



EHF

HANDBALL GLOSSARY & STYLE GUIDE

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1 INTRODUCTION

The EHF Handball Glossary and Style Guide has been produced by the EHF Media and Communications Department in coordination with other EHF departments and units as well as the federation's various stakeholders.

It is intended as a reference guide for all those working for or with the European Handball Federation. The aim has been to create a common approach for the spelling and usage of English words and technical terminology across all of the federation's written communications, whether this is in reports, letters or emails, official publications or TV graphics.

We have included information on the specific terminology used in handball, naming conventions within the EHF and its competitions, and also tips on the correct use of grammar and punctuation. The EHF uses British English as a standard for its written communications and the Oxford English Dictionary as a reference.

This guide forms an important part of the overall EHF brand and corporate identity and has been developed to ensure a consistent voice and style in all of our communications. It details the EHF's own house style and our own approach to the use of language, terminology and points of grammar to ensure a consistent approach across all of our channels – our hope is that this guide will also help with uncertainties around the spelling and use of particular words or terminology.

The EHF Handball Terminology and Style Guide is intended to be a 'living and breathing' document for both internal and external use. We actively welcome challenges and suggestions for additions to this guide. It is our intention to update the guide, on an annual basis, to ensure that the EHF's use of the English language remains current and also reflects changes within the sport and the federation itself.

If you have input, questions or a suggestion, simply get in touch with a member of the EHF Media and Communications team at the EHF Office in Vienna (media@eurohandball.com).



**THIS
PUBLICATION
IS INTENDED AS A
REFERENCE GUIDE FOR ALL
THOSE WORKING FOR OR
WITH THE EUROPEAN
HANDBALL
FEDERATION.**



**THE EHF
USES BRITISH
ENGLISH AS A STANDARD
FOR ITS WRITTEN
COMMUNICATIONS AND
THE OXFORD ENGLISH
DICTIONARY AS A
REFERENCE.**

The logo for the European Handball Federation (EHF) is displayed in white. It consists of the letters 'EHF' in a bold, sans-serif font, with a thick white diagonal line underneath the letters.

HANDBALL GLOSSARY

2. REFEREES/RULES OF THE GAME (INDOOR)

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
advantage (rule of)	A clause in the Rules of the Game that gives the referees the discretion to allow play to continue even after a foul has been committed, if stopping play would unfairly punish the fouled team.	
assault	A forceful and deliberate attack against the body of another person.	
ball	Round object used in handball. Available in different sizes utilised according to gender and different age categories.	
bench	A bench in the substitution area where the substitute players have to remain seated.	
blue card	Referees may show a blue card in addition to the red card in the case of a “disqualification due to a particularly reckless, particularly dangerous, premeditated or malicious action,” which will also include a written report.	
call	The decision made by a referee.	
centre line	Line cutting the court in two halves, marking the place for the throw-off after a goal or to start the match, the second half and periods of overtime. The circular throw-off area is placed here.	
change of sides	The teams change sides after the half-time break and in the break between periods of overtime.	
change goalkeepers	The goalkeeper leaves the court to be replaced by the substitute goalkeeper. This can occur at any time during the game, including before a penalty is executed.	
choice of sides	As part of the coin toss. One team is allowed to decide on which side they want to have their substitution area and goal, while the other decides whether to attack or defend first.	
clarification(s)	Used to make a statement (from the Rules of the Game) clearer.	
coin toss	Prior to the beginning of a match, a representative from each team meets with the referees to determine which team starts with the ball and on which side of the court each team defends/attacks. Usually, a coin is tossed into the air and whoever wins the toss decides whether their team starts in attack or not.	
cross the goal line	The ball enters the goal.	
cross the outer goal line	The ball leaves the playing court over the outer goal line.	
cross the sideline	The ball leaves the playing court over the sideline.	
disallowed goal	The referees decide not to validate a goal due to an irregularity preceding it.	
disqualification	A player may be disqualified by the referees for a number of cases specified in the regulations. The referee shows the player the red card and that player cannot return to the court for the remainder of the game.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use “direct disqualification” when it occurs after one action rather than three suspensions• “Red card” and “direct red card” preferable in editorial

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
double dribble (violation)	A personal violation given to a player who either: uses two hands to dribble, stops with the ball and starts dribbling again or dribbles, stops dribbling and then takes more than three steps.	
electronic team timeout system (buzzer)	An electronic team timeout system is used instead of the team timeout cards. A button is linked to the official scoreboard system, and, when the button is pressed, the match clock is immediately stopped and an audio signal (buzzer) sounds.	
empty goal	When a court player substitutes for their team's goalkeeper while their team is in attack and, consequently, the team's goal stays empty. This can occur during seven-on-six or when the team in question has a two-minute suspension and opts to have an additional attacker come on to make up for the deficit.	
endanger	To cause danger of injury to an opponent with any physical contact.	
equipment	The sports equipment of the players.	
fair play	Conformity to the rules, spirit and etiquette of the sport; favouring upright conduct and equitable conditions. Can be considered the ethos of sport.	
faulty substitution	A situation where a player leaves the court outside the substitution area or enters the court when their team already has the allowed number of players on the court, including before the teammate they are directly swapping with has left the court.	
field of play (FOP)	The court. The specially marked rectangular area within which the game is played.	
final signal (whistle)	Playing time ends with a signal from the automatic scoreboard or from the timekeeper. If no such signal comes, the referee whistles to indicate that playing time is over.	
foot	A foul where a player touches the ball with any part of their body below the knee. The ball is then given to the opposing team.	
forewarning (signal)	A specific hand signal by the referees, warning in advance of a passive play call.	
free throw	A free throw restarts play after an interruption by the referees. When an infraction of the rules is committed the team fouled gets possession of the ball from the spot where the infraction took place and makes a throw without being defended closer than three metres.	
free-throw line	Nine-metre line, which the attacking players have to be on or outside of before executing a free throw after a foul that occurred inside the nine-metre line.	
full-time	The end of the game. The culmination of the two regular playing periods (60 minutes).	
fumble	Occurs when a player who has possession of the ball drops or mishandles it unprovoked.	
game administration	The combined process of on- and off-court officiating related to an official match played in accordance with the Rules of the Game and the regulations valid for the respective competition to which the match belongs. The coordination of tasks and activities by both referees and delegates (including timekeeper and scorekeeper) before, during and after the match.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
the goal	The area marked by two posts, a crossbar and a net on the two ends of the playing court.	
goal area	A D-shaped area that is used only by the goalkeeper. The area is defined by a line, called the goal-area line, six metres from the goal.	
goal-area line	The line that defines the goal area. Also called the six-metre line.	
goal line	The line between the two posts, that the ball must completely cross to count as a goal.	
goal net	A net attached to the goalposts in a way that the ball cannot pass through the goal.	
goalkeeper throw	When the ball crosses the outer goal line, a goalkeeper throw is awarded.	
goalkeeper's restraining line	A line four metres from the goal line, marking the limit to where a goalkeeper may advance to defend against a penalty throw. Also known as the four-metre line.	
goal-light technology	A series of (red) LED lights installed at the rear of the goal, which light up any time the match clock is stopped, including for timeouts and at the end of each half.	
goal-line technology	The technological system that uses micro-cameras (or other sensors) to determine definitively whether the ball has fully crossed the goal line.	
half	The time (30 minutes) during which play proceeds. A handball match consists of two halves of 30 minutes.	
half-time	The intermission between the periods of play, which normally lasts 10 minutes.	
infraction/infringement	Violation of a rule as transcribed in the Rule of the Game.	
inspect the playing court	Prior to the start of the match, the referees are responsible for checking the goals and the playing court to ensure all is in order.	
interruption	When the game is stopped.	
joint decision	In cases of disagreement, the referees may consult each other during a game to reach a common decision.	
kit (uniform)	All garments and equipment worn by players involved in a match.	
offensive foul	A foul or illegal contact committed by an offensive player.	
officiate	To serve as a referee.	
out of play	The ball is considered out of play when the goalkeeper has it under control inside the goal area or when it lies stationary on the goal-area floor. It is also out of play if an opposing player touches a ball rolling on the goal-area, if the ball completely crosses the outer goal line after last being touched by the goalkeeper or an opponent, if an opposing player illegally enters the goal area, or whenever the referees stop the game for any reason.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
outer goal line	A line marking the end of the court, not including the goal line.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative (unofficial) terms include baseline or back line
overtime	Depending on the specific competition regulations, when a match ends in a draw, an overtime period may follow. This is played in two halves of five minutes with a one-minute break between them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official term as of 2024/25 season — do not use “extra time” or any other variant Once a match goes into overtime, the normal 60 minutes can be referred to as “regular time”
passive play	Occurs when the attacking team does not make a recognisable attempt to score a goal.	
personal punishment	When the referees give punishments in accordance with violations of the rules. This may begin with a warning, but can also begin with more severe punishments such as two-minute suspensions or go straight to direct disqualification.	
playing court	The rectangular area in which the game is played.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A more official term applicable in game management Standalone “court” is preferable in editorial
playing time	The time in which a match is played. A standard handball match consists of two halves of 30 minutes, but this may be different in younger age groups in particular.	
progressive punishment	The system of discipline where the penalties become more severe upon repeated occurrences.	
protest	A formal objection (or complaint) submitted to the competition management if there is a reason to suggest the incorrect application of the rules.	
referee camera (RefCam®)	An ultra-lightweight, head-mounted camera that captures stabilised, wide-angle footage from the referee’s perspective. It enriches live broadcasts, post-match analysis and training with immersive, first-person views that enhance both decision-making and fan engagement.	
(referee) radio communication system (RCS)	A wireless communication system used by the referees to stay constantly in contact with each other and be able to communicate about all crucial decisions during a match.	
re-enter	A player that has been punished with a two-minute suspension is allowed to enter the playing court again.	
roster	The list of players eligible to play on the day of the game (maximum 16).	
sanction	Any form of penalisation by the referees.	
score	The number of points held by each team at any given moment in the match or at the match conclusion.	
scoreboard	A clearly visible electronic board (or cube) affixed within the playing venue that displays the playing period, time elapsed and the score. A scoreboard may also automatically signal the end of the playing period.	
serve a two-minute suspension	When the player stays on the substitution bench for two minutes after receiving a suspension.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
signal	Playing time ends with a signal from the automatic scoreboard or from the timekeeper. If no such signal comes, the referee whistles to indicate that playing time is over.	
7-metre line	A line seven metres from the goal indicating from where the penalty throw is to be executed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In editorial, prefer “penalty line” • If writing “seven-metre line,” be sure to use word form for “seven”
7-metre throw	A type of free throw taken from the seven-metre line, with only the goalkeeper of the defending team between the penalty taker and the goal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While “7-metre throw” is the official term in the Rules of the Game, “penalty (shot)” is preferable in editorial • Never use “7” in any form in this context — numbers zero to nine are always in word form • “Penalty” can be used standalone in editorial • Prefer “seven-metre shot” to “seven-metre throw” in editorial
seven-on-six	A team can take the goalkeeper out to add an additional attacking player. This gives the team the numerical advantage in attack and increases the number of court players to seven.	
shoot-out	Referred to as “7-metre throwing” in the indoor Rules of the Game. The situation to determine the winner at the end of a tied match, which can be after regular time or after up to two periods of overtime, depending on the specific competition regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use “(penalty) shoot-out” in editorial • Other phrases like “decided on penalties” are acceptable in editorial
sideline	The lines which mark the (non-goal) side boundaries of the court.	
substitution	When a player enters the court to replace a teammate. The substitution may not be made until the player leaving the court is fully off it. Players must enter and leave the playing area on their own half of the court and inside the substitution area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Substitution” is the verb • The person making the substitution — coming onto the court — is the “substitute”
substitution-area technology	A system (of micro cameras) providing a detailed view of both substitution areas, which offers video assistance in case of decisions that concern the substitution areas.	
substitution line	Lines that mark the area where substitutions are allowed.	
suspension	Short form of two-minute suspension.	
table	From where the match is observed by nominated persons — in EHF competitions, the delegate, scorekeeper and the timekeeper. Located between the team benches.	
team timeout	A one-minute stop in play requested by the team with possession of the ball (three allowed per match, with a maximum of two in one half).	
technical fault	Technical mistakes such as ball-handling errors that lead to a loss of possession and rule faults including too many steps, incorrect dribbling and goal-area infringements. The first is also called a turnover.	
three metres (from the player in possession of the ball)	Opponents are not allowed to be closer than three metres from the player taking a free throw or throw-in.	
throw-in	The throw used to restart play after the ball has gone over the sideline, off a defender over the outer goal line or has hit the ceiling or a fixture above the court.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
throw-off	The first throw taken at the beginning of a game, after every goal, and after half-time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Throw-off” is the noun • When used as a verb, do not hyphenate. E.g. the match will throw off at 15:00 CEST
throw-off area	A circle with a diameter of four metres placed in the middle of the centre line, from where throw-offs are taken.	
timekeeper and scorekeeper	Persons nominated to observe the match from the table, and responsible for marking the time and registering the scores for the match report.	
timeout	Stoppage in the match for a short amount of time, either called by a match official or a head coach. Referred to as a “team timeout” when called by a coach.	
travel	A violation of the rules that occurs when a player takes too many steps without dribbling the ball.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonly referred to as “steps,” which can be used in editorial
turnover	A turnover occurs when a team gives possession to the opposing team by losing the ball by any means (pass being intercepted, missed shot, fumbled ball or infraction of the rules).	
two-minute suspension	The most common punishment occurring during a match, which a player or team official can receive for a variety of reasons in accordance with the Rules of the Game.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be referred to as “two minutes” in editorial. E.g. Kelly Dulfer was sent off for two minutes after a foul on Mie Højlund
unsportsmanlike conduct	When a player, official or team acts inappropriately in the context of the game — not necessary illegally according to the Rules of the Game, but any verbal and non-verbal expressions that are not in conformity with the spirit of good sportsmanship. This applies on the court and outside the court.	
video replay (VR)	The video recording of an action (such as a play) that can be played back (in slow motion, frame-by-frame or on a loop) immediately after the action has been completed, offering the referees the possibility to watch a situation on a monitor before reaching a decision.	
video referee assistant (VRA)	An off-court referee who supports the VR process by assisting the VRO and by facilitating communication between the VRO and the on-court referees. The VRA does not participate in decision-making or influence which situations are reviewed.	
video replay operator (VRO)	The technical specialist responsible for operating the VR system during a match. This person ensures the correct camera angles and sequences are available for the referees at the VR table, enabling accurate and efficient review of incidents.	
video replay table (VRT)	The designated workstation on the side of the court equipped with VR technology. The VRT is where match officials review footage of specific incidents to assist in making or confirming factual decisions during the game.	
warning	Yellow card punishment awarded by the referee as a first measure of progressive punishment.	
whistle for throw-off	When a referee gives the signal to start the game.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shorter “throw-off whistle” is preferable in editorial • “Starting whistle” can also be used

3. COACHING

3.1 GAME PROTAGONISTS (INDOOR)

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
back-court players	The players who typically occupy the left back, centre back (playmaker) and right back positions. They are usually positioned near or beyond the nine-metre line.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Back-court with hyphen when preceding “player,” i.e. when used as adjective. E.g. In the past, back-court players were always very tall• Back court with no hyphen when not used as adjective. E.g. Norway have a powerful back court
centre back (CB)	An attacking player, also called the playmaker, positioned mainly in the centre of the court furthest from the defence. Has the function of organising the attack and coordinate offensive plays.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In editorial, always centre back on first use, then playmaker can be used as synonym• Do not use middle back or central back
coach	The head of the team, who gives instructions, decides on substitutions and has responsibility for the tactics in preparation for and during the game.	
court/field players	Refers to all players except goalkeepers.	
court referee (CR)	Referee positioned behind the attacking team watching for any defensive or offensive fouls by the court players or any possession violations.	
delegates	Nominated officials tasked with supervising the event (match). EHF delegates are observers and supervisors.	
exterior players	Players who start their actions from a positional area outside the opponent’s defence — essentially the court players on the backs and wings, and not the line player.	
extra attacking player	An extra player instead of the goalkeeper, brought in to play offence. Can be in seven-on-six situations or occur in cases of numerical inferiority, when the team opts to replace the goalkeeper while in attack.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Seventh attacking player” also acceptable (when that is the case — be careful not to use when the team in question has a substitution)
front defender	A defence player positioned mainly around the first line (nine-metre line), in front of the other defenders, normally controlling and protecting the centre back’s action field and with the main role of disrupting ball circulation and obstructing movements to the central zone of the defence. Also called advanced defender.	
goalkeeper (GK)	The player positioned inside the goalkeeping area who is in charge of defending the goal. This player is allowed to use the whole body, including the lower limbs, to block the ball.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Keeper” is a possible synonyms after using “goalkeeper” in first instance• No apostrophe needed if using “keeper”• “Goalie” and “shot stopper” are acceptable but not as desirable as other options
goal-line referee (GR)	Referee on the outer goal line who watches for any violations and verifies whether the ball completely crosses the goal line.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
half defender	The second defender, whose role is dependent on the defensive system. Their key goals are to stop advancements towards the six-metre line, cooperate with the goalkeeper through effective tactical blocks and prevent passes to the pivot. In more open systems, the second defender might have the task of proactively trying to create numerical superiority and/or obstruct passes/trajectories.	
interior players	Players who start their actions from a positional area inside the opponents' defence — the line players.	
left back (LB)	An offensive player positioned on the left side of the centre back, carrying out actions in the second line of the attack (6m), shooting and penetrating the six-metre line, but also in the first line of the attack with nine-metre shots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always two words
left-handed player	Player throwing with their left hand as the dominant one.	
left wing (LW)	An attacking player who plays mainly in the forward line of the attack, along the far-left side of the court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always two words
line player (LP)	Refers to an offensive position where the player acts mostly around the six-metre line and among the defenders. Also called the pivot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official term for the position • Always two words • “Pivot” can be used as a synonym
middle defender	The third defender, whose role varies with the chosen system. Their key goals are to coordinate the defence, stop advancements towards the six-metre area, cooperate with the goalkeeper through effective tactical blocks, and prevent passes to the pivot. Like the second defenders, in more open systems, the third defenders might have the task of proactively trying to create numerical superiority and/or obstruct passes/trajectories.	
officials	The referees, delegate(s) and table officials (scorekeeper and timekeeper).	
outside defender	Essentially the wing defender; the player who carries out their activities primarily in the main defence line on either of the far sides of the court. Their main tactical role is to guard the wings. Also called the first defender.	
players	Members of a team taking part in the game.	
playing positions (offensive)	The seven playing positions are goalkeeper, left wing, left back, centre back, line player, right back and right wing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never hyphenate the playing positions — all are two words except “goalkeeper”
referee	A person in charge of a match, whose role is to ensure the rules are followed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use “referee pair” when referring to refereeing partners • Avoid “couple” in this context
right back (RB)	Refers to an offensive player positioned on the right-hand side of the middle back, who acts in the second line of the attack by penetrating the six-metre line and shooting but also in the first line of the attack with long-range shots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always two words
right-handed player	Player throwing with their right hand as the dominant one.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
right wing (RW)	An offensive player who plays mainly in the forward line of the attack, along the far-right side of the court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always two words
squad	Every player who could technically play for the specified team in the course of a season, tournament or match. During EHF EURO events, the official squad is limited to 35 players.	
substitute	Player who comes on to replace another.	
team	A unit of players who will play a given match, with a maximum number of 16 allowed on the start list.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note “teammate” as the most common and correct expression for referring to one player in the context of another
team official	A person representing a team, registered in the match report.	

3.2 TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS

3.2.1 Game phases

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
attack/offence	All actions and behaviours of a team in possession of the ball aimed at scoring a goal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always use UK spelling for offence — “c” not “s”
defence	All actions and behaviours of the team without ball possession, aimed at preventing the opponent from scoring and regaining possession.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always use UK spelling for offence — “c” not “s”
extended fast break	When, without slowing the rhythm to build up an attack and in an attempt to take advantage of the opponents’ defensive recovery, the attacking team employs a kind of fast positional attack in the continuity of the fast-breaking play. Also known as third wave.	
fast break	When the team transitioning into offence plays a forward progression to create a high-scoring opportunity as quickly as possible, so that the defence is outnumbered and does not have time to move into their planned formation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No hyphen when used standalone• Hyphenated when used as adjective. E.g. a fast-break goal scored by Chloé Valentini
fast throw-off	When a team that has just conceded a goal employs a fast-breaking attack from the throw-off at halfway, attempting to take advantage of the defending team not yet being fully returned to and/or having (re)organised their system.	
simple fast break	When, in the fast transition: a player running down the court receives the ball and shoots directly at the goal (individual fast break), a direct forward pass to the shooting player (direct fast break) is made, or a second forward pass is performed before shooting (indirect fast break). Also called first wave.	
supported fast break	When more players (opposed to the simple fast break) are involved, attempting to score before all the defenders are able to get into position. Also called second wave.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prefer “counterattack” or “second wave” in editorial

3.2 TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS

3.2.2 Technical elements

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
arm-swinging fake	When an attacker in a one-on-one situation with a defender simulates a shooting action towards the arm-throwing side (strong side), and then changes direction (weak side) while rotating the throwing arm holding the ball over and around the opponent in order to get to a shooting position, effectively avoiding the opponent's blocking.	
backhand pass	A pass thrown behind the back, often in tight spaces or to surprise defenders, and frequently used in wing or pivot play.	
block (individual)	The act of stopping the opponent shots' trajectory towards the goal.	
body fake	A deceptive movement of the upper or lower body — performed with or without the ball — aimed at disengaging a defender in order to receive a pass safely from a teammate, create space for a shot or pass, or open up space for a teammate by displacing or misleading the defender.	
bounce	A one-time action where a player bounces the ball to the floor and re-controls it, without the intent to transport the ball.	
bounce pass	A pass that is intentionally bounced once on the floor before reaching the target, often to evade defenders' arms or to delay reception slightly.	
bounce shot	A shot that is intentionally bounced on the floor before reaching the goal, making it more difficult for the goalkeeper to time or read the ball's path.	
break through	An attacking action where a player moves into open space between two defenders, either by creating the gap individually or using space prepared by supporting teammates, leading to a close-range shot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With a space when used as a verb. E.g.:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gidsel attempted to break through Magdeburg's defence (verb)• No space when a noun or adjective. E.g.:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Henny Reistad favours breakthroughs (noun)- A breakthrough goal from Dika Mem (adjective)
catch the ball	Taking hold of the ball after a pass from another player.	
change of direction (COD)	Altering the path of movement with or without the ball.	
clear out/create space	When an offensive player vacates an area or playing zone so that the ball handler has more of a space (or time) advantage, either to take a through shot or to have a better chance of evading a defender one-on-one.	
cross	A coordinated interchange of position between two players crossing each other's path, with or without the ball. A standard way of switching play.	
cut in	A sharp, linear change of direction performed by a player, with or without the ball	
defensive rebound	A rebound that is secured by the defending team, allowing them to end the opponents' attacking phase and transition into offence.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
dive shot	A shot that is taken while diving or falling forward toward the goal, often used from close range to evade defenders or shoot past the goalkeeper from a low angle.	
dominant-hand pass	A pass that is thrown with a player's stronger hand, offering greater power, speed and range. Used in most passing situations.	
dribble	A repeated bouncing of the ball with one hand, used to move with the ball over longer distances. The primary purpose of dribbling is ball transport while in motion, under control, and within the rules.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Bounce” can be used as a synonym, as it is both singular and plural. E.g. Instruct the children to bounce the ball from one sideline to the other
evade	When an attacking player, with or without the ball, is able to get past the opponent covering them.	
fake	Any deceptive move/action to mislead the opponent.	
fake pass	The act of pretending to pass the ball.	
fake shot	The act of pretending to shoot the ball.	
feint	Altering the path of movement towards an opponent, usually at speed and involving some kind of body fake with the intention to deceive. Most often with the ball.	
hip/underarm shot	A shot that is released from below hip level, typically used to surprise the goalkeeper or defender. Especially effective when the defender raises their arms to block overarm shots.	
holding the opponent	Physical contact to stop the opponent's movement towards a scoring opportunity.	
in-flight goal	The act of scoring a goal by catching the ball and shooting while in the air.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid terms such as kung fu, kempa and zeppelin
intercept	When a defender stops the path of the ball on its way to another attacker or the goal, gaining possession.	
jump pass	A pass that is thrown while the player is airborne, allowing the ball to be passed over defenders or to adjust angle mid-air.	
jump shot	A shot that is taken while the player is airborne, enabling a higher release point and clear angle over defenders — the most common shot in back court and wing play.	
lob pass	A pass that follows a high arched trajectory, used to throw over defenders, typically targeting the wing or line player in deep or wide positions.	
lob shot	A shot that follows a high, arched trajectory over the goalkeeper, typically used when the keeper is positioned far from the goal line.	
long pass	A long-range pass, such as one made by the goalkeeper to the wing in fast-break situations.	
long-corner shot	A shot that is directed towards the far side of the goal, across the goalkeeper and away from the shooter's position.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
marking	The act of guarding one particular opponent.	
no-look pass	A pass played without looking in the passing direction.	
non-dominant-hand pass	A pass that is executed with the weaker hand, usually in situations where time, positioning, or defender pressure prevent use of the dominant hand.	
offensive rebound	A rebound that is recovered by the attacking team, giving them a chance to continue the attack or generate a second scoring opportunity.	
overarm pass	A pass that is executed with an overhead throwing motion, offering long range and high speed, often used in transitions or cross-court plays.	
overarm shot	A shot that is executed with a throwing motion over the shoulder or head — the most widely used shooting technique in handball.	
pass	The action of throwing the ball to a teammate.	
pressure	When the defender keeps their assigned attacker (with and without a ball) under tight pressure (one-on-one), with or without contact.	
rebound	A rebound occurs when the ball remains in play after a goalkeeper save, a block by a defender, or when the ball hits the post or crossbar — and both teams have the opportunity to recover it.	
running pass	A pass that is performed while moving, allowing players to maintain game speed during fast breaks or positional attacks.	
running shot	A shot that is performed while in motion, typically during a breakthrough or fast break, allowing for continuous movement and dynamic execution.	
save	When a goalkeeper stops the ball from crossing the goal line between the goalposts.	
screen	When an attacker restricts the opponent's movement by physically obstructing them, as allowed by the rules.	
shoot at the goal	A technique by which an attempt is made to score a goal. There are various kinds of shots on goal that can be executed either from the ground or from a jump: Overarm shot, underarm shot, dive shot, jump shot from one foot, jump shot from both feet, etc.	
short-corner shot	A shot that is directed to the near side of the goal, on the same side as the shooter's position or shooting arm.	
sidestep	Lateral technical footwork used to escape/avoid defenders, executed by moving sideways mainly in width.	
spin shot — indoor handball	A shot that is released with pronounced side spin, causing the ball to curve — often used in close-range situations to place the ball around the goalkeeper.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
standing pass	A pass that is executed from a stationary position, providing maximum stability and control, often used in set plays or under minimal pressure.	
standing shot	A shot that is executed from a stationary position.	
steal the ball	Taking possession of the ball when the opponent is holding or bouncing it.	
step out	A quick movement performed by a defender when the ball is passed towards an attacker, so that the attacker does not have space to catch, break through, shoot, or pass without being tightly pressured.	
straight pass	A pass that travels in a direct line from the passer to the receiver, used for fast and accurate ball circulation in positional and transition play.	
tackle	When a defender employs a permitted dynamic physical contact against an offensive player who has just received the ball with the intent to either deny a shot, a breakthrough or disrupt a pass.	
technical element	A specialised motor skill performed within the limitations of the game’s rules.	
technical skills	The ability with which the player executes the technical elements of the game to bring about the desired result.	
through shot	A shot that is aimed directly through a narrow space between defenders typically used in back-court play to surprise the defence.	
throw	A throw is any action a player uses to propel the ball, either to pass or shoot.	
trajectory	The path of movement of a player or the ball.	
turn	A circular or rounded movement used to rotate the body and change direction smoothly, or reorient the player’s position.	
two-hand pass	A pass that is executed using both hands simultaneously, typically from chest height, to ensure maximum control and accuracy – commonly used in youth and entry-level settings.	
wrist pass	A pass that relies primarily on a quick flick of the wrist, enabling short, fast, and deceptive passes in tight spaces.	

3.2 TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS

3.2.3 Tactical concepts
























TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
advantage	A situation in which a team or a player has a better chance to succeed than the opponent, due to favourable conditions such as more space, better positioning, an unbalanced defence, or situational or numerical superiority.	
assist	A pass that creates a clear scoring opportunity and directly results in a goal (e.g. pass to line player, wing player, long-range pass by goalkeeper, etc.)	
attacking system	The system of play that determines the distribution of players through the attacking lines, the tactical roles, positioning and main courses of attacker's actions and cooperative play, according to the team's plan.	
closed defence	A defensive formation where defenders remain closer to the six-metre line, prioritising space protection.	
collective/team tactics	Planned, system-based actions involving more than three players or the entire team, executed to implement a broader game strategy — both offensively and defensively.	
countermovement	A tactical action in which a player moves intentionally in the opposite direction of the defensive movement, or against the expected flow of play, to destabilise defenders, create space or exploit a positional imbalance.	
danger zone	The area around the goal-area line from which most shots are executed with a high rate of success.	
defending team	The team that does not have possession of the ball.	
direct defender	A defender who is initially responsible for an attacker located in the same spatial sector or zone at the start of the positional attack. This paired assignment makes the defender primarily accountable for engaging this attacker in one-versus-one situations.	
dissuasion	When the defender adopts a position that enables them to either prevent the opponent from receiving the ball or attempt to intercept the ball.	
dive	Faking or exaggerating body contact by an opposing player to gain an advantage from a referee, usually by falling down.	
fast transition	Fast switching play from defence to attack.	
game principles	Fundamental assumptions grounded in the internal game logic that establishes the framework for interaction between players and opposition.	
give-and-go	An offensive play that involves passing the ball (giving) and then going to an open position and receiving the ball back (returning pass).	
group tactics	Coordinated tactical actions involving two to three players, aimed at cooperative problem-solving within a sub-unit of the team — applied in both attack and defence.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
help (defence)	A defensive action to assist another defender to avoid an immediate attempt on goal by the opposing team.	
indirect defender	A defender who temporarily leaves their assigned attacker to help a teammate or pressure an attacker in another sector or zone of the defence.	
individual defence system	A player-oriented system, in which each defender is assigned a specific opposing player, rather than covering an area of the court.	
individual tactics	Tactical actions performed by a single player, either in attack or defence, with the aim of gaining advantage in a specific game situation.	
mixed defence	A defensive configuration that comprises one or more defenders closely marking specific attackers while other players cover specific zones of action in the defensive structure.	
numerical equality	A game situation in which both teams have the same number of players on the court. The default structural condition in handball.	
numerical inferiority	When a team has fewer players on the court than the opponent, due to facing seven-on-six or during a two-minute suspension (or more than one suspension/red card).	
numerical superiority	When a team has more players on the court than the opponent due to a two-minute suspension or playing with an empty goal and additional attacker (e.g. seven versus six). It is a structural advantage, independent of tactical execution.	
one-on-one defence	When a team switches to marking each player individually, usually at the end of a very close match, with aim of intercepting the ball to score the goal(s) needed to equalise or win the match.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to hyphenation
open defence system	A defensive formation in which defenders position themselves farther away from their own goal area line, often stepping toward or beyond the nine-metre line to actively pressure attackers.	
pre-assist	A pass or action that creates the decisive advantage, such as a two versus one or screen performed by the line player.	
pressuring defence	A defensive behaviour attempting to apply pressure on the attacker(s) with or without the ball, to disrupt the attacking continuity and to intercept passes and prevent shots on goal, effectively forcing turnovers.	
quick retreat	A retreat performed at speed to obstruct the opponent's fast break.	
retreat	The process of withdrawing from offence to defence and organising into a cohesive unit to protect the goal.	
situational inferiority	A temporary and local disadvantage, despite equal player numbers on the court, caused by being outplayed or out of position in a specific situation.	

TERM	DEFINITION	EDITORIAL NOTES
situational superiority	A temporary and local advantage despite equal numbers on the court, created within the game flow through technical or tactical actions. Often appears as two versus one, three versus two, etc.	
switch	A defensive cooperation in which two defenders exchange their direct assignments, typically in response to an offensive cooperation such as crossing.	
tactical combination/set play	Set play by a team where the path of the ball is pre-determined.	
tactical skills	Refers to the tactical knowledge, decisions, and actions of players used to gain advantage over the opposing team or players.	
tactics	A set of planned game elements to be used in attack and in defence by a team during the given match.	
the block/block cooperation	Defensive teamwork between court defender(s) and the goalkeepers to counter long-range shots on the goal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In editorial, “the block” can be used to refer to the two defenders in the middle (who manage the task defined here). E.g. Kathrine Heindahl and Rikke Iversen partner as the block in the core of Denmark’s defence
zone defence system	A system of play which describes defensive responsibilities organised in a zonal manner. It can be structured into 6-0; 5-1, 1-5 or 3-3; or 3-2-1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceptable to shorten to “zone defence” in editorial

3.3 SYMBOLS

These symbols are used in coaching.
Each symbol represents a specific element
of the game.

	Attacker or goalkeeper of the team in possession of the ball
	Defender or goalkeeper of the team out of possession of the ball
	Ball
 or 	Attacker with the ball
 	New position of attacker / defender / goalkeeper
 	Orientation of attacker / defender / goalkeeper
	Supporter
	Coach
	Path of player
	Path of pass
	Attacker moving with the ball (1, 2 or 3 steps)
	Attacker bouncing/dribbling the ball
	Defensive blocking
 or 	Screening
	Faking movement without the ball
	Faking movement with the ball
	Pass fake
	Path of shot
	Shot fake

4. OTHER DISCIPLINES

4.1 BEACH HANDBALL

TERM	DEFINITION
block	When a defender jumps through the six-metre area and blocks a direct shot on goal.
goalkeeper (specialist in attack)	Player wearing a different colour uniform from their teammates and the opposing team, whose goals count for two points.
golden goal	Used if the result is tied at the end of any period of play. The winner of that period is then the team that scores the first goal.
in flight	Flying through the air.
in-flight goal	When one player passes to another who is already flying through the air, for the receiving player to shoot.
one-point goal	A goal that is worth one point.
own goal	When a player scores a goal registered against their own team. An own goal is always awarded one point.
period/sets	The match consists of two periods/sets, where each period is calculated separately. The team that wins a given period/set earns one point. If each team wins one period, a shoot-out is needed to decide the winner.
result	The result is always described by the number of periods/sets won. E.g. 2:0, 0:2, 2:1, or 1:2.
shoot-out	A means of resolving a tie, in which an equal number of players from each side alternately take individual shots on the goal, which is defended by the opposing team's goalkeeper.
six-metre throw	The equivalent of an indoor seven-metre throw, shot from the six-metre line. A resulting goal is awarded two points.
spectacular goal	A shot characterised by originality and expressiveness; imaginative. The goal is awarded two points.
spin shot (360°)	A shot taken after a full turn (360°) of the body in the air.
two-point goal	A goal that is worth two points.

4.2 WHEELCHAIR HANDBALL

TERM	DEFINITION
block	When a defender jumps through the six-metre area and blocks a direct shot on goal.
goalkeeper (specialist in attack)	Player wearing a different colour uniform from their teammates and the opposing team, whose goals count for two points.
golden goal	Following normal time and a period of overtime in which the scores are equal, the game ends when the next goal is scored, and the team that scores that goal is declared the winner.
in flight	Flying through the air.
in-flight goal	When one player passes to another who is already flying through the air, for the receiving player to shoot.
one-point goal	A goal that is worth one point.
own goal	When a player scores a goal registered against their own team. An own goal is always awarded one point.
period/sets	The match consists of two periods/sets, where each period is calculated separately. The team that wins a given period/set earns one point. If each team wins one period, a shoot-out is needed to decide the winner.
result	The result is always described by the number of periods/sets won. E.g. 2:0, 0:2, 2:1, or 1:2.
shoot-out	A means of resolving a tie, in which an equal number of players from each side alternately take individual shots on the goal, which is defended by the opposing team's goalkeeper.
six-metre throw	The equivalent of an indoor seven-metre throw, shot from the six-metre line. A resulting goal is awarded two points.
spectacular goal	A shot characterised by originality and expressiveness; imaginative. The goal is awarded two points.
spin shot (360°)	A shot taken after a full turn (360°) of the body in the air.
two-point goal	A goal that is worth two points.



STYLE GUIDE

5. NAMING

5.1 HANDBALL DISCIPLINES

TERM	NOTES
beach handball	Not capitalised and always two words
field handball	Not capitalised and always two words The original form of the sport played outdoors on a larger grass pitch May also be referred to as 11-a-side handball
handball	Not capitalised Can be referred to as indoor handball to differentiate it from the beach version Referred to as team handball, Olympic handball or European handball in some English-speaking countries
mini handball	Not capitalised and always two words
street handball	Not capitalised and always two words
wheelchair handball	Not capitalised and always two words

5.2 GENERAL COMPETITION TERMS

TERM	DEFINITION	NOTES
All-star Team	The group of players chosen as the best in their position for a given tournament.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always capitalise “All” and “Team” and be sure to hyphenate “All-star”• All-star [position]” is an acceptable term — a player can be the “All-star Team left back” or the “All-star left back”
bronze medal match ¾ placement match	The play-off for third place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Bronze medal match” only for use at national events — EHF EUROS, WChs and Ogs• Always “3/4 placement match” in club competitions
bye	When a team does not play that round. Not applicable when a match is cancelled or one team forfeits. In the EHF context, can also refer to the right to skip a knockout round. E.g. as in the EHF Champions League, where the two top-ranked teams after the group phase skip the Last 16 and progress to the quarter-finals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treat as a noun. E.g. THW Kiel have a bye in the Last 16
cancel	Matches that are abandoned altogether are cancelled. Matches that are called off to be held at a later date are postponed.	
cross-matches	Games taking place between teams from different playing groups. E.g. at a YAC tournament, a series of cross-matches played between those teams not contesting the knockout stage, to determine final ranking .	
final	“The final” means the match to decide the title. “Finals” can refer to both the last games — the final and the ¾ placement match.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When referring to finals decided over two legs, like in the European Cup, use the singular and include “two-leg” when needed for the sake of clarity. E.g. Athens won the two-leg final 65:64 on aggregate after two completely different matches
finalists semi-finalists quarter-finalists	The teams that have reached a particular stage of a competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the spelling “finalist(s)” with one “l” as per British English convention-Use plural when referring to a team
first leg second leg	The first and second matches occurring in club competition knockout stages. Also applicable in EHF EURO and World Championship qualifiers when referencing two specific teams and their mutual matches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note these terms are hyphenated when used as an adjective:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hyphenate: in the first-leg quarter-final- Do not hyphenate: CSM Bucuresti won the first leg by one goal- Alternative terms include reverse leg/fixture, home/away leg/ match and first/second match/clash/game
game	Has two meanings: Alternative for “match” Referring to handball overall. E.g. Rules of the Game, the game of handball, or sentences like “Ivano Balic is one of the greats of the game”	
groups		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Group” is always lower case, including when combined with the number/letter indicating the group. E.g. group 1, group A• The following construction is acceptable: main round group II

TERM	DEFINITION	NOTES
group matches	Competition phase used only in EHF European League Men since 2023/24.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, prefer the official terms in other competitions (i.e. group phase, preliminary round, main round) However, “group matches” can be used as a general term. E.g. At the conclusion of the group matches, Denmark are yet to drop a single point, having won all games in both the preliminary and main rounds
group phase	Competition phase used in the EHF Champions League and EHF European League Women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always lower case
Hall of Fame	Introduced in 2023, the Hall of Fame includes legends of the game inducted each year, as well as the MVPs and best young players of each season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always capitalise “Hall” and “Fame”
Highlight Match	Matches selected for special coverage during EHF EURO qualifiers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both words are always capitalised
knockout	An unofficial term used for the stage of competitions where teams are eliminated upon losing either one match or a two-leg tie. More applicable in the club competitions in the EHF context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine to use in editorial Do not hyphenate
Last 16	A knockout stage in a competition, where 16 teams remain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The only competition phase that is always capitalised Do not use “eighth-final”
line-up	Refers to the players a team is fielding for a game — can be the 16 players on the start list or the seven players on the court at a given time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always hyphenate when using as a noun. Note that the verb “to line up” is not hyphenated
match		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The more official and preferable term to use on first instance “Game” is the main and preferable synonym before using more casual terms
match day	Any day in a week when a match or matches in a competition are played. Not to be confused with “round” — unless an entire round takes place on one day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always with a space and no hyphen
main round	A competition phase occurring after the group phase or preliminary round.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicate EHF EURO main round groups using Roman numerals. E.g. group II
Match of the Week (MOTW)	Matches selected for special coverage in each round of the EHF Champions League.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Match” and “week” are always capitalised Abbreviation “MOTW” can be used
Most Valuable Player (MVP)	The award given for the player deemed the best at a given championship or, in some EHF contexts, a final weekend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be shortened to MVP without introduction Always all capitals Note that “Player of the Match” is a different award and MVP should never be used in that context
placement matches	Matches played to determine the final ranking of teams.	
5/6 placement match	Match to decide fifth place, which is only played at national team events. Often highly relevant to qualification for future tournaments.	

TERM	DEFINITION	NOTES
play-offs	First knockout stage occurring in certain EHF club competitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always hyphenated
Player of the Match (POTM)	An award given to the player deemed the best in a given match.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always capitalise “player” and “match” • Abbreviation “POTM” can be used — mainly in a social media context • In editorial, POTM abbreviation should be introduced properly and only used if the acronym will appear at least three times in the text
preliminary round	The initial phase of a tournament, with all teams competing. In the EHF context, applies mainly for EHF EUROs, and also to World Championships.	
quarter-final	A knockout stage in a competition, where eight teams remain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always hyphenated
qualification/qualifiers	Games played to decide which teams can take part in a competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer “qualifiers” when writing about EHF EURO events • While EHF EURO qualifiers are divided into different phases, avoid mentioning the phase unless necessary for additional context
rematch	When two teams meet again, typically referring to a recent first leg or a major match occurring in a knockout stage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always one word with no hyphen
round 1 etc	A given round of a competition, whether club or EHF EURO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Round” is always lower case • “First round” is OK as a synonym but use rarely • Do not use “match day” as a synonym except in the case of the EHF European League Men, where all games in one round are played on the same day
runners-up	The second-placed team on a final ranking of a competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runner-up is the singular form, for an individual
semi-final	A stage in a competition where four teams remain. Two semi-finals are played to determine which teams will play the final match (deciding first place) of a tournament or competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always hyphenated
Team of the Season	The All-star Team of the season, presented at the annual EHF Excellence Awards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always capitalise “Team” and “Season”
Team of the Round	Players deemed the best in a given round, usually selected by experts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Team” and “Round” are always capitalised
upgrade	Ahead of each season, certain teams apply for upgrades in order to appear in the EHF Champions League.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Upgrade” is the term to use in this context; never “wild card”
wild card	A wild card gives a team the right to participate in a competition. Wild cards are not used in EHF competitions.	

5.3 EHF COMPETITIONS

General notes:

- for EHF/EHFM competitions, year/season is always at the end
- competition phases are always lower case, aside from:
 - “Last 16”
 - “qualifiers,” when used together with the full name of the EURO. E.g. EHF EURO 2026 Qualifiers
- always use the full competition name on first instance; afterwards, shortened versions are acceptable (see each competition for details)
- in quotes, report exactly what was said — do not add “EHF” if a player only said “Champions League” or “FINAL4”
- if a competition has a title sponsor, the name of the sponsor always goes at the beginning. E.g. XXXX EHF Champions League
- “European cup” can be used as a general term to refer to all EHF club competitions — be sure not to capitalise “cup” in this instance

5.3.1 Club competitions

COMPETITION	NOTES
EHF Champions League	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The official name of the top-tier competition, which can refer to both genders’ competitions together (e.g. no player in the history of the EHF Champions League comes close to Kiril Lazarov’s goal count) or one in particular• See below for current official names of each competition by gender• An acceptable alternative after introducing the competition in focus with the full name• Can be shortened to simply “Champions League” after introduction with full terms• Acceptable synonyms include top-tier, top-flight (although this is more of a Hanglish phrase than a standard English one) or premier competition• Pay attention to word order when playing with synonyms: It is premier European competition, not European premier competition• Do not use premium as an adjective in this context — it is “premier”• Do not hyphenate “top flight” or “top tier” if using those standalone — they are only hyphenated when appearing next to the noun
Machineseeker EHF Champions League	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abbreviation “CL” should be used in media guides but nowhere else• Refer to only as EHF Champions League Men for past seasons
EHF Champions League Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abbreviation “CL” should be used in media guides but nowhere else
EHF FINAL4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always in all capitals, with “FINAL4” as one word and with a numeral “4”• Never use “FINAL4” alone — “EHF” must be included due to legal reasons; quotes are the exception• Official full name is EHF Champions League FINAL4 *Gender* but do not use this form in editorial
TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current official name of the men’s event, to always be used on first instance in editorial about the current season
Raiffeisen Bank EHF FINAL4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current official name of the women’s event, to always be used on first instance in editorial about the current season
EHF European League Men/Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official name of the second-tier competition introduced in 2020/21• Called EHF Cup prior to that• When referring to past results, specify whether you mean EHF European League or EHF Cup; alternatively, “second-tier competition” can be used to refer broadly to results throughout the history of both, e.g. Flensburg have now won the second-tier competition three times: The back-to-back EHF European League titles in 2023/24 and 2024/25 and one EHF Cup trophy in 1996/97
EHF Finals Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The final weekend of the EHF European League, with the semi-finals and finals played over two days, like the EHF FINAL4 events• Official name is EHF European League Finals Women, but always simply use “EHF Finals Women” in editorial

COMPETITION	NOTES
EHF European Cup Men/Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official name of the third-tier competition introduced in 2020/21 • Previously called the Challenge Cup and before that the EHF City Cup • When referring broadly to results across the competition’s entire history, use “third-tier competition”
EHF European Cup Men/Women Finals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final of the European Cup, played over a two-leg format with a home and away game for each team

5.3.2 Former club competitions

COMPETITION	NOTES
IHF Champions Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forerunner of the EHF Champions League, i.e. up until the 1992/93 season when the competition was taken over by the EHF • Only titles won from 1993/94 on count as EHF Champions League titles
Champions Trophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-season tournament, no longer organised, involving the winners of all the European cup competitions
City Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original name of the third-tier competition, now called EHF European Cup • Played from 1993 to 2000
Cup Winners’ Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now defunct competition, which involved the champions of each domestic competition • Merged with the EHF Cup
Men’s/Women’s EHF Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former name of the second-tier competition, last played in 2019/20
EHF Cup Finals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final weekend that decided the men’s EHF Cup titles, held from 2012/13 to 2018/19 (end of 2019/20 season cancelled due to Covid-19)
Men’s/Women’s Challenge Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former third-tier competition, last played in 2019/20

5.3.3 EHF EURO events

COMPETITION	NOTES
EHF EURO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General and most commonly used short-form name for the national team competition• Always written in all capitals• Can be abbreviated to ECh for internal use only — never in editorial text
Men’s/Women’s EHF EURO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General and most commonly used name with differentiation for the men’s and women’s events
Men’s/Women’s EHF EURO XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific and most commonly used tournament name for the given year. E.g. The Women’s EHF EURO 2026 will be co-hosted by five countries• When there is more than one host, list the countries in order of their role — the country hosting the final weekend is first, followed by the main round host(s) and finally any additional preliminary round host(s)• “Handball” can be added on the end when required for local use. E.g. Women’s EHF EURO 2026 Handball
Men’s/Women’s EHF European Championship XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal name used in certain texts and advertisements• Generally not used in editorial — prefer the EHF EURO versions• But a good option for the meta description section in the EHF CMS
Men’s/Women’s EHF European Handball Championship XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal name used in certain texts and advertisements for audiences who do not know the handball link• Also a good option for the meta description section in the EHF CMS
EHF EURO XXXX Qualifiers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Qualifiers” is always capitalised when written together with the tournament name — think of the EHF EURO XXXX Qualifiers as an own tournament
EHF EURO Cup XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “EHF EURO” always in capitals as per other forms of the tournament• “Cup” always with a capital

5.3.4 Beach handball events

COMPETITION	NOTES
EHF Beach Handball EURO XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “EHF” and “EURO” always all capitals; only first letter of “Beach” and “Handball” capitalised• Year always at the end. E.g. EHF Beach Handball EURO 2028• Although both men’s and women’s competitions are played at the same event, never say “EUROs”
EHF Beach Handball Championship XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Qualifying event for Beach Handball EURO• As with the EURO, never “EHF Beach Handball Championships” — always “Championship”
European Beach Handball Tour (ebt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abbreviation always in lower case• Although the abbreviated ebt is very commonly used, always use the full name at least once in editorial texts
ebt Finals XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The final tournament of the ebt• Name always uses the acronym — it is never “European Beach Handball Tour Finals”• “ebt” always in lower case
YAC 17 EHF Beach Handball EURO XXXX Men’s/Women’s 17 EHF Beach Handball EURO XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Younger Age Category edition played the week before the senior EHF Beach Handball EURO, in the same location
EHF Beach Handball Champions Cup	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club competition featuring national beach handball champions

5.3.5 Younger age category competitions

General notes:

- YAC competitions are always W17 and W19 (odd years for women) and M18 and M20 (even years for men)
- this alternates with the IHF YAC competitions, where it is W18 (youth) and W20 (junior) and M19 (youth) and M21 (junior). The competitions also alternate years
- as a general rule, do not use the tournament name versions with “handball” except in the meta description in the CMS
- after first use with the full correct name — e.g. Women’s 19 EHF EURO 2025 — abbreviate the gender to a single letter. E.g. W19 EHF EURO 2025
- when abbreviating, be sure there is no space between the gender-indicating letter and the age. E.g. M18

COMPETITION	NOTES
Women’s 17 EHF EURO XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top-tier national team competition for women’s YAC teams aged 17 and under• Short form: W17 EHF EURO XXXX
Women’s 19 EHF EURO XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top-tier national team competition for women’s YAC teams aged 19 and under• Short form: W19 EHF EURO XXXX
Men’s 18 EHF EURO XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top-tier national team competition for men’s YAC teams aged 18 and under• Short form: M18 EHF EURO XXXX
Men’s 20 EHF EURO XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top-tier national team competition for men’s YAC teams aged 20 and under• Short form: M20 EHF EURO XXXX
Women’s 17 EHF Championship XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second-tier national team competition for women’s YAC teams aged 17 and under• Short form: W17 EHF Championship XXXX
Women’s 19 EHF Championship XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second-tier national team competition for women’s YAC teams aged 19 and under• Short form: W19 EHF Championship XXXX
Men’s 18 EHF Championship XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second-tier national team competition for men’s YAC teams aged 18 and under• Short form: M18 EHF Championship XXXX
Men’s 20 EHF Championship XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second-tier national team competition for men’s YAC teams aged 20 and under• Short form: M20 EHF Championship XXXX
Men’s 17 European Open XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National team competition for boys aged 17 and under, organised in conjunction with the Partille Cup and always held in Sweden• Short form: M17 European Open XXXX
Women’s 16 European Open XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National team competition for girls aged 16 and under, organised in conjunction with the Partille Cup and always held in Sweden• Short form: W16 European Open XXXX
EHF Youth Club Trophy Men/Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club competition for YAC teams introduced with the first men’s edition in 2024/25 and women’s in 2025/26

5.3.6 Additional EHF competitions

COMPETITION	NOTES
EHF European Masters Championship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competition for teams aged 33 to 55
European Masters Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A multi-sport event organised by the International Masters Games Association; includes handball
EHF European Wheelchair Handball Championship XXXX EHF Wheelchair EURO XXXX	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The wheelchair handball EHF EURO for the four-a-side discipline. First introduced in 2025
European Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Former nations tournament for wheelchair handball

5.4 NON–EHF COMPETITIONS

General notes:

- all non-EHF competitions except for The World Games take the year first rather than at the end of the name

COMPETITION	NOTES
IHF events	
XX IHF Men’s/Women’s World Championship XXXX IHF Men’s/Women’s World Championship XXXX IHF Men’s/Women’s Handball World Championship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First version on the list is the official name — the number included is the ordinal version of the edition. E.g. 30th IHF Men’s Handball World Championship• In EHF editorial, prefer the second option with the year — always at the beginning. E.g. 2025 IHF Women’s World Championship• After first mention, can be shortened to simply “(Men’s/Women’s) World Championship”• “Handball” can be included for audiences unfamiliar with the event and in the meta description part of the CMS• Can be internally shortened to “WCh”
XXXX IHF Men’s Junior (U21) World Championship XXXX IHF Women’s Junior (U20) World Championship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In editorial, the age classification can be removed after first instance• After first mention, can also be shortened to “(Men’s/Women’s) Junior World Championship”
XXXX IHF Men’s Youth (U19) World Championship XXXX IHF Women’s Youth (U18) World Championship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In editorial, the age classification can be removed after first instance• After first mention, can also be shortened to “(Men’s/Women’s) Youth World Championship”
IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competition for emerging national teams organised by the IHF• As with the World Championship, the official name takes the edition first. E.g. 5th IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship• In EHF editorial, the year rather than the edition is acceptable. E.g. 2025 IHF Men’s Emerging Nations Championship• So far, as of 2025, only organised for men’s teams
Men’s/Women’s IHF Trophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A multi-stage competition for YAC teams from emerging nations, taking place across all continents over several months and culminating in a final tournament• The European leg is called IHF Trophy Europe
XXXX IHF Men’s Club World Championship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No edition number used for this competition — the year indicates the edition. E.g. 2025 IHF Men’s Club World Championship• Formerly called the IHF Super Globe• So far, only one edition was played for women (then called the Super Globe), in 2019
XXXX IHF Beach Handball World Championship XXXX IHF Men’s/Women’s Beach Handball World Championship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No edition number used for this competition — the year indicates the edition. E.g. 2026 IHF Beach Handball World Championship• Like the Beach Handball EURO, both men and women play the same event, so the official competition name has no gender specification• Make “Championship” plural if referring to both competitions. E.g. The 2026 IHF Men’s and Women’s Beach Handball World Championships

5.4 NON–EHF COMPETITIONS

COMPETITION	NOTES
Non-IHF events	
Olympic Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always capitalised, whether the two words are used together or alone• Can be shortened to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Olympics- Games — following a first mention of “Olympic Games” so the reader knows the reference• City XXXX Olympic Games is the full form for a specific Olympics. E.g. The Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games. Can be abbreviated to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Brisbane 2032 Olympics- Brisbane 2032 Games- Brisbane 2032• When referring to the Summer Olympics, capitalise “summer”• Note on Tokyo 2020: Although the Tokyo 2020 Games were played in 2021, they must be referred to as the 2020 Olympics, but you may mention 2021 in certain phrasings. E.g. In 2021, both France teams added to their extensive medal collections, taking gold at the Tokyo 2020 Games
Olympic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjective, always capitalised. E.g. Olympic gold medal, Olympic athlete, Olympic organisers, Olympic host city, Olympic flame, etc.
Olympian	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any athlete who has competed at the Olympics
Olympiad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A period of four years beginning on 1 January of the Olympic year. Olympiads are numbered consecutively in Roman numerals from the 1896 Athens Games
European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organised by the European Olympic Committees (EOC); includes handball
Youth Olympic Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)• The Summer Youth Olympic Games now include beach handball, which replaced indoor
The World Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organised by the International World Games Association• Include beach handball
ANOC World Beach Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organised by the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC)• Include beach handball
Paralympic Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A major international multi-sport event involving athletes with a range of disabilities, including impaired muscle power (e.g. paraplegia and quadriplegia, muscular dystrophy, post-polio syndrome, spina bifida), impaired passive range of movement, limb deficiency (e.g. amputation or dysmelia), leg length difference, short stature, hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, vision impairment and intellectual impairment• Can be shortened to Paralympics
Special Olympics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The world’s largest sports organisation for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities
Special Olympics World Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An international sporting competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities, organised by the IOC-recognised Special Olympics organisation. Alternates between summer and winter games in two-year cycles• Also known as the Special Olympiad

5.5 EHF NON–COMPETITION EVENTS

EVENT	DEFINITION	NOTES
EHF Conference of Presidents	The Conference of Presidents is a consultative body of the EHF. It serves the exchange of experience, the formation of opinions, and information. The Conference of Presidents is convened by the Executive Committee as required and is normally held in years between EHF Congresses. Eligible to attend are the presidents of the member federations or a substitute nominated by them.	
EHF Conference of Secretaries General	Conference for Secretaries General is a platform that serves as an information exchange between the EHF and its member federations. It takes place on a biennial basis. The conference that deals with topics relating to the daily business of handball is convened by the Executive Committee as required and is normally held in years between EHF Congresses. Eligible to attend are the secretaries general of the member federations or a proxy nominated by them.	
EHF Excellence Awards	The annual event where the best players of the season are celebrated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always “EHF” all capitalised and both words starting with capitals• To indicate a specific edition, use only the year in which the ceremony is held. E.g. EHF Excellence Awards 2025• Formulations like the following are an acceptable alternative: Saugstrup was named back-to-back defender of the season at the EHF Excellence Awards for 2023/24 and 2024/25• The abbreviation EEA can be used with proper introduction
EHF Scientific Conference	The EHF Scientific Conference brings professional and scientific experts together in order to reflect on various aspects related to professional handball but also to continue the acquisition of knowledge about medical aspects in handball.	
EHF Goalkeeper Summit	An event concentrated entirely on education related to goalkeeping, with both theoretical and practical elements. Held for the first time in 2023.	
EHF Grassroots Convention	A biennial conference taking place on the fringe of the Men’s EHF EURO, with the first held in 2024. The focus of the lectures and breakout sessions is on grassroots handball – the non-elite game, youth and children.	
Women’s Handball Conference	A biennial conference held in conjunction with the Women’s EHF EURO, with the women’s game, women in the game and other relevant issues in focus. The first edition took place in 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be abbreviated to WHC following proper introduction

5.5.1 EHF projects

PROGRAMME	DEFINITION	NOTES
Christensen Grassroots Charter	An EHF initiative to establish a unified framework for the development of grassroots handball. By signing the Charter, federations commit to sustainability, inclusion, and enjoyment and long-term growth of youth in the game.	
Circle of a handball life	The circle of a handball life is a pathway for players, taking them through the game from childhood to old age, encouraging them to keep playing and enjoying handball throughout their lives. The circle of a handball life was unveiled at the EHF Conference of Presidents in September 2022.	
EHF Master Plan	The European Handball Master Plan was created in 2020 following significant research involving fans, clubs, players, federations and leagues. The strategic plan, designed to take the EHF and the sport through to 2027, is aimed at making handball more attractive to fans; at increasing the number of active players, coaches and officials; and creating additional value for the sport. The Master Plan incorporates activities on a national level, whereby member federations can apply to work with the EHF on the three-year project.	
Respect Your Talent (RYT)	An EHF project that promotes the holistic development of talented players on and off the court.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always with each word capitalised• Abbreviated as RYT (always in all capitals) after proper introduction

5.6 EHF BODIES

BODY	NOTES
European Handball Federation (EHF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refer to as “the” European Handball Federation/EHF• Always use all three words or letters• No full stops between letters in the acronym• “European Handball Federation (EHF)” on first use and “EHF” from then on• Avoid translating — this is a brand name
EHF Marketing GmbH EHF Marketing EHFM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “EHF” part always in acronym form• Do not use “the” before as you would with standalone “EHF”
EHF Services & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manages EHF headquarters
EHF Congress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The highest body in the federation, which meets every two years• Comprised of all member federations in the EHF
EHF Extraordinary Congress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An EHF Extraordinary Congress can be summoned outside biannual EHF Congress gatherings

5.6.1 Commissions

General notes:

- commission names are always capitalised
- as per the standard rules, use the full term on first use then abbreviation is possible if the abbreviation will be used at least three times. If this is the case, be sure to introduce the abbreviation in parentheses
- all position titles are capitalised when used as part of the title. E.g. Competitions Commission Chairperson XXXX...
- not capitalised as part of a regular sentence. E.g. XXXX, CC chairperson said...
- in all commissions, up to one gender representative may also be nominated should either gender not be represented

BODY	NOTES
Competitions Commission (CC)	<p>The Competitions Commission is an elected body charged with overseeing the organisation of the EHF club and national team competitions for men and women as well as refereeing matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members (elected by Congress): Chairperson (also member of EHF Executive Committee) Member Men’s Competitions Member Women’s Competitions Member Refereeing• Nominated members: Member Men’s Club Competitions — nominated by Men’s Forum Club Handball Gender representative Member Women’s Club Competitions — nominated by Women’s Forum Club Handball Gender representative Gender representative

BODY	NOTES
Methods Commission (MC)	<p>The Methods Commission is an elected body charged with overseeing coaching and technical matters, education and training and the development of the sport in Europe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members (elected by Congress): Chairperson (also member of EHF Executive Committee) Methods and coaching Education and training Youth, school and non-competitive sports Development• Nominated members: Gender representative
Beach Handball Commission (BC)	<p>The Beach Handball Commission is charged with overseeing the organisation of beach handball competitions and the development of the sport and technical aspects including refereeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members (elected by Congress): Chairperson (also member of EHF Executive Committee) Events and competitions Officiating Game design and coaching Development and promotion• Nominated members: Gender representative

5.6.2 Other

General note:

- only use abbreviations/acronyms in internal communication

BODY	NOTES
EHF Comptrollers (COMPT)	<p>The EHF Comptrollers is an elected body charged with the internal examination of all EHF financial activity. The Comptrollers meet prior to independent audits and prepare reports, which are then put before the Finance Delegation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members (elected by Congress): Member 1 Member 2 Substitute

BODY	NOTES
Nations Board (NB)	<p>The Nations Board represents the interests of the member federations. It is the duty of the body to ensure the overall development of handball by working in the interests of the emerging and established national federations.</p> <p>A further function of the Nations Board is to analyse and develop the input received prior to submitting proposals to the EHF Executive Committee. It was introduced into the EHF structure in 2010 and reformed in 2021 to encapsulate both men’s and women’s activities.</p> <p>The Nations Board is an autonomous group of experts forming a body that is directly elected by Congress. The Nations Board originally replaced the National Team Committee and the National Team Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members (Nominated by Nations Committee Men and Nations Committee Women): Member 1 (nominated by NCM) Member 2 (nominated by NCM) Member 3 (nominated by NCM) Member 4 (nominated by NCM) Member 5 (nominated by NCM) Member 6 (nominated by NCM) <p>Note: The chairperson and deputy chairperson are selected from the elected members.</p>
Nations Committee Men/Women (NCM/NCW)	<p>The Nations Committee Men and Nations Committee Women represent the interests of the member federations specifically focusing on the area of men’s and women’s handball, respectively, at all levels, i.e. club and national team activities. It is the duty of the bodies to support the overall development of handball by working in the interests of both emerging and established national federations.</p> <p>Further functions of the NCM and NCW are to analyse and develop input received prior to submitting proposals to the Nations Board. The NCM and NCW were introduced into the EHF structure in 2021. They are autonomous groups of experts forming bodies that are directly elected by Congress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members (elected by Congress): Member 1 (nation ranked 1–12) Member 2 (nation ranked 13–24) Member 3 (nations ranked 25–36) Member 4 (nations ranked 37–50) Member 5* Member 6* <p>Note: The chairpersons and deputy chairpersons are selected from the elected members.</p> <p>*elected from the non-elected candidates from groups 1–4</p>

BODY	NOTES
Women's Handball Board (WHB)	<p>The Women's Handball Board is responsible for the promotion and development of women's handball across Europe. It is made up of persons representing the interests of the national federations, clubs, leagues, players, and the EHF, with two representatives from each stakeholder group making up the Board. The Board was introduced into the EHF structure in June 2012. The Board's chairperson sits on the EHF Executive Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members (elected by Congress): Member 1 (nominated by NCW) Member 2 (nominated by NCW) Member 3 (nominated by clubs [WFCH]) Member 4 (nominated by clubs [WFCH]) Member 5 (nominated by leagues [EXEC]) Member 6 (nominated by leagues [EXEC]) Member 7 (nominated by Players [EXEC]) Member 8 (nominated by Players [EXEC]) Member 9 (nominated by EXEC) Member 10 (nominated by EXEC) <p>Note: The chairperson and deputy chairperson are selected from the elected members.</p>
Professional Handball Board (PHB)	<p>The Professional Handball Board is a common strategic platform for the key stakeholders within European men's handball. It is made up of representatives of national federations, clubs, professional leagues and players, with two representatives from each stakeholder group making up the Board. The Chairperson of the Professional Handball Board also has a seat on the EHF Executive Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members: Member 1 (nominated by NCM) Member 2 (nominated by NCM) Member 3 (nominated by clubs [MFCH]) Member 4 (nominated by clubs [MFCH]) Member 5 (nominated by leagues [EHLB]) Member 6 (nominated by leagues [EHLB]) Member 7 (nominated by players [EHPU]) Member 8 (nominated by players [EHPU]) Member 9 (nominated by EXEC) Member 10 (nominated by EXEC) <p>Notes:</p> <p>The EHF President and Secretary General also sit on the Professional Handball Board. They are non-voting participants</p> <p>The chairperson and vice chairperson are selected from the elected members</p>

BODY	NOTES
European Handball League Board (EHLB)	<p>The European Handball League Board is a stakeholder representation group of the European Handball Leagues (EHL), incorporated into the EHF structure and comparable to the Nations Board. The main focus of the EHLB is to work closely with European leagues and facilitate an exchange of information on a wide range of topics such as media, events, licensing, best practice and new business models. The EHLB brings all relevant submissions to the Professional Handball Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members (elected by Congress as of 2021) <p>Member 1 (leagues ranked 1–13) Member 2 (leagues ranked 14–27) Member 3 (leagues ranked 28–50) Member 4 (free election) Member 5 (free election) Member 6 (free election)</p> <p>The chairperson and vice chairperson are selected from the elected members.</p>
Women’s European Handball League Board (WEHLB)	<p>The Women’s European Handball League Board was founded and incorporated into the EHF’s stakeholder structure in 2024. Its focus and role is comparable to the EHLB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members <p>Member 1: Chairperson (leagues ranked 1–9) Member 2: Vice chairperson (leagues ranked 10–33) Member 3 (leagues ranked 34–50) Member 4 (free election) Member 5 (free election) Member 6 (free election)</p> <p>The chairperson and the vice chairperson represent the WEHLB in the Women’s Handball Board.</p>
EHF Anti-Doping Unit (EAU)	<p>Independent of the EHF, with the overall responsibility for implementing and monitoring the EHF Regulations for anti-doping.</p>
Finance Delegation	<p>The Finance Delegation oversees the financial activities of the EHF, ensuring transparency and upholding its financial integrity. In a secondary function, it also acts as the Advisory Board to EHF Marketing GmbH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Finance Delegation is comprised of the: <p>EHF president Vice president Vice president finance Secretary general Chief finance officer</p> <p>It meets regularly throughout the year.</p>
Technical Delegation	<p>Comprised of the chairs of the technical commissions (Competitions, Methods and Beach Handball Commissions) and created to identify and agree on issues relevant across all commissions.</p>
Legal Delegation	<p>The Legal Delegation meets annually to ensure coordination and consistency between the three legal bodies: EHF Court of Handball, Court of Appeal and EHF Court of Arbitration. The body is comprised of the presidents of the three legal bodies in addition to the EHF’s legal management staff members.</p>

BODY	NOTES
Scientific Network	Network of scientific, medical and technical experts within handball, created to develop a broader understanding of scientific issues in the sport.
Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC)	The Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC) is a think tank for the EHF Competitions Commission in refereeing matters, with a special focus on referee education and activities. The TRC members are nominated by the EHF Executive Committee. The TRC consists of six members and is chaired by the member of the EHF Competitions Commission responsible for refereeing.

5.6.3 Stakeholders

BODY	NOTES
Forum Club Handball (FCH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents the interest of the clubs • Represented on Professional Handball Board • Not Group Club Handball nor GCH; this was dissolved as a business on in 2011
European Handball Players' Union (EHPU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents players' interests and those of the players' union • Represented on Professional Handball Board

5.6.4 EHF Marketing

BODY	NOTES
Advisory Board (AB)	<p>The EHFM Advisory Board is tasked with advising the EHFM Managing Director(s) and General Meeting of Shareholders. The AB may make recommendations and/or issue instructions to EHFM and its Managing Director(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members (minimum of two; maximum of five): EHF President — Chairperson AB/MCB EHF First Vice President — member AB/MCB EHF Vice President Finances — member AB/MCB EHF Secretary General — member AB/MCB Men's Forum Club Handball representative — member AB/MCB Women's Forum Club Handball representative — member AB/WCB Forum Club Handball Managing Director — member AB/MCB
General Assembly	<p>Legal body which takes the foreseen necessary decisions, according to Austrian law, for private limited companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members: EHF President Members of the Advisory Board EHFM Managing Director EHFM Comptrollers' Council

BODY	NOTES
Men's Club Board (MCB) Women's Club Board (WCB)	<p>Specialist advisory boards consisting of members appointed by the EHF Executive Committee. The role of the boards is to advise the EHFM Advisory Board and managing director. Members serve for a period of two years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCB —eight members: EHF: EHF President — chairperson AB/MCB EHF First Vice President — member AB/MCB EHF Vice President Finances — member AB/MCB EHF Secretary General — member AB/MCB • Men's Forum Club Handball MFCH Managing Director — member AB/MCB MFCH Vice President — member MCB MFCH Deputy Vice President — member MCB MFCH representative — member MCB • WCB — five members: WFCH representative — chairperson WCB WFCH representative — vice chairperson WCB WFCH representative — member WCB WFCH representative — member WCB WFCH representative — member WCB

5.6.5 Legal system

BODY	NOTES
EHF Court of Handball (CoH) First instance	<p>The EHF Court of Handball handles disputes in the first instance. Cases of first instance refer to infringements of EHF/IHF Regulations, disciplinary offences and disputes in connection with competitions between national federations or clubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members (elected by Congress): President Vice President Vice President Member 1 Member 2 Member 3 Member 4 Member 5 Member 6 <p>Notes: Members are listed by number of votes received at the EHF Congress Both genders must be represented, with at least two of whichever is the minority</p>

BODY	NOTES
EHF Court of Appeal (CoA) Second instance	<p>The EHF Court of Appeal was created to examine and decide on cases in the second instance (appeals).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members (elected by Congress): President Vice President Member 1 Member 2 Member 3 Member 4 Member 5 <p>Notes: Members listed by number of votes received at the EHF Congress Both genders must be represented, with at least two of whichever is the minority</p>
European Handball Court of Arbitration (ECA)	<p>The European Handball Court of Arbitration is an independent body offering the means to solve disputes between professionals in a flexible and efficient way. Created and recognised by the EHF, it offers an alternative to civil courts and to the complexity and length of their proceedings once all channels of the EHF legal system have been used.</p> <p>ECA proceedings are handled in accordance with its Rules of Arbitration and its decisions are recognised by the EHF and binding on all parties. Official website can be found at www.eca-handball.com.</p>
European Handball Court of Arbitration Council (ECC)	<p>The European Handball Court of Arbitration Council's main responsibility is to safeguard the independence of ECA. Hence, it handles the general organisation and administration of ECA, its representation towards the EHF Congress, reviews, assesses and subsequently appoints the list of arbitrators, appoints substitute arbitrators within the course of proceedings and may take various procedural decisions such as interim measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ECC is made up of the following members: President Vice President (elected by Congress) Vice President (nominated by Professional Handball Board and the Women's Handball Board)

5.7 EHF JOB TITLES

The job titles are capitalised every time they are used in a connection with a specific person. In job vacancies or continuous text when the position does not refer to a person, the job title is not capitalised.

POSITION	NOTES
EHF President	
EHF Secretary General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plural is secretaries general. E.g. Conference of Secretaries General• Not general secretary
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within EHF structure, role is held by the president• A rare case of an acronym not requiring introduction
Chief Operating Officer (COO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within EHF structure, role is held by secretary general
Chief Sports Officer (CSO)	
Chief Finance Officer (CFO)	
First Vice President	
Vice President Finances	
Senior Director	
Director	
Managing Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Position only within EHFM
Assistant Managing Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Position only within EHFM
Executive Managing Director	
Honorary President	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awarded by Congress
Honorary Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Awarded by Congress
Chairman, Chairwoman, Chairperson, Chair	

5.8 EHF MEMBER FEDERATIONS

General notes:

- always use the English name of the federation when written in full
- when abbreviating the federation, introduce the own language acronym. E.g. Royal Spanish Handball Federation (Royal Federación Española de Balonmano; RFEB)
- always use the nationality rather than the ethnicity

5.8.1 Full members

	COUNTRY	CODE	ADJECTIVE/PEOPLE	FEDERATION
1	Albania	ALB	Albanian Albanians	Federata Shqiptare E Hendbollit Albanian Handball Federation
2	Andorra	AND	Andorran Andorrans	Federació Andorrana d’Handbol Andorran Handball Federation
3	Armenia	ARM	Armenian Armenians	Armenian Handball Federation
4	Austria	AUT	Austrian Austrians	Österreichischer Handballbund Austrian Handball Federation
5	Azerbaijan	AZE	Azerbaijani Azerbaijanis	Azerbaycan Hendbol Federasiyas Azerbaijan Handball Federation
6	Belgium	BEL	Belgian Belgians	Union Royale Belge de Handball Royal Belgian Handball Federation
7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	BIH	Bosnians Bosnians (nationality) Bosniaks (ethnicity)	Rukometni savez Bosne i Hercegovine Handball Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
8	Belarus	BLR	Belarusian Belarusians (Not Belarussians)	Belorusskaya Federacija Gandbola Handball Federation of Belarus
9	Bulgaria	BUL	Bulgarian Bulgarians	Bulgarska federacija po handbal Bulgarian Handball Federation
10	Croatia	CRO	Croatian Croats (nationality) Croats (ethnicity)	Hrvatski rukometni savez Croatian Handball Federation
11	Cyprus	CYP	Cypriot Cypriots	Kipiakí Omospondía Hirosférisis Cyprus Handball Federation
12	Czechia	CZE	Czech Czechs	Cesky Svaz Hazene Czech Handball Federation
13	Denmark	DEN	Danish Danes	Dansk Håndbold Danish Handball

	COUNTRY	CODE	ADJECTIVE/PEOPLE	FEDERATION
14	Spain	ESP	Spanish Spaniards	Real Federación Española de Balonmano Royal Spanish Handball Federation
15	Estonia	EST	Estonian Estonians	Eesti Käsipalliliit Estonian Handball Association
16	Faroe Islands	FAR	Faroese Faroese	Hondbóltssamband Føroya Faroe Island Handball Federation
17	Finland	FIN	Finnish Finns	Suomen Käsipalloliitto Finnish Handball Federation
18	France	FRA	French	Fédération Française de Handball French Handball Federation
19	Georgia	GEO	Georgian Georgians	Georgian National Handball Federation
20	Germany	GER	German Germans	Deutscher Handballbund German Handball Federation
21	Great Britain	GBR	British	British Handball Association
22	Greece	GRE	Greek Greeks	Omospondía Hirosférisis Ellinikí Hellenic Handball Federation
23	Hungary	HUN	Hungarian Hungarians	Magyar Kézilabda Szövetség Hungarian Handball Federation
24	Ireland	IRL	Irish	Irish Olympic Handball Association
25	Iceland	ISL	Icelandic Icelanders	Handknattleikssamband Íslands Icelandic Handball Federation
26	Israel	ISR	Israeli Israelis	Israel Handball Association
27	Italy	ITA	Italian Italians	Federazione Italiana Giuoco Handball Italian Handball Federation
28	Kosovo	KOS	Kosovan Kosovans	Federata e Hendbollit e Kosovës Kosova Handball Federation
29	Latvia	LAT	Latvian Latvians	Latvijas Handbola Federācija Latvian Handball Federation
30	Liechtenstein	LIE	Liechtenstein Liechtensteiners	Liechtensteiner Handballverband Lichtenstein Handball Federation
31	Lithuania	LTU	Lithuanian Lithuanians	Lietuvos rankinio federacija Lithuanian Handball Federation
32	Luxembourg	LUX	Luxembourgish Luxembourgers	Fédération Luxembourgeoise de Handball Luxembourgish Handball Federation

	COUNTRY	CODE	ADJECTIVE/PEOPLE	FEDERATION
33	Moldova	MDA	Moldovan Moldovans	Federația Moldovenească de Handbal Handball Federation Of Moldova
34	North Macedonia	MKD	Always refer to <u>North</u> Macedonia <i>but</i> Macedonian or Macedonians <i>but not</i> North Macedonian	Rakometna Federacija na Makedonija Macedonian Handball Federation
35	Malta	MLT	Maltese	Malta Handball Association
36	Montenegro	MNE	Montenegrin Montenegrins	Rukometni Savez Crne Gore Handball Federation of Montenegro
37	Monaco	MON	Monegasque	Fédération Monégasque de Handball Monegasque Handball Federation
38	Netherlands	NED	Dutch	Nederlands Handbal Verbond Dutch Handball Federation
39	Norway	NOR	Norwegian Norwegians	Norges Håndballforbund Norwegian Handball Federation
40	Poland	POL	Polish Poles	Związek Piłki Ręcznej w Polsce Polish Handball Federation
41	Portugal	POR	Portuguese	Federação de Andebol de Portugal Portuguese Handball Federation
42	Romania	ROU	Romanian Romanians	Federatia Romana de Handbal Romanian Handball Federation
43	Russia	RUS	Russian Russians	Federacija Gandbola Rossii Handball Federation of Russia
44	Slovenia	SLO	Slovenian/Slovene Slovenians/Slovenes	Rokometna zveza Slovenije Slovenian Handball Federation
45	Serbia	SRB	Serbian Serbians (nationality) Serbs (ethnicity)	Rukometni savez Srbije Serbian Handball Federation
46	Switzerland	SUI	Swiss	Schweizerischer Handball-Verband Swiss Handball Federation
47	Slovakia	SVK	Slovakian/Slovak Slovakians/Slovaks	Slovenský zväz hádzanej Slovak Handball Federation
48	Sweden	SWE	Swedish Swedes	Svenska Handbollförbundet Swedish Handball Federation
49	Türkiye	TUR	Turkish Turks	Türkiye Hentbol Federasyonu Turkish Handball Federation
50	Ukraine	UKR	Ukrainian Ukrainians	Federacija gandbolu Ukraïni Ukraine Handball Federation

5.8.2 Associated federations

Note: do not include “member” when using this term — “associated federation” not “associated member federation”

	COUNTRY	CODE	ADJECTIVE/PEOPLE	FEDERATION
1	England	ENG	English	England Handball Association
2	Scotland	SCO	Scottish Scots	Scottish Handball Association

5.9 IHF BODIES

BODY	NOTES
International Handball Federation (IHF)	Governing body for handball worldwide. Founded on 11 July 1946 by Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland (formerly International Amateur Handball Federation, founded in 1928). EHF is a member/continental federation of the IHF.
IHF Congress	Meets every two years.
IHF Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President• First Vice President• Treasurer• Executive Committee Member• Executive Committee Member• Vice President Europe• Vice President Africa• Vice President Asia• Commission of Organising and Competitions Chairperson• Commission of Coaching and Methods Chairperson• Playing Rules and Referees Commission Chairperson• Commission for Development Chairperson• Athletes’ Commission Chairperson• Representative Africa• Representative Asia• Representative Europe• Representative Oceania• Representative North America and Caribbean• Representative South and Central America
IHF Executive Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• President• First Vice President• Treasurer• Member• Member
IHF Commission of Organising and Competitions (COC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Six additional members, with each continent of at least 15 member federations represented
IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)	
IHF Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)	
IHF Medical Commission (MC)	
Commission for Development (CD)	
Athletes’ Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Four additional members, with at least two of each gender

BODY	NOTES
IHF Women’s Handball Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Additional members
IHF Children’s and Youth Handball Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Additional members
IHF Beach Handball Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Three additional members
IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Additional members
IHF Arbitration Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• 10 members elected by Congress
IHF Arbitration Tribunal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• 10 members elected by Congress
IHF Ethics Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chairperson• Up to five members elected by Congress
IHF Internal Auditors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members elected by Congress

6. EHF STYLE, LANGUAGE & GRAMMAR

6.1 HOUSE STYLE

TERM	NOTES
abbreviations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write acronyms and sponsor names in capitals, e.g. EHF, IHF, etc• For certain organisations, abbreviations can be used without introduction in brackets at the beginning. Those are EHF, IHF and IOC, although IHF and IOC are perhaps better introduced dependent on audience for a given text. Others must be introduced• Use own-language acronyms of national federations, e.g. NHV over DHF, DHB over GHF, HRS over CHF. Introduce the term in parenthesis using both the native language name and then the acronym, e.g. The German Handball Association (Deutschen Handballbundes [DHB])• For competitions such as EHF Champions League, IHF World Championship and Olympic Games, abbreviations (i.e. CL, WCh and OG) should be used in media guides but nowhere else• Always use full names of EHF bodies; commission abbreviations can be used in internal documents but only after proper introduction in editorial• Avoid shortening “for example” and “that is” (to e.g. and i.e.) in editorial, including quotes; in other documents, these are acceptable. Be sure to include full stops after each letter
boy/girl/man/woman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anyone aged 18 or over is a man/woman
capital letters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid capitalising words unnecessarily — in English, only proper nouns (words that name a specific person, place or thing) are capitalised by default. Words like handball, coach and the playing positions are not capitalised• Do not capitalise just because a word seems important• Job titles should be capitalised when used as part of the person’s title. E.g. EHF President Michael Wiederer• Do not capitalise these job titles when part of a regular sentence. E.g. Michael Wiederer, president of the EHF• The EHF writes company and organisation names as written by the organisation, therefore, SELECT and not Select, FIFA and not Fifa, etc. Check how the organisation writes it in their communication
countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Country codes, when included, should be shown in parentheses or with a slash. E.g. THW Kiel (GER), Metz Handball (FRA), Michael Wiederer / AUT• Use country names rather than country codes in editorial texts. E.g. The French side, the German club, Norway• In the case of the Faroe Islands and the Netherlands, use “the” in text but do not use in results/match info lines. E.g. “Faroe Islands vs Netherlands” but “The Faroe Islands beat the Netherlands”
cultural sensitivities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not use words like massacred, killed, destroyed, crucified or blitzed to describe a situation• Anything with a war, religious or contentious overtone should be avoided unless in a direct quote
Covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The name of the coronavirus• Always use Covid-19 not SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19
disabled people people with intellectual disabilities people with learning disabilities athletes with impairment people with an impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not use terms that stereotype or stigmatise. E.g. handicapped — this is an outdated term• Do not use the following terms (acceptable terms after arrows):<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Victim of, suffering from, afflicted by, crippled by > person who has, person with- Wheelchair-bound, in a wheelchair > uses a wheelchair, uses a mobility aid in the form of a wheelchair- Invalid > disabled person- Mentally handicapped, backward, retarded, slow > person with learning difficulties, disabilities- The disabled, the handicapped, the blind, the deaf > disabled people, blind people, deaf people- Deaf and dumb > deaf and speech-impaired, hearing and speech-impaired- Disabled sport > sport for people with disabilities

TERM	NOTES
EHFTV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always all in capital letters • If used as a link in social media posts, always use EHFTV.com • In articles, always EHFTV (without .com)
email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No hyphen needed
emerging nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower-ranked nations should be referred to as “emerging handball nations” or “emerging nations” rather than weaker nations, smaller nations or similar
euro (currency)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plural is “euro” — an “s” is never needed • Always written lower case • The abbreviation is EUR. The symbol € or EUR always precedes the figure. E.g. €2.4 billion • In editorial, prefer the symbol to “EUR”
names — people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reference for how we write names on eurohandball.com and its associated websites is the players’ database on eurohandball.com • Names comprised of three or more names/words should be shortened. Check the guidelines for player names document for rules for different nationalities • Note that names in the database and player lists may not always include accents, and the database is to be followed in editorial
nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nation is always singular. E.g. Montenegro is the host of the W17 EHF EURO 2025 • Federations are singular. E.g. The Danish Handball Federation was the host of the EHF EURO 2014
national federations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use lower case for the general term “national federations” but upper case for specific names. E.g. Croatian Handball Federation • See “abbreviations” and “member federations” sections of style guide for guidance on shortening
places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local language/pronunciations are disregarded. E.g. Belgrade not Beograd, Cologne not Köln • The exception is team names that use a native language spelling: Use that when referring to the team. E.g. Kobenhavn play their matches in Copenhagen
results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the match information section of reviews, write results as follows: RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko (SLO) vs HC PPD Zagreb (CRO) 20:21 (10:10) • In the case of overtime/penalties: Lomza Vive Kielce (POL) vs Telekom Veszprém (HUN) 39:38 (13:17; 29:29; 35:35) • In running text, do not include country codes in parentheses and be sure to use the full “versus” • In reports always refer to the winner first regardless of whether they were the home or away team. E.g. Sola won 24:22 • Never refer to the losing score first. E.g. Despite playing on their home court, CSM lost 24:22
sponsors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always use the full and official names of EHF sponsors • When referring to title sponsors, only use the title sponsor for the applicable year. For historical statements do not mention the sponsor. E.g. “Barcelona have won the EHF Champions League 11 times” — no “Machineseecker” in a case like this • There is no need to include former title sponsors such as VELUX or DELO • Non-EHF sponsor names should be avoided in headlines, unless they are a part of a club name • In legal texts and marketing/press releases, the full names should be used at all times
teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In editorial, for official names of clubs in EHF competitions, use the full name on first instance and in match information lines. E.g. Lomza Vive Kielce. Subsequently, shorten the name when referring to the club. E.g. Kielce • The name of national and club teams is always treated as plural. E.g. “Norway are the reigning champions” or “Magdeburg are the title holders” • However, if including words like “team,” “squad” and “line-up,” use singular. E.g. Magdeburg’s line-up from the 18th minute on was especially effective, allowing them to close the six-goal gap • Club names should be used as they appear in the database, including non-English spellings of cities if applicable

TERM	NOTES
versus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use full term in editorial — “vs” is only for the match info line in previews and reviews, and social media use• Never place a full stop after “vs”
websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When necessary to include the URL of an EHF website, refer to them as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- eurohandball.com- ehfeuro.eurohandball.com- ehfcl.eurohandball.com- ehfel.eurohandball.com- ehffinal4.eurohandball.com- beach.eurohandball.com- activities.eurohandball.com- respectyourtalent.eurohandball.com

6.2 GENERAL LANGUAGE & GRAMMAR

General notes:

- the EHF uses British English. This means there are certain spellings to use:
 - “ise” words use an “s.” E.g. analyse, organise/organisation, realise
 - our” words use a “u.” E.g. colour, honour
 - “re” words have the “r” first. E.g. metre, centre
 - double “l” are used. E.g. medallist, travelling
 - past tense verbs with “s” use a single “s”. E.g. focused
- when in doubt, google the word and “Oxford dictionary” to find the British spelling

TERM	NOTES
analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Plural is “analyses”Note the British English spellings “analyse” and “analysed”
any more	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Be sure to split the two words; avoid “anymore,” which is more US English
broadcast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The past tense of broadcast is broadcast; do not add an “ed” on the end. E.g. A total of 3,000 hours were broadcast
build-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As per other terms in this guide, the hyphenated form “build-up” is the noun
compatriot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refers to a person of the same nationality as another. E.g. Icelfander Gisli Thorgeir Kristjansson and his compatriot Ómar Ingi Magnusson were crucial in Magdeburg’s win.“Fellow Icelfander” or “fellow Icelandic back” is an acceptable alternative
champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Do not capitalise. They are the world champions, the European champions, the Olympic champions and even the Champions League championsTitle holders, title winners and winners are all acceptable alternativesNote that title holders and title winners are never hyphenatedA team are the defending champions until they have lost the chance to defend a trophy. E.g. in 2025, Barça were the defending champions up until they lost the semi-final against Magdeburg. After that, they were no longer actively defending the title
children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prefer the term “children” over “kids”“Kids” is an acceptable synonym but first use should be “children”
colours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Colours are never capitalised. E.g. gold medal; never Gold medal
compound adjectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use hyphens for compound adjectives. E.g. fast-paced attack, under-prepared defence, well-executed goal
Dr Mr/Mrs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No periods after such termsOnly use the shortened versions of Dr when appearing next to a person’s name; otherwise, use doctorGenerally, “Mr” or “Mrs” are unnecessary terms in editorial
double-header	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To be used when both legs of one round are played in the same venue on consecutive or near consecutive days
etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">When starting a list with “including,” you do not need to put “etc” on the end — the “including” indicates an incomplete list so the etc is implied. E.g. Recovery from a match includes steps like ice baths, hydration and consultations with team medical staff

TERM	NOTES
fewer/less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use “fewer” for countable nouns. E.g. FTC scored fewer goals in the whole half than Metz did in 10 minutes • Use “less” for non-countable or measurable nouns. E.g. Beach handball players tend to drink less water than is optimal for performance
heavyweight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not heavy-weight
judgement/judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In British English, judgement is the ability to make considered decisions or well-formed opinions; judgment is a legal term
led/lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The past tense of “lead” is “led.” E.g. Norway led by eight goals with four minutes to go, and had their 10th EURO trophy in sight • “Lead” is the present tense. E.g. Plock established a three-goal lead just before the break • Note the hyphenation and no “s” on “goal” when using the following formulation: Croatia created a five-goal lead in the first 15 minutes.
licence versus license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In British English, licence is the noun and license is the verb. A coach would hold a coaching licence but this is provided by a licensing authority
loose versus lose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose is an adjective to describe the opposite of tight. E.g. a loose ball • Lose is a verb to describe a defeat/suffer loss. E.g. “Eight goals behind with five minutes to go, Nantes knew they were about to lose the semi-final”
national teams versus club teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national team of a country always takes the country name. E.g. The France national team, France, the France team. • It is the team of France, not a French team • For club teams, use the normal adjectival form for a given country. E.g. Zagreb had a strong start. The Croatian team pushed ahead to lead by five 21 minutes in • Never refer to a club team as “the Danes” etc, due to the various nationalities represented. But forms such as “the Norwegians” can be used when referring to a national team match
national team players versus nationality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When referring to a national team context, always use the standard country name. E.g. Melvyn Richardson was instrumental in the title win. The France right back scored five goals in the last 10 minutes of the EHF EURO 2024 Final • Standard country names can also be used to indicate that player is part of the national team, even when talking about a club competition. E.g. Denmark centre back Helena Elver had a superb debut with Győr • When indicating only the player’s nationality, use the nominal form. E.g. Slovenian right back Ana Gros has thrived on her return to Brest Bretagne • Remember the adjective must always relate to a position or description, not the human. E.g. Danish back Line Haugsted — never Danish Line Haugsted. Dane Line Haugsted and Denmark’s Line Haugsted are appropriate formulations
practice versus practise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In British English practice is the noun and practise is the verb. E.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Scottish Handball Federation aimed for 20,000 children undergoing some kind of handball practice in the year - Óli Mittún has been practising his long-range shot, aiming to add to his range in attack
programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In British English, the spelling is programme • The exception a computer program
sic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to indicate that text as quoted is exactly what was said, written or tweeted by the person, and that the editor is knowingly attributing mistakes to that person. E.g. The coach said [sic] “I is pleased. We was the best team”
sold out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two words when used as a noun. E.g. The EHF FINAL4 Women 2026 is sold out • Must be hyphenated when used as an adjective. E.g. a sold-out event
-t/-ed endings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the form with a t for words in this category. E.g. dreamt, learnt, earnt • Always used t not ed

TERM	NOTES
that/which	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “That” is used where the information given is essential for the meaning of the sentence. E.g. “The match that Lunde refers to is the final of the EHF FINAL4 2025”• “Which” is used where non-essential information is provided. E.g. “The match that Lunde refers to, which was the most memorable in her career, was the final of the EHF FINAL4 2025. “Which” usually follows a comma
three-peat, four-peat, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always hyphenated
until	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use “until” in editorial• “Till” can be used in a quote but should be avoided otherwise

6.3 EHF TRENDS

6.3.1 Phrasing how-to

This section is based on season-to-season monitoring of common phrasings in EHF editorial.

TERM	NOTES
(sub)headings starting with “how”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No question mark needed when using a construction like “How Barça stayed unbeaten”
Goal and save counts	
use with when the tally comes after the player name. E.g. Henny Reistad was the top scorer with 10 goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The top scorer, with ... goals• A great goalkeeping performance, with ... saves• Do not use “by” here
use from when the tally comes before the player name. E.g. 15 saves from Ivan Pesic drove Nantes to a clear win	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ... goals from ...• ... saves from ...• Do not use “of” in this context
Efficiency	
save rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Save rate” or “save efficiency” is always preferable to the Hanglish phrase “saving efficiency.” E.g.:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Arpad Sterbik recorded a save rate of 45 per cent- Anna Kristensen made 18 saves at a rate of 42 per cent
shooting accuracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prefer shooting/shot accuracy to efficiency
attacking efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not use “best attack” — this is vague and there is always a more accurate alternative. E.g.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The most efficient attack in the competition, with an average of 32 goals scored per game- The highest-scoring attack in the competition, with 240 goals so far
Unnecessary use of “the”	
arena names	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No “the” is needed before an arena name. E.g. the EHF FINAL4 Men takes place in/at LANXESS arena
... place	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “The” is never needed before a standalone place/ranking. E.g. a direct clash for fourth place on the table• But do use “the” before “the ...-ranked/placed side”

6.3.2 Common incorrect phrases

Note that the left-hand column is generally the term that should *not* be used — read the explanation to learn what to do instead.

AVOID	EXPLANATION
best attack/defence/scorer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can only be considered correct in the context of the highest shooting accuracy in a match or competition — cannot apply to the top scorer• Never applicable to a team’s attack or defence — use options like most effective, most efficient or fastest instead
both sides have met three times before	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not use when talking about head-to-head statistics — this is incorrect as the versus element means they are not the same grammatically• “The sides have...” is the correct phrasing• Use “both sides” only when the teams are in the same position. E.g. both sides have been hit by injuries; both sides won their most recent domestic matches• Same applies for another word other than “sides” — the point here is the use of “both,” so similarly, do not say “both clubs/teams have met”
sealed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Sealed” is only applicable when talking about a specific action that secured a win. E.g. With 10 seconds to go, a fast-break goal from Nemanja Ilic sealed the win for Toulouse• Never use “sealed” as a general term for a victory or successful qualification• Other options: secured, recorded, took, collected, earned, ensured
standalone faced/face	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teams cannot “face 10 times” — they can only “face each other 10 times”• Same applies in past tense — must be: “faced each other 10 times”• It is also incorrect to say “German sides face as round 5 begins” — must be “face off”
football terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Never use kick-off — handball has a throw-off• Avoid football terms like “pitch” — handball is played on a court or in an arena (or a hall, for smaller scale matches)
former champions/winners/title holders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use past rather than “former,” as a team is always champions/a player is always champion of the given season/tournament they won• Similarly, use past finalists rather than “former”• The exception is to use former in a more immediate context “former title holders Barça will leave Cologne empty-handed after losing the 3/4 placement match on Sunday”
the reason why	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No “why” is needed after “the reason”. E.g. The reason France’s defence is so effective is ...
largest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Avoid largest — in all contexts, it is either wrong or there are better alternatives• When talking about a count in numbers, as in a tally of goals, saves or similar, always use “highest”• When talking about the score line, clearest is the best word, but biggest is also OK
first-ever participation/title/qualification etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ever is not necessary — the same can be communicated simply as “their first EHF EURO”• But when you really want to include “ever,” prefer first ... ever. E.g. Faroe Islands will play their first major championships ever• “In history” is never needed here, but if you wish to use it for emphasis, then do not include “ever” at all — one or the other is OK; not both
winners’ way/winning ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hanglish phrasing that should be avoided• Closest option would be “back on track” or “return to winning form”
European premium competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adjectives describing a competition must appear before the location• However, avoid premium; premier is better — so, premier European competition
Hungarian runners-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be more specific than this: Hungarian league 2024/25 runners-up or Hungarian league runners-up in 2024/25• The exception is if this has just happened. E.g. HBC Nantes travel to Cologne as the French champions, having just secured the title
slip from their hands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not an English expression — “slip” can be used without “from their hands.” E.g. let a 12-goal advantage slip in the last 15 minutes
winning/losing streak	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nothing less than three matches in a row can be considered a streak

6.4 NUMBERS

TERM	NOTES
ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hyphenate when used as adjective or as a noun:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 14-year-old boy- mini handball is good for five-year-olds- Peter is 14 years old- Alex is a 16-year-old girl- He won his first EHF Champions League title at age 23• Either “24-year-old Foppa” or “Foppa is 24 years old” — when adding an “s” on the end of “years,” never hyphenate• Always include “old” when including “years” — it is never “said the 30 years line player”
dates and times	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use day, month, year without “th” or “st,” a comma or a full stop. E.g. Monday 3 January 2011• Use the form with slashes (20/1/2011) only when writing dates in visuals — never in text• When indicating date range, remember to use a short dash and not a slash. E.g. The EHF FINAL4 Women 2026 will be held on 6–7 June 2026• Show times using the 24-hour clock (never am or pm) and always indicate whether a time is local or CET/CEST. E.g. 14:00 local time or 14:00 CET• Times are always with a colon, not a full stop or hyphen. E.g. 14:00 not 14.00• Avoid using the term “o’clock”• No zero is needed before single digit times or dates. E.g. 9:00 not 09:00
decades	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The form should be as follows: E.g. 1980s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s• Do not use e.g. eighties or ‘80s
general	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numbers up to nine should be written in word form, with some exceptions; numbers from 10 on should be written as numerals. E.g. Nils Lichtlein led Berlin with 11 goals• Exceptions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- An age range or amount of money always appears in numeric format. E.g. 4–12-year-olds or €20 million- Use numeric format when referring to a section in a document. E.g. Section 1- Use a comma as a separator in numbers beyond 999, not a full stop. E.g. The world record of 53,586 spectators was set at the Men’s EHF EURO 2024
ordinal numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most common is to add “th,” but there are exceptions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All “teen” numbers, add “th”: 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th- Then for each deca series after that: 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th- E.g. Magdeburg took the lead for the first time in the match in the 56th minute.
per cent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Always two words• In editorial and non-social media texts, spell out “per cent” rather than using the symbol %• The symbol can be used on social media
seasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playing seasons should always be written as follows: 1999/00, 2017/18, 2021/22, etc. Omit the century indicator part of the second year mentioned

6.5 PUNCTUATION

TERM	NOTES
apostrophe (contractions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In formal reports, texts, letters and editorial, do not use words (contractions) like don’t, can’t, haven’t in text except if they are in a direct quote• In blog posts or on social media, contractions can be used
commas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use after an introductory clause, to separate non-restrictive clauses, in lists and to join independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction. E.g.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Introductory clause and list: Other than Norway and Denmark, the only teams to have won the Women’s EHF EURO are Hungary, Montenegro and France- Non-restrictive clause: Tom Pelayo, who was called up to the France A side for the first time at age 28, is having a breakout season- Joining independent clauses: Spain had reached the semi-finals three straight times yet not taken the title, so their motivation was sky-high ahead of the final in 2018• Avoid the comma splice, where independent clauses are separated by a comma — this is incorrect. If a clause can stand alone and make sense, then it must be separated from another clause by a full stop, dash, colon or semi-colon. E.g. a heading like this: “Barça remain undefeated; first loss for Berlin”• Avoid separating a verb and subject. E.g.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Incorrect: Perennial contenders Veszprém, hope that the 2025/26 season will be their year- Correct: Perennial contenders Veszprém hope that the 2025/26 season will be their year• More guidance here
dashes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a short dash for all ranges. E.g. Denmark won three Olympic gold medals in a row (1996–2004). Note that a short dash is not a hyphen:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- hyphen: -- short dash: –• Use a long dash for sentence breaks. E.g. The France men have won three Olympic gold medals — first in 2008, then in 2012 and at Tokyo 2020
exclamation marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Never use in editorial text — the words should be descriptive enough to convey the meaning the exception is quotes, where an exclamation mark may help convey the person’s meaning
quotation marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use double quotation marks in all instances. E.g. “It was a perfect farewell,” said outgoing Norway coach Thorir Hergeirsson• For team nicknames, use quotation marks on first instance only. E.g. The “Foxes” will take on Magdeburg in the final on Sunday• Place punctuation inside the quotation marks. E.g. “We played a great game,” said Eckberg• Use single quotation marks for quotations within quotes. E.g. “I was just thinking: ‘Don’t let them score. Don’t let them score,’” said Vilde Ingstad.• When placing the person’s name before the quote, use a colon to introduce the quote. E.g. Elohim Prandi said: “It was a really tough game.”• Where a long quote is split over more than one paragraph, the quotation mark is not required at the end of the first paragraph. This indicates that the reported speech continues.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- E.g. Grace Zaadi said: “It was really important to win this game. “We were highly motivated.”
semi-colon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In an EHF context, most commonly be necessary in headings where two separate items are mentioned. E.g. France and Austria open with clear wins; Faroese make history• Can be used to separate two clauses that do not form separate sentences on their own, and is basically interchangeable with a dash in this sense — but the semi-colon is more formal while the dash indicates an impactful statement, so the dash is generally a preference for punchy editorial• Can also be used in complex lists, where the items in the list themselves need commas. E.g. Katrine Lunde is the most titled player in handball: She won the Champions League seven times, latest in 2023/24; the Olympic Games three times, also most recently in 2024; the World Championship twice; and raised the EHF EURO trophy seven times, including the last three, in 2020, 2022 and 2024
serial (Oxford) comma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An optional comma before the word “and” or “or” at the end of a list. E.g. He played in Germany, France, and Spain• Not used in EHF texts, except when required for clarity (which should be very rare)

6.6 PLAYER NAME GUIDELINES

Shortening for different cultures/languages

Notes for use:

- Rules are divided by language or region, with general rules for each
- National team player exceptions:
 - a guide for those players who do not follow the rules listed for their language, compared to how the names are listed in the EHF system
 - if a national team player is not listed on these exceptions, follow the general rules for shortening
- “Nickname” names is a list of players/coaches for whom we always use a certain shortening of their full name rather than using the full name, or a different spelling from the passport

SPANISH

Applies for players from Spain as well as Spanish-speaking countries in the Americas

- Tradition of two surnames: Father first; mother second
- Most common is to shorten to use father’s surname
- Some players will have two first names (a first name and a middle name). Use the first unless you know the case to be an exception
- Example: Jennifer Maria Gutiérrez Bermejo

National team player/coach exceptions

- David Davis

PORTUGUESE

Applies for players from Portugal as well as Portuguese-speaking countries — Brazil and Angola the most notable for EHF work

- Tradition of at least two surnames: Mother first; father second
- Most common is to shorten to use father’s surname
- Names can be much longer — stick to the first name listed and last name listed unless you know the case to be an exception
- Example: Rui Sousa Martins Silva

National team player exceptions

Portugal

Men’s team:

- Victor Iturriza

Brazil

Men’s team:

- Thiago Petrus
- Bryan Monte
- Felipe Borges

Women’s team:

- Tamires Morena
- Adriana Cardoso
- Patrícia Matieli
- Ana Paula Rodrigues
- Alexandra do Nascimento (married name on end; goes by own name)
- Eduarda Amorim (married name on end; goes by own name)
- Ana Cláudia Bolzan

ARABIC

Generally applicable for Arabic-speaking countries, including Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia

- Names are usually constructed as follows:
 - First name — person’s given name
 - Second name — father’s name
 - Third name — paternal grandfather’s name
 - Fourth name — family name
- General rule is to shorten to first name (given name) and fourth name (family name)
- Example: Mohamed Aly Abdelmotaleb Aly

National team player exceptions

Egypt

- Ali Zein
- Ahmed Hesham
- Ahmed Adel
- Karim Hendawy
- Mohamed Mamdouh

Additional notes

- Yahia Omar plays with “Yahia” on his jersey, but this is his first name, so always “Yahia Omar” in editorial and “Omar” when shortening after first mention
- Mohammad Sanad’s (first) name is spelled incorrectly in the EHF system — use Mohammad never Mohamed
- The Elderaa brother’s (Yehia and Seif) surnames are spelled differently in the EHF system. Follow how they have been input in the system, although it is the same last name

NORDICS

Applies for Danish, Swedish, Norwegian and Icelandic names

- May have up to four names — typically, the first and last are the ones to use
- As players have individual preferences for the inclusion of other parts of their name, best option when a new player comes around is to check what local media refer to them and follow that
- E.g. Michala Elsberg Møller

National team player exceptions

Denmark

Women’s team:

- Anne Mette Hansen
- Kaja Kamp
- Helena Elver
- Trine Østergaard
- Lærke Nolsøe
- Andrea Aagot

Men’s team:

- Magnus Landin
- Niklas Landin
- Rasmus Lauge
- Magnus Saugstrup
- Jannick Green
- Henrik Møllgaard
- Mads Mensah Larsen, shortened to Mensah
- Simon Hald
- Mads Hoxer

Norway

Women’s team:

- Kari Brattset Dale
- Thale Rushfeldt Deila
- Live Rushfeldt Deila
- Ragnhild Valle Dahl
- Ole Gustav Gjekstad
- Eli Marie Raasok
- Ane Cecilie Høgseth

Men’s team:

- Kent Robin Tønnesen
- Simen Holand Pettersen
- André Bergsholm Kristensen
- Vetle Eck Aga

Iceland

Men’s team:

- Gísli Þorgeir Kristjánsson
- Björgvin Pall Gustavsson
- Odinn Rikhardsson
- Janus Dadi Smarason
- Bjarki Mar Elisson
- Viktor Hallgrímsson
- Elvar Jónsson
- Ýmir Örn Gíslason
- Stiven Valencia
- Ellidi Vidarsson
- Teitur Örn Einarsson

ROMANIA

- Usually straightforward — use first and last name
- Example: Lorena Gabriela Ostase

National team player exceptions

Women’s team:

- Stefania Stoica

Men’s team:

- Andrei Nicusor Negru
- Ionut Nistor

“NICKNAME” NAMES

Use these forms rather than the full names for the following:

- Andy Schmid (SUI)
- Xavi Pascual (ESP)
- Chema Rodriguez (ESP)

Different spelling from system:

- Nikola Bilyk (AUT)