

**Activity Report
2021-2023**

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Dear Handball Friends,

Looking back at the last IHF Congress notes, which were partially linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is with great joy that this year's notes come at a time when handball activities are in full swing and the level of handball performed is of the highest quality. Thus, the period from November 2021 to October 2023 can be characterised as rewarding for our handball world.

During this time span, all the younger age category indoor World Championships returned, as did the beach handball senior and youth competitions and the IHF Men's Emerging Nations Championship. The IHF Men's Super Globe resumed in October 2021 and the Men's and Women's World Championships continued to offer unique handball moments.

A special milestone was the organisation of the maiden IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in Egypt in 2022, which was a major step for the discipline and was followed by the 2022 World and European Wheelchair Handball Championship (Six-a-Side) in Portugal. Furthermore, the resin-free ball was launched and it was used at the 2022 IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship and, for the first time, at the 2022 IHF Women's Youth World Championship.

The Congress report depicts the complete work of the International Handball Federation – the work of the IHF bodies, the IHF Commissions, the ongoing education efforts, the projects of the IHF and those in relation to the National Olympic Committees. Above all, it shows how all the IHF Member Federations put great effort in the development of handball in their individual countries so that we can grow from the local to the global level.

Thanks to you and the IHF Partners – SPORTFIVE, hummel, Molten and Gerflor – we are getting closer and closer to our goal of spreading handball worldwide and providing handball fans and the global audience with the most exciting high-level handball performances.

I present to you this year's edition of the IHF Congress notes. I hope we take a step back to observe and evaluate our activities and results and then continue to act with knowledge, expertise and unity.

A blue ink signature of Dr. Hassan Moustafa, written in a cursive style.

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President of the International Handball Federation



Over 100 meetings throughout the whole world

With handball activities in full swing, the International Handball Federation and IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa engaged in a variety of activities and meetings in the period between November 2021 and October 2023. The majority of the meetings took place in Europe and Africa, while the President travelled to the USA, as the new market has been a clear priority for the IHF in recent years. With the COVID-19 pandemic changing the rules and video conferences dominating the area of meetings, 24 meetings took place virtually.

The IHF Head Office was the meeting point for 12 encounters, with the IHF President welcoming IHF Partners, IOC representatives, Member Federations, Presidents and advisors. Special effort was put into arranging meetings during the IHF World Champi-

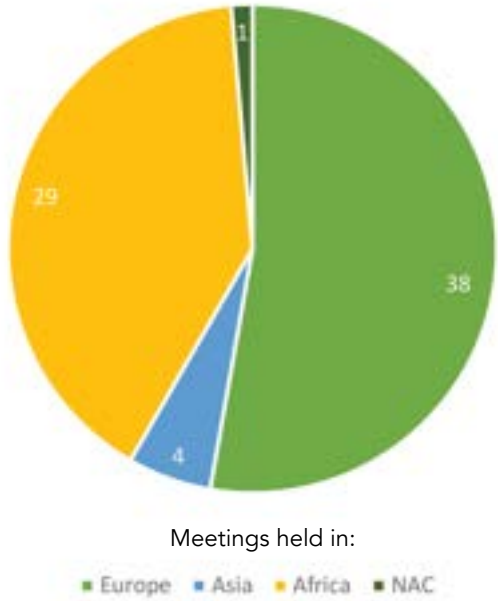
onships with the Presidents and representatives of the IHF Member Federations that are less easy to visit during the year due to the geographical distance. In every meeting, the goal is always the promotion and further development of handball and its values.

The IHF President also attended seven IHF events (Spain 2021, Greece 2022, Egypt 2022, 2022 IHF Men's Super Globe, Poland/Sweden 2023, Germany/Greece 2023, Croatia 2023), while conducting meetings with all the major stakeholders in handball and the continental confederations (CAHB, AHF, EHF, NACHC, OCHF) plus with other important bodies of the sporting world, like IOC, ASOIF, ANOCA, World Aquatics, International Committee of Mediterranean Games, World Olympians Association, Fédération

Equestre Internationale, Egyptian Olympic and Paralympic Committees, Paris 2024, Fédération Internationale d'Escrime, International School Sport Federation, Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne, Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique, National Sports Agency of Czechia, Saudi Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

In September 2023, the European Handball Federation organised their 16th Ordinary Congress in Basel, Switzerland. On the fringes of the Congress, the IHF welcomed Presidents, Secretary Generals and representatives from more than 20 European federations for a visit of the IHF's Head Office. The IHF President met with all of them, including the EHF President, and attended all the activities of the European Handball Federation.

Number of meetings



Meetings held in:

+24
virtual
meetings

+ more than 20
meetings with Eu-
ropean federations,
on the fringes of the
EHF Congress



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Spain seal maiden title at the 2023 IHF Men’s Youth World Championship

The first-ever edition of the IHF Men’s Youth World Championship with 32 teams at the start delivered an excellent competition in four venues in Croatia, with six sides making their debut in this age category. With an eight-game winning streak, Spain secured their first trophy in the competition, after winning against Denmark in the final, while hosts Croatia defeated the reigning champions, Egypt, in the bronze-medal match.

Six teams – Burundi, Czechia, the Faroe Islands, Montenegro, Rwanda and the United States of America – made their debut at the 2023 IHF Men’s Youth World Championship, with the Faroe Islands delivering the player with the largest number of goals in a single edition in the history of the competition, Oli Mittun (87 goals).

This was Spain’s third medal at an IHF Men’s Youth World Championship after two previous silver medals, while Denmark lost their first final but still sealed their sixth medal in nine editions of the competition.

In the bronze-medal match, Croatia and Egypt went toe-to-toe until the last minutes and pushed the game into extra-time, where the European side clinched a 39:37 win in the highest-scoring bronze-medal match in the history of the competition, securing their first medal at the IHF Men’s Youth World Championship since 2013.

Final ranking

1. ESP, 2. DEN, 3. CRO, 4. EGY, 5. GER, 6. POR, 7. NOR, 8. FAR, 9. MKD, 10. CZE, 11. HUN, 12. KSA, 13. AUT, 14. BRA, 15. SLO, 16. IRI, 17. SWE, 18. MAR, 19. ISL, 20. MNE, 21. JPN, 22. ALG, 23. ARG, 24. CHI, 25. KOR, 26. GEO, 27. RWA, 28. USA, 29. BRN, 30. MEX, 31. NZL, 32. BDI

World champions Spain (ESP)

Alberto Delgado Molina, Alejandro Pisonero Cartujo, Alvaro Perez Mendez, Carlos Ocaña Matas, Djordje Cikusa I Jelacic, Ezequiel Conde Alcaraz, Ferran Castillo Oliveras, Ian Barrufet Torrebejano, Iosu Arzoz Azofra, Jokin Aja Gárate, José María Fernández-Martos Herrero, Pablo Guijarro Moreno, Pablo Herrero Polvorosa, Petar Cikusa I Jelacic, Pol Amores Hernandez, Victor Romero Holguín, Xavier González Unciti
Coach: Javier Fernández López





Republic of Korea become first-ever non-European side to win trophy at IHF Women’s Youth World Championship

2022 also brought the first-ever edition of the IHF Women’s Youth World Championship with 32 participating teams. For the first time in history, a non-European team, the Republic of Korea, won the trophy, after winning all their eight games against European opposition. Hungary clinched the bronze medal after winning against the Netherlands.

A magnificent performance, which captured the minds of fans and rivals alike, saw the Republic of Korea ride an eight-game winning streak to become the first non-European team in history to lift the trophy at the IHF Women’s Youth World Championship. The world handball flagship competition reserved for players aged 18 or younger was held in North Macedonia for the second time in history and saw teams from four continents take part.

The Republic of Korea, who finished third and sealed the bronze medal in 2016 and 2018, went one step further and delivered a masterstroke of a performance, taking the competition by storm.

In the final, the Republic of Korea handed previously unbeaten Denmark their first loss, took early control of the game in the “Boris Trajkovski” arena and sealed a 31:28 win, with the MVP of the tournament, Minseo Kim, scoring nine goals.

Hungary secured their second medal in history, after a nail-biting 27:26 win against the Netherlands in the bronze-medal game, with the decisive goal coming in the last second.

Final ranking

- 1. KOR, 2. DEN, 3. HUN, 4. NED, 5. FRA, 6. SWE, 7. EGY, 8. ISL, 9. NOR, 10. GER, 11. CRO, 12. MKD, 13. POR, 14. ROU, 15. BRA, 16. IRI, 17. ESP, 18. MNE, 19. FAR, 20. SLO, 21. SUI, 22. CZE, 23. AUT, 24. UZB, 25. ARG, 26. SVK, 27. KAZ, 28. SEN, 29. GUI, 30. IND, 31. URU, 32. ALG

World Champions Republic of Korea (KOR)

Hyewon Lee, Songwon Kim, Hyein Ahn, Seoyoung Lim, Seojin Kim, Gayeong Kim, Yeana Oh, Jia Kim, Kyuhee Lee, Jihyeon Park, Minseo Kim, Seoyeon Cha, Sujeong Park, Jaeyeon Shin, Sejin Kim, Minjeong Cho
Coach: Jin Soon Kim

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Masterclass performance sees Germany win on home court at the 2023 IHF Men’s Junior World Championship

A historic edition of the IHF Men’s Junior World Championship was staged in Germany and Greece in June and July 2023: the first-ever edition with 32 teams at the start and the first in 43 years to be co-hosted by two countries. Hosts Germany completed an unprecedented success, winning all games on their way to the trophy, supported by excellent fans. Hungary and Iceland, who won their first medals in 18 and 30 years, respectively, completed the podium.

For the first time since 2015, a team secured the title by winning all their matches in regular time, with Germany riding an eight-game winning streak to clinch their third title at the IHF Men’s Junior World Championship.

In a sold-out final in the packed Max-Schmeling-Halle in Berlin, with 8,235 fans taking to the stands and creating an excellent atmosphere in the highest-attended final since 2009, Germany controlled the match and sealed a 30:23 win over Hungary in the most lopsided last act of the competition since 2011, when Germany took a 27:18 win over Denmark.

For the first time in history, the final of the competition was whistled by South American referees, with a couple from Uruguay taking over and completing their duties.

Iceland also finished the competition on a high, taking a 27:23 win over Serbia in the bronze-medal game, clinching their first medal at the IHF Men’s Junior (U21) World Championship since 1993 with an excellent performance.

Final ranking

1. GER, 2. HUN, 3. ISL, 4. SRB, 5. DEN, 6. POR, 7. FAR, 8. CRO, 9. ESP, 10. EGY, 11. FRA, 12. SWE, 13. BRN, 14. TUN, 15. GRE, 16. BRA, 17. POL, 18. NOR, 19. JPN, 20. SLO, 21. KSA, 22. ALG, 23. MAR, 24. KUW, 25. ARG, 26. ANG, 27. USA, 28. CUB, 29. CHI, 30. LBA, 31. CRC, 32. GRL

World champions Germany (GER)

David Späth, Lasse Ludwig, Tim Freihöfer, Nils Lichtlein, Mathis Häsel, Moritz Sauter, Stephen Seitz, Matthias Langhoff, Ole Pregler, Florian Kranzmann, Niclas Heitkamp, Renars Uscins, Christian Wilhelm, Justus Fischer, Max Christoph Beneke, Elias Scholtes, Sören Steinhaus, Mika Sajenev

Coach: Martin Heuberger





Norway shock favourites to deliver excellent win at the 2022 IHF Women’s Junior World Championship

Norway captured their second title at the IHF Women’s Junior World Championship, delivering an impressive performance at Slovenia 2022, including a 31:29 win against strong favourites Hungary in the big final, thus ending a 12-year wait for the trophy.

After a four-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the IHF Women’s Junior World Championship returned in style, with the first-ever 32-team line-up, as five continents were represented in the competition, with three teams – India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Guinea – making their debut. Eventually, it was Norway that delivered a flawless performance in Slovenia, securing their second title in the history of the competition after winning seven games and drawing one.

After a 15-game unbeaten streak, Hungary lost their first match and had to settle for the silver medal, their third in history, after 2001 and 2003. On the other hand, Norway clinched their second title after 2010, when a star-studded team including Stine Bredal Oftedal, Nora Mørk and the Solberg sisters clinched the gold medal.

The Netherlands ended up in third place with a 31:20 win over Sweden in the bronze-medal match, which saw Kim Molenaar lighting up the match with eight goals. The left back, who had already made her debut for the senior team, was named MVP of the tournament and was the joint top scorer alongside Czechia’s Charlotte Cholevova, scoring 62 goals.

Moreover, the final was whistled by a South American couple, Argentinians Mariana García and María Inés Paolantoni, a premiere for the competition.

Final ranking

1. NOR, 2. HUN, 3. NED, 4. SWE, 5. DEN, 6. ANG, 7. GER, 8. SUI, 9. JPN, 10. MNE, 11. CZE, 12. CRO, 13. FRA, 14. SLO, 15. EGY, 16. TUN, 17. POL, 18. ROU, 19. KOR, 20. SVK, 21. LTU, 22. BRA, 23. GUI, 24. AUT, 25. ARG, 26. IND, 27. CHI, 28. KAZ, 29. ITA, 30. IRI, 31. USA, 32. MEX

World Champions Norway (NOR)

Jenny Sofie Sundt Utne, Susanne Liberg Amundsen, Kaja Løken, Avril Mikkelsen Frei, Frida Brandbu Andersen, Johanne Halseth Nypan, Henriette Espetvedt Eggen, Martine Kårigstad Andersen, Johanna Fossum, Kaja Røhne, Charlotte Koffeld Iversen, Maria Bergslien Gald, Rikke Midtfjeld, Celina Vatne, Maja Furu Sæteren, Lina Waage Mossestad, June Krogh

Coach: Tore Johanessen

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Denmark deliver historic win at Poland/Sweden 2023

The 28th edition of the IHF Men’s World Championship provided a historic backdrop, with Denmark rewriting the history books, as the Scandinavian side secured their third consecutive title, something that has never been achieved in men’s handball before.

Poland/Sweden 2023 was only the second edition of the IHF Men’s World Championship to be co-hosted by two countries, four years after the previous edition, which took place in Germany and Denmark, and the 2023 edition of the competition will surely remain etched in history. The 112 matches of the competition brought over 600,000 fans in the stands to see 6,555 goals and with an average of 58.52 goals scored per match, it was the highest-scoring Men’s World Championship in history. The competition also provided a historic result, as Denmark went unbeaten for the third edition of the IHF Men’s World Championship.

Spearheaded by MVP and top goal scorer of the competition, Mathias Gidsel, Denmark delivered an impressive performance to extend their unprecedented streak to 28 unbeaten games, having last lost a game at the IHF Men’s World Championship at France 2017. The reigning champions were unblemished in the preliminary round, dropped a single point in the main round, with a nail-biting draw (32:32) against Croatia, while eliminating Hungary and Spain in the quarter-finals and semi-finals, respectively.

23,050 fans attended the highest-profile match at Poland/Sweden2023 – the big final between Denmark and France –, making it one of the most-watched finals in the history of the competition, in an impressive setting in the Tele2 Arena in Stockholm. Earlier, in the same arena, 22,650 fans attended the bronze-medal match, in which Spain defeated Sweden, claiming third place for the second time in a row.

Final ranking

1. DEN, 2. FRA, 3. ESP, 4. SWE, 5. GER, 6. NOR, 7. EGY, 8. HUN, 9. CRO, 10. SLO, 11. SRB, 12. ISL, 13. POR, 14. NED, 15. POL, 16. BRN, 17. BRA, 18. MNE, 19. ARG, 20. USA, 21. BEL, 22. QAT, 23. CPV, 24. IRI, 25. TUN, 26. CHI, 27. MKD, 28. KOR, 29. KSA, 30. MAR, 31. ALG, 32. URU

World Champions Denmark (DEN)

Niklas Landin Jacobsen, Niclas Vest Kirkeløkke, Magnus Landin Jacobsen, Emil M. Jakobsen, Rasmus Lauge Schmidt, Magnus Saugstrup Jensen, Hans Lindberg, Mathias Gidsel, Kevin Møller, Henrik Møllgaard Jensen, Mads Mensah Larsen, Mikkel Hansen, Lukas Lindhard Jørgensen, Jóhan Á Plogv Hansen, Michael Damgaard Nielsen, Jacob Tandrup Holm, Simon Hald Jensen, Simon Bogetoft Pytlick, Mads Hoxer Hangaard, Lasse K. Møller
Coach: Nikolaj Bredahl Jacobsen





WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Norway seal magnificent fourth trophy at the 2021 IHF Women’s World Championship

Norway became the most decorated team in history at the 2021 IHF Women’s World Championship, after securing their fourth crown, with an outstanding performance at Spain 2021, the first-ever world handball flagship competition with a 32-team line-up in the women’s championship.

Led by Kari Brattset Dale, the first line player to be voted MVP, Norway drew a single game on their way to the trophy – against Sweden in the main round – and secured an outstanding comeback in the final, erasing a four-goal deficit at the break against reigning Olympic champions France to clinch a 29:22 win, with a flawless performance in the second half.

This was Norway’s 11th medal at the IHF Women’s World Championship, boasting the largest number of medals in history, with four gold medals and four silver medals each, plus three bronze medals, missing out on a spot on the podium only twice in the past eight editions of the world handball flagship competition.

Denmark played an excellent competition and secured their sixth medal in history, after clinching the bronze medal with a clear 35:28 win over hosts Spain.

Final ranking

- 1. NOR, 2. FRA, 3. DEN, 4. ESP, 5. SWE, 6. BRA, 7. GER, 8. RHF, 9. NED, 10. HUN, 11. JPN, 12. SRB, 13. ROU, 14. KOR, 15. POL, 16. AUT, 17. SLO, 18. CRO, 19. CZE, 20. PUR, 21. ARG, 22. MNE, 23. CGO, 24. KAZ, 25. ANG, 26. SVK, 27. TUN, 28. CMR, 29. PAR, 30. UZB, 31. IRI, 32. CHN

World Champions Norway (NOR)

Henny Reistad, Emilie Hegh Arntzen, Veronica Kristiansen, Nora Mørk, Stine Bredal Oftedal, Malin Aune, Silje Solberg, Kari Brattset Dale, Vilde Ingstad, Katrine Lunde, Moa Högdahl, Marit Røseberg Jacobsen, Camilla Herrem, Sanna Solberg-Isaksen, Kristine Breistøl, Emilie Hovden, Rikke Granlund, Maren Nyland Aardahl
Coach: Thorir Hergeirsson



Croatia soar to gold medal at the 2022 IHF Men’s Youth Beach Handball World Championship

After a long five-year wait, the IHF Men’s Youth Beach Handball World Championship returned to action. The title-holders from Mauritius 2017, Spain, were one of just three teams among the 16 sides that returned to the championships in Heraklion, along with Togo and 2017 bronze medallists Argentina.

Spain were the clear favourites for the title at Greece 2022, with the Youth Olympic Games title under their belt, but they were shocked in their opening match, losing a shoot-out against Jordan to suffer a 1-2 defeat. However, they quickly recovered and eventually joined Croatia, Ukraine, France, Germany, Brazil, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Argentina in the quarter-finals.

The semi-finals both went to shoot-outs, with Croatia and Brazil defeating France and the Islamic Republic of Iran, respectively. The Iranians went on to win the bronze-medal match against France with a golden goal in the second period.

The final was a classic Men’s Beach Handball World Championship final, with Croatia competing against Brazil. The Europeans managed to win gold, beating the South American side 9:6 in a shoot-out after the game had ended in a deadlock.

Final ranking

1. CRO, 2. BRA, 3. IRI, 4. FRA, 5. ARG, 6. UKR, 7. ESP, 8. GER, 9. SWE, 10. QAT, 11. CZE, 12. JOR, 13. GRE, 14. URU, 15. TOG, 16. USA

World Champions Croatia (CRO)

Antonio Kranjcevic, Antonio Fabek, Borna Bubalo, FraFran Cvjeticanin, Gabriel Botic, Josip Tomic, Luka Glavendekic, Matija Jurasovic, Roko Filipovic, Vigo Konforta

Coach: Stjepan Babić

BEACH HANDBALL

Spain win historic title at the 2022 IHF Women’s Youth Beach Handball World Championship

All three medallists from the debut edition of the IHF Women’s Youth Beach Handball World Championship – Mauritius 2017 – returned to action at Greece 2022.

There were no real upsets in the preliminary and main round groups, in which Greece were unable to make it through to the quarter-finals. The last eight saw six European teams and two from South America compete, with Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain all making it through.

The first semi-final was a repeat of the 2017 final, with the Netherlands getting the better of Hungary and handing them their first defeat at Greece 2022. Spain’s Maria Trujillo Arteaga ensured that Poland were seen off in their semi-final shoot-out, saving some crucial balls to ensure a 6:4 win and a final spot. Poland went on to claim bronze against Hungary, defeating the European champions 7:2 in a shoot-out.

Spain won gold in a record-breaking final against the Netherlands. Ahead of the gold-medal match, no team had ever scored 30 points in an IHF Beach Handball World Championship final set. There were 18 in total – 16 senior, stretching back to 2004, and two youth editions – both held in 2017.

But that changed. The first set saw Spain win 30:16 and history being made. Unbelievably, the Netherlands then added to that history, winning the second set 30:22. It went to a shoot-out and in the end, all Spain needed was a single point. It was Maria Laguna Contreras who saw the opportunity of an open goal and shot full-court into the empty net to secure gold.

Final ranking

1. ESP, 2. NED, 3. POL, 4. HUN, 5. ARG, 6. FRA, 7. GER, 8. BRA, 9. ROU, 10. UKR, 11. THA, 12. GRE, 13. URU, 14. IND, 15. PUR, 16. HKG

World Champions Spain (ESP)

Andrea Perez Rull, Carla Gallego Robles, Cayetana Martin Lopez, Claudia Romero Moral, Malena Diaz Coppens, Maria Trujillo Arteaga, Maria Laguna Contreras, Mariam Gonzalez Llambrich, Paula Moya Iniesta, Paula Quiles Vera
Coach: José Luis Pérez Poblete





Croatia seal winning return at the 2022 IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championship

Brazil and Croatia both arrived in Greece at their ninth straight IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championship, the only two sides to have appeared at every edition to date. They were the two big favourites of the competition, which eventually was won by the European side, for the third time in history.

16 teams from six continents played 72 games at the 2022 IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championship, as the competition returned after a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

After an excellent preliminary stage and main round, with surprises abounding, Croatia, Norway, Greece, Uruguay, Denmark, Brazil and Spain joined Qatar, who had beaten the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Croatia, Denmark and Brazil all took expected quarter-final wins, but Greece shocked Qatar and delivered a shoot-out win to ensure a semi-final place. The semi-finals both went to shoot-outs, with Croatia prevailing over the hosts and Denmark beating Brazil. And the two games left were crackers! Brazil used their experience against debutants Greece (2-0) to win their first-ever bronze medal at a World Championship, while the last act of Greece 2022 was a repeat of the 2021 European Championship final.

Croatia, in their fourth successive IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championship gold-medal match, dispatched a determined Denmark side 2-0 in the final and took the top of the podium yet again.

Final ranking

1. CRO, 2. DEN, 3. BRA, 4. GRE, 5. QAT, 6. URU, 7. ESP, 8. NOR, 9. IRI, 10. POR, 11. ARG, 12. USA, 13. ECU, 14. NZL, 15. EGY, 16. PUR

World Champions Croatia (CRO)

Borna Kolic, Dominik Markovic, Filip Goricanec, Ivan Juric, Ivan Dumencic, Josip Leko, Josip Dukes, Lucian Bura, Nikola Finek, Valentino Valentakovic

Coach: Mladen Paradzik

BEACH HANDBALL

Germany dominate to clinch world title

The big names were all in Heraklion, including the host nation and title-holders Greece. They were joined by Brazil – the only ever-present team in the history of the championships – 2019 ANOC World Beach Games champions Denmark and European champions Germany, returning to the World Championship for the first time since 2006, when they won silver.

In total, there were 16 teams from five continents fighting for the title across 72 games. After the preliminary and the main rounds concluded, the quarter-finals produced two expected results and two surprises: Germany defeated Portugal in their seventh consecutive 2-0 win, and Greece took down Argentina, while Brazil were knocked out by Spain and Denmark were taken down by the Netherlands.

Host nation hearts were broken in the semi-finals as Spain saw off 2018 champions Greece 2-0, while Germany were performing flawlessly again in their match, defeating the Netherlands 2-0.

The Dutch beat Greece in a bronze-medal shoot-out. After four perfectly dispatched shots each, Greece saw their next one saved and Meike Kruijer scored the single point to leave the home fans heartbroken.

In the final, Spain were unable to get revenge for their 2021 European Championship semi-final defeat, while the Germans made it nine 2-0 games in a row and thus extended their run to 18 championship games won in less than a year as they added a World Championship title to their European crown. They saw off Spain in an extremely tight gold-medal match, with both sets leading to a golden goal.

Final ranking

1. GER, 2. ESP, 3. NED, 4. GRE, 5. DEN, 6. BRA, 7. ARG, 8. POR, 9. HUN, 10. THA, 11. NOR, 12. URU, 13. VIE, 14. USA, 15. MEX, 16. AUS

World Champions Germany (GER)

Amelie Möllmann, Belen Gettwart, Isabel Kattner, Katharina Filter, Kirsten Sophie Walter, Lena Klingler, Liv Süchting, Lucie Marie Kretzschmar, Michelle Schäfer, Sara Irmeler

Coach: Alexander Daniel Novakovic





Brazil seal dramatic title at the maiden IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship

Wheelchair handball has been getting more and more popular in recent years, with the International Handball Federation laying the groundwork for the sport to thrive in the future with a strategy that underlines several key performance indicators for the next decade. One of them was the inaugural edition of the IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship, which took place in 6th of October in Egypt, between 22 and 25 September 2022, with six teams from four different continents taking the court in the Dr Hassan Moustafa Sports Hall.

Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, the Netherlands and Slovenia made history in the competition, which was played in a round-robin format with the first two teams in the group progressing to the final, while the third and fourth sides of the preliminary round met in the bronze-medal game.

After four days of fierce competition, Brazil confirmed their status as favourites and were crowned champions, sweeping their opponents in the preliminary round without dropping a set, but facing a strong opposition from hosts Egypt in the big final.

Brazil took the first set, 8:3, again displaying their dominance over their opponents. However, the South American side started to fade in the second set, taken by Egypt in the dying seconds, 7:6, after Toubá Magdi Mahmoud Issa scored the decisive goal.

A more experienced side, Brazil clinched the title by converting three of their four shots in the shoot-out and were crowned the first world champions, winning all the six games they played and only losing a single set, while Egypt sealed the silver medal.

Previously, Slovenia had clinched the bronze medal with a 2-0 (7:6, 6:2) win over Chile in the bronze-medal game.

Final ranking

- 1. BRA, 2. EGY, 3. SLO, 4. CHI, 5. NED, 6. IND

World Champions Brazil (BRA)

Aline de Sousa, Anderson Ferreira, Claudinei Marques Dias, Cristiane Navarro, Eliana Lima, Guilherme Lourenço, Jordean Rodrigues, Marcelo Amaral, Paulo Franco, Shirlei Januário

Coach: Samuel Vieira

WHEELCHAIR HANDBALL

Hosts Portugal strike gold at the 2022 World & European Wheelchair Handball Championship

Wheelchair handball saw its second important event taking place in November 2022, with the first-ever 2022 World & European Wheelchair Handball Championship being hosted by Leiria, Portugal.

A total of nine teams – seven teams from Europe joined by two sides from Asia – took part in the event and competed for the coveted trophy, as Croatia, Spain, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Romania were joined by India and Pakistan in the competition, which was initially scheduled for 2020 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Right from the start, Portugal confirmed their status as the big favourites, reaching the final riding a four-game winning streak and there was no stopping the hosts, who clinched a 18:10 win against the Netherlands, who had multiple players featuring both in the 2022 World & European Wheelchair Handball Championship and in the IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship.

In the bronze-medal game, Norway won their first medal in an international wheelchair handball competition, taking a 15:14 win over India.

Final ranking

1. POR, 2. NED, 3. NOR, 4. IND, 5. ESP, 6. CRO, 7. HUN, 8. ROU, 9. PAK

World Champions Portugal (POR)

Tiago Cantigas, Filipe Cerqueira, Iderlindo Gomes, Joao Jeronimo, Diana Machado, Pedro Marques, Adriano Mendes, Nuno Nogueira, Joao Pedro, Ricardo Queiros, Maria Relvas, Rui Rodrigues, Euclides Soares, Etelvina Vieira, Rodrigo Vieira

Coach: Danilo Ferreira



Stellar Magdeburg seal back-to-back wins at the IHF Men’s Super Globe

The 2022 IHF Men’s Super Globe returned to Saudi Arabia, with Dammam hosting 12 teams in a superb tournament that culminated in a high-octane roller coaster of a final, which saw SC Magdeburg retain their title ahead of EHF Champions League winners Barça in the highest-scoring final in the history of the competition.

Magdeburg also became the third team in history to win back-to-back in consecutive years at IHF Men’s Super Globe, after Barça and fellow German side Fühse Berlin, creating an eight-game winning streak in the process.

In the third edition hosted by Saudi Arabia, the IHF Men’s Super Globe saw a record 12-team line-up, with all six continents represented in Dammam, as Mexican side Club Ministros made their debut alongside hosts Khaleej and the EHF European League Men’s reigning champions, SL Benfica.

The 12 teams were divided into four groups of three teams each, with the winner progressing to the semi-finals. The biggest surprise was Egyptian powerhouse Al-Ahly, who earned their first win in the history of the IHF Men’s Super Globe against a European side by beating Benfica (29:28).

The final was a rematch of the previous edition’s final when Magdeburg took a 33:28 win over the Spanish powerhouse. But this time around, Barça mounted a comeback from a slow start and cancelled a six-goal lead from Magdeburg, pushing the game into extra-time after a 35:35 draw.

With an outstanding game from right back Ómar Ingi Magnússon, who scored 12 goals, Magdeburg delivered a 41:39 win in the highest-scoring final of the IHF Men’s Super Globe ever to lift the trophy for the second time in a row, denying Barça their sixth trophy.

The third place went to Kielce, who dominated Al-Ahly in the bronze-medal game, 35:26, for their second third-place finish in their second appearance in the IHF Men’s Super Globe.



Final ranking

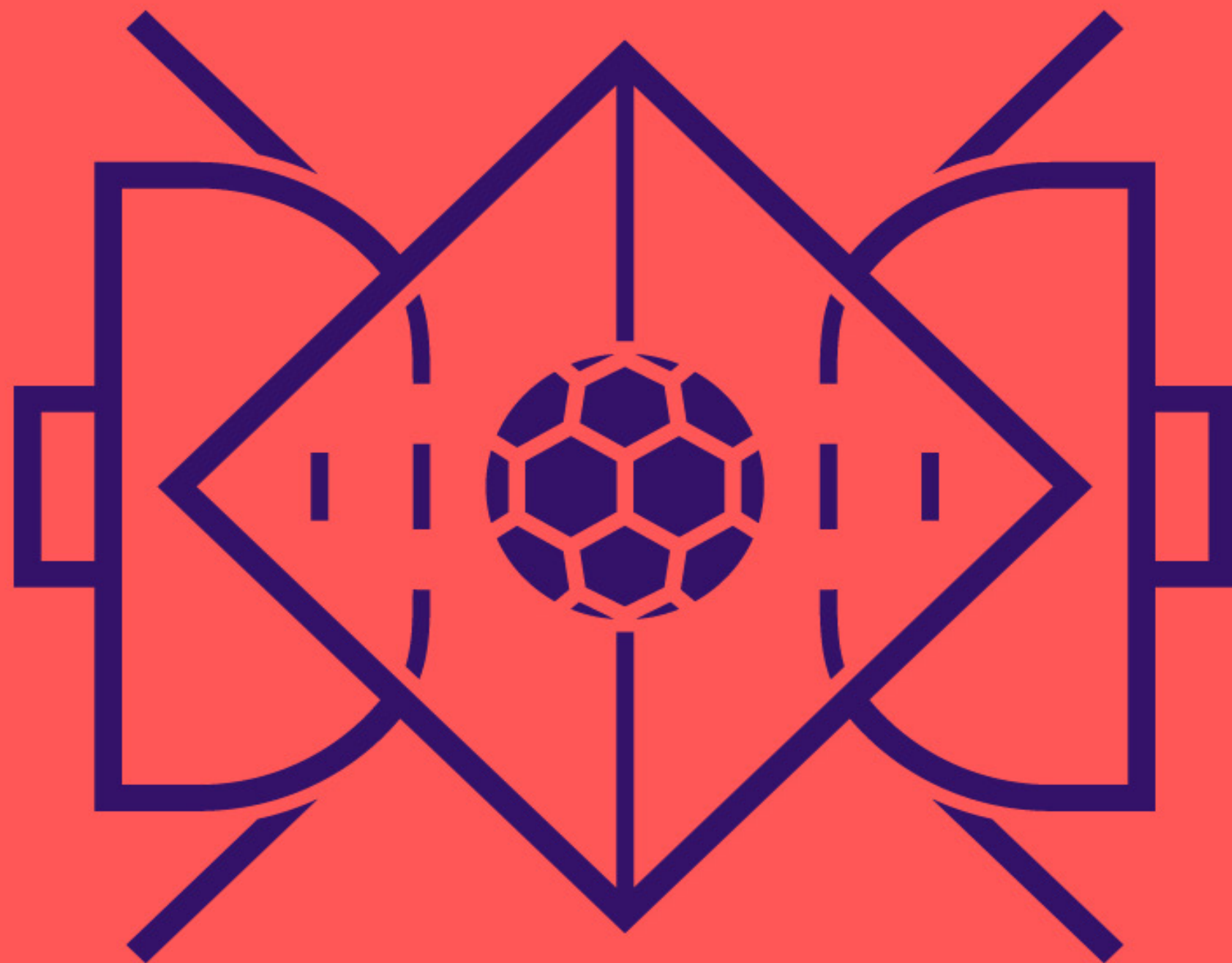
1. SC Magdeburg (GER), 2. Barça (ESP), 3. Lomza Industria Kielce (POL), 4. Al-Ahly (EGY), 5. Espérance de Tunis (TUN), 6. Al-Khaleej (KSA), 7. SL Benfica (POR), 8. Handebol Taubate (BRA), 9. Al-Kuwait (KUW), 10. Mudhar (KSA), 11. Sydney Uni (AUS), 12. Club Ministros (MEX)

Champions SC Magdeburg

Mike Jensen, Lucas Meister, Piotr Chrapkowski, Elias Ruddat, Gisli Kristjansson, Daniel Pettersson, Omar Ingi Magnusson, Tim Hornke, Phillipp Weber, Lukas Mertens, Magnus Saugstrup, Christian O’Sullivan, Marko Bezjak, Kay Smits, Michael Damgaard, Nikola Portner
Coach: Bennet Wiegert

All winners at a glance

Year	Host	Winners
1997	Vienna (AUT)	CB Cantabria (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)	Fühse Berlin (GER)
2016	Doha (QAT)	Fühse Berlin (GER)
2017	Doha (QAT)	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2018	Doha (QAT)	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2019	Dammam (KSA)	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2021	Jeddah (KSA)	SC Magdeburg (GER)
2022	Dammam (KSA)	SC Magdeburg (GER)



Brilliant Paris 2024 Olympic Games ready to rumble

The Paris 2024 Olympic Games will take place from 26 July to 11 August, with the opening ceremony to be held on 26 July, while the handball competition already begins one day prior. In total, the Paris 2024 Games will include 19 days of competition across all 32 sports in 41 competition sites. Handball is on the programme at the Olympic Games for the 15th time overall, and consecutively for the 14th time for men and the 13th time for women.

12 teams each will compete in the men's and women's handball competitions at the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad. Olympic hosts France are also entering the competitions as defending title holders in both the men's and women's categories after claiming the gold medals at Tokyo 2020.

In both the men's and the women's competition, the 12 teams will be divided into two groups each, with the top four sides of each group progressing to the knockout phase, with quarter-finals, semi-finals, the bronze-medal match and, of course, the final match for gold.

The handball matches will be played in two venues: South Paris Arena 6 in Paris for the group matches and Pierre Mauroy Stadium in Lille for the knockout and medal rounds.

Alongside the two France teams, the winners of the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship, Denmark, and the winners of the Women's EHF EURO 2022, Norway, are qualified in the men's and women's competitions, respectively. In the women's competition, the Republic of Korea have sealed their spot at the Asian Qualification Tournament in August.

Their opponents are to be found in a series of continental championships and qualification events taking place over the next months, after which a further six places in each gender category will be decided at the IHF Olympic Qualification Tournaments in March (men) and April (women) 2024. The winners – or best-ranked team after Norway and/or France who already qualified – of the 2023 Women's World Championship coming up in November and December will also earn a place at the Olympic Games.

IHF Trophy continues to lend a hand to the handball development

After a period in which competitions were halted throughout the globe due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IHF has ensured that handball gets back to its peak, with international competitions being organised on all continents. A key focus has been put on the IHF Trophy, a competition which helps the IHF fulfil its mission of growing and developing handball all over the world is delivered.

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

All six IHF continents – Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and the Caribbean, South and Central America and Oceania – take part throughout each competition cycle, which initially consists of zonal competitions within the continent to decide the final line-up for the men’s and women’s continental competitions.

The current format of the IHF Trophy, with both junior and youth categories, has proven to be a huge success and has been fully integrated in the IHF Calendar, with 91 teams taking part over the last years across the five continents.

With the IHF Intercontinental Trophy enabling teams to qualify for the World Championships, Cuba secured their place at the 2023 IHF Men’s Junior (U21) World Championship, while Georgia earned their berth at the 2023 IHF Men’s Youth (U19) World Championship via this pathway.

Another team that have benefitted greatly from the IHF Trophy was Costa Rica. While the path to their debut at the IHF Men’s Junior World Championship was not through the Intercontinental Phase of the 2023 IHF Trophy, which Costa Rica hosted, their performance at the 2022 South and Central American Junior Championship was also thanks to the chance of developing through the IHF Trophy.



This is another testament to the fact that the format is highly beneficial and will help emerging nations to improve at the grassroots level, which is definitely one of the IHF’s most important targets.

IHF Trophy 2022-2023

Continent	Number of nations	Number of players
Africa	42	1,778
Asia	12	322
Europe	9	294
Oceania	6	266
NAC	9	182
SCA	13	616
Total	91	3,458

IHF Trophy 2022 expenses

Continent	
Africa	901,944.54
Europe	162,113.45
Oceania	298,974.94
NAC	463,557.19
SCA	656,128.09
Total	2,482,718.21



DEVELOPMENT

Dominating Cuba secure maiden title at Bulgaria 2023

Cuba became the first non-European side to clinch the trophy at an IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship by winning the 2023 edition, which took place in Varna, Bulgaria, between 25 and 30 April. With an impressive display which saw them secure four wins out of four games, they dominated the competition, which returned after a four-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guatemala were the only side to make their debut, while three others – Bulgaria, Great Britain and Malta – took part for the fourth time, making them the only teams in the history of the competition to have participated in each and every edition.

12 teams lined up at the start, with six confederations represented – AHF, EHF, CAHB, NACHC, SCAHC and OCHF. The sides were divided into four groups of three teams each, with the winner of each group progressing to the semi-finals.

Cyprus and India provided one of the most exciting matches of the competition in the semi-final, with the European side mounting a comeback to secure a place in the final (42:37), while Cuba had no issues defeating hosts Bulgaria (36:29) with over 1,000 fans in the stands.

In the final, Cuba emerged victorious after a flawless display, taking a clear 28:18 win to lift the trophy that eluded them four years ago when they lost the final against Georgia. This was Cuba’s second medal at the IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship, following the silver medal at Georgia 2019, with only three other teams boasting a two-medal tally in the competition: Faroe Islands (gold in 2015 and 2017), Bulgaria (bronze in 2019 and 2023) and Kosovo (bronze in 2015 and 2017).

Final ranking

1. CUB, 2. CYP, 3. BUL, 4. IND, 5. GBR, 6. AUS, 7. NGR, 8. AND, 9. MDA, 10. GUA, 11. MLT, 12. AZE

Emerging Nations Champions
Cuba (CUB)

Cristopher Jesus Selles Martinez, Daril Lois Gonzales Pedro, Edmanuel Díaz Gonzales, Frank Enrique Cordies Castillo, Hanser Michel Rodriguez Rodriguez, Jorge Felix Pren Torriente, Lidier Vergara Martínez, Luis Angel Matos Hernandez, Magnol Suarez Fis, Mario Alfredo Perez Rodriguez, Omar Toledano Salazar, Ronaldo Hiriam Almeida Duquezne, Samuel Alejandro Cordies Castillo, Victor Manuel Dawking Sandoval
Coach: Jover Jorge Hernandez Miranda



DEVELOPMENT

Handball at School

Handball at School (H@S) remains one of the most popular IHF projects and from 2021 to 2023 an upgrade for the programme was developed, which is aimed at introducing handball to physical education teachers and beginners' coaches working with children.

The Handball at School Working Group worked on new materials to be used by IHF H@S lecturers in 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, and the documentation for all H@S age groups as well as those for H@S lecturers.

Even throughout a global pandemic which has thoroughly affected face-to-face meetings and courses, the IHF has continued to organise crucial Handball@School activities in the past two years, including online courses held where the pandemic did not allow organising such courses in-person.

In 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions still made the organisation of H@S courses complicated and only one regular H@S course was organised in Equatorial Guinea. Furthermore, a series of webinars were organised for the Chinese Handball Association in April and May 2022 and a H@S introductory course for Sri Lanka was held online in September 2022.

At the beginning of 2023, many National Federations were still reluctant to apply for H@S courses since they were focusing on the restart of handball activities after COVID-19. The second half of 2023, however, saw the courses regain momentum and the IHF received numerous applications and already organised successful courses in Honduras, Nicaragua and Palestine. More courses in Syria, El Salvador and Albania will take place until the end of the year.

The programme usually consists of three courses in three different cities in the organising country, during which the participants learn about handball history, mini handball, exercises and games, attack and defence and much more in theoretical and practical les-

sons, before organising a mini handball event to top it all off.

In 2021, the IHF also launched a long-term development programme for National Federations with a duration of 3 to 5 years. The IHF will support the National Federations by preparing, organising and supervising the implementation of the development programme, aiming at promoting children's handball in the respective country. The programme includes online sessions as well as activities on site.

National Federations wishing to participate in this programme are asked to provide basic information about the federation's situation, their requirements and the concrete ways in which the IHF can contribute to the development of children's handball in the country. Based on this information, the long-term programme will be tailored to each federation's specific preconditions, goals and needs. Georgia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were the first federations to start the programme in 2022.

Furthermore, the H@S Working Group organised the 2023 IHF Children's Handball Education Week through the IHF Virtual Academy, which brought together leading experts throughout the world of handball in helping share the knowledge and the materials created by the IHF, underlining the importance of the programme.



New Markets’ Projects

One of the IHF’s main projects is the New Markets’ Project, which focuses on introducing handball in key markets all over the world. The project started with Great Britain and there have been great strides made in India, the United States of America, the People’s Republic of China, Italy and Australia.

The IHF’s New Markets’ Project has already yielded excellent results over the past years, with key performance indicators being hit at the senior level in the last two years. The continuous improvement of federations in key markets like the USA, Great Britain, the People’s Republic of China, India and Australia is paramount for the IHF’s vision of handball over the next decades.

Great Britain

The partnership between the IHF and the British Handball Association has been extended until 2025, and the IHF’s strategy has already shown clear results, with the Great Britain senior national team securing the fifth place at the 2023 IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship. The British team has also progressed to the Qualification Phase 2 of the EHF EURO Qualifiers for the first time, taking another big step for the development of the nation in handball and creating role models for future generations to follow. The focus will continue to be on the development of youth handball and a continuous support of the grassroots base of sport in Great Britain.



Achievements

- a new cycle of support has been agreed, with the IHF supporting Great Britain until 2025
- the Great Britain men’s senior team finished fifth at the 2023 IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship and progressed from the EHF EURO Qualification Phase 1 for the first time
- tailor-made programmes for Great Britain’s grassroots projects have been implemented
- the number of children taking up handball in England and Scotland has doubled since 2019, with big numbers supporting the growth after the COVID-19 pandemic
- four teams receive support through special “age group programmes”, which include the men’s and women’s U18/19 and U20/21 teams
- a new Performance Strategy has also been put in place, with special know-how from the IHF to make the sport even more popular
- with the implementation of the New Markets’ Project, Great Britain teams are taking part in EHF Qualification Events

People’s Republic of China

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected countries all around the world, the People’s Republic of China continued to focus on developing handball, laying the groundwork to create the perfect environment for the sport to thrive throughout one of the most populous countries in the world.

In the last two years, the People’s Republic of China have made their appearance at the 2021 IHF Women’s World Championship in Spain, while also finishing in third place in the group in the Asian Qualification Tournament for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. The Asian side is also due to make their 18th consecutive appearance at the IHF Women’s World Championship at Denmark/Norway/Sweden 2023.

The hosting of events is also a part of the development project and in this field, China made another big impression. After they hosted the first edition of the IHF Women’s Super Globe (2019) and organised the Asian Women’s Olympic Games Qualification and the Asian Beach Handball Championship in previous years, the People’s Republic of China will host the 2024 IHF Women’s Youth World Championship and the 2024 IHF Beach Handball World Championships, underlining their ambition to improve and create a legacy in handball.

The People’s Republic of China were one of the key members of the IHF New Markets’ Project, as the Chinese market is brimming with potential. Since the project was introduced in 2015, China have been one of the members who were eager to learn and develop, creating a benchmark for the future, with tailor-made plans to improve the sport.

A clear focus has been put on long-term athlete development and the integration of Chinese top players in European clubs and European players in the Chinese Super League.

Education – in particular the coach development structure, the IHF Handball at School project and the Traveller Coach project – is an important part of the strategy. There are also plans of inviting



experienced coaches to China to help boost the development by holding training sessions for the People’s Republic of China women’s youth national team. In addition, five to eight handball training centres are planned to be built throughout the country, in another effort to bolster the ranks in handball.

Achievements

- consecutive appearances at the IHF Women’s World Championship in 2021 and 2023
- the People’s Republic of China hosted the Asian Games in September 2023, where the top sides of the continent clashed in the continental competition
- the People’s Republic of China has secured the hosting rights for the 2024 IHF Women’s Youth (U18) World Championship and for the 2024 IHF Men’s and Women’s Beach Handball World Championships
- therefore, the People’s Republic of China’s women’s youth team will return to the IHF Women’s Youth World Championship for the first time since 2018 and for the fourth time in history
- the People’s Republic of China’s women’s junior team also secured their ticket to the 2024 IHF Women’s Junior World Championship, where they will return for the first time since 2018, after finishing in second place at the 2023 Asian Women’s Junior Handball Championship, losing only to the champions, the Republic of Korea

India

India have been one of the fastest growing markets in handball over the last years, delivering some excellent performances throughout the last electoral cycle. The New Markets’ Project has been halted for a period of time, due to the violation of good governance in India, but a restart is scheduled for next year.

Their women’s junior and youth teams qualified for the IHF World Championships in 2022, while the women’s youth beach handball team also made it to the IHF Youth Beach Handball World Championships in 2022. India also organised the AHF Women’s Youth Handball Championship in 2023 and the Premier Handball League, India’s first-ever men’s professional handball competition, also had its first edition.

Despite finishing in 26th place at the 2022 IHF Women’s Junior World Championship, India had the third best scorer in the competition, another performance that underlines the ambition and rising quality of handball in the country.

The men’s national team also made their second appearance at the IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship, finishing in fourth place, after winning against Andorra and Malta and losing against Cyprus and Bulgaria – another huge achievement for India, proving the nation is on the right path towards establishing themselves as a strong team in handball.

Achievements

- India took part in and won their first-ever games at the IHF Women’s Junior and Youth World Championships
- made their debut at the 2022 IHF Women’s Youth Beach Handball World Championship
- organised the 2023 AHF Women’s Youth Handball Championship
- had their first-ever season of the Men’s Premier Handball League, a professional league, which created huge excitement in the country
- India’s wheelchair handball national team took part in international competitions for the first time, placing sixth at the inaugural edition of the IHF Four-a-Side Wheelchair Handball World Championship in 2022 and fourth at the 2022 World and European Wheelchair Handball Championship (Six-a-Side)



Australia

The main goal of the New Markets’ Project for Australia is to further develop handball in the country before the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, with a 10-year plan in place in order to deliver the necessary growth and improve the popularity of the sport in the country.

The strategic plan is two-pronged. First, the idea is to make handball visible, accessible and attractive for more and more people, helping to develop the sport organically and increase the number of players. However, to improve the quality of the game, the Australian Handball Federation must rely on trained and competent coaches, referees, players and delegates who can advance the sport overall.

The IHF has started supporting Australia with a tailor-made accelerated training plan, aimed at a group of local coaches, which will allow the Australian Handball Federation to have a pool of well-trained, specialised coaches, who can play an active role in further developing the sport in the country through their knowledge and experience.

A group of referees will also start their training at the end of 2023, under the supervision of IHF specialists, further creating a better and more professional environment in the domestic leagues in Australia.

Achievements

- Australia returned to the IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship after an eight-year wait, first appearance since 2015
- the team achieved their best-ever finish at the IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship (sixth place), with two wins in the competition
- Australia had a player feature in the All-Star team at the IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship and one of the top three goalkeepers in terms of saves
- the women’s senior beach handball team finished 16th at the 2022 IHF Beach Handball World Championship, in their fifth consecutive appearance
- Australia will have a club team at the 2023 IHF Men’s Super Globe for the 13th time in a row
- Australia will host the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, making their return to the Olympic Games for the first time in 32 years, after Sydney 2000

United States of America

With the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games coming up, the USATH has benefitted from the partnership with the IHF to further develop the sport. In 2023, the USA took part in the Senior, Junior and Youth IHF World Championships, with the women’s junior team also featuring in the World Championship in 2022, which represented a big milestone in the development of the sport.

The results have been excellent for the USA teams, with the senior side winning their first-ever match at the IHF Men’s World Championship, finishing Poland/Sweden 2023 in 20th place. The USA also made their appearance in the junior and youth competitions, underlining the country’s huge potential. Moreover, the USA participated in the IHF Women’s Junior World Championship for the first time in 41 years.

The cooperation with European teams and federations being essential for the development of the USA teams, a European residential programme for the women’s national team (in cooperation with the French Handball Federation) was pursued, with the USA junior women’s national team also having a training camp in Hungary, on the premises of the Hungarian National Handball Academy.

The IHF will continue to ensure administrative support as well as coaches’ and referees’ training in order to keep the USA on the right path towards an increased popularity of handball.

Play LA for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games

Play LA was launched in 2021 by the Los Angeles 2028 Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the International Olympic Committee Goal, with the clear purpose of enhancing the access of youngsters in Los Angeles to Olympic sports before the 2028 Games.

Young people of all abilities will have the opportunity to access quality sports available in



their local leisure centres or parks and join the Olympic movement. Sports courses for young people range from swimming and baseball to football, swimming, skateboarding and adapted sports. Play LA welcomes all young people free of charge or for as little as 10\$ per registration (depending on the neighbourhood) to eliminate economic barriers and promote leisure activities that integrate all communities in Los Angeles.

This is also a unique opportunity to introduce handball to an Olympic host city and build excitement ahead of the 2028 Olympic handball tournament. The project will not only educate the children of today, but also inspire the players and supporters of tomorrow.

Achievements

- the USA secured their first-ever win at the IHF Men’s World Championship at Poland/Sweden 2023
- the men’s junior and youth teams both qualified for and took part in the IHF World Championship of their age categories
- the USA women’s junior and youth teams had training camps in France and Hungary, supported by the two European federations
- the USA also qualified for the IHF Women’s Junior World Championship for the first time in 41 years
- men’s and women’s senior teams will take part in the IHF World Championship in 2025 and 2027 in preparation for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games
- a Handball at School Development Project was organised in the USA, with H@S Working Group Chairwoman Dr Ilona Hapková travelling to Michigan to promote H@S
- the 2023 IHF Men’s World Championship was broadcast via an OTT platform, with up to four matches a day being broadcast
- after a long and thorough process, a new CEO, Martin Branick, has been found for USATH

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 have always been realised in close cooperation between the International Olympic Committee, the IHF and the National Olympic Committees concerned, as well as the National Federations participating in the programme. Since the beginnings, the focus has been on helping those federations most in need and promoting the Olympic values.

Between 2021 and 2023, despite the various challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the rules imposed by the local authorities regarding large gatherings, the IHF was able to carry out 13 Technical Courses for Coaches in Africa and Asia, at the end of which the coaches were usually presented with their C or D Coaching Licences.

Those courses typically 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.

Two other Development of Sport National System Projects took place in Cape Verde and Kenya under the aegis of Olympic Solidarity. Several topics were specifically addressed, with an emphasis on developing handball and facilitate the transition from basic to competition level: the role of the coach, the update of the methodologies for the initiation to handball, the



training of physical skills in handball and a characterisation of modern-day handball.



On-demand seminars
prove to be huge hit

Following eight successful presentations from the IHF Virtual Academy, an initiative of the IHF Education Centre launched in 2020, 2023 saw a broad delivery of free educational courses for the handball community and beyond. The 2023 IHF Education Weeks comprised a total of six different courses, starting with the first in May and concluding with the last in October.

The lectures were presented by top handball experts from around the world, from renowned coaches who have secured medals at the highest levels, like Glenn Solberg or Jordi Ribera Romans, to IHF Lecturers and the Chairperson of the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC). The topics discussed were tailor-made for both improving the knowledge of the participants and identifying trends in the sport, with the aim of developing, promoting and growing handball in the world.

The Education Weeks registered over 40,000 attendees throughout 2023, with the participants who attended all the lectures in a single week being awarded participation certificates.

The IHF Virtual Academy was launched in 2020 under the umbrella of the IHF Education Centre, itself launched in 2016. The goal of the IHF Virtual Academy is to improve handball education the world over by providing free courses for all levels.

Previous Virtual Academy courses have featured indoor handball, children's handball, wheelchair handball, beach handball and handball-related medical topics. All previous lectures can be found on the IHF Facebook Page under the relevant playlists.



IHF Virtual Academy Programmes	
Programme	Date
Beach Handball Education Week	15-21 May 2023
Coaches and Referees Education Week	10-16 June 2023
Children's Handball Education Week	4-10 September 2023
Youth Coaches Education Week	18-24 September 2023
Management Education Course	2-5 October 2023
Wheelchair Handball Education Courses	6-8 October 2023

Development enhanced through different programmes

The Traveller Coach Project provides long-term support to developing handball federations to improve their work with national teams and to deliver bespoke courses for coaches and teachers at local level, reflecting the diverse needs of each country in which the project is delivered by current and former national team handball coaches.

One of the best performances of a National Federation which participated in the programme was shown by Costa Rica, who received guidance and know-how thanks to the programme. Dady Gallardo, head coach of Argentina’s women’s senior national team, helped the team from Costa Rica prepare for events such as the 2023 IHF Men’s Junior World Championship, the Intercontinental Phase of the IHF Trophy and the 2022 South and Central American Junior Championship.

The IHF has also set up a new programme to help develop handball throughout the world, the Multiplier’s Education Course, with the clear goal of promoting a new, modern and future-oriented generation of coaches. With this programme, the IHF aims at establishing a multiplier coaching education system, including a coaching licence structure in Continental Confederations and National Federations by selecting and educating talented multipliers for the coaching education according to IHF criteria.

The idea of the programme, which has already yielded results around the world and included courses in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, is to further enhance the network of IHF Lecturers throughout all continents in order to organise tailor-made courses held by lecturers from the same continent to developing countries. The ultimate goal is to educate individuals who will then be qualified to conduct courses in their own countries or on the continent they come from.

The IHF also offers coaching courses to support National Federations in developing their coaches. The courses increase the quality of the coaches in all areas and contribute to the improvement of the quality of our sport in the future. Courses are led by IHF CCM Lecturers, who provide handball education of the highest quality based on the IHF Coaching Education Structure.

Over the last two years, coaching courses have taken place in different areas of the globe, with a clear view for the IHF to promote handball throughout the whole world, irrespective of the continent. Courses for the IHF B, C and D Licences have been organised, while in October 2023, an IHF A Licence Coaching Course is scheduled to take place in Egypt. The courses yield great results, with a big part of the participants obtaining their licence after their exams. The IHF’s goal to provide the best education for coaches throughout the world remains, and a significant number of countries – especially in Africa – have benefitted.



Global development aid 2021-2023

Since the 2021 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 benefited through different programmes. The IHF

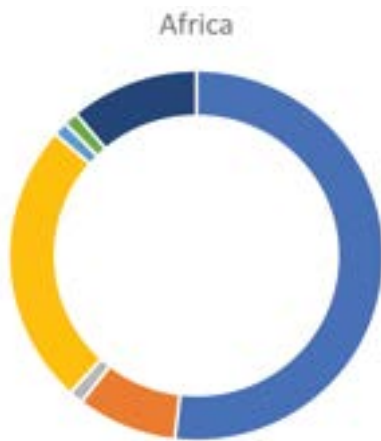
not only organised competitions such as the IHF Trophy and the IHF Emerging Nations Championship, but also projects like Olympic Solidarity as well as Handball@School courses and the New Markets' Project to support the National Federations and help them take handball to the next level

in their countries. Due to the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was still a restrained demand in terms of the organisation of courses and projects in 2021 and 2022. However, the IHF is pleased to report a significant increase in applications for IHF courses and projects in 2023.

Project	Asia	Africa	Europe	NAC	SCA	Oceania	Total
IHF Trophy	12	42	9	9	13	6	91
Olympic Solidarity	8	7	0	0	0	0	15
Handball@School	1	1	0	2	0	0	4
Development Aid	10	20	8	8	9	2	57
Four-Year Plan	0	0	12	4	5	0	21
Emerging Nations Championship	1	1	7	1	1	1	12
New Markets' Project	2	0	2	2	0	1	7
Traveller Coach	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
Coaches courses	5	9	0	0	0	0	14



- IHF Trophy
- Olympic Solidarity
- Handball@School
- Development Aid
- Emerging Nations Championship
- New Markets' Project
- Coaches Courses

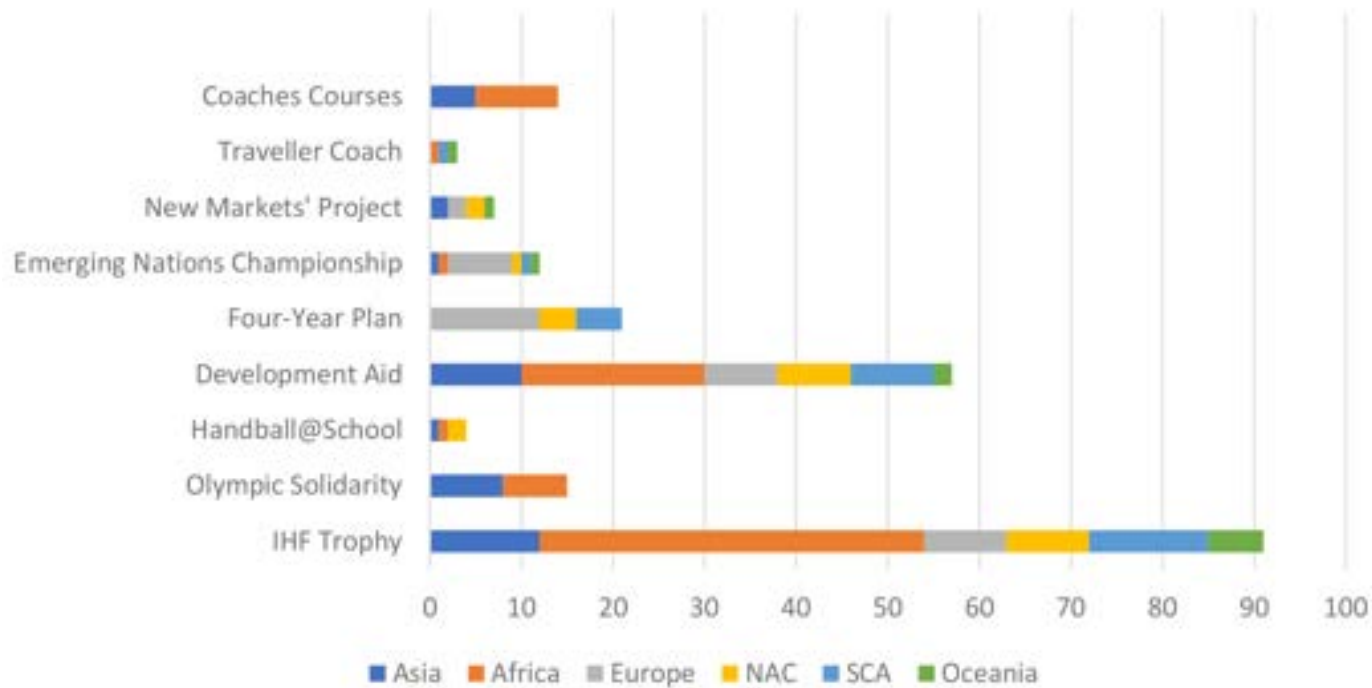


- IHF Trophy
- Olympic Solidarity
- Handball@School
- Development Aid
- Emerging Nations Championship
- Traveller Coach
- Coaches Courses

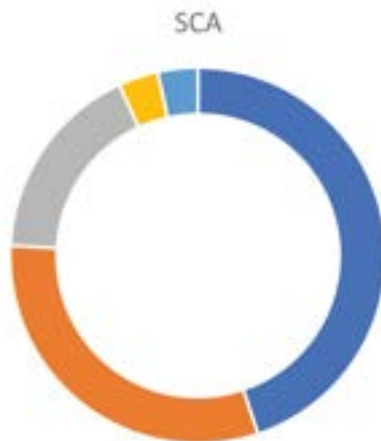


- IHF Trophy
- Development Aid
- Four-Year Plan
- Emerging Nations Championship
- New Markets' Project

Countries participating in IHF projects



- IHF Trophy
- Handball@School
- Development Aid
- Four-Year Plan
- Emerging Nations Championship
- New Markets' Project



- IHF Trophy
- Development Aid
- Four-Year Plan
- Emerging Nations Championship
- Traveller Coach



- IHF Trophy
- Development Aid
- Emerging Nations Championship
- New Markets' Project
- Traveller Coach

Technological development at the heart of IHF's growth

As the world is in a full technological development, with the emergence of AI and other features taking over and being utilised at a large scale, the IHF has also been keeping a keen eye on technology and how to best use it to achieve its main goal, the development and promotion of handball in the world.

IHF Education Centre to get a makeover

The first steps were already made in the past, with the creation of the IHF Education Centre, a modern instrument for the targeted international development of handball. In the IHF Education Centre, coaches, referees, players, delegates and teachers find a wide range of practical contents for personal training in their specific fields of activity.

The IHF Education Centre is a video-based platform. Content is provided with innovative media (videos, animations, learning modules) and optimised for different digital devices (smartphones, tablets, PCs). Moreover, in interactive live seminars, top IHF lecturers present current topics for all target groups within the handball world using presentations, educational videos, image series and graphics in the IHF Virtual Academy, which is part of the IHF Education Centre.

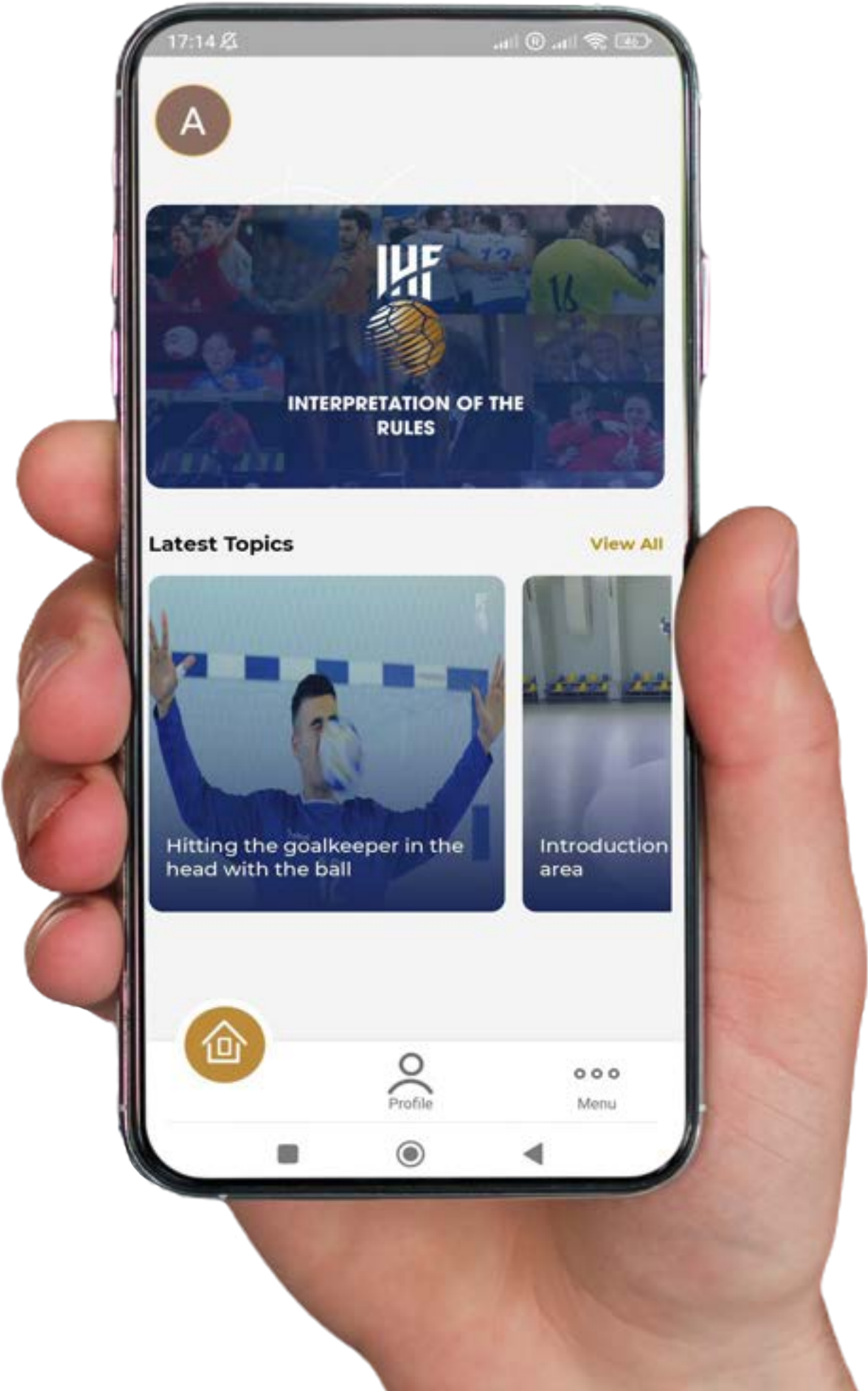
The IHF Education Centre will have a revamp, with a state-of-the-art website and a modern look, which has been in the works for several months, underlining once again the IHF's focus on educating the main stakeholders of the game and improving their knowledge with contents from renowned experts accessible in the comfort of their homes or offices.

A section regarding beach handball will also be set up, with the IHF ensuring that all areas of the sport are being covered and thoroughly delivered to the stakeholders in order to ensure the best environment for improvement.

New IHF TV platform to be unveiled

The two official IHF channels on YouTube, IHF and IHF Competitions, have amassed 230,000 subscribers, with millions of monthly views, as the major stakeholders developed a clear interest in watching both the streamed matches and the education materials provided.

The IHF is now planning to further develop this video content into an OTT platform, aiming to make all handball-related videos more



accessible to handball fans around the world. The new IHF TV platform shall also host the IHF Virtual Academy webinars, as well as e-learning videos for the new IHF Education Centre.

The new white-label OTT platform will have plenty of exciting features, including but not limited to creating profiles for the players, increasing the channel subscribers, a mobile app which would help every fan watch the content at one click away, free of charge geo-blocking service, as well as promoting an e-shop, ticketing and partners.

Rule Interpretation App helps understand new rules

With new refereeing rules in place since July 2022, the IHF has also released a new "Rule Interpretation" App, choosing an entirely new approach based on the targeted use of media not only to educate and train referees and delegates but also to motivate coaches, players, journalists and handball fans to explore interpretations, guidelines and clarifications regarding the handball rules.

Instructional videos, either real-life examples from IHF events or videos especially recorded with demonstration teams, help visualise and explain the corresponding rule interpretations.

In more than 100 scenes, the handball community has thus the opportunity to explore the rules themselves and get detailed explanations on the new throw-off area and situations in which goalkeepers are hit in the head by open shots.

The app will be continuously updated and expanded. In addition, clarifications and explanations of all important rules will be integrated into the app, which will ensure fast-growing content for the users.

Furthermore, key rule interpretations by the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC) and the IHF Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM) can be made available without delay and a fast reaction to the developments in the game is possible.

Partners and sponsors

With a great following throughout the world, it is no surprise that handball is on the agenda of agencies and companies, especially when the jewel of the crown, the World Championships, are taking place and attract huge media attention. Therefore, sponsors have flocked to join forces with the International Handball Federation to boost their visibility and improve their market share.

With excellent engagement and numbers both on site and on the IHF’s social media channels, the IHF events organised over the past two years showed the great interest in our beloved sport. As the world emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, the interest around handball has boomed and contracts with strategic partners were signed, as other sponsors decided to join forces

with the IHF for events such as the World Championships of all age categories or the Super Globe.

The IHF has extended its partnership with hummel for five more years and with Gerflor and Molten for another four years, while a plethora of other sponsors have tied their name to the IHF World Championships over the last years via IHF marketing and media rights partner SPORTFIVE. Furthermore, SPORTFIVE and the IHF extended their partnership in 2022 to cover, for example, also younger age category and beach handball events.

Since 2014, Molten has been producing the official handball of the International Handball Federation. The new contract signed lasts until 2027, while the contract with technical sponsor and official clothing

and footwear supplier of the IHF, Danish sportswear and equipment manufacturer hummel, has also been extended until 2027.

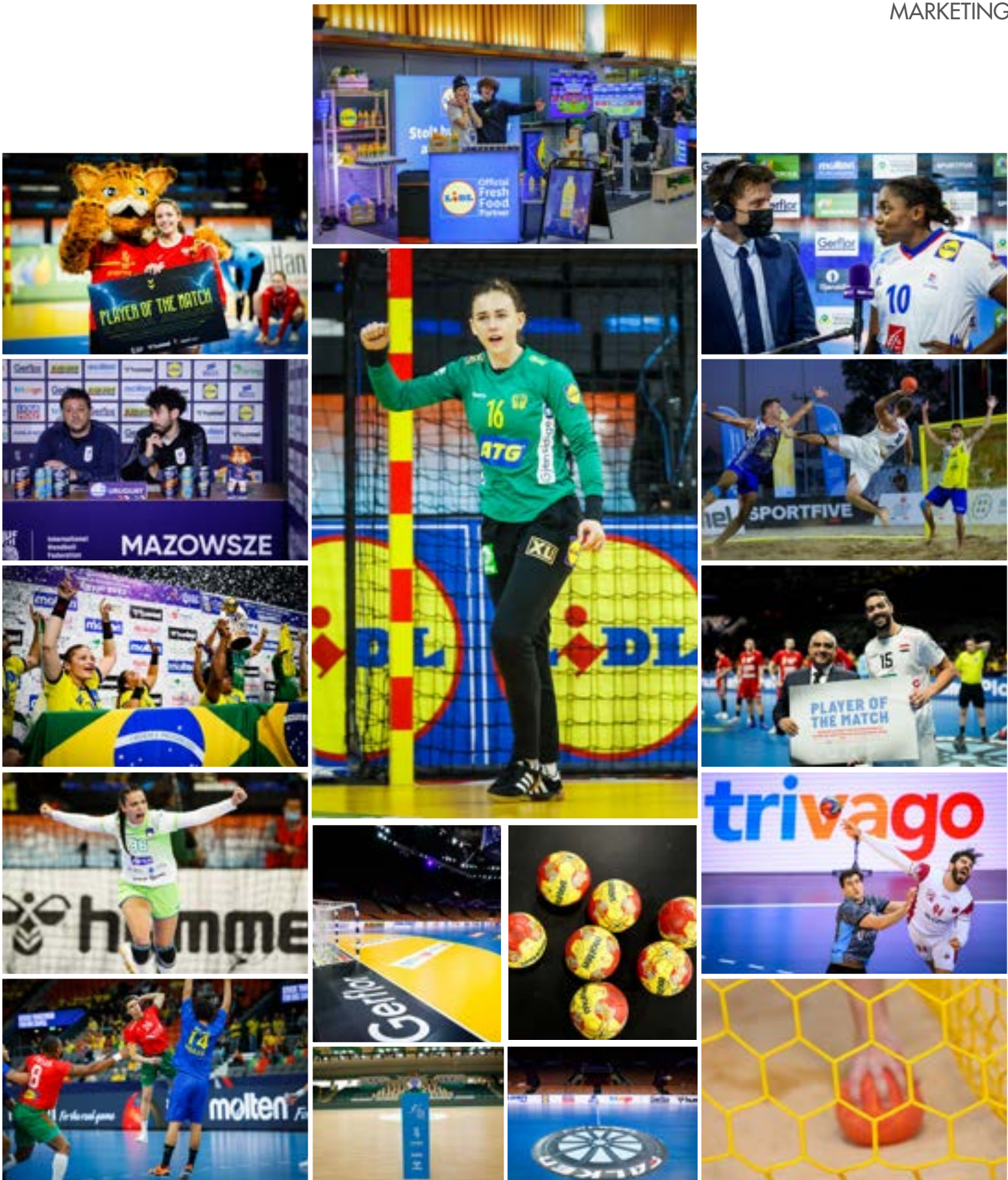
Gerflor will continue to provide the floors for the World Championships and other events for four more years, after the partnership between the company and the IHF has been extended in 2022.

In addition to the above-mentioned partners, which are collaborating with the IHF on a long-term basis, there are also event sponsors that have an interest in particular IHF events. Among the official sponsors of IHF World Championships count Lidl, Nocco, Blåkläder, Falken Tyres, Velux, Gjensidige, Trivago, Liqui Moly, Betsson, Nibe or BYD.

IHF Partners



Event sponsors - Poland/Sweden 2023 & Denmark/Norway/Sweden 2023



TV and spectator figures

The interest in handball has been impressive over the last two years, with excellent results in terms of TV figures for the various competitions hosted under the aegis of the International Handball Federation, complementing the excellence on court, which has been witnessed by billions across the globe.

Poland/Sweden 2023 (Men)

A cumulative audience of more than 1.1 billion was generated across all analysed markets during the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship. In total, a cumulative audience of almost 274 million people was reached through live coverage in 2023, an impressive number driven by the competition being seen in over 100 markets around the world. Almost 6,499 hours of broadcast

time were aired during the IHF Men's World Championship in January 2023. After a drop in 2021, the average live audience has increased slightly (+6%). All brands combined were visible for more than 26,596 hours during the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship. In Denmark, the market share of the final was 89.5%, with nine out of 10 TVs being tuned in on the Danish team's match against France, while the final weekend generated an audience of 287 million people combined throughout the world. The final between France and Denmark accumulated an audience of 90 million, more than 20 million through live coverage. It has been aired live in 30 markets and re-live in 20 markets. Over 618,000 spectators attended the games in Poland and Sweden,

for an average of over 5,500 spectators per match, as the audience bounced back after the relaxation of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Spain 2021 (Women)

The cumulative audience for the 2021 IHF Women's World Championship has been 511.87 million, with a broadcast time of 4,086 hours being delivered throughout the world. Broadcasts in Denmark are responsible for 37% of live audience, followed by Sweden (11%) and Norway (9%). The highest average market share was achieved on Icelandic channel RUV for the match France vs. Norway (99%). In comparison to 2019, the average live audience increased slightly. A visibility of more than 9,930 hours was measured across all brands, broadcasts



and markets. This represents an increase of 82% compared to the 2019 Women's World Championship. One reason for this development is the higher number of participating countries and the resulting increase in the number of matches that were broadcast on TV and streaming media (105 instead of 96). As the 2021 IHF Women's World Championship was held during the Omicron wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, attendances fell compared to 2019, with 119,041 spectators, or an average of 1,134 spectators per match being registered, with different

restrictions in place during the competition.

Germany/Greece 2023 (Men's Junior)

The interest in the 2023 IHF Men's Junior World Championship has been huge, and the competition proved to be an incredible hit in terms of both the number of spectators and TV numbers. Over 90,000 spectators came to the arenas to witness the 116 games scheduled for the competition, while over 20,000 children attended the first match of each day in Magdeburg, Hanover and Berlin, with a record of 5,656

children in Berlin at a single match. On average, 1.03 million viewers tuned in to see the final between Germany and Hungary in Germany, with a superb 5.8% market share, as the country rallied behind their favourites to provide outstanding numbers. The Max-Schmeling-Halle in Berlin was also sold-out for the big game between Germany and Hungary, providing the second-largest attendance in history – 8,235 spectators – for a final of the IHF Men's Junior World Championship.

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.

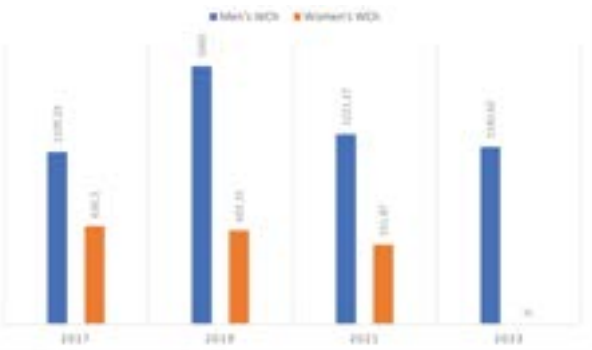
In terms of the cumulative TV audience, it must be taken into account that online streaming had a considerable impact on the TV numbers.



Broadcasting hours



Cumulative TV audience (in mio.)





Major growth on social media

The IHF social media channels have continued to grow significantly since the last IHF Congress in 2021, with the major competition periods standing out for all figures and steady increases in follower numbers year-round. Between the IHF Congress in November 2021 and early August 2023, the IHF Facebook and Instagram pages have achieved a reach of over 65 million and have been visited more than three million times.

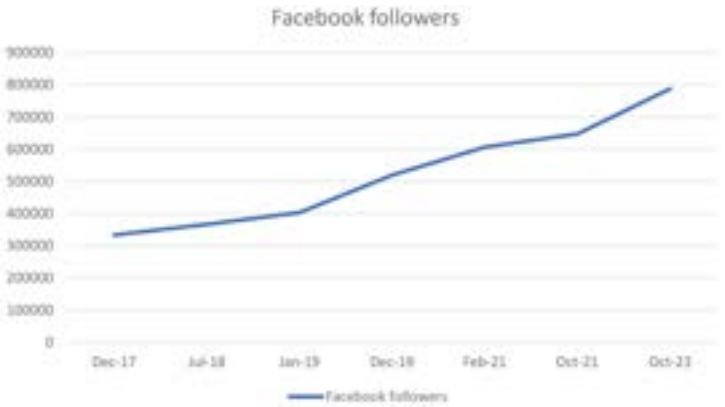
The accounts attracted almost 100,000 new followers in that same period. The 2021 IHF Women's World Championship in Spain saw the peak and the highest in-competition reach on the IHF Facebook page in history, with a figure of over 20 million across the 19 days, showing the same excitement for the game in both genders. The IHF also maintains an active X account (formerly known as Twitter), and launched a TikTok account in 2023. The four main accounts

combined count over one million regular followers.

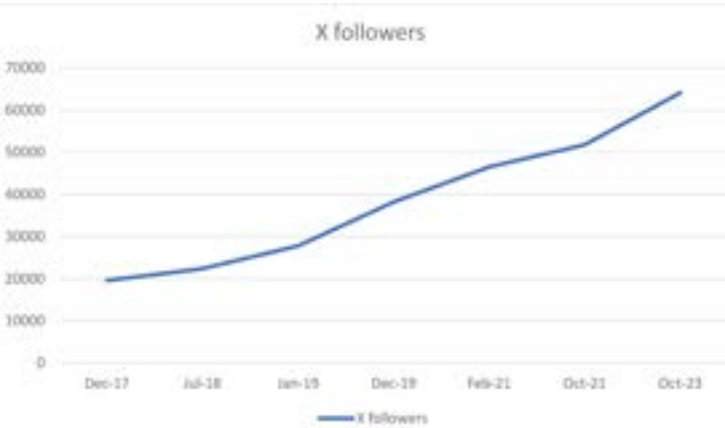
The ihf.info website continued to offer unparalleled access to the world of handball, particularly during the competitions organised by the IHF, with exclusive insights, features and articles, as well as live updates from all the matches, allowing fans to follow their favourite teams in a modern and entertaining way.



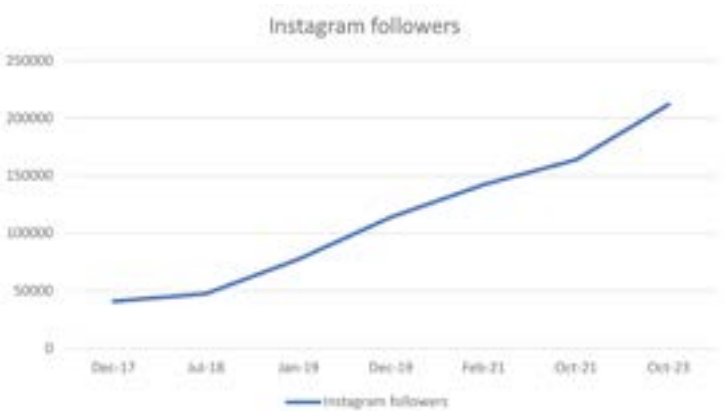
	ihf.info
Dec 2017	333,514
Jul 2018	366,663
Jan 2019	403,018
Dec 2019	519,203
Feb 2021	606,567
Oct 2021	647,427
Oct 2023	787,593



	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
Oct 2023	64,100



	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
Oct 2023	212,000



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.”

An overview of the most important decisions as well as the activities of the highest IHF bodies is presented below.

Russia and Belarus ban

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

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

On 18 March 2022, the Council decided to include a temporary appendix in the IHF Regulations for Transfer between Federations related to exceptional transfers of handball players contracted by Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian clubs.

Rescheduling and relocation of events

Due to force majeure, as a consequence of Russia’s invasion in Ukraine, the Council decided by electronic communication on 19 April 2022 to accept the Georgian Handball Federation’s request to release them from the obligation to host the 2022 IHF Women’s Youth (U18) World Championship and awarded the event to the Macedonian Handball Federation.

IHF Men’s Super Globe

The Executive Committee decided on 13 June 2022 to increase the number of par-



The IHF Executive Committee and the IHF General Director during the 2021 IHF Congress in Switzerland

ticipating teams in the 2022 and 2023 editions of the IHF Men’s Super Globe in Saudi Arabia from 10 to 12 teams.

Mental and Physical Preparation for Referees

The Executive Committee decided on 21 June 2022 to extend the contract between the IHF and FITGOOD PRO (ESP), the fitness coaches for the IHF referees, until November 2025, taking into consideration that the new contract will include more working hours of the Performance & Wellness Coaches as well as an improved nutrition programme designed by a newly recruited PhD sports nutritionist, while a physiotherapist and rehabilitation expert will be included in the contract. Furthermore, one new international professional will be hired by FITGOOD PRO to support their team during IHF events, taking into account the higher number of venues due to the increased number of participating teams.

Following the proposal of the IHF PRC, the IHF started conversations with former top coach, sports psychologist and EHF referees’ mental coach Mr Johann Ingi Gunnarsson (ISL).

The Executive Committee decided on 15 August 2022 to involve Mr Gunnarsson as mental coach for the IHF referees nominated for the 2023 IHF Men’s World Championship in Poland/Sweden (including two online seminars prior to the tournament and the entire event on site).

New Markets’ Project in Great Britain continues

The Executive Committee agreed on 7 October 2022 to continue supporting Great Britain within the framework of the IHF New Markets’ Project. An expert to be nominated by the IHF CCM shall supervise Great Britain’s next steps and regularly report to the IHF about their progress.

Extension of the agreement with the International Testing Agency

Since the establishment of the formal agreement between the IHF Anti-Doping Unit (ADU) and the International Testing Agency (ITA) in January 2019, the ITA has been providing professional services to the Anti-Doping programme of the ADU to meet the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The Executive Committee

IHF BODIES

decided by electronic communication on 26 December 2022 to extend the IHF's contract with the International Testing Agency from 2023 until the end of 2026.

Resin-free ball

On 7 October 2022, the CCM Chairman presented a report to the IHF Council regarding the use of the new resin-free ball at the 2022 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in North Macedonia and agreed on the creation of a working group chaired by the CCM and PRC Chairmen to prepare a concept for the future and work on the further improvement of the ball. The input of the working group shall be presented to the Council.

Moreover, at its meeting on 12 August 2023, the IHF Council decided to establish a working group composed of the CCM Chairman, the PRC Chairman and the COC Chairman as heads of the working group and representatives of the Continental Confederations, several top nations, Forum Club Handball and European Handball Players Union, which shall elaborate a concept for the further development of the resin-free ball to be presented to the Council for decision.

Awarding of IHF events

At the IHF Council meeting on 12 August 2023, the hosting rights for future IHF World Championships were awarded:

- 2024 IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship: People's Republic of China (CHN)
- 2024 Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships: People's Republic of China (CHN)
- 2025 Men's and Women's Youth (U17) Beach Handball World Championships: Tunisia (TUN)

A new competition to be created

The Council decided in its meeting held in Prelog, Croatia, on 12 August 2023 to establish a working group composed of the CCM Chairman, the PRC Chairman and the COC Chairman, who shall elaborate a concept for the new IHF U17 World Championship to be presented to the Council for decision.



IHF BODIES

Meetings

Council

7 November 2021	Basel SUI
4 March 2022	by video conference
7 October 2022	by video conference
12 August 2023	Prelog CRO

Executive Committee

18 May 2022	by video conference
6 July 2022	by video conference
7 October 2022	by video conference
13 March 2023	by video conference
12 July 2023	by video conference

New developments in the world of refereeing

The IHF has put a major focus on the development of new referees throughout all continents, especially in the light of changes to the playing rules and the introduction of new rules. During this electoral period, the IHF has provided several online education courses for referees in emerging nations and bolstered the Global Referee Training Programme in order to ensure the improvement of the level of refereeing throughout the whole world. More than a dozen referee couples have earned their IHF status over the last years during the official referee assessments, which took place at various international competitions. The IHF is also actively looking towards the future, with a reboot of the Advanced Referee Training Programme in the works and new lecturers being sought to join the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC).

Three referees project

With new rules having been implemented over the last decade, handball has definitely grown, but so has the challenge for these rules to be correctly overseen by the referees. A referee's job is to apply the rules fairly, taking over 200 decisions in a single match.

Therefore, the PRC has constantly been trying to improve the level of refereeing, actively working on finding new solutions to enhance performance at the highest level.

One of those solutions was to increase the number of referees officiating a match from two to three. The pilot project was first launched during the 2022 IHF Men's Super Globe in Saudi Arabia, where the overall eight games on the first two match days saw three referees on the court. The first time three referees were used for a match was in Egypt, in a friendly match that served as good preparation and provided material for a video analysis for the referees at the 2022 IHF Men's Super Globe. It was decided that only the first two days of the competition, thus eight of the 24 scheduled matches, or 33.3%, would be part of this pilot project, with the 16 remaining matches being whistled by the classic referee couples.



Online education for emerging nations

A careful approach has been taken for the emerging nations, with the PRC aiming to alter the level and cement performances around the world. The IHF sent invitations to the emerging nations for online referee courses, carried out by PRC lecturers, while a project aimed to help emerging nations develop refereeing standards and performance has been put in place.

Official referee assessments

With the number of participating teams at the World Championship increasing to 32 at all levels, new referees need to be trained to ensure thorough officiating of the matches and their quality. Seven referee couples were awarded the IHF status during the 2022 IHF Women's Junior and Youth World Championships, while three more referee couples from two continents were awarded the IHF status during the 2023 IHF Men's Junior World Championship. In total, 33 referees from four continents were awarded the IHF status at IHF World Championships and qualification events for IHF World Championships between March 2022 and July 2023.

Reactivate ARTP (Advanced Referee Training Programme)

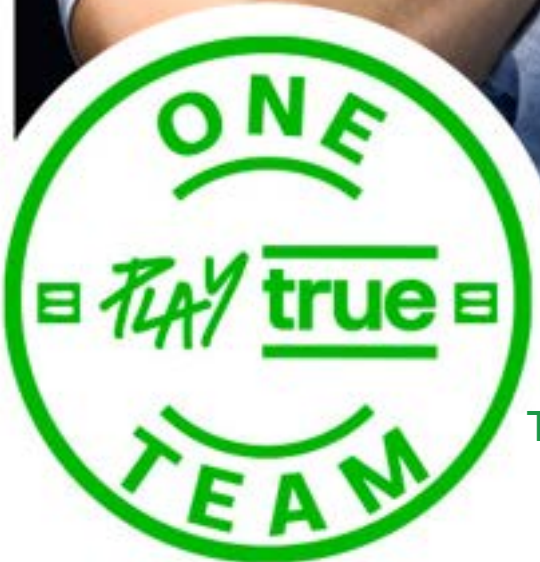
The Advanced Referee Training Programme project started in 2014 with the aim of allowing IHF referee couples from other continents to whistle matches in Europe for a longer period. This project will be reactivated to give young and promising top IHF couples the chance to officiate matches in Europe, which has proven to be successful time and time again over the last years, as referee couples from several continents have whistled various finals.

Anti-doping and education

In collaboration with the International Testing Agency (ITA), the IHF has been continuing to develop its anti-doping programme despite facing an extremely difficult and challenging time because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The IHF has decided to make education mandatory for international-level handball players, who are included in the Registered Testing and the Testing Pool. Education webinars will be organised in November 2023, while on-site education is foreseen to take place on the fringes of the 2023 IHF Women’s World Championship. The IHF will implement a solid anti-doping policy during the next months, as it is aiming to ensure fair playing conditions for all players participating in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The cooperation agreement with the ITA continues to include 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



The IHF is in full compliance with the WADA code

2021-2023 Testing Statistics

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

The following IC testing missions at IHF events have been conducted from November 2021 until today:

- 2021 IHF Men’s Super Globe KSA – 25 urine samples & 5 blood samples – all negative
- 2021 IHF Women’s World Championship ESP – 80 urine samples & 10 blood samples – all negative
- 2022 IHF Women’s Junior (U20) World Championship SLO – 40 urine samples & 4 blood samples – all negative
- 2022 IHF Women’s Youth (U18) World Championship MKD – 40 urine samples & 4 blood samples – all negative
- 2022 IHF Women’s and Men’s Beach Handball World Championships GRE – 36 urine samples & 4 blood samples – all negative
- 2022 IHF Women’s and Men’s Youth (U18) Beach Handball World Championships GRE - 12 urine samples & 4 blood samples – all negative
- 2022 IHF Men’s Super Globe KSA – 40 urine samples & 6 blood samples – all negative
- 2022 IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship EGY – 12 urine samples & 2 blood samples – all negative
- 2023 IHF Men’s World Championship POL/SWE – 80 urine samples & 10 blood samples – all negative
- 2023 IHF Men’s Junior (U21) World Championship GER/GRE – 40 urine samples & 4 blood samples – all negative
- 2023 IHF Men’s Youth (U19) World Championship CRO – 40 urine samples & 4 blood samples – all negative

The following OOC testing missions have been conducted from 2021 until today:

- 2021: 278 urine samples and 6 blood samples among 120 male and 136 female players – all negative
- 2022: 278 urine samples and 37 blood samples among 172 male and 94 female players – 1 positive case (after review, decision was not to go forward)
- 2023: as of 1 September 2023, 128 tests (115 urine samples and 13 blood samples) among 56 male and 71 female players – so far, all negative

2022-2023 WADA Code Compliance Questionnaire (CCQ) and Corrective Action Report (CAR)

In the previous two years, the CCQ established by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) had been the most imperative project for the IHF Anti-Doping Unit (ADU) to review its anti-doping programme and ensure compliance with the mandatory requirements of the 2021 WADA Code. As a Signatory of the WADA Code, compliance with the Code is of utmost importance as per its Article 20.3.1. With the implementation of the current Code as of 1 January 2021, the field of anti-doping has become even more complex and time-consuming.

The IHF ADU has addressed all the corrective actions presented by the WADA Compliance Team under strict deadlines to avoid being declared as non-compliant with the 2021 Code by the WADA Executive Committee. The CAR was officially signed off on 21 April 2023.

In collaboration with the International Testing Agency (ITA), the IHF has been continuing to develop its anti-doping programme despite facing an extremely difficult and challenging time because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Education

The investment in education was rather limited and those activities happened to be replaced by on-site testing activities at some IHF events or webinars, especially due to the challenges during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in the light of the 2021 WADA International Standard for Education, education needs to be enhanced to comply with all WADA requirements.

The IHF has decided to make education mandatory for international-level handball players included in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) and the Testing Pool (TP). Currently, there are three players in the RTP and 45 players in the TP. The players concerned are requested to send the certification of completion to the IHF Anti-Doping Unit.

The IHF has been recommending all players and athlete personnel participating in IHF events to receive education about doping before travelling to an IHF World Championship. Completed certificates are being provided by the National Federations from senior to youth level in indoor, beach and wheelchair handball.

The IHF received positive feedback from players and athlete



personnel who completed the WADA Anti-Doping Education Learning (ADEL) or the National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) education course. They stated having a better understanding about the risk of doping and the consequences of committing an Anti-Doping Rules Violation.

The ITA has invited all International Federations (IFs), including the IHF, to participate in the IF weekly Anti-Doping webinar series to be held in November 2023. Furthermore, a webinar prior to the Women's World Championship is planned to take place on 6 November 2023.

On the occasion of the 2023 Women's World Championship in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, on-site education outreach with three to four ITA Anti-Doping Education Ambassadors is planned to take place.

One employee from the Testing Department of the ITA plans to attend the final weekend of the 2023 Women's World Championship in Herning, Denmark, as an anti-doping observer. This will certainly be an excellent opportunity to further strengthen the IHF's anti-doping collaboration with the ITA.

2023 and onwards

Since 2023 is another pre-Olympic year, it is imperative for the IHF to implement a solid anti-doping programme to ensure that all handball players participating in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games can compete on a level playing field.

The IHF is looking forward to a continuous collaboration with the ITA to further enhance the quality of the IHF anti-doping programme and remain fully compliant with the WADA Code.

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

- 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

- 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

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

AFRICA

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

OCEANIA

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 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 |

IHF Finances

all figures in CHF and as per 26.09.2023

IHF Projects					
Project	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
IHF Trophy	3,829,476.54	151,392.37	-13,088.49	2,482,718.21	2,463,933.34
Development Aid	949,700.45	1,979,668.38*	430,339.65	443,883.54	234,527.65
Emerging Nations Championships	937,239.20	18,062.80	0.00	0.00	471,993.72
Four-Year Plan	146,690.06	34,571.10	16,719.20	19,348.10	47,185.57
New Markets' Project	251,707.53	149,934.20	189,632.75	218,995.00	114,783.80
Handball@School	42,454.83	8,053.28	10,362.95	24,735.61	21,327.82
Other courses	329,411.07	41,095.01	31,194.70	211,841.76	172,980.64
COVID-19 support	0.00	888,000.00	848,000.00	0.00	0.00
Total	6,486,679.68	3,270,777.14	1,513,160.76	3,401,522.22	3,526,732.54

* Support fund for Youth & Junior teams travel was increased by CHF 1,328,995.13



Senior World Championships

Event	Total senior WCh expenses
Men's WCh GER/DEN 2019	4,401,639.41
Women's WCh JPN 2019	3,695,372.97
Men's WCh EGY 2021 (increase to 32 teams*)	6,656,174.81
Women's WCh ESP 2021 (increase to 32 teams**)	4,762,024.60
Men's WCh POL/SWE 2023***	5,020,196.19
Women's WCh DEN/NOR/SWE 2023****	482,547.15

* plus 50% increase on players' compensation compared to GER/DEN 2019, four additional players per team
** plus 50% increase on players' compensation compared to JPN 2019
*** 25% increase on players' compensation compared to GER/DEN 2019
**** 25% increase on players' compensation compared to JPN 2019

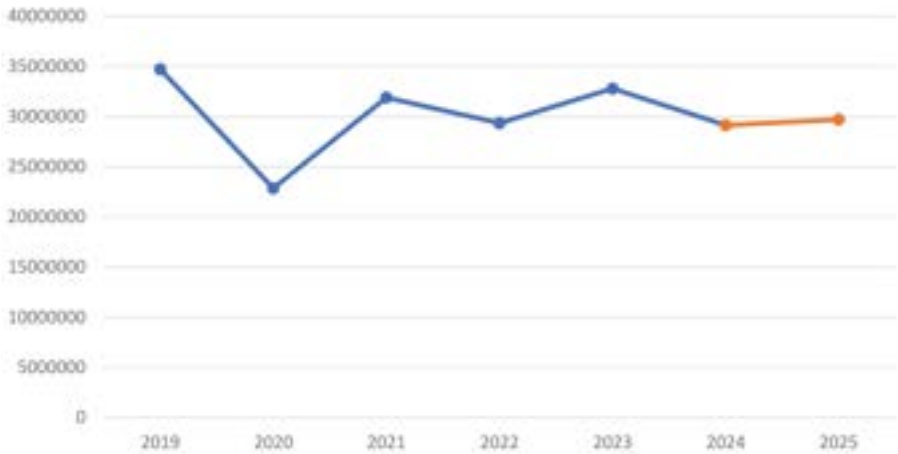


Olympic Games & Olympic Qualification Tournaments

Event	Total events expenses
OQT & OG 2020 (took place in 2021)	830,663.62

IHF Income

Total event-related revenue	
Year	Income
2019	34,732,670.74
2020	22,869,410.60
2021	31,903,175.36
2022	29,350,605.08
2023	32,799,000.00
Budget	
2024	29,152,440.00
2025	29,709,250.00



IN MEMORIAM

In loving 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 last two years.



Adel Bakr Attari
(JOR) - 36



Dr Hiroki Konishi
(JPN) - 90



Bengt Johansson
(SWE) - 79



Mbaye Diagne Aime Mbengue
(SEN) - 67



Michael Heuberger
(GER) - 75



Tadeusz Bregulla
(POL) - 93



Aimé Fidèle Razafintsalama
(MAD) - 68



Freddy Ntanga Katshimbu
(COD) - 62



Wendy Smits
(NED) - 39



Patrik Weiss
(GER/AUS) - 45



Serge Christian Guebogo
(CMR) - 43



Henrik Vænerberg
(FIN) - 91

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 and referees who had the pleasure of knowing them.



Mohamed Benkreira
(CAN) - 63



Christos Kotzamanidis
(GRE) - 73



Rolf Brack
(GER) - 69



Cemal Kütahya
(TUR) - 32



Frank Birkefeld
(GER) - 82



Miguel Zaworotny
(ARG) - 74



Pawel Kotwica
(POL) - 51



Saša Živulović
(SRB/GRE) - 51



Ephraim Chukwuemeka
(NGR) - 82



Viktoriya Divak
(RUS) - 29



Franc Plaskan
(SLO) - 82

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