



**International  
Handball  
Federation**



# **Council Meeting No. 9**

*01.10.2025 – Cairo EGY*



## Present

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)  
Joël DELPLANQUE (FRA, virtually)  
Mansourou AREMOU (BEN)  
Yoshihide WATANABE (JPN)  
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)  
Anna RAPP (SWE)  
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)  
Dr Frantisek TABORSKY (CZE)  
Per BERTELSEN (DEN, virtually)  
Per Morten SØDAL (NOR)  
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)  
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO)  
Gonzalo PEREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP, virtually)  
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)

Jean BRIHAULT (FRA, virtually, partly)

President  
1<sup>st</sup> 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  
AC 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

Working Group of Candidatures for IHF  
Positions Chairman

MEETING TIME: 10:00-13:10

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. 8, 4 June 2025 in Basel, SUI
- 1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 10, 28 June 2025 in Katowice, POL
- 1.3. Executive Committee Meeting No. 11, 10 September 2025 by video conference

## 2. President's activities

## 3. Competitions

- 3.1. Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games
- 3.2. IHF Trophy – Senior Competition

## 4. 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress

- 4.1. Report of the Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions
- 4.2. Non-active Member Federations
- 4.3. IHF Honorary Members
- 4.4. IHF President's Development Award
- 4.5. Bidders of the 2027 Ordinary IHF Congress (if applicable)

## 5. Finances and marketing

- 5.1. Auditors' report 2024
- 5.2. Debts of National Federations
- 5.3. IHF budget 2026-2027
- 5.4. IHF-Gerflor partnership 2026-2029

## 6. IHF Statutes and Regulations

- 6.1. Motions from Member Federations

## 7. Continents

- 7.1. Report from the continents
- 7.2. Nomination of European representatives to IHF bodies

## 8. Miscellaneous

- 8.1. Wheelchair Handball Classification – Team Balance Points
- 8.2. Current situation of wheelchair handball in the continents
- 8.3. Transgender policy in handball
- 8.4. Council decisions made by electronic communication



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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting held in Cairo, Egypt. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health.

Furthermore, in compliance with the good governance policy of the ASOIF, it was confirmed that no Council member had any conflict of interest with any agenda item.

## 1. Minutes

### 1.1. Council Meeting No. 8, 4 June 2025 in Basel, SUI

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, which was held in Basel, Switzerland, on 4 June 2025, including all the Council decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

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#### Decision

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**The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 8 held in Basel, SUI, on 4 June 2025.**

### 1.2. Executive Committee Meeting No. 10, 28 June 2025 in Katowice, POL

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, which was held in Katowice, Poland, on 28 June 2025, including all the Executive Committee decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

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#### Decision

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**The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Executive Committee Meeting No. 10 held in Katowice, POL, on 28 June 2025.**

### 1.3. Executive Committee Meeting No. 11, 10 September 2025 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting, which was held by video conference on 10 September 2025, including all the Executive Committee decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

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#### Decision

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**The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Executive Committee Meeting No. 11 held by videoconference on 10 September 2025.**

## 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 June 2025, stressing that it is just a summary in view of the



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many activities carried out by the IHF President between the two IHF Council meetings:

*4 June 2025:* Visit of the new IHF House in Basel together with the IHF Council members following the conclusion of the 8<sup>th</sup> IHF Council meeting, including a tour of the property.

*6 June 2025:* Meeting with representatives of the Serbian Handball Federation, President Mr Bozidar Djurkovic and Secretary General Mr Ivan Milivojevic, at the IHF Head Office. The meeting opened with the introduction of the federation's new leadership, after the elections earlier this year, and also centred on opportunities to further develop handball in Serbia. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to continued fruitful collaboration and the sustained growth of handball in the country.

*10-11 June 2025:* Attendance at the 49<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) in Lausanne. The ASOIF working meeting and dinner took place on 10 June and the General Assembly on 11 June. The Assembly was led for the first time by the new ASOIF President, Ingmar De Vos, and the agenda included updates on the Paris 2024 Olympic revenue share to the IFs, which has been completed by the IOC.

*23 June 2025:* Attendance at the IOC Presidential Handover Ceremony in Lausanne, confirming the strong commitment of the IHF to the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Family. Dr Thomas Bach officially passed on the IOC presidency to Kirsty Coventry and the assembled guests also joined the celebrations for Olympic Day.

*25-29 June 2025:* Attendance at the final round and placement matches of the 25<sup>th</sup> IHF Men's Junior (U21) World Championship, which was staged in Poland from 18 to 29 June 2025. President Moustafa observed all procedures, led the closing ceremony and held several meetings in Katowice with representatives of the participating teams, IHF officials, as well as the hosts, Poland, on the fringes of the event. On 28 June, the 10<sup>th</sup> IHF Executive Meeting was held in Katowice and the meeting's agenda included nominations for IHF competitions as well as financial matters, including but not limited to the IHF house and the handball video game.

*3 July 2025:* Meeting with a delegation from the Macedonian Handball Federation, led by President Mr Aleksandar Stefanov and Secretary General Mr Vlatko Tasevski, at the IHF Head Office in Basel. The meeting's agenda included discussions on North Macedonia's potential to host future editions of IHF World Championships as well as a strategic plan for North Macedonia's national handball teams for the 2026–2029 period and the development of beach handball and wheelchair handball.

*9 July 2025:* Courtesy visit from the Turkish Handball Federation, represented by its President, Mr Mesut Çebi, and its Honorary President, Mr Günal Ensari, at the IHF Head Office in Basel. The visit included discussions on the positive trajectory of cooperation between the IHF and the Turkish federation and on the further promotion and development of handball in the country.

*10 July 2025:* Virtual meeting with Mr Torsten Laen, the newly elected President of the Danish Handball Association, who briefed him on the current state of governance and other matters within the federation.

*6-17 August 2025:* 11<sup>th</sup> IHF Men's Youth (U19) World Championship, which took place in Egypt. President Moustafa opened the event, attended matches across all stages, oversaw proceedings and officially concluded the World Championship at the closing ceremony. In addition, President Moustafa hosted meetings with various federations, including but not limited to Libya, Romania, Qatar, Iraq and Kosovo and also met with representatives from the Handball Federation of Portugal prior to the event. Moreover, President Moustafa closely monitored the hosts' event promotion to ensure optimal conditions for welcoming handball fans.

*12 September 2025:* Virtual meeting with the President of the North America and the Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC), Mr Mario Garcia de la Torre, and the IHF Member Federations from the continent. The meeting focused on the further development of handball in North America and the Caribbean, the IHF Trophy project and preparations for the upcoming IHF Congress.

*15 September 2025:* Meeting regarding the International Handball Court of Arbitration (ICHA) at the IHF Head Office in Basel. President Moustafa welcomed Mr Jörgen Holmqvist and Mr Markus Plazer to the IHF Head Office who have been working on drafts of the IHCA Organisational Regulations and Procedural Rules.



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*16 September 2025:* Meeting with Mr Philippe Bana, President of French Handball Federation, and Mr Francisco V. Blázquez García, President of Royal Spanish Handball Federation, at the IHF Head Office in Basel. The meeting focused on the federations and their ongoing projects to further develop handball at all levels within their countries and worldwide as well as the upcoming IHF Congress.

*29 September 2025:* Virtual meeting with the President of the South and Central America Handball Confederation (SCAHC), Mr Marcel Mancilla Bravo, and the Confederation's Member Federations to exchange views ahead of the Congress, address key topics related to the growth and promotion of handball in the region and examine various development projects.

*26 September-2 October 2025:* Attendance at the 18<sup>th</sup> IHF Men's Club World Championship, which was held in the New Administrative Capital, Egypt. President Moustafa attended matches, oversaw procedures and met with team and organiser representatives to help ensure the smooth running of the championship.

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## 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. Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who presented some information about the venue for the handball tournaments at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. He explained that the Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments are to be played in the Long Beach Arena, which has a capacity of approximately 10,000 seats and which will be in a sports cluster with several other sports. He also remarked that, in contrast to Paris 2024, no venue changes are planned and all matches will be played in the Long Beach Arena. With respect to the accommodation, he remarked that the athletes will be accommodated in the Olympic Village, while the IHF accommodation for ITOs is planned to be in the Long Beach area with short distances to the competition venue. With regard to the training facilities, he pointed out that two training venues will be inside the Olympic Village, while a third training venue is currently under discussion.

Furthermore, the Competitions Director highlighted that the competition schedule, which will be alternating between the men's and women's competition, is in accordance with current regulations and in line with previous Olympic Games. He specified that the teams will be divided into two groups of six teams each, with the four best teams of each group to qualify for the quarter-finals. He added that no placement matches 9-12 and 5-8 will be played and that the competitions will take place from 12 July to 28 July. He further remarked that the handball tournaments will start two days before the opening ceremony and will end on day 14 (Friday) of the Olympic Games. According to the competition schedule, there would be two days of full focus on handball, which increases the chances of sold-out matches. He remarked that it is beneficial to have full attention since handball is not known all over the USA yet. The Competitions Director pointed out that starting earlier will avoid clashes with too many other team sport events (one on day 13 and four on day 14 instead of nine on day 15/16). He added that the proposed competition window would also have some minor logistical advantages, such as accreditation or uniforms, as handball will be one of the first sports. Additionally, the players would have the possibility to attend the closing ceremony. Referring to Paris 2024, he concluded that starting one day prior to the opening ceremony turned out to be the right decision as the venue was full and the TV and media interest was particularly high on that first day. He stated that LA 2028 Ticketing also believes that handball will benefit from the earlier start due to having significantly less competition with other sports and relatively low overlap in fanbase from other sports starting at this time. According to LA 2028, Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) also expect that handball will benefit in terms of viewers on the first two days,



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which will help get off to a strong start.

Furthermore, the Competitions Director presented LA 2028's proposal regarding the session times:

- ✚ Preliminary Round 09:00-12:30 (throw-off 09:00/11:00), 14:00-17:30 (throw-off 14:00/16:00), 19:00-22:30 (throw-off 19:00/21:00) – same as at Paris 2024
- ✚ Quarter-Finals 09:00-11:00, 12:30-14:30, 16:00-18:00, 19:30-21:30 (Paris 2024 was 09:30 / 13:30 / 17:30 / 21:30)
- ✚ Semi-Finals 09:30-11:30 / 13:00-15:00

He then provided more detailed information on the qualification system which has been agreed with the IOC. In accordance with the IHF regulations, the host nation (USA) and the world champion will be qualified. Following the conclusion of the respective continental qualification events, one team each from Africa, Asia, Europe as well as South and Central America / North America and the Caribbean will take part. The remaining six participating teams will be determined in the IHF Olympic Qualification Tournaments.

The IHF Representative Oceania took the floor and raised his concerns about the current policy of the US government, as certain athletes might not be able to enter the country. With regard to the immigration policy, the Competitions Director remarked that the IOC is aware of the issue and that the IHF and the IOC are in discussions about it. He added that LA 2028 is currently in the process of hiring a Sport Manager Handball for the Olympic Games in coordination with the IHF and USA Team Handball.

The IHF Representative Oceania then emphasised that the IHF should take advantage of the opportunity of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games in order to further promote handball in the US. He proposed to cooperate with an advertising company to attract greater audiences in the country. The Competitions Director remarked that certain promotional activities have already been agreed with LA 2028 and informed the attendees that the IHF has asked for beach handball and wheelchair handball showcase events to be staged on the fringes of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The PRC Chairman stressed that it needs more than the IHF events to promote handball in the US. The IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that potential promotional efforts have to be brought to the public, as otherwise they will not have any impact. He also mentioned the high costs of such promotional campaigns. The IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean then reported on his recent visit to Los Angeles, highlighting his positive impression of the Olympic Games facilities. In addition, he remarked that some US universities are involved in handball and that the handball clubs are growing. He also mentioned the high number of officials.

Referring to the development of the sport itself, the General Director highlighted that the IHF CCM is cooperating closely with USA Team Handball in order to generate interest in the sport and evaluate the work of the coaches. She also mentioned the Pro Handball USA event, which will take place in 2026 with four world-class club teams each in the men's and women's category. The General Director remarked that the IHF has also applied for PlayLA, the grassroots initiative of the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. However, she also stressed that the administrative instability of the National Federation is a major challenge for the IHF. Moreover, she informed the attendees about the lack of funding as, apart from the IHF, Verizon and the US government are the only sources of income available to the federation.

The CCM Chairman took the floor and informed the attendees that the US senior men's team has been reorganised, including the new coach Mark Ortega and new staff, adding that the experienced French coach David Degouy will support the preparations of the team for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. Furthermore, he stated that a new organisational structure is currently being established for the women's



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senior national team.

President Moustafa highlighted the strong position of handball within the programme of the Olympic Games, specifying that the Denmark men's national team was named the best team of all sports at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the ANOC (Association of National Olympic Committees) Awards 2024. He also emphasised that beach handball is part of the Youth Olympic Games.

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## Decision

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**The Council took note of the information provided regarding the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and agreed on the proposal to start the handball tournaments two days prior to the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony as well as the related qualification system.**

### 3.2. IHF Trophy – Senior Competition

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director to present the concept for the senior competition of the IHF Trophy. He started his presentation with the sporting and organisational conditions for participation. He pointed out that a higher organisational level than in the younger age categories is required and that IHF scouting is to be included for all competitions. As a prerequisite, 30% of the athletes must have competed in previous competitions (youth and junior), but this will not be applied for the first cycle. He explained that if a National Federation has qualified in two out of the last three IHF World Championships, they are no longer eligible to compete in the IHF Trophy, adding that if a federation that was not eligible for the IHF Trophy fails to qualify for two World Championships in a row, they will be eligible to be re-introduced to the IHF Trophy.

The Competitions Director then referred to the reasons for the creation of the new competition and its objectives. He explained that it should close the existing cycle of the IHF Trophy, as youth and junior competitions are being played already, adding that it should provide international competition to all Member Federations that do not regularly participate in international competitions and strengthen the Continental Championships by increasing the number of participating teams. Moreover, it should improve the level of coaching and officiating across the globe as well as the organisational skills by giving all National Federations the possibility to host an international IHF Event.

With respect to the financial conditions, the Competitions Director remarked that the IHF will financially support the travel of all participating federations, while financially stable federations will cover their expenses by themselves. In addition, the IHF will support the accommodation of the participants, the organiser with the expenses for local transportation, live streaming (3 cameras), production of trophy and medals and possible venue rent, and the winner of each Zone with the travel expenses to the Continental Championships of Africa, Asia and South and Central America as well as the daily participation fees as per the IHF Trophy standard.

The Competitions Director then provided more detailed information on the structure of the IHF Trophy senior competition in the different Continental Confederations. In Africa and Asia, the standard IHF Trophy model comprising six zones will apply, with the winner of each group progressing to the Africa Cup of Nations and the Asian Championship, respectively. In South and Central America, the standard IHF Trophy model comprising the South American Zone and the Central American Zone will apply, with the two best teams of each zone joining Argentina and Brazil in both categories as well as Chile and Uruguay (men's category) / Paraguay (women's category) in the Continental Championship. The Competitions Director remarked that this proposal and the support of the IHF will provide the possibility for the South and Central America Handball Confederation to always be able to have the minimum number of participants in the Continental Qualifications



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required to guarantee the continental qualification slots for a World Championship. An identical model will be applied for both North America and the Caribbean and Oceania, as all National Federations will be participating. Given the development level of handball in these two continents, every National Federation will be invited to participate, and the tournament will serve as a Continental Championship at the same time with the agreement of the Continental Confederation concerned. The Competitions Director pointed out that as a particularity and given that national teams from Oceania can qualify for the World Championship only through the Asian Championship, the IHF will support the participation of the winner of the Oceania competition to the Asian Championship, while the winner of the North America and the Caribbean competition will qualify for the World Championship. In Europe, the IHF Trophy senior competition is to replace the Emerging Nations Championship. With respect to the participation criteria, the Competitions Director explained that teams registered for the EURO Qualifiers Phase 1 or not registered at all are entitled to participate and that the winner of the competition will qualify for the promotion phase of the qualification to the EURO.

The CCM Chairman took the floor and stated that the IHF Trophy senior competition will be linked to the IHF Licence structure and that it will enable the IHF to educate coaches in their own environment and provide daily feedback. Executive Committee Member Narcisa Lecusanu emphasised that the new IHF Trophy will motivate athletes to continue playing handball and will lead to more active National Federations. The IHF Vice-President Europe also expressed his full support for the concept, as more National Federations will be involved in the qualification process. President Moustafa underlined that the IHF is always trying to increase the number of active National Federations in order to promote the sport and the General Director added that the concept of the IHF Trophy senior competition will be presented to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in December as part of the Four-Year Plan 2025-2029.

President Moustafa thanked the PRC Chairman for his excellent work, as the referee couples of the finals of various recent younger age category World Championships came from outside Europe. The PRC Chairman thanked President Moustafa and pointed out that the IHF Trophy senior competition will allow for structured development plans for referees, delegates and lecturers.

- ***IHF Men's U17 World Championship***

Referring to the first edition of the IHF Men's U17 World Championship taking place in Casablanca, Morocco, during the period from 24 October to 1 November 2025 with 12 participating teams, President Moustafa informed that the competition will be played with the resin-free ball and that the three-referee system will be used. The PRC Chairman emphasised that the three-referee project is moving forward and that the referee performances during the tests were good. In this context, the IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that the three-referee system will lead to additional costs, independent of the party carrying the costs, e.g. clubs, National Federations, organisers, Continental Confederations/IHF.

- ***Referee camera***

The PRC Chairman then showed a video of the RefCam, a referee camera provided by the German company Riedel that was tested during several matches of the 2025 IHF Men's Club World Championship. The camera is attached to the referees' headset, allowing a transmission of the referees' view of specific match situations during the game. He emphasised that, in addition to using the footage in TV and social media, the camera can also be used as a new tool for the educational part of the refereeing, especially as the referees' head movements are visible.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously confirmed the organisation of the IHF Trophy – Senior Competition starting from 2026, considering the presented organisational and financial concept and goals.**



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## 4. 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress

### 4.1. Report of the Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions

Referring to the elections to be held at the upcoming Ordinary IHF Congress, President Moustafa gave the floor to the Chairman of the IHF Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions Mr Jean Brihault who reported to the Council on the tasks carried out by the named working group composed of Mr Jean Brihault as Chairman and Mr Jörgen Holmqvist as well as Dr Lanre Glover as members (as decided by the Council on 4 June 2025). He thanked President Moustafa and the IHF Council for appointing him again as Chairman of the working group after he had chaired the working group concerned in 2013, 2017 and 2021. The duty of the independent electoral working group is to ensure the compliance of the candidates' applications (standing for IHF positions) with the conditions stipulated in Article 13.7 of the IHF Statutes. The working group shall inform the Council and report to the Congress on its decisions. All candidatures for the different IHF positions submitted before the deadline of 21 September 2025 have been communicated to the working group. Jean Brihault thanked the General Director for the excellent preparation of the documents communicated to the working group members. He reported that the working group met virtually on 26 September 2025 and studied the following candidatures received by 21 September 2025 in terms of their compliance with the criteria as stipulated in Article 13.7 of the IHF Statutes:

#### President

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA	✓		EGY	04.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	Franc BOBINAC		✓	SLO	18.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	Dr Gerd BUTZECK		✓	GER	17.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	Tjark DE LANGE		✓	NED	20.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria*

\* Referring to Tjark de Lange's election as Executive Committee Member of the European Handball Federation (EHF) by the EHF Congress on 19 September 2025, Jean Brihault explained that the aforementioned position is not compatible with the position of IHF President according to Article 15.2.3 of the IHF Statutes. Therefore, in case of being elected IHF President, he would need to resign from his position as EHF Executive Committee Member before officially assuming his position as IHF President.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Philippe BANA		✓	FRA	15.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	Ali Mohamed ESHAQI		✓	BRN	19.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria



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## Treasurer

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Anna RAPP	✓		SWE	12.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Two (2) members to the Executive Committee

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Narcisa LECUSANU	✓		ROU	02.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	Francisco V. BLÁZQUEZ GARCÍA		✓	ESP	25.08.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Chairperson of Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Per BERTELSEN	✓		DEN	16.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	Pascal JENNY		✓	SUI	15.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Chairperson of Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Per Morten SØDAL	✓		NOR	11.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Chairperson of Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Dietrich SPÄTE	✓		GER	15.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	Dr Taiysir MANSI		✓	JOR	20.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	Nur Maye OSMAN		✓	SOM	21.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Chairperson of Medical Commission (MC)

	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	Dr Yannick MOSSUS		✓	CMR	28.08.2025	Fulfilling all criteria



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## Chairperson of Commission for Development (CD)

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Tomislav GRAHOVAC	✓		CRO	16.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
 Bruno SOUZA		✓	BRA	20.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Chairperson of Arbitration Tribunal

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Zoran RADOJICIC	✓		MNE	08.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Ten (10) Members of Arbitration Tribunal

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Pedro MOURAO	✓		POR	15.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
 Alazne GIRALDO IGLESIAS		✓	ESP	20.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
 Matea HORVAT		✓	CRO	20.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
 Rémy LEVY		✓	FRA	15.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
 Barış ORHONLU		✓	TUR	19.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Chairperson of Arbitration Commission

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Lovro BADZIM	✓		CRO	10.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Ten (10) Members of Arbitration Commission

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
 Mouadh BEN ZAIED	✓		TUN	17.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
 Elena BORRÁS ALCARAZ	✓		ESP	20.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
 Miguel FERNANDES	✓		POR	15.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
 Elizabeth Ling YANG	✓		HKG	17.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria



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	Nicolae LUCA	✓	ROU	02.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	Muhammad Amir YOUSAF	✓	PAK	20.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Chairperson of Ethics Commission

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	✓		EGY	06.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Five (5) Members of Ethics Commission

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	✓		POR	15.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
	✓		MEX	21.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

## Two (2) internal IHF auditors and one (1) substitute auditor

Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Remarks from working group
	✓		POR	15.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
		✓	SLO	20.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria
		✓	TUR	19.09.2025	Fulfilling all criteria

Considering that three candidates applied for the two available positions as internal auditors while one additional substitute auditor shall be elected, Jean Brihault suggested that, provided the candidates and the IHF Congress agree, the two candidates obtaining the highest numbers of votes be elected internal auditors and the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes be elected substitute auditor.

Furthermore, the working group took note of the following withdrawals of candidatures:

Position	Candidate	Re-election	New election	Country	Date of candidature	Date of withdrawal
	Executive Committee Member Jean Paul NGARAMBE		✓	RWA	20.09.2025	21.09.2025
	Ethics Commission Member Eric PERODEAU		✓	MON	17.09.2025	22.09.2025

Jean Brihault added that the working group, after the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress, shall produce a brief report



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with several recommendations to be presented to the IHF Council for decision. Such report shall address three fields, namely the high-level involvement (as per Article 13.7.1 of IHF Statutes) that should be rephrased to accept a broader definition, the positions requesting a specific qualification as well as the limited number of candidates standing for the chairmanship and membership of the adjudicating bodies that needs to be analysed.

President Moustafa thanked Jean Brihault for his report regarding the IHF Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions, conveying his gratitude to the working group members for their efforts in ensuring the compliance of the candidates' applications with the conditions stipulated in the IHF Statutes, aiming to increase the transparency in the electoral process.

Referring to Tjark de Lange's candidature for the position of President and the corresponding comment by Jean Brihault, the IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor and confirmed that in case Tjark de Lange takes office as IHF President, he shall resign from his position as EHF Executive Committee Member, according to Article 4.3.3 of the EHF Statutes. He added that the same applies to Matea Horvat and Elena Borrás Alcaraz standing for membership of the Arbitration Tribunal and Arbitration Commission, respectively, who have recently been elected to different EHF bodies. He stated that the persons concerned will need to decide whether they would like to continue their function in the EHF or the IHF, since the EHF Statutes do not allow such double functions.

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## Decision

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**The Council took note of the report provided by the Chairman of the IHF Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions, which shall be presented to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress.**

**The Council unanimously decided that the IHF Congress shall be asked to authorise the IHF Council to fill any vacant places of the IHF Arbitration Tribunal, IHF Arbitration Commission and IHF Ethics Commission.**

**Following the recommendation of the Working Group of Candidatures for IHF Positions related to the auditors, the Council unanimously decided to propose to the IHF Congress that, provided the candidates agree, the two candidates obtaining the highest numbers of votes be elected internal auditors and the candidate obtaining the lowest number of votes be elected substitute auditor.**

**The Council unanimously decided to propose the following composition of the IHF Ethics Commission to the IHF Congress as per Article 6.2 of the IHF Legal Provisions:**

**Chairperson:**

- Hussein Moustafa FATHY (EGY)

**Members:**

- José COSTA (POR)
- Jorge PULIDO VÁZQUEZ (MEX)

## 4.2. Non-active Member Federations

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who referred to Article 13.3.5 of the IHF Statutes, stipulating that non-active Member Federations are not entitled to vote at the Congress. She pointed out that, according to the Bye-law to Article 13.3.5, a Member Federation shall be considered non-active if no handball activities are taking place in the country, no handball stakeholders (organisations, coaches, referees, players) are present in the country and no communication is taking place with the Continental Confederation concerned and the IHF. According to the evaluation of the IHF Head Office, the following Member Federations from different continents are currently considered non-active according to the aforementioned definition:

- 🇦🇸 Asia: BHU, CAM, LAO



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- 🇺🇸 North America and the Caribbean: CAY, GRN, IVB
- 🇵🇸 Oceania: FSM, MHL, NRU, PLW, SOL, TUV, VAN
- 🇸🇦 South and Central America: GUY

The General Director remarked that some changes might be made to the list until the Congress in December.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the information provided by the General Director regarding the non-active Member Federations.**

### 4.3. IHF Honorary Members

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented the proposal for two handball executives to be appointed as IHF Honorary Members at the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in recognition of their untiring commitment to the sport of handball at national and international level.

Mr Joël Delplanque (FRA) has been 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the IHF since November 2017 and IHF Executive Committee Member since May 2009. Moreover, he was President of the French Handball Federation (FFHandball) from 2008 to 2020 and was elected to the FFHB Board of Directors and served in the capacity of Advisor to the President from 2004 to 2007.

Dr Frantisek Taborsky (CZE) has been IHF Executive Committee Member since 2013 and Chairman of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group since 2019. Furthermore, the former coach and player was a member of the EHF Executive Committee from 2000 to 2012 and served as Vice-President of the Czech Handball Federation (CSH) from 1993 to 2005.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the proposal to appoint Joël Delplanque (FRA) and Dr Frantisek Taborsky (CZE) as IHF Honorary Members at the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress according to Article 5 of the IHF Regulations for Awards.**

### 4.4. IHF President's Development Award

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that according to Article 2 of the IHF Regulations for Awards, the IHF President's Development Award is granted to two IHF Member Federations every two years at the Ordinary Congress of the IHF. It is awarded for particular services to the development and spread of handball in the Member Federations' own countries and/or throughout the world. However, she remarked that no National Federation submitted its application for the IHF President's Development Award within the stipulated deadline. Therefore, the IHF proposed the following National Federations to be awarded:

- |                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 🇵🇷 Puerto Rico   | Emerging federations         |
| 🇺🇸 USA           | Emerging federations         |
| 🇫🇷 Faroe Islands | Handball developed countries |
| 🇮🇹 Italy         | Handball developed countries |

Referring to the category of Emerging federations, the Competitions Director took the floor providing detailed information on the National Federation of Puerto Rico. He stated that their national team will participate in the



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upcoming U17 Men's World Championship and also took part in the IHF Men's Youth (U17) Beach Handball World Championship, finishing 11<sup>th</sup>. Moreover, they finished fourth in the women's junior tournament of the IHF Trophy North America and the Caribbean.

The Competitions Director then provided information on USA Team Handball, the second proposal in the Emerging federations category. He remarked that their men's teams played in all categories and qualified for all events. In addition, they won the Intercontinental Phase of the men's junior tournament of the 2024/2025 IHF Trophy and finished third in the youth category of the event. Furthermore, they won the bronze medal at the 2025 Junior Pan-American Games.

Referring to the category of Handball developed countries, the Competitions Director then presented the proposal of the Handball Federation of Faroe Islands. He highlighted that the Faroe Islands are the smallest country in terms of population to ever win a medal at an IHF World Championship, as they finished third in the 2025 Men's Junior (U21) World Championship. He added that they have continued their development after finishing seventh in the 2023 edition of the competition and eighth in the 2023 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship. Moreover, their women's senior team qualified for the 2025 Women's World Championship for the first time in history. The Competitions Director also emphasised that teams from the Faroe Islands always bring many spectators with them to the various events.

The Competitions Director then provided more detailed information on the Italian Handball Federation, the second proposal in the Handball developed countries category. He remarked that they qualified for the 2025 Men's World Championship for the first time in 28 years, finishing 16<sup>th</sup>, and qualified for the 2026 IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championship for the first time in history.

President Moustafa remarked that the Senegal Handball Federation should also receive an award in recognition of their services to the development and spread of handball and sports in general on the African continent, adding that Dakar 2026 will be first time the Youth Olympic Games will be organised in Africa.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously approved to grant the IHF President's Development Award to the following IHF Member Federations according to Article 2 of the IHF Regulations for Awards:**

-  **Handball developed countries: FAR, ITA**
-  **Emerging federations: PUR, USA**

**In addition, a special award shall be granted to the Senegal Handball Federation in recognition of their services to the development and spread of handball and sports in general on the African continent.**

### 4.5. Bidders of the 2027 Ordinary IHF Congress (if applicable)

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who remarked that no National Federation expressed its interest in hosting the 2027 Ordinary IHF Congress and no event concept was submitted within the stipulated deadline. Consequently, she proposed to ask the Congress to authorise the Council to award the 2027 Ordinary IHF Congress according to Article 19.3.2 of the IHF Statutes.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the information presented by the General Director regarding the bidders of the 2027 Ordinary IHF Congress. The Congress will be asked to authorise the Council to award the 2027 Ordinary IHF Congress.**



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## 5. Finances and marketing

### 5.1. Auditors' report 2024

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Treasurer, who referred to the complete auditors' report which the Council members had received as part of the working documents prior to the meeting. She presented to the Council the report of the external IHF auditors (Copartner Revision AG) who audited the financial statements of the IHF, comprising the balance sheet as at 31 December 2024, the income statement, the cash flow statement, and notes for the year 2024. The external auditors confirmed in their report that the financial statements for the year 2024 comply with Swiss law and the IHF Statutes and Regulations.

The Treasurer then presented to the Council the report of the internal IHF auditors who verified the bookkeeping and annual accounts (balance sheet and profit and loss accounts) of the IHF for the financial year 2024. The internal auditors confirmed in their report that the bookkeeping and annual accounts are consistent with the provisions of Swiss law and IHF Statutes as well as IHF Council and Executive Committee decisions.

The General Director took the floor, adding that the IHF achieved a profit of approx. CHF 23.5 million in 2024, which is, among other factors, highly driven by unrealised capital gains/losses as well as foreign exchange gains/losses. Therefore, the IHF's operating result before financial items amounted to approx. CHF 10.2 million in 2024.

Moreover, the General Director presented a letter dated 22 September 2025 from the external IHF auditors Copartner Revision AG in which they expressed their willingness to continue as external auditors of the IHF during the electoral period 2025-2029.

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#### Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the external and internal auditors' report 2024 to be presented to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress and agreed on presenting the request from Copartner Revision AG to the Congress.**

### 5.2. Debts of National Federations

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented to the Council an overview of the current situation of the debts of the National Federations, stating that one half of the National Federations in debt have short-term and/or lower debts, while the other half have long-term and/or higher debts. She added that payment schedules and instalments have already been agreed in some cases.

In view of the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress, President Moustafa stressed that National Federations that settle their debts until the IHF Congress shall be entitled to vote. Furthermore, he proposed that National Federations that are able to pay off a part of their debts and/or conclude a written settlement agreement (containing reasonable instalments with payment dates) with the IHF shall also be entitled to vote at the IHF Congress in order to avoid excluding any Member Federation. The IHF Vice-President Europe remarked that a similar procedure was applied by the European Handball Federation with regard to the EHF Congress.

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#### Decision

**The Council unanimously decided that National Federations that are able to pay off a part of their debts prior to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress and/or conclude a written settlement agreement (containing reasonable instalments with payment dates) with the IHF shall be entitled to vote at the IHF Congress.**



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## 5.3. IHF budget 2026-2027

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Treasurer who informed the attendees about the proposed IHF budget for the years 2026 and 2027. She pointed out that the budget foresees a loss for 2026 and a profit for 2027, explaining that the IHF will generate less income in 2026 due to the lower number of events compared to 2027. She concluded that the IHF is on a good way in terms of the budget for the next two years.

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### Decision

**The Council took note of the information provided by the Treasurer and unanimously approved the IHF budget 2026-2027 to be presented to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress.**

## 5.4. IHF-Gerflor partnership 2026-2029

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an offer from Gerflor regarding the partnership with the IHF for the period 2026-2029, emphasising that Gerflor has been a loyal and proud partner of the IHF for 15 years. She explained that the offer for the period 2026-2029 represents an increase of 6% compared to the offer for the period 2022-2025, emphasising that Gerflor proposed a reinforced value in kind approach in order to accelerate the IHF's development programme. Furthermore, she informed the attendees that Gerflor requests 10 additional VIP seats for all matches of the French team at the 2029 IHF Men's World Championship in FRA/GER, adding that Gerflor also agreed to test the glass floor.

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### Decision

**The Council unanimously approved the proposed offer regarding the IHF-Gerflor partnership 2026-2029.**

## 6. IHF Statutes and Regulations

### 6.1. Motions from Member Federations

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented several motions submitted by IHF Member Federations before the deadline of 21 September 2025 as per Articles 13.6.1 and 13.6.2 of the IHF Statutes.

**Motion from Hellenic Handball Federation regarding the IHF Statutes (sent on 17 September 2025):**

#### **Article 15 – Executive Committee**

##### **15.1. Composition**

*The Executive Committee consists of the following members:*

- *President*
- *1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President*
- *Treasurer*
- *two members elected by the Congress*

##### **15.2. General Conditions**

*1. The Executive Committee shall convene three times a year and whenever necessary.*



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2. *Decisions shall be passed by simple majority; in case of a tie, the President has a casting vote.*
3. *The members of the Executive Committee shall not exercise any other functions in any other official handball body in the Continental Confederations.*
4. *There shall not be more than one member from one National Federation on the Executive Committee.*
5. *In case an Executive Committee member retires, the Congress decides about the substitute. Retired members will get compensation on a proportional basis.*
6. *At the time of election, a candidate for a position that leads to membership in the Executive Committee (as defined in Article 15.1 of the IHF Statutes) shall not have reached the age of seventy five (75) years.*

## **Justification:**

*Establishing a clear age limit in the IHF Statutes will help ensure regular renewal, generational change, innovation and effective governance within the IHF Executive Committee, as one of the federation's key bodies. Several major international sports federations, such as the European Handball Federation (EHF), already maintain statutory age limits for their bodies (for example, the EHF Statutes stipulate an age limit of 70 years for EHF Executive Committee Members).*

*Note: The motion shall take effect from 2026. The wording of the motion and justification is according to the original communication received from Hellenic Handball Federation.*

President Moustafa highlighted the importance of people with extensive experience for the development of handball, concluding that the establishment of an age limit would not be advantageous for the sport. The CD Chairman agreed with him, stating that he does not consider an age limit necessary in handball. The General Director and the IHF Vice-President Europe then provided more detailed information on the applicable regulations of the IOC and the EHF in terms of age limit. The IHF Vice-President Europe explained that the age limit for IOC Members is set at 70, adding that a one-time extension term of office for a maximum of four years beyond the age limit of 70 can be granted by the IOC Session upon recommendation of the IOC Executive Board. According to Article 4.3.4 of the EHF Statutes, in the European Handball Federation an Executive Committee member ceases to be a member at the end of the calendar year during which the age of 70 is reached. The EHF Congress may, on the proposal of the EHF Executive Committee or the competent National Federation, extend the age limit for any Executive Committee member for up to four years.

Considering that the motion would only take effect from 2026 while the subsequent elections will take place in 2029, the IHF Vice-President Europe proposed to recommend the postponement of the motion concerned until the 2027 Ordinary IHF Congress to avoid any discussions related to an age limit within the context of an electoral Congress. Such postponement would allow a thorough analysis of the motion and age limits in general. The other Council members agreed.

Referring to the applicable procedure, the General Director explained that any motion duly submitted by National Federations to the Congress shall first be presented to the Council who is responsible for making recommendations pursuant to Article 14.3.13 of the Statutes. However, the motion, together with the Council's position, shall eventually be presented to the Congress for decision, unless the motion is withdrawn by the National Federation concerned, since the IHF Statutes do not allow postponing the treatment of duly submitted motions.

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## **Decision**

**The Council took note of the motion from the Hellenic Handball Federation and recommended postponing the motion until the 2027 Ordinary IHF Congress.**



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## Motions from German Handball Federation regarding the IHF Statutes (sent on 19 September 2025):

### 13.4. Congress Agenda

#### 2. Roll call and determination of the number of votes

##### Motion 1:

When using the electronic voting system (service provider: Lumi AGM Ltd.) employed by the IHF in accordance with Article 13.5.1 of the IHF Statutes, voting shall take place exclusively via anonymised voting devices provided by Lumi AGM Ltd., anonymised chip voting cards and a trustworthy server to determine the election result, as well as using communication technologies with protected integrity (e.g. tap-proof radio frequency or wireless technology) provided by Lumi AGM Ltd.

##### Motion 2:

The anonymised voting devices and chip voting cards described in motion 1 shall be distributed randomly on the day of the vote and exclusively by employees of the service provider Lumi AGM Ltd.

#### 5. Election of the election officer and the tellers

##### Motion 3:

The election officer shall be elected from among those present at the IHF Congress. The elected election officer, together with the notary and the technical service provider Lumi AGM Ltd., shall supervise, conduct and monitor all votes and elections during the IHF Congress and shall ensure that all candidates are treated equally during the Congress.

#### 13. Elections and confirmations:

##### a) Election of the IHF President

##### Motion 5:

The order in which the candidates deliver their speeches and presentations in accordance with motion 4 shall be determined by drawing lots under the supervision of the election officer.

#### **Justifications:**

##### Motion 1:

The use of an anonymised, electronic voting system and random distribution of voting devices guarantees the secrecy of voting, protects the independence of the delegates and prevents any subsequent identification of individual voting behaviour. This increases confidence in the integrity of the electoral process.

##### Motion 2:

The random distribution of voting cards under the supervision of independent bodies (notary and election officer) ensures the secrecy of voting and that any possible interference or influence in the casting of votes is ruled out. This will further guarantee the transparency and independence of the election process (see justification for motion 1).

##### Motion 3:

The election of an election officer from among those present, based on democratic legitimacy, ensures maximum transparency and acceptance of the election results. An independent election officer increases confidence in the neutrality of the election supervisors, especially when persons conducting the Congress are themselves standing for election or have been nominated. In addition, a neutral election officer ensures that



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*rules on speaking time are observed and that the election is conducted in a fair manner.*

## Motion 5:

*Determining the order of speakers by drawing lots ensures equal opportunities among the candidates, as any advantages, such as the opportunity to respond to previous speeches, are left to chance. This ensures that no applicant is given preferential treatment or put at a disadvantage. The procedure enhances the fairness of the selection process.*

The General Director remarked that Motions 1, 2, 3 and 5 cannot be considered as motions to the Congress, since they concern organisational procedures of the Congress. She explained that the secure voting system, same as during the 2021 and 2023 Ordinary IHF Congresses, will be provided by Lumi AGM UK Ltd (attending on site), stating that all Congress delegates will be asked to log into the Lumi voting platform during the Congress, i.e. no distribution of voting devices and chip voting cards will be required. She added that the supervision of the Congress will be carried out by Cheeswrights Scrivener Notaries LLP (same as during the 2021 and 2023 Ordinary IHF Congresses).

## 13. Elections and confirmations:

### a) Election of the IHF President

## Motion 4:

*Each candidate for the position of IHF President shall be given equal speaking and presentation time of up to twenty (20) minutes during the Congress to introduce themselves and present their election programme.*

## **Justification:**

*Defining a uniform speaking and presentation time of up to 20 minutes for each candidate for the position of IHF President ensures equal opportunities and fairness throughout the nomination process. This provision gives all delegates the opportunity to gain a comprehensive and comparable impression of the candidates' goals, policies and personalities, which enables voters to make a well-informed decision and increases the quality of their decision.*

*Note: The wording of the motions and justifications is according to the original communication (in German) received from German Handball Federation.*

With respect to Motion 4, the General Director remarked that speaking time of candidates standing for IHF positions is currently not provided for in the IHF Statutes. She stated that on the one hand, it would not be fair to give a presentation time of up to 20 minutes during the Congress only to the candidates for the position of IHF President and not to the candidates for other positions. On the other hand, since the IHF Congress is scheduled to be held on one day only (21 December 2025), time might not be sufficient for presentations of candidates for all IHF positions. She proposed that the candidates for the position of IHF President will be offered the possibility to introduce themselves and present their election programmes during the meetings of the Continental Confederations, which will take place on 20 December, one day prior to the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress. The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, explaining that in the European Handball Federation, according to Article 4.1.10 of the EHF Statutes, candidates for the Executive Committee have a speaking time of three to five minutes (in case more than one candidate is standing for the position concerned). Considering that the current IHF Statutes do not contain any regulation in terms of speaking time of candidates standing for IHF positions, he concluded that the related decision should be taken by the Council. Therefore, taking into account the motion from the German Handball Federation as well as the time constraints on the day of the IHF Congress, he proposed that a speaking time of up to five (5) minutes during the Congress should be granted to each candidate for the position of IHF President to introduce themselves



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and present their election programme.

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## Decision

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The Council took note of the motions from the German Handball Federation and unanimously agreed that Motions 1, 2, 3 and 5 shall not be considered as motions to the Congress. With respect to Motion 4, taking into account that speaking time of candidates standing for IHF positions is currently not provided for in the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously decided to grant a speaking time of up to five (5) minutes during the Congress to each candidate for the position of IHF President to introduce themselves and present their election programme.

*Motion from Dutch Handball Federation regarding the IHF Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball (sent on 20 September 2025):*

### **Rule 4 – The Team, Substitutions, Equipment, Player Injuries**

9. The players must wear sports shoes. It is not permitted to wear objects that could be dangerous to the players or give players improper advantages. This includes, for instance, ~~head-protection~~, face masks, gloves, bracelets, watches, rings, visible piercing, necklaces or chains, earrings, glasses without restraining bands or with solid frames, objects that could cause cuts or abrasions (fingernails must be shortly trimmed), or any other objects which could be dangerous (17:3).

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

Flat rings, small earrings and visible piercing may be allowed, as long as they are taped over in such a way that they are no longer deemed dangerous to players. Headbands, head scarves and captains' armllets are allowed, as long as they are made of soft, elastic material.

The responsible team official confirms by signing the match report / player registration before the game has been started that all players are correctly equipped. If the referees observe faulty equipment after the game has been started (according to Rule 4:9), the responsible team official is to be punished progressively and the player concerned has to leave the playing court until he has corrected the problem.

If the team has any doubt about the equipment, the responsible team official has to contact the referees or the delegate before the start of the game (see also Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories).

### **Justification:**

Handball goalkeepers are frequently exposed to hard and unexpected shots to the head during matches. This poses significant health risks, including concussions and other head injuries. In addition to the immediate impact, this can lead to long-term complaints, such as memory and concentration problems, and an increased risk of neurological disorders.

In recent years, there has been increasing attention in the sporting world to the consequences of repeated head injuries. In football, for example, there is a broad debate about the risks of heading the ball and the consequences for players later in life. These social and medical insights make it clear that there is a responsibility to better protect athletes.

Allowing head protection for goalkeepers offers handball the opportunity to take an important step forward. While other sports are still struggling to find solutions, handball can now show that safety and innovation go hand in hand. This would not only contribute to the protection of current players, but also send a positive signal to future generations of athletes and their parents. 1. Addition to the rules of the game: Goalkeepers are permitted to wear head protection approved by the IHF during official matches.



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## **Conditions:**

*Head protection must comply with safety standards set by the IHF.*

## **Implementation:**

*As soon as possible.*

## **Expected effects:**

*Improved safety – significant reduction in head and brain injuries among goalkeepers and reduced risk of permanent neurological damage and health problems later in life.*

*Progressive signal – handball takes a leading role in the international sports world by structurally improving safety.*

*Note: The wording of the justification is according to the original communication received from Dutch Handball Federation. In case of approval of the aforementioned motion, the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories shall be amended accordingly.*

The General Director remarked that the motion from the Dutch Handball Federation shall not be considered as motion to the Congress, since the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball are within the responsibility of the IHF Council as per the Appendix of the IHF Statutes.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the PRC Chairman, asking for his opinion on the motion. The PRC Chairman stressed that the admission of head protection is not only for the PRC to decide, but that the CCM, MC and AC should also be involved. President Moustafa agreed that the MC should guide the IHF in this matter and proposed to create a working group composed of the chairpersons of PRC, CCM, MC and AC. The CCM Chairman added that head protection in handball has been discussed for some time now and suggested to also involve an experienced goalkeeper expert in the working group concerned.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the motion from the Dutch Handball Federation and unanimously approved the establishment of a working group composed of the chairpersons of PRC, CCM, MC and AC as well as one goalkeeper expert to analyse the motion before the Council takes a decision on the Rules of the Game for Indoor Handball.**

**Motion from Handball Federation of Faroe Islands regarding the IHF Regulations on Advertising (sent on 21 September 2025):**

### **Article 1 – General**

- Advertising may be placed on the sportswear worn by players during a game and on the sportswear and tracksuits worn by players and team officials in the places where competitions are held.*
- Advertising is permitted on sportswear and on the sportswear and tracksuits used by IHF referees, officials and technical delegates in the places where competitions are held.*
- Advertising on sportswear (see 1.1. and 1.2.) must not be associated with a material benefit for the person wearing it.*
- The IHF itself has the right to advertise or place advertising at World Championships for men, women, men's juniors, women's juniors, men's and women's youth and in beach handball as well as World Cups for club teams and national teams (see also 3.3.).*
- Member Federations are entitled to place advertising on all areas of sportswear except for explicitly reserved zones. Only the outer side of the right sleeve shall be designated as an exclusive advertising*



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*zone for the IHF at IHF-organized competitions. The outer side of the left sleeve shall be available for use by the respective Member Federation.*

6. *Preference should be given to the advertising of a general sponsor of the IHF. The financial participation of the teams and clubs concerned is governed by the IHF Financial Regulations.*
7. *Contracts made by Member Federations or World Championship participants are only invalid if they involve areas of sportswear explicitly designated as reserved exclusively for the IHF (i.e., right outer sleeve).*

## **Article 3 – Dimensions of Advertising Spaces**

### *3. Rights to advertising space at IHF competitions*

*The outer side of the right sleeve is reserved exclusively for IHF advertising or special IHF campaigns (e.g. event logo, Handball at School logo, etc.). The IHF may choose not to sell or place advertising in this area, but Member Federations must still leave this zone unused. The outer side of the left sleeve may be used by the participating Member Federation for advertising purposes in accordance with all other applicable provisions.*

*All other areas (as defined in Article 3.1.) are reserved exclusively for advertising of the member federations / clubs (with no financial participation by the IHF). An individual advertiser may not request the exclusive right to advertise in a specific field. The same applies to the clothing worn by team officials.*

*Tracksuits and sports bags are exclusively reserved for the advertising of the member federations / clubs (without financial participation by the IHF). The individual teams and players of a member federation or club may place their own advertising.*

*Advertising on the referees' clothing and the IHF officials' clothing is reserved for the IHF (with no financial participation by the member federations / clubs). An individual advertiser may not request the exclusive right to place advertising in a specific field.*

### **Justification:**

*The purpose of this motion is to ensure that Member Federations retain sufficient rights to use sportswear advertising, which represents one of the most important sources of income for many national teams. These revenues are crucial to sustain the development of handball in our countries, to strengthen grassroots initiatives, and to support participation in international competitions.*

*We believe that this amendment will safeguard the IHF's interests while at the same time respecting the commercial rights of its Member Federations. It will provide legal clarity, prevent unnecessary restrictions, and ensure a fair balance between international and national needs.*

### **Objective:**

- *To secure Member Federations' commercial rights.*
- *To maintain one of the most important income sources for national handball development.*
- *To balance IHF's interests with the financial sustainability of Member Federations.*

*Note: The wording of the motion and justification is according to the original communication received from Handball Federation of Faroe Islands.*

The General Director remarked that the motion from the Handball Federation of Faroe Islands shall not be considered as motion to the Congress, since the IHF Regulations on Advertising are within the responsibility of the IHF Council as per the Appendix of the IHF Statutes.

The General Director explained that the requested amendments of the IHF Regulations on Advertising are currently not feasible due to the existing contract between IHF and Sportfive on media and marketing rights for IHF events until 2031. In case the outer side of sleeves (currently reserved exclusively for IHF advertising)



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is not used by the IHF/Sportfive, the related rights may be returned to the National Federations prior to the IHF event concerned. Referring to the motion, according to which Member Federations should be entitled to place advertising on all areas of sportswear except for explicitly reserved zones, she added that this matter is still being studied internally.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the motion from the Handball Federation of Faroe Islands and unanimously agreed not to amend the IHF Regulations on Advertising until 2031 due to the existing contract between IHF and Sportfive on media and marketing rights for IHF events until 2031. In case the outer side of sleeves is not used by the IHF/Sportfive, the related rights shall be returned to the National Federations prior to the IHF event concerned.**

**The Council took note that the question of whether Member Federations may be entitled to place advertising on all areas of sportswear except for explicitly reserved zones is being studied internally. A corresponding proposal for amendments of the IHF Regulations on Advertising shall be presented to the Council for approval.**

**Motion from Norwegian Handball Federation regarding the IHF Regulations on Advertising (sent on 19 September 2025):**

### **Article 3 – Dimensions of Advertising Spaces**

**Motion regarding point 3 (Rights to advertising space at IHF competitions), first paragraph:**

*The IHF shall amend its current advertising regulations to allow national federations full and exclusive rights to manage and monetize the advertising space on one sleeve of their national team shirts during IHF World Championships. Effectively after the current agreement IHF has with Sportfive expires, this right shall be returned to the national federations.*

*In the interim period as from now until the expiration of IHFs agreement with Sportfive, IHF shall inform the national federations at the latest four months ahead of the World Championship if the right is sold or not. If it is not sold, the right of one sleeve shall be returned to the national federation free of charge.*

### **Justifications:**

*In recent IHF World Championships, the advertising space on team shirt sleeves has been centrally allocated to IHF, with federations required to display designated logos on all shirts. This practice has significantly limited the ability of national federations to engage with our own long-term partners and sponsors.*

*Sleeve space represents a highly visible and commercially valuable area of the team kits. For many federations, this space has historically been used to showcase national sponsors who contribute directly to the development of handball at the grassroots and elite levels. The current arrangement restricts federations from leveraging this space, impacting our financial sustainability and sponsor relationships.*

*We believe that returning sleeve advertising rights to the national federations will:*

- Strengthening federations' autonomy and commercial visibility.*
- Encourage deeper investment in national handball programs.*
- Preserve the diversity and identity of national teams.*
- Allow federations to maintain long-term sponsor commitments without conflict.*

*We suggest the following regulation to be adopted at the Congress:*

- A basic principle is that the national team shirts belong to the federations. Valid from the expiration of the Sportfive contract.*



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- *In an interim period, valid from the Congress 2025 IHF/Sportfive keeps the right for one shoulder. This right expires after the end of the current contract.*
- *If the other shoulder is not sold by IHF/Sportfive within four months prior to the World Championship, the shoulder is transferred free of charge to the federations.*
- *Any federation is free to transfer the sleeves back to IHF depending on their own decisions.*

*The motion is supported by the following federations:*

- *Denmark*
- *Sweden*
- *Germany*

*Note: The wording of the motion and justification is according to the original communication received from Norwegian Handball Federation.*

The General Director remarked that the motion from the Norwegian Handball Federation shall not be considered as motion to the Congress, since the IHF Regulations on Advertising are within the responsibility of the IHF Council as per the Appendix of the IHF Statutes. She also referred to the comments on the related motion submitted by the Handball Federation of Faroe Islands (mentioned above).

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the motion from the Norwegian Handball Federation and unanimously agreed not to amend the IHF Regulations on Advertising until 2031 due to the existing contract between IHF and Sportfive on media and marketing rights for IHF events until 2031. In case the outer side of sleeves is not used by the IHF/Sportfive, the related rights shall be returned to the National Federations prior to the IHF event concerned.**

## 7. Continents

### 7.1. Report from the continents

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Representative Asia who reported on the 11<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Youth Championship, which took place in Jinggangshan City, China, from 18 to 26 July 2025. As the event served as qualification for the 2026 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship, China, Japan, Korea and Kazakhstan will represent the Asian continent in the competition. He also referred to the 18<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Junior Championship, which took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, from 20 to 29 August 2025. As this event served as qualification for the 2026 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship, Japan, Korea, China and Chinese Taipei will represent the Asian continent in the competition. In addition, the IHF Representative Asia provided information on the 1<sup>st</sup> Asian Men's U17 Championship, which took place in Amman, Jordan, from 15 to 25 September 2025. As this event served as qualification for the IHF Men's U17 World Championship, Iran and Korea (reserve team: Qatar) will represent the Asian continent in the competition. With respect to the upcoming events, he informed the attendees that the hosting announcement for the 28<sup>th</sup> Asian Men's Club League Championship to be held in 2026 has been sent to all Member Federations. As two B Licence, five C Licence and four D Licence Coaching Courses have been staged in 2025 as of 8 September 2025, the total number of licenced coaches amounts to 49 for the B Licence, 249 for the C Licence and 129 for the D Licence. The IHF Representative Asia also provided an outlook for the courses for referees and technical delegates for both indoor and beach handball in the next four years, as the plan is to establish a base of young male and female referees and technical delegates.



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President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Africa who provided an overview of the activities of the CAHB. He reported that the 32<sup>nd</sup> African Women's Junior Handball Championship took place in Oran, Algeria, from 6 to 13 September 2025. As this event served as qualification for the 2026 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship, Egypt, Guinea, Angola and Tunisia will represent the African continent in the competition. Following the conclusion of the junior competition, the 21<sup>st</sup> African Women's Youth Handball Championship took place in Oran, Algeria, from 14 to 21 September 2025. As this event served as qualification for the 2026 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship, Egypt, Tunisia, Guinea and Angola will represent the African continent in the competition. In addition, the IHF Vice-President Africa informed the attendees that Guinea qualified for the Intercontinental Phase of the 2026 IHF Trophy. With respect to education, he remarked that the CAHB is continuing its education programme in collaboration with the IHF with the aim of enabling African technical staff to improve their skills and upgrade their knowledge and specified that one B Licence, six C Licence and five D Licence Coaching Courses were carried out from June to September 2025. In total, 338 male and 40 female coaches were educated and 325 applicants were accepted. The IHF Vice-President Africa remarked that the CAHB was able to obtain the support of federations for this education programme, have a considerable number of educated coaches and see an increasing number of African coaches managing national teams and senior clubs. He then presented the operational priorities for the period 2025-2028. He explained that the education for African technical staff should be democratised based on awareness raising in the zones during the education process and the establishment of agreements with zone officials and federations. The operational priority of education should focus on the certificate programme and further education. With regard to the IHF Development Project, the IHF Vice-President Africa remarked that the target countries should be distributed into the three categories of top nations, emerging nations and developed nations according to the criteria established by the IHF. The first stage of the implementation should take place in 2025 and 2026 and the second one in 2027 and 2028. In order to promote the education of African staff and generate interest in this project among federations, it is also planned to diversify courses for technical delegates, referees, event delegates, players' agents, federation officials, etc. and provide support to local federations. Furthermore, the IHF Vice-President Africa informed the attendees that the preparations for the IHF and CAHB Congresses are proceeding well, specifying that regular monitoring of all tasks included in the task schedule is taking place and that the CAHB cooperates well with its Member Federations. He added that sufficient time for planning and organising the event is left and that preparations are running smoothly so far in terms of scheduling in order to avoid any last-minute difficulties.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor and reported on the highlight events that will take place next year. He then provided more detailed information on the Men's EHF EURO 2026, which will be hosted by Denmark, Norway and Sweden in January/February 2026, stating that the final tournament draw took place in Herning, Denmark, in May 2025. The draw for Women's EHF EURO 2026 qualifiers took place in March 2025 while the final tournament is to be hosted by Poland, Romania, Czechia, Slovakia and Türkiye in December 2026. The IHF Vice-President Europe then provided a review of the club competitions of the 2024/2025 season, stating that the 2024/2025 club season started with a total of 204 teams (111 men's teams, 93 women's teams). He then provided more detailed information on the EHF Champions League, the EHF European League and the EHF European Cup of the 2024/2025 season in both the men's and women's categories. In view of the upcoming 2025/2026 club season, he remarked that the draws for all three major competitions have already taken place. He highlighted that a significant feature of the 2025/2026 competition season is the continuation of the new EHF Youth Club Trophy for Men's 18 teams, following its successful debut in June 2025, adding that in the 2026/2027 season, the first Youth Club Trophy for Women's 18 with an identical playing system as seen in the M18 will have its debut in Budapest. With regard to beach handball, the IHF Vice-President Europe stated that, following the European Beach Tour (ebt), the 2024/2025 season concluded with the ebt Finals 2025, which took place in Trapani, Italy, in June 2025. He also remarked that the final club event of the 2024/2025 season, the Beach Handball Champions Cup, will take place in Porto Santo, Portugal, in October 2025. He added that the Men's & Women's 17 EHF Beach Handball EURO 2025 was staged at Oba Beach in Alanya, Türkiye, in July 2025. Furthermore, he reported on the Men's & Women's Beach Handball



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EURO 2025, which was also held in Alanya, Türkiye, in July 2025, emphasising that the joint Youth and Senior Beach Handball EURO in Alanya was a major success. As the EHF Beach Handball EURO 2025 served as qualification for the 2026 IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships, Germany, Spain, Croatia (host), Hungary, France, Portugal, Denmark and Italy will represent the European continent in the men's competition, while Spain, Norway, Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Greece and Croatia (host) will be the European participants in the women's event. He concluded that the 2024/2025 season reinforced the increasing popularity of beach handball and highlighted that the EHF's strategic partnership with media and marketing companies has resulted in coverage across more than 100 territories, with digital insights showing a significant increase in engagement. The IHF Vice-President Europe then provided a preview of the 2025/2026 beach handball season. He remarked that the ebt will run from November 2025 to October 2026 and will serve as a qualifying platform for the ebt Finals 2026. He stated that the specific dates and host city of the YAC 17 Beach Handball EURO 2026 are yet to be confirmed, adding that the event location of the Senior Beach Handball Championship 2026, taking place in July 2026, is also yet to be defined. The IHF Vice-President Europe also provided an outlook for the national team competitions. He remarked that 18 out of the 32 teams participating in the 2025 IHF Women's World Championship will be European and highlighted the debuts of the Faroe Islands and Switzerland at the event. He also referred to several other competitions, especially in the younger age categories, emphasising that events such as the Women's 16 EHF European Open and the Men's 20 and Men's 18 EHF EUROs and EHF Championships are vital for developing young European athletes by providing crucial experience that boosts individual player growth and national team success. The IHF Vice-President Europe also referred to current educational and administrative activities, including but not limited to various webinars, courses and seminars. He especially highlighted the Executive Committee Meeting in Cologne in June 2025, the EHF Congress preparations and the event planning. Referring to the elections at the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress, which took place in Andau, Austria, in September 2025, the IHF Vice-President Europe pointed out that the EHF had received 119 applications from 37 countries by the stipulated deadline. As 55 individuals from 29 nations were elected, two thirds of the European Member Federations are now involved in the EHF through the various bodies. He also underlined that many National Federations are undergoing a significant change and pointed to the increasing professionalisation of the sport on an administrative level. He concluded that the Congress was held in a positive atmosphere and that the results, especially in terms of a new competition system for clubs, national teams and qualification pathways, will be presented in the near future.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean who informed the attendees that 2025 has been the first year in which five competitions have been carried out. Furthermore, he pointed out that various Licence Courses have been conducted and pointed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior Pan American Games, which took place in Asunción, Paraguay, from 9 to 23 August 2025. The IHF Representative South and Central America took the floor, adding that handball was the sport with the highest number of viewers and spectators at the Junior Pan American Games.

President Moustafa then gave the floor to the IHF Representative Oceania who started his brief report by conveying his thanks to President Moustafa, the General Director and the IHF staff for their support. He mentioned the organisational challenges of the OCHF, especially in view of the increasing prices for flight tickets, and emphasised that the OCHF is working together with the respective National Olympic Committees, as the objective is to activate the individual National Federations with respect to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. In this regard, he pointed out that great progress in terms of handball development is being made on the Cook Islands and Fiji.

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## Decision

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



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## 7.2. Nomination of European representatives to IHF bodies

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented a letter from the European Handball Federation (EHF) dated 23 September 2025, stating that following the 17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary EHF Congress held in Andau, Austria, on 19/20 September 2025, the EHF nominated Michael Wiederer (EHF President) as IHF Vice-President Europe and Predrag Boskovic (EHF First Vice President) as IHF Representative Europe to the IHF Council, in accordance with Articles 11 and 13 of the IHF Statutes.

Furthermore, the EHF Congress delegated the nomination of continental members to the IHF Commissions to the EHF Executive Committee.

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### Decision

**The Council unanimously and provisionally confirmed the following nominations from the European Handball Federation to the IHF Council until the next IHF Congress in 2025 according to Article 11.2.4 of the IHF Statutes:**

**IHF Vice-President Europe:            Mr Michael Wiederer (AUT)**  
**IHF Representative Europe:            Mr Predrag Boskovic (MNE)**

## 8. Miscellaneous

### 8.1. Wheelchair Handball Classification – Team Balance Points

President Moustafa gave the floor to Executive Committee Member Dr Frantisek Taborsky, at the same time Chairman of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group, who presented a report regarding the impact of Team Balance Points in wheelchair handball prepared by IHF Head of Classification (HoC) Kees van Breukelen and IHF Classifier and HoC assistant Benoît Sechet. He explained that wheelchair handball four-a-side is practiced by two teams of four players (any player on the court may act as a goalkeeper at any time), adding that each player is classified according to the IHF Classification Rules and Regulations and assigned a Sport Class 1, 2, 3 or 4, where Sport Class 1 corresponds to players who exhibit the least motoric capacity and Sport Class 4 to those who have the highest motoric capacity, while meeting the minimum eligibility criteria (classes 1 and 2 referred to as “low-class” and classes 3 and 4 as “high-class”).

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman stated that the Team Balance Points (TBP) of the players on the court are currently set at 12 points per team and that the TBP ensure a fair and meaningful competition by minimising the impact of a player’s impairments on the outcome of wheelchair handball competitions. In addition, the TBP influence coaches’ strategies, forcing them to take into account their players’ various types of disabilities according to the impact on their ability to play, while respecting the maximum number of points allowed.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman remarked that the report analyses if the current TBP of 12 points guarantee a good balance when it comes to player selection between “low class” and “high class” players as well as the impact of the TBP on the game. The report concludes that 12 points favour the high-class players, 11 points would still favour the high-class players, while increasing the inclusion of low-class players and 10 points would create a more equal proportion of low-class and high-class players. He stressed that using the same calculation formula as wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby, the result for the TBP in wheelchair handball four-a-side would be 10. However, the comparison between wheelchair handball and the two other disciplines is complicated, since wheelchair rugby and basketball do not have a goalkeeper, while it could be argued that in wheelchair handball four-a-



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side, there is no specific goalkeeper, since all four players on the court can act as goalkeeper. According to the report, it can also be concluded that the game is faster, stronger, more spectacular and more attractive with the Team Balance Points remaining at 12 points, which is important for a future Paralympic sport. However, he emphasised that inclusion is highly important for the IPC and that reducing the TBP would have a positive impact on player selection and encourage coaches to select more lower-class players and thus play with more severely disabled players that otherwise would not get a chance. According to Kees van Breukelen and Benoît Sechet, lowering the TBP to 11 seems to be a good compromise between inclusion and attractiveness of the sport (speed, technical gestures, tactics, impacts, etc.).

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor and pointed out that the EHF Wheelchair Handball Championship four-a-side will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, between 26 and 30 November 2025, highlighting that it will not be possible to apply such change immediately. Therefore, it was proposed that the amendment concerned shall come into effect as from 1 January 2026.

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## Decision

**The Council unanimously decided to reduce the number of Team Balance Points in wheelchair handball from 12 to 11 per team with effect from 1 January 2026.**

### 8.2. Current situation of wheelchair handball in the continents

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman to present information on the current situation of wheelchair handball in the continents. He started his presentation with information about the European wheelchair handball activities provided by Pedro Sequeira, member of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group. In Europe, 16 National Federations have a contact person for wheelchair handball, while six National Federations offer regular activities and one some activities. Moreover, ten National Federations have clubs in which wheelchair handball is played. He remarked that the National Federations of POL, SRB, GRE and IRL stated that they are planning to get involved in wheelchair handball in the future.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman then presented information on the wheelchair handball activities in South and Central America provided by Flavio Anderson Pedrosa de Melo, member of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group. In South and Central America, 11 National Federations have a contact person for wheelchair handball, nine National Federations offer regular activities and two some activities. Moreover, eight National Federations have clubs in which wheelchair handball is played. He then referred to the activities of the individual National Federations, stating that the National Federation of Argentina successfully organised the first wheelchair handball tournament and has now established a calendar of activities for the discipline. In addition, Argentina has created a national wheelchair handball committee and has specialists with experience in both wheelchair basketball classification and wheelchair handball classification, further strengthening the development of the sport in the country. In Brazil, national competitions are organised and the National Federation is in the process to be recognised as member of the National Paralympic Committee. In addition, educational activities have been carried out and a national wheelchair handball promotion programme has been established. Another important focus is the organisation of continental competitions and potential partnerships with Chile and Argentina to strengthen the region. In Chile, the development of wheelchair handball advances steadily and national as well as regional championships are being organised. In Bolivia, wheelchair handball has been developing for many years since 2009 and separate championships for men and women are being organised. He remarked that it will be crucial to have greater support from the Continental Confederation through direct contact with the National Federations, adding that an important initiative will be to promote meetings and



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tournaments with lower costs and smaller standards, at least in the initial stages. He concluded that the overall development and outlook for the future is positive.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman then presented information on wheelchair handball activities in Asia, provided by Muhammad Shafiq, member of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group. He stated that five National Federations have a contact person for wheelchair handball, while three National Federations offer regular activities and one some activities. Moreover, four National Federations have clubs in which wheelchair handball is played. Referring to the individual countries, he emphasised that Japan has been actively promoting the discipline by organising national tournaments. The development of wheelchair handball in India began in 2022 and since then, the Indian teams have participated in prestigious international competitions, including IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championships, and delivered commendable performances. Pakistan launched its wheelchair handball initiative in 2019. The first national wheelchair handball championship was held in March 2021, followed by the second edition in June 2025. The Pakistan Handball Federation has also established a dedicated wheelchair handball working group. Afghanistan introduced wheelchair handball in 2019 and since then local competitions have been organised on a regular basis. The Handball Federations of Nepal and Bangladesh are committed to launching wheelchair handball activities in the near future. He also drew attention to the importance of an involvement of China, considering its vast resources and excellent sports infrastructure, which could significantly contribute to the growth of the sport in the region.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman then presented information on wheelchair handball in North America and the Caribbean, provided by Khalil El Haddaoui, member of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group. He stated that USA Team Handball offers regular wheelchair handball activities, while the National Federations of Canada and Greenland do not currently have an active wheelchair handball programme.

With respect to wheelchair handball activities in Africa, the Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman presented the information provided by Dr Hossam Eldin Mostafa Saad, member of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group. He stated that Egypt has an active programme and will organise the 2027 African Para Games, while numerous countries intend to start getting involved in wheelchair handball. Future plans comprise various educational and administrative online courses, national competitions as well as the establishment of a dedicated CAHB department and a funding and sponsorship programme.

With respect to wheelchair handball activities in Oceania, the Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman presented the information provided by Eoin Murray, member of the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group. He remarked that wheelchair handball in Australia is growing and regular activities are being offered. He added that the National Federation of New Zealand expressed interest in future wheelchair handball activities.

Referring to a possible inclusion of wheelchair handball in the programme of the Paralympic Games in Brisbane 2032, the Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman stressed that the discipline and the IHF meet the relevant requirements, as there are at least 24 National Federations in three continents, at least two World Championships have been organised in the last five years and the classification code and regulations comply with the relevant requirements. He added that a decision on the programme for Brisbane 2032 is expected to be made in 2026.

The Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman then underlined the importance of activating National Handball Federations as well as continental handball bodies. The continental handball bodies should support the activities of their representatives in the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group and, if applicable, should create a continental Wheelchair Handball Working Group. In addition, the handball bodies on national and international level should be in contact with the respective Paralympic Committees. In view of the 2026 IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship, he informed the



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attendees that the event shall take place in Egypt in the second half of September 2026 and that 12 teams will be represented, namely Egypt as the organiser and winner of the 2024 edition, four teams from Europe, two teams each from South and Central America and Asia, and one team each from Africa, North America and the Caribbean and Oceania.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the information provided by the Executive Committee Member and IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman on the current situation of wheelchair handball in the continents.**

### 8.3. Transgender policy in handball

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented an overview of a study on age and testosterone level restrictions carried out by the IHF. For transgender men, the IHF's proposal is that they should be eligible to compete in the male category provided they sign a corresponding health acknowledgement form. Transgender women should only be able to compete if they have complete androgen insensitivity, or they have male puberty suppressed at Tanner Stage 2 or before the age of 12 (whichever is later) and have continuously maintained serum (or plasma) testosterone levels below 2.5 nmol/L since then. The General Director explained that after entering puberty, testosterone is secreted in significantly higher amounts than in women, which leads to a rapid increase in muscles and musculature. This advantage remains permanent, and research has shown that even after several years of hormone therapy, muscle mass persists and the advantage of transgender women who have gone through puberty remains permanent. She further remarked that the IHF contacted the IOC for guidance regarding a transgender policy. The IOC's Director of Health, Medicine and Science responded to the IHF's enquiry and stated that the IOC established a working group for the protection of female competition in June 2025, advising the IHF to wait for the results of the working group meetings so that the IHF could benefit from the IOC's work.

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## Decision

**The Council took note of the information provided by the General Director on the transgender policy in handball.**

### 8.4. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- ***Awarding of 2026 IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships***

Reference was made to the organisation of the 2026 IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships.

Memorandum prepared by the Chairman of the IHF Beach Handball Working Group Giampiero Masi, explaining that while the IHF received bids to host the event from three nations (BRA, ITA, SRB), only Serbia submitted all relevant documents in due time. However, as a result of the negative inspection report and considering that Serbia was not able to propose an alternative venue, it was not possible to consider awarding the event to Serbia.

Therefore, the Croatian Handball Federation, recipient of a wild card for the 2025 IHF Women's World Championship, was approached and agreed to host the event in Zagreb. It was proposed to award the 2026



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IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships to the Croatian Handball Federation, considering that the participation fee will amount to EUR 150 per person and day.

Date of communication: 13 June 2025

Date of decision: **18 June 2025**

- ***Nominations for IHF Positions***

Reference was made to the last IHF Council Meeting held in Basel on 4 June 2025, and in particular to agenda item 6.1.3 ("*Nominations for IHF Positions*").

While the Council unanimously approved the nominations of the candidates for the IHF Council positions who will stand for re-election at the 2025 Ordinary IHF Congress in Egypt, the following candidates currently in office (beside the IHF Council) would also like to stand for re-election according to Article 13.7.3 of the IHF Statutes:

 Chairperson of Arbitration Tribunal:	Zoran Radojicic (MNE)
 Chairperson of Arbitration Commission:	Lovro Badzim (CRO)
 Chairperson of Ethics Commission:	Hussein Moustafa Fathy (EGY)

The Council accepted the proposal of nominating the above-mentioned candidates to stand for re-election for their respective positions.

Date of communication: 29 July 2025

Date of decision: **5 August 2025**

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

Dr Hassan Moustafa  
President