



**International
Handball
Federation**



Council Meeting No. 2

06.05.2026 – Basel SUI



Present

Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA (EGY)
Philippe BANA (FRA)
Mansourou ARÉMOU (BEN)
Bader AL-THEYAB (KUW)
Michael WIEDERER (AUT)
Anna RAPP (SWE)
Narcisa LECUSANU (ROU)
Francisco V. BLÁZQUEZ GARCÍA (ESP)
Per Morten SØDAL (NOR)
Dietrich SPÄTE (GER)
Dr Yannick MOSSUS (CMR)
Tomislav GRAHOVAC (CRO)
Predrag BOSKOVIC (MNE)
Marcel Amos MBAYO KITENGE (COD)
Ahmed AL-SHAABI (QAT)
Mario GARCIA DE LA TORRE (MEX)

Ricardo BLAS (GUM)

Amal KHALIFA (EGY)
Patric STRUB (GER)

Excused:

Pascal JENNY (SUI)
Gonzalo PEREZ DE VARGAS MORENO (ESP)
Marcel MANCILLA BRAVO (CHI)

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

General Director
Competitions Director

COC Chairman
AC Chairman
IHF Representative South and Central
America

MEETING TIME: 11:00-13:15

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

President Moustafa as usual abstained from voting.



Agenda

1. Minutes

- 1.1. Council Meeting No. 1, 2 March 2026 by video conference

2. President's activities

3. Competitions

- 3.1. Return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions
- 3.2. 2026 Women's U16 World Championship – Awarding
- 3.3. 2026 Wheelchair Handball World Championship – Awarding
- 3.4. 2028 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship
- 3.5. IOC Policy on the Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport

4. Finances and marketing

- 4.1. IHF-Molten partnership 2028-2032

5. IHF bodies

- 5.1. Commission of Organising and Competition (COC) – Asian representative
- 5.2. Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)
 - 5.2.1. Expert group
 - 5.2.2. European representative
 - 5.2.3. Oceanian representative
- 5.3. Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM) – Expert group
- 5.4. Commission for Development (CD) – European representative
- 5.5. Women's Handball Working Group

6. IHF Regulations

- 6.1. Regulations on Advertising
- 6.2. Financial Regulations

7. Continents

- 7.1. Report from the continents

8. Miscellaneous

- 8.1. Glass floor
- 8.2. Council decisions made by electronic communication



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President Moustafa opened the meeting, welcoming the Council members to the meeting held in Basel, Switzerland on the occasion of the official opening of the new IHF Head Office. He expressed his hopes that all Council members as well as their families are in good health. He further emphasised that all Council members should cooperate closely and work coherently for the further development of handball.

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. 1, 2 March 2026 by video conference

President Moustafa presented the minutes of the 1st Council Meeting, which was held by video conference on 2 March 2026, including all the Council decisions taken by electronic communication since the previous meeting.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the minutes of Council Meeting No. 1 held by video conference on 2 March 2026.

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 March 2026, stressing that it is just a summary in view of the many activities carried out by the IHF President between the two IHF Council meetings:

17 March 2026: Attendance at friendly match between the U20 men's teams of Egypt and Poland in the New Administrative Capital, Egypt, in the framework of the U20 Midar International Handball Cup, providing an opportunity to observe emerging talent and showcasing the IHF's support for youth development.

26 March-2 April 2026: Attendance at IHF A Licence Coaching Course in Cairo, Egypt, Dr Moustafa engaging with the participants, as well as the IHF lecturers and organisers, and highlighting the importance of ongoing coaching education and development.

9 April 2026: Attendance at 1st meeting of the IHF Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM) by video conference, with CCM Chairman Dietrich Späte as well as the newly appointed CCM members representing all the six continents participating, following their appointment until 2029. The meeting agenda included a review of the IHF Four-Year Plan 2026-2029, updates on the general situation across the continents, the implementation of the IHF Licence Structure, the IHF Development Projects and the IHF Women's Handball Working Group.

13 April 2026: Meeting with EHF President Mr Michael Wiederer and EHF Secretary General Mr Martin Hausleitner at the new IHF headquarters in Basel, Switzerland. The discussions covered competition organisation, World Championship qualification formats, the proposed European Handball Games, the current situation of handball in Russia & Belarus, anti-doping, and development aid initiatives.

14 April 2026: Meeting with H.E. Mohamed Negm and H.E. Amgad Rezk, Ambassador and Counsellor of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Switzerland, respectively, at the new IHF headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, underlining the strong ties between Egypt and the IHF and reflecting the country's prominent role in the global handball community.

23 April 2026: Bilateral meeting between the IHF and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) represented by their Sports Director Pierre Ducrey, and Summer Sports & IF Relations Manager Justine Bowden, at the new



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IHF Head Office in Basel. The discussions covered the IHF's vision following Dr Moustafa's presidential re-election, an update on the IOC's Fit for the Future programme, as well as the potential inclusion of beach handball at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. A large part of the meeting focused on the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, covering a proposed beach handball exhibition and a wheelchair handball showcase during handball matches.

In this context, the General Director added that the IHF will take part in an IOC-led consultation session with Summer IFs in Lausanne at the end of May where an update on the work of the Fit for the Future Olympic Programme Working Group will be provided. The mentioned working group had been established by the new IOC President to assess and propose approaches to ensure an appropriate balance between the overall size and complexity of the Olympic Games and the relevance of sports and disciplines included in the programme. In addition, they shall explore potential pathways for sports or disciplines to be added to or removed from the Olympic programme through a clear, transparent, and principles-based process. She informed the attendees that the IHF plans to apply for the inclusion of beach handball in the programme of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, should the IOC approve the addition of new disciplines. President Moustafa stressed the importance of developing competitive men's and women's host teams for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Handball Tournaments, adding that all handball disciplines shall be further promoted in the lead-up to the Olympic Games.

25 April 2026: Attendance at the International World Games Association (IWGA) Annual General Meeting 2026, which took place at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, the meeting's agenda including the report from The World Games 2025 Chengdu, a general report on the upcoming edition of The World Games 2029 Karlsruhe as well as the election of the IWGA Executive Committee for the period 2026-2030, with Anna Arzhanova (SRB/RUS) elected new President of the association.

27 April 2026: Customary debriefing meeting following the conclusion of the 2025 IHF Women's World Championship with a delegation of IHF Partner SPORTFIVE, including their Chief Growth Officer Robert Müller von Vultejus, at the new IHF Head Office in Basel. The meeting opened with a comprehensive review of the overall cooperation during the 2025 IHF Women's World Championship in GER/NED, covering media performance, global TV distribution, production innovations and marketing partnerships. Furthermore, the meeting's agenda included the 2027 IHF Men's World Championship in Germany, more specifically a discussion on the status of partnerships, media planning and the upcoming draw event in Munich on 10 June. The meeting was also partly attended by two representatives of the African Handball Confederation (CAHB), including their President Mansourou Aremou, to discuss a potential partnership between SPORTFIVE and CAHB in the future.

28 April 2026: Attendance at 1st meeting of the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC) by video conference, with PRC Chairman Per Morten Sødal as well as the newly appointed PRC members representing the Continental Confederations participating, following their appointment until 2029. The meeting agenda included a review of the IHF Four-Year Plan 2026-2029, a discussion on potential projects, objectives and responsibilities of the PRC as well as the PRC's annual meeting framework.

Decision

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



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3. Competitions

3.1. Return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who reminded the attendees that, on 17 March, a memorandum confirmed by the IHF Executive Committee was sent to the IHF Council, making reference to the decision of the IHF Council taken in its meeting held by video conference on 2 March 2026, according to which the IHF Executive Committee was asked to study the potential return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions and to submit a corresponding proposal to the IHF Council for decision. On 7 August 2025, the IHF Council had already decided on a scenario for the return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international handball competitions. The reintegration was limited to the U17/U16 level as well as the fulfilment of strict conditions by the two teams concerned.

On 6 March 2026, the IHF approached the Chairpersons of the Commission of Organising and Competition (COC), Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC) and Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM), asking for their input regarding a comprehensive proposal related to the return of Russian and Belarusian youth teams to international handball competitions. Such initial proposal included:

1. the possibility of Russian and Belarusian youth teams to organise and participate in self-arranged friendly matches;
2. the application of case-by-case decisions in the event that Russian or Belarusian youth teams seek to register for official competitions;
3. the possibility of Russian and Belarusian youth teams to participate in competitions of other continents than Europe with the right to gain a qualification place.

The first proposal was considered as the most realistic and potentially manageable first step by the chairpersons of the commissions concerned. Consequently, the Council decided on 24 March 2026, by electronic communication (please refer to agenda item 8.2), to start with the first option, allowing Russian and Belarusian youth teams to return to international handball competitions as follows:

Russian and Belarusian youth teams shall have the right to organise and participate in self-arranged friendly matches, taking into consideration that "youth" shall refer to all age categories up to and including U21. Thus, RUS/BLR may officially ascertain in which countries no restrictions are applicable and play friendly matches.

All athletes, coaches and staff of RUS/BLR must sign a declaration confirming as follows:

- ✚ *having no relation whatsoever to military or government security agencies;*
- ✚ *no involvement in any ongoing international conflicts.*

No further restrictions shall apply.

The General Director remarked that the IHF, since the Council decision of 24 March 2026, has further evaluated the entire situation and its development. In addition, the IHF has kept monitoring how other International Federations are dealing with this challenging and complex matter. She briefly outlined the difficulties and challenges in fully allowing Russian and Belarusian teams to return to IHF events, including the 2027 Men's and Women's World Championships. Therefore, it was proposed to the Council to adopt a gradual approach by considering the awarding of a potential wild card for the 2026 Women's U16 World Championship (in case of any open places as per the Regulations for IHF Competitions) and/or the IHF Nations Trophy (senior competition) to RUS or BLR, with the aim of facilitating the step-by-step reintegration of Russian and Belarusian teams into international handball competitions.

The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor, stressing that the implementation of any IHF decision in this matter would need time, especially with regard to organisational consequences. He expressed his approval of a potential awarding of wild cards to RUS and/or BLR; however, he also reminded the attendees that several nations in Europe, as per governmental decisions, may currently not host and/or compete against Russian and Belarusian teams, which could result in rather complicated situations during competitions. Therefore, he



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highlighted that, should wild cards be awarded to Russian and/or Belarusian teams, the other qualified teams should be informed prior to the registration process for the respective competition, in order to ensure that they are aware of the possibility of competing against RUS or BLR. In this context, the Treasurer took the floor and remarked that certain qualified teams might not be in a position to participate in the event, should Russian and/or Belarusian teams be invited to take part. Therefore, she suggested adopting an alternative approach by asking all other qualified teams to approve the participation of Russia and/or Belarus ahead of any event. The PRC Chairman agreed, expressing his doubts about awarding potential wild cards to RUS and/or BLR, which might additionally result in a public backlash, taking into account that no single wild card had been awarded by the IHF to the Ukrainian Handball Federation since the beginning of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The IHF Vice-President Europe disagreed, pointing out that the Ukrainian Handball Federation has always been involved in the European qualification process for IHF World Championships, giving them the chance to qualify. In response to the doubts expressed by the PRC Chairman, the General Director commented that, in the case of the 2026 Women's U16 World Championship, it is likely that only two of the 12 participating nations, namely those from Europe, would potentially be affected by the awarding of a wild card to RUS or BLR. The IHF Representative Europe stated that he supports the potential awarding of a wild card to RUS and/or BLR for the 2026 Women's U16 World Championship, since the Russian and Belarusian U16 players should not be punished for the ongoing war situation. The IHF Vice-President Europe stressed that qualified national teams that are unable to compete against Russian or Belarusian teams due to governmental decisions should not face any disciplinary measures by the IHF.

Furthermore, the IHF Vice-President Europe informed the attendees that the EHF Executive Committee, in its most recent meeting on 17 April 2026, decided in favour of a potential reintegration of Russian and Belarusian individuals as EHF referees and delegates as of 1 July 2026. He further emphasised that the IHF should ensure close coordination and cooperation with the European Handball Federation in relation to any discussions concerning the reintegration of Russian and Belarusian teams, since Europe would be directly affected by any related decision.

President Moustafa once again underlined the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between sports and politics, stating that sporting matters and political issues should be treated separately.

Decision

With three abstentions, the Council approved the possibility to award a potential wild card for the 2026 Women's U16 World Championship (in case of any open places as per the Regulations for IHF Competitions) and/or the IHF Nations Trophy to RUS or BLR. All other qualified national teams shall be informed about the participation of RUS/BLR, if applicable, prior to the registration process for the respective competition. Qualified national teams that are unable to compete against Russian or Belarusian teams due to governmental decisions shall not be subject to any disciplinary measures by the IHF. Furthermore, all athletes, coaches and staff of RUS/BLR must sign a declaration confirming as follows:

- **having no relation whatsoever to military or government security agencies;**
- **no involvement in any ongoing international conflicts.**

No further restrictions shall apply.

3.2. 2026 Women's U16 World Championship – Awarding

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who informed the attendees that the Moroccan Handball Federation expressed interest in hosting the 2026 Women's U16 World Championship and submitted an event concept, which had been submitted to the Council members as part of the working documents. The Competitions Director remarked that the event is planned to be organised in the city of Agadir



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in October 2026. Furthermore, he stated that the proposed participation fee amounts to CHF 130 per person per day and that the halls (main hall: Al Inbiaat; training hall: Salle Couverte Al Houdda), the team hotels (Royal Mirage Agadir, Hamilton Hotel Agadir) as well as the IHF hotels (The View Agadir, Sofitel Agadir Royal Bay Resort) were inspected by the IHF on 26/27 April 2026. He also highlighted the good connection to the international airport Agadir Al Massira. The Competitions Director concluded that the Moroccan Handball Federation has reaffirmed its full capacity to organise the Women's U16 World Championship in October 2026 in the city of Agadir. He added that the Moroccan Handball Federation guarantees facilities that meet international standards and ensures an optimal, smooth and secure organisation, while building on the successful experience of the 2025 edition of the Men's U17 World Championship in Casablanca and contributing to Morocco's international profile as well as the development of women's handball at an international level.

Decision

The Council unanimously decided to award the 2026 Women's U16 World Championship to the Moroccan Handball Federation. The daily participation fee amounts to CHF 130 per person.

3.3. 2026 Wheelchair Handball World Championship – Awarding

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that the Royal Spanish Handball Federation, in cooperation with Federació Catalana D'Handbol and Ajuntament de Granollers, is the only bidder that has expressed interest in the organisation of the 4th IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship 2026, adding that they submitted an event concept, which had been sent to the Council members as part of the working documents. She explained that the event will be organised in well-known arenas and accommodation sites in Granollers from 14 to 21 September 2026 and that the proposed participation fee for the teams amounts to EUR 140 per person per day (costs for additional persons per day: EUR 300 for single room (full board); EUR 250 for double room (full board)), with the proposed registration fee amounting to EUR 8,000 per team. Furthermore, she pointed out that the plan for non-European teams is to arrive three days prior to the competition, with the European teams scheduled to arrive two days prior to the competition and all teams departing the day after the final. She also informed the attendees about the planned team distribution:

✚	Organiser	1
✚	Reigning World Champion	1
✚	Africa	1
✚	Asia	2
✚	Europe	3
✚	North America and the Caribbean	1
✚	South and Central America	2
✚	Oceania	1

Executive Committee Member Francisco V. Blázquez García, who is at the same time President of the Royal Spanish Handball Federation, took the floor and provided more detailed information on the venues (Palau d'Esports Granollers, capacity: 6,500; Pabellón Can Bassa, capacity: 1,000), the team hotels (ILUNION Auditori, ILUNION Barcelona, ILUNION Bel Art, ILUNION Les Corts Spa, ILUNION Almirante) and the IHF hotel (Hotel Ciutat de Granollers). With regard to the team hotels, he pointed out that ILUNION Hotels is the hotel division of the National Organisation of Blind Persons in Spain, seeking to promote sustainable, responsible, inclusive and accessible tourism, adding that the rooms are accessible and spacious, with bathrooms equipped for wheelchair users. Furthermore, meals and beverages are included (buffet format in hotel



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restaurant, three meals per day, nutritional requirements of athletes and religious/cultural aspects will be considered, early/late meal times are possible). With respect to transport, Executive Committee Member Francisco V. Blázquez García stated that heated/air-conditioned buses for local transportation (wheelchair accessible) will be used for competition purposes and that transportation for IHF Nominees, including dedicated cars and a shuttle system (different categories depending on their position), will be provided. He added that all vehicles should be branded with the event logo and category. With regard to media and marketing, he emphasised that before the event coverage via national, provincial, and municipal mainstream media will set the mood for the event and create a lively atmosphere, while provincial and municipal television stations and media coverage centres will be coordinated to provide comprehensive on-site reporting during the event. After the event, summary reports on the event's success will be disseminated through national, provincial, and municipal mainstream media. The General Director took the floor and highlighted that the 2026 Wheelchair Handball World Championship will be the first edition of the event with 12 participating teams, which will benefit the image of handball, also in view of the application to be included in the programme of the Brisbane 2032 Paralympic Games.

Decision

The Council unanimously decided to award the 2026 Wheelchair Handball World Championship to the Royal Spanish Handball Federation. The registration fee amounts to EUR 8000 and the daily participation fee to EUR 140 per person.

3.4. 2028 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who informed the attendees that the IHF received a bid from the National Federations of France and Germany to organise the 2028 IHF Women's Junior (U20) World Championship. He added that once all the bid details have been determined, the IHF Council will be contacted via electronic communication to award the event accordingly. The 1st Vice-President highlighted the successful cooperation between France and Germany for both genders, as the 2029 IHF Men's World Championship will also be hosted by the two countries. In addition, he emphasised the potential sustainability of the event, as the competition would be organised in the border region between France and Germany, allowing the teams to travel between the venues by train. The 1st Vice-President remarked that the French Handball Federation also plans to submit a bid to host the 2028 Wheelchair Handball World Championship.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided regarding the 2028 Women's Junior (U20) World Championship.

3.5. IOC Policy on the Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who explained that, on 26 March 2026, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) informed the International Federations about the publication of its Policy on the Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport for International Federations and Sports Governing Bodies. She remarked that the detailed policy, along with a document addressing frequently asked questions, was provided by the IOC and submitted to the IHF Council together with the working documents. She specified that the IOC's new policy ensures that participation in the female category at IOC



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events, including the Olympic Games, is restricted to biological females, adding that eligibility is determined on the basis of a one-time SRY gene screening. Evidence-based and expert-informed, the policy, applicable for the LA28 Olympic Games onwards, shall protect fairness, safety and integrity in the female category. The General Director remarked that the policy is not retroactive and does not apply to any grassroots or recreational sports programmes, adding that the new policy aims at ensuring fairness and reducing safety risks as well as promoting equality and enhancing the Olympic value. She emphasised that transgender athletes are not excluded from IOC events, including the Olympic Games. Like all other athletes, they are eligible to compete in the category that aligns with their biological sex. The General Director informed the attendees that the MC Chairman, on behalf of the IHF, will attend a dedicated IF workshop organised by the IOC Health, Medicine and Science Department in Lausanne in June to discuss the implementation of the policy on a bilateral basis. The MC Chairman took the floor and pointed out that a corresponding IHF policy will be drawn up. The 1st Vice-President took the floor and remarked that the one-time SRY gene screening is not allowed in some countries, such as France, and that the IOC should inform all stakeholders involved about possible alternatives.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided regarding the IOC Policy on the Protection of the Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport.

4. Finances and marketing

4.1. IHF-Molten partnership 2028-2032

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the attendees that a meeting with IHF ball partner Molten took place at the IHF Head Office in Basel, Switzerland, on 9 March 2026 to discuss a possible prolongation of the cooperation until 2032, as the current contract between the two entities expires at the end of 2027. She stressed the importance of the extension, since Molten needs to start discussions with the relevant stakeholders for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games about the prototype of the ball for the Olympic Games. She stated that the LA28 Olympic Games are of particular significance, as Molten has growth opportunities in the US and Latin America as well as in China and in other key markets.

With regard to the resin-free ball, she reminded the attendees of the importance of the project to make handball more accessible at every level, making it easier for schools, clubs, and new markets to participate, and making it easier for anyone and anywhere to play. She remarked that its development started in 2014 and that the IHF has amended the corresponding regulations and has established a standardised testing procedure since then. The CCM Chairman took the floor and reported on very attractive matches at IHF competitions where the resin-free ball was used, with the most recent event being the Men's U17 World Championship in October/November 2025. He emphasised that the existing resin-free ball is the result of an ongoing learning process and that various scientific studies have been carried out. The General Director also informed about the IHF's plans to use the resin-free ball at the Women's U16 World Championship in October 2026 as well as at the 2028 Women's Youth (U18) World Championship and 2029 Men's Youth (U19) World Championship.

The General Director then presented the partnership proposal prepared by Molten, after negotiation with the IHF, for the five-year period 2028 to 2032. She specified that the proposal includes a cash contribution per year, which remains unchanged from the current agreement. She added that the current royalty of 10 % of Molten's net sales of the resin-free ball (d60PRO & d60) will also remain the same. However, she pointed out that the main difference compared to the present agreement will be the value-in-kind contributions, which will increase considerably. The General Director remarked that the expansion aims to strategically focus on areas that directly strengthen and familiarise future generations. While the 1st Vice-President highlighted the



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importance of developing the size 1 ball, especially for youngsters, he also pointed out potential financial difficulties at grassroots level caused by the high costs of the ball. The General Director and the CCM Chairman suggested to discuss this matter with Molten during a joint meeting.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the proposed offer regarding the IHF-Molten partnership 2028-2032.

5. IHF bodies

5.1. Commission of Organising and Competition (COC) – Asian representative

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the Council of the proposed nomination of Prof. Dr Hyung-Kyun CHUNG (KOR) as Asian representative in the Commission of Organising and Competition (COC). On 29 March 2026, the Asian Handball Federation informed the IHF of the resignation of the previously confirmed Asian representative Mr Kang Jae WON (KOR) from his position as AHF COC Chairman and nominated Prof. Dr Hyung-Kyun CHUNG (KOR) for the position instead. According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the COC which must have a representative from each continent.

Decision

In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing Prof. Dr Hyung-Kyun CHUNG (KOR) as Asian representative in the COC until 2029.

5.2. Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)

5.2.1. Expert group

President Moustafa gave the floor to the PRC Chairman who informed the Council about the following proposed composition of the PRC expert group:

Professionalisation, innovations and technology + Elite refereeing:

- Mr Per Olesen (PRC member, DEN)
- Mr Angel Sabroso (PRC expert, ESP)

Recruitment and development:

- Mr Laurent Reveret (FRA) – Coordinator
- Mr Martin Gjeding (DEN) – Vice coordinator, talents + dartfish.tv
- Mr Henrik Mäkinen (SWE) – Member, observer
- Mr Kay Holm (GER) – Member, observer

Female refereeing:

- Ms Joanna Brehmer (POL) – Coordinator
- Ms Viktoriia Alpaidze (LAT) – Member, observer
- Ms Soumaya Abid (TUN) – Member, observer
- Ms Branka Maric (SRB) – Member, observer



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- Ms Jutta Ehrmann (GER) – Member, observer

Delegates – Education:

- Mr Felix Rätz (SUI) – Coordinator

Referee observers:

- Mr Thedy Adjemian (ARG) – Coordinator

Referee coaches:

- Ms Julie Bonaventura (FRA)
- Ms Charlotte Bonaventura (FRA)

Physical preparation:

- FITGOOD PRO (ESP)

Mental coaching:

- Mr Johann Ingi Gunnarsson (ISL)

Statistics:

- Mr Luciano Zabala (ARG)

With regard to the age of some of the proposed members of the expert group, the PRC Chairman remarked that a new generation of experts will have to be prepared after the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games at the latest. Furthermore, he stated that the field of female refereeing needs to be further strengthened in terms of quantity and quality.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the list of PRC experts to be appointed until 2029, as mentioned above.

5.2.2. European representative

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the Council that the European Handball Federation (EHF), by official letter dated 21 April 2026, nominated Mr Markus GLASER (SUI), EHF Chief Sport Officer, as European representative in the Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC). According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the PRC which must have a representative from each continent.

Decision

In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing Mr Markus GLASER (SUI) as European representative in the PRC until 2029.

5.2.3. Oceanian representative

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the Council that the Oceania Continent Handball Federation, by official email dated 23 April 2026, nominated Mr Carlos DEL VALLE SIERRA (AUS) as Oceanian representative in the Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC). According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the PRC which must have a representative from each continent.



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Decision

In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing Mr Carlos DEL VALLE SIERRA (AUS) as Oceanian representative in the PRC until 2029.

5.3. Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM) – Expert group

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman who informed the Council about the following proposed composition of the CCM expert group, adding that more and younger experts are planned to be added to the group within the next two years:

- Mr Paul Landuré (FRA) – Coaches' education
- Mr Jorge Dueñas de Galarza (ESP) – Coaches' education, handball tactics
- Mr Mats Olsson (SWE) – Goalkeeper coach education
- Mr Jochen Beppler (GER) – Talent training, handball tactics
- Dr Marko Šibila (SLO) – Coaches' education, sports science
- Mr Claus Hansen (DEN) – Talent training
- Mr Alain Dessertenne (FRA) – Talent training
- Dr Nabeel Taha Alshehab (BRN) – Sports psychology, mental training

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the list of CCM experts to be appointed until 2029, as submitted by the CCM Chairman.

5.4. Commission for Development (CD) – European representative

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who informed the Council that the European Handball Federation (EHF), by official letter dated 21 April 2026, nominated Ms Leonor MALLOZZI (POR), Chairwoman of EHF Women's Handball Board, as European representative in the Commission for Development (CD). According to Article 16.1.3 of the IHF Statutes, seven members shall be appointed to the CD which must have a representative from each continent.

Decision

In accordance with Article 16.1.5 of the IHF Statutes, the Council unanimously approved appointing Ms Leonor MALLOZZI (POR) as European representative in the CD until 2029.

5.5. Women's Handball Working Group

President Moustafa gave the floor to the CCM Chairman who presented the proposed concept for the new Women's Handball Working Group. With regard to the central goals of the new working group, he emphasised that the overall objective is to increase the proportion of women at all levels and in all areas of activity. Furthermore, female leaders in handball should be promoted while female players should be motivated and recruited to continue as coaches, referees or officials after their playing careers. Another objective is to support IHF Member Federations in creating specific development concepts for girls' and women's handball within their federations. The CCM Chairman stressed that these development concepts should motivate girls in children's and youth handball and improve the basic training and development of female players with the



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help of talent development programmes. In addition, an international knowledge network for girls' and women's handball should be established. He also reminded the attendees of the IHF Four-Year Plan 2026-2029, which was presented and approved at the 40th Ordinary IHF Congress 2025, stating that the new women's handball working group shall serve as the driving force, adopting a holistic approach to support girls and women in all domains of handball.

The CCM Chairman then provided more detailed information on the intended working method of the new working group, specifying that the plan is to organise approx. three to four meetings per year and that at least one of these meetings should be an in-person meeting at the IHF Head Office in Basel. He added that further meetings on selected topics can also be organised in smaller groups and that, depending on the respective topics, members from the IHF Commissions may participate in the working group meetings. He remarked that the working group is responsible for developing a corresponding annual (multi-year) plan. He emphasised that an important prerequisite for the success of this working group's work is that proposals for structural changes, the creation of new programmes and concepts, etc. can be submitted directly to the IHF Council or, if applicable, to the IHF Executive Committee to ensure immediate implementation.

With respect to the composition of the working group, the CCM Chairman highlighted that it should comprise a chairperson as well as several representatives with extensive experience from various fields, including former international players, active coaches, former referees or delegates with experience in IHF events, officials in the leadership of a national federation as well as women with specific professional profiles and expertise. At the same time, the members of the working group should represent the different continents within the IHF. The CCM Chairman remarked that the number of members is flexible and may be expanded in the future depending on the expertise available. Consequently, the CCM Chairman presented the following proposed members of the new IHF Women's Handball Working Group:

- Ms Katrine Lunde (NOR) – former national player Norway, Chairperson
- Ms Nair Filipe Pires de Almeida Vilaca (ANG) – former national player Angola, Vice-President of the Angolan Handball Federation for the National Teams, member of the Angolan Olympic Committee, Member of Association for Women and Sport, Representative for Africa (CAHB)
- Ms Mitra Noori (IRI) – board member of Iran Handball Federation, Chairwoman of the AHF Ethics Commission, IHF Delegate, Representative for Asia (AHF)
- Ms Saribel Deslauriers (CAN) – Secretary General of Canadian Team Handball Federation, Representative North America and the Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC)
- Ms Eduarda Amorim (BRA) – former national player Brazil, Representative South and Central America Handball Confederation (SCAHC)
- Ms Helle Thomsen (DEN) – Head coach Denmark women's national team
- TBD – Former IHF Referee

The CCM Chairman also provided information on the first steps following the creation of the new IHF Women's Handball Working Group, stating that a special IHF Licence Course for former elite-level players as well as an IHF Forum should take place. He specified that the IHF Forum 2026 should include a discussion of key points of a new worldwide programme for girls' and women's handball. Another important step will be the development of female referees worldwide.

The Treasurer took the floor and emphasised that the new Women's Handball Working Group should not be completely separated from the other work of the IHF. Therefore, she proposed that the Chairperson of the IHF Women's Handball Working Group should also be involved in the expert group of the IHF Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM). The CCM Chairman remarked that such proposal could be discussed as part of the gradual approach regarding the new Women's Handball Working Group. The PRC Chairman pointed



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out that the Chairperson will play an important role as an advisor to other IHF bodies. The 1st Vice-President thanked the CCM Chairman for his work and underlined that the Women's Handball Working Group, as indicated in the IHF Four-Year Plan 2026-2029, is of utmost importance for the further development of women's handball within the Continental Confederations and National Federations. Executive Committee Member Narcisa Lecusanu took the floor, briefly referring to the work carried out by the former IHF Women's Handball Working Group, which she had chaired since its establishment in 2016, stating that the COVID-19 pandemic unfortunately had a negative impact on its activities. She emphasised the importance of the further promotion of women's handball, expressing her full support for the new working group.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided by the CCM Chairman and unanimously approved the concept for the new Women's Handball Working Group as well as its composition.

6. IHF Regulations

6.1. Regulations on Advertising

President Moustafa gave the floor to the General Director who presented proposed amendments regarding the Regulations on Advertising:

⊕) Advertising on Sportswear

Article 1 – Scope and Applicability

These regulations constitute binding rules governing ~~are a binding guideline for~~ the appearance of advertising on sportswear worn by players and officials of all teams and by IHF officials including IHF referees and IHF Nominees ~~representatives within the sphere of the International Handball Federation.~~ during indoor handball, beach handball and wheelchair handball competitions organised by the IHF.

For the sake of clarity, "sportswear" shall mean all clothing, accessories and wearable items used by players, team officials and referees in connection with warm-up and matches played during IHF competitions, such as playing uniforms (short-sleeve shirts or goalkeeper shirts, shorts or goalkeeper pants/shorts), socks, shoes, tracksuits, headgear, wristbands, and protective equipment. The term "sportswear" shall not include technical equipment or personal items not worn on the body, such as bags or containers, unless expressly stated otherwise. Advertising rules applicable to such technical equipment shall be governed by these Regulations.

Unless otherwise stipulated, provisions of these Regulations shall apply to all IHF competitions.

Justification:

The proposal has been made with the aim of defining the scope of applicability, as well as clarifying key terms used in these Regulations, such as 'sportswear' and 'playing uniform'.

Article 1 2 – General Provisions

1. Advertising may be placed on the ~~sportswear~~ playing uniforms 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~~ as well as on tracksuits, t-shirts (with or without a collar) and sports bags used by players and team officials during the competition.

2. Advertising is permitted on sportswear ~~and on the sportswear and tracksuits used by IHF referees,~~ worn by IHF officials ~~and technical delegates~~ during the competition. ~~in the places where competitions are held~~ Such



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advertising is reserved exclusively for the IHF.

3. Advertising on sportswear (see ~~2.1~~ and ~~2.2~~) must not be associated with ~~a~~ any material benefit arising from individual contracts or agreements for the person wearing it.

4. The IHF ~~itself~~ has the right to advertise or place advertising on playing uniforms at indoor and wheelchair handball competitions organised by the IHF (see also article ~~3.3.2~~ and 6.2). ~~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).~~

5. National federations/clubs are permitted to place advertising on sportswear playing uniforms, tracksuits, shirts and sports bags in accordance with these Regulations. ~~not limited in their placing of advertising on sportswear.~~

~~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.~~

6. Advertising contracts made by member federations and ~~World Cup participants~~ clubs participating in IHF events, which affect the exclusive ~~priority~~ right of the IHF particularly in the placing of advertising on playing uniforms (see articles 4.2 and 6.2) ~~sportswear~~, are invalid.

7. The legibility of the players' numbers on the playing uniforms must not be affected by the advertising.

8. Players whose playing uniform does not comply with Article 2.7 shall not be permitted to play.

Justification:

Modifications to the wording

Points 1-2: Specification of the permitted advertising on sportswear.

Points 3-5: Clarification of the relevant provisions. For Article 4.4, taking into account that beach handball playing uniforms do not include an outer side of sleeves, the IHF does not have an exclusive right to place advertising on such uniforms.

Point 6: Removal of outdated provision.

Previous Point 7 (new Point 6): Clarification of the provision.

Point 7 (new): Relocation of the provision from Article 3.2 to this section.

Point 8 (new): Stipulated consequences in the event that the player number on the playing uniform is not legible. Numbering amended accordingly.

Article 2-3 – Type of Advertising

1. The use of company and product names, trademarks and classes of goods is permitted, provided that they do not offend common decency. The advertising ~~may~~ shall not be of a political, confessional, racist or ideological nature. ~~Furthermore, advertising for tobacco, alcohol, and drugs shall be prohibited.~~

2. National regulations on betting and gambling (~~bans on advertising for tobacco, alcohol, drugs, etc.~~) must be observed.

3. The use of fluorescent colours is not permitted. This ban applies not only to advertising but also to the ~~material~~ colour of the sportswear ~~and tracksuits~~ in general.

4. The brands and labels of origin of sports item manufacturers are not regarded as advertising if they do not



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exceed ~~20cm²~~ 30cm² in area, unless otherwise specified in these Regulations. The manufacturer may send samples of its forms of identification, along with a written description, to the IHF Head Office for inspection.

5. Captain's armbands, wristbands, hairbands, headbands, support bandages, socks, shoes, undergarments, head scarves and protective equipment as defined in the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories must be free of advertising, with the exception of the manufacturer's identification mark (logo or symbol) whose size must not exceed 10cm² (except for socks, compression sleeves, calf compression sleeves, where marks of up to 30cm² shall be permitted). Manufacturer marks on shoes shall be as sold in retail.

6. In case that manufacturer mark consists of an MI Band (Manufacturer Identification Band), such band may be placed on the playing uniform, provided that the same MI Band is used consistently and complies with the following:

(a) Shirt:

The MI Band may be placed on both the left-hand and right-hand sides of the shirt, in a continuous band not exceeding 8cm in width and not interfering with the reserved advertising spaces of the IHF, as follows:

- (i) around the end of the sleeves; or
- (ii) along the shoulder seam or along the lateral (outer) seam of the shirt, provided that it is not wholly visible when the shirt (as worn) is viewed from the front or the back.

(b) Shorts:

The MI Band may be placed once on each leg of the shorts, as a continuous band not exceeding 8cm in width, as follows:

- (i) around the bottom edge of the shorts; or
- (ii) along the lateral (outer) seam, provided that it is not wholly visible when the shorts (as worn) are viewed from the front or the back.

Justification:

Modifications to the wording

Point 1: Extension of the prohibition on advertising of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

Point 2: Introduction of an obligation for participants of IHF competitions to comply with applicable national regulations on betting and gambling.

Point 3: Clarification of the relevant provision.

Point 4: Alignment of the provision with the regulations of the International Olympic Committee.

Point 5 (new): Relocation of the provision from Article 3.1 to this section including further regulations.

Point 6 (new): Definition of the circumstances under which the playing uniform may include MI bands. Numbering has been adjusted accordingly.

Article 34 – Dimensions of Advertising Spaces on Playing Uniforms (Indoor Handball)

1. Advertising shall be permitted exclusively on the following areas of the playing uniform, which are hereby designated as advertising spaces, taking into account the reservation of the outer side of sleeves for the IHF as set out in point 2 of this Article. ~~Nothing but the following is recognised as advertising space. It applies to court players and goalkeepers. Generally speaking.~~ In general, it is allowed to have different advertising partners for the same space on ~~sportswear~~ playing uniforms during the competition.

- 1) lower part of the shirt's front:
 - a maximum of two different advertising spaces with a maximum dimension of 30cm in width and 20cm in height
- 2) back of the shirt below the players' number:
 - a maximum of two different advertising spaces with a maximum dimension of 30cm in width and



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- 20cm in height
- 3) upper part of the shirt's front:
one advertising space below each collarbone with a maximum dimension of 10cm in width and 5cm in height
 - 4) outer side of the sleeves:
maximum dimension of 10cm in width and 15cm in height
 - 5) sides of the shirt
maximum dimension of 10cm in width and 20cm in height
 - 6) front of shorts/goalkeeper pants:
~~a maximum of two different advertising spaces on one leg with a maximum dimension of 18cm in width and 12cm in height~~
one advertising space on the leg which does not bear the manufacturer's logo with a maximum dimension of 18cm in width and 12cm in height
 - 7) back of shorts/goalkeeper pants:
a maximum of two different advertising spaces (one per leg) with a maximum dimension of ~~25~~18cm in width and 12cm in height.

The height of the individual characters must not exceed 10cm.

~~Captain's armband, wristband, headbands, support bandages, splints must be free of advertising.~~





~~2. The legibility of the players' numbers on the jersey must not be affected by the advertising. Players who wear sportswear which does not conform to the regulations shall not be permitted to play.~~

~~32. Rights to advertising space at IHF competitions~~

~~The outer side of sleeves (see article 4.1.4) is reserved exclusively for IHF advertising (without financial participation by the IHF member federations / clubs) and shall be free of any design, advertising or other elements. The IHF reserves the right to place advertising or to advertise special IHF campaigns (e.g. by placing the event logo, IHF logo, Handball at School logo, etc.) in those fields or otherwise commercially exploit these advertising spaces (e.g. by granting rights to its marketing partner/s).~~

~~All other areas (as defined in Article 34.1.) are reserved exclusively for advertising of the member federations / clubs (with no without 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 without financial participation by the member federations / clubs). An individual advertiser may not request the exclusive right to place advertising in a specific field.~~



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Justification:

Point 1: Proposal has been made with the aim to improve wording; **points 6 and 7 of Article 3.1 (new article 4.1):** The proposed amendments to the positions and dimensions of the advertising on shorts and goalkeeper pants aim to enhance the visual and aesthetic presentation of the advertising areas. The graphics have been adapted accordingly. Furthermore, the other provisions have been proposed for relocation to the new article 3.5.

Point 2: Moved and divided into articles 2.7 and 2.8.

Point 3 (new point 2): Clarifications have been introduced, and the IHF's right to commercially exploit reserved advertising spaces has already been exercised. The subsequent section has been further clarified. The remaining provisions have been removed, as it is already stipulated in the preceding articles that teams are entitled to place advertising on shirts, tracksuits and sport bags, while the IHF retains the exclusive right to place advertising on IHF officials' clothing.

Article 5 – Dimensions of Advertising Spaces on Playing Uniforms (Beach Handball)

1. Advertising shall be permitted exclusively on the following areas of the playing uniform, which are hereby designated as advertising spaces. In general, it is allowed to have different advertising partners for the same space on playing uniform during the competition.

- 1) lower part of the shirt's front:
a maximum of two different advertising spaces with a maximum dimension of 30cm in width and 20cm in height
- 2) back of the shirt below the players' number:
a maximum of two different advertising spaces with a maximum dimension of 30cm in width and 20cm in height
- 3) sides of the shirt:
maximum dimension of 10cm in width and 20cm in height
- 4) front of shorts:
one advertising space on the leg which does not bear the manufacturer's logo with a maximum dimension of 18cm in width and 12cm in height
- 5) back of shorts:
a maximum of two different advertising spaces (one per leg) with a maximum dimension of 18cm in width and 12cm in height.



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2. All areas (as defined in Article 5.1) are reserved exclusively for advertising of the member federations / clubs (without financial participation by the IHF).

Justification:

It is proposed to introduce a separate article containing specific rules on the display of advertising on beach handball playing uniforms. The article also includes graphics dedicated exclusively to beach handball playing uniforms.

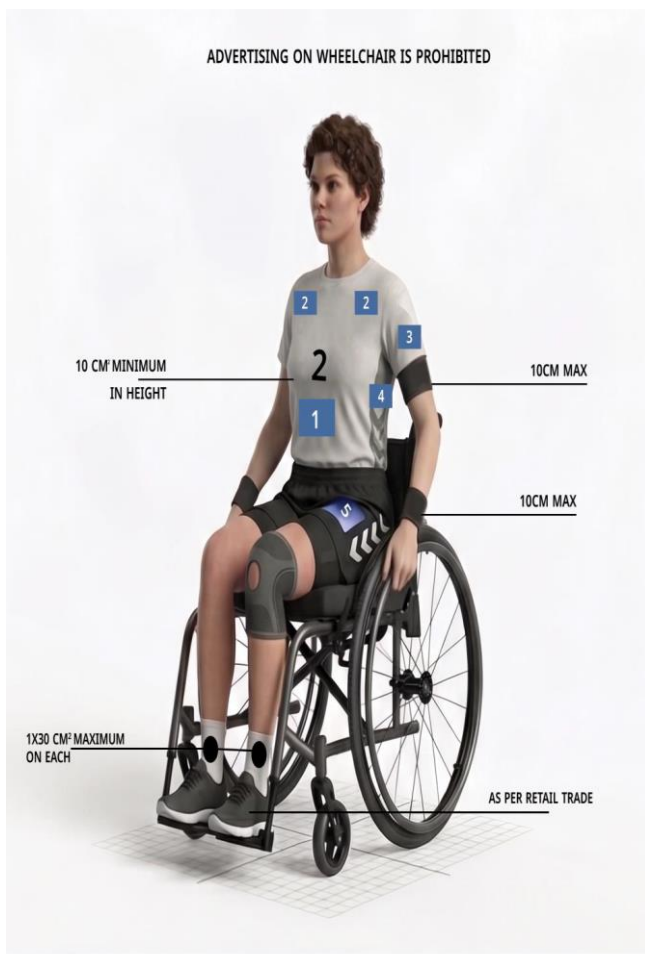
Article 6 – Dimensions of Advertising Spaces on Playing Uniforms (Wheelchair Handball)

1. Advertising shall be permitted exclusively on the following areas of the playing uniform, which are hereby designated as advertising spaces, taking into account the reservation of the outer side of sleeves for the IHF as set out in point 2 of this Article. In general, it is allowed to have different advertising partners for the same space on playing uniforms during the competition.

- 1) lower part of the shirt's front:
a maximum of two different advertising spaces with a maximum dimension of 30cm in width and 20cm in height
- 2) upper part of the shirt's front:
one advertising space below each collarbone with a maximum dimension of 10cm in width and 5cm in height
- 3) outer side of the sleeves:
maximum dimension of 10cm in width and 15cm in height
- 4) sides of the shirt
maximum dimension of 10cm in width and 20cm in height
- 5) front of shorts:
one advertising space on the leg which does not bear the manufacturer's logo with a maximum dimension of 18cm in width and 12cm in height



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2. Rights to advertising space at IHF competitions

The outer side of sleeves (see article 6.1.3) is reserved exclusively for IHF advertising (without financial participation by the IHF member federations / clubs) and shall be free of any design, advertising or other elements. The IHF reserves the right to place advertising (e.g. by placing the event logo, IHF logo, Handball at School logo, etc.) in those fields or otherwise commercially exploit these advertising spaces (e.g. by granting rights to its marketing partner/s).

All other areas (as defined in Article 6.1.) are reserved exclusively for advertising of the member federations / clubs (without financial participation by the IHF).

3. No advertising shall be permitted on the wheelchair.

Justification:

Points 1-2: It is proposed to introduce a separate article containing specific rules on the display of advertising on wheelchair handball playing uniforms. The article also includes graphics dedicated exclusively to wheelchair handball playing uniforms. A similar approach has been adopted as in indoor handball, taking into account that the IHF retains the exclusive right to display advertising on the sleeves.

Point 3: An explicit prohibition of advertising on the wheelchair has been introduced.

Article 7 – Space Above the Player’s Name

1. No advertising is allowed in the space above the name of the player on the playing uniform.

2. Manufacturer identification marks (logo), country flags, club logos as well as branding of the national federations or the clubs not exceeding 30cm² shall not be considered as advertising and may be placed in this space.

Justification:

A new article has been proposed to be introduced to define provisions regarding the space above the name on the playing uniforms and to define that flags, logos, etc. shall not be regarded as advertising.

Article 4-8 – Special Provisions

~~1. Contracts between IHF member federations / clubs and their advertising company must contain no arrangements which restrict the IHF advertising rights.~~

~~2. The IHF is not competent to hear nor may it be made responsible for disputes which result from advertising contracts between IHF member federations / clubs and advertising companies or sponsors. It may not be held liable either for any loss of income resulting from the restrictions specified under point Article 2.2.~~

1. In the event that an IHF Member Federation or club concludes an agreement with a third party in violation of the IHF’s exclusive advertising rights (see Articles 4.2 and 6.2), the IHF shall bear no responsibility for, and shall not be involved in, any disputes arising therefrom, and shall not be liable for any direct or indirect loss of income or other damages resulting from the application or enforcement of the aforementioned Articles or any other provision of these Regulations.

~~3. Contraventions of the specifications of these regulations at World Championships and World Cups are normally be dealt with by the Competition Management and otherwise by the Council of the IHF. The relevant regulations and directives of the IHF apply.~~

4.2. As part of the examination of **players’ playing uniforms**, the teams submitting photos of uniforms shall also inform **about the advertising spaces** they want to use or, if possible, submit photos of uniforms including advertising to avoid non-compliance with the present regulations at an early stage.



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Justification:

Points 1-2: Merged into new Point 1.

Point 3: Removed, as disciplinary provisions are addressed in detail in the subsequent article.

Point 4: Minor wording amendments.

Article 9 – Disciplinary Provisions

1. Any contravention of the provisions of these Regulations at IHF competitions shall be sanctioned by the IHF Head Office in accordance with the following:

- Exceeding the permitted number of advertising spaces on the court player/goalkeeper shirts: **CHF 1,000 per match**
- Placement of design, advertising or other elements on the outer side of the sleeves (see Articles 4.2 and 6.2): **CHF 3,000 per match**
- Placement of advertising on items of sportswear or equipment where advertising is not expressly permitted under these Regulations, such as wristbands, undershorts, and protective equipment, etc.: **CHF 1,000 per match**
- Correct number of advertising spaces on the court player/goalkeeper shirts, but incorrect position: **CHF 500 per match**
- Exceeding the permitted number of advertising spaces on the court player shorts/goalkeeper pants: **CHF 500 per match**
- Correct number of advertising spaces on the court player shorts/goalkeeper pants, but incorrect position: **CHF 500 per match**

2. In the event of a repeated violation at a subsequent IHF competition, the IHF Executive Committee shall render a decision and may impose sanctions, including a fine of up to CHF 50,000.

3. Decisions of the IHF Head Office and the IHF Executive Committee may be appealed against before the IHF Arbitration Commission in accordance with the IHF Legal Provisions, subject to the payment of an appeal fee of CHF 5,000.

Justification:

Point 1: The proposed amendment aims to emphasise the competent body and to define violations and sanctions for breaches.

Point 2: Definition of the competence of the IHF Executive Committee in cases of repeated violations, with the authority to impose fines.

Point 3: Designation of the appropriate appeal body.

II b) Advertising in Sport Halls

Article 1 – Field of Play Advertising

In addition to the advertising on sportswear (see ~~relevant regulations~~ chapter I), the International Handball Federation permits advertising in sports facilities at its competitions in the following areas:

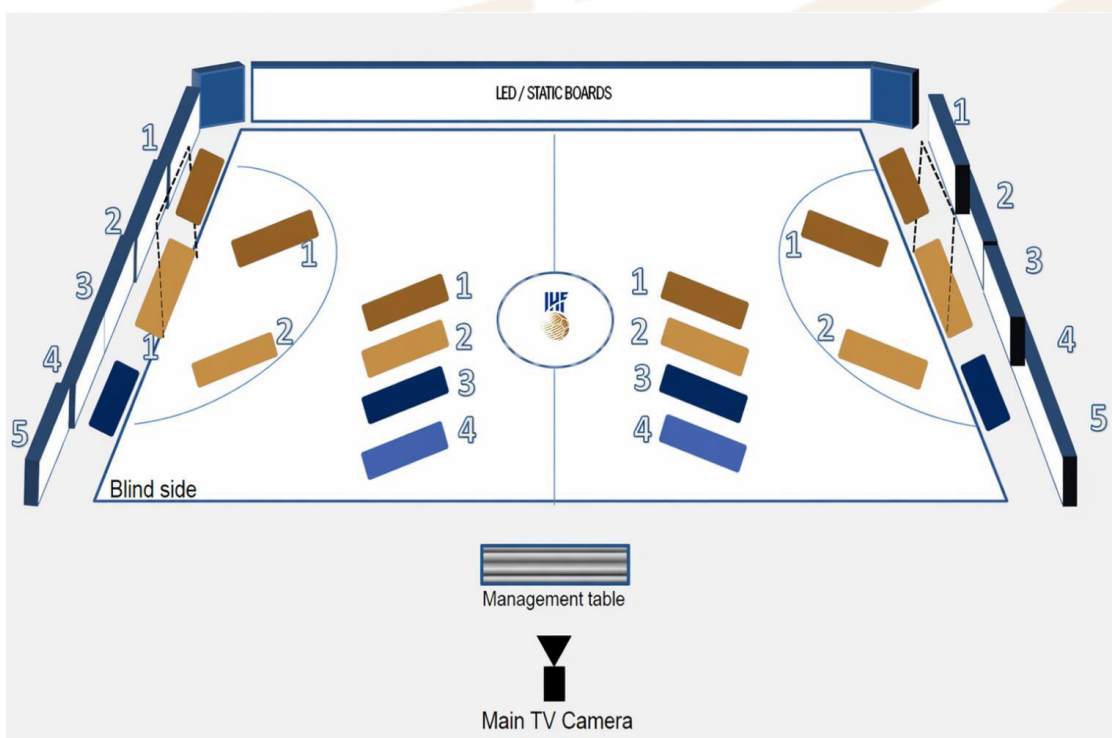
- ~~advertising at the playing halls including the arena premises and entrances~~
- ~~still and rotating advertising boards (82m, running continuously on the~~
- ~~side facing the TV cameras; 25m, running continuously on the long side facing away from the cameras)~~
- ~~floor advertising on the centre circle of the playing area (from the centre point of the playing area to a radius of approximately 2.3 metres)~~
- ~~floor advertising in the playing area in the middle of each half of the court (4 areas each of 3 x 2m)~~



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- floor advertising inside the goal area (2 areas of 1 x 3m each)
 - floor advertising inside the goal (1 area of 1 x 3m each)
 - floor advertising along the edge of the playing area

 - LED advertising board positioned along the sideline opposite the main TV camera as well as behind the goals;
 - If there is no LED advertising board available: all-static perimeter boards positioned along the sidelines of the playing court, including segmented side boards, as well as any corner boards extending into the goal-line areas.
 - Floor stickers and other on-court advertising placements located within the field of play including but not limited to:
 - Stickers and advertising on the centre circle of the playing area (from the centre point of the playing area up to a radius of 2 metres);
 - Stickers and advertising within the playing area, in the middle of each half of the court (four areas, each measuring 4 m x 1 m);
 - Stickers and advertising inside the goal area (two areas, each measuring 4 m x 1 m);
 - Stickers and advertising inside the goal (one area measuring 3 m x 1 m);
 - Advertising along the edge of the playing area;
 - Advertising on the goal net
 - other kind of advertising provided the established provisions are met
- Advertising is always permitted unless the host broadcaster has regulations to the contrary.



Justification:

This provision has been amended in light of technological progress and the potential for further development. Furthermore, specifications have been introduced in order to provide a more precise definition of the advertising spaces available within the sports hall. Graphics have been added accordingly.

The General Director explained that the aforementioned amendments shall be published by 1 November 2026



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and come into effect on 1 January 2027, adding that any amendments which are required in the other IHF Regulations (e.g. Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines) as a result of the aforementioned changes will be incorporated in the respective regulations accordingly (also coming into effect on 1 January 2027).

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the proposed amendments to the Regulations on Advertising, which shall be published by 1 November 2026 and come into effect on 1 January 2027.

6.2. Financial Regulations

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

1. Financial Regulations

7. Payments to the IHF

The present article shall be applicable to all payments made to the IHF and/or all amounts stated in the IHF Regulations, unless otherwise stipulated in a contract concluded by the IHF.

7.1 Bank charges

All payments requested are net amounts and the payer shall bear the cost of the bank charges to ensure that the IHF receives the full amount.

Justification:

The proposed amendment aims to ensure that the IHF will receive all payments in net amounts without deduction from bank charges.

Decision

The Council unanimously approved the proposed amendment to the Financial Regulations.

7. Continents

7.1. Report from the continents

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Vice-President Africa who provided an overview of the current activities of the African Handball Confederation (CAHB). He informed the attendees that CAHB is preparing for the 32nd Super Cup and 42nd Men's and Women's African Clubs Championship for the Winner's Cup, which will take place in Kinshasa, DR Congo, from 2 to 3 June 2026 and from 4 to 13 June 2026, respectively. He reported that the organisational preparations are proceeding according to schedule. Furthermore, the IHF Vice-President Africa referred to the zonal youth and junior tournament of the 2026 Men's IHF Trophy in Zone 3, which took place in Lomé, Togo, from 7 to 11 April 2026. He briefly reported on the tournament for the countries of the subregion of Central Africa in Douala, Cameroon, from 28 April to 2 May 2026, the Zone 6 tournament in Lusaka, Zambia, from 28 April to 2 May 2026, as well as the Zone 5 tournament currently being staged in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 8 May 2026. He also informed about the upcoming Zone 2 tournament in Bamako, Mali, from 12 to 16 May 2026 and the zonal phase of the 2026 Men's Youth and Junior IHF Trophy in Antananarivo, Madagascar, from 27 to 31 May 2026. Moreover, he stated that 49 training courses are scheduled to be held in 2026 and pointed out that one Licence A as well as six Licence D courses already took place. In this context, he highlighted the growing demand for D Licence Coaching Courses.



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The IHF Vice-President Europe took the floor and briefly reported on the main activities of the European Handball Federation (EHF) since the last IHF Council meeting on 2 March 2026. He informed the attendees about the EHF Executive Committee meeting held on 17 April in Katowice, POL, specifying that the EHF Executive Committee approved several motions regarding the European club competitions and agreed on the new structure for officiating (referee and delegate activities) underlining the professional approach combined with the work of the experts via an Officiating Experts Committee (OEC). The timetable for the Men's and Women's EHF EURO 2034 bid process was also confirmed, with the awarding planned for the 2027 EHF Congress. Furthermore, a detailed business report regarding the EHF Master Plan, currently with the support for 28 countries, and a further nine countries registered, the Respect Your Talent (RYT) project and the strategic partnerships around CRM/data management as well as social media topics were highlighted. In addition, the concept for the new Player's Board, which will play an important role in the future structure, with the involvement of the stakeholders, was confirmed and the corresponding procedures for the nomination of players as well as their election will follow. With regard to the European competitions, the IHF Vice-President Europe pointed out that the draw event for the Men's EHF EURO 2028 Qualifiers groups took place, adding that the final tournament will be staged in Spain, Portugal, and Switzerland. The Women's EHF EURO 2026 Final Tournament Draw for the event taking place in Poland, Romania, Czechia, Slovakia, and Türkiye was also held. Furthermore, he emphasised that the EUROs and Championships of the Younger Age Category summer events as well as the beach handball events are on track and currently in the final phases of preparation including the nomination of the officials. He added that the club competitions are currently in the quarter-final phase and the Final4 Tournaments will be held as scheduled. Regarding the EHF's international relations, he remarked that meetings with the IHF leadership in Basel, the European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport in Brussels, EOC representatives regarding general topics of sport and handball and, in particular, the European Handball Games in 2030 took place, in addition to the partnership contacts on the field of Universities (EUSA), police sport (UPSE), Fair Play Movement (EFPM), etc. He stated that the work with the different stakeholders regarding Memoranda of Understanding until 2036 are about to be completed and will serve as a basis for the marketing process for the period after 2030. He added that the next meeting of the EHF Executive Committee will be organised within the framework of the Final4 in Cologne on 12/13 June.

President Moustafa gave the floor to the IHF Representative North America and the Caribbean who reported on the activities organised in North America and the Caribbean during the first quarter of 2026. From 24 to 26 April 2026, the NACHC Men's and Women's Beach Handball Championship took place in Basseterre, St Kitts and Nevis. Since the constitution of the NACHC, this has been the event with the largest number of participating countries, with teams from ten countries taking part. From 27 April to 2 May 2026, the Men's Caribbean Handball Cup (Senior) took place in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and served as a qualification event for the Central American and Caribbean Games. He pointed out that the event was held as a cross-continent championship due to the fact that the SCAHC agreed to authorise Costa Rica and Guatemala to participate as guests in this tournament. Furthermore, he provided an outlook for the NACHC championships to be played in May, including the NACHC Senior Men's Championship taking place in Moline, USA from 12 to 16 May 2026, serving as qualification event for the 2027 Men's World Championship. During the mentioned championship, the NACHC will cooperate with Toma-soft (IHF service provider for scouting and statistics) for the first time to conduct the development of the matches and organise a first course for all individuals interested in being part of the staff needed for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games. The Women's Caribbean Handball Cup (Senior) will also be played from 12 to 16 May 2026 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and will serve as a qualification event for the Central American and Caribbean Games.

Decision

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



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8. Miscellaneous

8.1. Glass floor

President Moustafa gave the floor to the Competitions Director who reported that he, together with the PRC Chairman, attended the Lidl Final4 for the DHB Cup, a major event of German club handball, in Cologne on 18/19 April 2026 in order to receive information regarding the LED glass floor used during the event. He informed the attendees that an on-site assessment of the installation was carried out and that technical details of the glass floor as well as different options regarding its use were discussed. The Competitions Director specified that the floor is composed of LED panels (1 m x 1.5 m) with a glass layer on top. He added that the glass layer can be changed quickly in case of any damage, and that the feedback from the players participating in the Final4 tournament was largely positive. He further remarked that, depending on the viewing angle, the colours appeared slightly different and that interruptions caused by sweat on the floor occurred less frequently, as such areas were easier to identify. The PRC Chairman took the floor and pointed out that the glass floor was a bit shiny, which could make referee observations more difficult if the issue was not resolved. Furthermore, he highlighted the importance of ensuring contrasting colours. The Competitions Director explained that the results and key findings will be presented and discussed at a meeting with the Chairpersons of the IHF COC, PRC and CCM in Basel in early June, with a view to evaluating the potential use of the floor by the IHF in the future. The 1st Vice-President remarked that the glass floor could be an important innovation for the further development of handball. The IHF Vice-President Europe underlined that one of the relevant points for the introduction of such a floor is the installation time during a tournament combined with the guarantee for equal conditions for teams, in particular the matches of the quarter-finals.

Decision

The Council took note of the information provided by the Competitions Director and the PRC Chairman regarding the glass floor and approved, in principle, the possibility of using it at future IHF competitions, such as the 2027 IHF Men's World Championship, provided that all relevant details can be clarified internally and jointly with the official IHF flooring supplier, Gerflor.

8.2. Council decisions made by electronic communication

The Council members confirmed the following via electronic communication:

- ***Return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions***

Reference was made to the decision of the IHF Council made in its last meeting held by video conference on 2 March 2026, according to which the IHF Executive Committee was asked to study the potential return of Russian and Belarusian national teams to international younger age category handball competitions and to submit a corresponding proposal to the IHF Council for decision.

As explained in the memorandum confirmed by the IHF Executive Committee after consultation with the Chairpersons of the Commission of Organising and Competition (COC), Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC) and Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM), research has been conducted to define countries that have adopted official governmental decisions concerning official interactions with Russian and Belarusian athletes as well as nations that may face practical challenges when competing against Russian or Belarusian teams. In addition, the current situation of Russian and Belarusian handball athletes who have been transferred after the IHF Council decision of 4 March 2022 has been analysed by the IHF Legal and Player Transfer Department, concluding that the athletes concerned (playing throughout Europe) are generally



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able to participate without specific restrictions or consequences. Moreover, a summary has been compiled outlining how other International Sports Federations are currently addressing the participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes and teams.

In light of the above and as discussed during the last IHF Council meeting, it must be acknowledged that pragmatic and practical challenges may arise in relation to the participation of Russian and Belarusian youth teams in international competitions. Nevertheless, while taking into account potential operational and political difficulties, the IHF must align with the recommendation of the IOC, i.e. youth athletes with a Russian or Belarusian passport should no longer be restricted in their access to international youth competitions, in both individual and team sports.

On 6 March 2026, the IHF approached the Chairpersons of the COC, PRC and CCM, asking for their input regarding a comprehensive proposal related to the return of Russian and Belarusian youth teams to international handball competitions. Such initial proposal included:

1. the possibility of Russian and Belarusian youth teams to organise and participate in self-arranged friendly matches;
2. the application of case-by-case decisions in the event that Russian or Belarusian youth teams seek to register for official competitions;
3. the possibility of Russian and Belarusian youth teams to participate in competitions of other continents than Europe with the right to gain a qualification place.

While the chairpersons of the commissions concerned considered the first option as the most realistic and potentially manageable first step, they expressed several difficulties, challenges and risks that the second and third options may entail, recommending that the IHF should rather proceed with a gradual approach. In this context, they stressed that the IHF must act with the utmost care in this sensitive and complex matter to prevent major reputational damage.

Therefore, the Executive Committee proposed to start with the first option, allowing Russian and Belarusian youth teams to return to international handball competitions as follows, whereas the second and third options mentioned above shall be discussed during the next IHF Council meeting taking place on 6 May 2026:

- **Russian and Belarusian youth teams shall have the right to organise and participate in self-arranged friendly matches, taking into consideration that "youth" shall refer to all age categories up to and including U21. Thus, RUS/BLR may officially ascertain in which countries no restrictions are applicable and play friendly matches.**

All athletes, coaches and staff of RUS/BLR must sign a declaration confirming as follows:

- **having no relation whatsoever to military or government security agencies;**
- **no involvement in any ongoing international conflicts.**

No further restrictions shall apply.

Such proposal is in line with the IOC's recommendation and allows the IHF to further evaluate the entire situation and its development, while monitoring how other International Federations are dealing with this matter. During its next meeting, the IHF Council may discuss any additional proposals such as, for example, the awarding of a potential wild card for the 2026 Women's U16 World Championship (in case of any open places as per the Regulations for IHF Competitions) to RUS or BLR.

Date of communication: 17 March 2026

Date of decision: **24 March 2026**



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

INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION

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

Dr Hassan Moustafa
President

