



**International
Handball
Federation**



Council Meeting No. 6

16.04. 2024 – Créteil FRA



Present

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

Amal KHALIFA (EGY)
Patric STRUB (GER)

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

General Director
Competitions Director

MEETING TIME: 09:00-13:15

Notes: These minutes constitute a record of decisions taken and only contain the most important spoken contributions. The proceeding of this meeting was recorded. The record is kept at the Head Office in Basel.

President Moustafa as usual abstained from voting.



Agenda

1. Minutes

- 1.1. Council Meeting No. 5, 31 October 2023 in Basel, SUI
- 1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 6, 9 February 2024 by video conference

2. President's activities

3. Competitions

- 3.1. 2023 Women's World Championship in DEN/NOR/SWE – Evaluation
- 3.2. 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in MKD – New Rules of the Game
- 3.3. 2029 & 2031 Men's and Women's World Championships – Awarding
- 3.4. U17 World Championship – Concept
- 3.5. 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2024 in EGY – Wild card

4. Finances

- 4.1. IHF investment – Julius Bär

5. IHF Regulations

- 5.1. Regulations for IHF Competitions
- 5.2. Regulations for International and Continental Referees
- 5.3. Financial Regulations
- 5.4. Ethics Code

6. IHF bodies

- 6.1. Decisions of IHF Ethics Commission
 - 6.1.1. Conduct of COD & CGO
 - 6.1.2. Conduct of Georgios Panayides, EHF handball referee
- 6.2. IHF Court of Arbitration

7. Continents

- 7.1. Report from the continents
- 7.2. SCAHC Congress in Buenos Aires, ARG

8. Miscellaneous

- 8.1. Council decisions made by electronic communication



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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting held in Créteil, France. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health. Furthermore, he seized the opportunity to express his gratitude towards the President of the French Handball Federation, Mr Philippe Bana, for inviting the Council members to the Maison du Handball, the headquarters of the French Handball Federation. Mr Philippe Bana also welcomed the Council members to Créteil and thanked President Moustafa for his initiative regarding the organisation of a Beach Handball showcase event on the fringes of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. He briefly presented the concept of staging the only showcase event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, which will be held at the Maison du Handball with the participation of three men's and three women's beach handball All-star Teams in addition to the French men's and women's beach handball national teams during the period from 27 to 29 July 2024.

1. Minutes

1.1. Council Meeting No. 5, 31 October 2023 in Basel, SUI

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 5th Council Meeting, which was held in Basel, Switzerland, on 31 October 2023.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 5 held in Basel, SUI, on 31 October 2023.

1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 6, 9 February 2024 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 6th Executive Committee Meeting, which was held by video conference on 9 February 2024, including all the Executive Committee decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Executive Committee Meeting No. 6 held by video conference on 9 February 2024.

2. President's activities

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an overview of the President's activities since the last IHF Council meeting in October 2023, stressing that it is just a summary in view of the many activities carried out by the IHF President between the two IHF Council meetings:

2 November 2023: XXXIX IHF Ordinary Congress; Dr Hassan Moustafa welcomed the members of the IHF Council to the IHF Head Office in Basel, Switzerland, while all the representatives of the IHF Member Federations were joining virtually.

7-12 November 2023: Attendance at 2023 IHF Men's Super Globe held in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, from 7 to 12 November 2023; Meetings with sports representatives from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss the handball and sports growth in the country as well as with participating teams' representatives.

29 November-17 December 2023: Attendance at 26th IHF Women's World Championship held in six cities in Denmark, Norway and Sweden from 29 November to 17 December; meeting with the President of the Chinese Handball Association, Ms Wang Tao, in Denmark on 10 December to discuss the further development of handball in CHN; meeting with delegation of IHF ball provider Molten chaired by their President and CEO



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Kiyofumi Tamiaki and signing of the new IHF-Molten Partnership Agreement for the period 2024-2027 on 10 December; attendance at EHF Marketing General Assembly as well as EHF Executive Committee meeting and Dinner Banquet of the 26th IHF Women's World Championship on 16 December.

6 December 2023: Consultation call between IOC President Dr Thomas Bach and the International Federations on updates on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the conditions for Individual Neutral Athletes.

9-10 January 2024: Attendance at 36th Meeting of Board of Trustees of Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award (MBRCSA) & Awarding Ceremony in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

17-27 January 2024: Attendance at 26th CAHB African Men's Championship held in Cairo, Egypt; meetings with CAHB President Dr Mansourou Aremou as well as with the Presidents of participating federations to discuss current handball matters.

30 January-4 February 2024: Attendance at the first-ever IHF Goalkeeper Coach Course (Level 2 Licence Course) held under the new IHF Coaching Education Regulations in Cairo, Egypt.

9 February 2024: 6th IHF Executive Committee Meeting held by video conference.

7 March 2024: Meeting with delegation of the Royal Belgian Handball Federation chaired by their President Jean-François Hannosset at the IHF Head Office in Basel, focusing on the analysis of the efforts of the federation and the handball development in the country, presentations about the younger age category national teams, wheelchair handball and Belgium's education plan.

8 March 2024: First meeting of the newly-established IHF Children's and Youth Handball Working Group held by video conference, the meeting agenda including an introduction to the status, goals and basic concepts of the working group and a discussion about the IHF Licence Structure and the next steps to be taken.

14-17 March 2024: Attendance at IHF Men's Olympic Qualification Tournament in Hanover, Germany.

4 April 2024: Meeting with IHF TV and Marketing Rights Partner Sportfive at the IHF Head Office in Basel, the meeting agenda including presentations regarding Denmark/Norway/Sweden 2023, discussions about future events, such as the 29th IHF Men's World Championship in 2025, and opportunities to capitalise on the successful cooperation.

8 April 2024: Meeting with the General Secretary and the Senior Advisor of Partille Cup at the IHF Head Office in Basel, the meeting agenda including a presentation of the Partille World Cup Tour project.

8 April 2024: Virtual attendance at joint meeting between the Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and the IOC on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games preparations and the politicisation of sport.

9 April 2024: Virtual attendance at 48th Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) General Assembly with the election of Ingmar De Vos as elected new ASOIF President for a term of four years, starting on 1 January 2025, and various reports, statute amendments and membership admissions.

11-14 April 2024: Attendance at IHF Women's Olympic Qualification Tournament in Neu-Ulm, Germany, and at a reception of the cities of Neu-Ulm and Ulm following the invitation of the Mayors of Neu-Ulm and Ulm on 14 April.

Decision

The Council took note of and approved the President's activities and appreciated the efforts he made for the worldwide development of handball.

3. Competitions

3.1. 2023 Women's World Championship in DEN/NOR/SWE – Evaluation

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who presented an evaluation of the 2023 Women's World Championship which took place in Denmark, Norway and Sweden from 29 November to 17 December 2023. As the IHF places great importance on the satisfaction of all stakeholders involved in IHF



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World Championships, a survey was sent to all participating National Federations, IHF Nominees and players to ask for their feedback as usual.

First, the Competitions Director presented the feedback from the National Federations. According to the survey, 90% of the National Federations considered the match schedule as good (63%) or excellent (27%), adding that the training schedule should be set according to the match schedule, and the feedback on the question if Video Replay shall be used in all major IHF events was 100% positive. The feedback regarding hotels was generally good. With respect to the organisational and technical infrastructure, the National Federations stated that the transportation from/to venues and between cities went well and that the teams are getting used to the IHF Player Management Platform, major problems/complaints thus being avoided. The survey also highlighted that the main channel to follow the Women's World Championship was the IHF website, followed by the IHF App and the event website. The feedback concerning the individual venues was positive, but the National Federations also remarked that the spectators' interest in the President's Cup matches should be increased.

The Competitions Director then presented the feedback from the Nominees. In the survey, the Nominees emphasised the good communication before the event and their satisfaction with the preparatory days. Most IHF Nominees followed the competition on the IHF website and on Facebook. In addition, 40% of the IHF Nominees proposed to have a second technical meeting after the preliminary round and the feedback from the Nominees on the question if Video Replay shall be used in all major IHF events was also 100% positive.

Referring to the feedback from the players, the Competitions Director explained that the players who took part in the survey stated that the transportation from/to venues and between cities went well. The feedback from the players also showed that they mainly followed the event on Instagram (73%), followed by the IHF website. Although 50% of the players did not know about the voting system for the player of the match, 75% of them liked the idea of involving the public in the voting. The Competitions Director emphasised that the overall feedback concerning the match schedule was good or excellent (85-90%). While 35% of the players considered the event with 32 teams unsatisfactory/satisfactory, 65% considered it good/excellent. The players were also in favour of training in the competition hall (92%) and using Video Replay in all major IHF events (96%).

As President Moustafa enquired about information on the Men's and Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments held in ESP, GER and HUN in March and April 2024, the Competitions Director explained that it facilitated the organisation to have the respective tournaments for men and women in the same countries. He emphasised that, except for the non-participation of Cameroon in the Women's Olympic Qualification Tournament, everything went well, adding that good spectator and TV figures were achieved, especially for the Men's Olympic Qualification Tournament. President Moustafa emphasised that the IHF is on a very good way in this regard.

President Moustafa reminded the attendees of the non-participation of Cameroon in the Women's Olympic Qualification Tournament in Hungary due to visa issues. Therefore, according to Article 1.2.3 (Chapter 4) of the Regulations for IHF Competitions, the IHF aimed to award the place to another African team; however all the teams contacted by the IHF together with the African Handball Confederation (CAHB), could not confirm their participation, due to the lack of time for preparations and travel. Consequently, the IHF Executive Committee, according to the above-mentioned article, decided on 9 April 2024 to award the open place as a wild card to Great Britain (part of the IHF New Markets' Project), mainly under the light of development purposes.



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Decision

The Council took note of the evaluation regarding the 2023 Women's World Championship in DEN/NOR/SWE presented by the Competitions Director.

3.2. 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in MKD – New Rules of the Game

President Moustafa gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who referred to the application of the Rules of the Game at the 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in MKD. He reminded the attendees that following the approval of the IHF Council dated 27 February 2024, several amendments to the existing Rules of the Game (Indoor Handball) will come into force on 1 July 2024. As a result, the changes to the Rules of the Game, the Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories, the Electronic Team Time-Out Regulations and the Video Replay Regulations would come into force right after the end of the 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship, which will take place from 19 to 30 June 2024. The PRC Chairman pointed out that this would result in the competition not being played according to the same rules as the other summer events (Women's Youth (U18) World Championship in CHN, Paris 2024 Olympic Handball Tournaments). Even though the changes do not affect the structure of the game as such, the PRC Chairman emphasised the importance of playing all three summer events according to the same Rules of the Game, adding that the same procedure was applied in 2022 when the Rules of the Game were amended. President Moustafa thanked the PRC Chairman for his excellent work.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the application of the new version of the IHF Rules of the Game (which had been approved by the Council on 27 February 2024) at the 2024 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship in MKD.

3.3. 2029 & 2031 Men's and Women's World Championships – Awarding

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who informed the Council that after the 2029 and 2031 Men's and Women's Senior World Championships were announced by the IHF, letters of intent from several National Federations were received within the stipulated deadline. As the IHF requested detailed bidding concepts from all interested National Federations, only those federations which have submitted the requested documents within the stipulated deadline are considered while the remaining federations have been excluded.

The Competitions Director stated that every World Championship to be awarded during the present meeting only has one bidder (composed of either one, two or three National Federations). Each bidder has the right to hold a 20-minute presentation and to be available for questions for 10 minutes.

- **IHF Women's World Championship 2029:**

President Moustafa informed the Council that Spain competes for the right to organise the 2029 Women's World Championship. He welcomed the representatives of the Spanish Handball Federation and opened the floor for the presentation.

The Spanish delegation:

-  Mr Alejandro Blanco, President of Spanish Olympic Committee
-  Mr Francisco V. Blázquez García, President of Royal Spanish Handball Federation



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- ✚ Ms Cristina Laborda, Mayor of Irún
- ✚ Ms Goizane Álvarez, Sports Responsible for the Gipuzkoa regional government
- ✚ Mr Gurutz Aguinagalde, President of club Bidasoa
- ✚ Mr Fernando Molinero, General Sports Director of the Higher Sports Council
- ✚ Ms Elena Borrás Alcaraz, President's Chief of Staff of Royal Spanish Handball Federation

The bid includes the following four host cities/venues:

- ✚ Valencia – Roig Arena (capacity: 16,000)
- ✚ Málaga – Martín Carpena (capacity: 11,300)
- ✚ Santiago de Compostela – Fontes do Sar (capacity: 6,666)
- ✚ Irún – IAM Irún (capacity: 5,000)

After stressing the long handball tradition in the country, including their experience in hosting several major international events (e.g. the 2021 IHF Women's World Championship despite the COVID-19 pandemic), the delegation promised that fans and spectators will experience an incredible handball atmosphere in Spain during the World Championship. The delegation emphasised that they will use their experience from previous events to further improve the organisational processes, adding that they will also gain valuable knowledge from their role as co-hosts of the EHF EURO 2028 alongside Portugal and Switzerland. They also provided brief information on the arenas (most of the venues are well-known arenas which have hosted various other handball events), accommodation (Spain as a well-known touristic country that offers a variety of options in all cities) and transportation (modern infrastructure, 46 airports open to commercial traffic, first-class roads, high-speed train connections). In addition, the delegation stressed that all necessary visas will be duly managed and issued in a timely and smooth manner so that all stakeholders involved can enter and leave the country with ease. Referring to the match schedule, they informed the attendees that two preliminary round groups shall be staged in each of the four cities and that all four cities shall also be used for the main round. Furthermore, it is planned to have one or two cities for the quarter-finals and one city for the semi-finals and final matches. The delegation confirmed that their bid is supported by Spanish authorities, including but not limited to the Spanish Olympic Committee, the General Director of Sports of the Higher Sports Council and the City Hall of Irún. The marketing plan of the competition will target the spectators, both those present in the halls and those watching the matches on TV. With respect to the TV coverage, the delegation stated that a Spanish public TV company will be in charge of producing the signal.

As no question was raised by the Council members, President Moustafa thanked the representatives of the Spanish Handball Federation for their presentation. Afterwards, the Spanish delegation left the meeting room.

- **IHF Women's World Championship 2031:**

President Moustafa informed the Council that Czechia/Poland compete for the right to organise the 2031 Women's World Championship. He welcomed the representatives of the Czech Handball Federation/Polish Handball Federation and opened the floor for the presentation.

The Czech and Polish delegations:

CZE

- ✚ Mr Ondrej Zdrahala, President of Czech Handball Federation
- ✚ Ms Sarka Drozdova, Secretary General of Czech Handball Federation
- ✚ Mr Petr Hercík, Executive Director at Sport Invest Marketing

POL

- ✚ Mr Bogdan Sojkin, 1st Vice-President of Polish Handball Federation
- ✚ Mr Jakub Skorupa, Event Organisation Responsible at Polish Handball Federation
- ✚ Mr Damian Drobik, Sports Director of Polish Handball Federation



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- ✚ Mr Piotr Przestrzelski, Senior Marketing and Event Manager at Polish Handball Federation

The bid includes the following three host cities/four venues:

- ✚ Katowice (POL) – Spodek Katowice (capacity: 11,016)
- ✚ Katowice (POL) – GWS Katowice Sports Hall (capacity: 3,001)
- ✚ Sosnowiec (POL) – Sosnowiec Arena (capacity: 3,052)
- ✚ Brno (CZE) – Arena Brno (capacity: 13,300)

After highlighting the long handball tradition in both countries, the Czech and Polish delegations stressed that their aim to strengthen handball, especially women's handball, is not limited to the organisation of the 2031 Women's World Championship. They provided brief information on the arena, accommodation (all cities have minimum 4* hotels, the hotels are partly known from the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship, Katowice and the surrounding region offer a lot of facilities) and transportation. The Polish delegation referred to the large experience gained during the successful organisation of the 2023 IHF Men's World Championship which was co-hosted by Poland and Sweden. With regard to the match schedule, they informed the attendees that it is planned to stage six preliminary round groups and three main round groups in Poland and two preliminary round groups and one main round group in Czechia. Two quarter-finals each shall be played in Poland and Czechia, while the semi-finals and final matches shall take place in Poland. The Czech and Polish delegations confirmed that their bid is supported by partners from both nations, including but not limited to the National Sports Agency of Czechia, the Mayor of Brno, the South Moravian region, the Mayor of Katowice and the Polish Minister of Sports and Tourism. As the aim of the marketing plan is to incorporate handball in everyday life, the delegations emphasised that the Women's World Championship in Czechia/Poland will leave a long legacy. In this way, handball should be put in the spotlight and especially women's handball should be made even more popular, not only in Czechia and Poland, but worldwide.

As no question was raised by the Council members, President Moustafa thanked the representatives of the Czech Handball Federation/Polish Handball Federation for their presentation. Afterwards, the Czech and Polish delegations left the meeting room.

- **IHF Men's World Championship 2029:**

President Moustafa informed the Council that France/Germany compete for the right to organise the 2029 Men's World Championship. He welcomed the representatives of the French Handball Federation/German Handball Federation and opened the floor for the presentation.

The French and German delegations:

FRA

- ✚ Mr Philippe Bana, President of French Handball Federation
- ✚ Mr Bertrand Gille, former player of French senior national men's team

GER

- ✚ Mr Andreas Michelmann, President of German Handball Federation
- ✚ Mr Mark Schober, Secretary General of German Handball Federation
- ✚ Mr Uwe Gensheimer, former player of German senior national men's team

The bid includes the following seven host cities/eight venues:

- ✚ Paris (FRA) – La Défense Arena (capacity: up to 25,000)
- ✚ Paris (FRA) – Accor Arena (capacity: 14,000)
- ✚ Lyon (FRA) – LDLC Arena (capacity: 10,000)
- ✚ Strasbourg (FRA) – Rhénus Arena (capacity: 8,000)



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- ✚ Cologne (GER) – Lanxess Arena (capacity: 20,000)
- ✚ Stuttgart (GER) – Porsche Arena (capacity: 6,200)
- ✚ Düsseldorf (GER) – PSD Bank Dome (capacity: 11,600)
- ✚ Mannheim (GER) – SAP Arena (capacity: 15,000)

The French and German delegations started their presentation by highlighting the long handball tradition in both countries and their experience in hosting major handball events. They also provided brief information on the arenas (most of the locations are well-known arenas which have hosted various other sport events), accommodation (several possible options as all cities have 4 and 5* hotels) and transportation. Referring to the match schedule, they informed the attendees that while four preliminary round groups, two main round groups and two quarter-finals shall be played in Germany, the rest of the matches shall be staged in France. The delegations explained that the German host cities are all located close to France in south-west Germany, the event thus being as sustainable and environmentally friendly as possible due to the short distances between the different venues. In addition, they offered to host a younger age category event as well and to add another country/federation to host two preliminary round groups to further spread the product. The French and German delegations confirmed that their bid is supported by partners from both nations, including but not limited to the French Minister for Sports and the Olympic & Paralympic Games, the German Minister-President of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Hendrik Wüst MdL, and the City of Cologne. With respect to the marketing, the delegations emphasised that the event will benefit from the fact that the IHF and the French and German Handball Federations share the same marketing partner, Sportfive.

As no question was raised by the Council members, President Moustafa thanked the representatives of the French Handball Federation/German Handball Federation for their presentation. Afterwards, the French and German delegations left the meeting room.

- **IHF Men's World Championship 2031:**

President Moustafa informed the Council that Denmark/Iceland/Norway compete for the right to organise the 2031 Men's World Championship. He welcomed the representatives of the Danish Handball Federation/Icelandic Handball Federation/Norwegian Handball Federation and opened the floor for the presentation.

The Danish, Icelandic and Norwegian delegations:

DEN

- ✚ Mr Morten Stig Christensen, President of Danish Handball Federation
- ✚ Ms Anita Kristiansen, Event Manager of Danish Handball Federation

ISL

- ✚ Mr Gudmundur B. Olafsson, President of Icelandic Handball Federation
- ✚ Ms Thorgerdur Katrin Gunnarsdóttir, former handball player and referee, Member of Icelandic Parliament

NOR

- ✚ Mr Kåre Geir Lio, President of Norwegian Handball Federation

The bid includes the following five host cities/venues:

- ✚ Copenhagen (DEN) – Royal Arena (capacity: 12,500)
- ✚ Herning (DEN) – Jyske Bank Boxen (capacity: 15,000)
- ✚ Reykjavik (ISL) – Iceland Arena (capacity: 8,600)
- ✚ Oslo (NOR) – Telenor Arena (capacity: 15,000)
- ✚ Trondheim (NOR) – Trondheim Spektrum (capacity: 8,960)



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The Danish, Icelandic and Norwegian delegations provided brief information on the arenas (most of the locations are well-known arenas which have hosted various other handball events while the Iceland Arena in Reykjavik is yet to be built), accommodation (several possible options as all cities have at least 4* hotels) and transportation. Referring to the allocation of the matches to the different cities, they informed the Council that the final decision on the schedule is yet to be made. The Danish, Icelandic and Norwegian delegations confirmed that their bid is supported by authorities from the three nations, including but not limited to the Norwegian Olympic Committee and Ministry of Culture, the Icelandic Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, the Mayor of Reykjavik and the Icelandic Olympic Committee as well as the Danish Minister of Culture. The delegations highlighted that the aim of the event is to inspire other countries so that handball can become even more global. They added that the marketing plan will be based on an innovative and ambitious approach, as it will tell a compelling story and focus on fan engagement. In addition, the delegations pointed out that various side events will be organised during the World Championship for all stakeholders involved, for example an international conference on the future of handball facilities.

As no question was raised by the Council members, President Moustafa thanked the representatives of the Danish Handball Federation/Icelandic Handball Federation/Norwegian Handball Federation for their presentation. Afterwards, the Danish, Icelandic and Norwegian delegations left the meeting room.

The Competitions Director took the floor, informing that all members of the Council will vote on awarding each event individually by secret ballot, except for the Council members coming from the respective bidding nations. In detail:

- IHF Women's World Championship 2029:
🇪🇸 ESP
- IHF Women's World Championship 2031 (excluding the Executive Committee Member due to his Czech nationality):
🇨🇪🇵🇱 CZE/POL
- IHF Men's World Championship 2029 (excluding the 1st Vice-President due to his French nationality and the CCM Chairman due to his German nationality):
🇫🇷🇩🇪 FRA/GER
- IHF Men's World Championship 2031 (excluding the COC Chairman due to his Danish nationality and the PRC Chairman due to his Norwegian nationality):
🇩🇪🇮🇸🇳🇴 DEN/ISL/NOR

Despite his right to vote, President Moustafa as usual remained neutral and abstained from voting.

Decision

The Council awarded the 2029 & 2031 Men's and Women's World Championships as follows:

- 🇪🇸 **IHF Women's World Championship 2029: Spain**
- 🇨🇪🇵🇱 **IHF Women's World Championship 2031: Czechia/Poland**
- 🇫🇷🇩🇪 **IHF Men's World Championship 2029: France/Germany**
- 🇩🇪🇮🇸🇳🇴 **IHF Men's World Championship 2031: Denmark/Iceland/Norway**

3.4. U17 World Championship – Concept

President Moustafa referred to the IHF Council decision dated 12 August 2023 to establish a working group composed of the CCM Chairman, the PRC Chairman and the COC Chairman, which shall elaborate a concept










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for the new IHF U17 World Championship. He gave the floor to the CCM Chairman to present the information on the U17 World Championship elaborated by the named working group, which had been sent to the IHF Council members prior to the meeting.

The CCM Chairman stated that the creation of a U17 World Championship serves to further enhance the educational process and the focus on youth handball for the benefit of the overall development of international handball throughout the age categories. He emphasised that the main goal of a U17 World Championship is to motivate particularly Member Federations outside of Europe to establish a comprehensive and efficient youth development system and structure. According to the CCM Chairman, the new competition is considered a key pillar in the overall handball development worldwide. In addition, he explained that the U17 World Championship should not be integrated into a qualification system. He informed the attendees that the new competition shall also include social events and that it is planned to offer the participants opportunities to meet each other and to take part in educational and cultural events. For this reason, the IHF and OC shall offer several elements to engage players in the sport (e.g. with the help of role models such as World Handball Players) while at the same time showing them what they might expect in their playing careers. Referring to the reasons for the new competition, President Moustafa emphasised that the teams and individual players should have the opportunity to participate in international competitions at an early age. He reminded the attendees that at the time he became IHF President, the younger age categories only included junior events while the idea of a youth competition was initially rejected. However, as shown by the development of the number of participating teams (8 at the beginning, 32 in the current format), the competition has proved successful. He added that the U17 World Championship will improve the performance of the teams, especially outside of Europe, and will therefore provide an important benefit for the handball family.

With respect to pedagogical guidelines for the new competition, the CCM Chairman emphasised that U17 World Championships shall be played with age-appropriate Rules of the Game. Proposals for these modified Rules of the Game include a ban on playing seven-against-six, the provision to use all players on the match report and the idea of splitting the playing time into three parts of 20 minutes each with two 10-minute breaks. To avoid overload, players who play in a U17 World Championship may not take part in a regular U18/U19 Youth World Championship (or Junior World Championship) within a period of three months. The CD Chairman took the floor, pointing out that in his opinion the rules should be the same for all indoor competitions at all levels, as the children need to prepare for the senior level. President Moustafa commented that the proposed adapted rules are better suited to teaching the fundamentals in attack and defence. The CCM Chairman explained that the tactical focus of the new competition should be on one-on-one situations and therefore playing seven-against-six, for example, should be avoided.

The CCM Chairman then provided more detailed information on the competition system of the U17 World Championship, stating that the IHF will coordinate and manage all U17 World Championship tournaments, including the qualification events, in close cooperation with the Continental Confederations. Referring to the places of the final tournament, the CCM Chairman pointed out that the 16 places for the first event shall be distributed as follows, adding that the number of teams shall be discussed following a comprehensive analysis after the first edition of the event:

-  Africa (CAHB): 3
-  Asia (AHF): 3
-  Europe (EHF): 3
-  North America and the Caribbean (NACHC): 2
-  South and Central America (SCAHC): 3
-  Oceania (OCHF): 1
-  Organiser: 1



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In the preliminary round of the final tournament itself, the participating teams shall be divided into four groups of four teams each. The basic set-up of the day-by-day schedule of the U17 World Championship is scheduled for nine days (day 1 being the first day of the preliminary round and day 9 referring to the departure of all teams), including two rest days. However, depending on potential additional events and in order to reduce the stress for the players, the CCM Chairman remarked that it is very likely that more rest days will be added. He stated that the first edition shall take place in October 2025, pointing out that existing U17 tournaments on the continents must be taken into account when scheduling the U17 World Championship and could also serve as possible qualifications.

The CCM Chairman also made some general remarks on the new competition. In this context, he mentioned that the referees shall only be selected from a young referee project, i.e. the maximum age of referees shall be limited and they shall be supported by experienced IHF top referees, among others, during the tournament. Moreover, coaches of a U17 national team shall be obliged to participate in a special (online) coaching course before taking part in a U17 World Championship. Such course shall explain the specific goals of this tournament and provide various content on talent development and long-term training development. While young talents shall be appointed as delegates, an experienced team shall be nominated as event management in addition to an experienced team of analysts who will analyse the matches and present corresponding match analyses to all participating teams every day. President Moustafa thanked the CCM Chairman for his work on the concept of the new competition.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, pointing out that if the new competition was organised according to the presented concept of the working group, not all IHF World Championships would follow the same concept. He remarked that the new competition should thus be called differently. President Moustafa commented that in many countries it is easier to get the required support from authorities if a competition is called World Championship. Executive Committee Member Narcisa Lecusanu agreed with President Moustafa, adding that it will be good for countries outside of Europe to learn how to organise such events. While she expressed her support for the U17 World Championship, she remarked that the date in October may need to be reconsidered as the potential participants of the new competition have to go to school at that time. The IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean also expressed his support for the project, stating that the introduction of youth events was helpful for the development of many teams of the NACHC. Executive Committee Member Dr Frantisek Taborsky recommended to coordinate the new IHF U17 World Championship with the International School Sport Federation (ISF) as well as the International University Sports Federation (FISU), mentioning a potential contribution of both entities to the new event. President Moustafa informed the attendees that the new FISU President will visit the IHF Head Office in Basel to discuss a cooperation between IHF and FISU.

Following a remark from the IHF Vice-President Europe that all Continental Confederations, including Europe, should be able to benefit from the U17 World Championship, President Moustafa underlined the importance of promoting handball worldwide. The IHF Vice-President Europe also stressed the necessity to define clear conditions for the new competition. The IHF Vice-President Africa pointed out that the new competition is a good approach to reduce the gap between the teams of the different Continental Confederations, adding that the concept prepared by the working group includes many important pedagogical aspects. As the IHF Representative South and Central America enquired about the consequences of an already qualified team not being able to take part in the final tournament, the CCM Chairman explained that reserve teams from the same continents will be defined in addition to the originally qualified teams. In conclusion, President Moustafa once again emphasised the importance of cooperation between the Continental Confederations.



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Decision

The Council took note of and approved the concept for the new IHF U17 World Championship elaborated by the working group composed of the CCM Chairman, the PRC Chairman and the COC Chairman and authorised the IHF Head Office, together with the CCM Chairman, to develop detailed regulations on the IHF U17 World Championship accordingly, taking into consideration the aforementioned input, if applicable. The first edition of the IHF U17 World Championship shall be organised in October 2025, considering that the exact event date shall be coordinated in collaboration with the Continental Confederations, taking into account their respective calendars of events.

3.5. 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2024 in EGY – Wild card

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who reported on the 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship, which will take place in Cairo, Egypt, from 15 to 22 September 2024 with eight teams as decided by the IHF Council on 31 October 2023. While Egypt (as host) as well as the representatives of the AHF (IND, JPN), EHF (FRA, POR) and SCAHC (BRA, CHI) confirmed their participation, the CAHB informed the IHF on 25 March 2024 that they cannot nominate a team for the competition, as the only African team which is currently active in wheelchair handball is Egypt that is already taking part in the event as host. As a result, a wild card is to be awarded for the remaining place. The General Director informed the attendees that the IHF received emails from AUS (27 February 2024) and USA (9 February 2024), expressing their interest in participating in the competition concerned. Following the receipt of the emails, the IHF contacted AUS and USA on 27 March 2024, asking for information about their team as basis for the awarding of the wild card by 5 April 2024. AUS asked on 5 April 2024 for an extension of the deadline for one week, while USA provided more detailed information on 8 April 2024, explaining that they have a total of 20 players, including four women, available for the wheelchair handball team, which has been active since 2024. USA stated that they have no experience of participating in wheelchair handball competitions (as of 1 April 2024), but underlined that friendly matches are to be defined. In addition, they stressed that the country has a strong tradition of elite wheelchair basketball competitions, which will serve as the foundation for wheelchair handball activities. They emphasised that the team intends to travel to Cairo for the World Championship if awarded a wild card. They also pointed out that the team's equipment is in compliance with the IHF Rules of the Game for Wheelchair Handball Four-a-Side. The General Director added that USA has been part of the IHF New Markets' Project.

Executive Committee Member Dr Frantisek Taborsky took the floor, pointing out the difficulties to find organisers for Wheelchair Handball World Championships due to the high costs as well as the increasing number of participating teams. In addition, he stressed the challenges to find participants from all continents, especially from Oceania.

Decision

The Council unanimously decided to award the available wild card for the 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2024 to USA.

4. Finances

4.1. IHF investment – Julius Bär

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that two representatives of Julius Bär, Mr Rolf Meyer, Head of Entrepreneurs & Executives and Ultra-High Net Worth Individuals



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(UHNWI), and Mr Roman Frey, Head of Fixed Income Investment Management, will join the meeting during the current agenda item to report on the current status of the IHF investment portfolio.

After a brief introduction by Mr Meyer, Mr Frey took the floor, stating that the market charged negative interests on CHF and EUR cash in 2016 (when the portfolio was launched) and the years to follow, the market conditions thus being very challenging at the time. He reminded the attendees that strategic investment guidelines were defined in 2016 to specify risk-return characteristics and limits and to avoid negative interest rates while at the same time generating an income. Mr Frey informed the Council members that these targets have been achieved. When the tailor-made bond portfolio was implemented, the IHF decided to diversify its cash position in a portfolio of solid and high quality corporate and sovereign bonds (average portfolio rating: A+/AA-) and opted for a low-risk investment approach. He reported that the risks have been actively managed and limited by strategic investment guidelines. Mr Frey informed the Council members about the development of the unrealised capital impacts, stating that from October to December 2023, the unrealised capital impacts have decreased due to a decline in interest rates (thus accelerating the recovery of the unrealised capital losses) followed by an increase of the unrealised capital impacts since the beginning of 2024, as interest rates have been increasing again. He also provided brief information about currency fluctuations, pointing out that the CHF has depreciated significantly against both USD and EUR since late 2023. He referred to the realised portfolio income (coupons/interest) as well as the realised capital impacts which, however, had no influence on the substance of the portfolio. Furthermore, Mr Frey remarked that there would have been realised costs for the IHF (due to the negative interest rate environment) if the money was placed in a CHF cash account. Furthermore, he stated that two thirds of the unrealised negative capital impacts are expected (not guaranteed) to be recuperated by 2025 and 90% by 2027 (assuming no changes in interest rates and a linear recovery path).

The Julius Bär representatives also provided an outlook for the future development of the IHF investment portfolio. Mr Frey emphasised that they expect interest rates to start to trend lower after 2024, which could lead to a quicker recuperation of unrealised capital losses.

Following an enquiry from the IHF Representative South and Central America about the current value of the IHF investment portfolio, the Treasurer remarked that the value of the bond portfolio is changing due to fluctuations in other currencies (EUR and USD) than the reporting currency (CHF as requested by the IHF), however currency impacts remain largely unrealised. The General Director added that the IHF prefers to keep its assets safe by having high quality bonds (average rating: A+/AA-) instead of increasing the risk.

As the IHF Vice-President Europe asked whether the recent losses suffered by Julius Bär due to the bankruptcy of the Signa Holding will have any effect on the IHF investment, Mr Meyer assured the Council members that the IHF investment portfolio will not be affected in any way by the current issues, as the money invested by Julius Bär (which has been lost) did not come from their clients. Moreover, he highlighted that Julius Bär has taken drastic and concrete measures and decisions (e.g. change of CEO) to rectify the situation.

President Moustafa thanked both Julius Bär representatives for the comprehensive presentation and congratulated Julius Bär, the General Director and the Treasurer on their work. He also highlighted the positive development of the IHF investment portfolio over the years. The Julius Bär representatives thanked the Council members for their trust and left the meeting.

Decision

The Council took note of and agreed to the information provided by the representatives of Julius Bär regarding the IHF investment portfolio.



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5. IHF Regulations

5.1. Regulations for IHF Competitions

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who presented proposed amendments to the Regulations for IHF Competitions:

I. Basic Principles

Article 3.2.2. Lists

For all IHF events, the registration process consists of two phases:

- Provisional list of 35 players and 10 officials

Even if a team has registered less than 35 players, the provisional list is final and cannot be changed once the deadline has expired.

- Definitive list of 18 players and 6 officials, taken from the provisional list. This list is not necessarily the match squad (see I.3.4.2).

The registration must include:

a) Players with the following details: shirt number (**between 1 and 99**), surname, first name, club, date of birth, place of birth, nationality and additional nationality if applicable, gender, status (**amateur, professional, player with education agreement, student**), height, ~~weight~~, throwing hand, main position, number of international matches, number of goals scored in international matches, naturalised status if applicable.

Additionally, a photo, passport copy, signed data protection form and signed code of conduct are required for each player.

b) Officials with the following details: surname, first name, date of birth, nationality, gender, function within the delegation and indication of the officials (by use of letters A, B, C, D, E, F).

The following functions must be used: head coach, assistant coach, goalkeeper coach, physiotherapist, physician, team official, and support staff. The letters assigned to the officials cannot be changed after the technical meeting.

Additionally, a photo, passport copy, signed data protection form and signed code of conduct are required for each official.

c) Colour of team kits and corresponding photos (see chapter VII for detailed specifications).

[...]

Article 3.2.4 Player and Official Replacements

For all IHF events, each team may replace up to five (5) players at any time (e.g. each team may put in five (5) new players or may put in a player who has already been replaced once). Players may be replaced with players indicated in the provisional list only.

In case a suspended player is replaced by another player, the new player is only eligible to play after the suspension has lapsed.

Player replacements at the Olympic Games can only be done according to IOC regulations. IOC regulations in this regard have priority. Further information is laid down in the corresponding section (see V.1.4.2).

In case the composition of a team's staff changes after the deadline for submitting the provisional list, replacements of the officials may be requested until one hour before the start of the technical meeting and are subject to approval by the IHF. Furthermore, in exceptional cases the IHF ~~Competition Management~~ may allow the replacement of up to two officials during competition on request of the NF concerned (e.g. in case of serious health issues). In case such replacement takes place, the added official takes over the identification letter of the replaced official.



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Justification:

Article 3.2.2:

- Further details about shirt number and status of the players are proposed to be added for the sake of clarity.
- As the IHF has been asking players and officials to submit a photo, passport copy as well as a signed data protection form and signed code of conduct during the registration process, the corresponding article needs to be amended accordingly.

Article 3.2.4:

Teams which recruited new officials, e.g. a new coach, a few days prior to the competition should have the possibility to request the replacement of the officials concerned in the provisional list until one hour before the technical meeting.

III. Men's Junior (U21), Men's Youth (U19), Women's Junior (U20), Women's Youth (U18) World Championships

Article 1.1.3. Conditions to Receive the Compulsory and Performance Places

In order to receive the compulsory and performance places based on the result of the preceding World Championship and the principles mentioned under III.1.1.2, the Continental Confederations shall fulfil the following conditions:

a) At least

- four (4) teams must take part in the qualification events of the Continental Confederations which have a **total number of one (1) or two (2) compulsory and performance places.**
- six (6) teams must take part in the qualification events of the Continental Confederations which have a **total number of three (3) compulsory and performance places.**
- eight (8) teams must take part in the qualification events of the Continental Confederations which have a **total number of four (4) compulsory and performance places.**

b) If the total number of compulsory and performance places for a Continental Confederation is higher than four (4), the minimum number of participating teams in the qualifying round must be at least twice the number of places.

c) In case the number of teams taking part in the qualification is less than the requirements specified in a) and b), the maximum number of places a Continental Confederation is entitled to receive is half the number of participating teams (rounded down in case of uneven number).

d) In case of c), **the following shall be applicable:**

1. The first place that has to be reassigned is awarded to the Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion which shall award the place in accordance with performance criteria.

- o In case the Continental Confederation of the World Champion is the Continental Confederation whose places have been reduced, the first place is awarded to the 2nd best ranked Continental Confederation at the previous World Championship.

2. If more than one place needs to be reassigned, all other places shall be awarded as wild cards by the IHF Council.

3. The Continental Confederation gaining an additional place as mentioned in point 1 of d) shall fulfil the conditions specified in a) and b), taking into account the additional place. Otherwise, this place shall be awarded as a wild card by the IHF Council.

e) Further, in case of d), the places to be removed shall be the lowest in the performance rows, meaning that first the compulsory places shall be removed and then the performance places of the respective Continental



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Confederation.

Justification:

The proposed amendment is needed to further specify the reassignment of compulsory and performance places, as a Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion might be concerned by not fulfilling the requirements in terms of the minimum number of participating teams in the qualification process (as occurred during the qualification for the 2024 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship). Furthermore, Continental Confederations benefiting from the reassignment of places shall be encouraged to ensure a good number of teams in the qualification process.

Note: The same amendment is also proposed to be applied for the Men's and Women's World Championships (Article 1.1.3 of Chapter 2).

V. Olympic Games

Article 1.1.2. Quota Places

[...]

In the event that the reigning World Champion (or the host nation) wins the continental qualification event, the **next best second** ranked team of the respective continental qualification event **not yet qualified** will obtain a quota place.

[...]

Article 1.4.2. Player Replacement

Player replacement procedures are published by the IOC for each edition of the Olympic Games and may differ from the procedures applied at IHF events.

~~As a general rule, all teams may replace an unlimited number of players until the technical meeting, but in any case, the Late Athlete Replacement Policy has to be respected.~~

~~During the competition (after the technical meeting) all teams are entitled to:~~

- ~~— replace one player with any player from the long list and the IHF provisional registration list ('list of 35') up until the quarter finals;~~
- ~~— replace a goalkeeper with another goalkeeper on the long list and the IHF provisional registration list ('list of 35') once up until the final;~~
- ~~— replace any player with the alternate athlete (Ap) up until the final.~~

~~In any case, the replaced player cannot return to the roster.~~

~~The replacement of a player has to be announced on the day before the respective match. Detailed information on the procedure for late athlete replacement will be provided by the IOC.~~

Justification:

Article 1.1.2:

This amendment is proposed to provide for cases where the organiser and the reigning World Champion (both having quota places for the Olympic Handball Tournaments) are playing the final of a continental qualification event. In such a case, the team ranked third will be qualified for the Olympic Handball Tournaments.

Article 1.4.2:

Following the negotiations between IHF and IOC, an agreement was reached for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games to offer each team three "Ap" accreditations (alternate athletes) to be used by each team at their own discretion, which is a clear benefit for the teams. However, due to the fact that the basic regulations concerning player replacement options are defined by the IOC prior to each edition of the Olympic Games, it



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is proposed to refer to the relevant regulations issued by the IOC in order to avoid amending the Regulations for IHF Competitions every four years, if applicable.

VII. Equipment Regulations

Article 2.2. Other Items of Clothing (*entire Article 2.2 to be moved to the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories*)

a) Undergarments

Under their uniforms, players are allowed to wear compression garments such as shorts, leggings or long-sleeve shirts.

For visible undergarments, the following provisions apply:

- Items worn under the shirt must be of the same dominant colour as the shirt.
- Items worn under the shorts must be of the same dominant colour as the shorts, with the exception of black undergarments which may be worn regardless of the dominant colour of the shorts.
- The colours of the undergarments must be the same for all players of the same team.

The above restrictions do not apply to invisible undergarments.

The same shall be applicable for referees.

b) Socks

The socks of all players of the same team must be identical in colour ~~and length~~.

Any equipment worn on the lower legs (e.g. calf compression sleeves, ankle protectors, etc.) must be of the same colour as the socks.

If ~~a player wears~~ long undergarments ~~are worn~~ under the shorts, the socks must be the same colour ~~as the socks worn by the other players of his/her team as the undergarments~~.

c) Head coverings

Players are allowed to wear religious head coverings such as hijabs, turbans, patkas, etc. provided that they are specifically designed for use in sports and do not require any pins. Additionally, they must comply with the following provisions:

- Head coverings must not compromise the safety of the player wearing it or other players.
- Head coverings must not be attached to the shirt in any way, and they must not have any kind of fastening mechanism.
- Head coverings must not cover any part of the face entirely or partially (eyes, nose, mouth, etc.).
- Head coverings must be either of the same dominant colour as the shirts or black or white. The colour of the head coverings must be the same for all players of the same team.

The same shall be applicable for referees.

Article 2.3. Accessories and Objects (*entire Article 2.3 to be moved to the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories*)

It is not permitted to wear objects that could be dangerous to the players. This includes, for instance, head protection, face masks, bracelets, watches, rings, visible piercings, necklaces or chains, earrings, glasses without restraining bands or with solid frames, or any other objects which could be dangerous (Rules of the Game 17:3).

Players who do not meet the requirements will not be allowed to take part until they have corrected the problem.

Flat rings, small earrings and visible piercings may be allowed, as long as they are covered with tape in such a way that they are no longer deemed dangerous to other players. Headbands are allowed, as long as they are made of soft, elastic material.



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Article 2.5. Players' Numbers

Players must wear clearly legible numbers, the figures must have a height of at least 20 cm on the back and 10 cm on the chest. The numbers shall be in a colour which is clearly distinguishable from the main colour of the shirt. Numbers between 1 and 99 shall be used.

Numbers 1 to 9 shall be printed as single-digit numbers without a leading zero (i.e. 01, 02, etc. are not allowed).

[...]

Justification:

Articles 2.2 and 2.3 are proposed to be separated from the Regulations for IHF Competitions and moved to the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories in order to avoid any discrepancies, taking into consideration that provisions related to items of clothing, such as undergarments, socks and head coverings, as well as accessories and objects are currently included in the Regulations for IHF Competitions, Rules of the Game* as well as the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories. In this context, please also refer to the subsequent page.

Article 2.2:

This amendment aims to ensure that all players of one team are wearing the same colour of the socks regardless of whether a player wears long undergarments. The update is necessary to ensure consistency with the Rules of the Game.

Article 2.5:

Further details about the use of players' shirt numbers 1 to 9 are proposed to be added for the sake of clarity.

*Note: The following content of the Rules of the Game is proposed to be separated from the Rules of the Game and moved to the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories in order to avoid any discrepancies. The final wording of the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories will be adapted accordingly.

IV. Guidelines and Interpretations – Appendix 2

Additional advice on face masks ban and other objects not allowed (Rule 4:9)

Helmet	not allowed	all kinds of helmets
Face mask	not allowed	also masks covering parts of the face
Nose protection	allowed	tape, soft material
Headband	allowed	elastic material
Head scarf	allowed	elastic material
Captain's armband	allowed	on upper arm, about 5 cm wide, one single colour
Elbow protection	allowed	soft material, thin, short
Wrist protection	allowed	soft material, thin, short
Finger band	not allowed	



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Gloves	not allowed	
Knee protection	allowed	soft material, no metal
Ankle joint protection	allowed	hard parts covered
T-shirt for court player acting as goalkeeper	allowed	same colour as goalkeeper

The following regulations are binding rules for events organised by the IHF and the Continental Confederations.

They are also to be used as recommendations for matches at all levels of competition.

Long-sleeved undershirt	allowed	same colour as main colour of the shirt, thin material
T-shirt for court player acting as goalkeeper	allowed	identical to goalkeeper shirt, holes for front and back number, covered with transparent material
Short undershorts	allowed	same colour as pants with the exception of black undergarments which may be worn regardless of the dominant colour of the shorts, thin material
Long undershorts	allowed	
Long pants	not allowed	exception: goalkeeper
Socks		same colour
Clothing of officials		standardised, dressed in sportswear or civilian clothing; uniform colour, different from shirt colour of the court players of the opposing team

For further details, please refer to the Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories.

Following an enquiry of the IHF Vice-President Europe, the Competitions Director confirmed that the equipment-related regulations, e.g. in terms of undergarments and socks, are up-to-date and shall from now on be included in the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories only, as outlined above, in order to avoid any discrepancies.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the amendments to the Regulations for IHF Competitions.



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5.2. Regulations for International and Continental Referees

President Moustafa gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who presented a proposed amendment to the Regulations for International and Continental Referees:

Article 5 – Removal of Referees from the International Referee Category

2. In addition, all referees who have reached the age of ~~55~~ ~~50~~ must be automatically removed from the International level.

Justification:

- The referees, same as the rest of the society, are in better physical condition than before, a 55-year-old person can be in better physical and mental condition than a 50-year-old person was in the past. The test requirements will stay the same as for a 50-year-old referee today.
- Experience is a very important element for performing on high level, and for being able to do so, getting the acceptance needed.
- We can easily reject referees who are not on the desired level to continue, this will mainly be applicable for Elite referees. Raising the age limit should not limit the opportunities for younger referees, if they are close to or better than the level of the older.
- By implementation of a medical certificate, it is easier for us to control that our referees are in good health.

As the IHF Vice-President Europe enquired about the consequences on the Continental Confederations of changing the maximum age for international referees, the PRC Chairman explained that the corresponding regulations of the Continental Confederations need to be adapted accordingly. President Moustafa added that the Continental Confederations, following the official communication from the IHF regarding the amendment concerned, shall inform their Member Federations accordingly.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the amendment to the Regulations for International and Continental Referees related to the age limit of international referees.

5.3. Financial Regulations

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented a proposed amendment to the Financial Regulations:

II. Regulations for Travel Expenses

Article 4 – Daily Allowance

For all other expenditures (such as drinks, small presents, telephone calls, newspapers, etc.), the IHF grants a daily allowance of CHF 250.– for Council members and CHF 100.– for other collaborators and guests of the IHF.

Employees of the IHF are granted a daily allowance of CHF 150.– on weekdays and CHF 200.– on weekends.

IHF experts and IHF Rules Working Group members are granted a daily allowance of CHF 150.–.

During IHF Senior World Championships, **Olympic Games (Olympic Handball Tournaments) and Olympic**



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Qualification Tournaments, the IHF grants a daily allowance of CHF 150.– for IHF officials and CHF 175.– for IHF referees.

During IHF Junior/Youth World Championships, the IHF grants a daily allowance of CHF 125.– for IHF officials and CHF 150.– for IHF referees.

Referees officiating matches at IHF events are granted, in addition to the daily allowance as indicated above, an allowance per match officiated at IHF Senior/Junior/Youth World Championships, Olympic Games (Olympic Handball Tournaments) and Olympic Qualification Tournaments as follows (amounts in CHF):

[...]

Justification:

It is proposed to grant the same daily allowances applicable for IHF officials and IHF referees during IHF Senior World Championships also during Olympic Games (i.e. Olympic Handball Tournaments) as well as Olympic Qualification Tournaments for the sake of consistency.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the amendment to the Financial Regulations.

5.4. Ethics Code

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented a proposed amendment to the Ethics Code:

Article 3 – Applicability

The Statutes shall always apply.

In the event of any inconsistency between the Code and any other IHF Regulations except for the IHF Statutes, the relevant provisions of the Code shall prevail.

The Code applies to:

- The IHF Parties,
- Any individual, who is or has been accredited to attend an IHF Event,
- Any member of an organising committee of an IHF Event,
- Any individual, who acts or is entitled to act for or on behalf of a candidate or host NF for an IHF Event and any member of the local organising committee of such an event,
- Any other individual being subject to the Statutes, an Appendix or agreeing in writing to be subject to the Code.

Article 6 – IHF Jurisdiction

~~All IHF Officials shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the IHF in all matters of alleged violation of the Code.~~

~~NFs shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the IHF as stated in Articles 8.3, 8.5 and 14.3.27 of the Statutes.~~

~~CHC and NF Officials shall be subject to IHF jurisdiction provided that the alleged violation of the Code has or may have consequences on an international level and formal proceedings have not been initiated by the relevant CHC or NF within a reasonable period of time as determined by the IHF.~~

Justification:



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It is proposed to remove Article 6 from the IHF Ethics Code due to the fact that Article 6 (IHF Jurisdiction) is not fully consistent with Article 3 (Applicability) as regards the stakeholders being subject to the IHF Ethics Code. Article 3, which contains a comprehensive list of stakeholders being subject to the Ethics Code, shall remain for the sake of clarity.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the amendment to the Ethics Code.

6. IHF bodies

6.1. Decisions of IHF Ethics Commission

6.1.1. Conduct of COD & CGO

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that the members of the IHF Executive Committee sent an official formal request to the IHF Ethics Commission on 11 October 2023, referring to the alleged conduct of the Handball Federation of the Democratic Republic of Congo (COD) and the Congo Handball Federation (CGO) as per Article 4 of the IHF Ethics Code. The case in question was a complicated eligibility case concerning the player Leslie Élisée AYONG, involving the Handball Federation of the Democratic Republic of Congo (COD) as well as the Congo Handball Federation (CGO). The General Director specified that it seemed that both CGO and COD have provided the IHF with several false documents in the case concerning Leslie Élisée AYONG.

After studying the case, the IHF Ethics Commission, in accordance with Articles 5 and 9 of the IHF Ethics Code, decided on 15 November 2023 to impose on the Handball Federation of the Democratic Republic of Congo (COD) and on the Congo Handball Federation (CGO) a fine of CHF 25,000 each to be paid to the IHF, also urging both federations to act in accordance with the ethical principles contained in the IHF Ethics Code to avoid recidivism that could otherwise lead to the actualisation of a very serious infraction and a resulting suspension from the IHF in accordance with the aforementioned provisions.

Decision

The Council took note of the decision by the IHF Ethics Commission to impose a fine of CHF 25,000 each on the Handball Federation of the Democratic Republic of Congo (COD) and the Congo Handball Federation (CGO) in the eligibility case concerning the player Leslie Élisée AYONG.

6.1.2. Conduct of Georgios Panayides, EHF handball referee

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who explained that the members of the IHF Executive Committee sent an official formal request to the IHF Ethics Commission on 8 January 2024, referring to the alleged conduct of Mr Georgios Panayides, European Handball Federation (EHF) handball referee, as per Article 4 of the IHF Ethics Code. She stated that according to the report of IHF Beach Handball Working Group Chairman Giampiero Masi, inappropriate behaviour was shown by Mr Panayides on the occasion of the women's beach handball competition of the Mediterranean Beach Games 2023 in Heraklion, GRE on 11 September 2023, adding that Mr Panayides was present at the event in the role of Deputy Chef de Mission of



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the Cyprus delegation.

After studying the case, the IHF Ethics Commission, in accordance with Articles 5 and 9 of the IHF Ethics Code, decided on 24 February 2024 to impose on Mr Georgios Panayides a three-month suspension from taking part in any handball activities in general and IHF events in particular on all levels. Following the notification of the decision to Mr Panayides and the other parties concerned on 29 February 2024, the suspension has been in force since 1 March 2024.

Decision

The Council took note of the decision by the IHF Ethics Commission to impose a three-month suspension on Mr Georgios Panayides from taking part in any handball activities in general and IHF events in particular on all levels.

6.2. IHF Court of Arbitration

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to the incident involving five players of the Bahrain men's national team at the 2024 Asian Men's Handball Championship in Bahrain in January 2024 as well as the IHF Executive Committee decision dated 9 February 2024 due to the physical assault of the Bahraini players towards the referees directly after the end of the semi-final of the aforementioned event. The Bahrain Handball Federation and the five players concerned appealed against the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), requesting that the effects of the decision be suspended on a provisional basis. However, the appeal to CAS was not in compliance with Article 23 of the IHF Statutes, requiring disputes to be submitted to the IHF legal bodies first. Therefore, the Bahrain Handball Federation and the five players failed to exhaust the internal legal remedies within the IHF and thus did not comply with the provisions of the IHF Statutes and Regulations. To the IHF's surprise, within just three days of the notification of the appeal, immediately before the IHF Men's Olympic Qualification Tournament, CAS decided, in a decision issued without grounds or justifications, to temporarily suspend the effects of the IHF Executive Committee decision of 9 February 2024 and to allow the players concerned to play pending a decision on the merits.

President Moustafa proposed to form a working group which shall study all relevant aspects related to the creation of an IHF Court of Arbitration according to Article 14.3.16 of the IHF Statutes. The working group is proposed to be composed of the following members:

-  Mr Jörgen Holmqvist (SWE), IHF Honorary Member and lawyer by profession
-  Mr Lovro Badzim (CRO), Chairman of IHF Arbitration Commission
-  Mr Zoran Radojicic (MNE), Chairman of IHF Arbitration Tribunal
-  IHF lawyer (Kellerhals Carrard office Lausanne)

The General Director explained that the working group shall also review the IHF Legal Provisions in the light of the creation of an IHF Court of Arbitration and propose necessary amendments to be submitted to the IHF Council for approval. President Moustafa stated that following the decision of the Council, the proposal to create an IHF Court of Arbitration shall be submitted to the IHF Congress for approval.

Decision

According to Article 14.3.16 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously decided to establish a working group related to the creation of an IHF Court of Arbitration.



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7. Continents

7.1. Report from the continents

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Europe who started his report with a review of the EHF activities from November to December 2023. On an administrative level, four important meetings, including the bi-annual Conference for Secretaries General, were held and five webinars took place within the last eight weeks of 2023. Referring to the club and national team competitions, he stressed that towards the end of 2023, the handball community focused on the activities of the IHF, highlighting that the European teams performed well in the 2023 IHF Women's World Championship (nine out of the eighteen European teams ranked in the top ten), the 2024 IHF Women's Junior World Championship, Qualification Europe (a total of 16 European teams will participate in the competition) and the 2025 IHF Men's World Championship, Qualification Europe Phase 1, which began in November 2023 and concluded in January 2024 (national teams of EST, FIN, ISR, ITA and SVK progress to the second phase of the qualification as from mid-March).

With respect to the current activities from January to March 2024, the IHF Vice-President Europe emphasised that the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in Germany was a highly successful event, as the 16th edition of the Men's European Championship saw one million spectators across the six venues as well as over 100 million live TV viewers in 90 countries across five continents. The world record of 53,586 spectators for the opening matches (GER-SUI and FRA-MKD) in Düsseldorf was recognised across the sports and media world. An average of 15,517 spectators watched each of the 65 matches in the six venues (Düsseldorf, Berlin, Hamburg, Mannheim, Munich and Cologne) and even without considering the opening match day, the average exceeded 14,300 spectators per match. The IHF Vice-President Europe stated that despite the successful tournament, there is still work to be done as for example the women's events are not yet at the same level. As President Moustafa praised the final of the men's handball tournament at the Olympic Games 1996 in Atlanta in front of 35,000 spectators, the IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that the organisation in such big venues is not easy and that a careful balance has to be found between event management and the sport itself.

Referring to the 2025 IHF Men's World Championship, the IHF Vice-President Europe stated that the host teams of CRO, DEN and NOR will be joined by FRA, GER and SWE based on their results at the Men's EHF EURO 2024, adding that the remaining 11 places allocated to Europe will only be determined in mid-May after the play-offs. At club level, the competitions, which are currently in the phase of play-offs/quarter-finals, will climax in in the Final4 tournaments of the European League Women and Men and of the Champions League Women and Men as well as in the F1 and F2 of the Women's and Men's European Cup. The national team events, e.g. the play-offs for the 2025 IHF Men's World Championship, continue in April in accordance with the international competitions calendar.

The IHF Representative Asia then took the floor, providing the activity report on the events held in Asia in late 2023 and early 2024. From 18 to 28 October 2023, the Asian Men's Qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games took place in Doha, Qatar, with winners Japan representing the Asian continent at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, while runners-up Bahrain participated in the IHF Men's Olympic Qualification Tournament. From 6 to 16 November 2023, a continental referee course led by AHF PRC Chairman Mr Saleh Binashour was held in Bahrain and 20 referee couples successfully passed the course and received the AHF Referee Badge. In addition, AHF PRC Member Mr Jasem Alsuwailam conducted a referee refresher course in Baghdad, Iraq, from 6 to 10 January 2024. From 17 to 26 November 2023, 11 clubs participated in the 26th Asian Men's Club League Championship in Kuwait. Winners Al Khaleej Club (KSA) will represent the Asian continent at the 2024 Men's Super Globe, while Al Arabi Club (QAT) will be the reserve team. The 21st Asian Men's Championship took place in Bahrain from 11 to 25 January 2024 and Qatar (winners), Japan (runners-up), Bahrain (third place) and Kuwait (fourth place) will represent Asia at the 2025 IHF Men's World Championship in CRO/DEN/NOR, the Republic of Korea being the reserve team. In early 2024, a multipliers course led by IHF



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CCM Chairman Dietrich Späte, IHF CCM Member Paul Landuré and IHF CCM Expert Jorge Dueñas de Galarza as well as AHF Coaching Course Coordinator Dr Nabeel Taha Alshehab and AHF CCM Member Dr Khaled Al-Sharji was conducted in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, from 16 to 23 February 2024. Furthermore, the draw ceremony for the 10th Asian Men's Youth Championship, which will be held in Iran from 3 to 13 July 2024, took place in Tehran, Iran, on 3 March 2024. The IHF Representative Asia also pointed out that the Macau China Handball Association organised multiple handball activities in primary schools as well as several competitions and that the Asian Handball Federation is organising several courses for coaches and referees in 2024 with the support of the IHF.

President Moustafa then gave the floor to the IHF Representative South and Central America to present the activity report of his Continental Confederation. In his report, he referred to the three axes of the development plan of the SCAHC, the first axis being school handball. The second axis, training and specialisation, focuses on the education of PE teachers and handball coaches of each member country to enhance their development. The objective of the third axis, competent athletes, is to establish a regional competition programme and an exchange programme between the national leagues of South America and Europe. Moreover, the IHF Representative South and Central America pointed out that greater emphasis should be placed on the education of coaches and competitions at grassroots level and that more Multiplier Courses should take place in South and Central America. He stressed that handball as a sports product is designed to provide benefits for players, spectators and sponsors alike. Furthermore, the IHF Representative South and Central America thanked President Moustafa for his support and his initiative to establish a U17 World Championship, as this competition will be a good tool for development and provide additional opportunities to obtain financial support from government authorities.

The IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean then presented his report, covering the activities from December 2023 to April 2024. He informed the attendees that following the respective IHF Trophy events, USA and MEX have qualified for the 2024 IHF Women's Junior World Championship in MKD, while CAN and GRL will participate in the 2024 IHF Women's Youth World Championship in CHN. In addition, he stated that the NACHC Men's and Women's Beach Handball Championship took place in Carolina, Puerto Rico, from 11 to 14 April 2024, with USA and PUR qualifying for the 2024 IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships in CHN in both genders.

President Moustafa highlighted the importance of cooperation between the NACHC and SCAHC and enquired about the feedback from the Member Federations after the decision of the 2017 Ordinary IHF Congress to divide the Pan-American Team Handball Federation into two separate Continental Confederations. The IHF Representative South and Central America stated that most of the SCAHC Member Federations are in favour of the mentioned decision as it has resulted in more education, referee and coaching courses. President Moustafa added that the number of players, teams and referees will further increase as a result of this development. The IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean also thanked President Moustafa and concluded that the new system has proved beneficial for the continent, as the handball activities in all areas have increased while all NACHC Member Federations now have a realistic chance to take part in IHF events. President Moustafa pointed out that this decision has provided an important vision of how to promote handball outside of Europe.

Decision

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

7.2. SCAHC Congress in Buenos Aires, ARG

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented a letter from South and Central



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America Handball Confederation (SCAHC) dated 30 January 2024, informing the IHF about the successful organisation of their 3rd Ordinary Congress, which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 19 January 2024. During the mentioned Congress, a new Council was elected which is composed as follows:

- 🚩 President: Marcel Guido Mancilla Bravo (re-elected)
- 🚩 1st Vice-President: Felipe Rego Barros (President Brazil NF)
- 🚩 2nd Vice-President: Carlos Ferrea (President Argentina NF)
- 🚩 Secretary: Silke Méndez (President Costa Rica NF)
- 🚩 Treasurer: Nadyr Figueredo (President Paraguay NF)
- 🚩 Development Commission: Cecilia Hernandez (President El Salvador NF - re-elected)
- 🚩 Competition Commission: Martín Chilaca (President of Bolivia NF - re-elected)

Decision

The Council took note of the information on the SCAHC Congress held in Buenos Aires, ARG, on 19 January 2024 and the new composition of the SCAHC Council. The Council provisionally confirmed Mr Marcel Mancilla Bravo (CHI) as continental representative in the IHF Council until the next IHF Congress.

8. Miscellaneous

8.1. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- ***Awarding of 2024 Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments***

Reference was made to the 2024 IHF Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments which are scheduled to be held from 11 to 14 April 2024.

Memorandum from the IHF Competitions Director, informing that only one National Federation fulfilling the bidding conditions has applied for each of the tournaments within the deadline. Consequently, it was proposed to award the Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments as follows, considering that all three venues offer high standards for the Women's OQTs:

- 🚩 Tournament 1 in HUN (Debrecen)
- 🚩 Tournament 2 in ESP (Torrevieja)
- 🚩 Tournament 3 in GER (Neu-Ulm)

Mr Dietrich Späte was not entitled to vote on awarding the Women's OQT 3 to GER due to the conflict of interest stipulated in Article 14.2.14 of the IHF Statutes and *the Rules on Conflicts of Interest of IHF Officials* included in the IHF Ethics Code.

Date of communication: 19 December 2023

Date of decision: **21 December 2023**

- ***Awarding of 2024 Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments***

Reference was made to the 2024 IHF Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments which are scheduled to be






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held from 14 to 17 March 2024.

Memorandum from the IHF Competitions Director, informing that Tournaments 1 and 3 have only one nation present that has applied within the deadline, i.e. ESP and HUN, respectively.

For Tournament 2, GER and CRO have applied and fulfil the bidding conditions. Therefore, it was proposed to take into consideration the sporting result of the 2023 Men's World Championship where the places for performance rows 1 and 2 have been assigned and where GER was ranked higher (5th) than CRO (9th). Furthermore, media rights holders have clearly requested to organise this tournament in Germany for media and marketing reasons.

Consequently, it was proposed to award the Men's Olympic Qualification Tournaments as follows:

-  Tournament 1 in ESP (Granollers)
-  Tournament 2 in GER (Hanover)
-  Tournament 3 in HUN (Tatabánya)

Mr Dietrich Späte and Mr Tomislav Grahovac were not entitled to vote on awarding Tournament 2 due to the conflict of interest stipulated in Article 14.2.14 of the IHF Statutes and the *Rules on Conflicts of Interest of IHF Officials* included in the IHF Ethics Code.

Date of communication: 31 January 2024




Date of decision: **2 February 2024**

- ***Amendments to Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules & Regulations***

Necessity of amending the Wheelchair Handball Classification Rules and Regulations Six-a-Side and Four-a-Side, which were approved by the IHF Council in its meeting on 15 July 2021.

The aforementioned Regulations are based on wheelchair basketball. However, research on wheelchair handball specific ballhandling skills and discussions among experienced wheelchair basketball and wheelchair handball classifiers have shown that the trunk movement, especially the trunk rotation, has a higher impact on a player's effectiveness in wheelchair handball than in wheelchair basketball due to the fact that a wheelchair handball player throws with one arm/hand only which requires rotation of the trunk in combination with forward flexion. Therefore, considering the research and the requirement of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) that classification should be as sport specific and evidence-based as possible, the trunk rotation ability should have a higher value in wheelchair handball.

As the 3rd IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship taking place in Cairo, Egypt, in September 2024 is approaching, it is proposed by the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group chaired by Dr Frantisek Taborsky to modify the wheelchair handball classification system by re-allocating the in-between classes 1.5, 2.5 and 3.5 as follows, aiming to achieve a fairer sport class determination:

-  Class 1.5 players should be considered as class 2.0 players instead of class 1.0 players.
-  Class 2.5 players should be considered as class 3.0 players instead of class 2.0 players.
-  Class 3.5 players should be considered as class 4.0 players instead of class 3.0 players. Consequently, class 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 players should be combined as class 4.0 players (currently classes 4.0 and 4.5 are combined to form class 4.0).

Date of communication: 13 February 2024

Date of decision: **20 February 2024**



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- *Amendments to the Rules of the Game*

Reference was made to Article 21.2 of the IHF Statutes, allowing the IHF Council to decide if a change to the Rules of the Game (not affecting the structure of the game) may be implemented starting from the following season (1 July), considering that the change must be reported in advance to the Member Federations and Continental Confederations (by 1 March).

Several amendments to the Rules of the Game proposed by the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC) and the IHF Rules Working Group. Memorandum from the PRC Chairman, explaining that the proposed amendments do not affect the structure of the game. Most of the amendments are slight corrections in the wording of the existing rules while others are additional guidelines or small changes/additions ensuring that the Rules of the Game are more in accordance with long existing rule interpretations. The amendments shall come into force on 1 July 2024.

Date of communication: 23 February 2024

Date of decision: **27 February 2024**

The date and place of the next IHF Council meeting will be communicated by email.

President Moustafa thanked the participants for the constructive meeting and closed the session. He conveyed once again his wishes for continued good health and safety to all participants.

INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Moustafa'.

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President