

EHF Executive Committee Meeting Round-up

Introduction

The EHF Executive Committee met in Gothenburg during the Partille Cup and European Open Championships. The meeting took place on Sunday 6 July 2008. This meeting primarily served as the preparatory session for the EHF Congress, which is scheduled to take place in Vienna/AUT on 26/27 September 2008, however daily EHF business was also on the agenda.

Daily Business

The Minutes of the last two meetings from Budapest and Vienna were approved. The Competitions' Conference and the findings of the day's events were on the agenda. Follow-up analyses are currently being carried-out.

Reports from the President and Vice-president were given, with special focus on the Meeting of the Team Sports Federations, which was held in Vienna at the EHF Headquarters on 20 June 2008, where the positioning of sport within the EU was a special topic of discussion.

This was followed by the Report of the Treasurer on the 2008 Finances. The Secretary General concluded the series of reports, on the 2007/2008 season and a special business report on EHF Marketing GmbH activities.

Technical Business

The Report of the Competitions Commission was approved; central topics included the definition of the direct qualification (two places) from EHF EURO 2008 / MKD to the 2009 World Championship / CHN, a newly compiled Arena Construction Manual was also approved by the Executive Committee.

The Report of the Methods Commission was also approved, which included confirmation of SMART funding for Georgia and wheelchair handball activities. A report on CAN activities was given, with a positive reaction concerning first results.

Club competitions

The 2007/2008 seasonal report was approved by the Committee. Preparatory information for the 2008/2009 season, the Champions League wild cards, Champions League / European Cup Regulations were all approved. A special mention was given to the positive and constructive nature of the meeting of the new Bodies: EHF Club Committees and EHF Marketing Club boards – it was emphasised that the newly introduced Bodies will be fully integrated and involved in EHF business.

Events

Reports were given on the 2008 events. These include the Challenge Trophy/CYP, EBT Masters/ESP, Youth Beach Handball Championships/HUN, W18 European Open /SWE (initial information). Previews and reports on the preparation status of the M20 ECh/ROU, M18 ECh/CZE, Masters Games/SWE and EHF EURO 2008/MKD, focusing on the Draw on July 20th in Ohrid, were presented.

Awarding of Events

The EHF Executive Committee is pleased to announce the following events:

2009 Men's and Women's Beach Handball Championships

This event has been awarded to Norway (Larvik) and will take place from 23 – 28 June 2009.

2009 Masters Championships

This Championship for veterans will take place in Kolding/DEN from 26 – 28 June 2009.

The hosts of the 2008 Men's and Women's Champions Trophy (for clubs) will be announced within the next weeks

Refereeing Decisions

A decision was made to introduce a Competition Commission (CC) - Refereeing Committee under the Chairmanship of the responsible member of the CC. Invitations to National Federations for nominations will be sent out, the four members will be approved and instated by the Executive Committee following the EHF Congress

2008 EHF Congress- 26/27 September in Vienna/AUT

Electoral Lists – were passed and have been published (EHF NEWS 101)

Motions – amendatory motions to the Statutes for legal positioning purposes.

EHF EURO Events/Men – a package will be presented to the Congress, proposing the re-scheduling the Men's European Championships to September of odd years. Percentage returns will be distributed to the different stakeholders accordingly following the deduction of outstanding costs. An altered awarding procedure will be then introduced as of 2013. In the future a EURO Delegation will be deployed as an Advisory Body for the EUROs. As a consequence implications on the newly introduced qualification system will also be analysed in 2009.

Awarding of Events – in addition to the awarding of the Men's / Women's events, the Younger Age Category competitions of 2010/2011 were looked at. On the basis of the bid material and due to the fact that all 3 federations have applied to host all 3 events, the following proposals are made by the Executive:

2010 M18 – Montenegro

2010 M20 – Slovakia

2011 W17 – Bulgaria

2011 W19 – new selection process by EXEC

The applicants for the EHF EURO events can be confirmed as:

Men's European Championship - 2012 (2011)

France; Germany; Serbia

Women's European Championship - 2012

Germany, Netherlands, Serbia; Ukraine

Budget: - the 2009/2010 balanced budget will be presented to the Congress.

Conclusion

The meeting was both fruitful and constructive, with many results and the preparations for the 2008 EHF Congress are now near finalisation. The Executive will meet briefly prior to the Congress for final discussions.

During the course of the weekend, there was also a meeting between EHF top management and IHF President Moustafa. Information was exchanged on the EHF Congress and the further development of the World Championships.

The EHF and Executive thank its hosts, the meeting was held upon invitation of the Swedish Handball Federation with support of the Partille Cup team.