



President's report



International
Handball
Federation



IHF Activity Report 2017-2021

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Dear Handball Friends,

My last IHF Congress notes were written for the July 2019 edition in Gothenburg, Sweden and no-one could have predicted what happened next – and what is continuing to happen. Since then, the world turned upside down and we were all affected in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the very dark days suffered by many, the shining lights of handball and our global handball family have shone bright, reminding all of us that we are part of a passionate, caring community from Africa to Europe, through North, Central and South America to the Caribbean, Asia and Oceania.

Stories of those within our handball family working heroically on the frontlines against COVID-19 through their work as healthcare professionals or helping in their communities have inspired us all and even in times of isolation, we have grown closer to each other through the handball family, connecting remotely as never before and adapting our personal and professional lives to the ‘new normal’.

Our sport was one of the very first to restart global competition, with the 2021 IHF Men’s World Championship in Egypt in January acting as an example for others, including the memorable Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Through your passionate, hardworking, relentless and professional efforts, handball continues to visibly stand out as one of the most popular and exhilarating global team sports.

This report reflects on what the International Handball Federation – and by definition, you – have achieved over the past four years.

New and old forms of our sport have firmly made their mark and live side-by-side. From the 7-a-side version of the game, through to beach handball and to wheelchair handball, our sport continues to grow. Players, coaches, administrators and many more have been attracted to our sport through our virtual and in-person education and learning endeavours, while those already involved have increased their knowledge.

The unwavering support of the IHF commercial partners – SPORTFIVE, hummel, Molten and Gerflor – has ensured we provide the very best product to the global audience.

As we all learn to live in a world with COVID-19, we cannot only reflect on what we have achieved together since 2017 in unprecedented circumstances, but we can look at each other – at our family members – and know that, going forward, together, we have an exciting future as we continue to spread the love of our sport across the world.

A stylized blue ink signature of Dr. Hassan Moustafa.

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President of the International Handball Federation

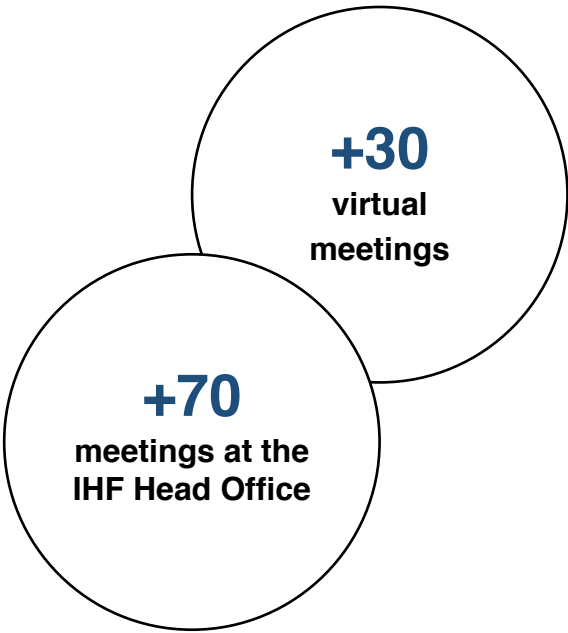
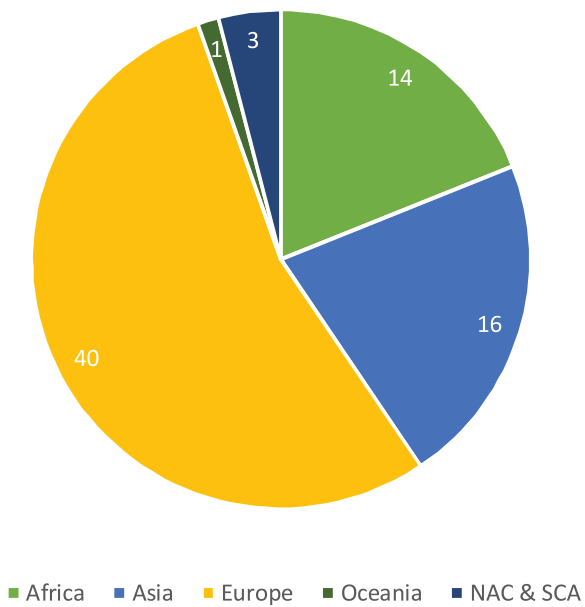
More than 250 meetings all over the world

The International Handball Federation (IHF) and IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa had a busy schedule in the period between January 2017 and September 2021. Overall, more than 250 meetings have been held in six continents – on site and virtually – with more than 70 being organised at the IHF Head Office in Basel, Switzerland alone. While the IHF welcomed National Federations, Continental Confederations, international sports organisations, the IHF Partners and many more to their headquarters, Dr Moustafa and the IHF Representatives

travelled to numerous nations worldwide to, amongst others, attend meetings, inform themselves about the status of handball in the respective countries and build a strong network in the sports world – all with the aim to promote and develop handball at a global level. Once the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, however, everyone had to adapt and learn to live alongside the virus. This affected day-to-day life and since March 2020, most of the IHF's meetings have been held virtually.

In the lead-up to the 2021 IHF Men's World Championship in Egypt, though, Dr Moustafa spared no efforts to ensure a safe event for all stakeholders and held numerous meetings in Egypt with ministers, high-ranking representatives, the Organising Committee and many more. In order to guarantee the best possible conditions for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 handball tournament – despite COVID-19 – several virtual meetings were organised between the IHF and the IOC or other team sports federations.

Number of meetings





France claim third gold in one year

‘Simply wunderbar’ was the slogan of the 23rd IHF Women’s World Championship, which was hosted by Germany from 1 to 16 December 2017 in six different cities. France, in particular, felt simply wunderbar at the end of the Championship: the ‘Femmes de Défis’ claimed the world title, defeating the seemingly unstoppable Norway 23:21 in the final in Hamburg.

There, the completely sold out Barclay Card Arena at the medal matches led to the total of 237,263 spectators – more than expected and the second best result in the history of Women’s World Championships. The media interest and the TV transmission figures worldwide were similarly impressive.

Netherlands grabbed bronze, beating Sweden 24:21. The hosting Germans fell short as they were not able to make it a lucky 7, crashing out to Denmark in the eighth-finals, after they won bronze in the same competition in 1997 and 2007.

The victory in Hamburg meant the third gold medal for France within one year, after the men’s senior and youth teams had been successful before. For the French women, it was their third top-three finish at a major international tournament in 18 months, after they claimed their first Olympic medal in Rio (silver) and bronze at the EHF EURO 2016. The World Championship trophy is the second in France’s women’s history, ending a 14-year wait after the first in 2003.

Final ranking

1. FRA, 2. NOR, 3. NED, 4. SWE, 5. RUS, 6. DEN, 6. MNE, 8. CZE, 9. SRB, 10. ROU, 11. ESP, 12. GER, 13. KOR, 14. SLO, 15. HUN, 16. JPN, 17. POL, 18. BRA, 19. ANG, 20. CMR, 21. PAR, 22. CHN, 23. ARG, 24. TUN

World Champions France (FRA)

Blandine Dancette, Camille Ayglon Saurina, Allison Pineau, Laurisa Landré, Grace Zaadi, Amandine Leynaud, Manon Houette, Kalidiatou Niakate, Cleopatre Darleux, Siraba Dembele, Laura Flippes, Orlane Kanor, Beatrice Edwige, Estelle Nze Minko, Gnonsiane Niombla, Alexandra Lacrabère, Adjoba Astride N’Gouan. Coach: Olivier Krumbholz





A fairy tale home World Championship

The 2018 Women's Junior World Championship (1-14 July 2018) was a perfect showcase of handball in Hungary, with more than 25,000 spectators, record TV view numbers, thrilling matches, top-level organisation and – the cherry on top of the cake – the hosts claiming their maiden title in this age category.

Hungary were not the only team that impressed, with the competition proving so tough that the likes of European champions France and the then defending world champions Russia left Debrecen without medals. Silver went to Norway, bronze to Asian flagship Republic of Korea.

All in all, the action on court made it easy to see why the event was so popular among locals and the international audience alike. “With just the right combination of event marketing, corporate identity elements, TV, advertisements, smooth organisation and, most of all, our loveable, charming and talented team, the championship became a huge success for us,” said Gabriella Horvath, Deputy Secretary General of the Hungarian Federation.

Final ranking

1. HUN, 2. NOR, 3. KOR, 4. RUS, 5. NED, 6. DEN, 7. FRA, 8. ROU, 9. CRO, 10. ISL, 11. BRA, 12. SWE, 13. GER, 14. JPN, 15. SLO, 16. MNE, 17. ESP, 18. POR, 19. ANG, 20. CHI, 21. CHN, 22. PAR, 23. EGY

World Champions Hungary (HUN)

Noemi Pasztor, Kitti Szabo, Greta Marton, Petra Tovizi, Laura Gerda Giricz, Petra Hlogyik, Bernadett Hornyak, Sara Suba, Rita Lakatos, Katrin Klujber, Csenge Reka Fodor, Bettina Kuti, Boglarka Bino, Greta Kacsor, Noemi Hafra, Dorottya Faluvegi. Coach: Vlagyimir Golovin

Russia claim second title in a row

Poland hosted the 7th Women's Youth World Championship from 7 to 19 August 2018 in Kielce as part of the federation's celebrations of 100 years of handball. After 92 games, Russia won their third trophy and defended the title when they defeated Hungary by two goals (29:27) in the final. Russia are the first nation to take the title twice in a row, after winning at Slovakia 2016. Republic of Korea beat Sweden in the bronze medal match (34:27) which earned the Asian champions third place.

The competition was full of surprises and curiosities. Austria moved up for Brazil, whose team was unable to participate, and made it to last 16 right away, while two of the favourites, France and Norway, were eliminated in the first knock-out round. The preliminary phase saw Tunisia make history, beating Montenegro to qualify for an eighth-final. The young Africans were the first team to do so from their country.

After the final, Hungary were disappointed to leave without the trophy but the silver medallists had to admit that the best and most constant team became world champions: Russia.

Final ranking

1. RUS, 2. HUN, 3. KOR, 4. SWE, 5. GER, 6. DEN, 7. NED, 8. ESP, 9. ROU, 10. FRA, 11. NOR, 12. CRO, 13. POL, 14. JPN, 15. AUT, 16. TUN, 17. MNE, 18. CHI, 19. SVK, 20. ARG, 21. ANG, 22. CHN, 23. EGY, 24. KAZ.

World champions Russia (RUS)

Dadzda Kolesnikova, Anna Vereshchak, Ekaterina Karabutova, Mariia Cherniaeva, Elena Mikhaylichenko, Anna Sheina, Alina Sinelnikova, Sofia Krakhmaleva, Viktoria Turusina, Ekaterina Skivko, Valeriia Maslova, Elina Sidnina, Valeria Kirdiasheva, Ekaterina Levchina, Kristina Mukhina, Elena Smirnova. Coach: Liubov Sidoricheva





Co-hosts Denmark make dream of gold on home ground come true

Handball history was made as the first-ever co-hosted Men's World Championship took place in Germany and Denmark in from 10 to 27 January 2019. Six venues in six cities hosted the overall 96 games of the 26th edition of the event, with the opening ceremony taking place at the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Berlin (Germany), and the final played at the Jyske Bank Boxen in Herning (Denmark).

In between, the brand-new Royal Arena in Copenhagen (Denmark) and German venues Olympiahalle (Munich), Lanxess arena (Cologne) and Barclaycard Arena (Hamburg) helped to create a world record World Championship attendance of just over 900,000 spectators, smashing the previous record from Germany 2007 and providing lasting memories from the action on court and in the jam-packed fan zones.

In the end, it became the 'Mikkel Hansen World Championship' as the Danish left-back ended as world champion, top scorer in the competition and the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament. His Denmark side easily-dispatched neighbours Norway 30:21 in the final, while in the bronze medal match, a returning-from-injury Nikola Karabatic scored with the clock at 59:59 to break German hearts with his 26:25 in favour of France.

Final ranking

1. DEN, 2. NOR, 3. FRA, 4. GER, 5. SWE, 6. CRO, 7. ESP, 8. EGY, 9. BRA, 10. HUN, 11. ISL, 12. TUN, 13. QAT, 14. RUS, 15. MKD, 16. CHI, 17. ARG, 18. SRB, 19. AUT, 20. BRN, 21. KSA, 22. COR, 23. ANG, 24. JPN

World Champions Denmark (DEN)

Niklas Landin, Jannick Green; Magnus Landin, Casper U. B. Mortensen, Nikolaj Markussen, Rasmus Lauge Schmidt, Anders Zachariassen, Lasse J. Svan, Hans O. Lindberg, Henrik Mollgaard, Mads Mensah Larsen, Henrik Toft Hansen, Mikkel Hansen, Morten Toft Olsen, Nikolaj Oris, Simon Hald, Johan P. Hansen, René Toft Hansen. Coach: Nikolaj B. Jacobsen

A unified Korean team

History had been made already before the 2019 World Championship had thrown off as IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa decided to follow the example of the International Olympic Committee (IOC): With the full support of IOC President Dr Bach, he approached both Korean nations with an invitation to participate in the title contest as a unified team. And both countries accepted.

Choi Jung-Seok, Board Member of the Korean and Council Member of the Asian Handball Federation, recalled the opening match in Berlin: "I couldn't believe it was going to happen, but it did. However, when we heard our agreed anthem for the unified team 'Arirang' – a folk song of both countries – play for the first time I was actually crying. The atmosphere, with all the spectators and everyone inside listening and hearing; everyone was crying, and I feel emotional just thinking about it.

"We just want to say thank you to Dr Moustafa who took over the initiative on behalf of the IHF from the IOC. We want to also say thanks for the invite to share the great moment, especially in Berlin, which is such an historic and relevant city for the team."





Fourth straight medal for France

After 92 games, the 2019 IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship concluded in Spain (16-28 July), with France claiming their second title in that category after a five-goal win over Croatia – their second trophy in this competition after 2015.

Though Croatia left the court disappointed, it was a historic result, as they celebrated what was their first-ever medal in the competition. Egypt finished a strong campaign with a 37:27 victory over Portugal that earned them their first bronze medal at the event since 1999.

The championship was also notable for the first time that a sporting team from Kosovo had ever appeared in a world championship and the first time that a team from the IHF Trophy had ever qualified for one, after the qualification criteria changed in 2018. A clear highlight for them was a 29:29 draw against Bahrain – their first-ever point at a sporting world championship.

Croatia's Ivan Martinovic was named as tournament MVP, while the All-star Team consisted of left wing Dylan Nahi (FRA), left back Emil Laerke (DEN), centre back Kyllian Villeminot (FRA), right back Diogo Silva (POR), right wing Fran Mileta (CRO), line player Luis Frade (POR) and goalkeeper Valentin Kieffer (FRA). Silva also top-scored, with 76 goals.

The 2021 edition of the event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Final ranking

1. FRA, 2. CRO, 3. EGY, 4. POR, 5. DEN, 6. SLO, 7. TUN, 8. NOR, 9. GER, 10. ESP, 11. SWE, 12. BRA, 13. SRB, 14. ISL, 15. HUN, 16. KOR, 17. BRN, 18. JPN, 19. NGR, 20. CHI, 21. ARG, 22. USA, 23. KOS, 24. AUS

World champions France (FRA)

Benjamin Richert, Julien Bos, Noah Gaudin, Tom Poyet, Antonin Mohamed, Kyllian Villeminot, Dylan Nahi, Edouard Kempf, Gauthier Ivah, Clement Damiani, Valentin Kieffer, Yoann Gibelin, Jonathan Mapu Jonathan, Robin Dourte, Elohim Prandi, Axe Cochery. Coach: Johann Delattre.

Egypt first non-European team to claim men’s youth gold

On a historic night in Skopje, North Macedonia, Egypt became the first non-European team to win gold at an IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship defeating Germany 32:28, with second place being their best result in the competition. Denmark beat Portugal to claim bronze at the event, which was staged from 6 to 18 August 2019.

Egypt's Ahmed Hesham Elsayed was named as the championship MVP, Hassan Walid Ahmed the best left back and Abdelrahman Mohamed Homayed best goalkeeper – all three of whom were in the bronze medal-winning U21 team at the 2019 IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship in Spain.

Walid Ahmed top-scored with 51 goals, with the remainder of the All-star Team including left wing Alexander Reimann (GER), centre back Lauritz Reinholdt Leger (DEN), right back Martim Costa (POR), right wing Daniel Kecskes (HUN), line player Tom Bergner (GER) and best defender Julian Koster (GER).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship was cancelled.

Final ranking

1. EGY, 2. GER, 3. DEN, 4. POR, 5. HUN, 6. FRA, 7. ESP, 8. ISL, 9. JPN, 10. CRO, 11. SWE, 12. NOR, 13. MKD, 14. ARG, 15. SLO, 16. TUN, 17. BRN, 18. TPE, 19. SRB, 20. KSA, 21. BRA, 22. CHI, 23. NGR, 24. CAN

World champions Egypt (EGY)

Abdelrahman Mohamed Homayed, Mazen Reda Abdelfatah Osman, Hassan Walid Ahmed Hassan, Saif Hany Salaheldin, Omar Ahmed Hamdy Lotfy, Ibrahim Elsayed Abdelhamid Kamel, Ahmed Hesham Elsayed, Momen Hossameldin, Mohamed Samir Badawy Mohamed Elafify, Zeyad Ahmed Abdelaal Abdelghany, Mohab Mohamed Abdelhak, Youssef Alaaeldin Ahmed, Yasser Mohammed, Abdelfattah Ali Medan, Omar Ahmed Sadek, Youssef Ahmed Hassan. Coach: Magdy Ahmed Mahmoud Abouelmagd





First major title for Netherlands

2019 was the final edition of the IHF Women's World Championship to feature 24 teams and the first time the new competition format was used, with the top three teams in each preliminary group qualifying directly for the main round. Places 2-7 also meant a spot in the 2020 IHF Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments and it was also the first time Senegal had appeared at either a senior IHF Men's or Women's World Championship.

96 matches were played from 30 November to 15 December 2019, with 5,179 goals scored across five different arenas in Kumamoto, Japan, in front of a combined 315,748 fans in total.

Japan 2019 went down to the very last seconds of the final as the Netherlands claimed their first-ever title, defeating Spain after Lois Abbingh sunk home a penalty after the buzzer had sounded to win the game, and qualify her team for Tokyo 2020. Two of the most successful teams in the history of the championship, Norway (10 medals, three titles) and Russia (four titles), faced off in the bronze medal match with Russia winning by five.

The All-star Team was led by tournament MVP and best centre back Estavana Polman (NED), left wing Camilla Herrem (NOR), left back Alexandrina Cabral Barbosa (ESP), right back Anna Vyakhireva (RUS), right wing Jovanka Radicevic (MNE), line player Linn Blohm (SWE), goalkeeper Tess Wester (NED). Polman's teammate Lois Abbingh top-scored with 71 goals.

Final ranking

1. NED, 2. ESP, 3. RUS, 4. NOR, 5. MNE, 6. SRB, 7. SWE, 8. GER, 9. DEN, 10. JPN, 11. KOR, 12. ROU, 13. FRA, 14. HUN, 15. ANG, 16. ARG, 17. BRA, 18. SEN, 19. SLO, 20. COD, 21. CUB, 22. KAZ, 23. CHN, 24. AUS

World champions Netherlands (NED)

Jessy Kramer, Laura van Der Heijden, Debbie Bont, Lois Abbingh, Larissa Nusser, Danick Snelder, Bo van Wetering, Delaila Amega, Kelly Dulfer, Merel Freriks, Martine Smeets, Angela Malestein, Rinka Duijndam, Tess Wester, Dione Housheer, Estavana Polman, Inger Smits. Coach: Emmanuel Mayonnade

Denmark continue winning streak

The first-ever IHF World Championship to feature the new playing system and 32 teams saw a total of 102 matches played from 13 to 31 January 2021, with Denmark making history, defeating neighbours Sweden in the final to retain the championship they won on home soil in 2019. Spain won bronze, defeating France 35:29 in the highest scoring bronze medal game in Men's World Championship history.

However, it would prove to be not only historic on court during the games, but off court too due to the COVID-19 global outbreak.

On the eve of the championship, two significant team changes were announced with Czech Republic replaced by first substitute nation North Macedonia and then Switzerland taking the place of the USA due to pre-departure COVID-19 positive test results from both sides. Further changes then saw Cape Verde eventually withdraw due to challenges caused by COVID-19 in fielding a team.

Mikkel Hansen (DEN) took home the MVP and left back awards and was joined by left wing Hampus Wanne (SWE), centre back Jim Gottfridsson (SWE), right back Mathias Gidsel (DEN), right wing Ferran Sole Sala (ESP), line player Ludovic Fabregas (FRA) and goalkeeper Andreas Palicka (SWE) in the All-star Team.

Final ranking

1. DEN, 2. SWE, 3. ESP, 4. FRA, 5. HUN, 6. NOR, 7. EGY, 8. QAT, 9. SLO, 10. POR, 11. ARG, 12. GER, 13. POL, 14. RHF (Russian Handball Federation), 15. CRO, 16. SUI, 17. BLR, 18. BRA, 19. JPN, 20. ISL, 21. BRN, 22. ALG, 23. MKD, 24. URU, 25. TUN, 26. AUT, 27. CHI, 28. COD, 29. MAR, 30. ANG, 31. KOR, 32. CPV

World champions Denmark (DEN)

Niklas Landin Jacobsen, Magnus Landin Jacobsen, Magnus Bramming, Emil M. Jakobsen, Emil Nielsen, Anders Zachariassen, Magnus Saugstrup Jensen, Lasse J. Svan, Kevin Moller, Henrik Mollgaard Jensen, Mads Mensah Larsen, Mikkel Hansen, Morten Toft Olsen, Johan P. Hansen, Lasse B. Andersson, Nikolaj Oris Nielsen, Jacob T. Holm, Mathias Gidsel, Simon Hald Jensen, Nikolaj Laeso Christensen, Benjamin Jakobsen. Coach: Nikolaj Bredahl Jacobsen





A World Championship in a bubble

The 2021 IHF Men's World Championship was the first truly global, multi-team sporting event to take place during the coronavirus pandemic.

The 'bubble' – a concept creating an invisible barrier between stakeholders involved in Egypt 2021 and the outside world – was applied across the entire championship with all required to return a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test no older than 72 hours before arrival on site and requested to isolate in the period in-between.

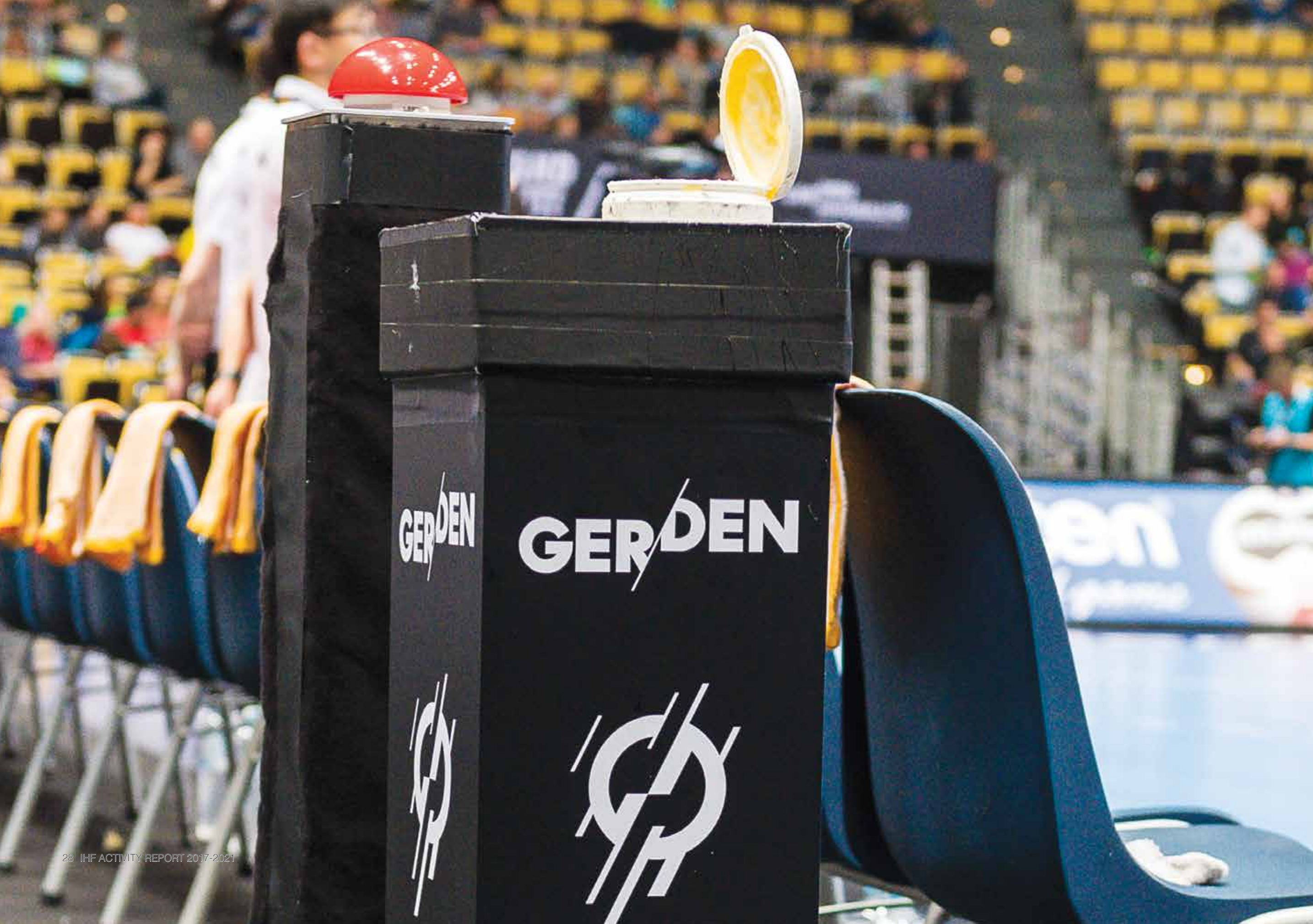
Over 3,000 people were inside the 'red zone' part of the bubble and took another PCR test upon arrival before entering into self-isolation at specially selected, exclusive hotels without external guests.

Personal Protective Equipment, including hand disinfectant and face masks were supplied for the duration with all stakeholders required to wear the masks and observe social distancing (where possible) throughout. All areas used were regularly disinfected and cleaned and patrolled by security staff.

Approximately 30,000 PCR and 1,450 rapid antigen tests were carried out with only 27 positive COVID-19 cases reported, all of which had occurred in the incubation period prior to arrival in Egypt or from residuals in a previous positive PCR test result. These positive cases included 16 players from six teams, with 626 players and 26 teams recording no cases. All persons showing symptoms indicative of COVID-19 or positive COVID-19 cases were immediately isolated until test results from an audit laboratory were known.

Due to COVID-19 complications at their respective pre-arrival training camps, the Czech Republic and USA pulled out with substitute nations taking their places, while Cape Verde, who failed to report several COVID-19 infections prior to their arrival, fielded a depleted team in their opening game, before then officially withdrawing.

Following the conclusion of Egypt 2021, recommendations were provided to the IOC and other interested parties as the IHF continues to add to the learning and understanding of living with COVID-19 and supports the return to sporting action for athletes in all sports around the world.



Progress in technology

The electronic team time-out buzzer (TTO), the countdown of passive play on the big screen and the video proof system (VPS) were the youngest novelties being installed at Germany/Denmark 2019. They were used again, following the successful trial at 2017 IHF events. Not only teams and coaches, but also officials and spectators appreciated the progress in technology a lot. The TTO system is an automatic one, stopping the clock (when pushing the red button) and notifying the teams and officials of the pause with a buzzer sound. If coaches called a time-out when their opponents were in possession, punishments would be applied.

The IHF analysis team meanwhile uses the Dartfish platform, which can be accessed via the website as well as an app. Through this platform, videos can be recorded or imported and the analysts are able to collect and dissect data for all matches and teams. On the channel of the International Handball Federation, you can find the latest videos created by the analysis team, which are also used on the IHF Education Centre platform.

Where the world’s best club teams meet

The 2018 IHF Men's Super Globe, the unofficial world championship for men's club teams, saw Barca Lassa – also known as FC Barcelona – from Spain extend their record of most titles won at the event to four, following their victories in 2013, 2014 and 2017. As they did in 2017, Barca defeated 2015 and 2016 Super Globe winners Füchse Berlin (Germany) in the final after an impressive campaign that saw the Spanish club collect only dominant wins on the path to the trophy.

Led by a five-goal game from long-time captain Victor Tomas, Barca won the final, played on 19 October in Duhail Sports Hall, Doha (Qatar) 29:24. Barca led their German opponents by one goal at half-time, 13:12, before their deeper roster played its role, allowing the now back-to-back champions to cruise to a comfortable victory as they never lost any power or quality.

2018 European club champions Montpellier HB were on debut at the Super Globe, following what was their second Champions League title win earlier that year and celebrated bronze straight away.

The host team from Qatar as well as the teams from Australia, Brazil, Bahrain and Tunisia, who represented their respective continents, had to be satisfied with ranks four to eight.

Final ranking

1. Barca Lassa (ESP), 2. Füchse Berlin (GER), 3. Montpellier HB (FRA), 4. Al Sadd (QAT), 5. Taubate (BRA), 6. Hammamet (TUN), 7. Al-Najma (BRN), 8. Sydney University (AUS)

Champions FC Barcelona

Gonzalo Perez de Vargas, Casper Ulrich Mortensen, Victor Tomas Gonzalez, Raul Entrerrios, Cedric Sorhaindo, Lasse Andersson, Aitor Arino Bengochea, Timothy N'Guessan, Aleix Gomez Abello, Thiagus Petrus Goncalves, Jure Dolenc, Dika Mem, Gilberto Brito Duarte, Aron Palmarsson, Kevin Moller, Ludovic Fabregas. Coach: Xavier Pascual Fuertes



Third straight trophy for record winners Barcelona

Barcelona clinched their third consecutive IHF Men's Super Globe trophy, held in Saudi Arabia for the first time (27-31 August 2019), when they defeated THW Kiel by two goals after fighting back from the same distance at half-time. It was the fifth Super Globe title overall for Barcelona, after they won the championship in 2013, 2014, 2017 and 2018.

For Kiel, it was the second silver in the competition, and third medal overall. The German team won the trophy in 2011 before losing the final in 2012 – also to a Spanish team, Atletico Madrid. The bronze medal went to Macedonian team Vardar, who won the 3/4 play-off versus Al Wehda.

The tournament also marked the first Super Globe with an expanded format featuring 10 teams, meaning a new structure for the placement round was adopted. After losses in their respective quarter-final qualifications or quarter-finals, the six teams to contest the placement round were split into two groups for a series of round-robin matches.

At the end of the phase, the teams ranked first in their groups were sure to finish fifth or sixth, the clubs in second were in seventh or eighth, and those in third were ninth or 10th. The final positions were calculated based on points gained then goal difference.

The 2020 edition of the event was cancelled due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Final ranking

1. FC Barcelona (ESP), 2. THW Kiel (GER), 3. HC Vardar (MKD), 4. Al Wehda (KSA), 5. Zamalek (EGY), 6. Handebol Taubate (BRA), 7. Mudhar (KSA), 8. Al-Duhail (QAT), 9. New York City Team Handball (USA), 10. Sydney Uni (AUS)



Champions FC Barcelona

Gonzalo Perez de Vargas, Victor Tomas Gonzalez, Raul Entrerrios, Cedric Sorhaindo, Lasse Andersson, Aitor Arino Bengochea, Timothee N'Guessan, Aleix Gomez Abello, Thiagus Petrus Goncalves, Jure Dolenc, Dika Mem, Luka Cindri, Alex Pascual Garcia, Aron Palmarsson, Kevin Moller, Ludovic Fabregas. Coach: Xavier Pascual Fuertes

All winners at a glance

Year	Host	Winners
1997	Vienna (AUT)	TK Santander (ESP)
2002	Doha (QAT)	Al Sadd (QAT)
2007	Cairo (EGY)	Ciudad Real (ESP)
2010	Doha (QAT)	Ciudad Real (ESP)
2011	Doha (QAT)	THW Kiel (GER)
2012	Doha (QAT)	Atletico Madrid (ESP)
2013	Doha (QAT)	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2014	Doha (QAT)	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2015	Doha (QAT)	Füchse Berlin (GER)
2016	Doha (QAT)	Füchse Berlin (GER)
2017	Doha (QAT)	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2018	Doha (QAT)	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2019	Dammam (KSA)	FC Barcelona (ESP)

Angola’s Agosto Luanda take historic Women’s Super Globe gold

The historic first-ever edition of the IHF Women's Super Globe saw eight teams battle it out in Wuxi, PR of China, which included two teams from the host nation, alongside representatives from Kazakhstan, Japan, Brazil, USA, Angola and Australia.

Games were played in one of the halls that hosted matches at the 2009 IHF Women's World Championship, the Wuxi Sports Hall.

Agosto Luanda concluded their impressive campaign in China by raising the trophy after a strong victory in the final against Chinese National Club. Led by superb performances from their back-court starts Helena Gilda Simao Paulo and Cristiane Mwasesa, the Angolan team were in control from start to finish.

OMRON's Yukiko Yoshida top-scored with 29 goals.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, no further edition has been organised so far.

Final ranking

1. Agosto Luanda, 2. Chinese National Club, 3. A.A. UnC Concordia, 4. OMRON, 5. Kaysar Club, 6. Jiangsu Team, 7. University of Queensland, 8. New York City

Champions Agosto Luanda

Iracelma Da Silva, Helena Paulo Gilda Simao, Juliana Machado, Ruth Francisco Joao, Natalia Bernardo, Vilma Silva, Albertina Kassoma, Eleneidys Lioveras, Liliana Venancio, Helena Sousa, Claudete Jose, Wuta Dombaxi, Amalia Pinto, Cristiane Mwasesa, Janete Santos. Coach: Morten Soubak





Final rankings

Men's tournaments

Tournament 1: 1. NOR* , 2. BRA* , 3. KOR , 4. CHI
Tournament 2: 1. FRA* , 2. POR* , 3. CRO , 4. TUN
Tournament 3: 1. SWE* , 2. GER* , 3. SLO , 4. ALG

Women's tournaments

Tournament 1: 1. ESP* , 2. SWE* , 3. ARG
Tournament 2: 1. RUS* , 2. HUN* , 3. SRB , 4. KAZ
Tournament 3: 1. MNE* , 2. NOR* , 3. ROU

*Qualified for Tokyo 2020

OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENTS

Final 12 places at
Tokyo 2020 determined

The Tokyo Handball Qualification 2020 was to decide the last 12 places in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 men's and women's handball tournaments as the top two teams in each of the six tournaments qualified for the Games in Japan.

With the COVID-19 pandemic causing the sports world to come to a halt, Tokyo 2020 was postponed by one year – and so were the Olympic Qualification Tournaments, which were ultimately held in March 2021.

The three men's qualification tournaments were played in Podgorica (Montenegro), Montpellier (France) and Berlin (Germany) from 12 to 14 March, while the women's Tokyo 2020 places were decided in Lliria (Spain), Gyr (Hungary) and – again – Podgorica from 19 to 21 March. As Norway had to withdraw from hosting men's tournament 1, the event was moved to Montenegro just one month before throw-off.

In the end, Norway's and Brazil's men's teams clinched the two spots available in Podgorica, France made use of their home field advantage and won men's tournament 2 ahead of Portugal, and Sweden topped tournament 3 ahead of hosts Germany.

In the women's competition, 2021 IHF Women's World Championship hosts Spain also claimed the top spot on home ground, ahead of Sweden. Then reigning Olympic champions Russia secured their Tokyo 2020 place by winning tournament 2, followed by Hungary. In tournament 3, it came down to the final match, with Montenegro ultimately topping the group and Norway coming in second.

France’s men claim record third Olympic gold at Tokyo 2020

After being postponed by one year exactly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and taking place behind-closed-doors, without spectators, the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 were held in Japan from 23 July to 8 August 2021. France’s men made Olympic handball history, becoming the only team to have won the title three times (2008, 2012, 2020) with players Nikola Karabatic, Michael Guigou and Luc Abalo on top of the podium every time. They did it by beating Rio 2016 champions Denmark 25:23 in the final. Spain secured bronze after a 33:31 win against Egypt.

Egypt had rewritten their record books by qualifying for the quarter-finals for the first time, just like Bahrain and Portugal went down in history as well as they made their Olympic Games debut.

Danish youngster Mathias Gidsel (DEN) was named MVP – the youngest-ever – while teammate Mikkel Hansen (DEN) was voted in the All-star Team as best left back as well as finishing as top scorer (61 goals).

Egypt’s right back Yahia Omar (EGY) was voted in the All-star Team, just as well as Spain’s right wing Aleix Gomez Abello (ESP). The remaining four places all went to the French gold medallists with left wing Hugo Descat (FRA), centre back Nedim Remili (FRA), line player Ludovic Fabregas (FRA) and goalkeeper Vincent Gerard (FRA) completing the team.

Final ranking

1. FRA, 2. DEN, 3. ESP, 4. EGY, 5. SWE, 6. GER, 7. NOR, 8. BRN, 9. POR, 10. BRA, 11. JPN, 12. ARG

Champions France (FRA)

Nedim Remili, Romain Lagarde, Melvyn Richardson, Dika Mem, Nicolas Tournat, Vincent Gerard, Nikola Karabatic, Kentin Mahe, Yann Genty, Timothy N’Guessan, Luc Abalo, Michael Guigou, Luka Karabatic, Ludovic Fabregas, Hugo Descat, Valentin Porte. Coach: Guillaume Gille





French success continues at Tokyo 2020 women’s tournament

It took Olivier Krumbholz’s France side only four years to become just the third European side in history (after Denmark and Norway) to win the trio of Olympic Games (2021), IHF Women’s World Championship (2017) and Women’s EHF EURO (2018) titles as they beat ROC 30:25 in the final to repeat the success of their men’s team the day before.

Norway added another medal to their collection, gaining their third Olympic Games bronze by completely outplaying Sweden, to win by 17 goals (36:19).

Europe was the sole continent represented in the All-star Team. ROC’s Anna Vyakhireva was named MVP and best right back, joined by teammate Polina Kuznetsova on the left wing. Sweden’s Jamina Roberts was voted in as best left back with Katrine Lunde (goalkeeper) and Nora Mork (top scorer – 52 goals) representing Norway. Mork’s goal haul saw her top the table for the second, successive Games after her 62 at Rio 2016.

A trio of French players completed the team with Grace Zaadi Deuna (centre back), Laura Flippes (right wing) and Pauletta Foppa (line player) highlighting the quality on show from the gold medallists.

Final ranking

1. FRA, 2. ROC, 3. NOR, 4. SWE, 5. NED, 6. MNE, 7. HUN, 8. KOR, 9. ESP, 10. ANG, 11. BRA, 12. JPN

Champions France (FRA)

Meline Nocandy, Blandine Dancette, Pauline Coatanea, Chloe Valentini, Allison Pineau, Coralie Lassource, Grace Zaadi Deuna, Amandine Leynaud, Kalidiatou Niakate, Cleopatre Darleux, Oceane Sercien Ugolin, Laura Flippes, Beatrice Edwige, Pauletta Foppa, Estelle Nze Minko, Alexandra Lacrabere. Coach: Olivier Krumbholz

A newly expanded competition in Kazan

In the summer of 2018, the world's beach handball elite met in the 'sports capital of Russia', Kazan, to fight for the title at the VIII Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships, which were staged from 24 to 29 July. It was the first edition of the newly expanded competition, which featured 32 teams (16 men's and 16 women's), and it was this new format which made the biggest surprise of the championship possible, as Greece, who would not have been qualified otherwise, surpassed themselves and claimed gold in their maiden women's title contest. In the men's tournament, the favourites eventually made it to the final and Brazil got their revenge, taking their fifth title in a rematch of the 2016 final.

Four continents – Europe, Pan America, Oceania and Asia – featured after Africa failed to organise a continental qualification event and lost its compulsory qualification places, which were then awarded to teams from Europe, Oceania and Pan America.

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 edition of the event, which was supposed to be held in Pescara, Italy, was cancelled. The next Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships – in the senior as well as the youth categories – will be held in 2022.

Final ranking women

- 1. GRE, 2. NOR, 3. BRA, 4. ESP, 5. DEN, 6. POL, 7. RUS, 8. PAR, 9. VIE, 10. URU, 11. FRA, 12. MEX, 13. TPE, 14. USA, 15. THA, 16. AUS

Final ranking men

- 1. BRA, 2. CRO, 3. HUN, 4. SWE, 5. ESP, 6. RUS, 7. DEN, 8. IRI, 9. QAT, 10. OMA, 11. ARG, 12. USA, 13. AUS, 14. VIE, 15. URU, 16. NZL





Beach handball making its debut at Buenos Aires 2018

History was made in South America as beach handball made its Olympic debut at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires (Argentina), which took place from 6-18 October. The men's and women's competitions would feature a total of 112 games (56 men's and 56 women's) played by 24 teams on three courts across six match days and with fans queuing for up to three hours before games on the main court where the host nation played. Without a doubt, the media and public interest was unprecedented.

After all matches had been finished, the first beach handball medallists at Youth Olympics were determined. In the women's competition, hosts Argentina claimed the coveted gold medal, while Croatia took silver and Hungary bronze. Spain, the 2017 U17 world champions climbed the top of the podium in the men's competition, followed by neighbours Portugal and Argentina.

The opening ceremony saw IHF referee Lorena Mac Coll, who was given the honour of undertaking the Olympic oath on behalf of all officials and referees, representing beach handball to a global audience before the first ball had been thrown.

Final ranking women

- 1. ARG, 2. CRO, 3. HUN, 4. NED, 5. PAR, 6. TPE, 7. RUS, 8. VEN, 9. TUR, 10. HKG, 11. ASA, 12. MRI

Final ranking men

- 1. ESP, 2. POR, 3. ARG, 4. CRO, 5. HUN, 6. THA, 7. VEN, 8. ITA, 9. TPE, 10. URU, 11. PAR, 12. MRI



“The atmosphere with all these enthusiastic people around – it’s really fantastic to see. [...] I think you can look with great confidence in the future of Olympic handball.”

**Dr Thomas Bach,
IOC President**

Beach handball at inaugural ANOC World Beach Games

The debut edition of the ANOC World Beach Games took place in Doha, Qatar from 11 to 16 October 2019, after being relocated from San Diego, USA. 1,240 athletes from 97 countries in 14 sport disciplines competed for 350 medals with a total of 92 men's and women's beach handball competition matches (46 games in each gender) which took place at the Al Gharafa Beach Handball Venue and Katara Beach.

In the women's tournament, Denmark, led by tournament MVP and All-star Team specialist Frederikke Buhl Laerke, took gold in a dramatic final against Hungary, winning 2-0. Brazil beat Vietnam to take bronze.

In the men's competition, Brazil and Spain went down to a shoot-out in the final, which saw Spain take the first period comfortably, but Brazil then came back from the dead to score a golden goal in the second, which was followed by a shoot-out win. The bronze medal match also went into shoot-out, with Sweden taking the podium place.

The 2021 edition of the event was moved to 2023 due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

After its successful debut at the inaugural ANOC World Beach Games edition, beach handball will be part of the ANOC World Beach Games programme at the 2023 and 2025 editions as a core sport.

Final ranking women

1. DEN, 2. HUN, 3. BRA, 4. VIE, 5. POL, 6. ARG, 7. GRE, 8. ESP, 9. CHN, 10. USA, 11. AUS, 12. TUN

Final ranking men

1. BRA, 2. ESP, 3. SWE, 4. QAT, 5. CRO, 6. HUN, 7. DEN, 8. AUS, 9. TUN, 10. URU, 11. USA, 12. OMA



Wheelchair handball – an up-and-coming sport

Wheelchair Handball has a long history with some of the earliest recorded examples coming in the early 1990s in Japan, but over the past two years following the last Ordinary IHF Congress, the XXXVII edition in Gothenburg (SWE) where the sport was officially presented, the IHF has worked tirelessly to formalise and focus the sport on the global platform.

At the time of the XXXVII Ordinary IHF Congress, at least 23 National Federations around the world were actively conducting activities in the sport or were supporting it, with around a total of 40 National Federations showing their interest.

Since then, the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group (WHWG) was formed. IHF Council and Executive Committee Member Dr Frantisek Taborsky became its chair and the WHWG has overseen a number of key events in the evolution of the sport, with the IHF having the ultimate aim of delivering it to the highest possible level – the Paralympic Games.

Dr Taborsky attended the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Vista Conference in Amsterdam (NED) in September 2019, ahead of him chairing the first meeting of the WHWG the following month at the IHF Head Office, Basel (SUI).

The beginning of 2020 saw the IHF Council approve the Rules of the Game for six-a-side Wheelchair Handball and the Competition Manual for IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championships, while the IHF Council proposed that the sport should be included in the IHF Statutes – a decision on this is due at this Congress.

In July 2020, the WHWG presented the sport to the SCAHC member nations through their webinar series, swiftly followed by the first-ever virtual IHF



Wheelchair Handball Seminar (October 2020) which informed the global handball community about the sport and helped National Federations and individuals both active and inactive in the discipline, to learn more about the current conditions.

Early 2021 saw the 'Four-a-side Wheelchair Handball Rules of the Game (edit)' confirmed by the IHF Council and June and July saw WHWG members and other collaborators participate in meetings with the IPC concerning the new IHF Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules and Regulations.

In June 2021, the WHWG finished the 'IHF Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules and Regulations' and in September, the 2nd IHF Wheelchair Handball Seminar featured experts from around the world delivering valuable knowledge about the world of wheelchair handball.

Streamed live on the IHF Facebook page as well as on Zoom – and on demand – translation was available into Arabic, French and Spanish and it proved a well-attended and informative event as the sport continues to grow in our handball family.

2022 will provide the next opportunity for wheelchair handball to be included in the Paralympic Games programme, with Los Angeles 2028 the goal and it will be an exciting year for the sport, with the 1st IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championships (six-a-side) and 1st IHF Men's and Women's Wheelchair Handball World Championships (four-a-side) set to take place.

Debut of new
IHF Trophy format

The ever-popular and successful IHF Trophy is an integral and important competition which forms a large part of the IHF mission to grow and develop the game of handball around the world.

The competition gives the opportunity to emerging and developing countries around the world to play in continental and intercontinental international competitions, as well as providing workshops for training and the further development of coaches and referees.

All five IHF continents – Africa, Asia, Europe, Pan America and Oceania – take part throughout each competition cycle consisting initially of zonal competitions within the continent deciding the final line-up for the men’s and women’s continental competition.

After evaluating the previous years of progression, the IHF made changes to the system of competition in the IHF Trophy to further boost the project not only at a junior but also at a youth level with the introduction of the IHF Trophy into both age groups in both genders from 2018.

In addition to expanding the reach of age ranges, the IHF Trophy for junior teams was upgraded to a qualification event for the IHF Men’s and Women’s Junior World Championship, while both age ranges for the IHF Trophy competitions have been fully integrated into the IHF Calendar meaning the men’s and women’s competitions will alternate each year, and this started with the men’s competitions in 2018 and the women’s in 2019.

Over the course of the first men’s cycle held under the new format, 80 teams took part in the junior competition and 73 in the youth tournaments, with overall 2,688 players participating. After 19 youth and junior tournaments each, Chinese Taipei claimed the U19 intercontinental title, while Kosovo – hosts of the Intercontinental Phase – took gold in the U21 competition and at the same time a spot at the 2019 Men’s Junior World Championship in Spain, which is their first World Championship participation ever.

The USA junior team qualified for Spain as well through the Continental Phase of the IHF Trophy, while Canada booked their ticket to the 2019 Men’s Youth World Championship in North Macedonia through the continental event.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019/20 cycle could not be completed and the cycles afterwards were cancelled. The next one starts in 2022.



IHF Trophy 2018 in numbers

Continent	IHF expenses in CHF
Africa	1,167,104.54
Asia	738,736.45
Europe	301,909.53
Oceania	319,485.91
Pan America	973,264.29
Total	3,500,500.72

Continent	Number of teams	Number of players
Africa	61	1,050
Asia	39	658
Europe	10	140
Oceania	12	196
Pan America	31	644
Total	153	2,688



Gold on home ground for Georgia

The IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championship, a tournament which provides emerging handball nations with a taste of playing on the global stage, saw its third edition take place from 8 to 16 June 2019, as Georgia – hosts of the 2017 IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship – again were hosts of an IHF event.

The home nation ultimately ended up with gold after a clean sweep of wins on their path to the trophy, claiming their first Emerging Nations title after the Faro e Islands won the first two editions back in 2015 and 2017.

The host nation beat debutants Cuba by 10 goals in the final, while Bulgaria claimed bronze, defeating Great Britain in the third-place match, which saw 78 goals scored.

Georgia's right back Giorgi Tskhovrebadze was named Most Valuable Player overall, as well as sealing a place in the All-star Team alongside goalkeeper Magnol Suarez Fiss (CUB), left wing Peijie Huang (CHN), left back Teimuraz Orjonikidze (GEO), centre back Kristian Vasilev (BUL), right wing Svetlin Dimitrov (BUL) and line player Eduardo Raynier Valiente Sarrias (CUB). Great Britain's (GBR) Sebastian Edgar finished as top scorer with 66 goals.

The 2021 edition of the event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, a joint IHF/EHF Trophy was organised instead, hosted – and won – by Georgia.

Final ranking

1. GEO, 2. CUB, 3. BUL, 4. GBR, 5. USA, 6. CHN, 7. NGR, 8. COL, 9. IND, 10. AZE, 11. IRE, 12. MLT

Champions Georgia (GEO)

Jemal Imnadze, Nikoloz Kalandadze, Khazein Rustamov, Irakli Chikovani, Giorgi Mikava, Irakli Kbilashvili, Giorgi Tskhovrebadze, Zurab Tsintsadze, Teimuraz Orjonikidze Teimuraz, Giorgi Merkviladze, Erekle Arsenashvili, Shota Tevzadze, Irakli, Giorgi Arvelodi Dikhaminjia. Coach: Nikola Maksimovic



Handball at School

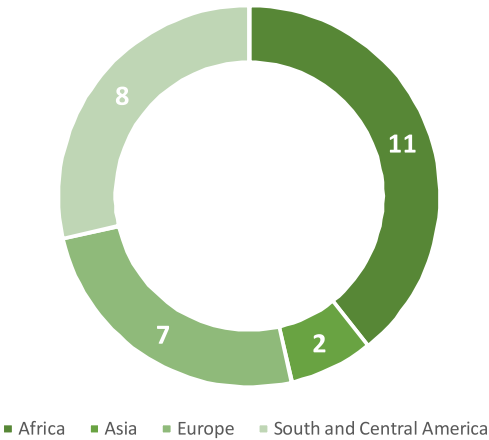
Handball at School (H@S) is one of the most popular IHF projects and from 2017 to 2019 an upgrade was developed for the programme, which is aimed at introducing handball to physical education teachers and beginner coaches working with children.

The Handball at School Working Group worked on new materials to be used by IHF lecturers at their H@S courses all over the world, including methodology guides and an exercise database for the IHF Education Centre, the Handball at School curriculum, the H@S certificates and the documentation for all H@S age groups as well as those for H@S Experts.

From 2017 until September 2021, the IHF has organised 28 H@S programmes in Africa, Asia, Europe and South and Central America with overall more than 3,200 participants. One programme usually consists of three courses in three different cities in the country, during which the participants learn in theoretical and practical lessons about handball history, mini handball, exercises and games, attack and defence and much more.

Furthermore, the H@S Working Group organised the 1st Children's Handball Week in 2020 and the 1st Children's Handball Symposium in 2021, both presented via the IHF Virtual Academy.

Number of H@S courses (2017 – September 2021)



New Markets’ Projects

One of the IHF’s main projects is the New Markets Project, which focusses on introducing handball in key markets all over the world. The project started with Great Britain and currently, detailed strategies for China and the USA are being realised. Recently, the IHF included Canada in the project – another country with huge potential as the results at the IHF Trophy and the 1st Men’s North American and the Caribbean Emerging Nations Championship show – and in the near future, it is planned to start in India.

Great Britain

The IHF funding through the New Markets Project was hugely beneficial for Great Britain. The teams are beginning to record good results and the standard is improving. In view of these positive results the support of handball in Great Britain will be continued.

The focus will still be on the development of youth handball and a continued support of the grassroots base of the sport in the United Kingdom. Furthermore, four national teams receive support through special ‘age group programmes’, which include the men’s and women’s U18 and U20 teams.

As the creation of several events by the International and European Handball Federations – such as the IHF Trophy tournaments or the Emerging Nations Championship – have made international competitions more accessible to teams from Great Britain, new age-group teams were formed who could compete at an international level and gain valuable experience.



Achievements

- New age-group teams were formed, currently being extended to four teams: W17, W19, M18, M20
- Grassroots programmes are being developed creatively in England and Scotland to make use of the available funding
- Participation levels, especially in youth and schools competitions, have strongly increased
- BHA/EHA/SHA talent pathway has been elaborated
- GBR team coaching structure has been developed
- Participation in several IHF and EHF events
- The project is already in its second cycle



People's Republic of China

Over the past four years, several meetings were held with the Chinese Handball Association and the Chinese Olympic Committee, partly with European top nations such as Norway or Sweden and Forum Club Handball in attendance. As a result, a contract has been signed with the Olympic Committee and a Working Group has been formed to elaborate a strategic plan for the upcoming events, such as the Asian Games 2022.

The discussed development plan targets several areas, such as China's men's and women's national teams, with a focus on long-term athlete development and the placement of Chinese top players at clubs in Europe and European players in the Chinese Super League. Other facets of the plan include the establishment of a professional league – which has been announced in the beginning of April 2019 – and elite sporting structure within the country.

Education – specifically the structure of coach development, the IHF Handball at School project and the Traveller Coach project – is also part of the strategy, along with recruitment for both administrative and coaching positions within China. By now, a Sports Director has been hired, for example. At the Asian Games 2018, the women's team have already shown an improved performance and ranked second, compared to 2014, where they finished fourth.

The hosting of events is also a part of the development project and, therefore, China was awarded the hosting rights for the first edition of the IHF Women's Super Globe (2020). They also organised the Asian Women's Olympic Games Qualification and the Asian Beach Handball Championship.

Furthermore it is planned to develop a promotional strategy for Chinese handball both inside and outside of the country with up to four Chinese players poised to play in the European leagues, thanks to the FCH partnership. In addition, all matches of the new professional league are supposed to be broadcast on national television and promoted on social media.

After their 2019 appearance in the 24th IHF Women's World Championship in Japan, the Chinese women's team have been awarded a Wild Card for the 2021 World Championship in Spain.



Achievements

- Signing the contract with the Sport Minister of China and the National Federation
- Several coaching courses held (Dietrich Späte / Frantisek Tabor-sky)
- Working group for the development of handball in PR of China was formed, including representatives of Forum Club Handball and the European top nations
- IHF Academy in four universities
- Women's team ranked second at the 2018 Asian Games
- An agreement between CHA and Pick Szeged club in Hungary was signed to invite 6 Hungarian players to participate in the Chinese Super League
- The men's national handball team participated in the SEHA league in Croatia (project support by Beijing University).
- Training camps for women's national team were organised in Norway.
- Sports Director was hired.
- First Chinese Men's Super League was founded.
- Handball@School courses held in seven provinces (28 May-29 June 2019).
- Hosting of major events such as 1st Women's Super-Globe, Asian Olympic Qualification Tournament and Asian Beach Handball Championship.
- Cooperation with Russian Handball Federation
- NOC President requested to grow handball in all provinces



中国手球协会
CHINESE HANDBALL ASSOCIATION

United States of America

The IHF has been working closely with USA Team Handball, who have moved into their new headquarters in Colorado Springs. Having launched a 10-Year Strategic Plan in August 2018, USA Team Handball have been recruiting for new positions as well as redefining roles for their current staff – a new CEO has been hired, a position financed by the IHF.

In addition, as they strategically look towards the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, the importance of talent-identification and the implementation of a talent development pipeline has resulted in a USATH College and University Club Expansion Initiative, aimed at increasing the number of team handball programmes playing in the college club sport system. Talent-identification try-out camps are also planned, aimed at increasing the pool of athletes.

Another key feature of the strategic plan is to promote handball to American sports fans through television broadcasts, and the 2019 and 2021 IHF World Championships saw a strategic link to one of the USA's biggest broadcasters – the NBC Olympic Channel.

The USA will host the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. In view of LA 2028, the IHF Council awarded the USA with Wild Cards for the 2025 and 2027 World Championships. They were also awarded a Wild Card for the 2021 IHF Men's World Championship but had to withdraw due to COVID-19.

The cooperation with European teams and federations is essential and therefore, a European residential programme for the women's national team (in cooperation with the French Handball Federation) is planned and support of Forum Club Handball was granted on behalf of the European top clubs.

Recent results show that, considering the current rate of progress, USA have a bright future ahead in handball. The men's and women's team both qualified for the Lima 2019 Pan American Games for the first time in eight years, the men's team won silver at the 1st IHF Men's North American and the Caribbean Emerging Nations Championship and ranked fifth at the 2019 IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championship in Georgia. Their men's U21 team not only claimed bronze at the Intercontinental Phase of the IHF



Trophy held in Kosovo but also qualified for the 2019 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship, where they ultimately ranked 22nd.

Achievements

- Cooperation with European top nations
- Collegiate competition build-up
- Recruitment of new position (CEO)
- New headquarters in Colorado Springs
- Men's and women's team qualified for the 2019 Pan American Games – first time in eight years
- Men's junior team qualified for 2019 World Championship due to their first place at the continental IHF Trophy event for the first time in 30 years
- Participation in 2019 IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championship
- USA teams as North America and the Caribbean representatives at 2019 and 2021 IHF Men's Super Globe
- Host of 2021 NACHC IHF Super Globe qualification and 2021 NACHC Women's Championship
- Regular broadcast of World Championship matches on NBC Sports/Olympic Channel, made possible by IHF partner Sportfive
- It is planned that the US women's team competes in the French league.



Olympic Solidarity

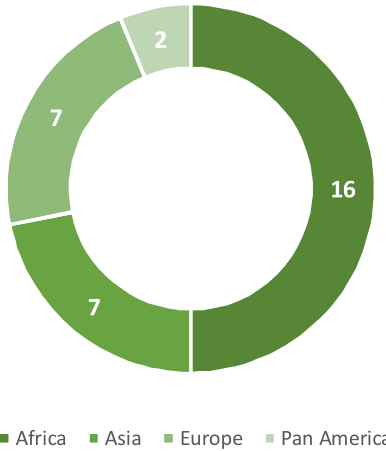
The International Olympic Committee introduced the Olympic Solidarity initiative over 50 years ago, in the 1960s, with the goal of assisting newly independent nations to develop their athletes, coaches and sports administrators. The handball specific projects were always realised in close cooperation between the International Olympic Committee, the IHF and the National Olympic Committees concerned. Since the beginnings, the focus is on helping those federations most in need and promoting the Olympic values.

Between January 2017 and September 2021, the IHF carried out 32 Technical Courses for Coaches in Africa, Asia, Europe and Pan America, at the end of which the coaches were usually presented with their C- or D-coaching licences. Furthermore, seven Olympic Solidarity courses on the Development of National Sporting Structure were held, three of which in Tunisia, two in Mali, one in Lithuania and one in Cape Verde.

The Technical Courses for Coaches feature practical and classroom-based activities and workshops covering a variety of topics including, for example, mini handball, passing and catching, defence and offence, shooting, goalkeeper skills, coaching of youth teams, match organisation, principles of conditioning and much more.



Olympic Solidarity
(2017 – September 2021)
- Technical Courses for Coaches -



■ Africa ■ Asia ■ Europe ■ Pan America

Live and on-demand seminars, worldwide learning communities and much more

The IHF Virtual Academy was introduced in 2020 as part of the IHF Education Centre as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, when handball activities all around the world came to a halt and new ways had to be found to interact with the handball community.

The project started with interactive live seminars, on-demand e-learning and an online 'knowledge library' – and much more has been added since.

Besides symposiums, IHF Licence Courses and special IHF Courses (Referees, Delegates, Beach Handball, Wheelchair Handball, IHF Development Projects, IHF New Markets' Project) are held, with e-learning programmes and an IHF discussion forum to be implemented.

Five IHF Virtual Academy programmes with various topics have been held in 2020 – the 1st IHF Live Online Symposium, the 1st IHF Children's Handball Week, the 1st IHF Beach Handball Week, the 1st IHF Wheelchair Handball Seminar and the 1st IHF Medical Webinar Series.

In 2021, the 1st IHF Children's Handball Symposium, the 2nd IHF Live Online Symposium and the 2nd IHF Wheelchair Handball Seminar followed.

Furthermore, several licence courses have already been held via the IHF Virtual Academy.

2ND IHF LIVE ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

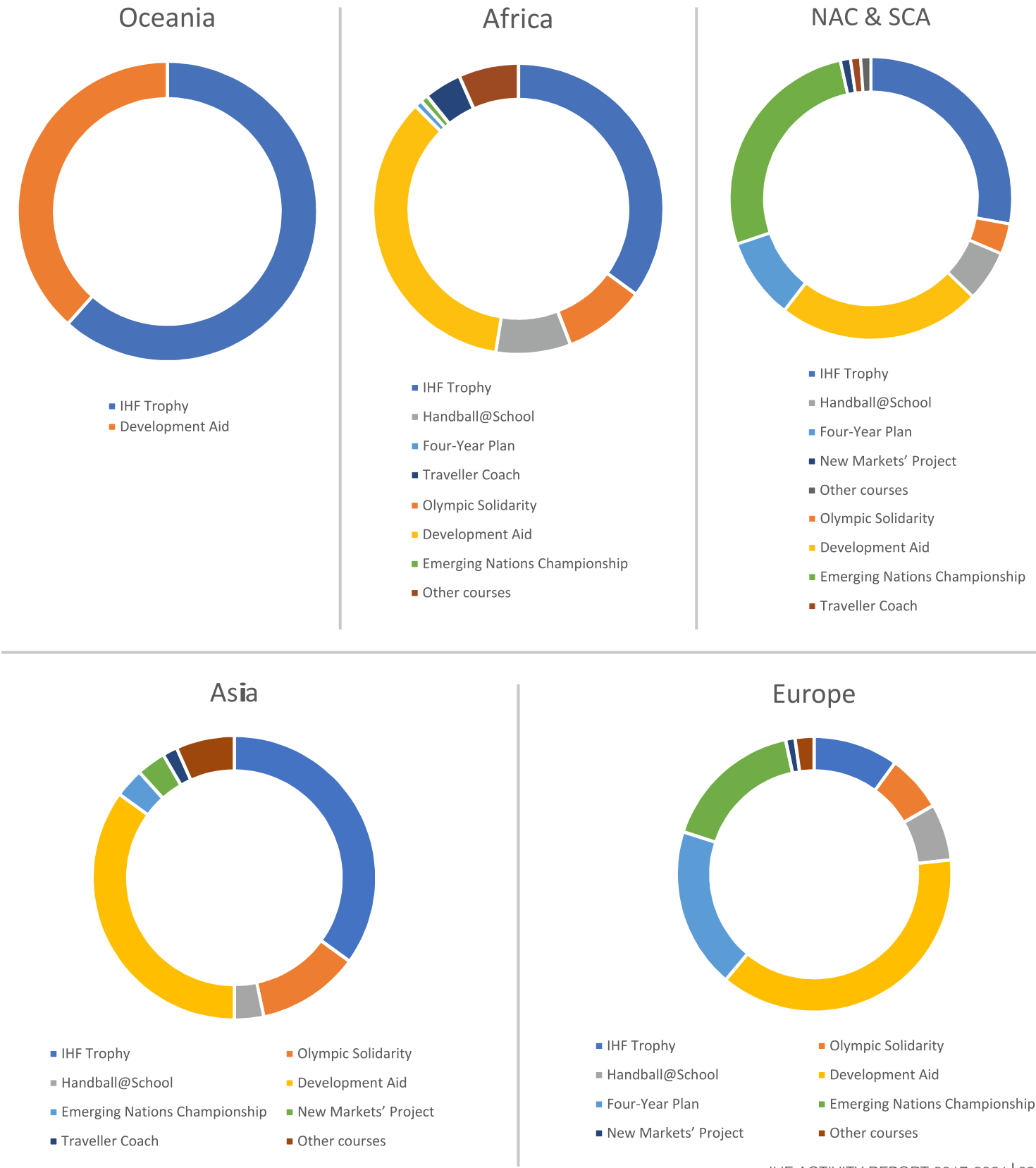
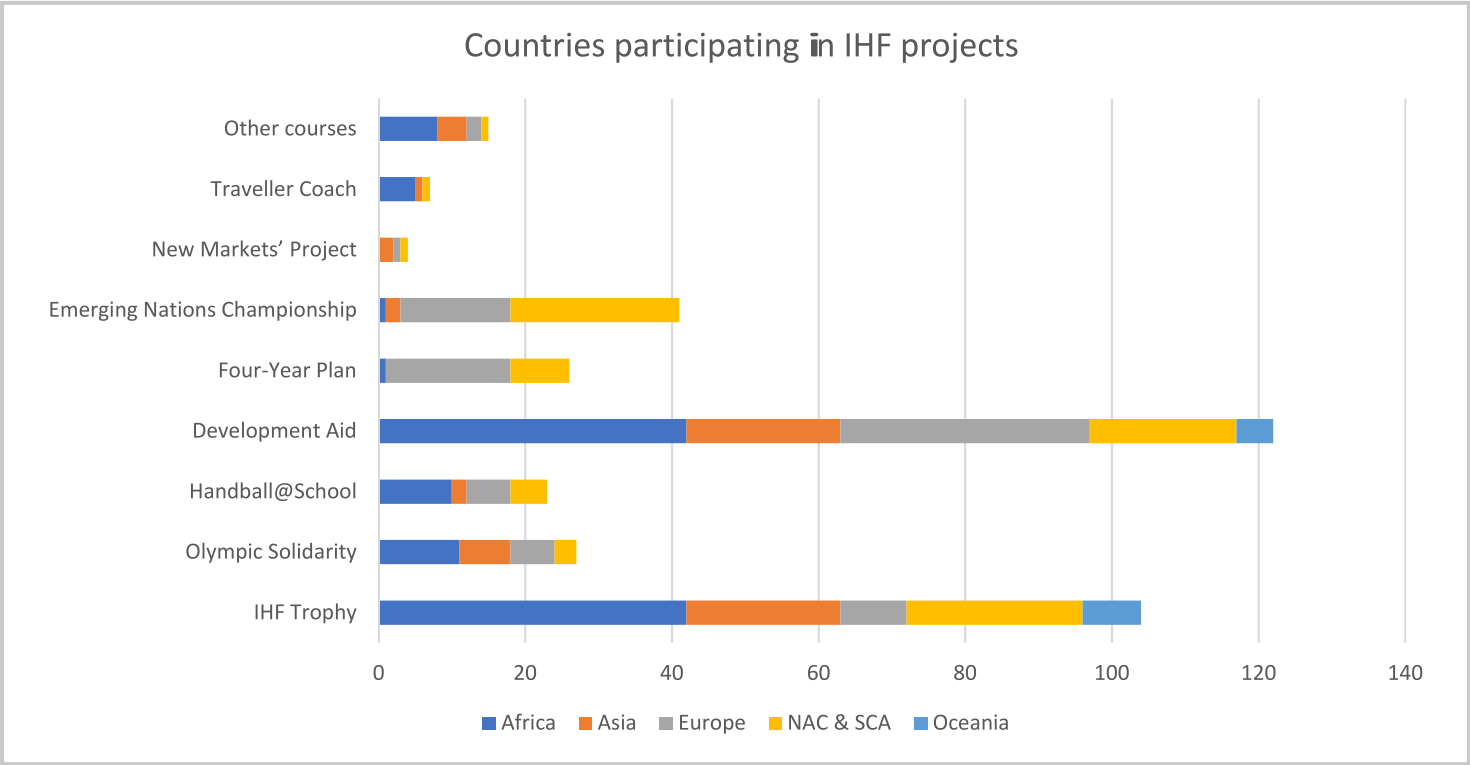
17 JUNE - 9 JULY

IHF Virtual Academy Programmes	
Programme	Date
1 st IHF Live Online Symposium	26 June - 25 July 2020
1 st IHF Children's Handball Week	17-22 August 2020
1 st IHF Beach Handball Week	5-11 October 2020
1 st IHF Wheelchair Handball Seminar	17-18 October 2020
1 st IHF Medical Webinar Series	20 October - 16 December 2020
Virtual AHF B-Licence Course	1-15 December 2020
Virtual CHA C-Licence Course	December 2020
1 st IHF Children's Handball Symposium	4-28 May 2021
2 nd IHF Live Online Symposium	17 June - 9 July 2021
2 nd IHF Wheelchair Handball Seminar	4-5 September 2021

Global development aid Overview Nov 2017 - Sep 2021

Since the 2017 IHF Congress, the International Handball Federation has been very active with regards to the development of handball all over the world – and hundreds of National Federations, teams and institutions in all continents have benefitted.

Project	Africa	Asia	Europe	NAC & SCA	Oceania	Total
IHF Trophy	44	25	9	28	9	115
Olympic Solidarity	11	7	2	2	0	22
Handball@School	6	2	3	4	0	15
Development Aid	38	15	26	15	1	95
Four-Year Plan	0	0	12	5	0	17
Emerging Nations Championship	1	2	6	23	0	32
New Markets' Project	0	3	1	1	0	5
Traveller Coach	2	0	0	1	0	3
Other courses	4	3	4	1	0	12



Partners and sponsors

Handball, as a product, is highly valued by agencies and business enterprises, especially when it is presented at World Championships and other international events that attract media attention – therefore, it is not surprising that there is a great interest in cooperating with the International Handball Federation. This was also shown by two contracts concluded with media rights marketer Sportfive and sportswear manufacturer hummel.

In September 2018, the IHF signed the contract with leading sports marketing agency Lagardère Sports (now Sportfive) as the global TV and media distribution partner for IHF senior events from 2019 to 2025. Sportfive's exclusive media distribution rights spans eight senior World Championships, starting with the 26th Men's World Championship in Germany and Denmark in January 2019.

Furthermore, Sportfive and the IHF extended their partnership in 2021 to cover, for example, also younger age category and beach handball events.

In mid-September 2018, the International Handball Federation announced a new sponsorship agreement with Danish sportswear and equipment manufacturer hummel. The four-year contract started on 1 January 2019, at which point hummel became a technical sponsor and official clothing and footwear supplier of the IHF.

Already in August 2017, the IHF announced the extension of the partnership with floor manufacturer Gerflor for four more years and renewed the partnership with Gerflor as floor provider for World championships and other events.

Since 2014, Molten has been producing the official handball of the International Handball Federation. The new contract signed lasts from 2018-2023. Molten supplies the ball for all games organised and sanctioned by the IHF, including the World Championships and the Olympic Games.

Grundfos, a partner based in Denmark, one of the pioneer countries of handball, is a world-famous pump manufacturer, known for their low-energy pumps for water,

heating and ventilation systems not only in sports arenas – thus ensuring comfort for the visitors and a smaller CO₂ footprint in the global climate area. At handball events, they have started their ‘Goal 6 & 13’ campaign in 2017, supporting the United Nations in their fight against the global climate and water crisis. Grundfos has been an IHF Partner from 2007 to 2020 and was still an event sponsor in 2021.

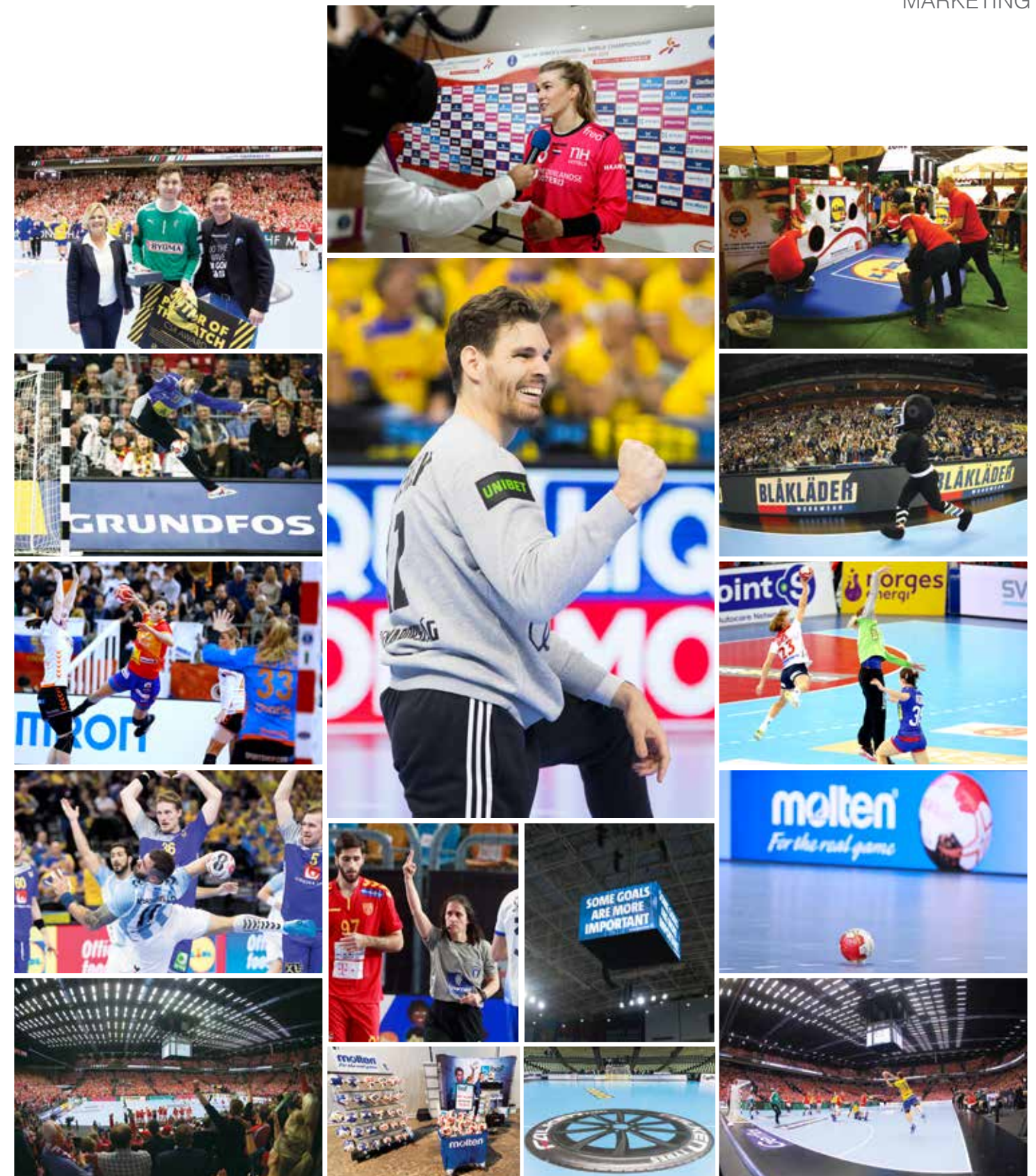
For years, the IHF has been working together with beach handball specialists Trial (Italy) and Rasán (Spain). Trial is the official lining system supplier, while Rasán is the official supplier of beach handballs at IHF events.

In addition to the above-mentioned partners, which are collaborating with the IHF on a long-term basis, there are also event sponsors, which have an interest in particular IHF events. Among the official sponsors of IHF World Championships count Gjensidige, Unibet, Blaklader, Falken, Lidl, Liqui Moly, Omron and EgyptAir.

IHF Partners



Selection of event sponsors since December 2017



TV and spectator figures

When the 2017-2019 World Championships had come to an end, there was more to celebrate than new world champions and medallists. The exciting competitions were complimented by the spectacular success off court, with unprecedented TV figures and spectator numbers.

Germany 2017 (Women)

TV figures were impressive with DR in Denmark welcoming more than 1.5 million viewers for the eighth-final clash, meaning a 63% market share and making it the fifth most-watched TV programme in Denmark in 2017. - Germany: close to 1 million viewers, above average; - Norway: SWE vs NOR, for example, had more than 1.1 million viewers (63.5% market share); - Poland: for first three matches – an audience of 4.4 million viewers (compared to average of 1.1 million in 2015). The global cumulative audience counted 630 million viewers.

The audience was further widened with the cooperation with the Olympic Channel. In addition, IHFTv production was complimented by a variety of official social platforms: total impressions on Facebook of 6,676,827, Twitter impressions of 1.6 million and 145,214 hours of YouTube watched.

The 237,263 total spectators in the arenas made it the second highest attendance at an IHF Women's World Championship in 12 years.

Hungary 2018 (Women's Junior)

The 2018 Women's Junior World Championship proved that the young talents attract a wide audience as well: After the event, the organiser stated that audiences continuously grew as the competition progressed, eventually surpassing all top-level matches of Hungarian teams over recent years. 405,000 permanent viewers tuned in to watch Hungary defeat Norway in the final, with a reach of 842,000 for a domestic share of 12%. These figures were higher than, for example, the 349,000 who watched Hungarian powerhouse Győr Audi Eto win the women's Champions League in May; the 311,000 who saw Hungary's Men's World Championship qualification play-off against Slovenia in June; as well as both the Hungarian Women's Cup Final and the men's league final between Veszprem and Szeged.

Germany/Denmark 2019 (Men)

Almost 17 million Danes watched the world

champions' 10 victories on TV, with an average of just under 2.7 million per match. The combined market share in Denmark during the final against Norway reached an incredible 95%. It was the most viewed programme on Danish TV since 2004. The peak market share for the co-hosts' matches during the main round was close to 70% – and every single game reached at least 50%.

In the more competitive German market, more than eight million viewers tuned in for each match of the 2016 Olympic bronze medallists. The average market share during the semi-final between Germany and Norway was 35% with an audience of 11.91 million, including high figures in the category aged between 14 and 49 years – a key focus for the IHF and the two host countries in view of development.

However, it was not only the co-hosts who reached large audiences. Worldwide, 1.6 billion people followed the World Championship on TV.

Off the court, Germany/Denmark 2019 smashed records, as more than 900,000 spectators watched the matches in the arena.



Japan 2019 (Women)

5,142 programmes delivered a total broadcast time of 3,348 hours, with 1,623 hours of live programming. Slovenia (383 hours) and Romania (323 hours) contributed the largest share of broadcast time, accounting for 21% of the total. By measure of live coverage, Germany ranks first ahead of France, airing combined more than 320 hours throughout the whole tournament.

While Japan 2019 could even top the broadcasting hours of the Women's World Championship in Germany, a key handball

market, the cumulative TV audience was also quite impressive with 603 million viewers, which comes close to the 2019 numbers.

In terms of spectators, Japan reached their goal of at least 300,000 and surpassed the numbers of the events before.

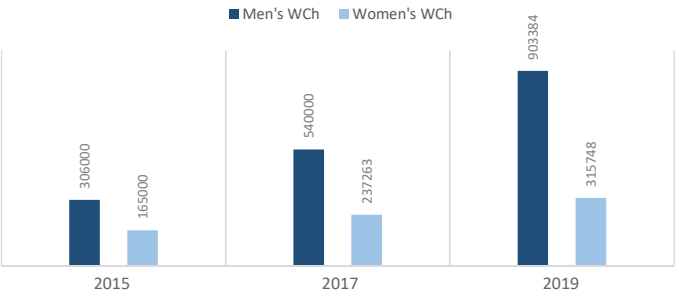
Egypt 2021 (Men)

The 2021 IHF Men's World Championship was an unforgettable one, held in rather special circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic and without spectators on site allowed.

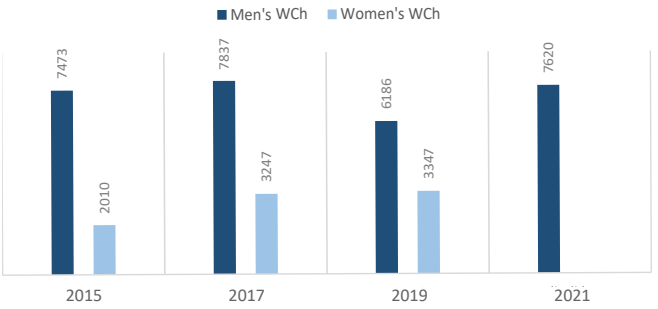
Senior World Championships – Key facts

Spectator numbers

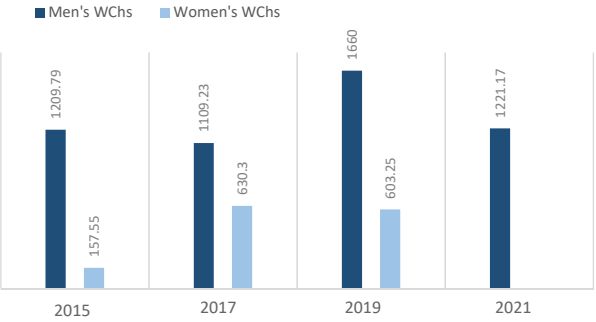
At the 2021 IHF Men's World Championship, no spectators were allowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Broadcasting hours



Cumulative TV audience (in mio.)



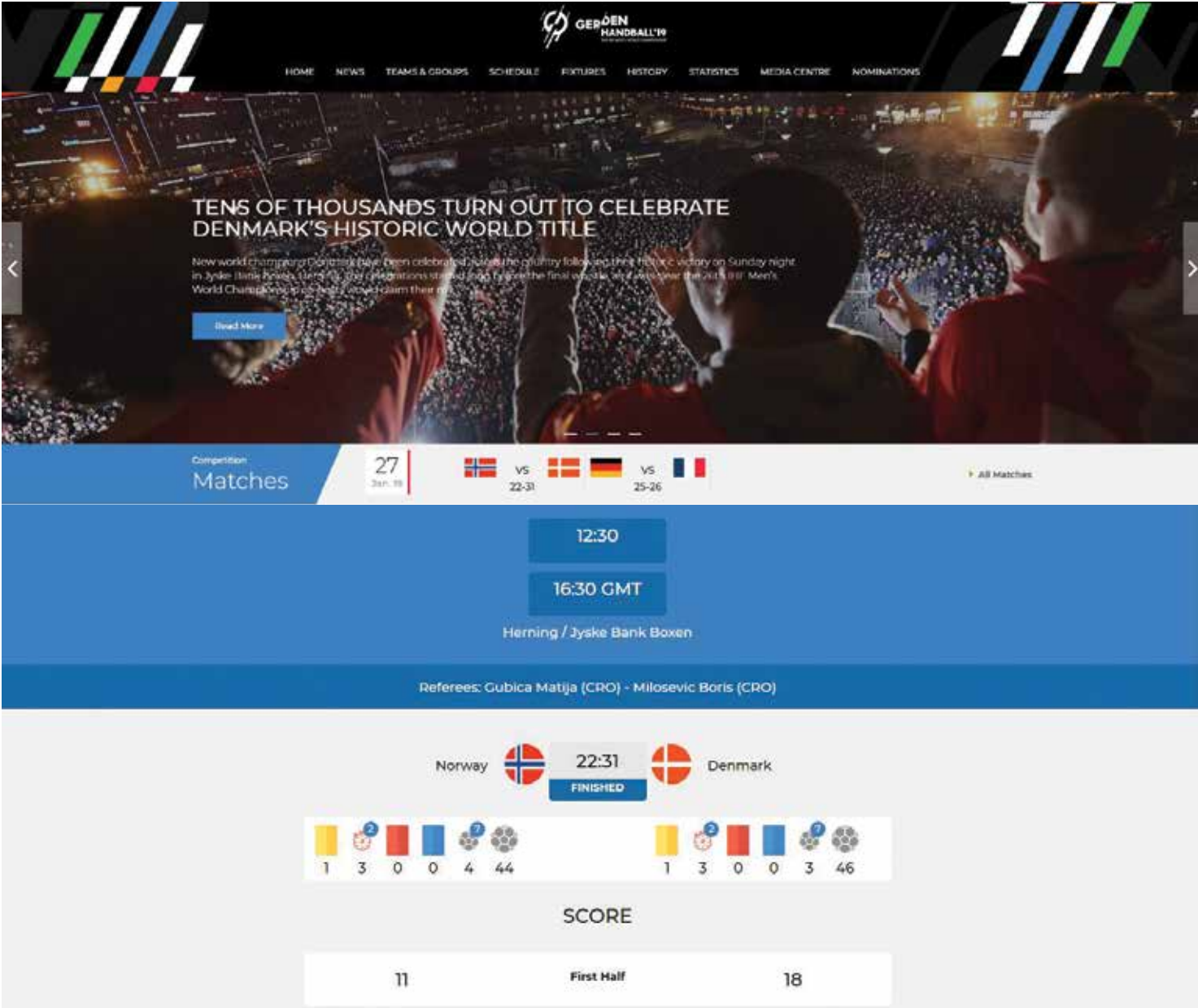


New websites and improved social media

Over the past few years, the IHF has improved their presence throughout the media landscape significantly. Most recently, the IHF has launched new websites, starting with a new competition website, [competition.ihf.info](#) – which was later integrated into the new [ihf.info](#) page. On this website made especially for the IHF competitions, handball fans can find all the

information they need about the events – and much more. In the match centre, the matches can be followed via live ticker and stream, and in addition details about the teams, all the latest news as well as photo and video highlights are provided. The new official IHF website was launched end of June 2019 – and has much more to offer than just good looks. The structure

of the state-of-the-art page makes it easy to navigate and new features let the user experience the world of handball in an entirely new way. Ahead of the 2019 IHF Women's World Championship, the IHF has launched a mobile app, the must-have smartphone and tablet app for handball fans around the world.

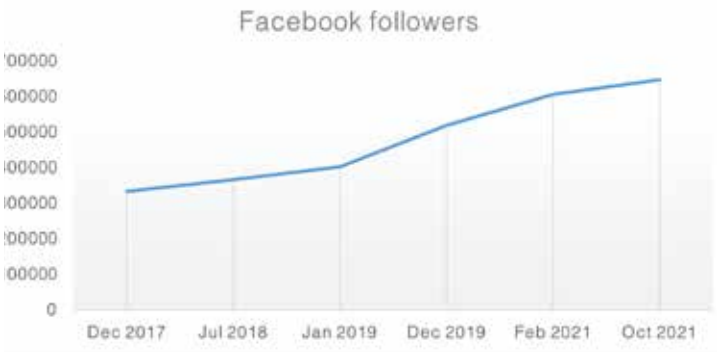


On social media, the figures have been continuously improving, with a Facebook increase in followers of more than 94% since November 2017, an increase of more

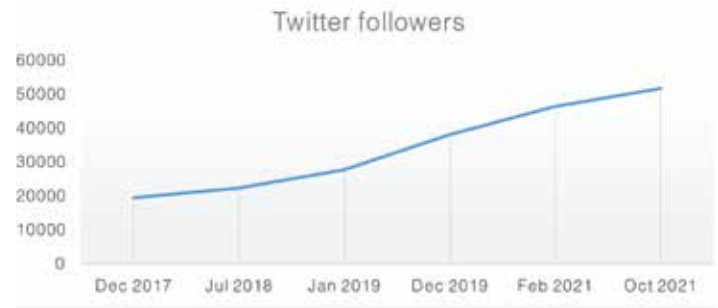
than 300% of Instagram followers and 164% of Twitter followers. Millions of handball fans were reached on all channels and the IHF social media team is always trying

to come up with new ideas to not only keep the handball fans up-to-date but also give these special insights into the handball world that are hard to come by.

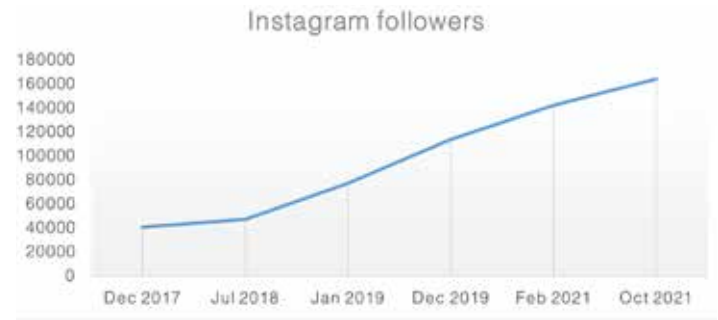
	ihf.info	
Dec 2017		333,514
Jul 2018		366,663
Jan 2019		403,018
Dec 2019		519,203
Feb 2021		606,567
Oct 2021		647,427



	ihf_info	
Dec 2017		19,600
Jul 2018		22,400
Jan 2019		27,800
Dec 2019		38,200
Feb 2021		46,500
Oct 2021		51,800



	ihf.official	
Dec 2017		40,700
Jul 2018		47,300
Jan 2019		77,355
Dec 2019		114,000
Feb 2021		142,200
Oct 2021		164,000



Meetings and decisions

According to the Statutes, the “Executive Committee shall lead the IHF as the executive body elected by the Congress”, whereas the Council is responsible for “decision-making outside the Congress’ competence or decisions which, according to [the] Statutes, are transferred to other bodies” and “ensuring that Congress and Executive Committee resolutions are adhered to.”

In the following, an overview about the most important decisions as well as the activities of the highest IHF bodies is presented.

Awarding of events

In 2020, beach handball will return back to its roots as in their first meeting of the new electoral period on 12 November 2017, the IHF Council awarded the 2020 Men’s and Women’s Beach Handball World Championships to the Handball Federation of Italy. Furthermore, a host of the XXXVII Ordinary IHF Congress had to be found after the Handball Federation of Russia had withdrawn their bid at the IHF Congress in Antalya, Turkey in 2017 – ultimately, the Swedish Handball Federation was awarded the hosting rights for the 2019 IHF Congress, which was held ‘in the spirit of youth handball’ on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Partille Cup, the world’s largest youth handball tournament.

IHF Super Globe

The IHF Men’s Super Globe, the unofficial World Championship for club teams, moves from Qatar to Saudi Arabia. End of 2018, the International Handball Federation officially signed the contract for the Asian nation to host the event for the next four years, starting in 2019 with editions in 2020, 2021 and 2022. – The maiden edition of the IHF Women’s Super Globe took place in August 2019 in China and is part of the ‘New Markets’ Project’ in the country.

New IHF Partners

In July 2018, the IHF Executive Committee approved the four-year sports equipment partnership with Danish sports brand hummel – one of the world’s leading handball brands. One month later, in August, the IHF Council approved the new IHF Media Rights Partner for the senior World Championships from 2019 up to 2025. Considering



The IHF Executive Committee (from left): Narcisa Lecusanu, President Dr Hassan Moustafa, Joël Delplanque, Anna Rapp, Frantisek Taborsky

the agency’s extensive experience in sport and major events, Lagardère Sports (now Sportfive) is a competent partner to help grow the presence of handball around the world.

World Championships with 32 teams

World Championships will be expanded from 24 to 32 teams from 2021 onwards. The decision was made to apply this expansion for all age categories and in both genders, with the goal of providing an opportunity for more nations to gain experience on the biggest international stage.

Pan America

In their meeting on 14 January 2018, the IHF Council decided to suspend Pan-American Team Handball Federation (PATHF). Working groups for the North American and the Caribbean Zone and the South and Central American Zone were formed to ensure the development of handball in all parts of the Pan American continent. At the last IHF Congress in 2019, the North America and the Caribbean Handball Confederation and the South and Central American Handball Confederation were recognised as Continental Confederations.

Resin-free ball

After five years, the Molten resin-free ball is in its final development stage. Approved by the IHF Executive Committee, the ball has been tested on a long-term basis in cooperation with the French Handball Federation as of March 2019. In 2022, the ball will be first used at an IHF event – at the IHF Women’s Youth (U18) World Championship in Georgia.

Wheelchair Handball Working Group

At their meeting in Doha, on 18 October 2018, the IHF Council decided to form a Wheelchair Handball Working Group. The Working Group, chaired by Frantisek Taborsky, was created to promote the further development of wheelchair handball worldwide.

New Global Referee Training Programme concept

With the aim to strengthen the IHF Global Referee Training Programme (G RTP), the IHF Executive Committee approved a new concept in December 2017, which includes a new selection process of candidates, foresees courses every two years and requires referees to take at least two GRTP courses in order to receive their diploma (exceptions only upon written report of the Playing Rules and Referee Commission and the approval

of the IHF Executive Committee). In addition, an age limit of 35 was introduced as well as a GRTP time limit, which requires a participant to graduate after a maximum of three courses. Furthermore, IHF Referees Summer Schools aiming to detect young talents will be organised as well as training camps for specifically chosen referees. Finally, it was determined that the IHF referee licence should be valid for four years.

Fitness coaches for IHF referees

In order to improve the general fitness and thus performance of IHF referees, the IHF Executive Committee approved the proposal of the Playing Rules and Referees Commission to use fitness coaches.

New Markets' Project in GBR continues

In their meeting on 6 April 2018, the IHF Executive Committee decided to continue the support of handball in Great Britain within the scope of the New Markets' Project. Great Britain was the first country to take part in the project, which focusses on introducing handball in key markets. By now, China and the USA are also part of the New Markets' Project, with first actions being taken in Canada and India as well.

Agreement with International Testing Agency

On 17 October 2018, the IHF Executive Committee decided in their meeting in Doha to conclude an agreement with the International Testing Agency, an independent not-for-profit Swiss foundation with its headquarters in Lausanne, including services such as Risk Assessment, a Test Distribution Plan according to Risk Assessment, WADA Code Compliance Management, Out-of-Competition Testing, Registered Testing Pool and Whereabouts management, Whereabouts failures administration, education outreach, Athlete Biological Passport administration, Therapeutic Use Exemptions administration and Results Management and ADRV administration.

Kuwait Handball Association – Suspension lifted

In December 2018, the IHF Council decided to provisionally lift the suspension of Kuwait Handball Association, after they had been suspended in 2015. The IHF Congress decided on lifting the suspension in the beginning of July 2019.

Commission Members

The IHF Council unanimously decided in their meeting in January 2019 to suspend Mrs Raquel Pedercini (CAN) as Chairwoman

of the IHF Commission for Development and as IHF member with immediate effect until the next Congress in accordance with the Statutes due to the serious and repeated violation of her obligations. In the same meeting it was decided to exclude Mr Philippe Bana (FRA) from the Commission of Organising and Competitions as a result of behaviour, which was deemed unacceptable.

Awarding of IHF events up until 2027

At the IHF Council meeting in Cairo, Egypt, in February 2020, the hosting rights of future IHF World Championships were awarded:

- 2021 IHF Men's and Women's U17 Beach Handball World Championships: Portugal (POR)*
- 2022 IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship: Slovenia (SLO)
- 2022 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World

Championship: Georgia (GEO)

- 2023 IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship: Germany (GER)**
- 2023 IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship: Croatia (CRO)
- 2024 IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship: North Macedonia (MKD)
- 2025 IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship: Poland (POL)
- 2025 IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship: Slovenia (SLO)
- 2025 IHF Men's World Championship: Croatia (CRO), Denmark (DEN), Norway (NOR)
- 2025 IHF Women's World Championship: Germany (GER), Netherlands (NED)
- 2027 IHF Men's World Championship: Germany (GER)

- 2027 IHF Women's World Championship: Hungary (HUN)

* *Postponed to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic*

** *2021 decision to co-host with Greece (GRE)*

Rescheduling and cancellation of events

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the sports world has been turned upside down and several events were affected, with decision on events being made throughout 2020 and 2021:

- Tokyo Handball Qualification 2020: Delayed by one year and held in March 2021; Norway replaced by Montenegro as host of Men's Tournament 1
- 2020 IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship: First postponed, then cancelled

- 2020 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship: Host changed; first postponed, then cancelled

- 2020 IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships: Cancelled

- 2021 IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championship: Cancelled

- 2021 IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship: Cancelled

- 2021 IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship: Cancelled

- 2021 IHF Men's and Women's U17 Beach Handball World Championships: Postponed

The 2021 IHF Men's World Championship in Egypt was held under special circumstances with a thoroughly planned COVID-19 hygiene concept in place. The event, the first global team sports event since the outbreak of the pandemic, served as role model for other sports.

Changes to the Rules of the Game

In September 2021, the IHF Council approved the following rule changes: 1. Reducing the maximum number of allowed passes after the passive play forewarning signal from six to four; 2. Two-minute suspension when a shot of a player, who is unhindered and throwing in an open play situation, hits the goalkeeper's head; 3. A mandatory centre circle to ensure fast execution of a throw-off.

Meetings

Council

12 November 2017	Antalya TUR
14 January 2018	Zagreb CRO
18 October 2018	Doha QAT
28 January 2019	Herning DEN
1 July 2019	Gothenburg SWE
27/28 February 2020	Cairo EGY
29 April 2020	By video conference
16 July 2020	By video conference
9 December 2020	By video conference
19 February 2021	By video conference
15 July 2021	By video conference
20 September 2021	By video conference

Executive Committee

16 December 2017	Hamburg GER
6 April 2018	Basel SUI
12 July 2018	Debrecen HUN
17 October 2018	Doha QAT
16 November 2018	Basel SUI
22 February 2019	Basel SUI
30 June 2019	Gothenburg SWE
28 August 2019	Dammam KSA
10 December 2019	Kumamoto JPN
26 February 2020	Cairo EGY
14 April 2020	By video conference
9 December 2020	By video conference
19 February 2021	By video conference
7 July 2021	By video conference



Athletes' Commission

The International Handball Federation aims to involve current and former athletes in the day-to-day work during competitions and in-between.

The IHF Athletes' Commission serves as the voice of the athletes within the federation. At the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the participating handball players voted five athletes into the Commission, which was confirmed by the IHF Council that same year: Chairwoman Gro Hammerseng-Edin (Norway), Mouna Chebbah (Tunisia), Cristina Neagu (Romania), Diego Simonet (Argentina) and Igor Vori (Croatia).

In September 2021, an Interim Athletes' Commission has been nominated by the IHF Council, as the required participation in the Athletes' Commission voting at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 was not met. The chairwoman of the Interim Athletes' Commission is Karolina Kudłacz-Gloc (Poland). She is joined by six members: Aleh As-trashapkin (Belarus), Marco Oneto (Chile), Vincent Gerard (France), Johannes Bitter (Germany), Gergely Harsanyi (Hungary) and Crina Pintea (Romania).

Since the first Commission meeting in May 2017, items such as clothing rules, referees' standard, the match schedule during championships, the total load during the year, i.e. the amount of matches and championships, switching the nationality, the 7-against-6 rule, equality in all forms, the fight against corruption and doping, players' rights and much more were discussed.

Another key part of the Commission's work is to maintain contact with the IOC Athletes' Commission. In late November 2017 Mouna Chebbah, who played for Tunisia at five World Championships, represented handball at the International Athletes' Forum in Lausanne, which featured over 100 athletes of all disciplines from all over the world.



Former Players' Project

Following the success of the first Former Players' Course in 2017, the 2018 edition was held on the fringe of the IHF Super Globe in Doha (Qatar). 11 previously professional and international players from two continents participated in the course run from 15 to 19 October, which expanded from the previous format to cover a range of topics including refereeing, match analysis, competition organisation, venue management, technical delegate tasks and media.

The participants in the 2018 edition were Romanians Angela Picu, Aurica Motogna, Tatiana Cojocaru and Ionela Stanca; Brazilians Daniela Piedade and Lucila Dos Santos; Russian Ekaterina Andryushina; Slovenian Nataliya Derespasko; German Christina Lindemann; Austrian Eugenia Rotis-Nagy; and Egyptian Assem Elsaadany.

The IHF officials present shared their own perspectives on some of the discussion topics – mainly how the former players can help to continue developing the game around the world. Dr Moustafa expressed his hope for more women to hold key positions in handball and for former players to find the right path to remain involved in the sport so as not to lose their valuable expertise and knowledge.

At the 2021 IHF Men's Super Globe, the third course of the Former Players' project was held in hybrid form, with Birgitta Lindholm (Finland), Bruno Souza (Brazil) and Isabelle Klein (Germany) participating on site and the opportunity for more former athletes to join remotely.



Updated Guidelines and Interpretations of the IHF Rules of the Game

The PRC in collaboration with the IHF rules experts have discussed several topics in relation with rules interpretations and agreed to publish a new version of the Guidelines and Interpretations with the intention of clarifying the correct decisions on certain situations.

Some new guidelines and updated versions of the previous guidelines of the edition of 1 July 2016 have thus been elaborated and as of 1 July 2018, the new version of the guidelines has been valid.

The updates concern the following rules and guidelines:

- Last 30 seconds rule: not respecting the distance (Rule 8:10c)
- Assisting injured players (Rule 4:11)
- Passive play: count of passes (Rule 7:11 Clarification 4 Appendix 3, examples 13/14)
- Disqualification of the goalkeeper according to Rule 8:5, Comment
- 7-metre decision with empty goal (14:1 and Clarification 6c)
- Use of video proof
- Player entering with wrong colour or number (Rules 4:7 and 4:8)

In September 2021, the IHF Council approved the following additional changes to the Rules of the Game.

- Passive play: count of passes reduced to a maximum of four (Rule 7:12, Clarification 4)
- Two-minute suspension for unsportsmanlike conduct (hitting the goalkeeper's head when throwing the ball unhindered and in an open play situation) (Rule 8:8)
- Centre circle: In the middle of the centre line, a centre circle (diameter of 4m) will be mandatory for IHF events and senior professional handball leagues (Rules 1, 10, 15 and Clarification No. 5)



Use of fitness coaches

In order to improve the general fitness and thus performance of IHF referees, the International Handball Federation decided to use fitness coaches to get their referees in shape. The Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC) expects all referees to be at their best at events in order to meet the high demands of modern handball – this is only possible with a proper tactical, technical, mental and physical preparation. The group of coaches includes nutritionists and is responsible for controlling the daily training of all IHF referees as well as other data as Body Fat, BMI, stress tests, etc. The fitness coaches are obliged to then send annual reports about the physical condition of the IHF referees to the IHF.

New concept of Global Referee Training Programme

Aiming to further strengthen IHF Global Referee Training Programme (GRTP), the Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC) has introduced a new GRTP concept.

A more thorough screening and selection process of candidates has been elaborated, during which the PRC and the continental chairpersons of the respective refereeing commissions work closely together. It was agreed that, provided the minimum number of candidates has been reached, a course should be held every two years and after at



least two GRTP courses, a referee shall receive the IHF badge and diploma, with exceptions only being made with a written report by the PRC and the approval of the IHF Executive Committee. A referee can be integrated into the GRTP for a maximum period of 5 years, taking part in a maximum of 3 courses; afterwards the referee shall be assisted and graduate, otherwise the referee shall be excluded. And age limit of 35 was also introduced. The IHF referee licence should be valid for four years. Furthermore, IHF Referees Summer Schools will be organised in order to discover young talents before they have reached continental status. In cooperation with the Continental Confederations, the IHF will also organise training camps for specifically chosen referees.

Agreement with International Testing Agency

On 17 October 2018, the IHF Executive Committee decided to conclude an agreement with the International Testing Agency (ITA), an independent not-for-profit Swiss foundation established by the International Olympic Committee with its headquarters in Lausanne aiming for the protection of clean athletes. By now, more than 40 International Federations and major event organisers cooperate with ITA. The cooperation agreement with ITA includes the following services:

- Risk Assessment
- Test Distribution Plan according to Risk Assessment
- WADA Code Compliance Management
- Out of Competition Testing
- Registered Testing Pool and Whereabouts management
- Whereabouts failures administration
- Education Outreach
- Athlete Biological Passport administration
- Therapeutic Use Exemptions administration
- Results Management and ADRV administration
- Data Protection management

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2021





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AGENCY

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#playtrue

Education outreach

In accordance with the WADA Code Article 18, the IHF is committing to promote the importance of Anti-Doping at an international handball level through education. The International Handball Federation has developed and implemented a documented education and prevention programme following the recommendations of the World Anti-Doping Agency – the 2018-2020 IHF Anti-Doping Education and Prevention Programme. In collaboration with the National Anti-Doping Organisations, educational seminars were organised at the 2018 Men's Senior Pan American Championship, the 2018 Women's Junior and Youth World Championships, the 2018 Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships, the 2018 IHF Men's Super Globe, the 2019 IHF Men's World Championship and the 2019 IHF Men's Junior World Championship.

In- and out-of-competition testing

In collaboration with the Testing Team of the National Anti-Doping Organisations (NADOs) of the respective host countries of the IHF events, the following IC testing missions at the IHF events took place:

Event	Tests	Result
2017 IHF Women's World Championship GER	64 IC + 60 OOC	All negative
2018 Women's Junior (U20) Pan American Championship BRA	0	Due to national governmental regulations' issues, IC testing was not allowed at this championship
2018 Women's Youth (U18) Pan American Championship ARG	20	All negative
2018 North American and the Caribbean Men's Senior Championship MEX	12	positive 1
2018 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship HUN	48	All negative
2018 Men's and Women's Senior Beach Handball World Championship RUS	32	All negative
2018 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship POL	40	All negative
2018 IHF Men's Super Globe	25 IC + 6 OOC	All negative
2019 Men's World Championship GER/DEN	88 IC + 55 OOC	All negative

WADA Code Compliance and Agreement with the International Testing Agency

In collaboration with the International Testing Agency (ITA), the IHF continues to develop its anti-doping programme, despite facing extremely difficult and challenging times as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Signatory of the World Anti-Doping Code, compliance with the Code is of utmost importance as per Article 20.3.1. of the Code.

2019-2021 Testing Statistics

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact around the world including the IHF Anti-Doping Programme. This resulted in a significant decrease in testing activities for both In-Competition (IC) and Out-of-Competition (OOC) testing programme. The health of players and the strict COVID-19 guidelines were taken into consideration.

The following IC testing missions at the IHF events took place from 2019 to 2021:

- 2019 Men's World Championship GER/DEN – 100 tests – All Negative
- 2019 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship ESP – 50 tests – All Negative
- 2019 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship MKD – 50 tests – All Negative
- 2019 Women's Super Globe CHN – 27 tests – 1 Positive – Case Resolved
- 2019 Men's Super Globe KSA – 27 tests – All Negative
- 2019 Women's World Championship JPN – 110 tests – All Negative
- 2021 Men's World Championship EGY – 80 tests – All Negative
- 2021 Tokyo 2020 Olympic Qualification Tournaments – 72 tests – All Negative
- No IC tests were conducted in 2020 as a result of the cancellation of the IHF events due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- 25 tests are scheduled at the upcoming 2021 Men's Super Globe KSA and 100 tests are planned at the 2021 Women's World Championship ESP.

The following OOC testing missions were conducted from 2019 to 2021:

- 2019: 272 Urine Samples, 32 Blood Samples, 61 GHRFs & 35 ESAs among 116 male and 119 female players – All Negative
- 2020: 235 Urine Samples, 12 Blood Samples, 18 GHRFs & 23 ESAs among 102 male and 71 female players – All Negative
- 2021: awaiting statistics by ITA – So far all Negative



2021 IHF Anti-Doping Rules

The new 2021 World Anti-Doping Code came into force on 1 January 2021. Accordingly, the 2021 IHF Anti-Doping Rules were published in compliance with the 2021 World Anti-Doping Code. The draft IHF Anti-Doping Rules were submitted to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the final version was approved by WADA and adopted by the IHF on 16 November 2020. The 2021 IHF Anti-Doping Rules are available in English and French on the IHF website.

Further educational projects

As part of the 1st IHF Medical Webinar Series held between October and December 2020, an education seminar “Key Anti-Doping Information for Medical Professionals & Major Changes to WADA Code 2021” was conducted on 16 December 2020 by the ITA on behalf of the IHF. As part of the IHF's commitment to doping-free handball, the IHF has been actively encouraging the handball players, support personnel, coaches, medical professionals and administrators to complete anti-doping education online courses on the WADA's Anti-Doping Education Learning Platform.

Communication

IHF, as a Code Signatory, remains an active participant of the annual Play True Day initiative launched by the World Anti-Doping Agency. This is when sports federations, athletes and event organisers promote the value of clean sport.

IHF has joined the ITA's “Keeping Sport Real” Campaign. A visual and slogan for IHF #KeepingHandballReal has been created and published by the ITA on its social media channels. This campaign will be re-posted from time to time to highlight the ITA-IHF partnership and promote clean handball to the wider community.

“Empower female leadership”

Gender equality is a key issue in the sports world and over the past couple of years, the International Handball Federation has shown how seriously this topic is taken.

Already in 1957, the first IHF Women’s World Championship was staged and since then, all IHF events in all age categories have been held for men and women alike. The only exceptions were the IHF Super Globe and the IHF Emerging Nations Championship – but with the organisation of the 1st IHF Women’s Super Globe in PR of China in August 2019 and the planned 1st IHF Women’s Emerging Nations Championship, this changes.

Considering the number of female Officials, Technical Delegates, Referees, etc. at events, progress was made as well: The final matches at the 2017 IHF Women’s World Championship in Germany were whistled by two female referee pairs; 16 referee pairs have been nominated: 5 female and 11 male (31.25% female). Technical delegates: 16 in total, 6 female and 10 male (37.5% female).

The wish to have more women in leadership positions became obvious at the XXXVI Ordinary IHF Congress in Antalya, as the Norwegian Handball Federation submitted a motion stating that both genders shall be represented in all IHF bodies: “The organisation should continue to integrate female representatives in their structures, and empower female leadership, as well as to encourage the stakeholders to follow. Based on the fact that females constitute more than 50-70% of the members of most handball federations, we will argue that females are highly underrepresented in the international handball bodies.”

Already before, the delegates at the 2017 IHF Congress had voted Anna Rapp (SWE) and Narcisa Lecusanu (ROU) into the IHF Executive Committee as Treasurer and Executive Committee Member, respectively.



The Women’s Handball Working Group (from left): Leonor Mallozzi, Narcisa Lecusanu, Bente Aksnes, Liudmila Bodnieva, Alexandra Do Nascimento

In order to keep up the positive development trends in women’s handball, the IHF introduced the Women’s Handball Working Group in 2016. The group is currently chaired by former national player Narcisa Lecusanu, who won silver with Romania at the 2005 World Championship. Bente Aksnes (NOR), Liudmila Bodnieva (RUS), Alexandra Do Nascimento (BRA) and Leonor Mallozzi (POR) are also part of the group and can look back on years of experience in handball. In a first step the group has sent a questionnaire to all member federations and players. In the survey, the working group asked them to share their limitations, needs and strategies for the development of women’s handball. In 2020, the Working Group held several calls with the Women Development Coordinators of the National Federations in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and the Caribbean, Oceania and South and Central America.

Another promising IHF initiative is the ‘Former Players Project’, the second course of which took place on the fringe of the 2018 IHF Super Globe. As all but one of the participants were female, the subject of women’s handball was a key area of focus. The participants were highly motivated to discuss this topic in particular, examining the current situation in different continents at length. They expressed great motivation in developing women’s handball to reach a similar level of global recognition to that of men’s.

Global Membership 209

The International Handball Federation consists of 209 Member Federations – 201 full members plus eight associated and regional members (marked with an asterisk).

NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 21

- ANT Antigua and Barbuda
- BAH Bahamas
- BAR Barbados
- CAN Canada
- CAY Cayman Islands
- CUB Cuba
- DMA Dominica
- DOM Dominican Republic
- GLP Guadeloupe*
- GRL Greenland
- GRN Grenada
- HAI Haiti
- IVB British Virgin Islands
- JAM Jamaica
- LCA Saint Lucia
- MEX Mexico
- MTQ Martinique*
- PUR Puerto Rico
- SKN Saint Kitts and Nevis
- TTO Trinidad and Tobago
- USA United States of America

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA 19

- ARG Argentina
- BIZ Belize
- BOL Bolivia
- BRA Brazil
- CHI Chile
- COL Colombia
- CRC Costa Rica
- ECU Ecuador
- ESA El Salvador
- GUA Guatemala
- GUF French Guyana*
- GUY Guyana
- HON Honduras
- NCA Nicaragua
- PAN Panama
- PAR Paraguay
- PER Peru
- URU Uruguay
- VEN Venezuela

EUROPE 52

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ALB Albania | ISR Israel |
| AND Andorra | ITA Italy |
| ARM Armenia | KOS Kosovo |
| AUT Austria | LAT Latvia |
| AZE Azerbaijan | LIE Liechtenstein |
| BEL Belgium | LTU Lithuania |
| BIH Bosnia and Herzegovina | LUX Luxembourg |
| BLR Belarus | MDA Moldova |
| BUL Bulgaria | MKD Republic of North Macedonia |
| CRO Croatia | MLT Malta |
| CYP Cyprus | MNE Montenegro |
| CZE Czech | MON Monaco |
| DEN Denmark | NED Netherlands |
| ENG England* | NOR Norway |
| ESP Spain | POL Poland |
| EST Estonia | POR Portugal |
| FAR Faroe Islands | ROU Romania |
| FIN Finland | RUS Russia |
| FRA France | SCO Scotland* |
| GBR Great Britain | SLO Slovenia |
| GEO Georgia | SRB Serbia |
| GER Germany | SUI Switzerland |
| GRE Greece | SVK Slovakia |
| HUN Hungary | SWE Sweden |
| IRL Ireland | TUR Turkey |
| ISL Iceland | UKR Ukraine |

AFRICA 53

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ALG Algeria | LBR Liberia |
| ANG Angola | LES Lesotho |
| BDI Burundi | MAD Madagascar |
| BEN Benin | MAR Morocco |
| BOT Botswana | MAW Malawi |
| BUR Burkina Faso | MLI Mali |
| CAF Central African Republic | MOZ Mozambique |
| CGO Congo | MRI Mauritius |
| CHA Chad | MTN Mauritania |
| CIV Côte d'Ivoire | NAM Namibia |
| CMR Cameroon | NGR Nigeria |
| COD DR Congo | NIG Niger |
| COM Comoros | RSA South Africa |
| CPV Cape Verde | RWA Rwanda |
| DJI Djibouti | SEN Senegal |
| EGY Egypt | SEY Seychelles |
| ETH Ethiopia | SLE Sierra Leone |
| GAB Gabon | SOM Somalia |
| GAM Gambia | SSD South Sudan |
| GBS Guinea-Bissau | STP Sao Tomé and Príncipe |
| GEQ Guinea | SUD Sudan |
| GHA Ghana | SWZ Swaziland |
| GUI Guinea | TAN Tanzania |
| KEN Kenya | TOG Togo |
| LBA Libya | TUN Tunisia |
| | UGA Uganda |

OCEANIA 20

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| ASA American Samoa | MHL Marshall Islands | PNG Papua New Guinea |
| AUS Australia | Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands* | SAM Samoa |
| COK Cook Islands | NCL New Caledonia* | SOL Solomon Islands |
| FIJ Fiji | NRU Nauru | TAH Tahiti* |
| FSM Federated States of Micronesia | NZL New Zealand | TGA Tonga |
| GUM Guam | PLW Palau | TUV Tuvalu |
| KIR Kiribati | | VAN Vanuatu |

ASIA 44

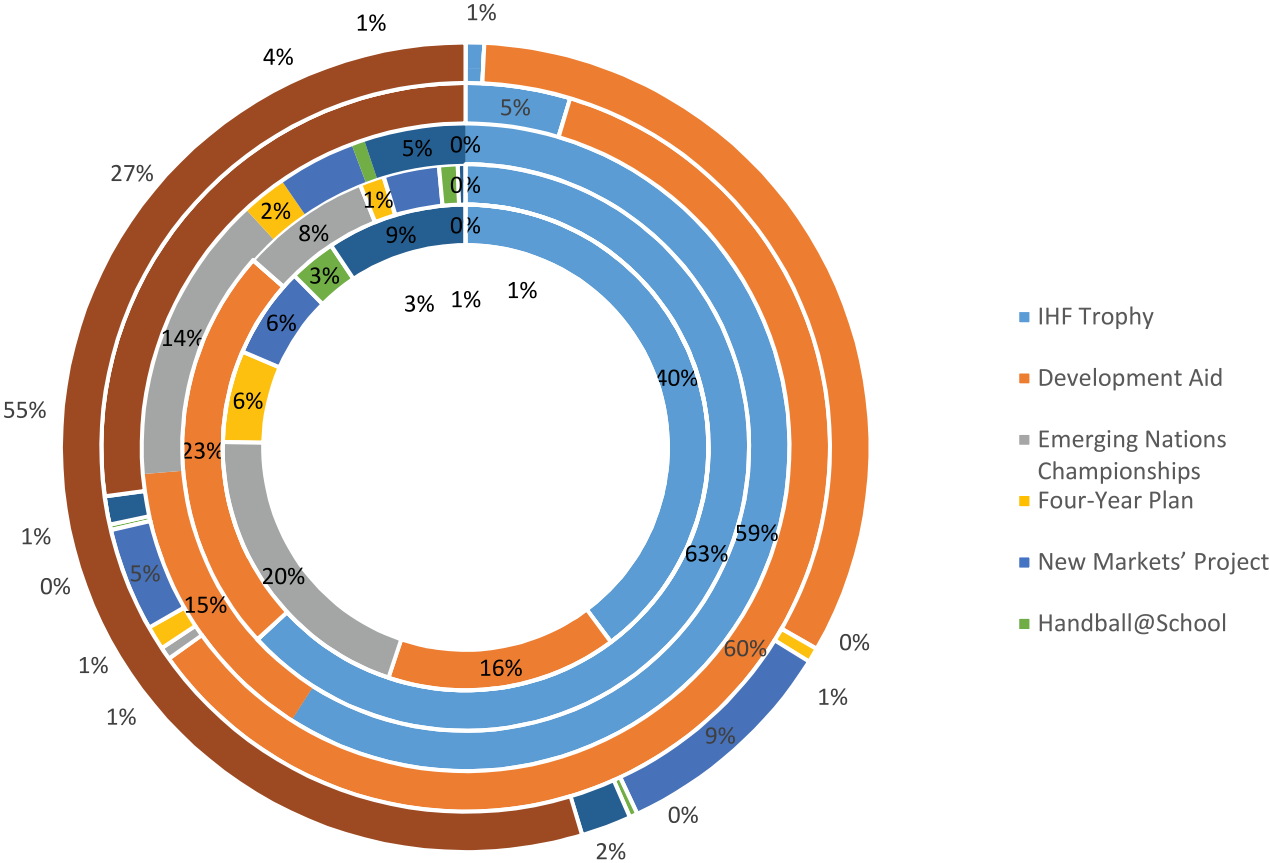
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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| AFG Afghanistan | MAS Malaysia |
| BAN Bangladesh | MDV Maldives |
| BHU Bhutan | MGL Mongolia |
| BRN Bahrain | NEP Nepal |
| BRU Brunei | OMA Oman |
| CAM Cambodia | PAK Pakistan |
| CHN PR of China | PHI Philippines |
| HKG Hong Kong | PLE Palestine |
| INA Indonesia | PRK DPR Korea |
| IND India | QAT Qatar |
| IRI Iran | SGP Singapore |
| IRQ Iraq | SRI Sri Lanka |
| JOR Jordan | SYR Syria |
| JPN Japan | THA Thailand |
| KAZ Kazakhstan | TJK Tajikistan |
| KGZ Kyrgyzstan | TKM Turkmenistan |
| KOR Republic of Korea | TLS Timor-Leste |
| KSA Saudi Arabia | TPE Chinese Taipei |
| KUW Kuwait | UAE United Arab Emirates |
| LAO Laos | UZB Uzbekistan |
| LBN Lebanon | VIE Vietnam |
| MAC Macau | YEM Yemen |

IHF Finances

2017 – September 2021 / in CHF

IHF Projects						
Project	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
IHF Trophy	845,516.00	3,500,000.72	3,829,476.54	151,392.37	11,369.08	3,829,476.54
Development Aid	326,442.40	1,294,347.25	949,700.45	1,979,668.38	505,352.75	949,700.45
Emerging Nations Championships	429,863.14	410,794.91	937,239.20	18,062.80	0.00	937,239.20
Four-Year Plan	129,740.68	77,632.41	146,690.06	34,571.10	9,083.70	146,690.06
New Markets' Project	128,956.86	175,748.29	251,707.53	149,934.20	141,988.05	251,707.53
Handball@School	66,618.78	59,280.92	42,454.83	8,053.28	4,885.45	42,454.83
Other courses	198,416.90	24,401.19	329,411.07	41,095.01	31,194.70	329,411.07
COVID-19 support				888,000.00	848,000.00	
Total	2,125,554.76	5,542,205.69	6,486,679.68	3,270,777.14	1,551,873.73	6,486,679.68

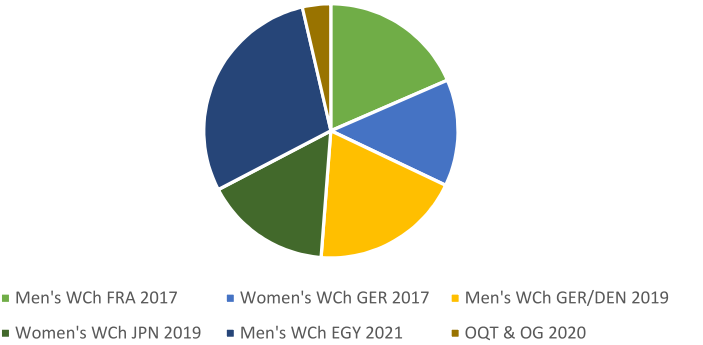
IHF project expenses



Major senior events

Event	Total event expenses
Men's WCh FRA 2017	4233935.44
Women's WCh GER 2017	3114674.95
Men's WCh GER/DEN 2019	4,401,639.41
Women's WCh JPN 2019	3,695,372.97
Men's WCh EGY 2021	6,656,174.81
OQT & OG 2020	830,663.62

Expenses for major senior events



IHF income

Total event-related revenue

Year	Income
2017	32,044,354.85
2018	18,632,480.83
2019	34,732,670.74
2020	22,869,410.60
2021	12,550,744.50
Budget	
2022	28,268,000.00
2023	32,442,000.00



In memory of those who passed away

The international handball family mourns the death of athletes, experts and other handball personalities, who passed away in the period under review.



Levon Akopyan
(RUS) - 73



Sargis Grigoryan
(ARM) - 64



Kjartan K. Steinbach
(ISL) - 68



Chong-Ha Kim
(KOR) - 85



Peter Kretzschmar
(GDR/GER) - 85



Waltraud Kretzschmar
(GDR/GER) - 70



Branislav Pokrajac
(YUG/SRB) - 71



Mohamed Samir Rashed
(EGY) - 41



Dragan Taka Pavicevic
(MNE) - 78



Jemal Tsertsvadze
(GEO) - 79



Milan Valcic
(YUG/SRB) - 82



Nebojsa Vujisic
(MNE) - 51

On behalf of the International Handball Federation and the whole handball family, President Dr Hassan Moustafa conveys his

deepest condolences to the families and friends of the sports legends, who passed away, as well as the handball federations

concerned and the many officials, players und referees who had the pleasure of knowing them.



Ekaterina Koroleva
(RUS) - 20



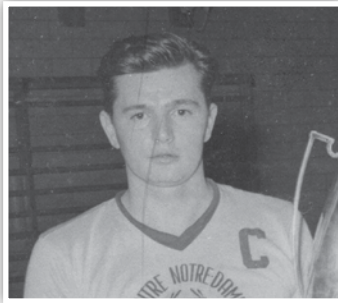
Dušan Vrhovac
(YUG/BIH) - 79



André Amiel
(FRA) - 85



Toshiro Shimada
(JPN)



Andy Mezey
(CAN) - 85



János Gróz
(HUN) - 49



Juan de Dios Román
(ESP) - 77



Gerhard Hofbauer
(AUT) - 82



Oscar Pérez Guevara
(CRC) - 65



Zlatko Saracevic
(CRO) - 59



Alfredo Quintana
(POR) - 32



Sándor Andorka
(HUN) - 75



Yurij Gavrilov
(UKR) - 54



Nikola Danilovski
(MKD) - 24



Jacques Rogge
(BEL) - 79



Manfred Prause
(GER) - 81

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