

Minutes

1st Meeting of IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group

Date: Saturday, 26 October 2019
Time: 11:00 – 19:00
Place: IHF Head Office
Peter-Merian-Strasse 23
4052 Basel
Switzerland

Participants:

Mrs Amal Khalifa	IHF General Director
Mr Frantisek Taborsky	IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman
Mr Jerzy Elias	IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Member
Mr Flavio Anderson Pedrosa de Melo	IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Member
Mrs Nicole Rabenseifner	IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Member

1. Welcome by the IHF Wheelchair Handball Working Group Chairman

Mr Taborsky informs the participants on the absence of IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa due to other business-related obligations. WG member Mr Minoru Kino is also excused. Furthermore he summarises the past IHF initiatives related to wheelchair handball (WH). Mrs Khalifa adds that the IHF has the status as an IPC Recognised International Federation since 2009.

2. Personal introduction by WG members

The participants briefly introduce themselves.

3. Report VISTA Conference

Mr Taborsky is coming back to important matters related to his former Report (10 September 2019) about the VISTA Conference. Most important for further WH development in cooperation with IPC:

- The presentation of WH on the occasion of PG (Tokyo 2020) isn't possible.
- Next opportunity to be included in the PG Programme will most likely be in 2022.
- Minimum condition for a sport to be accepted on the PG Programme is to be practised on a regular basis on at least three continents and in 24 countries.

4. WH in EHF

A short overview on wheelchair handball-related activities within the European Handball Federation is given. First initiatives were realised in 2005 resulting in the organisation of European Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournaments in 2015, 2016 and 2018. The next edition will be organised in Zagreb / CRO from 12 to 15 December 2019. Rules and regulations for EHF events as well as an EHF classification manual (based on the manual used by the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation) were produced and will be confirmed by the EHF EXEC at the end of November. A first European Wheelchair Handball Championship is planned for 2020.

Adaptations made for wheelchair Handball: 6 players on court (including at least one female player), placing ball on lap for 3 seconds equals 3 steps in handball; goal height adapted to 1.70m; ball size 2, using glue is forbidden.

5. WH in Japan

Due to the non-participation of Mr Minoru Kino, the information which had previously been distributed to the WG members is presented.

6. WH in Brazil

Flavio de Melo presents the development of wheelchair handball in Brazil as well as the 2 playing forms (7 players and 4 players) and the rule adaptations used.

10 Brazilian Wheelchair Handball Championships (with the 11th event coming up in 2019), 2 South American Wheelchair Handball Championships and 1 Pan-American Wheelchair Handball Championship have been played so far.

In 2019, 165 athletes (118 male players and 47 female players) were registered in 14 clubs.

Wheelchair Handball 7: 7 players per team, usual court size, goal height: 1.60m. General rule adaptations: adapted goal area with special rules to include wing players. Placing ball on lap is not allowed. Glue is forbidden.

Wheelchair Handball 4: 4 players per team, usual court size, 2 points for 360° goals and direct goalkeeper goals, matches are played in sets (similar to Beach Handball).

7 Master and PhD Studies as well as 17 papers were produced in Brazil. 2 articles, “Body composition and motor performance in wheelchair handball” and “validating of the battery of skill tests for wheelchair handball athletes”, are also available in English.

7. Rules of the Game

During the presentation the participants discuss the overall philosophy (WH as close as possible to handball rules) and the adaptation of basic rules. The working group agrees on the following:

Handball court:	40m x 20m
Goal size:	3m x 1.70m
Ball size:	2
Teams:	5 + 1 players, min. one female player on court and min. 3 female players in team delegation
Substitution area:	4.5m
Playing time:	2 x 20min, 10min. break (can be adapted if needed)
Team Time-Out:	one per half
Ball on the lap:	allowed (once; max. 3 seconds)
K.O. matches:	no extra time but penalty throws
Goal area:	NED and POR will be asked to test adapted goal area for wing players; feedback will be provided by EHF afterwards

8. Classification of athletes

EHF and Brazil both use a classification manual based on the manual of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF).

	Class s 0.5	Class s 1	Class 1.5	Class s 2	Class 2.5	Class s 3	Class 3.5	Class s 4	Class 4.5	Class s 5
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Basketball	Not used		Not defined		Not defined		Not defined		Not defined	Not used
WH EHF	Not used									Not used
WH Brazil										

The classes 1.5, 2.5, 3.5 and 4.5 are not pre-defined by the IWBF and are only used if players can neither be classified as class 1, nor as class 2.

The EHF has currently combined those classes but is aware that intermediate classes (as used in Basketball) might need to be implemented in the future.

Brazil has added the class 0.5 which is (according to the EHF Classifier Kees van Breukelen) rather aimed at Wheelchair Rugby players. Classes 4.5 and 5 are a distinction of above-knee and below-knee amputations and are not used in Basketball or EHF, as the performance on the court is basically equal. A similar class was once used by the EHF, but following the experience of the last tournament, no team had players of this class. It is clearly stated that wheelchair handball players are very similar to wheelchair basketball players in terms of the physical condition required to play the sport.

The working group decides that the current EHF system shall be used for IHF events. Further input will be given by the EHF after the 2019 European Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament.

9. Creation of promotional and methodical material

Mr Eliasz presents possible promotional activities as well as the necessary manual that shall be created in the future.

As a first step a sub-webpage for wheelchair handball shall be created providing already existing documents. However, the webpage shall only be published when a sufficient quantity and quality of material is available.

Furthermore video footage of the upcoming EHF events could be used for the creation of promotional and educational videos (has to be checked by EHF).

Two articles, "Body composition and motor performance in wheelchair handball" and "validating of the battery of skill tests for wheelchair handball athletes", are also available in English.

In addition, manuals for coaches, mental coaching as well as a profile for wheelchair handball players shall be defined in the future.

Mr Eliasz will provide a time schedule for the necessary initiatives.

10. Activation of National Handball Federations

A letter shall be sent to all Member Federations, informing on the current activities of wheelchair handball as well as recommending a cooperation with the National Paralympic Committees.

Mrs Rabenseifner informs on the need to present wheelchair handball directly to Member Federations, since (as experienced by the EHF in the past) the concept of wheelchair handball strongly differs from the WH reality. Therefore the perception of WH can only change by demonstrating wheelchair handball live to Member Federations.

In the past, interested Member Federations or clubs contacted already active Member Federations / clubs directly for an exchange of experience and the organisation of training matches without the direct involvement of the EHF. This cooperation led to the formation of national teams and their participation in EHF events. This example can be used by the IHF to gain more national teams / Member Federations.

11. Organisation of international competition

Mrs Rabenseifner presents some basic guidelines for the organisation of WH events based on the experience made during the EHF events.

Mrs Rabenseifner will prepare a competition manual for a future IHF Wheelchair Handball World Championship. A proposal for a corresponding playing schedule will be provided by Mr Taborsky.

A first World Championship could be hosted on the occasion of the 2021 IHF Women's World Championship in Spain in December 2021. A possible realisation will be checked by Mrs Khalifa.

12. Incorporation of WH in IHF Regulations

New Regulations, Rules and the Classification Manual, which will be prepared by the working group, need to be approved by the respective IHF bodies including the Council. Mrs Khalifa will check the necessary steps to be taken to include wheelchair handball in the IHF Statutes and to receive the approval for the new defined documents.

13. Miscellaneous

A system for wheelchair handball referees and delegates shall be defined. Selected referees and delegates from other continents could attend the upcoming EHF events as guests (no direct involvement in competition) – to be confirmed by the EHF.

Frantisek Taborsky thanks all participants and closes the meeting.