



International
Handball
Federation



XXXIX Ordinary IHF Congress

02.11.2023 - Basel SUI / by video conference



Present

Physical attendance at IHF Head Office Basel:

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)
Joël DELPLANQUE (FRA)
Mansourou AREMOU (BEN)
Yoshihide WATANABE (JPN)
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)
Anna RAPP (SWE)
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)
Dr Frantisek TABORSKY (CZE)
Per BERTELSEN (DEN)
Per Morten SØDAL (NOR)
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO)
Charles OMBOUMAHOU (CGO)
Bader AL-THEYAB (KUW)
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)
Ricardo BLAS (GUM)
Amal KHALIFA (EGY)
Patric STRUB (GER)

President
1st Vice-President
IHF Vice-President Africa
IHF Vice-President Asia
IHF Vice-President Europe
Treasurer
Executive Committee Member
Executive Committee Member
COC Chairman
PRC Chairman
CCM Chairman
CD Chairman
IHF Representative Africa
IHF Representative Asia
IHF Representative Europe
IHF Representative Oceania
General Director
Competitions Director

Virtual attendance (via Zoom):

Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX)
Marcel MANCILLA BRAVO (CHI)
Mathieu JAUS (SUI)

IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean
IHF Representative South and Central America
Representative of external IHF auditor

Representatives of Member Federations and Continental Confederations as per the enclosed attendance list

MEETING TIME: 12:00-16:15

Notes: These minutes are kept as a record of decisions and contain only the most important speeches/statements.

The full proceedings of the Congress are recorded and can be reviewed in the Head Office in Basel. The recordings will be kept until the next Congress during which elections are held.

Agenda

1. Opening of the Congress
2. Roll call and determination of the number of votes
3. Suspension / Forfeit of membership
4. Election of two examiners of the minutes
5. Election of the election officer and the tellers (if applicable)
6. Determination of the orderly convocation of Congress
7. Adoption of the minutes of the preceding Congress
8. President's report
 -  Speech of Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director, on the development of beach handball and the decision of the IOC Executive Board for LA 2028
 -  Report in the form of a movie
 -  Presentation of IHF CCM Chairman Dietrich Späte and IHF PRC Chairman Per Morten Sædal on Rules and Game Development
 -  Presentation of IHF TV and Marketing partner Sportfive
 -  IHF House – Mathieu Jaus, external IHF auditor
9. Financial and auditors' report
10. Membership admissions
11. Discharge
12. Motions to the Congress
 - 12.1. Motions from IHF Executive Committee regarding IHF Statutes
 - 12.2. Motions from IHF Member Federations regarding IHF Statutes – SWE
13. Report on changes to the Rules and Regulations ratified by the Council
 - 13.1. Player Eligibility Code (III)
 - 13.2. Regulations for Transfer between Federations (IV)
 - 13.3. Regulations for IHF Competitions (V)
 - 13.4. Regulations for Players' Agents (X)

- 13.5.** Regulations for International and Continental Referees (XI)
- 13.6.** Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses (XII)
- 13.7.** Floor Regulations (XIIIc)
- 13.8.** Ethics Code (XV)
- 13.9.** Financial Regulations (XXIV)
- 13.10.** IHF Coaching Education Regulations (XXVII)

14. Confirmation of the IHF programme of activities

15. Setting membership fees and approval of the budget

16. Scheduling time and place of the next Congress

17. Awarding of IHF President's Development Award and other Honours

- 17.1.** IHF President's Development Award – Handball developed countries
- 17.2.** IHF President's Development Award – Emerging federations
- 17.3.** IHF President's Development Award – Top nations
- 17.4.** Organisers of IHF championships
- 17.5.** Frank Birkefeld (posthumous)
- 17.6.** Rudi Glock (posthumous)

18. Miscellaneous

- 18.1.** Confirmation of IHF Vice-President Asia and IHF Representative Asia

19. Close of the Congress



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1. Opening of the Congress

President Moustafa declared the International Handball Federation's XXXIX Ordinary Congress open and welcomed all participants to the Congress held virtually.

On behalf of the IHF, President Moustafa expressed his gratitude for the support and trust the handball family has shown since the last Ordinary IHF Congress as well as his hope for a bright future for handball. He stressed the importance of the entire handball family standing together as one to promote their beloved sport. Referring to the development of the sport, President Moustafa stated that handball has been constantly evolving and will continue to develop in the future, adding that the primary goal of the IHF was and will always be to take handball to the next level.

With respect to the format of the Congress as a virtual meeting, President Moustafa stated that compared to a physical Congress, the organisation of a virtual Congress is less costly, since expenses for accommodation, travel support, local transportation, etc. are not applicable. Therefore, he informed the attendees that the costs that would have arisen if the Congress had been organised physically will be distributed among the IHF Emerging National Federations to help them develop and promote handball in their countries. As the costs of the last physical Ordinary IHF Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 2019, amounted to CHF 663,537.01, President Moustafa explained that several expenses invested in the organisation of the 2023 Ordinary IHF Congress will be deducted and the amount of CHF 600,000 will be distributed to the IHF Emerging National Federations.

President Moustafa also referred to the decision of the XXXVI Ordinary IHF Congress in 2017 to divide the Pan-American Team Handball Federation into the North America and the Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC) and the South and Central America Handball Confederation (SCAHC), stressing that it was the right decision as many of the teams that made their debuts in IHF competitions in the last years came from Pan America.

President Moustafa conveyed his thanks to the PRC Chairman for his good work in the field of referees, as the referee couples of the finals of the last three younger age category World Championships came from outside Europe (ARG at the 2022 Women's Junior (U20) WCh, ALG at the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) WCh, URU at the 2023 Men's Junior (U21) WCh), which is very important for the worldwide development of handball.

Furthermore, President Moustafa thanked the Continental Confederations, the National Federations, the staff at the IHF Head Office as well as all IHF partners for their efforts to promote handball worldwide and expressed his hopes for an even brighter future for handball.

President Moustafa asked the delegates and guests to rise for a minute's silence to honour the memory of the colleagues who passed away during the congressional term.

Adel Bakr Attari
Dr Hiroki Konishi
Bengt Johansson
Mbaye Diagne Aime Mbengue
Michael Heuberger
Tadeusz Bregulla
Aimé Fidèle Razafintsalama
Freddy Ntanga Katshimbu
Wendy Smits

Mohamed Benkreira
Christos Kotzamanidis
Rolf Brack
Cemal Kütahya
Frank Birkefeld
Miguel Zaworotny
Pawel Kotwica
Ephraim Chukwuemeka
Viktoriya Divak



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Patrik Weiss
Serge Christian Guebogo
Henrik Vænerberg

Franz Plaskan
Rudi Glock

2. Roll call and determination of the number of votes

The General Director presented Edward Gardiner, an independent notary who participated in the Congress remotely and was joined by two voting technicians from Lumi, the electronic voting system provider based in UK. Edward Gardiner took the floor, explaining that the roll call was taken from those delegates who logged into the Lumi voting platform, specifying that currently 117 voting delegates and 88 non-voting delegates were present, announcing all National Federations currently attending with a voting delegate. The General Director referred to Article 13.3.4 of the IHF Statutes, stipulating that the Congress is declared to have achieved a quorum if more than 50% of the IHF Member Federations entitled to vote are present. In due consideration of the 209 IHF Member Federations and the 183 Member Federations entitled to vote (19 non-active members, 7 associated/regional members without voting right), she concluded that the Congress has achieved a quorum, which was confirmed by the independent notary Edward Gardiner.

The attached attendance list provides more details of the Congress participants.

3. Suspension / Forfeit of membership

No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

4. Election of two examiners of the minutes

The General Director referred to Article 13.3.8 of the IHF Statutes, according to which Congress minutes confirmed by the President and the examiners of the minutes shall be handed to Council members, Member Federations and Continental Confederations no later than two months after the Congress.

She proposed that the Congress elects Bernd Rabenseifner (AUT, for the German version of the minutes) and Philippe Bana (FRA, for the French version of the minutes) as examiners of the minutes.

She gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a simple majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on electing as examiners of the minutes:

Bernd Rabenseifner (for the German version)

Philippe Bana (for the French version)

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results, stating that delegates from two NFs entitled to vote have joined the present meeting since the roll call and determination of the number of votes:

Total possible votes:	119
Valid votes:	96
Abstentions (including blank votes):	23



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Yes: 94 (97.92%)
No: 2 (2.08%)

The notary confirmed that the required simple majority of votes cast has been achieved.

Decision

The Congress elected Bernd Rabenseifner (AUT, for the German version of the minutes) and Philippe Bana (FRA, for the French version of the minutes) as examiners of the minutes.

5. Election of the election officer and the tellers (if applicable)

No issue was discussed under this agenda item.

6. Determination of the orderly convocation of Congress

The General Director noted the following thereto:

1. The International Handball Federation's XXXVIII Ordinary Congress, which was held by video conference on 6 November 2021, decided to award the XXXIX Ordinary IHF Congress in 2023 to the Polish Handball Federation on condition that all IHF requirements are fulfilled, taking into consideration that a corresponding inspection was yet to be carried out by the IHF.
2. The date of the Congress (1-2 November 2023) was announced in a circular dated 1 February 2023 according to Article 13.1.4 of the IHF Statutes.
3. During the organisational process, several difficulties were encountered that complicate the organisation of a physical Congress, such as the request from the Polish Organising Committee to increase the participation fee for the Congress delegates, the limited number of hotel rooms in the assigned Congress hotel and entry restrictions for some Member Federations that will make it extremely difficult for those federations to obtain a visa.
Due to the aforementioned difficulties and considering the successful organisation of the XXXVIII Ordinary IHF Congress, which was held virtually in 2021, the IHF Council decided on 6 June 2023 by electronic communication to organise the XXXIX Ordinary Congress of the International Handball Federation by video conference. An official letter, announcing the virtual organisation of the Congress meeting on 2 November 2023, was sent to all IHF Member Federations and Continental Confederations on 14 June 2023.
4. The XXXIX Ordinary IHF Congress was officially convened in a letter dated 30 June 2023 according to Article 13.1.5 of the IHF Statutes.
5. The agenda was sent out to the Congress delegates by the Head Office before 21 September 2023 according to Article 13.1.6 of the IHF Statutes.
6. The working documents of the Congress were submitted to the Congress delegates by the Head Office before 2 October 2023 according to Article 13.1.7 of the IHF Statutes. The working documents included, among others, the report from the last period and the complete strategic plan for IHF in the next period (as per Article 15.3, points 1.2 and 1.3 of the IHF Statutes) as well as the budget, annual accounts and auditors' reports (as per Article 18, points 3 and 4 of the IHF Statutes).

The above-mentioned dates all comply with the dates prescribed by the IHF Statutes. The XXXIX Ordinary IHF



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Congress has thus been convened in accordance with the Statutes.

Decision

The Congress affirmatively took note of the report regarding the convocation of the 2023 XXXIX Ordinary IHF Congress.

7. Adoption of the minutes of the preceding Congress

President Moustafa explained that the minutes of the XXXVIII Ordinary IHF Congress held by video conference on 6 November 2021 were examined by Bernd Rabenseifner (AUT, for the German version of the minutes) and Philippe Bana (FRA, for the French version of the minutes). The minutes were forwarded to the Council members, Member Federations and Continental Confederations on 5 January 2022 in compliance with Article 13.3.8 of the IHF Statutes.

No objection was raised and no request for amendment was submitted within the deadline of four weeks as stipulated in Article 13.3.8 of the IHF Statutes.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a simple majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on adopting the minutes of the XXXVIII Ordinary IHF Congress held by video conference on 6 November 2021?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results, stating that delegates from two NFs entitled to vote have joined the present meeting since the last voting:

Total possible votes:	121
Valid votes:	106
Abstentions (including blank votes):	15

Yes:	102	(96.23%)
No:	4	(3.77%)

The notary confirmed that the required simple majority of votes cast has been achieved.

Decision

The minutes of the XXXVIII Ordinary IHF Congress held by video conference on 6 November 2021 were adopted.

8. President's report

 *Speech of Kit McConnell, IOC Sports Director, on the development of beach handball and the decision of the IOC Executive Board for LA 2028*



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President Moustafa gave the floor to Kit McConnell, Sports Director of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), to report on the development of beach handball and the decision of the IOC Executive Board for LA 2028. Mr McConnell congratulated President Moustafa, the General Director and the IHF staff on their excellent work and also conveyed the gratitude of IOC President Dr Thomas Bach. He stated that the IOC acknowledges the innovations in the field of beach handball, as it is a good way of balancing a traditional team sport with a more modern approach. As the discipline has a strong and growing popularity, especially with the youth, the IOC decided to include beach handball in the programme of the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games and the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games and to stage a beach handball showcase event on the fringes of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Referring to the inclusion of beach handball in addition to indoor handball in the programme of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, Mr McConnell emphasised that a lot of discussion took place, as the proposal from the IHF was very strong and beach handball is a great format which is easy to organise. Ultimately, however, it was decided not to include beach handball in the LA2028 programme. Mr McConnell explained that the challenge was to control the costs and overall complexity of the Olympic Games, adding that the fairness across the different Olympic sports needs to be considered. As the IOC had received requests from 12 different International Federations to add 18 new disciplines, it was decided not to add any of the new disciplines unless there was a swap for an existing discipline (e.g. rowing). Mr McConnell highlighted the importance of being consistent, pointing out that the IOC's decision is not a criticism or judgement of beach handball.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, explaining that in his opinion, beach handball deserves to be included in the Olympic programme. He remarked that other sports (e.g. basketball, volleyball) are represented with two disciplines at the Olympic Games, emphasising that the differences among the Olympic sports already exist. Furthermore, he referred to the global development of beach handball, stating that the European Olympic Committees included beach handball in the programme of the 2023 European Games. Mr McConnell thanked the IHF Vice-President Europe for his input. Referring to the Olympic team sports with more than one discipline at the Olympic Games, he stressed that the addition of these disciplines was not a recent decision, adding that if any of the 12 requests for LA2028 had been accepted, it would have been even harder to explain such decision to the other International Federations.

Report in the form of a movie

President Moustafa then gave the floor to the General Director who announced to the Congress that a 40-minute film will be presented, showing the great achievements of the IHF in the last two years.

The film outlined the different projects the IHF has launched or maintained in order to further develop handball worldwide, such as the IHF Trophy, the IHF Emerging Nations Championship, the Handball at School programme with its goal to reach 50 million children worldwide in the next years, the New Markets' Project currently being organised in Great Britain, China, USA, India and Australia, and Olympic Solidarity. Since the 2021 Congress, the IHF has been very active with regard to the development of handball all over the world and hundreds of NFs and teams in all six continents have benefitted from the IHF development projects.

The film also revealed information on the revamp of the IHF Education Centre and the successful IHF Virtual Academy, which was launched in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as on the IHF partners and sponsors, the development and promotion of women's handball, as well as the anti-doping related agreement with the International Testing Agency (ITA). Furthermore, the film outlined topics such as the significant growth of IHF media (Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok), new IHF technology (Electronic Team Time-Out, Video Proof System), global membership (currently 209 Member Federations) and the IHF finances that continue to be stable and healthy despite the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which allows the IHF to further invest into development programmes.

The film also illustrated the important development in the field of wheelchair handball and beach handball, showing highlights of the 2022 Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships in Greece, the 2022 Men's and Women's Youth Beach Handball World Championships in Greece and the new Beach Handball Global Tour, which was introduced in 2022. In addition, beach handball will be a demonstration sport at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. With respect to wheelchair handball, the film presented scenes of the 1st IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt in 2022 and the 2022 World and European Wheelchair Handball Championship (Six-a-Side) in Portugal.

Moreover, the film showed highlights of the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in North Macedonia, the 2022 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in Slovenia, the 2023 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship in Croatia, the 2023 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship in Germany/Greece, the 2022 Men's Super Globe in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, the 2021 Women's World Championship in Spain and the 2023 Men's World Championship in Poland/Sweden. Referring to the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in North Macedonia, the film also highlighted the use of the resin-free ball at this competition after seven years of development. While the overall feedback after the event was positive, the IHF will continue the technical development of the ball and will organise long-term tests and elaborate methodological guidelines. In addition, a preview of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and a planned new IHF competition, the U17 World Championship, were shown.

Presentation of IHF CCM Chairman Dietrich Späte and IHF PRC Chairman Per Morten Sødal on Rules and Game Development

President Moustafa then gave the floor to the CCM Chairman and the PRC Chairman who reported on the rules and game development in the last two years. With respect to the current game structure, they remarked that handball has become even faster than before, which is a challenge for the referees. In addition, the players are not as tall as they were in the past, as the teams tend to favour quick players. The CCM Chairman emphasised that this is a positive development and makes handball more attractive.

Referring to the assessment of the new rules, the PRC Chairman stated that the new rule related to the throw-off area has a positive influence on the game structure, as it has made the game even quicker and less throws were executed incorrectly. He added that challenges regarding the ball hitting defenders before the throw were solved with a corridor and zones, and that minor adjustments regarding the execution are under consideration. With regard to the new rule relating to the shot in the head of the goalkeeper, the CCM Chairman and the PRC Chairman explained that it is well accepted on all levels. However, there has not been a clear reduction of shots to the head in open play situations due to the fact that it is difficult for the referees to detect such shots in some situations. The reduction of the maximum number of passes after showing the forewarning signal from six to four has also had a positive impact on the game structure, as the game is interrupted less frequently, the attacks are shorter, i.e. faster change between attack and defence, and uneventful game phases happen less often. With respect to the referees, the new rule requires a stronger focus on technical fouls. Referring to the game without a goalkeeper, the CCM Chairman and the PRC Chairman remarked that according to the analysis of the last IHF competitions, the game of 7 against 6 does not have a dominant influence on the game structure in handball at the moment. They also highlighted that 7 against 6 is one of several tactical options of head coaches for targeted strategic-tactical game control, emphasising that the rules do not have to be changed as long as the game without a goalkeeper is only used primarily in a situational manner.

The CCM Chairman and the PRC Chairman also provided information on the IHF Rule Interpretation. Referring to the throw-off and the duels between pivots and defenders, the PRC Chairman explained that many rule

interpretations are in favour of the attackers in order to have more high-scoring matches. However, he stressed that a special focus should be given to simulations, provocations and overreactions and that the referees are encouraged to sanction such behaviour, especially from attackers. Concerning the video replay (VR), the CCM Chairman and the PRC Chairman stated that the objective is to have as few and as short interruptions as possible. The PRC Chairman informed the attendees that at the 2023 Men's World Championship, the average VR time was approximately seven seconds, and less than one VR per match was used. He also mentioned the problem of irregular goals, as too many goals are scored when the attackers are using too many steps or are landing before the shot. With respect to passive play, the CCM Chairman explained that the tactical understanding of the game structure as a basic requirement is a new training focus for referees. He stressed that the assessment of passive playing styles has to be seen as a process and more precise observation and decision-making criteria in different game situations need to be developed.

Furthermore, the CCM Chairman and the PRC Chairman referred to the development of new technical and teaching media, stating that three new rule books (IHF Rules of the Game – Indoor Handball, IHF Rule Interpretation + App, IHF Technical Regulations) will be completed by 2025, aiming to make the rules more accessible for everyone. With respect to planned modifications or rule improvements in the near future, the CCM Chairman emphasised that no major rule changes are required. Referring to the new system with three referees, the PRC Chairman explained that different tests have already been carried out, adding that further tests will take place after the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. In addition, the CCM Chairman and the PRC Chairman informed the attendees that their objective is to make it easier to adapt rules and interpretations to the game development, especially smaller amendments and changes in the rule interpretation that do not require a testing period. They also highlighted the importance of intensive communication and cooperation between all stakeholders involved (Continental Confederations, Member Federations, coaches, referees) in order to ensure further development and improvements. As President Moustafa remarked that rules for children are required as well, the CCM Chairman confirmed that such rules are currently being elaborated.

Presentation of IHF TV and Marketing partner Sportfive

President Moustafa then gave the floor to Sportfive, the IHF TV and Marketing partner, represented by Senior Vice President Karsten Mahlmann and Senior Director Carsten Richter, to present their results in maximising IHF broadcast coverage, the TV audience and IHF event partners for recent World Championships (senior, younger age categories, beach handball). After introducing the company as well as its services and portfolio, the Sportfive representatives reported that the broadcast time and the cumulative audience have increased significantly since Sportfive took over, both for the men's and women's senior competitions, adding that the situation has improved in traditional as well as emerging handball markets. In addition, the development with regard to the market shares and audience in selected markets (e.g. Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany) has been very positive, especially for the Men's World Championships. For example, Sportfive managed to nearly triple the market share in Norway and in Sweden with over 66% each (both in 2023). Moreover, handball has had a huge exposure in USA and CHN, which are key markets for the IHF. Referring to the younger age category events and the Beach Handball World Championships, they explained that previous events had just been produced for the respective host territory of the competition and the IHF YouTube/social media channels with a small camera setup, thus resulting in a small exposure. For the most recent events in younger age category and Beach Handball World Championships, various broadcast deals were concluded (e.g. in more than 40 countries for the most recent Junior and Youth World Championships and in more than 10 countries for the most recent Beach Handball World Championships). With regard to the IHF event partners for the most recent IHF major events (2023 Men's and Women's World Championships), the Sportfive representatives highlighted that selling these marketing rights opens a new chapter in the successful partnership between the IHF and Sportfive. At the 2023 Men's World Championship, for example, fans were activated throughout every venue with the help of partners.

IHF House – Mathieu Jaus, external IHF auditor

Furthermore, President Moustafa informed the attendees that the IHF has been looking for a new Head Office due to the limited size of the current building. He welcomed Mr Mathieu Jaus, representative of the external IHF auditor Copartner Revision AG, and gave him the floor to provide information about the potential new IHF Head Office. Mr Jaus pointed out that a traditional house which fulfils all IHF requirements will become available in 2024. This building, which is close to bus and train stations, the airport and several hotels, consists of two parts. The more modern part, which was renovated ten years ago, has a total surface of 9,300 m² (including underground parking with 80 parking spaces), an office surface of 2,890 m² and a storage area of 610 m². It offers state-of-the-art infrastructure and a cafeteria/canteen on the top floor. The older part of the building has a total surface of 7,280 m², an office surface of 2,960 m² and a storage area of 1,320 m², and its entrance and facade are protected by the state. He highlighted that the IHF has a good chance to acquire one or both sections of the building. Mr Jaus pointed out that it is easy to split the whole building into two parts, as the building has two separate entrances and the infrastructure is duplicated on both sides. Therefore, the IHF would be very flexible with respect to the use of the building. He stressed that the IHF is more interested in the modern part but is waiting for the decision of the current owner on whether the entire building needs to be acquired. Mr Jaus also explained that possible options regarding the space that the IHF does not need would be defined depending on the specific requirements of the IHF. He added that the IHF is in the first negotiation process of acquiring the new house and highly optimistic about convincing the owner to sell the building(s).

Decision

The Congress took note of the information provided by President Moustafa, the IOC Sports Director, the CCM Chairman, the PRC Chairman, the Sportfive representatives and the external IHF auditor, and unanimously approved the President's report.

9. Financial and auditors' report

President Moustafa informed the attendees that the financial reports of the years 2021 and 2022 had been audited and confirmed by the external auditing company Copartner Revision AG as well as by the internal IHF auditors. All corresponding documents had been submitted to the Congress in writing within the deadline stipulated in Article 18.4 of the IHF Statutes.

President Moustafa gave the floor to Mr Mathieu Jaus, representative of the external IHF auditor Copartner Revision AG, who presented more details on the auditors' reports of 2021 and 2022, including the good health of the IHF's financial assets which have increased remarkably over the years. Mr Jaus showed a presentation, illustrating the healthy and stable financial situation of the IHF. He added that the television and broadcasting rights were the IHF's main source of income.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a simple majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on approving the financial and auditors' reports for the years 2021 and 2022?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results, stating that delegates from 19 NFs



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entitled to vote have joined the present meeting since the last voting:

Total possible votes: 140
Valid votes: 94
Abstentions (including blank votes): 46

Yes: 94 (100.00%)
No: 0 (0.00%)

The notary confirmed that the required simple majority of votes cast has been achieved.

Decision

The 2021 and 2022 financial and auditors' reports were unanimously approved by the Congress.

10. Membership admissions

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the Congress that the regional handball league of Réunion (Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball, REU – Africa) applied for regional IHF membership according to Article 8.1.7 of the IHF Statutes, outlining that regional members have no voting right at IHF Congresses and are not allowed to participate in official IHF competitions (World Championships, Olympic Games). She stressed that all admission requirements are fulfilled, explaining that the following documents were submitted to the IHF in compliance with Article 8.2 of the IHF Statutes:

- ✚ Letter of intent of the Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball, including composition of the board of directors
- ✚ Letter of confirmation that the Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball has its own budget and a court to play handball
- ✚ Statutes of the Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball, including but not limited to the following mandatory provisions:
 - Permanent compliance with the Statutes, Regulations and decisions of the IHF and of the Continental Confederation concerned (CAHB)
 - Compliance with the Rules of the Game applicable
 - Recognition of the IHF adjudicating bodies and Court of Arbitration for Sport, as specified in the IHF Statutes
 - Independent management of their missions and guarantee that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties.

The General Director added that the Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball was granted provisional regional membership by the IHF Council in its meeting on 31 October 2023.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a simple majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on granting definite regional membership to Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:



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Total possible votes: 140
Valid votes: 96
Abstentions (including blank votes): 44

Yes: 91 (94.79%)
No: 5 (5.21%)

The notary confirmed that the required simple majority of votes cast has been achieved.

Decision

The Congress decided to grant definite regional membership to Ligue Réunionnaise de Handball.

Consequently, the International Handball Federation has 210 members (201 full members, four associated members, five regional members).

11. Discharge

While treating this agenda item, IHF Honorary Member Mr Jörgen Holmqvist chaired the Congress. Following the external auditor's recommendation, he requested discharge of the President and of the entire Council from the Congress delegates.

He gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a simple majority of votes cast is required:

Please vote on discharging the IHF Council.

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes: 140
Valid votes: 92
Abstentions (including blank votes): 48

Yes: 81 (88.04%)
No: 11 (11.96%)

The notary confirmed that the required simple majority of votes cast has been achieved.

Decision

The Congress gave discharge to the President and the entire Council.

12. Motions to the Congress

12.1. Motions from IHF Executive Committee regarding IHF Statutes

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Council Members to present the following motions from the IHF



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Executive Committee regarding the IHF Statutes. He pointed out that the motions were approved by the IHF Executive Committee on 31 July 2023 and presented to the IHF Council members on 12 August 2023 who were in favour of all the motions. According to Article 13.5.7 of the IHF Statutes, changes to the Statutes require a two-third majority of valid votes cast.

Motion No. 1 (presented by Joël Delplanque)

Article 2 – Stakeholders

Handball stakeholders include any person or organisation that belongs in any capacity whatsoever to handball activities. They are bound by, **and must respect**, the provisions of the IHF Statutes **and other Regulations**, and shall abide by the decisions of the IHF. Handball stakeholders include but are not limited to the following:

Organisations:

International Handball Federation
Continental Handball Confederations
National Handball Federations (NFs)
Clubs – youth centres

Persons:

Coaches
Referees
Officials
Players
Medical staff
Players' agents

Justification:

Article 2 is proposed to be amended to ensure that the IHF stakeholders do not only comply with the provisions of the IHF Statutes, but also with all other Regulations of the IHF.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a two-third majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on motion no. 1 from IHF Executive Committee regarding the IHF Statutes (related to Article 2 – Stakeholders)?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	140
Valid votes:	102
Abstentions (including blank votes):	38

Yes:	94	(92.16%)
No:	8	(7.84%)

The notary confirmed that the present motion has reached the required two-third majority of votes cast and has thus been approved by the Congress.

Motion No. 2 (presented by Anna Rapp)



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Article 7 – Fairness

1. The IHF shall be committed to fairness in sport and prohibit any attempts at unfair performance improvement.
2. The prevention of any use of doping shall be of special concern. The WADA Code and standards in force shall be an integral part of the Anti-Doping Rules.
3. Any kind of corruption, bribery or undue influence, including receiving or accepting any kind of undue advantage or gifts shall be subject to sanctions pursuant to the Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines and the Legal Provisions.
4. All IHF stakeholders shall respect the provisions related to manipulation of match results, match-fixing and betting as outlined in the IHF Ethics Code.

Justification:

Taking into account that the issue of manipulation of results is getting more and more important, it is proposed to include a corresponding clause in the IHF Statutes along with a reference to the existing provisions in this respect in the IHF Ethics Code.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a two-third majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on motion no. 2 from IHF Executive Committee regarding the IHF Statutes (related to Article 7 – Fairness)?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	140
Valid votes:	113
Abstentions (including blank votes):	27

Yes:	104	(92.04%)
No:	9	(7.96%)

The notary confirmed that the present motion has reached the required two-third majority of votes cast and has thus been approved by the Congress.

Motion No. 3 (presented by Narcisa Lecusanu)

Article 8 – Membership

8.3. Member Federations' Obligations

Member Federations have the following obligations:

- a. full compliance with the Statutes, Regulations, directives and decisions of the IHF bodies at any time as well as the decisions of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). In case of conflict or contradiction with the IHF Statutes and Regulations, the IHF Statutes and Regulations shall prevail;
- b. full compliance with the IHF Ethics Code;
- c. participation in and completion of competitions organised by the IHF if qualified;
- d. settling membership fee and any outstanding debt if due;
- e. ensuring that their own members comply with the Statutes, Ethics Code, Regulations, directives and decisions of the IHF bodies;
- f. compliance with the Rules of the Game;
- g. full compliance with all other duties arising from these Statutes and other Regulations.



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Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member Federation ~~may shall~~ be subject to sanction according to Article 14.3.27.

8.5. Suspension and Resignation

[...]

1. IHF membership ~~may shall~~ be forfeited **at the request of the Council:**

- a. for **serious and/or repeated** violations of the IHF Statutes, Regulations, and resolutions, decided by a two thirds majority of votes cast at the Congress
 - b. if the Member Federation concerned no longer has the character of a National Federation, decided by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the Congress
 - c. if the Council cancels it because the prescribed fees and any outstanding debts have not been paid, at the earliest six months after their due date, to be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the Congress.
- If **an IHF membership Member Federation** is forfeited according to the procedures set out above, a new National Federation may be granted membership in accordance with Article 8. The newly admitted NF shall take over all financial obligations in case of non-fulfilment by the forfeited NF unless decided otherwise by the Council.

[...]

3. Suspension:

- A member suspended by the IHF Council according to Article 14.3.27 shall lose its membership rights. Other members must not maintain sporting contact with a suspended member. **Further sanctions may be imposed by other IHF adjudicating bodies in accordance with the IHF Statutes and Regulations.**
- A suspension imposed by the IHF Council according to Article 14.3.27 shall be confirmed at the next Congress by a two-third majority of votes cast. If the suspension is not confirmed, it will be automatically lifted.

Justification:

Article 8.3:

- *In the last sentence, a minor amendment ("may" instead of "shall") is proposed, taking into account that the Council may also refer cases to the IHF Ethics Commission, e.g. alleged violations of the Ethics Code.*

Article 8.5:

- *Point 1 is proposed to be amended to emphasise that the Council may request the forfeit of an IHF membership, which shall be decided/confirmed by the Congress.*
- *In point 1a, "serious and/or repeated" is proposed to be added to be consistent with Article 14.3.27 of the Statutes.*
- *In the last paragraph of point 1, a linguistic amendment ("IHF membership" instead of "Member Federation") is proposed for the sake of consistency.*
- *In point 3, a clause is proposed to be added to allow the IHF adjudicating bodies, e.g. the Ethics Commission, to impose further sanctions on suspended Member Federations, if necessary.*

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a two-third majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on motion no. 3 from IHF Executive Committee regarding the IHF Statutes (related to Article 8 –



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Membership)?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	140
Valid votes:	109
Abstentions (including blank votes):	31

Yes:	103	(94.50%)
No:	6	(5.50%)

The notary confirmed that the present motion has reached the required two-third majority of votes cast and has thus been approved by the Congress.

Motion No. 4 (presented by Dr Frantisek Taborsky)

Article 13 – Congress

13.4. Congress Agenda

The agenda of a Congress during which elections are usually held shall include the following points:

1. Opening of the Congress
2. Roll call and determination of the number of votes
3. Suspension **and/or** forfeit of membership

[...]

13.7. Election Criteria

1. A candidate standing for one of the IHF Council positions must have held six years' high level involvement and experience in his/her National Federation or Continental Confederation in one of the Board of Directors positions or as a player, coach or referee.
2. In addition, candidates standing for IHF positions must comply with the following criteria:

General conditions:

1. Not subject to suspension or moral penalties on national and/or international level
2. Not convicted of any criminal felony
3. Compliance with all provisions of the IHF Ethics Code
4. Good command of English language

For the following positions the qualification should include in addition to the above-mentioned:

Treasurer:

- Accountancy degree or equivalent level of competence

Arbitration Adjudicating bodies:

- Law degree or equivalent level of competence

Medical Commission:

- Medical degree

Playing Rules and Referees Commission:

- Former international referee

[...]

Justification:

Article 13.4.:

- *The third agenda item is proposed to be amended to clarify that both suspension and forfeit of*



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membership may be treated under this point.

Article 13.7.:

- *It is proposed to amend "Arbitration bodies" to "Adjudicating bodies", considering that not only candidates standing for the IHF Arbitration Commission and Arbitration Tribunal chair and membership, but also candidates standing for the IHF Ethics Commission chair and membership require a law degree or an equivalent level of competence.*

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a two-third majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on motion no. 4 from IHF Executive Committee regarding the IHF Statutes (related to Article 13 – Congress)?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	140
Valid votes:	109
Abstentions (including blank votes):	31

Yes:	107	(98.17%)
No:	2	(1.83%)

The notary confirmed that the present motion has reached the required two-third majority of votes cast and has thus been approved by the Congress.

Motion No. 5 (presented by Michael Wiederer)

Article 14 – Council

14.3. Council Duties

[...]

6. Appointing an independent electoral working group which shall ensure the compliance of the candidates' applications with the conditions stipulated in these Statutes. The working group shall inform the Council and report to the Congress on its decisions. **Appeals against final decisions of the working group may be lodged with the ad-hoc panel to be formed by the Arbitration Commission.**

[...]

27. The Council shall be entitled to suspend any **Member Federation stakeholders** that seriously and/or repeatedly violates **its their** obligations as members with immediate effect until the next Congress. The Council shall give the opportunity to the **Member Federation members** concerned to present **its their** arguments **and give them the benefit of the doubt until the members present their defence to the Council**, after which the Council may **revoke the decision and** lift the suspension. The suspension shall be subject to vote by the next Congress as per Article 8.5.3.

28. **Without prejudice to Article 14.3.27, the Council shall be entitled to refer matters involving a stakeholder to the Ethics Commission as provided for in the Ethics Code.**

29. The President shall draw up the agenda. Each Council member is entitled to submit items for inclusion in the agenda.

Justification:

- In point 6, it is proposed to add a clause regarding the possibility to appeal against final decisions of the electoral working group in order to avoid any potential issues.
- Point 27 is proposed to be amended to clarify that the Council may suspend Member Federations which failed to comply with their obligations as members. In addition, it shall be emphasised that any suspension imposed by the Council requires the confirmation of the next Congress.
- Point 28 is proposed to be added to give the Council the authority to refer matters to the IHF Ethics Commission. Article 4 of the Ethics Code, which currently allows National Federations, Continental Confederations and IHF Executive Committee members to refer an alleged violation of the Ethics Code to the Ethics Commission, would be amended accordingly.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a two-third majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on motion no. 5 from IHF Executive Committee regarding the IHF Statutes (related to Article 14 – Council)?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	140
Valid votes:	110
Abstentions (including blank votes):	30

Yes:	108	(98.18%)
No:	2	(1.82%)

The notary confirmed that the present motion has reached the required two-third majority of votes cast and has thus been approved by the Congress.

Motion No. 6 (presented by Per Morten Sødal)

Article 21 – Rules of the Game

1. All IHF Member Federations and **Continental Confederations** shall be obliged to play handball according to the Rules of the Game approved by the Council. With the PRC's agreement, a minimum of three Member Federations of different sports levels shall, for a limited period of at least one season, play according to modified rules in order to try them out.
2. ~~Once they have been passed by the Council, changes to the Rules of the Game shall be announced at the Congress taking place the year of the Men's World Championship, and reported to all Member Federations by the Head Office. They shall be published by 1 March of the following year and come into force on 1 July of the same year.~~

After being passed by the Council, the Council shall decide

- if a change to the Rules of the Game (not affecting the structure of the game) may be implemented starting from the following season (1 July), considering that the change must be reported in advance to the Member Federations and Continental Confederations (by 1 March); or
- if a change to the Rules of the Game must be tested according to Article 21.1 and announced at the Congress before being published by 1 March of the following year and coming into force on 1 July of the same year.

[...]



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Justification:

Point 1:

- Taking into account that not only Member Federations, but also Continental Confederations must comply with the IHF Statutes and Regulations, including the Rules of the Game, it is proposed to add the Continental Confederations in this provision for the sake of consistency.

Point 2:

- There are several types of changes to the Rules of the Game. The IHF's aim shall not be to make major changes without proper testing, but to implement those changes that will not have any influence on the structure of the game through a more efficient process. This will also make it easier to react as well as to act in order to keep up with tactical changes in the game and make the rules simpler and fairer.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a two-third majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on motion no. 6 from IHF Executive Committee regarding the IHF Statutes (related to Article 21 – Rules of the Game)?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	140
Valid votes:	106
Abstentions (including blank votes):	34

Yes:	105	(99.06%)
No:	1	(0.94%)

The notary confirmed that the present motion has reached the required two-third majority of votes cast and has thus been approved by the Congress.

Motion No. 7 (presented by Tomislav Grahovac)

Article 22 – IHF Adjudicating Bodies

1. The adjudicating bodies are:

- a. the Disciplinary Commission
- b. the Jury
- c. the Arbitration Commission
- d. the Arbitration Tribunal
- e. the Ethics Commission.

2. The responsibilities and function of these bodies shall be stipulated in the Legal Provisions, Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines and the Ethics Code.

3. The powers of the adjudicating bodies are without prejudice to the disciplinary powers of the Congress and Council as provided for in these Statutes.

4. There are two main adjudicating bodies: the Arbitration Commission and the Arbitration Tribunal.

5. The Disciplinary Commission and the Jury are active only during sports events.

6. The Ethics Code is the umbrella of the above-mentioned bodies.

Justification:



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Point 3 is proposed to be added to clarify that the delegation of powers to the adjudicating bodies does not prevent the Congress and Council to sanction Member Federations.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a two-third majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on motion no. 7 from IHF Executive Committee regarding the IHF Statutes (related to Article 22 – IHF Adjudicating Bodies)?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	140
Valid votes:	103
Abstentions (including blank votes):	37

Yes:	99	(96.12%)
No:	4	(3.88%)

The notary confirmed that the present motion has reached the required two-third majority of votes cast and has thus been approved by the Congress.

Decision

The Congress approved motions no. 1 to no. 7 regarding the IHF Statutes.

According to Article 13.6.6 of the IHF Statutes, the Congress resolutions will come into force three months after the decision of the Congress, i.e. on 2 February 2024.

12.2. Motions from IHF Member Federations regarding IHF Statutes – SWE

President Moustafa gave the floor to Mr Jörgen Holmqvist, Vice-President of Swedish Handball Federation, to present the following motion from the Swedish Handball Federation, which was submitted on 28 July 2023.

Motion from Swedish Handball Federation (presented by Jörgen Holmqvist)

Article 11 – Continental Confederations

11.2. General Conditions

[...]

8. The continental candidates for the IHF Vice-Presidency must hold office as the President in their continents.

~~The President of the Continental Confederation may assign a representative to the IHF Vice-Presidency.~~

[...]

Justification:

The current version is contradictory and there is no reason for not automatically having the highest ranked person from a Continental Confederation as the candidate for the IHF Vice-Presidency. Besides it is of importance for the National Federations in the different Continental Confederations to know that with the election of their President follows the candidacy for a position within IHF.



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Note: The wording of the justification is according to the original communication received from Swedish Handball Federation.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a two-third majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on the motion from Swedish Handball Federation regarding the IHF Statutes (related to Article 11 – Continental Confederations)?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	140
Valid votes:	105
Abstentions (including blank votes):	35

Yes:	59	(56.19%)
No:	46	(43.81%)

The notary confirmed that the present motion has not reached the required two-third majority of votes cast and has thus not been approved by the Congress.

Decision

The Congress decided not to approve the motion from the Swedish Handball Federation regarding the IHF Statutes.

13. Report on changes to the Rules and Regulations ratified by the Council

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Representative Europe who reported on the changes to the Rules and Regulations ratified by the Council, pointing out that all related information had been submitted to the Congress in writing.

13.1. Player Eligibility Code (III)

Amendments were approved by the 11th IHF Council Meeting held by video conference on 15 July 2021, the 2nd IHF Council Meeting held by video conference on 4 March 2022, the IHF Council by email communication on 24 May 2022 and the 4th IHF Council Meeting held in Prelog, CRO, on 12 August 2023. The revised version of the Player Eligibility Code was uploaded to the [IHF website](#).

13.2. Regulations for Transfer between Federations (IV)

Amendments were approved by the 11th IHF Council Meeting held by video conference on 15 July 2021, the 2nd IHF Council Meeting held by video conference on 4 March 2022, the IHF Council by email communication on 18 March 2022 and the 4th IHF Council Meeting held in Prelog, CRO, on 12 August 2023. The revised version of the Regulations for Transfer between Federations was uploaded to the [IHF website](#).



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13.3. Regulations for IHF Competitions (V)

Amendments were approved by the IHF Council by email communication on 3 May 2023 and the 4th IHF Council Meeting held in Prelog, CRO, on 12 August 2023. The revised version of the Regulations for IHF Competitions was uploaded to the [IHF website](#).

13.4. Regulations for Players' Agents (X)

Amendments were approved by the 2nd IHF Council Meeting held by video conference on 4 March 2022. The revised version of the Regulations for Players' Agents was uploaded to the [IHF website](#).

13.5. Regulations for International and Continental Referees (XI)

Amendments were approved by the 2nd IHF Council Meeting held by video conference on 4 March 2022 and the 4th IHF Council Meeting held in Prelog, CRO, on 12 August 2023. The revised version of the Regulations for International and Continental Referees was uploaded to the [IHF website](#).

13.6. Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses (XII)

Amendments were approved by the 2nd IHF Council Meeting held by video conference on 4 March 2022. The revised version of the Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses was uploaded to the [IHF website](#).

13.7. Floor Regulations (XIIIc)

Amendments were approved by the 12th IHF Council Meeting held by video conference on 20 September 2021 (new throw-off area; coming into force on 1 July 2022) and the IHF Council by email communication on 26 January 2022. The revised version of the Floor Regulations was uploaded to the [IHF website](#).

13.8. Ethics Code (XV)

Amendments were approved by the 4th IHF Council Meeting held in Prelog, CRO, on 12 August 2023 (coming into effect immediately after the Ordinary IHF Congress taking place on 2 November 2023, on condition that the Congress approves the motion related to Article 14.3.28 of the IHF Statutes). Taking into consideration that motion no. 5 was approved by the Congress (please refer to agenda item 12.1), the revised version of the Ethics Code will be uploaded to the [IHF website](#).

13.9. Financial Regulations (XXIV)

Amendments were approved by the XXXVIII Ordinary IHF Congress held by video conference on 6 November 2021 (coming into force on 6 February 2022 according to Article 13.6.6 of the IHF Statutes) and the 4th IHF Council Meeting held in Prelog, CRO, on 12 August 2023. The revised version of the Financial Regulations was uploaded to the [IHF website](#).

13.10. IHF Coaching Education Regulations (XXVII)

Amendments were approved by the 4th IHF Council Meeting held in Prelog, CRO, on 12 August 2023. The revised version of the IHF Coaching Education Regulations was uploaded to the [IHF website](#).

Decision

The Congress took note of the report on the changes to the IHF Regulations, which had been ratified by



the Council.

14. Confirmation of the IHF programme of activities

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that the IHF is working on the implementation of the IHF four-year programme of activities (2021-2025) which has been submitted to and approved by the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress. As explained in the two years' activity report (2021-2023), some of the projects on the programme have already been carried out while the others will be considered until the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress.

The main objective of the IHF Four-Year Plan 2021-2025 presented to the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress is to help develop handball throughout the globe, through a multitude of projects, tailor-made for stakeholders to cater for their needs. In addition, the Four-Year Plan 2021-2025 aims to increase diversity and the awareness of different roles in the National Federations as well as promote handball worldwide through the IHF Multipliers, a new generation of lecturers and modern and future-oriented coaches.

Youth talent has also been earmarked as the future of handball, with serious focus put on the "Discover and develop talents for the future" programme created by the IHF, with special mentoring programmes, alongside a top sport concept devised for young players to reach their potential. Another cornerstone programme created by the IHF is "Reach the Next Level", created to help more Member Federations to reach a competitive level, helping non-European federations gain a foothold in the sport.

Furthermore, the IHF has helped promote handball's global online presence, providing guidance and assistance to federations concerning their social media, tailored to the specific situations in different federations.

President Moustafa asked the Congress delegates to reconfirm the programme of activities and gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a simple majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on reconfirming the IHF programme of activities for the period 2021-2025?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	140
Valid votes:	100
Abstentions (including blank votes):	40

Yes:	98	(98.00%)
No:	2	(2.00%)

The notary confirmed that the required simple majority of votes cast has been achieved.

Decision

The Congress reconfirmed the IHF programme of activities for the period 2021-2025.



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15. Setting membership fees and approval of the budget

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Treasurer who referred to the decision of the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress, explaining that it is proposed to exempt Member Federations of category C (annual fee of CHF 150) from paying membership fees for the years 2024-2025.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a simple majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on exempting Member Federations of category C (annual fee of CHF 150) from paying membership fees for the years 2024-2025?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results, stating that another delegate from one NF entitled to vote has joined the present meeting since the last voting:

Total possible votes:	141
Valid votes:	101
Abstentions (including blank votes):	40

Yes:	96	(95.05%)
No:	5	(4.95%)

The notary confirmed that the required simple majority of votes cast has been achieved.

The Treasurer presented the proposal of the budget for the years 2024 and 2025, outlining the total incomes and total expenses of the two years and noting that the composition of the proposed budget is very similar to the budgets of the previous years. She pointed out that the budget foresees a profit for 2024 and a loss for 2025, explaining that the IHF generates approximately the same income each year but has more expenses in uneven years due to the organisation of the Men's and Women's Senior World Championships as well as the IHF Congress. However, in a two-year cycle, the IHF generates a profit whilst being active in the development of handball and adding new expenses, for example for wheelchair and beach handball. She stated that the biggest source of income in 2024 and 2025 will be the TV rights, adding that the expected income will mostly be invested into the different IHF projects, which have been tailored to assist the National Federations and further develop handball worldwide, such as Development Aid, the IHF Trophy, and the New Markets' Project.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a simple majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on approving the budget for the years 2024 and 2025?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	141
Valid votes:	100
Abstentions (including blank votes):	41



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Yes: 99 (99.00%)
No: 1 (1.00%)

The notary confirmed that the required simple majority of votes cast has been achieved.

Decision

The Congress agreed on exempting Member Federations of category C (annual fee of CHF 150) from paying membership fees for the years 2024-2025 and approved the budget for the years 2024 and 2025.

16. Scheduling time and place of the next Congress

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that by official communication dated 30 June 2023, the IHF invited all IHF Member Federations to apply for hosting the XXXX Ordinary IHF Congress in 2025. Those federations interested in organising the aforementioned event were asked to study the related bidding conditions and submit the completed event concept form to the IHF Head Office by 2 August 2023. She pointed out that the Egyptian Handball Federation is the only bidder for the XXXX Ordinary IHF Congress in 2025.

President Moustafa gave the floor to Mr Amr Salah, Treasurer of Egyptian Handball Federation, to present the bid on behalf of the Egyptian Handball Federation. Mr Salah thanked President Moustafa and stated that the Egyptian Handball Federation would like to host the IHF Congress in 2025 either in Cairo or Sharm El Sheikh. He showed a brief presentation revealing more detailed information and illustrating the benefits of organising the Congress in Cairo or Sharm El Sheikh, including but not limited to the good travel connections from the airport (13 km/57 km for the proposed hotels in Cairo; 10 km for the proposed hotel in Sharm El Sheikh). He pointed out that the proposed Congress hotels are the JW Marriott Cairo and the St. Regis Cairo Almasa, which both have numerous meeting rooms fulfilling the IHF requirements. For Sharm El Sheikh, Mr Salah presented the Mövenpick Sharm El Sheikh hotel, which also has many suitable meeting rooms for the Congress. He highlighted that both options offer various touristic sites, e.g. the Giza pyramids near Cairo or the Red Sea near Sharm El Sheikh. Mr Salah stressed that due to the difficulty in assessing the costs for the 2025 Congress at this point of time, the accommodation fee for the official Congress delegation (up to three persons per NF) as well as for accompanying persons would be defined at a later date. He added that the dates of the Congress would be determined in due course.

President Moustafa stressed the importance of carrying out an inspection of the Congress venue in order to ensure that all IHF requirements are met. He gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that a simple majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on

- *awarding the XXXX Ordinary IHF Congress in 2025 to Egyptian Handball Federation on condition that all IHF requirements are fulfilled, taking into consideration that a corresponding inspection is yet to be carried out by the IHF, and on*
- *authorising the IHF Council to decide on the accommodation fees and the date?*

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results, stating that another delegate from one NF entitled to vote has joined the present meeting since the last voting:



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Total possible votes: 142
Valid votes: 95
Abstentions (including blank votes): 47

Yes: 93 (97.89%)
No: 2 (2.11%)

The notary confirmed that the required simple majority of votes cast has been achieved.

Decision

The Congress agreed on awarding the XXXX Ordinary IHF Congress in 2025 to Egyptian Handball Federation on condition that all IHF requirements are fulfilled, taking into consideration that a corresponding inspection is yet to be carried out by the IHF, and on authorising the IHF Council to decide on the accommodation fees and the date.

17. Awarding of IHF President's Development Award and other Honours

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

1. Handball developed countries
2. Emerging federations

17.1. IHF President's Development Award – Handball developed countries

President Moustafa announced to the Congress that, according to the IHF Council decision made in its meeting in Basel, SUI, on 31 October 2023, the Dutch Handball Federation will receive the IHF President's Development Award in the category "Handball developed countries". He pointed out that the Dutch national teams are successful in all disciplines and age categories. The Dutch Handball Federation is also very active regarding the spread of handball in the country, as the Netherlands have over 50,000 handball players and the nation-wide programme "Do You Pass The Ball?!" reaches over 60,000 kids between 6 and 12 at about 450 PE schools every year. President Moustafa congratulated the representatives of the Dutch Handball Federation, stating that the IHF will send them the corresponding certificate.

17.2. IHF President's Development Award – Emerging federations

President Moustafa announced to the Congress that, according to the IHF Council decision made in its meeting in Basel, SUI, on 31 October 2023, the Turkish Handball Federation will receive the IHF President's Development Award in the category "Emerging federations". With respect to the spread of handball in Türkiye, the Turkish Handball Federation has launched several development programmes for both boys and girls, coaching courses are held twice a year for different categories and bilateral agreements have been reached with Germany to invite German coaches to Türkiye to help develop handball. President Moustafa congratulated the representatives of the Turkish Handball Federation, stating that the IHF will send them the corresponding certificate.

17.3. IHF President's Development Award – Top nations

President Moustafa announced to the Congress that, according to the IHF Council decision made in its meeting in Basel, SUI, on 31 October 2023, the Danish Handball Federation will receive the IHF President's Development Award in the new category "Top nations", considering that the Danish Handball Federation has recently achieved the best results on senior level of all IHF Member Federations, both in women's and men's competitions. The Danish Handball Federation is also highly involved in hosting events, making them an important partner for the IHF and a driving force in the organisation of top handball events. President Moustafa congratulated the representatives of the Danish Handball Federation, stating that the IHF will send them the corresponding certificate.

17.4. Organisers of IHF championships

President Moustafa conveyed his sincere gratitude to the organisers of the IHF championships held since the last Ordinary IHF Congress, i.e. November 2021:

- 🚩 25th Women's World Championship 2021 in ESP
- 🚩 2nd Men's and Women's Youth (U18) Beach Handball World Championships 2022 in GRE
- 🚩 10th Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships 2022 in GRE
- 🚩 23rd Women's Junior (U20) World Championship 2022 in SLO
- 🚩 9th Women's Youth (U18) World Championship 2022 in MKD
- 🚩 1st Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2022 in EGY
- 🚩 Men's Super Globe 2022 in KSA
- 🚩 World and European Wheelchair Handball Championship (Six-a-Side) 2022 in POR
- 🚩 28th Men's World Championship 2023 in POL/SWE
- 🚩 4th Men's Emerging Nations Championship 2023 in BUL
- 🚩 24th Men's Junior (U21) World Championship 2023 in GER/GRE
- 🚩 10th Men's Youth (U19) World Championship 2023 in CRO

17.5. Frank Birkefeld (posthumous)

President Moustafa paid tribute to the late Frank Birkefeld who spent a life in handball, even though he did not play or coach in the sport. He was the Managing Director of the German Handball Federation (DHB) from 1973 to 1991 and held the same position at the International Handball Federation from 1995 to 2007. After retiring in 2007, Mr Birkefeld started to pore through his memories and documents, eventually editing them into a two-volume 720-page work about the history of handball from centuries ago to the modern sport handball is now. He profoundly shaped handball and was considered an inspirational figure by those who had known him.

On behalf of the international handball family, President Moustafa conveyed his heartfelt appreciation for Mr Birkefeld's year-long valuable contribution to the development of handball worldwide, adding that the IHF will ensure that Mr Birkefeld's legacy lives on forever. An official certificate of appreciation will be sent to his family.

17.6. Rudi Glock (posthumous)

President Moustafa also paid tribute to the late Rudi Glock, the former IHF Treasurer and IHF Honorary Member. After his activity as a referee at national level in Germany from 1959 to 1970, Rudi Glock became the Treasurer of the German Handball Federation (DHB) from 1983 to 1989, as well as the Treasurer of the International Handball Federation from 1989 to 2000.

On behalf of the international handball family, President Moustafa conveyed his heartfelt appreciation for Mr



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Glock's enthusiasm for handball. An official certificate of appreciation will be sent to his family.

Decision

The Congress took note of the awarding of the 2023 IHF President's Development Award to Dutch Handball Federation (category: handball developed countries), Turkish Handball Federation (category: emerging federations) and Danish Handball Federation (category: top nations).

The Congress also took note of the Honours granted to Frank Birkefeld (posthumously) and Rudi Glock (posthumously).

18. Miscellaneous

18.1. Confirmation of IHF Vice-President Asia and IHF Representative Asia

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that the confirmation of the IHF Vice-President Asia and the IHF Representative Asia did not take place during the 2021 Ordinary IHF Congress. She explained that the following candidates nominated by the Asian Handball Federation (AHF) during the 23rd AHF Council Meeting held on 23 October 2023 have been provisionally confirmed by the IHF Council in its meeting on 31 October 2023:

-  IHF Vice-President Asia: Yoshihide Watanabe (JPN)
-  IHF Representative Asia: Bader Al-Theyab (KUW)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that an absolute majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on confirming Yoshihide Watanabe (JPN) as IHF Vice-President Asia until 2025?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:

Total possible votes:	142
Valid votes:	103
Abstentions (including blank votes):	39

Yes:	98	(95.15%)
No:	5	(4.85%)

The notary confirmed that the required absolute majority of votes cast has been achieved.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Lumi representatives and the notary who opened the voting, asking the delegates entitled to vote to cast their vote on the following question (read out by the notary), considering that an absolute majority of votes cast is required:

Do you agree on confirming Bader Al-Theyab (KUW) as IHF Representative Asia until 2025?

After closing the voting, the notary announced the following voting results:



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Total possible votes: 142
Valid votes: 97
Abstentions (including blank votes): 45

Yes: 97 (100.00%)
No: 0 (0.00%)

The notary confirmed that the required absolute majority of votes cast has been achieved.

Decision

The Congress confirmed Yoshihide Watanabe (JPN) as IHF Vice-President Asia and Bader Al-Theyab (KUW) as IHF Representative Asia until 2025.

19. Close of the Congress

A representative of the Turkish Handball Federation took the floor and conveyed his thanks to President Moustafa and the IHF for awarding the IHF President's Development Award in the category "Emerging federations" to TUR. As he enquired about the details of the U17 World Championships, e.g. the date of the first event, President Moustafa explained that the corresponding working group formed by the IHF Council is currently elaborating the concept of the new IHF competition, adding that the IHF stakeholders will be informed accordingly in due course.

President Moustafa thanked all Congress participants, the Council members, the interpreters, the electronic voting system provider Lumi, the independent notary Edward Gardiner and the staff of the IHF Head Office for their collaboration and their contribution to the success of the Congress.

President Moustafa promised to continue working hard to the benefit of the Member Federations and asked the delegates for their collaboration in promoting handball in their countries. He reiterated his willingness to support the Member Federations and wished them good luck in their activities. He conveyed once again his wishes for continued good health and safety to all participants, highlighting that he is looking forward to meeting them in person at the XXXX Ordinary IHF Congress in 2025.

President Moustafa declared the XXXIX Ordinary Congress of the International Handball Federation officially closed.



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Basel, 2 January 2024

INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION

Amal Khalifa
General Director

Bernd Rabenseifner
Examiner of Minutes

Philippe Bana
Examiner of Minutes

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President

Enclosure: Attendance list

Circulation: Member Federations
Continental Confederations
Council
Arbitration Commission / Arbitration Tribunal
Ethics Commission
Auditors