counted from the notification of the Decision, for violation of the Integrity and Good Governance principles contained in Article 5 of the Ethics Code, in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 of the IHF Ethics Code, further urging the sanctioned parties not to repeat the conduct in the future.

Decision

The Council took note of the decision made by the IHF Ethics Commission on 6 April 2022 related to the conduct of the former Egyptian Handball Federation's Board of Directors.

4.1.2. Conduct of Norwegian Handball Federation President

The General Director took the floor and referred to a case related to the conduct of the Norwegian Handball Federation President, Mr Kåre Geir Lio. She informed the Council members that on 6 April 2022, the Handball Federation of Russia submitted an alleged violation of the IHF Ethics Code by Mr Kåre Geir Lio, President of the Norwegian Handball Federation, for allegedly having failed to comply with Article 5 of the IHF Ethics Code by making public statements regarding the Handball Federation of Russia.

After having studied the case, the IHF Ethics Commission decided on 5 August 2022 to impose on Mr Kåre Geir Lio, President of the Norwegian Handball Federation, a caution to the effect that on future occasions any statement issued regarding the Handball Federation of Russia shall be prudent, proper, and fair, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 5 and 9 of the IHF Ethics Code.

Decision

The Council took note of the decision made by the IHF Ethics Commission on 5 August 2022 related to the conduct of the Norwegian Handball Federation President.

5. Finances

5.1. Auditors' report 2021

The Treasurer took the floor, presenting to the Council the report of the internal IHF auditors who verified the



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bookkeeping and annual accounts (balance sheet and profit and loss accounts) of the IHF for the financial year 2021. 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.

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 2021, the income statement, the cash flow statement, and notes for the year 2021. The external auditors confirmed in their report that the financial statements for the year 2021 comply with Swiss law and the IHF Statutes and Regulations.

The Treasurer 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 2021 to be presented to the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress.

5.2. IHF investment – Julius Bär

The General Director took the floor, informing the Council that Mr Rolf Meyer, Private Banking Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWI) of Julius Bär, will join the meeting during the current agenda item to report on the current status of the IHF investment portfolio, in particular in the light of the current market situation.

Mr Meyer informed that the total return of the IHF investment portfolio is amounting to -5.97% to date. He stated that this performance of the portfolio up until this point of the year would not be considered wealth preservation under normal market circumstances, stressing, however, the exceptional circumstances over the past ten months, considering the war in Ukraine, and the spiking inflation around the globe. He added that, while most national banks have reacted to the inflation quite late, they have now reacted by raising the interest rates by an extraordinary level, pointing out that this kind of environment is unprecedented and has affected the performance of the IHF's portfolio. He stated, however, that this impact is a pure mark-to-market impact and not a realised loss, meaning that the bonds in the portfolio dropped in price due to higher interest rates but can be expected to recover over time. He referred to the quality focus and the very high level of diversification in the IHF portfolio, providing holding power to minimise the risk of realising permanent losses. Mr Meyer showed a graph illustrating the deeply negative returns across bond market segments since December 2021, specifying that even the safest government bonds and high-quality corporate bonds returned -14% to -19%. He summarised that despite the -5.97% performance, the IHF is in a good situation since all losses are book losses, meaning that, while the bond prizes have come down, the IHF neither plans to sell the bonds at the current prices nor expects defaults, meaning that the book losses will not become permanent or realised losses.

Mr Meyer thanked President Moustafa and the General Director for the fruitful exchange and praised the IHF's strict risk management policy on the portfolio, including the mandate to not let the credit quality of the bonds deteriorate and to avoid a longer duration of the bonds, which has paid off in this performance. He pointed out the attractive forward-looking return expectation, specifying that thanks to the short duration of the bonds, more than 80% of the portfolio can be reinvested over the next four years at higher yields. He summarised that, while the performance is -5.97%, the IHF is in a good position, since it has not realised any losses, has no suffering positions, and does not hold any Russian or Ukrainian bonds, no bonds with long durations, and



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only high-quality positions that can be held until maturity and then reinvested at higher yields.

President Moustafa thanked Mr Meyer for his clear presentation and asked the Council members if they have any questions. As no question was raised, he gave the floor to the Treasurer who stated that, despite the difficult market situation, she thinks that the IHF is in a good financial position. Mr Meyer thanked the Council members for their trust and left the meeting.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided by the representative of Julius Bär regarding the IHF investment portfolio.

6. Continents

6.1. Report from the continents

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Europe to provide a brief report on the handball activities in Europe since the last IHF Council meeting, which had previously been sent to the IHF and distributed to the Council members.

The IHF Vice-President Europe informed that the Circle of a handball life and the EHF Glossary have been sent to the Council members, stressing the importance of using a consistent English handball terminology worldwide. He explained that Circle of a handball life is a pathway for players, taking them through the game from childhood to old age, encouraging them to keep playing and enjoying handball throughout their lives. He added that the EHF is also preparing a beach handball book, before presenting an overview of the EHF's summer events as well as information about the Women's EURO 2022, taking place in November. He thanked President Moustafa for the fruitful cooperation on all levels.

The IHF Representative Oceania informed of the issues related to the lasting COVID-19 restrictions, including closed borders, making it impossible for some teams to travel to tournaments, adding that several countries have still not been able to restart handball activities. He also informed that American Samoa were supposed to host the qualifying events for the ANOC Beach Games, however, due to delays in the construction of the venues, Australia and New Zealand had to step in as organisers. Referring to the situation regarding the Oceanian referees, he expressed his regrets about the lack of competitions to gain experience, pointing out, however, that in order to organise important events in Oceania, qualified referees are required.

The IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean reported that a women's junior qualification tournament, a men's senior qualification tournament, a club teams qualification tournament for the Super Globe as well as beach handball qualification events have been organised in Mexico. He noted that they are trying to encourage other countries to host handball activities, which has not been easy due to the high costs for board and lodging in many countries, expressing his hope that the NOC will support them in the future. Furthermore, he informed about his attendance at The World Games in Birmingham, stressing that he is certain that the attractiveness of beach handball was shown to the world. He stated that NACHC will have a joint meeting with USA and CAN regarding the qualification event for the Pan American Games, while the Caribbean Cup was taking place in Dominican Republic at the time of the meeting. Lastly, he asked about the possibility to use the resin-free ball during the next editions of the IHF Trophy to test the ball with men's junior and youth teams. President Moustafa confirmed that the IHF will discuss with Molten the possibility to send balls to NACHC to allow the countries concerned to start training with the ball. President Moustafa added that he would like to organise a joint meeting with the IHF Representatives North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America to discuss the ways in which they can cooperate even more closely in the future.



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The IHF Representative South and Central America presented a summary of the activities carried out in South and Central America, including the championships organised in 2022 in indoor and beach handball, various trainings organised for coaches by the Development Commission and the three programmes for referee training organised by the SCAHC PRC. He pointed out that they are concerned about the insufficient level of many referees in South and Central American countries, which is why they were grateful for the opportunity to organise a GRTP continental indoor handball as well as a GRTP continental beach handball course in Argentina with the IHF PRC Chairman. President Moustafa stressed the importance of organising more referee courses in South and Central America in the future.

Decision

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

6.2. Asian representatives in the IHF Council

The letter received from Asian Handball Federation (AHF) dated 5 November 2021 was presented to the Council. In their letter, AHF proposed to nominate their Treasurer, Mr Bader Al-Theyab (KUW) for the position of Asia's Vice-President in the IHF Council, and their Acting President Mr Yoshihide Watanabe (JPN, due to the current President's decision to step aside as President) for the position of Asia's Representative in the IHF Council.

According to Article 11.2.8 of the IHF Statutes, the continental candidates for the IHF Vice-Presidency must hold office as the President in their continents while the President of the Continental Confederation may assign a representative to the IHF Vice-Presidency.

Therefore, President Moustafa proposed to the Council to consult the IHF lawyer, asking for his legal opinion related to the proposal of Asian Handball Federation. The Council shall be informed about the lawyer's input accordingly.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided regarding the Asian representatives in the IHF Council and agreed to consult the IHF lawyer, asking for his legal opinion related to the proposal of Asian Handball Federation. The Council shall be informed accordingly.

7. Miscellaneous

7.1. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- *Exceptional transfer of handball players contracted by Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian clubs*

In the light of the current situation in Ukraine following Russia's invasion, reference was made to the IHF Council decision dated 4 March 2022, according to which all teams, officials, referees, lecturers and experts from Russia and Belarus have been banned from taking part in IHF events and activities with immediate effect and until further notice.



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In view of the several communications which the IHF received from different parties in this matter, the IHF consulted its Swiss lawyer, asking him how to resolve the situation of foreign handball players, including Ukrainians, currently contracted by a Ukrainian, Russian or Belarusian club.

It was proposed to include a temporary appendix in the IHF Regulations for Transfer between Federations related to exceptional transfers of handball players contracted by Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian clubs. The appendix shall come into force with immediate effect and shall automatically become void as soon as the war between Russia and Ukraine is over and handball activities have resumed in the countries affected by the war situation.

Date of communication: 17 March 2022

Date of decision: **18 March 2022**

- ***African qualification for 2023 Men's World Championship***

Reference was made to the 25th Men's Senior Africa Nations Cup 2022, which serves as qualification event for the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship in POL/SWE.

Memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, stating that an alternative period had to be found for the aforementioned qualification event, due to the fact that the scheduled period coincides with the Oran 2022 Mediterranean Games. Therefore, the African Handball Confederation (CAHB) decided to organise the qualification event during the period from 11 to 18 July 2022.

Date of communication: 21 March 2022

Date of decision: **28 March 2022**

- ***2022 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship***

Reference was made to the awarding of the IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship to Georgia on 28 February 2020.

Memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, stating that due to force majeure, as a consequence of Russia's invasion in Ukraine, the Georgian Handball Federation has requested to release them from the obligation to host the above-mentioned event.

The Macedonian Handball Federation found a solution to take over the hosting obligations. However, due to other events taking place on the original date, it is only possible to host the event in the period of 30 July to 10 August 2022 (instead of 3 to 14 August 2022). The daily fee amounts to EUR 135.- (instead of CHF 115.- (EUR 113.50) foreseen for Georgia). The event shall be played in three venues in Skopje, which have been used in the past for several handball events. Accommodation is also planned in places where handball competitions took place. As Georgia will not be the host anymore and North Macedonia have qualified, the next ranked nation of the European qualification event shall take part in the event as well.

Date of communication: 14 April 2022

Date of decision: **19 April 2022**

- ***2022 Women's Junior World Championship – Wild card***

Reference was made to the 2022 IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in Slovenia, and in particular the IHF Trophy place that shall be awarded by the IHF Council as a wild card according to the IHF Council decision of 4 March 2022.



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Memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, proposing to award the aforementioned wild card to *Italy*, which is the next-ranked substitute nation in Europe.

Date of communication: 3 May 2022

Date of decision: **8 May 2022**

- ***Wild cards for 2023 Men's World Championship & Player Eligibility Code***

1. ***Wild cards for 2023 Men's World Championship:***

The IHF received official requests from several National Federations to be awarded a wild card for the 2023 Men's World Championship in Poland/Sweden. According to the procedure applied in the past, wild cards are awarded without criteria; however, some criteria are considered when addressing this issue to the Council.

Memorandum prepared by the IHF Competitions Director, proposing to award the two available wild cards for the 2023 Men's World Championship to *Japan* and *Ukraine*.

2. ***Amendment of IHF Player Eligibility Code:***

The IHF New Markets' Project has been launched by the IHF to promote and develop handball in important markets worldwide, in particular CHN and USA. The IHF has exerted outstanding efforts since the beginning of the project, and great progress has been achieved in several countries such as USA, GBR and CHN. The IHF New Markets' Project in China started more than four years ago with the education process, and it seems that the Chinese Handball Association is now eager to reach the next level. IHF received a letter from Chinese Handball Association dated 29 April 2022, asking to include their women's national team (currently in the category "Developed National Federations") in the category of "Emerging National Federations" as per Appendix 3 of the IHF Player Eligibility Code, allowing them to expand their players' selection.

As China is included in the IHF New Markets' Project, it is proposed to amend Article 6.3.3 (*Special case*) of the IHF Player Eligibility Code, by including those National Federations being part of the IHF New Markets' Project (Appendix 2). Such amendment will help to give more flexibility to the National Federations included in this project to expand their team profile and enhance the promotion of the sport in the respective countries.

The current wording of Article 6.3.3 (*Special case*) including the proposed addition (in red) is as follows:
Players who have played with a senior national team (see Article 6.1.b) may not play for a national team of another country if they do not comply with Article 6.3.1. However, under exceptional circumstances, the IHF Executive Committee may authorise, case by case, such players to play for the national team of an "Emerging National Federation" (listed in Appendix 3) or a National Federation being part of the IHF New Markets' Project (listed in Appendix 2) if they have not played in the last three years with their former national team and if this is in the interest of the development of handball in this country. Such players shall come from a "Top National Federation" national team and their former National Federation shall be consulted during the process, before the decision of the Executive Committee.

Date of communication: 17 May 2022

Date of decision: **24 May 2022**

Comment received from IHF Vice-President Europe: "Regarding the amendment of the IHF Player Eligibility Code, I confirm the proposal with one comment that such a decision in an individual case must consider the number of such players to be integrated, as it cannot be the idea that a National Team overwhelmingly consists of naturalised players. I therefore propose three players as a maximum within one World



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Championship period (2-years) to be allowed.”

- ***1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship***

Reference was made to the IHF Council meeting held on 4 March 2022, and in particular to the information provided regarding the organisation of the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship.

The IHF President met with the Egyptian Minister of Youth and Sports, Dr Ashraf Sobhy, in Cairo on 27 March 2022 to discuss the possibility of hosting the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt. During the meeting, the proposed budget for the organisation of the event concerned prepared by the IHF was presented to the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The Egyptian Minister of Youth and Sports agreed (in a signed protocol) to the organisation of the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt, taking into consideration the following basic information:

- ✚ Dates: 18-26 September 2022 (official arrival date of teams: 17 September; official departure date of teams: 27 September)
- ✚ Place: Cairo, Egypt
- ✚ Venues: Cairo Stadium, Dr Hassan Moustafa Sports Hall (6th of October) – *to be confirmed*
- ✚ Eight participating teams as per the following distribution of places:
 - Host (EGY)
 - Asia (2)
 - Europe (2)
 - South and Central America (2)
 - Wild card (1)
- ✚ Competition to be played with mixed teams, i.e., each team must have at least two female players, while at least one female player per team must be on the court at any time.

The entire matter was submitted to the IHF Executive Committee which agreed on 23 May 2022 to organise the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt. In view of the short notice, the IHF approached the Continental Confederations of Asia, Europe and South and Central America on 2 June 2022, asking them to nominate the teams representing their Continental Confederation during the event concerned. The Continental Confederations have been selected based on the interest and existing wheelchair handball activities according to the Chairman of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group.

Date of communication: 8 June 2022

Date of decision: **10 June 2022**

- ***Wild cards for 2023 Men's World Championship***

Reference was made to the IHF President's communication dated 17 May 2022 and the related IHF Council decision dated 24 May 2022 to award the two available wild cards for the 2023 Men's World Championship to Japan and Ukraine.

As mentioned in the memorandum of the IHF Competitions Director dated 17 May 2022, the IHF had received requests for a wild card from JPN, NED, SLO and UKR. Afterwards, the IHF received further requests for a wild card from CZE (20 May) and SUI (17 June).

On 7 June 2022, the IHF President asked the Ukrainian Handball Federation to provide the IHF with the planned preparation programme of the Ukrainian men's national team in case of being awarded a wild card for the 2023 Men's World Championship, which they sent in brief on 8 June 2022. On 13 June 2022, the IHF



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President officially approached the President of Ukrainian Handball Federation, Mr Andriy Melnyk, requesting again a clear and complete plan for the team's preparation until January 2023. On 17 June 2022, the Ukrainian Handball Federation submitted more detailed information in this matter, which was then forwarded to the Chairman of the IHF Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM), Mr Dietrich Späte. His corresponding statement was attached to the email to the Council.

In addition, the IHF asked its TV Partner Sportfive for their input regarding the two wild cards for the World Championship concerned. Their corresponding statement was attached to the email to the Council.

After the IHF Council decision dated 24 May 2022, the performance level of the two nations concerned (Japan and Ukraine) was again analysed, also in comparison with the performance level of the other nations requesting a wild card. Among other aspects, the result of the Ukrainian men's national team achieved at the Men's EHF EURO 2022 in January 2022 in HUN/SVK was taken into consideration, where they ranked 24th (last place).

Corresponding to the recommendation of the CCM Chairman, it was proposed to award the two available wild cards for the 2023 Men's World Championship to the **Netherlands** and **Slovenia**.

Date of communication: 21 June 2022

Date of decision: **24 June 2022**

- ***IHF Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball***

Reference was made to the IHF communication dated 1 March 2022 regarding the changes to the IHF Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball, which shall come into force on 1 July 2022 according to Article 21, point 2 of the IHF Statutes.

As stated in the Rules of the Game which were communicated to the IHF stakeholders on 1 March 2022, the document was subject to further updates in case of any further clarification related to the changes to the Rules of the Game. According to the proposal of the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC), the following additional amendments/clarifications (highlighted in red) shall be incorporated into the Rules of the Game to be applicable as of 1 July 2022:

Rule 4:2

A team is allowed to use a maximum of 4 team officials during the game. These team officials may not be replaced during the course of the game. One of them must be designated as the 'responsible team official'. Only this official is allowed to address the timekeeper/scorekeeper and, possibly, the referees (see, however, Clarification No. 3).

A team official is generally not allowed to enter the court during the game. A violation of this rule is to be penalised as unsportsmanlike conduct (see 8:7-10, 16:1b, 16:3e-g and 16:6c). The game is restarted with a free throw for the opponents (13:1a-b; see, however, Clarification No. 7).

The 'responsible team official' shall ensure that, once the game has started, no other persons than the (maximum 4) registered team officials and the players who are entitled to participate (see 4:3) are present in the substitution area. He is also responsible for the team's compliance with the Substitution Area Regulations. Violations lead to progressive punishment for the 'responsible team official' (16:1b, 16:3e, and 16:6c).

Note:

The IHF, Continental Confederations and National Federations have the right to apply deviating regulations in



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their areas of responsibility regarding the number of officials. However, no more than 5 officials are allowed.

Rule 10:3-10:5

3. The following two throw-off options shall apply:

a. Throw-off from the centre line

The throw-off is taken in any direction from the centre ~~line of the court~~ (with a tolerance sideways of about 1.5 metres **from the centre of the court**). 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).

b. Throw-off from the throw-off area (*previously Rule 10:5*)

- The throw-off is taken in any direction from the throw-off area. It is preceded by a whistle signal, following which it must be taken within three seconds (13:1a, 15:7 3rd paragraph).
- The whistle signal by the referees can be given when the ball is inside the throw-off area and the thrower has at least one foot inside the throw-off area. (15:6).
- The thrower is not allowed to cross the throw-off area line with any part of the body until the throw-off is considered taken (13:1a, 15:7 3rd paragraph).
- The thrower is allowed to move inside the throw-off area, but he is not allowed to bounce the ball after the whistle signal (13:1a, 15:7 3rd paragraph).
- The execution can be done running. It is not allowed to jump during the execution of the throw-off (13:1a, 15:7 3rd paragraph).
- The throw-off is considered taken when either
 - the ball has first left the hand of the thrower and then has completely crossed the throw-off area line; or
 - the ball was passed and touched or controlled by a teammate, although it occurred inside the throw-off area.
- The teammates of the thrower are not allowed to cross the centre line prior to the whistle signal, except if they are inside the throw-off area (15:6).
- The players of the defending team must be outside the throw-off area and are not allowed to touch the ball or the opponents inside the throw-off area until the throw is considered taken (15:4, 8:7c). They are allowed to be directly outside the throw-off area.

4. For the throw-off at the start of each half (incl. any period of overtime), all players must be in their own half of the court **or inside the throw-off area, if applicable**.

However, for the throw-off after a goal has been scored, the opponents of the thrower are allowed to be in both halves of the court.

If the throw-off is taken from the centre line (10:3a), the opponents must be at least 3 metres away from the player taking the throw-off (15:4, 15:9, 8:7c).

If the throw-off is taken from the throw-off area (10.3b), the opponents must be outside the area line with the entire body (15:4, 15:9, 8:7c).

~~In both cases, however, the opponents must be at least 3 metres away from the player taking the throw off (15:4, 15:9, 8:7c).~~

Rule 13:1

In principle, the referees interrupt the game and have it restarted with a free throw for the opponents when:

- a. the team in possession of the ball commits a violation of rules that must lead to a loss of possession (see 4:2-3, 4:5-6, ~~4:7-8~~, 4:9, 5:6-10, 6:5 1st paragraph, 6:7b, 7:2-4, 7:7-8, 7:10, 7:11-12, 8:2-10, 10:3, ~~10:5~~, 11:4, 13:7, 14:4-7, 15:7 3rd paragraph, and 15:8);



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- b. the opponents commit a violation of rules that causes the team in possession of the ball to lose it (see 4:2-3, 4:5-6, 5:5, 6:2b, 6:7b, 7:8, 8:2-10).

Rule 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 (see 12:2) and the throw-off with throw-off area (10:3b), the thrower must have one part of a foot in constant contact with the floor until the ball is released (see, however, 10:3b). 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).

Note:

Before the execution of a throw (except in the case of the goalkeeper throw), the thrower must be in an upright position, i.e. no other body parts than the feet are allowed to be in contact with the floor.

In addition, the Guidelines and Interpretations dated 1 July 2019 (available on the IHF website) have been reviewed by the PRC and will be incorporated into the current Guidelines and Interpretations (Chapter 4 of the Rules of the Game), if applicable.

The following two documents will be published separately on the IHF website as an additional information:

- Electronic Team Time-Out Regulations
- Video Replay Regulations

The PRC and the IHF Rules Working Group are currently working on the new structure of the Rules of the Game (to be divided into three books in total).

Date of communication: 29 June 2022

For information only (no Council decision)

- ***2023 Ordinary IHF Congress – Date and place***

Reference was made to the decision of the XXXVIII Ordinary IHF Congress held in Basel, SUI and by video conference on 6 November 2021, according to which the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress was awarded to the Polish Handball Federation.

The XXXIX Ordinary Congress 2023 of the IHF is proposed to be held in ***Katowice, Poland from 3 to 5 November 2023***. The Congress hotel and meeting place are yet to be determined, taking into consideration that a corresponding inspection is yet to be carried out by the IHF.

Date of communication: 8 July 2022

Date of decision: ***15 July 2022***



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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 printed name.

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President

