



International Handball Federation

Peter Merian-Strasse 23 – P.O.Box - CH - 4002 Basle - Switzerland

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Meeting of IHF Women's Handball Working Group

Date: Monday, 11 May 2020

Time: 12:00-12:55

Place: by video conference

Participants:

Dr Hassan Moustafa	IHF President
Mrs Amal Khalifa	IHF General Director
Ms Viola Schmitt	IHF Head Office

Ms Narcisa Lecusanu	Chairwoman of IHF Women's Handball Working Group
Ms Bente Aksnes	Member of IHF Women's Handball Working Group
Ms Liudmila Bodnieva	Member of IHF Women's Handball Working Group
Ms Alexandra Do Nascimento	Member of IHF Women's Handball Working Group
Ms Leonor Mallozzi	Member of IHF Women's Handball Working Group
Ms Gulnar Turlykhanova	Member of IHF Women's Handball Working Group

1. Welcome by the IHF President
2. IHF women's handball development strategy
3. Miscellaneous

President Moustafa welcomed the IHF Women's Handball Working Group to the meeting which was held as video meeting due to the current situation related to Covid-19 (coronavirus). He pointed out that in these times it is very important to adapt to the new situation and video calls are a good solution to meet and continue working.

He passed the floor to Mrs Khalifa to report about the decisions taken by the IHF regarding the postponement of IHF women's handball events.

2020 IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship
Originally scheduled to be held in Romania from 1-13 July 2020
New dates: 2-13 December 2020

2020 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship
Originally scheduled to be held in Croatia from 18-30 August 2020
New dates: 29 September - 11 October 2020

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2020 IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships
Originally scheduled to be staged from 30 June to 5 July 2020 in Italy
New date and venue to be confirmed

Dr Moustafa thanked the General Director and passed the floor to the chairwoman of the Women's Handball Working Group.

Ms Lecusanu thanked Dr Moustafa and Mrs Khalifa for the opportunity to discuss about the future of women's handball. She reported that she is in close contact with the chairmen of IHF CCM and IHF PRC as well as the H@S chairwoman to get information about the number of female participants in the respective courses. She said that the Former Players Project is a very good project and more activities should be undertaken in this direction. She presented the idea of a Former Players campaign. The aim is to keep more retired athletes as former players in handball. Therefore, also the National Federations (NFs) should be encouraged to make a contribution.

Dr Moustafa said that it is essential to directly contact the NFs as not every NF replies to the IHF emails.

Ms Mallozzi proposed to organize a zoom meeting with the Women's Development Coordinators (WDC) of each continent and discuss with them their contribution to the development of women's handball in general as well as for the Former Players Project in particular. The calls should be scheduled to start next week.

Dr Moustafa agreed to the proposal and asked the working group to elaborate a concept and time table which shall be send to the IHF General Director, preferably by the end of this month. Mrs Khalifa informed that the IHF will have the first virtual academy at the end of May and the NFs should be encouraged to participate in the virtual academy.

Ms Aksnes proposed to create a group on Facebook for women's handball. The IHF President confirmed that this is a very good idea and the group can be set up after the meeting.

Ms Bodnieva reported that she received a lot of positive feedback from the former players course in Doha 2018. However the courses should be more specific – separate courses for coaches, referees, delegates, etc. Dr Moustafa agreed in principle, but he said that the IHF can't organise dedicated courses with only a small number of participants per course. As the number of former players in Qatar was very limited one combined course was organised.

Dr Moustafa thanked the members for their ideas and input and asked the chairwoman to put them all together in a document. Further he stressed that the most important aim is to increase the number of former players worldwide.

Ms Mallozzi mentioned that not only the quantity is important but also the quality. 15 motivated former players might bring more than 30 who just participate in a course to be present. In addition she proposed to prepare the younger players for a life after their active career.

Ms Do Nascimento explained her idea of streaming live interviews with different national team players on (IHF) media channels. The national team players are idols for the younger players and could speak

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about their life during Covid-19. The younger players should have the possibility to ask questions which will be answered directly by their idols.

Mrs Khalifa informed that the IHF already has a similar social media campaign, but it's very hard to find athletes who are willing to answer some questions. Most of the players are not responding to IHF requests.

The chairwoman confirmed the IHF experience that players are not responding. She assumes that the players are not used to speak in front of media. Also the mentality of women is different than men. But sometimes it's also a lack of information, said Ms Bodnieva. With regard to Ms Mallozzi's proposal to also work with young players Ms Lecusanu presented the idea of a girl's campaign. She pointed out that education is very important for the promotion of handball, especially in the younger age categories. However, in this age the education shall not be separated by gender. The education programmes will be conducted for boys and girls. She said that she would appreciate if the IHF Media and the IHF Marketing Department as well as the IHF Partners like Hummel or Lagardère could be involved and make a contribution to the campaign.

Dr Moustafa stated that the Working Group should write down all the needs and send the list to Mrs Khalifa in order to take a decision.

Ms Do Nascimento mentioned the idea of a mentoring concept for young players with national team players as mentor. This approach requires the support of the NFs.

Dr Moustafa passed the floor to Ms Turlykhanova who explained (via her interpreter) that she is very sad about the current situation related to the coronavirus and she regrets that the planned meeting in Spain had to be cancelled, but she is happy to see the other members now and hopes that it will soon be possible to meet in person again. Further she informed that in Kazakhstan athletes train outside as indoor facilities are closed and Kazakhstan Handball Federation (KAZ) offers training online. She proposes to conduct a survey among all IHF Member Federations to ask about their situation concerning the possibilities of practising handball. Dr Moustafa informed that the IHF sent letters to the National Federations in which we asked them to provide the IHF with information about the financial effect of the corona crisis. Since Kazakhstan Handball Federation didn't receive the letter it was agreed that the IHF Head Office will send the letter again to KAZ, together with information about the Former Players Project. In addition, Ms Turlykhanova pointed out that education and communication are the keys to make work more efficient.

Finally it was concluded that the working group will meet again and make a detailed plan/concept containing all the needs for a fruitful development of women's handball. Once the concept has been sent to the IHF Office.

Dr Moustafa thanked all attendees for the productive meeting and closed the session at 12:55.

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