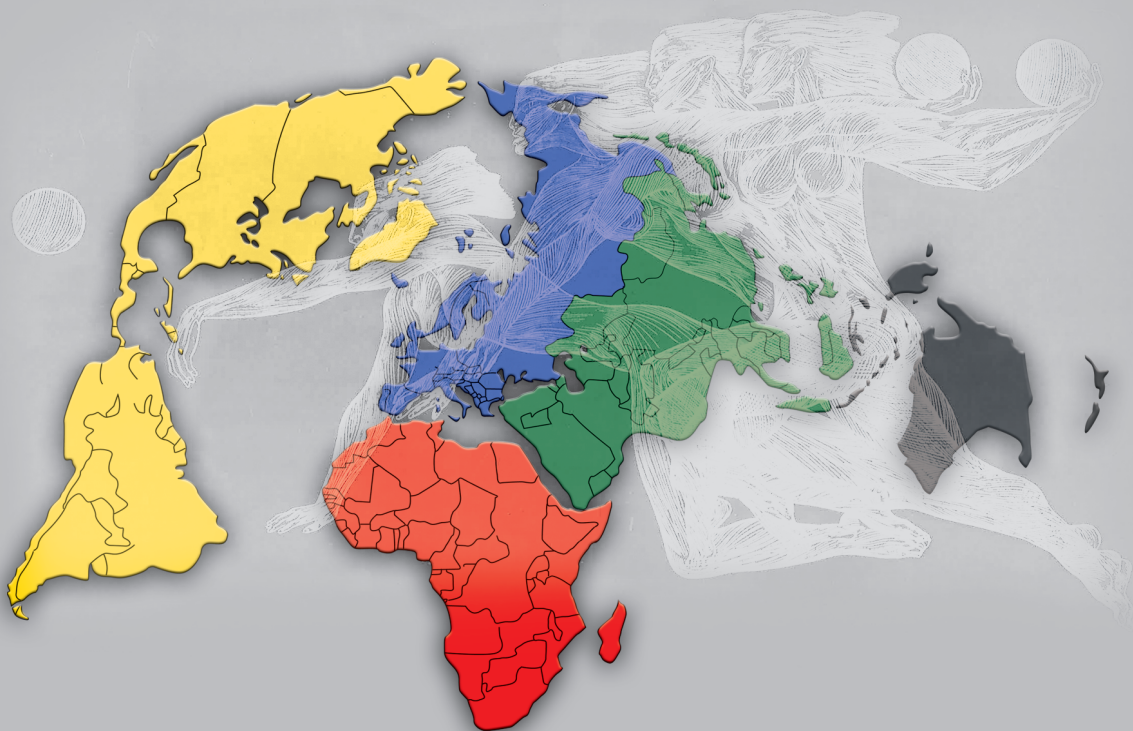


Fascination for Thousands of Years

HANDBALL

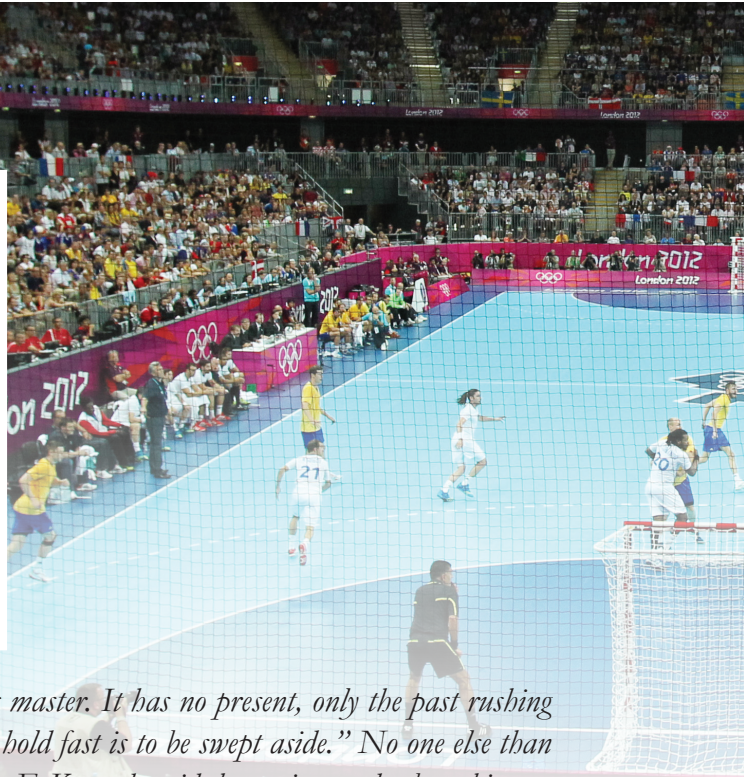


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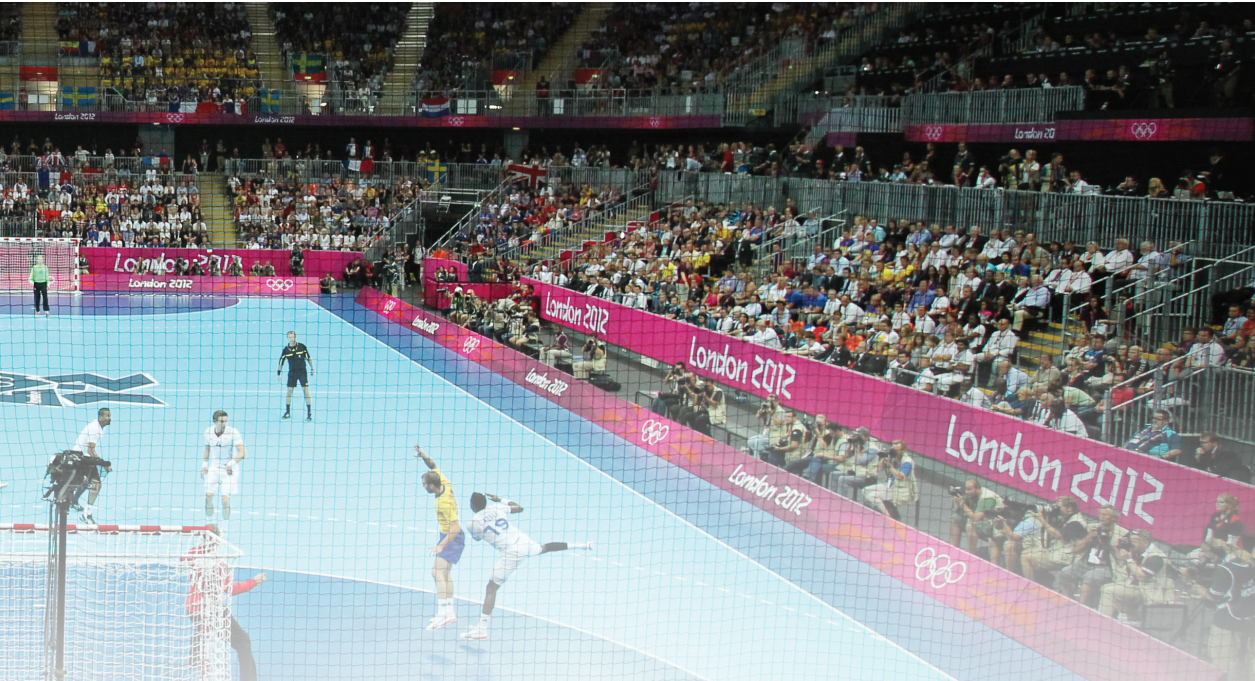


“History is a relentless master. It has no present, only the past rushing into the future. To try to hold fast is to be swept aside.” No one else than former US President John F. Kennedy said those wise words about history, only topped by the quotation of the Irish poet Edmund Burke, who stated: “Those who don’t know history are destined to repeat it.”

We as the international handball family can look back on early roots, when handball was played outside with eleven players per team. So this book is essential for people who could not witness where handball started from, how our beloved sport has developed from past to present, from field to indoor, including becoming and remaining part of the Olympic Programme. We benefited from those people who remember handball and are able to trace it from the beginning and who are still alive to record this history for the present and future generations.

This book opens the pages of history of our sport, presenting also the obstacles and difficulties which needed to be overcome to reach the level we have today.

The book includes the names and teams of all periods of time, trying not to forget those players and coaches who pushed handball ahead by having new ideas, methods and styles, to enter the stages of development also from the technical and tactical point of view.



Publishing this book means a milestone for handball, but it also proves that we are still on the road. Handball has not reached its final destination, but is still accelerating the development, knowing that further milestones are yet to come.

We tried our best to include all major steps in the development of handball, but in case we forgot or skipped persons, incidents or facts, it was accidental – and so it is a pleasure for the IHF, for me to present you with this first ever history of handball, to put the past, present and future of our sports into your hands.

I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to all people involved in this unique book, and special thanks to our National Federations and Continental Confederations for their valuable contributions. I also would like to express my gratitude to former IHF Secretary General Mr Raymond Hahn, former IHF Treasurer Mr Rudi Glock and former IHF Managing Director Mr Frank Birkefeld.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Hassan Moustafa
IHF President

Handball – History and stories

Fascination for thousands of years

“The ball is for sure the oldest piece of sports equipment in the world.” This statement, which the IOC published 1986 in a special edition of the Olympic Encyclopaedia on the occasion of the 40-year anniversary of the International Handball Federation, is incontestable. And the IOC adds “The flying ball has been fascinating people for thousands of years.”

The reasons for this fascination are various. One is that already in ancient times mythological meanings were attributed to the ball: it was considered as a symbol of perfectness, something almost godlike; it is round, a closed circle without beginning and end. By using this unique sports equipment numerous different sports have been developed and handball has become one of the most attractive ones.



And why is that? Emil Horle, one of the most recognized scientists and teachers in handball, has a pragmatic approach and explains the popularity of the game with the fact that “human kind has been very skilled with the hands at all times.”

In the present book the editors are searching for tracks. Different trends and developments are analyzed, the history of handball is reproduced from the very beginning until the present and it is described how handball has become one of the fastest, most attractive, most natural and maybe also most ‘intelligent’ sports of all.

The phenomenon ‘handball’ is very various. And this variety is also reflected in the structure of this book. Besides having a close look on the history of handball both from historical and also from a sporting point of view, several chapters also focus on certain key areas: World Championships – Olympic Games – The role of women – The media – World Selection – Finances – Philosophy – Structure – Rules of the Game – Politics – Black sheep – The significance of the continents – Development projects etc. Additionally a quick run through the history as a pocket calendar and 250 mini portraits of outstanding athletes and officials who

have contributed to shape the characteristics of handball as it is now, and amusing stories off the court are included in this book. – And all this summarized on 350 illustrated pages.

Volume II is dedicated to all those who would like to recall one event or another in detail, providing all results and interesting statistics of the events. The different contributions can be considered as proof of the IOC statement that the ball, and particularly handball, stands for fascination. Athletic top performances bring the ball to life and create entertainment at its best. This mixture characterizes today's handball: a real world sport played by millions of men, women, youth and children in 200 countries all over the world – on the grass and on the cinder court, out in the open, in the hall, in the sand and at the beach. Handball variations are numerous – and this variety fascinates people.

Primitive forms of the game of handball (800 BC – 1800)

Delicate flowers in Athens...

First references to a ball game played by using both hands date back – and how could it be otherwise - to the ancient Greeks. They took pleasure in playing a game called “Urania”. The name of this game was inspired by Aphrodite, the goddess of love, earning the epithet ‘Urania’. The game was played with a ball the size of an apple. The “Urania” game was very popular and so widely played that it became established in literature and the fine arts. Around 800 BC Homer put it into verse in the *Odyssey* as follows:

“Then Alcinous bade Halios and Laodamas dance alone, for no one could vie with them.

And when they taken in their hands the beautiful ball of purple, which wise Polybus had made for them, the one would lean backward and toss it toward the shadowy clouds, and the other would leap up from the earth and skilfully catch it before his feet touched the ground again.

But when they had tried their skill in throwing the ball straight up, the two fell to dancing on the bounteous earth, ever tossing the ball to and fro, and the other youths stood in the lists and beat time, and thereat a great din arose.”

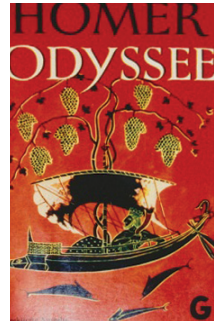
However, in his epic poem, the poet also furnished the proof that the fun game of “Urania” was not only left to men when King Alcinous’ daughter – after having done the laundry by a river together with her maidens - began playing this ball game with her playmates:

“So then the princess tossed the ball to one of her maidens; the maiden indeed she missed, but cast it into a deep eddy, and thereat they cried aloud, and goodly Odysseus awoke, ...”
who laid asleep on the banks of the river when fleeing.

The physical catch ball game with its dance-like movements is depicted on a gravestone relief which was found in 1926 at the city wall of Athens (see picture).

In particular, the ball game called “Harpaston” played in the Roman Empire was characterized by distinctive features of the later handball game. Interesting records for posterity of “Harpaston” (called “Harpastum” or “Harpustum” by the Romans) were made by the Roman doctor Claudius Galenus (129-200).

After his education, the scientist born in Greece settled into Rome where he revived the Hippocratic theory. Hippocrates was considered the last scholar of ancient Greece and one of the most outstanding figures in the history of biology



and medicine. Therefore, his knowledge of sports and its effects made these records very important.

Harpaston (meaning “carrying away”, “snatching, seizing”) was equally popular in Greece as in the Roman Empire – also because the “exercise with the small ball” could be done without great effort, with no special



preparation and by involving as many players as you like. The game was played between two teams (5 to 12 players) on a rectangular court. At both ends of the court, there was a line drawn at a distance of 75 steps. The aim was to throw the pig bladder ball behind the drawn line of the opposing team. The players could catch the ball in the air and use their hands to hit or throw the ball. Physical duels were a fundamental feature of the game. Subsequently, sports scientists would consider Harpaston to be a mixture of rugby and handball.

In his writings, Galen emphasized that the “game with the small ball” would cost nothing and, thus, could also be played by poor people. Furthermore, he considered this sport to be very many-sided and to exercise every part of the body. And compared to other sports, there was even a considerably smaller risk of injury. Galen needed to know better as he had also been a doctor to the gladiators, among other things, and one of the first sports medicine physicians in history.

The numerous combined advantages of Harpaston paid off in the end and had a positive effect in the long term: The ball game was one of the most popular sports in the Roman Empire until the 5th century.

Clement of Alexandria (150-215), a Greek theologian and an ecclesiastical writer, reported in his writings on a ball game called “Phaininda” and mentioned that the game with the small ball was played in the sun and was quite suitable for men. It is supposed to be the same game as Harpaston and was played on a “dusty ground”.

By the way, in the year 1000 Harpaston came again to Central Europe via Ireland and was called “Fivos” (five fingers in the hand). In England, it was a considerably well-known game with competitions staged in the 18th and 19th century.

A hundred years later, in the Middle Ages, not only men and women at royal courts proved to be keen ball game players. According to the IOC, they were literally “wild” about it. The rules of the game stipulated that the ball, which was often adorned with ribbons and bells, had to be passed from one player to

another. It was an easy catch ball game enjoyed jointly by both men and women – also because the manner how the ball was passed could express affection or aversion. For this reason, the minnesingers praised it as the favourite first ball game of the summer which was also sung of by Walther von der Vogelweide (1170-1230): “If I could see the girls play ball on the street, then bird song would come back.” He called it catch ball.

Rabelais and the Inuits

The game played by a mixed court society is represented in a wall painting dating from the mid-15th century and exhibited at Runkelstein Castle near the city of Bolzano (Italy). Men and women in noble garments throw and catch the ball. But such kinds of pleasure were not only left to privileged people. The Florentine clergyman Poggio Bracciolini (1380-1459) from the spa resort of Baden (Switzerland) wrote in 1417:

“There is a large meadow behind the village, near the river. This meadow, which is shaded by abundance of trees, is our usual place of resort after supper. Here the people engage in various sports. Some dance, others sing, and others play at ball, but in a manner very different from the fashion of our country. For the men and women throw, in different directions, a ball, filled with little bells.



Ball game – from the history of Leopold and Wilhelm of Austria (1481)

When the ball is thrown, they all run to catch it, and whoever lays hold of it is the conqueror, and again throws it at somebody for whom he wishes to testify a particular regard. When the thrower is ready to toss the ball, all the rest stand with outstretched hands, and the former frequently keeps them in a state of suspense, by pretending to aim, sometimes at one, and sometimes at another.”

In France, Rabelais (1494-1533) - being praised for his coarseness - described obviously with some amazement a type of handball: “They play ball using the palm of their hand”.

Another handball variation taking another direction was very popular in the 16th century, when the players threw the ball with the flat of their hand. Subsequently, the players wore gloves to play the game and, some time later, they used a special racket instead of their hand. Much later, this game was called tennis.

However, the fact that even icy-cold weather could not prevent people from

playing with the small ball is proven by records from the Far North: A ball game played using the hands was also mentioned and illustrated by the Inuit people in Greenland as early as 1793.

Almost all examples and variations mentioned above show that, in prehistoric times and in the Middle Ages, the handball game held a great fascination as party game – the ball was used as vehicle, as sympathetic figure with amorous background. The only exception is the ball game of Harpaston that was played in the Roman Empire and which was mainly characterized by sports features. Consequently, this variation of the game – to take the metaphor further – is considered to be the predecessor of modern handball that set out on its journey to international recognition at the end of the 19th century.

Pioneers and trailblazers (1870 – 1926)

Two babies and many fathers

The real impetus for handball was given by Denmark, Germany as well as Sweden. German sports teachers were considered to be the founders of field handball, subsequently also called 11-aside handball, while Scandinavian countries gave preference to small-field (7-aside) handball. Both variations were launched almost at the same time.

The Danish sports supervisor Holger Nielsen, born in 1866, gave in **1898** the official permission to play a game called “Haandbold” in the gymnasium of Ortrup (near Helsingör) by laying down the corresponding rules of the game at the same time.



Holger Nielsen

The playing court was a 45 m long and 30 m wide rectangle, while the size of the goal posts was 2 x 3 m with a free space of 5 x 7 m in front of the goal. The game was played with an ordinary football. The rules of the game were considerably influenced by rugby. In a “Haandbold” match, each team was composed of 16 (11) players who were placed in the same way as football players and had the corresponding titles. The players assumed their positions after a whistle signal and the referee (the teacher) set the ball in play by throwing it into the middle of the court. No player was allowed to leave its position until the ball had touched the ground. – In general, girls had the same rules as boys, except when it came to clinging or holding on to one’s opponent. Beforehand, the player in possession of the ball had to be tapped three times (one, two, three) on the shoulder by an opponent,

while this player immediately had to throw the ball vertically in the air. If the player failed to do so, the opposing team would receive a free throw. Thus, all possibilities were taken into account by educator Nielsen.

The cradle of handball

The new sports game set a precedent, spread out over the whole country and was organized in the form of competitions from 1911. For many people, Denmark would be the cradle of handball from now on - and not without reason.

However: The baby had many fathers. One of them was Konrad Koch (1846-1911). The IOC reported on him as follows: “The game of handball, which is played today, was introduced some time around 1890 by the German gymnastics educationalist Konrad Koch in the form of a ‘snatch-ball’ game, but it did not

spread.” For the first time, only throwing the ball was given special emphasis, while the game was played with a 10 cm sized volleyball and then a football. The strength of the team was the same as in football. Koch, who would contribute to make football socially acceptable in Germany, was considered to be one of the pioneers of field handball.

The snatch-ball game was subject to numerous variations in time. Thus, around the turn of the century, a basketball-like game was introduced as new handball variation which was continued to be used in almost unchanged form as gymnastics game for a long time.

In 1897, Eduard Hagelauer created in Wiesbaden a game called “Goalball” where the players were only allowed to throw and not to kick the ball. The rules of the game were considerably influenced by football. A game with the same name was invented in Berlin in 1915. This game was characterized by a semicircular goal area, but also by elements of other gymnastics games.



In 1897, Eduard Hagelauer introduced a game called “Goalball” in Wiesbaden and published the corresponding rules.

The so-called “Königsberger Ball” was especially intended for female players and was presented to a large group of interested people in 1909 for the first time. This game was played on a small field with two goals (30 m x 50 m) by 11 players per team using an ordinary football that was, however, lighter in weight.

The forerunners of handball also include a game called “Netball” with rules of the game mentioning an area that the players were not allowed to enter.

However, inventions and pioneering feats were not only limited to Denmark and Germany.

In Sweden, G. Wallström introduced “Handboll” in Karlskrona in 1910, while in 1912 his compatriot G.H. Wahlliden published the first rules of the game for outdoor games, including handball too.

Irishman Casey introduced a handball-like game called “Courtball” in America about 1870, where it caught on so well that a first championship was organized in 1919 in Los Angeles. The 70 m x 25 m sized court was divided up lengthwise into three parts. The centre of the court was not allowed to be entered and was only used to bounce the thrown ball by making it move over the goal line of the opposing team. Maybe courtball could be considered to be a forerunner of cricket...

In Czechoslovakia, a game called “Ceska Hazena” enjoyed great popularity at the end of the 19th century. This game was very similar to small-field handball and was decisively shaped up by the Smichov teacher Vaclav Karas in 1905. The playing field (45 x 30 m) was divided up into three parts while the room for manoeuvre of each team’s seven players was limited to certain sections of the field. However, in time, the development of “Hazena” had also been limited – to the regions of Bohemia and Moravia.

And in Ukraine there has also been a game similar to handball that was played on a small field from 1910.

In 1912, Carl Anton Wilhelm Hirschmann (Netherlands), the then Secretary General of the International Football Association, tried to introduce field handball following the rules for football. However, it was not developed further.

For the sake of clarity, it should be mentioned that different sports scientists are convinced that field handball has its origins also in Ireland – as already mentioned - and PanAmerica, apart from Denmark and Germany. It is put down that in 1918 in Montevideo (URU) “Uruguayan Balon” was played, where tapping the ball and any kind of body contact was not allowed. The player ran with the ball in the hand of his outstretched arm, giving the opponent the possibility to snatch the ball without touching each other. The very same sport was played few years later in Argentina, where in 1921 the “Balon Federation” was founded.

From a gymnastics game to a competitive sport

According to the unanimous opinion of all experts and historians, the change from a gymnastics ball game to a real competitive sport occurred a few years after the above-mentioned attempts and efforts. The International Olympic Committee summarized this development as follows in its Encyclopaedia: “A period of critical importance for the further development of handball were the

war years, 1915-1917, when the Berlin gymnastics supervisor Max Heiser laid on outdoor handball games... He was the real creator of the new competition game, even if Karl Schelenz, German sports teacher at the Berlin Physical Education School, is always hailed as the founder of handball.”

At first both protagonists conducted joint actions concerning the development of handball, but they finally ended up reaching different results.

During the oppressive and dramatic years of the First World War, Max Heiser (1879-1921) made attempts at introducing outdoor handball to the female employees of the Berlin Siemens Factories. His idea: Creating a girls' and women's competitive game inspired by football. Through lack of indoor training halls he developed a form of field handball that was played on a court with more or less the same size as modern indoor handball: The women's teams played on a small field of 20 m x 40 m or 50 m. The goal size was 2 m x 2.50 m. There was a goal area of 4 m and the players had to score the largest possible number of goals within 2 x 20 minutes with the hollow ball. In this context, it was very important to Heiser that there should be no body contact, that the ball should be held only for five and, later, three seconds and that the player in possession of the ball should not run.

On 29 October **1917** he presented the corresponding rules of the game drawn up in cooperation with Karl Schelenz and Erich König. Title: “Rules and regulations governing the organization of handball games for the women's departments of the Berliner Turnrath”. For many people, this was considered to give birth to handball and to be the basis for a systematic game activity that started on 2 December 1917 in Berlin with the first compulsory round for seven women's teams and that would be enjoying an unexpected revival over the next few years.

Besides, 29 October 1917 has also been the day when the term of “handball” was officially used to describe this new game for the first time...

Later, sports teacher Carl Schelenz (1890-1956) followed in Heiser's footsteps. In 1919, in the Berlin-Charlottenburg Stadium, he made - in collaboration with his students - decisive attempts that finally ended up introducing and promoting large-field handball. Schelenz used the tactical formation of football (five strikers, three runners, two defenders, one goalkeeper), a normal-sized playing court (60 x 110 m) as well as a football goal after having employed a hockey goal. The offside rule was maintained too. A novelty: He extended the goal area to 11 m. And: He introduced running with the ball that had to be interrupted after three steps by bouncing the ball one time low to the ground. In **1920**, these improved rules of the game were generally adopted and published.

Schelenz's innovations gave a decisive impetus to the change in the development of handball from an originally gymnastics-oriented game to a real competitive sport and, in the long run, helped our sport on the road to its independence from a sporting point of view.

Subsequently he acted as coach of this new game in Germany, Austria and Switzerland and was supported by many of his foreign students in their respective home countries.

Schelenz, who went down in history of sport as the “father of handball”, described “his” performance as follows: “However, all ball and body-oriented technical moments of play do not allow handball to be ranked among the leading competitive games. The key factor in gaining recognition is the highly creative organization of the set-up play. What is shown by methodically trained teams in a distinguished manner is a harmonious combination of body, mind and character that cannot be achieved to such perfection by any other competitive sport.”* In other words: The mixture of mental agility, reactivity, stamina and body control were the greatest advantages of this game that would soon become the fastest team sport apart from ice hockey.

Handball à la Schelenz met with general approval and spread rapidly. On 13



Carl Schelenz

September 1920, after first test matches played at the beginning of the year and a round of the cup with 16 teams, Carl Diem as director of the University of Physical Education in Berlin integrated the game of handball according to Schelenz into his institute's curriculum by giving not only greater glory, but also official recognition to this sport. Shortly afterwards, the so-called Deutsche Turnerschaft - one

of the most powerful German sports associations - organized its own handball round with an immediate participation of 91 teams. The men's club TSV Spandau 1860, the women's club Berliner TV 1850 and the youth club TV Guts Muths were the first district champions. In 1922, only two years later, a total of 1282 teams took part in the matches, while in 1929 no less than 8100 teams were among the participants.

An example taken from the immediate neighbourhood showed that this new sport did not need any regulations to become very popular. In Hungary it is generally known that, in 1924, worker sportsmen on holiday “invented” a ball game forming the basis for modern handball.

Thus, handball went down well and became established among women, men and young people in many countries on the large and small field. The only thing that was lacking was an overall international organization. At the same time, it was important to find common ground for the different handball trends.

The IAHF – The predecessor of the IHF (1926-1945)

An international federation for the first time

The IOC described the situation as follows: “The fact that handball did not appear immediately as an independent international organization is, however, connected with its historical development; the game of handball was not recognized as an independent sport in its own right, but, like baseball, volleyball and fistball, came under the national athletics and gymnastics associations. On an international level, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) looked after the interests of handball...”

Soon, the institution read the signs of the times and took account of the fact that handball became more important and widespread and that more international games took place. Thus, a special committee was set up at the VIIIth IAAF Congress in The Hague (NED) in August **1926** whose task it was to organize the countries where these games were played, and to examine the question of standard rules for the different disciplines.

On 27 November of that same year, this committee met in Cologne (Germany) to deal with the problems and requests of the numerous ball games that were jointly managed by the IAAF: handball, basketball, courtball, rounders, netball, volleyball, fistball, Hazena etc., while basketball, volleyball and handball strongly developed a momentum of their own. Thus, the formation of autonomous international federations “specialized” in particular ball games was only a matter of time.

A flourish for Ireland!

The Irish are not really known for having attracted great attention in handball one way or another. However, what can be affirmed is that a Scottish teacher introduced this sport in 1873 to the green island and promoted the formation of the Irish Olympic Handball Association. The Irish national team participated in the European Championship qualification round in 2012 for the first time. What fell into oblivion: Ireland can be considered to be one of the first countries to promote handball as they had already suggested in the spring of **1927** in Monaco that the IOC should include handball in the Olympic programme. A flourish for Ireland!

On 4 August **1928**, a new international association called International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF) was founded in Amsterdam on the occasion of the Olympic Games and under the direction of the IAAF. The “godfather”, among

others, was subsequent IOC President Avery Brundage. The name was not incorrect, but nevertheless misleading and confusing. After all, the new IAHF consisted of a dozen sports that would soon go their own way. However: All these games were based on handball.

IAAF President Sigfrid Edström (SWE) explained the ball games' way to independence by the fact that the dissemination of handball and other ball games using both hands really called for this development.



Avery Brundage

Representatives from eleven countries (America, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Canada, Austria, Sweden and Czechoslovakia) elected a managing committee with President Franz Lang and Secretary General Fritz Hassler (both ALL) as well as the members Brundage (USA), Crocker (CAN), Dr Schwarz (AUT) and Trantina (TCH). Three commissions were in charge of the most popular ball games, including field handball, courtball and basketball, while Karlsson from Sweden and his committee dealt with field handball.

The first handball federations

The world's first national handball association was founded in **1925** in Europe: On 25 January, the delegates launched the Austrian Handball Federation at the constituent meeting held in the main lecture hall at the Vienna University of Physical Education. - Four years before, in 1921, the "Argentinian Balon Federation" was founded, which can be considered in a wider sense as the first national federation.

19 members – four continents

Two years after its founding, on the occasion of the IInd IAHF Congress held on 18/19 May **1930** in Berlin, the International Amateur Handball Federation - with a leadership that remained largely unchanged - had already been composed of 19 members: The new member nations were Argentina, Egypt, Brazil, Japan, Poland, Romania, Switzerland and Hungary. Thus, the international federation that had just begun to stand on its own two feet consisted of players of different nationalities from the four continents - Africa, Asia, Panamerica and Europe.

After the formation of the international federation, when the ball games came out of the shadow of gymnastics and took an important step towards independence and international recognition, they competed with each other and within the same association for always being one step ahead.

And Willy Burmeister, Secretary of the Handball Commission, also reported on this development in his analysis of results during the Congress held in 1930: “At the meetings, apart from wishing to develop handball in the individual countries by using adapted teaching and promotional material, there was a serious intention of promoting an international game competition culture by paving the way for new international matches and exhibition games. At the Olympic Games in 1932 in Los Angeles, the basketball and courtball tournament should be played as world championship games by organizing special series of matches. If the Olympic Games in 1936 are awarded to Germany, field handball will make its first appearance. In the meanwhile, to ensure the best preparation possible, we should try to organize continental championships for the different game categories.”

However, holding title contests on the continents was still a long time coming. But, the possibility that field handball would become an Olympic discipline got closer and closer. Before the end of the year 1930, the IOC decided “to include handball as official sport in the Olympic Programme.”

While most congress participants were dreaming of field handball under the symbol of the five rings, the “little guy” in the form of indoor handball attracted again attention. Thus, Burmeister commented in his analysis of results as follows: “Field handball is played in almost all European countries. The most developed countries are undoubtedly Germany and Austria with the most powerful and a very well-organized game activity. In Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Switzerland, field handball is gaining ground too. However, the countries of Northern Europe, such as Denmark, Norway and Sweden, prefer indoor handball.” In future, the Congress would often continue dealing with the different interests and trends in handball...

Considerable structure

Apart from the forthcoming sporting successes, the delegates had also achieved great results as far as the structure of the federation is concerned. At the Congress in 1930, they adopted new statutes and amateur regulations that, subsequently, had only to be changed slightly and testified to considerable far-sightedness. You will find hereafter some extracts from these regulations.

Paragraph I: “The International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF) is made up of recognized professional organizations of the individual nations (national federations) supervising the handball games (outdoor and indoor handball, courtball, volleyball and fistball, Hazena etc.) in their respective countries. There is only one national federation per country...” According to that period of time

(and outdated nowadays), the following supplementary regulation was added: “In agreement with the national federation of their mother country, colonial or dominion associations have the possibility of joining the IAHF as subgroup of the national federation concerned or as direct member. – The same regulations also apply to countries being under the auspices of another nation.”

The following was laid down in paragraph II: “The purpose of the IAHF consists in promoting the amateur handball games as well as developing friendly relations between the national federations.” When applying for membership, the member federations had to commit themselves to “compliance of the national federation’s statutes with the statutes, regulations and activities of the IAHF; to following the effective rules of the game of the IAHF and including die IAHF regulations on game activities at international level in the national federation’s regulations.”



A federation had to withdraw if the contributions had not been paid, for violations of the statutes or the rule of honour or/and if the member federation concerned no longer had the character of a “real national handball federation in its country”. As orderliness is next to godliness...

The governing bodies of the international federation were the Congress organized every two years, the Council and the (four) Technical Commissions in charge of outdoor and indoor handball, fistball and volleyball, courtball as well as Hazena.

German, English and French were the official languages of the IAHF. All representatives could speak in their own mother tongue at the Congress, if they ensured interpretation into one of the official languages.

It was agreed that national teams should only be made up of players holding the nationality of the country concerned. Thus, a player moving to another country would only be eligible to play after gaining the nationality of his new home country. At international matches, referees were drawn from neutral countries and only if they were mentioned on the international referees list.

The following regulations show that an international federation being known as an amateur association wished to do justice to its name: “The teams of the clubs and



French was one of the three official IAHF languages in which the handball manual published annually is written.

national federations of the IAHF may only be composed of players who take part in the matches for idealistic reasons without any intention to make a profit (amateurs). A player who takes part in a game to make a money or cash value profit or to accept promises of this kind will be punished and will lose his amateur status. The same shall apply to those who offer or grant this kind of benefits to players... It is prohibited to claim, award or receive compensation for match arrangement or settlement.” However, that would soon change with time.

The first three years since founding of the IAHF were marked by enthusiasm and commitment, but a period of stagnation could be observed in the years 1930 to 1934. During this period, only a few things are worth mentioning: The first women’s international match in field handball in 1930 (see box), the resignation of President Lang for “medical reasons” in 1931 and the cancellation of the IAHF Congress in **1932** in Los Angeles, as “there was nothing urgent to deal with” so that there was “no reason to convene Congress ...”, as reported in the IAHF yearbook.

And what was the outcome of the IIIrd Congress of the international federation held on 30 August 1934 in Stockholm (SWE)? Karl Ritter von Halt from Germany succeeded President Lang who had withdrawn from office and Willy Burmeister became the successor to the deceased President of the Technical Commission for outdoor and indoor handball Karlsson from Sweden.

The first international matches

The first men’s international match on the large field was organized on 13 September **1925** in Halle an der Saale (GER) and was played between Germany and Austria (3-6). – The first women’s international match in field handball was played between Germany and Austria on 7 September **1930** in Prague. After a half-time score of 1-4, Austria finally succeeded in winning by 5-4. – The first indoor handball match took place on 8 March **1935** in Copenhagen (DEN) and was played between the men’s teams of Denmark and Sweden (18-12). – The first encounter in the “Argentinian Balon” took place on 8 July 1923 in the Ferro Carril Oeste arena in Buenos Aires with Uruguay prevailing against Argentina at 7:3.

1934: Basketball going its own way

And the process of independence of the other ball games, apart from handball, that were still united under the roof of the IAHF, continued: Basketball left the federation – in all friendliness; the respective Technical Commission was dissolved; a corresponding contract was signed; the basketball federation could stand on its own two feet in future and basketball – in the same way as handball – would soon make headlines all over the world.

And by admitting Belgium, Estonia, Haiti (!), Holland, Yugoslavia, Luxembourg and Uruguay as new members to the international federation, a total of 25 nations were finally represented in the IAHF.

It is also remarkable that the Congress adopted the first international regulations for indoor handball and that its decision was actually based on a misinterpretation (as reported in the IAHF yearbook): “The present rules are the first international indoor handball regulations altogether, as the nations mainly interested in indoor handball, such as Denmark, Germany, Austria and Sweden, had their own regulations that varied from one country to another and complicated international game activities. The international indoor handball regulations follow as closely as possible the international outdoor handball rules. This conformity is inevitable as there is no difference between the handball game played in the open air (field or outdoor handball) and in the handball hall (indoor handball) as far as the basic idea of the game and its form of expression are concerned.” But these non-existent differences would soon become noticeable...

The Congress was gratified to hear that the IOC had decided on 8 May **1934** in Brussels to include field handball in the programme of the Olympic Games to be held in 1936 in Berlin – that, at this time, was certainly considered to be a “bow” to the Germans who were strongly waiting for the recognition of handball as Olympic discipline...

Thus, the Olympic tournament was prepared with the utmost care, while two international referee courses - among other things - were held in June 1935 and in April 1936, where the referees concerned were well prepared for the tasks that they would have to undertake in Berlin.

This first international handball tournament altogether became straightaway a real media event that was convincing from a sporting point of view, attracted a mass of spectators to an unbelievable extent and had a huge radiant power affecting the future of handball too.

You may find more information about this memorable event, where Germany, Austria and Switzerland won the gold, silver and bronze medal, in section “Olympic Handball”.

But before awarding any Olympic medal, the IVth IAHF Congress met on 13 August **1936** in Berlin to review the situation over the past two years. The representatives of eight participating nations welcomed Portugal as new member and had to take notice of the withdrawal of Belgium, Finland and Yugoslavia “as the handball game gained no foothold in these countries. Thus, the number of member nations is taken to 23.”

As the elections were only planned to take place in 1938, the delegates were dealing with other subjects, such as the financial report “concerning a property of 1547.83 Reichsmark including expenses amounting to 3400 RM with printing costs of 2500 RM.” In this context, Uruguay’s representative Rodriguez requested “that the handball rules should also be translated into Spanish as seven countries of South America are interested in handball. Moreover, Uruguay would like to gain recognition as first handball-playing country where the first handball federation was founded in 1918.”

The Congress decision on this issue was not recorded, but only the vote on the fact that an international outdoor handball competition as well as an international indoor handball tournament would be organized in 1938 to celebrate the IAHF’s tenth anniversary and to further promote the game of handball. This request was granted by the Congress that was even taking this idea a step further as reported in the history of the IHF: “On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the IAHF, the deadline for applications to stage the planned outdoor and indoor handball world championships was 1 November 1936. Especially Austria applied, but finally both world championships were organized in Germany.” As well as the Congress in that year...

1938: The beginning of the end

The first men’s world indoor championship, played between four teams, was staged on 5/ 6 February **1938** in Berlin. Thus, the first move had been made. However, outdoor handball still set the tone. This could clearly be observed at the 1st large-field WC in July of that same year. Nine participating teams, apart from the host nation, made this tournament a success, while a financial contribution to the amount of 500 Reichsmark per team made their participation in the competition more attractive. Portugal considered this financial support to be insufficient and finally did not attend the championship.

The non-participation of another team that, until then, had been considered to be one of the top field handball specialists, was a first sign of the disastrous and fatal development that was initiated by Germany and would soon spread all over the world: “Austria, that could undoubtedly have been a serious rival again, did not participate in the tournament because of the political changes in Europe. On the contrary, two Austrian players were members of Germany’s team”, wrote Günter Millermann in his “IHF history”.

For a long time, these first two world championships organized in 1938 remained the last tournaments for the time being. Politics exerted influence on sport.

This could clearly be observed at the Vth (and last) IAHF Congress on 9

July 1938 in Berlin when the “old-school” managers, including Ritter von Halt, Hassler, Burmeister among others, were relieved from office by the new German sports leaders, replacing them by their own people who were not necessarily handball experts, but much more correct and comfortable politically: Richard Herrmann became IAHF President and Adam Nothelfer was IAHF Secretary (both Germans) “to allow a political conformity between the German and the international handball leadership” (Miller mann).

At least, it was pleasant to see that the Congress awarded the badge of honour provided on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the IAHF “exactly to those persons who” – according to the IHF history – “were not accepted by the German sports leadership”: IAHF President Siegfried Edström (SWE), Dr Karl Ritter von Halt, Willy Burmeister, Fritz Hassler, Carl Schelenz, Wilhelm Bubert (all ALL), Josef Tilchner (AUT), Sean O’Hanlon (IRL), Avery Brundage (USA) and Ladema Kuchar (POL). “The other nations really appreciated what these men had achieved in international handball.”

“Subsequently” – as reported in the IHF history – “the IAHF stayed in the background. Furthermore, as far as the general international game activity is concerned, there is nothing much worth mentioning during the period from the last half of the year 1938 to the first half of the year 1939. The Olympic handball tournament to be staged in **1940** in Tokyo did not take place as - in the meanwhile - the Second World War had broken out on 1 September 1939.

This has also been the end of the activities and the history of the International Amateur Handball Federation that had developed from a dependent sub-organization into a large independent federation of great importance at international level.

After laying down arms in the spring of **1945** and when, one year later, it was time to think about the organization and management of international handball again, the old IAHF did not rise from the ashes. The federation was fully weighed down with a heavy political background resulting from the development since 1938.”

Now, the time was ripe for founding of another new international federation where handball and only handball would become the focus of attention – in all its facets.

The International Handball Federation (IHF) - (1946-2013)

A new start under the direction of a Swedish trio

“The fact that a new International Handball Organization had already been founded one year after the end of the Second World War has to be considered as one of the most remarkable things in life of sports.” This is what Günter Millermann wrote in 1960 in his “history of international handball”, and he continued as follows: “The war ended in May 1945 and the new International Handball Federation had already been founded in July 1946. The sport did not get impressed by the difficult post-war period and, a few weeks after the armistice, the ball was again thrown from goal to goal as impressive proof of loyalty to the game of handball.”

The fact that things were happening so fast was, first of all, due to several passionate defenders of handball from Denmark and Sweden. After making intensive preparations, they invited the world of handball to participate in the Founding Congress to be held from 10 to 13 July 1946 in the Palace Hotel in Copenhagen (DEN). At this meeting of eight European nations, the International Handball Federation (IHF) was brought into being in the presence of six “godfathers” from Europe and overseas. The birth of the newly founded federation was certified on 12 July by the following resolution which was accepted unanimously:



“The 35 representatives of the national handball federations of Denmark, Finland, France, Holland, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland as well as the federations represented by proxy from Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Portugal, Uruguay and the United States of America (USA) attending the international handball Congress in Copenhagen decided unanimously that the former International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF), of which they had already been members, should be dissolved and that the tasks and duties should be undertaken by the newly founded International Handball Federation (IHF).”

June 1946 – They prepared the Founding Congress in Hornbaek (DEN) and would hold high positions within the IHF in future (from the left): G. Björck (SWE), V. Franklin Soerensen (DEN), C. F. Borgh (SWE) and C.F. Soerensen (DEN).

This new start had, first of all, a purely pragmatic background, but also a great symbolic significance. Everybody wished to make a clean break with the past and to dissociate themselves from the IAHF as predecessor by renaming the federation using a trick, but only for show: The word “amateur” was deleted from the name, even if amateurism would still be preserved in future. What was more important was the fact that other team sports, such as volleyball or basketball, that had jointly been managed by the predecessor of the IHF were no longer integrated into the IHF and that the attention was only turned to the actual game of handball. In 1946, the IHF became a really new and different independent international sports association.

Thus, this new federation laid the foundations for a controlled organization of handball competitions. What was lacking in order to put 11-a-side, 7-a-side and indoor handball worldwide on the right track was the right touch.

The one, who had made an outstanding contribution to the success of the newly founded association, was elected first IHF President by the delegates in Copenhagen: Gösta Björk from Sweden. He was assisted by Secretary General Carl Filip Borgh and Treasurer Wolf Lyberg, both coming from Sweden too. These three men formed the “bureau”, the management committee of the federation. The Vice-Presidents Hans Baumann (SUI) and Charles Petit-Montgobert (FRA) were also presidium members. In addition, V. Franklin Soerensen (DEN), Jacob van der Reyden (HOL), Ole Moksnes (NOR), Arthur Englund (FIN) and Albert Wagner (SUI) were appointed to the IHF Council.

The Technical Commission under the direction of President Emil Horle (SUI) was composed of Secretary C.F. Soerensen (DEN) as well as Christian Agterdenbosch (HOL), René Ricard (FRA) and Curt Wadmark (SWE) as commission members.



The IHF Council members elected on the occasion of the Founding Congress held in Copenhagen in 1946 (from the left): O. Moksnes (NOR), J. van der Reyden (HOL), A. Wagner (SUI), C.F. Borgh (SWE), C. Petit-Montgobert (FRA), G. Björk (SWE), H. Baumann (SUI), W. Lyberg (SWE), A. Englund (FIN) and C.F. Sörensen (DEN) as well as TC President E. Horle (SUI).

Thus, from now on, a “triumvirate” from Sweden steered the fortunes of international handball and, at the same time, submitted the corresponding regulations governing this body: “The Congress approved the newly revised statutes and regulations of the Swedish Handball Federation as well as the rules of the game for outdoor and indoor handball. At the same time, new amateur handball regulations were drawn up.” (Albert Wagner, IHF Yearbook 1960)



A printed edition of the rules of the game of 1947 – including old regulations applicable at the time of the LAHF. For stamp collectors, this would be a misprint.

First of all, the purpose of the newly founded association was to organize international competitions based, above all, on the consistent application and interpretation of existing rules. Thus, it stood to reason that the 1st international referee course of the international federation would be organized one year after the founding of the association and one year before the first post-war world championship. This training course was held in Vejle/Denmark from 4 to 8 August **1947** and was attended by 29 referees from the eight nations and their federations that had initiated the IHF. In addition to the rules of the game and practice tests (with home teams), the training programme included, among other things, “singing a morning song at the beginning of the day and evening song at the end of the day, each time by the delegation of another country”. Harmony was a key asset. And singing did work much better than whistling in unison as would soon come to light...

The IInd Congress held in Paris (FRA) on 4 and 5 June **1948** was intended to contribute to consolidation, but had to make do with the fact that only six federations (with 18 delegates) were present at the meeting. Because of this low participation and doubts about decision validity, another Extraordinary Congress was scheduled for 2 and 3 October of the same year in Paris where 14 federations (with 28 delegates) were entitled to vote.

However, before this meeting, the final of the 2nd world championship in 11-a-side handball was contested on 6 June in Paris and ended with a title win for Sweden.

No revolutionary changes, but clarifications, confirmations and some progress in the functioning of the federation were decided at these two Congress meetings. The Swedish trio Björk-Borgh-Lyberg was re-elected. However, the “bureau” was

extended to include Baumann and Petit-Montgobert as Vice-Presidents who were officially confirmed in office “as it is not in the interest of a neutral management of the IHF that all 3 committee members come from the same country.” – The decision was taken by 11 votes.

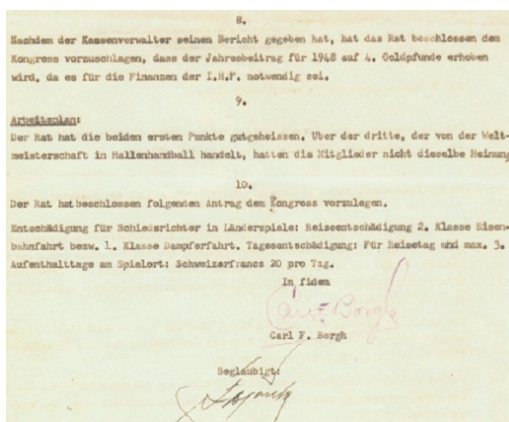
This management committee, later to be called “executive committee”, was composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary General and the Treasurer. Another executive body was the Council being comprised of the management committee and the President of the Technical Commission as well as seven (instead of 5) members from several countries, and holding a meeting once a year as a rule. New Council members: Eichberger (AUT) and Sörensen (DEN).

The Technical Commission made decisions on the rules of the game and the technical organization of IHF competitions, in particular world championships that were finally awarded by the Congress. The Congress was composed of the delegates of all member nations and was considered to be the absolutely highest IHF authority. Each nation had one vote. An “ordinary” Congress meeting was held every two years.

In addition to the eight founding nations, Belgium, Iceland, Austria, Portugal, Romania, the Saarland, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Luxembourg became full members of the IHF too. The association called “Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Handball” (German handball working group) representing the western zones of Allied-occupied Germany, later to be called the Federal Republic of Germany, was not allowed to join the IHF for the time being. The assembly agreed that “the admission should be deferred out of consideration for the political situation.” The wounds were still open...

However, according to a decision made by the IHF Council, the Congress should still be held in German as official language.

And the head office of the international federation was to stay in Basel for the



One of the first minutes of a Council meeting (1948). By adding the comment „in fide[m]“, the minute-taker Borgh confirmed that he had drawn up the two-page document including ten items to the best of his knowledge and belief.

time being. France's application for the transfer of the head office to Paris was delayed until 1950. Subsequently, a decision should be taken by the Congress.

The year **1949** was marked by the first women's world championship in 11-a-side handball. Thus, the women's teams entered unknown territory, and the IHF had considerable difficulty in setting up four teams for these title contests held in September in Budapest (HUN) where the host team finally succeeded in winning the world title. It just went to show that outdoor handball seemed not to be ideally adapted to women's teams. (You will find more detailed information about world championships in chapter "Competitions through the ages").

Otherwise interesting: On the occasion of its meeting held on 6 August 1949 in the Institute of Sports Magglingen (SUI), the Council decided definitely that all organizers concerned should give official guarantees for all IHF members when coming to IHF events and Congress meetings, and had no illusions about including handball in the programme of the Olympic Games to be organized in Helsinki (FIN) in 1952.

According to IHF historian Millermann, **1950** was a year "of the greatest importance pointing the way to the future for international handball". At the IIIrd Congress, held in the presence of 25 delegates from 13 federations in Vienna from 8 to 12 September, President Gösta Björck stepped down. "The illness had already left its mark on him, preventing him from exercising his competences as President of the IHF and the Swedish Handball Federation whereas only his iron will allowed him to take on the burden of his honorary posts until this moment. Five years later, at the beginning of the year 1955, in Stockholm, he closed his eyes forever and was mourned by the whole world of handball. Under his direction, the dark side of the last World War threatening to hinder the organization of international handball competitions was brought under control. Thus, the name Gösta Björck became a byword for understanding among handball nations worldwide."

Under Switzerland's firm control

His successor as President: The outgoing Vice-President Hans Baumann (SUI). Charles Petit-Montgobert (FRA) and Palle Kristensen (DEN) were elected Vice-Presidents. Albert Wagner (SUI) became Secretary General and Jan Krijgsmann (HOL) took office as Treasurer. The Council was composed of Eugen Fanto (HUN), Paul Högberg (SWE), Leopold Eichberger (AUT), J. Derliner (BEL), Marijan Flander (YUG), M. Martinnen (FIN) and Wobbe Akkermann (HOL) as representatives.

As far as the composition of the Technical Commission is concerned, “one principle which was gaining acceptance was that not necessarily a particular country but the professional qualifications should decide the issue” – and, consequently, Emil Horle (SUI) having good experience was appointed as head technician again.

Subsequently, the new Secretary General described the situation as follows: “The newly founded IHF was first headed by Sweden before being taken over in 1950 by Switzerland” where the President, the Secretary General and the TC President came from. To come to the point: It was an excellent choice.

The new Technical Commission was composed of the following experts working together with Horle: Christian Agterdenbosch ((HOL), Axel Ahm (DEN), Ludwig Klima (AUT), René Ricard (FRA), P. Toth (HUN) and Curt Wadmark (SWE). In future, some of them would have a decisive influence on the sports activities of the IHF during several years and for decades...

New membership was granted to the autonomous province of Saarland, Yugoslavia and Germany represented by the zones occupied by the Western Allies after the end of the 2nd World War. It is needless to say that East Germany immediately protested against this decision. At the same time, it was requested that “a German handball federation should only be admitted to membership if both German states were represented in this association”.

And what about the above-mentioned decisions pointing the way to the future? In a way, such decisions had already been taken.

The introduction of a game without offside position was the beginning of a new, much more fast and dynamic style of play. (You will find more detailed information about the development of the rules of the game in chapter “Philosophy”).

Setting the minimum number of teams participating in a world championship to six showed that it was intended to substitute the relaxing weekend tournaments by real title contests from a sporting point of view.

The motion (adopted by 7 votes in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions) proposing to transfer the head office of the IHF to Basel (and not to Paris) for the next two years set a precedent: For the majority of Congress members, the neutral Swiss citizens seemed to be the suitably qualified candidates for hosting and mediating between the international federation and its members from East, West and overseas. Basel became and would remain the contact point for the whole world of handball.

Moreover, it is worth mentioning that, in 1950, the IHF planned to organize a men’s outdoor handball world championship in Budapest instead of the Olympic Games that were supposed to be held in London in 1948. However,

this tournament did not take place “as the political circumstances were more important than the motivation in sports. For these reasons, the international federation felt compelled to cancel the competition...”

The only international event organized in **1951** revealed the dismal situation six years after the end of the war. From 22 to 28 July, the 3rd international referee course of the IHF was held in Schielleiten (AUT). This training course was of particular significance in view of the changes to the rules of the game and the world championship in Switzerland in 1952. Soon, the organizer had to realize that there were no referees from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Spain, Czechoslovakia and Hungary to participate in the course. The 18 remaining participants came from Germany, France, Holland, Yugoslavia, Norway, Austria, Portugal, the Saarland, Sweden, Switzerland and Italy. It seemed that the wounds were still open...

1952 was a more successful year from a sporting point of view. The IIIrd men's outdoor handball WC in Switzerland from 8 to 15 June was attended by 75 000 spectators and topped the audience of the previous title contests.

An exhibition match played at the Olympic Games in Helsinki was intended to show that handball would clearly deserve to be considered as an Olympic sport.

According to the chronicler, the IVth IHF Congress held in Saarbrücken on 20/21 September 1952 was no “milestone”, but only routine. The 41 delegates from 15 countries as well as the members of the Council and the Technical Commission broadly confirmed the admission of Japan as full member as well as the provisional membership of Brazil. However, for the moment, it was not possible for East Germany to join the international federation as the membership of two (German) associations was not provided for by the IHF statutes and the IOC played its cards close to its chest too. The proposal of East Germany according to which both associations should be admitted to the IHF by having only one head office and one vote that would only be valid if both sides share the same opinion was doomed to failure.

In Saarbrücken, two topics were top priorities that had already been discussed in detail at the previous Congress meetings and that, in future, would also be the common thread running through IHF's history of development: Standardized rules of the game and sound finances.

In a “parlous” state

However, the financial situation of the international federation was not sound at all and even “in a very parlous state” according to the IHF President. And that was

no wonder, considering the low membership fees and the lack of other sources of income. In addition, it was reported that the country of the current Treasurer lost faith in the man who “was responsible for the federation’s property” according to the IHF Statutes. This was a call for the highest state of alert.

Disagreement arose about dealing with and adopting new rules of the game. As far as this question is concerned, it was simply not possible to get the 15 participating nations to cooperate. Two examples: “Germany was allowed to test the division (of the playing court) into three sections with the object of submitting a report at the next Congress meeting. For the same reason, Sweden was permitted on a trial basis to test the repeated dribble with one hand in indoor handball”. Thus, opinions were divided on this question – and as to whether 11-a-side outdoor handball or 7-a-side indoor handball should be given preference.

For the above-mentioned and other reasons, these two complex topics - Rules of the Game and Finances - are treated in separate chapters of this book.

The dissatisfaction with the unduly independent behaviour of some federations was expressed at the 4th and, until then, best-attended referee course held in Munich from 23 to 27 July **1953** with 28 participants from 12 nations. According to the chronicler, the IHF management, first and foremost Emil Horle, did not hesitate to make complaints and remarks: “The training course can only serve its purpose if all IHF nations are ready to apply the new valid rules of the game that have to form a basis for their own competitions.” It seemed that the standardized rules were not yet suitable for everyone.

After a successful indoor handball world championship, where the Swedish men’s host team had won the title, the Vth Congress was to be held from 27 to 29 September **1954** in Opatija in Yugoslavia. This meeting would go down in history as the “most encouraging Congress since 1946” and was marked by “hospitality, harmony and further consolidation”.

The 25 delegates from 15 handball federations decided to organize the “first world championships in 7-a-side handball for men’s and women’s teams under the official supervision of the IHF”.

Rinkenburger’s first choice

Hans Baumann and Albert Wagner were confirmed as head of management, but Treasurer Krijgsmann was replaced by Max Rinkenburger (FRG).

Brazil and Argentina were admitted as full members; Israel became a provisional member and would later unintentionally turn out to be a “problem child”. On the other hand, East Germany continued being on the waiting list as, according to Secretary General Wagner, “the International Olympic Committee was of

the opinion that, from a sporting point of view, there was only one Germany so that only one German National Olympic Committee could be accepted, whereas the majority of international federations followed the IOC's example of not admitting East Germany..." Among the 15 participants (out of a total of 22 IHF members), seven voted in favour of and five against the admission of East Germany's handball association to the IHF. There were two abstentions. Thus, waiting was not yet coming to an end. However, the Council recommended that "organizing competitions between all nations and East Germany should be allowed and cultivated..." – a wise decision (also from a political point of view).

Another particularly encouraging decision: At Yugoslavia's request, the Congress launched a special women's handball commission headed by Ludwig Klima (AUT). But the fact that, when holding the elections for this commission, both female candidates Taange (SWE) and Duboisset (FRA) failed and were defeated by their male colleagues Draeger (FRG) and Kosi (HUN) was less encouraging. This "subcommission" had clear and simple objectives: "Promoting women's handball and finding ways and means to widely spread this sport" (see also chapter "Women and handball").

In this situation, Sweden's motion according to which indoor handball tournaments organized by the IHF could be played in the open air was adopted at just the right moment. Thus, the first women's world indoor championship in 7-a-side handball in Yugoslavia in 1957 was really held in the open air. What a coincidence! Definitely a good decision.

Baumann's mid-term review

In the history of the IHF, uneven years were relatively peaceful years as a rule. Apart from the IVth men's outdoor handball world championship in Germany where the FRG won the gold medal ahead of Switzerland and Sweden, the activities were limited to administrative procedures, speculations and expression of wishes. This was also the case in 1955 when the IHF was, once again, worried about the survival of women's outdoor handball while submitting an application to the IOC for including handball in the programme of the Olympic Games to be held in 1960.

At the press conference given in Duisburg (FRG) on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the International Handball Federation, President Baumann was taking stock of the situation, as a kind of mid-term review: "The IHF certainly achieved a respectable result with a membership currently amounting to 1.8 million. For the moment, the IHF is composed of 24 ordinary (and one provisional) member federation(s)." In addition, he emphasized again the federation's main principle: "We are still amateurs. We do not wish to pursue the policy of several

other federations and have to pay sharp attention to the fact that the international amateur regulations are followed very scrupulously.” However, he would not be able to maintain his position for a very long time...

The IInd women’s outdoor handball world championship held in south-western Germany in July **1956** where it was said that “all debate on women’s handball flaring up from time to time had been completely silenced” (according to the IHF chronicle) was followed by the VIth IHF Congress organized in Stockholm from 31 August to 2 September that was reviewed by chronicler Millermann as follows: “The Congress must not be overrated. However, this meeting could be considered of major importance because several decisions made on this occasion had far-reaching consequences and pointed the way to the immediate future.”



They had composed the management committee of the IHF since 1956 (from the left): Paul Högberg (SWE), Charles Petit-Montgobert (FRA), Hans Baumann (SUI), Albert Wagner (SUI), Max Rinckenburger (FRG) and Emil Horle (SUI).

Among this assembly’s achievements, the historian mentioned, above all, “the internationally accepted division of the playing court into three section (in outdoor handball) by limiting the number of players to six in each court section what had already been successfully tested by Germany and had the aim of preventing defensive block formation in the centre of defence. Moreover, it had also been very important for the development of the game to create a goal area of 13 m resulting inevitably in an enlarged goal and free-throw area (semicircle from the centre of the goal line).” However, the assembly rejected the proposal to increase the number of players in outdoor handball from 11 to 12.

At that time, determining the size of the indoor handball court was “of minor importance. It had been decided that the dimensions for international competitions should be between 38 x 18 m and 44 x 22 m and for national tournaments between 30 x 15 m and 50 x 25 m.”

Although the suggestion submitted by Sweden and adopted by the Congress would be of major importance for the further development of indoor handball, it did not really attract attention: Finally, the repeated dribbling of the ball - that had already been used by the Scandinavians for a long time - was internationally accepted.

These and many other innovations were laid down in the statutes and the rules of the game that were published in the form of a revised edition after the Congress.

The Congress in Stockholm was quite successful from a sporting point of view too. After several unsuccessful attempts, East Germany's handball association (better known as German Democratic Republic) was finally admitted to the IHF as full member. Among the delegates from 18 participating federations, there were 14 votes for and 2 against the motion, with 2 abstentions: "The GDR's handball association shall be admitted to the IHF. In case of reunification of both German states, only one representation of the reunified Germany shall be accepted at the Congress following this event. The required conditions shall be set up in Germany. Only one all-German team shall participate in World Championships and Olympic Games. For this purpose, the German Handball Federation (of the Federal Republic of Germany) shall open negotiations." The first hurdle was cleared, but it would turn out that the East-West Germany relations would remain a problem...

Shortly after this decision, the new member got the opportunity to prove its organizational and sports skills – on the occasion of the men's indoor handball WC in the GDR in 1958. On the other hand, it was Yugoslavia that took on the honourable task of organizing the women's WC.

The end of the women's commission...

Apart from these two nations, Israel and Cuba had every reason to be pleased too: They were admitted to full membership, whereas Italy could not prove the existence of an own federation and had to withdraw.

Also, it was very disappointing that a commission - "that was hardly noticeable and was considered to be unnecessary" – 'breathed its last' after only two years: "The subcommission for women's handball headed by President Ludwig Klima (AUT). This showed that the formation of commissions could not be the only solution to a problem if there was no necessary working basis and a lack of initiative" (Millermann). Thus, the Congress decided that specific issues concerning women's handball should be treated and dealt with in the Technical Commission by an elected "women's expert".

Some changes occurred at the elections of the management committee and the Technical Commission. Palle Kristensen (DEN) did not stand for re-election due to work overload. His successor as Vice-President was Paul Högberg from Sweden, whereas Charles Petit-Montgobert (FRA) was confirmed in office. The same applied to undisputed President Hans Baumann (SUI), Secretary General Albert Wagner (SUI) and Treasurer Max Rinkenburger (FRG). Newly elected members of the Council were Kratky (TCH) and Sandholt (DEN). Other representatives: Wobbe Akkerman (HOL), Leopold Eichberger (AUT), Jenő Fanto (HUN), Einar Kaspersen (NOR) and Risto Orko (FIN).

Emil Horle (SUI) was re-elected as President of the Technical Commission. The other commission members were Axel Ahm (DEN), Willy Burmeister (FRG), Marijan Flander (YUG), Rene Ricard (FRA), Curt Wadmark (SWE) and newcomer Ludwig Klima (AUT). However, there are no written records testifying that Klima was employed as “comprehensive women’s expert”.

...and the beginning of the European Cup

People hardly noticed that the Congress in 1956 also gave birth to a competition that, within a short period of time, would turn out to become a “bestseller” and an absolute “success story”. This initiative was launched by the French sports magazine L’equipe and Charles Petit-Montgobert from France when “informing” the IHF Council “about the European Inter-Cities Cup in men’s indoor handball held at the invitation of the French Handball Federation. Twelve countries had already shown general interest in this competition.” Certainly, it was only “an attempt for propaganda purposes” and “the TC did not have time to organize this event”. Nevertheless, the Congress gave its approval and allowed France to organize such a competition for city teams that would become, two years later, a tournament between the best handball club teams.

The IHF managers’ mixed feelings about organizing this new competition is recorded in the minutes of the IHF Council meeting held in Paris on 14 September **1957** as well as in the IHF history: “These cup games (between city teams) involved a large number of participants. The management committee and several Council members expressed their concern about this competition and the suggested application to outdoor handball, considering emerging financial and planning difficulties for the participants, too high physical strain and overload in good players as well as lower participation in official IHF events. Petit-Montgobert answered that the cup matches had promoted handball considerably, that the participation in this competition was optional, that there was a good balance between expenses and income, for which all records were broken in France, and

that these cup games had no negative consequences if they were organized in the years in which no world championships were held.” The European Cup would only revive in the years 1958/59 (after the WC in 1958) with the participation of club teams.

Première: In 1957, the representative team of Prague (TCH) won the European Inter-Cities Cup by 21-13 against Örebro (SWE), whereas RI Gothenburg (SWE) gained its first title at the European Champions Cup by beating FA Göppingen (FRG) 18-13 in 1959.

The friendly matches between the best European city teams were not the only innovations in this memorable year. In July, the 1st women’s indoor handball world championship was organized in three Yugoslav cities – in the open air, but on a smaller field and with the participation of nine teams whereas Czechoslovakia won its first title in this sport. All in all, a good start, apart from the constant quarrels between both German federations: At this WC, Germany was represented by a team of the Federal Republic of Germany “as the East German Handball Federation had refused to place active players at an all-German team’s disposal because of the World Youth Games that were subsequently held in Moscow and in which the East German handball players had to take part.”

Also, the international federation entered unknown territory as far as press and public relations are concerned: “The initiative taken by Secretary General Wagner in order to periodically publish a newsletter meeting a real demand was approved. This magazine shall be published in two languages (English and German) four to six times a year. One edition shall cost roughly 110 CHF excluding postage. The newsletter shall be sent to press agencies and national federations that should provide further circulation.” This was the beginning of the information service’s media work that would be permanently intensified and improved in future. (Please find more detailed information in chapter Media).

Key word “new territory”: In this year marked by important developments and decisions, a “Japan expedition of the IHF President” had also been planned. According to the chronicler, “this journey was made together with a German representative team going to Japan to dispute international matches and turned out to be extraordinarily profitable in spite of huge language difficulties. Handball experiences a great revival in Japan. As official school sport, there are more than 70 000 players reaching an audience of 40 000 to 50 000 today. Handball is also played in six other East Asian countries, in particular Formosa as well as North and South Korea.” The detour to the Far East was a sign that handball would turn into a real world sport beyond the borders of Europe.

With so much good news, it is no wonder that, as far as finance is concerned, the first glimmers of hope had also emerged more than ten years after the founding of the international federation. A summary is given in the Council meeting minutes: “The Treasurer (Max Rinkenburger) submitted a comparison of expenses and income made since the last Congress and concerning the budget proposals that had been drawn up for two years. The cash balance showed cash and



The IHF delegation was heartily welcome during its “Japan expedition” in the summer of 1957.

bank assets of 18.204,19 CHF. ... The international match duties amounted to 10 309,05 CHF, a sum never before achieved within one year, whereas several federations were in arrears or did not react at all.”

After the successful third indoor handball world championship, organized in the GDR as new member nation with the participation of 16 teams for the first time and with another title win for Sweden as 7-a-side handball expert, the handball world’s attention turned to the VIIIth IHF Congress held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (FRG) from 18 to 21 September **1958**.

42 delegates from 17 member federations had finished with the elections within roughly 30 minutes by expressing their esteem for the efforts of the former members of the management committee: Within 60 seconds, President Baumann was re-elected by acclamation and unanimously confirmed in office. In addition, Charles Petit-Montgobert and Paul Högberg remained Vice-Presidents and Albert Wagner became again Secretary General. Max Rinkenburger, who was appointed Treasurer for the third time, completed the “bureau” of the IHF. Further Council members: Wobbe Akkerman (Holland), Leopold Eichberger (Austria), Jenö Fanto (Hungary), Einar Kaspersen (Norway), Vladimir Kratky (Czechoslovakia), Risto Orko (Finland) and Jörgen Sandholt (Denmark).

In the Technical Commission, the re-elected President Emil Horle was also assisted by qualified experts, such as Axel Ahm (Denmark), Willy Burmeister (Germany), Marijan Flander (Yugoslavia), Ludwig Klima (Austria), Rene Ricard (France) and Curt Wadmark (Sweden). This time, Heinz Seiler (East Germany) and Joan Kunst (Romania) did not get the chance to join the commission.

14 motions were submitted to the Congress. Most of them concerned the rules of the game. The Congress adopted only one of these proposals: An additional field handball player who was allowed to substitute the goalkeeper. CSSR's motion proposed to introduce two referees in indoor handball was rejected and got only one affirmative vote as, "considering the different possibilities of interpretation of the rules, putting this proposal into practice would directly result in differences of opinion and give rise to considerable uncertainty among players, spectators and the press." Moreover, Poland's suggestion that the goalkeeper in the goal area should be allowed to continue the game after scoring did not receive the majority of the Congress votes.

On the other hand, Romania had more success in proposing the creation of a "European Champions Cup" in outdoor handball and a "European Champions Cup" in indoor handball for men's and women's club teams. However, the Council recommended that the EC matches (in indoor and outdoor handball) "should not take place and that main interests should focus on the world championships" and provided the following convincing explanation: "The fact that indoor and outdoor



Garmisch-Partenkirchen welcomed its guests attending the VIIth IHF Congress in 1958.

handball was played by the same top players in a large number of countries, and considering that the corresponding national champions were very frequently the main players of the national teams concerned, would give rise to some apprehension that introducing the proposed European Cup games would result in very high

physical strain and overload in top players. Certainly, there were similar competitions in other sports; however, the IHF had not only to undertake the task of promoting handball, but also to pay attention to the fact that handball players acting as amateur athletes should not be overstrained.” Nevertheless, the motion was adopted by nine votes in favour, six against and three abstentions. The Council and the Technical Commission had charge of “drawing up the implementing regulations.”

Soviet Union entering the stage

All Congress members completely agreed when adopting a Swedish “schedule” that, for the first time, took account of the fact that, meanwhile, men’s and women’s world championships were organized in indoor and outdoor handball. The frequency of these four events was fixed as follows: in 1959 men’s outdoor WC – in 1960 women’s outdoor WC – in 1961 men’s indoor WC – in 1962 women’s indoor WC – in 1963 men’s outdoor WC – in 1964 women’s outdoor WC – in 1965 men’s indoor WC – in 1966 women’s indoor WC etc.

The fact that this frequency would soon change because outdoor handball would gradually retire from international stage had not yet to be discussed in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

At this Congress meeting, special attention was paid to the admission of one new member to the IHF: The Soviet Union as sportingly and politically recognized “heavyweight” entered the international stage. The Soviet delegate pointed out that there were 100 000 active players in his country and that 10 000 new members joined the federation every year. Thus, the decision to admit the Soviet Union as IHF member number 27 was taken unanimously (with one abstention).

However, just like every year, there was still some disagreement on the dispute between both German states over their respective rights: The GDR’s motion to have its own team participating in World Championships and Olympic Games was rejected by ten votes to six. Consequently, the “hostile brothers” from East and West Germany had to make do with an all-German team, even if “two performing halves do not necessarily make a good whole” according to the sarcastic remark of one Congress participant.

The biggest WC win

The up to date largest margin of victory in an indoor world championship occurred during the game played in Berlin (GDR) between the all-German team and Luxembourg on 27 February 1958. Germany won by 46-4.

The fact that, 13 years after its formation, the International Handball Federation was perceived by the media and received positive feedback was reported in the

“Swiss Handball Journal” that, under the headline “A Handful of Marginal Comments”, was dealing with the Congress in the “Olympic Village”: “Hans Baumann, the brilliant and reliable chairman of the Congress, congratulated and thanked the German Handball Federation ... for the invitation to the Oktoberfest to be held in Munich on Sunday ... The Congress was organized at an elegant venue ... The health resort in Garmisch-Partenkirchen ensured a stylish-elegant atmosphere and a ceremony was held to open the negotiations. Pieces of music composed by Grieg, Mozart and Tchaikovsky (please note the choice of composers) were followed by speeches made by Dr Karl Ritter von Halt, among other people, who had provided good handball services and still does – not least it is thanks to him that handball is still included in the Olympic programme...”

The outdoor handball world championship held in Austria in the summer of **1959** was intended to be the highlight of this sporting year. Finally, there was talk of a WC disputed among the “hard core” of nations. Whereas only eight teams participated in the tournament, there was a volley of withdrawals just before the WC start: First Yugoslavia, then France as well as Denmark that finally participated in the competition. The one who suffered was Belgium that could not move up due to time reasons. However, when Spain withdrew eight days before the WC start, Austria’s B representative team participating as non-official competitor had to serve as a stopgap. But this was not enough: Even Sweden did not play a good game at these title contests.

That was the final straw for IHF President at the Council meeting held at the same time. He raged. He believed that “the IHF was torpedoed from all sides and that its image was really damaged.” This could not be tolerated. Thus, the international federation had a prompt reaction and imposed heavy fines against France, Yugoslavia and Spain. In addition, Spain was suspended from international competitions for one year. – What was meant to be this year’s highlight ended in medium-sized disaster. Was this the beginning of the end for outdoor handball?

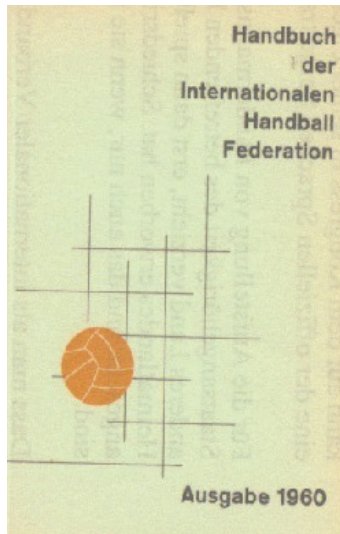
A similar development could be observed at the European Cup in outdoor handball from which several nations withdrew. Nevertheless, the German Handball Federation was charged with the organization of this competition for the time being.

On the other hand, good news was coming from Japan. According to the history of the IHF, this nation’s “written promise ... to organize an Olympic handball tournament in 1964” (in 11-a-side handball with the participation of 8 teams) landed on the international federation’s desk. However, as everybody knows, paper is patient...

Hardship limits in handball

The IHF's management was growing more resolute and persistent in its attitude when organizing and holding the 7th referee course in Wageningen in the Netherlands from 12 to 16 July 1959 by involving 44 participants from 17 countries. Here, the IHF was determined to tackle this widespread problem. Topic of the training course: Hardship limits in handball.

A farce with serious (political) background. This is the way in which one could describe the “performance” of both German federations when appearing at international events: This time, it was on the occasion of the 3rd women's outdoor handball WC held in June **1960** in Holland where Romania won gold, Austria silver and Germany bronze. That was it from the sporting point of



view. However, the fact that East and West Germany were not able to settle on the number of each federation's players to be used in the all-German team (normally 8 per federation) during the run-up to this competition was a quite unpleasant and ridiculous situation.

In 1960, the international federation published the “history of international handball” as well as another manual of current regulations.

Finally, the IHF took action and decided

to appoint 10 players from the East and 6 players from the West. From now on, the German-German happiness went out of the window and a harmonious cooperation within the team and among the delegates was not possible any more.

To avoid such number games in future, the Council made the following decision at its meeting held in September: “With effect from 15 March 1961, both German federations shall continue using an all-German team. The federation that does not agree to this solution shall inform the IHF. In this case, both federations shall play two qualifying matches (one match at each federation). Subsequently, only the

better performing team (winning on points or goals scored) called “Germany” shall participate in official IHF events”. However, this had quite little to do with sport.

Once again, the judgement of Solomon was applied on the occasion of the VIIIth Congress held in Liège on 23 and 24 September. Here, the 50 delegates from 21 countries admitted South Korea as new member and were assuming that North Korea would follow soon. Thus, the following decision was taken: The admission of South Korea to the IHF was accepted; however, “considering the situation in Germany, a similar procedure shall be applied to this new member.”

Only four years after the men, the women also developed European Cup ambitions. Thus, the women’s Champions Cup was launched with the help of the Czechoslovakian sports magazine “Start” providing moral and media support, whereas eight teams participated in the first edition of this competition. Unlike the men’s tournament, the women’s final was disputed in the form of an away and return match. In this first competition, Romania’s champion Stiinta Bucharest won 8-1 and 5-4 against Dynamo Prague (TCH).

The Congress had to deal with European issues too. Yugoslavia put forward a motion according to which the European continent with the highest number of matches played and of member federations should be allowed to found its own continental confederation called European Handball Federation. According to the minutes, this ‘rushing ahead’ was “considered to be premature in view of the current number of member federations”. Consequently, Yugoslavia withdrew its proposal.

In its 15th year of existence, the financial situation of the International Handball Federation could be considered to be relaxed all in all. This was also due to the “cash situation” that had been “improved”. Thus, considering its “absolutely sound financial structure”, the international federation was - for the first time - able to assume the travel costs as well as the Council and Technical Commission meeting expenses, to make provisions and to decide unanimously that referees should be reimbursed as follows: “Outward and return journey by sleeper train or by boat in first class, daily allowance for arrival and departure of 20 CHF each, allowance for stay at venue of 30 CHF”.

In 1960, IHF chronicler Günter Millermann concluded the “history of international handball” with the following statement: “And the Olympic handball tournament to be held in Japan in 1964, that will be coming up soon and for which a sufficient number of teams have already registered, seems to be a pleasant outlook for the future.” It would be nice if it was true.

Only eight months later, at its meeting held in Stockholm on 5 August **1961**, the Council had to take note of the fact that Japan had cancelled the handball tournament at the Olympic Games in 1964, whereas preference was given to volleyball and judo. There was talk of broken promise, ignorance of handball by the IOC – the most difficult chapter in the history of the IHF.

Thus, this year continued in the same way as before – in an unpleasant atmosphere: At the indoor handball WC held in the Federal Republic of Germany, Brazil was conspicuous by its absence in spite of its qualification and the CSSR stayed away from official occasions and banquets in (West) Berlin as this town was not recognized as constituent part of the FRG. Thus, President Baumann expressed his dissatisfaction with the “influence of politics in sport to such an extent. Up to now, it was one of the most serious infringements in this field.”

Television as important partner

For the first time in the history of handball, feelings were running high for another issue – but in a positive way. Television companies were more and more interested in the popular and media-catching sport of handball. Above all, this concerned countries having a grand tradition of handball, such as Sweden and Germany, where lucrative TV contracts had been signed and where experience had shown that “there was a huge increase in hall attendance on Sundays following a successful TV transmission of international matches”. On the other hand, there were countries where one could be pleased if handball would be shown on TV. There were also nations that did not wish “a TV transmission to avoid conflicts with their own events”. Different interests and varying salaries: “Some countries paid extremely well, others nothing”. Considering such ‘mishmash’, it was now up to the IHF to draw up standardized international regulations after getting in touch with the “big brother” football federations FIFA and UEFA to adopt their approaches to the problem. In addition, the IHF wished and had to commercially exploit its own products, the world championships, and to use them as welcome “instruments of propaganda”.

The commercial exploitation succeeded straightaway. However, despite being strapped for cash, the International Handball Federation as organizer of all world championships accepted to earn only 3% of the television gross profit. The “remaining” amount of money was paid to the organizing member federation. But this rule could not be applied for a very long time.

At the Congress held in Madrid (ESP) on 14 and 15 September **1962** and being normally attended by 45 delegates from 24 national federations, the IHF came

up with a welcome and modern innovation: For the first time, simultaneous interpretation services offering translations into German, English and French were provided. However, all improvement involves change. For the first time, the seating arrangements had to be made according to the language spoken by the delegates. Also, there were many new associations that were profiting from this innovation, thus increasing the total number of member federations to 34.

To improve administrative efficiency, the Congress adopted standing orders as well as regulations concerning penalties and fines to extend the existing range of IHF statutes and regulations. Subsequently, modern regulations for IHF World Championships should be drawn up too.

However, the two-year financial report that the Treasurer submitted to the Council on the eve of the Congress meeting was less encouraging. He referred to the parlous state resulting from payment of travel expenses to the Council and Technical Commission members. Thus, the IHF's situation was still no bed of roses as "expenses exceeded income". The result: The WC participation fees were increased from 100 to 200 CHF, whereas the annual contribution amounting to 400 CHF per member nation remained constant. One might wonder if this would be enough in the long term...

Also, dark clouds were gathering on the horizon from a sporting point of view. First, the Council voted under ambiguity to "postpone" making the decision on the further organization of the women's outdoor handball WC "for the time being". However, on the following day, the body held the opinion that "this competition had to be dropped. The Congress agreed to this proposal by tacit consent."

The decline of outdoor handball went hand in hand with the rise to fame of indoor handball. This development proved successful after the delegates' decision made by 19 votes to 1 according to which indoor handball world championships should be organized every two years instead of four.

Young hopefuls waiting

Finally, a long-cherished wish of the GDR came true at this Congress. According to a motion passed by 15 votes in favour, 7 against and 3 abstentions, East Germany was allowed to have its own team participating in IHF competitions. The all-German representative team was a thing of the past. Thus, the East German players immediately took advantage of the first forthcoming competition, being the only handball highlight of the following year, to show their strength. At the sixth (and penultimate) men's outdoor handball world championship held

in Switzerland in June **1963**, the GDR's team reached the final and beat their Western neighbours from the FRG.

Mainly sport specific topics were top priorities at the Xth IHF Congresses held in Budapest (HUN) on 18 and 19 September **1964**. Secretary General Wagner brought amazing and encouraging news to the 50 delegates from 27 (among a total of 34) member federations: "Both European Cup competitions are very popular. The men's tournament is affected by the fact that it is not organized in the years in which world championships are held." The assembly reacted immediately to the news by deciding unanimously to organize these attractive men's and women's Champions Cup competitions every year. And according to the Latin saying "Tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur in illis", times are changing and we are changing with them.

However, it would seem that the time has not yet come to approve two further projects that would broaden the basis for international handball even more. Thus, Holland withdrew its proposal to introduce "championships for 18- to 23-year-old players" after short discussion. The official explanation was that the IHF had "a busy international event schedule and that, in particular for educational reasons, young players should participate in tournaments organized by the national federations and should not yet make any international appearance". Also, Spain wishing to officially recognize and promote "handball for children" climbed down. On behalf of the Council, "Secretary General Wagner recommended to reject this proposal as handball for children should be the responsibility of schools." However, concerning young hopefuls, a shift in thinking would happen soon, but not too soon either.

To take this increased interest in handball (among young players too) into account, the IHF decided, first of all, to publish the brochure "Handball throughout the World" – in French, English, German and Spanish. At the same time, this publication was intended as dig at the IOC that, in the opinion of many experts, was still not aware of the worldwide significance of handball as Olympic sport. In addition, this brochure was used as covering letter accompanying a resolution adopted unanimously by the Congress in which the IOC was reminded that handball should be included in the Olympic programme.

Coaching: yes – outdoor: no

The delegates meeting in Madrid voted in favour of exactly 44 changes to the statutes, provisions and regulations concerning specifying the exact playing court dimensions in indoor handball, approving round goalposts, organizing two-day

special referee courses before the WCs, submitting proposals to the Congress in German and French. All these decisions made sense and had to be integrated into the IHF manual that had to be reprinted. Two motions seeming to fall out of time or to be out of touch with reality were rejected and not accepted: Transfer of the IHF head office from Basel to Israel and formation of a special Technical Commission for outdoor handball.

Just like many years in which no Congress was held, **1965** was a year without particular highlights, apart from the women's world championship.

At the Council meeting in November, the Treasurer considered the financial situation of the IHF again as "particularly tense" and "strongly advised that attempts were made to find new sources of income for the IHF to guarantee permanent provisions of at least 50 000 CHF"

By referring to another problem, President Baumann was playing in the Treasurer's favour. He reported that, "after consultation with other international federations, the IHF Congress was strongly advised to introduce a progressive voting right for delegates according to the size of the member federations. It went without saying that progressive membership fees had to be set up in this case".

Strapped for cash and progressive voting right – the Congress would continue dealing with these two subjects for at least two more decades...

Also, there was question of awarding decorations and distinctions. First of all, regulations for awards, honorary members and awarding of badges of merit (at two levels) were drawn up. The issue concerning playing national anthems and raising national flags - what had not yet been done at world championships - should be put on the agenda of the forthcoming IHF Congress.

Back to sport. The increasing interest in handball in many countries and the demand for qualified coaches encouraged the IHF to organize its very first international coaching course in the summer of this year. 62 head coaches from 19 nations accepted the invitation of the Institute of Sports Magglingen (SUI) to this training course held from 21 to 27 August **1966**. The success of this event showed that the managers were on the right track and made them organize this course on a regular basis.

Good news from Lausanne

More good news was coming from Lausanne at the end of the year: In its 64th meeting, the IOC increased the number of Olympic sports from 18 to 21. And handball was in on it. Soon after, it had been confirmed that men's team handball would finally be included in the programme of the Olympic Games in 1972.

The Olympic fever spread through the IHF until the XIth Congress held in Copenhagen on 2 and 3 September 1966 and showed positive results: The assembly decided unanimously that the rules remained unchanged until 1972 after having approved the proposals according to which the game management in indoor handball should be ensured by two referees and the playing time should be set to 2 x 25 minutes for women's and youth teams. By changing previous decisions, the Congress members decided that the IHF should alternately organize World Championships and Olympic Games every two years from 1970. And, finally (but too late), the Congress declared itself in favour of the participation of women's teams in the Olympic Games in 1972.

In a wave of enthusiasm, the sovereign President Hans Baumann being still in office took the opportunity to remind the 72 delegates from 26 federations that they were attending a Jubilee Congress held in the place where the International Handball Federation was founded. As is well known, the IHF was brought into being in July 1946, thus celebrating its 20th anniversary at this Congress. The highest handball expert described the development of the international federation "from nearly 100 000 to roughly two million members in 34 official member federations on four continents" (You will find more detailed information on the following pages).

Among many personalities having contributed to the revival of the federation, President Baumann referred in particular to the retired TC member Willy Burmeister whose "longstanding experience and outstanding services rendered to the IHF as well as the former IAHF were highly appreciated by President Baumann and TC President Horle". Thus, Burmeister was unanimously appointed as honorary member of the IHF.

Subsequently, the day-to-day business brought the delegates back to reality. Thus, once again, Treasurer Rinkenburger had to remind the assembly of the rather tense financial situation. Additional expenses for "propaganda material", for advertising in general and Olympics 1972 in particular, for an increased volume of business and the rising costs resulting from this business made a hole in the IHF's savings. According to Rinkenburger, "the income from international matches and world championships" would not be sufficient to reach a balanced budget "as only few federations made an active contribution to the financing of the IHF".

Above all, two decisions came as a relief. After the WC in 1967 in Sweden, the TV fees for world championships - meanwhile reaching a considerable amount of money - would generally be divided up in the ratio 50:50 between organizer

and IHF that were also jointly in charge of conducting negotiations with the television companies. Moreover, the rule concerning the progressive increase in membership fees according to the number of active members per federation would be applied in future: 600 CHF for up to 10 000 active players (without youth), 1 200 CHF for up to 30 000 players and 1 800 CHF for more than 30 000 players.

And what about the progressive voting right? Rinkenberger announced that “the FIFA, meanwhile, had serious doubts about this rule”. So did the IHF. Many persons shared the opinion of Council member Milius (GDR): “Equal voting right as before – that is synonymous with democracy”. Thus, the IHF maintained the ordinary right to vote for the time being.

Also, a problem concerning sport and politics could be solved. Delegate Singer (ISR) emphasized “the unfavourable geographic location of Israel complicating considerably its participation in international competitions and requested the permission for Israel’s national champion to take part in the European Cup whereas all costs incurred should be borne by Israel”. The corresponding decision made by majority did not only solve current problems. But it also meant that, in the long term, this country was affiliated to the European continent at all future IHF tournaments.



The IHF Council in the jubilee year 1966. At the front and from the left: Hermann Milius (GDR), Emil Horle (SUI), Hans Baumann (SUI), Einar Kaspersen (NOR), Wobbe Akkermann (HOL); at the back and from the left: Max Rinkenburger (FRG), Franticek Bocek (TCH), Paul Högberg (SWE), Albert Wagner (SUI), Risto Orko (FIN) and Istvan Madarasz (HUN). Charles Petit-Montgobert (FRA) was absent.

Taking stock of the years 1946-1966

A brief stocktaking of the first 20 years in the history of the International Handball Federation shows absolutely remarkable results. The fact that the IHF went the whole hog out of nothing was, first of all, due to Sweden's handball personalities Björk, Borgh and Lyberg who were soon replaced at the top by the equally successful trio from Switzerland made up of Baumann, Wagner and Horle who were still at the helm in the jubilee year. These six personalities were considered to be a real stroke of luck for international handball.

The results from a sporting point of view: World championships for men's as well as for women's teams were organized in outdoor and indoor handball. At first, only six teams participated in the competitions; in the meanwhile, this number has been increased to 16 and more teams. In spite of numerous rules changes, outdoor handball was a lost cause in the end. In 1960, it was decided that international women's outdoor handball competitions should be discontinued; six years later, it was the men's turn.

In Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, but also in non-European countries, preference was mainly given to the faster game of indoor handball. Dominant nations: Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Romania and Hungary in indoor handball as well as the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic in outdoor handball.

In addition, the European Champions Cup for men's and women's club teams was booming and was becoming a real success story.

Referee courses and newly introduced training courses for head coaches as well as updated rules ensured that the "accompanying staff" and the regulations could keep up with the times.

From a sporting point of view, the icing on the cake was provided at the end of the period under review when the IOC finally included handball in the programme of the Olympic Games to be held in Munich in 1972.

However: From a financial point of view, the international federation had some difficulties in getting things moving. This was, among other things, certainly because its member federations had only moderate membership fees and contributions to pay.

The number of member federations had been increasing steadily, but not excessively: In the year of foundation 14 associations were affiliated to the IHF, whereas in the jubilee year there were 39 members from the four continents of Asia (5), Africa (8), Europe (22) and Pan-America (4).

World Selection: Council having a hard time deciding

In 1967, in the third decade since the IHF came into existence, President Baumann and Secretary General Wagner continued setting strategic directions. They strove to make indoor handball appear more attractive to the audience and become a safer sport for all active players. Thus, they were proud to award the newly launched Fair Play Cup at this year's Men's World Championship in Sweden for the first time. This trophy would become a permanent fixture over the next few years.

The logo of the IHF



It would be a relatively long time before the International Handball Federation created its own logo. It was designed by the IHF under the supervision of Secretary General Max Rinkenburger and had a soft, simple, tasteful and serious look: A hand holding a ball bearing the initials of the International Handball Federation on a blue background. And the IHF's "pride and joy" was surrounded by a gilt edge with the lettering "International Handball Federation". The emblem made its first appearance in 1966 - coincidence or purpose? In that year, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the IHF, the logo was printed on official papers for the first time before being graphically designed and changed to a needle that is still awarded today to outstanding IHF collaborators, such as honorary or Council members. – In 1971, just six years after this "premiere", the IHF became more up to date and created a modest and catchy logo: The stretched letters "IHF" were supported on a ball being symbolic of the globe and handball at the same time.



Blue and gold were the emblem colours again. The slender design was not only visible on printed matters. Also, it was available as pin or button, was produced in larger quantities and was a much sought-after object of exchange at World Championships and Olympic Games. – The third and last version of the IHF logo is a mixture of its both predecessors: The ball and the stretched IHF letters



are visible on a blue background surrounded by a gilt edge. The (English) lettering "International Handball Federation" completes the round logo. – In the 90ties, President Lanc tried to decree a new logo by Congress decision. However, the highest body of the IHF rejected this proposal in secret ballot elections. The logo had to stay as it was.

However, another very important decision was to ask the technical experts to test “Tartan artificial flooring for sports halls and small fields”. The track-and-field athletes who had already made good experience with this new flooring would support this project. Traditional and very hard floors were disappearing from the halls. The good thing about this new flooring was not only its consistency, but also its results: Manufacturers, such as the first IHF partner Taraflex, invested great amounts to do business with the International Handball Federation to be able to present its floorings to other prospective buyers at World Championships too.

In the September meeting of the IHF Council in Oslo, the colleagues of Baumann and Wagner had some difficulties in accepting a sporting innovation launched by journalists. Media representatives of Czechoslovakia suggested that “the world’s top 16 players” should challenge the national team of the reigning world champion CSSR. Council member Bocek submitted the corresponding proposal on behalf of his compatriots. In this context, he reminded the Council members of the advertising effectiveness and attractiveness of such an event. Opinions were divided within the Council that was allowed to make decisions between the Congress meetings: The voting was five in favour, five against and three abstentions. Baumann decided to “exercise his presidential right and to approve this proposal” (as well as Vice-President Högberg). Only just one year later, Czechoslovakia participated in its first match against a world selection of international handball stars. Further matches of this kind were to follow. (Please find more details in chapter VI.)

It costs money to work

At the airport, the 40 handball fans from the Netherlands coming to attend the European Cup match played in Sofia (BUL) in 1967 were allowed to enter the country as tourists without any problems and were most cordially welcome. But the 16 officials, coaches and players from Arnhem had to pay an entry fee: 5.60 dollars per person/visa. These were unplanned expenses of a total of 89.60 dollars corresponding, after conversion, to 359 Dutch guilders. And the border official gave the following explanation to the surprised guests from Western Europe: Entering the socialist country in order to “work” here was subject to a fee.

The invasion and its consequences

Only a few days after the official appearance of the world selection, the IHF “got into an embarrassing situation whereas the IHF was the first international federation to be confronted with this state of affairs” according to the minutes of

the Council meeting held on 29 August **1968** in Amsterdam. The minutes referred to the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union and its main allies. “Only one week has passed since these events and we are seriously affected by what has happened.” The end of the Prague Spring from a political point of view had serious consequences for the future of the sport too. Only one day later, 74 delegates from 28 federations were dealing with this subject on the occasion of the XIIth Congress that was also held in Amsterdam. The majority of the members simply refused to hold competitions by involving the USSR. A clear Congress decision was made: The Women’s World Championship in 1969 (that was supposed to be held in the Soviet Union) was cancelled. The same applied to all European Cup games of the men’s and women’s teams during the season 1968/69. However, the door was left open for the qualifications for the Men’s WC in 1970 in France.

It was perfectly understandable that other topics had to take a backseat in view of the dramatic events.

Nevertheless, the Congress was again looking ahead to the Olympic Games to be held in Munich in 1972 where men’s handball would make its second debut. Hesitating attempts aiming at a possible participation of women’s teams failed because of the refusal of the IHF to reduce the number of men’s teams for the benefit of the “weaker sex” as well as the veto of the IOC referring to former agreements. What remained was a motion of the USSR approved by all Congress members and proposing to include women’s handball in the future programme of the Olympic Games too.

The non-European continental confederations were not only claiming more rights



Excitement at the prospect of the Olympics (from the left): Siegfried Perrey (FRG), Emil Horle (SUI), Janis Grinbergas (URS) and Kazumi Watanabe (JPN).

in view of the Olympic Games. But they were also becoming aware of their increasing importance (and number) and were legitimately requesting an appropriate representation on the Council of the IHF. In particular Asia and Africa were the trailblazers, but failed because of unsolved “questions of sharing of tasks and bearing of costs” (according to the Council).

The end of outdoor handball

The International Olympic Committee was even more critical of outdoor handball than the International Handball Federation. In 1986, the IOC stated in its handball encyclopaedia: “The IHF management still wishes to keep playing 11-a-side handball on a large field despite the fact that this sport is only practised by a few handball federations.” These were Holland, Switzerland, Austria as well as the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. They were the only teams to register for the Outdoor Handball World Championship planned for **1969**; however, this tournament could not take place through lack of participants (a minimum of six teams were needed). One year later, the official end of this sport was announced at international level when less than four national champions registered for the European Cup.

Thus, all doors were open to the former “little brother” called indoor handball. Later, the journalist Erik Eggers (GER) would describe the situation as follows: “Only when moving to the hall in 1970, handball succeeded in getting technically and tactically emancipated from football having set an example for a long time... Finally, handball has been shaped into what it is today: A modern sport with a character of its own.”

A missed rendezvous

The sports rivalry between Czechoslovakia and Denmark after the WC final in 1967 was on the verge of having an unpleasant end two years later in **1969**. As the Nordic team did not turn up at the “goodwill” international match in Prague that had already been scheduled for a long time. The team was on the plane that took off in Budapest, but could not land at the airport of the Golden City due to a heavy snowstorm. However, what they did not know when making an unplanned stopover in Amsterdam: The CSSR team was not in Prague either. At the same time, the CSSR players were stuck in the USSR. No plane was able to take off – because of very bad weather conditions. Only the referee from (West) Berlin succeeded in coming by train – to be on the safe side. But, at that time, it turned out to be in vain.

120 delegates from 34 member federations meeting on 18 and 19 September **1970** in Madrid (ESP) on the occasion of the XIIIth IHF Congress were mainly dealing with routine matters. In the meanwhile, the elections had also become routine as the management committee did an excellent job and had only to be confirmed in office. Thus, the unanimous re-election of President Baumann, Vice-President Högberg, Secretary General Wagner and Treasurer Rinkenburger was a mere formality.

However, one management member did not stand for re-election after having been in the front line together with Baumann for 24 years: Charles Petit-Montgobert retired from public life at the age of 75.

Alberto de San Roman (ESP), Hermann Milius (GDR) and Nelson Paillou (FRA) were standing for election as 2nd Vice-President as this position had become vacant. In the first round of the secret ballot voting, each of them succeeded in achieving 11 votes. In the second round, the Spaniard got 12 votes, whereas the other candidates obtained only 10 votes.

The elections of another seven Council members were also very exciting, while 11 candidates threw their hat into the ring. Finally, Hermann Milius (GDR), Andreas Fredslund Pedersen (DEN), Frantisek Bocek (TCH), Istvan Madarasz (HUN), Nelson Paillou (FRA), Dr Mohamed Fadali (EGY) and Vladimir Krivcov (URS) managed to win the elections.

The Technical Commission under the direction of Emil Horle (SUI) with its members, Axel Ahm (DEN), Marijan Flander (YUG), Ioan Kunst-Ghermanescu (ROM), Siefried Perrey (FRG), René Ricard (FRA) and Curt Wadmark (SWE), was unanimously re-elected.



A typically French custom: At the end of the World Championship in 1970, the hosts invited all guests to a dinner in an historical atmosphere.

Finally, sincere words of gratitude were expressed towards Wobbe Akkermann (HOL), Einar Kaspersen (NOR) and Risto Orko (FIN) who withdrew from office after having been loyal IHF members for decades and who were named Honorary Members as well as Petit Montgobert.

Happiness is brief

The players of the Bulgarian champion club Spartak Lewski Sofia were in a cheerful mood when leaving Sweden and setting out on their journey back home. Despite losing the match 12-18 against Hellas Stockholm, they had won the first leg by 18-9 and could qualify for the eighth-finals of the European Cup in 1969/70. But the Swedish customs found, what would still be prohibited today, too many bottles of high-proof spirits in the luggage of the passengers who became less joyful. After this incident, the Bulgarian Handball Federation felt compelled to suspend seven players and to cancel the IHF membership of this top team due to “technical problems”. Thus, the Grasshoppers from Zurich were, for their part, in a cheerful mood now and could advance to the next round by default.

When submitting his cash report, the Treasurer could state that “the amount of income” achieved had never been as “high” as over the past year. However, there had also been “a considerable increase in expenses”. The result was that “the final estimation of income and expenses resulted in a positive amount of 192 000 Swiss Francs” – what was a very modest sum for an international federation...

In the meanwhile, another topic has also become routine: Dealing with the progressive voting right at Congress meetings what had been approved by the Council in its last meeting by 8 votes to 3. However, the Congress disagreed and rejected the motion by 18 votes in favour (9 votes against and 7 abstentions). Thus, this issue remained on the agenda.

The Olympic Games to be held in Munich in 1972 and including an indoor handball tournament for the first time occupied a large part of the discussion too. In this context, the delegates underlined the improved international character of handball and decided by 29 votes to 2 that one representative of each continent of Africa, Asia and America would be admitted.

As everybody knows, women were not allowed to participate in the Olympic tournament. Thus, it was not very annoying that the Olympic Committee of Munich announced to undertake sex controls at the Olympic Games. However, the handball officials were rather interested in the introduction of doping tests that concerned the IHF for the first time and were compulsory at the Olympics in Munich.

To specifically support promoting young hopefuls throughout the world, Yugoslavia recommended that European Championships for women's and men's junior teams should be introduced by inviting non-European countries interested, such as the USA. The conversation was also brought round to the subject of handball at school. As a matter of principle, the Congress was in favour of this proposal, but believed that there was no specific call for action (yet).

On the other hand, the USSR submitted again the proposal to admit "only European teams" to the European Cup what was rather of political interest. That was clearly directed against Israel. However, the request coming from Moscow was rejected.

Dismay about Baumann's death

The year 1971 started with disturbing news for the handball friends all over the world: Hans Baumann died of a heart attack at the age of 64 in his hometown Basle on 7 February. He had been leading the IHF as President for over 20 years, after having been involved in the IHF already since the foundation of the federation. The Olympic Games should have been the culmination of his career. After his death his representative Högberg took over the duties until the Congress in 1972.

Prior to this, the IHF Council and the Royal Spanish handball federation raised a monument, which also would have been liked by himself. They created the Hans Baumann Trophy, which was awarded from then on every two years to a special meritorious member and which commemorates for ever the legendary President.

The tasks of the new first man at the Council meeting in October were the creation of doping- and sex-regulations, the release of a newly created IHF logo and the opening of a special account for 'development aid'. A lot of countries (especially non-European countries) needed financial and material support in order to promote handball 'at home'.

Furthermore, Högberg was upgrading the continents by nominating officials and technical delegates, who were representing the IHF at continental qualifications and who could exercise their authority, if necessary.

Meanwhile the Treasurer worried about the shortly refused, modified and graduated vote: "Rinkenburger referred to the experiences, made by international federations, with their non-modified votes, which then got into deepest trouble. As the latest

examples had been quiet alerting, he asked for a last examination of this question, which should be free of any resentment and only in favour of the sportive welfare of the IHF, and to make the necessary structural changes.” With regard to the worldwide development, Rinkenburger could surely imagine, as a Treasurer, how long it would have taken until the strong European federations would lose their majority in votes in the Congress, in case the rule of one vote per federation would be kept.

A forward-looking proposal, coming from the Soviet Union, intended to give a professional structure to the world organization: increasing the number of Council members who are responsible for special tasks; increasing the Executive Committee members to seven; increasing the technical commission members and creation of in total eight commissions; employment of a professional managing director. A commission consisting of five members received the task to work on these topics and to present a working paper which could be used for a decision to be taken by the Congress in the upcoming year.

The Hans Baumann Trophy

Only shortly after the death of the long-time IHF President the Royal Spanish Handball Federation donated in 1971 the Hans Baumann Trophy, which was on decision of the IHF Council from 1972 on awarded every two years to a Member Federation which had earned extraordinary merits in the development and promotion of handball on national or international level. The following federations have been awarded with the trophy:

1972	England	1974	Italy
1976	Algeria	1978	Kuwait
1978	France	1982	Korea
1984	Congo	1986	Spain
1988	Austria	1990	Portugal
1992	Cote d'Ivoire	1994	no awarding
1996	Brazil	1998	Japan
2000	China	2002	Russia
2004	Croatia	2007	Rumania
2009	Germany	2011	Argentina



1996, in the year of the 50th anniversary of the IHF, the wife of legendary IHF President Hans Baumann hands over the trophy to Manoel Luis Oliveira, President of the Brazilian Handball Federation.

Already before the first indoor Olympic handball matches gave its debut and before the planned change in the structure of the IHF took place, the IHF Council took care about the day-to-day business at the Council meetings in April and August **1972** in Munich and Nuremberg.

Part of this were the facts that meanwhile 16 teams from four continents could qualify for the Olympics, that only the 12 out of the 16 players in the respective team who played the final match could receive a medal and that women's world championships would continue taking place every two years until also the "weak gender" would be considered at Olympic Games.

The question about the convenience and the establishment of continental confederations was dealt with caution and reservation by the council: "This can be in the interest of the promotion of handball as long as the tasks and authorities of these federations are clearly defined in the regulations of the IHF. The council will propose it these terms to the Congress for Asia, Africa and America, but not for Europe."

Also by dealing with other subjects, which were among the responsibilities of the Congress, the Council did not want to exceed their competence: languages of the Congress, head office of the IHF, graduated right to vote (again), creation of commissions, increasing the number of members in the different committees and prolongation of the period of mandate of elected representatives.

New faces – new structures

The 79 delegates from 36 federations taking part at the XIV IHF Congress on 23/24 August 1972 in Nuremberg (GER) did a great job and gave their federation a new structure which met the latest developments and at the same time presented the basis for professional dealing with the handball sport in the future.

At the same time employees of outstanding merits gave their farewell. Secretary General Albert Wagner resigned after 26 years. He resigned from the IHF exactly at the same time as Avery Brundage resigned from the IOC, although the circumstances were far more convenient for him – without disputes about amateur regulations and without any pressure from younger officials. He wished the "hot-blooded" handball sport a "great future". Together with the Swiss also Willy Burmeister, René Ricard and Charles Martin left the IHF and all of them were appointed Honorary Members.

The decided structural changes and the necessary decisions in terms of personnel brought at the elections the following results:

Paul Högberg (SWE), 1st Vice-President Alberto de San Roman (ESP), 2nd Vice-President Vladimir Krivcov (URS), Secretary General Max Rinkenburger (FRG) und Treasurer A. Fredslund Pedersen (DEN) were unanimously elected as IHF Executive Committee members.

President of the five new technical commissions were Curt Wadmark (SWE, COC), who moreover completed the Executive Committee, Emil Horle (SUI, PRC), Ioan Kunst-Ghermanescu (ROU, CCM), Bernhard Thiele (FRG, CPP) and Istvan Madarasz (MC).

The non-European continents received seat and vote in the IHF Council and were represented by Mohamed Fadali (EGY, Africa), Peter Buehning (USA, America) and Kazumi Watanabe (JPN, Asia).

Additionally Hermann Milius (GDR) and Leopold Stipkovich (AUT) were elected Council members and completed the new IHF Council consisting of 15 members in total.



Popular and acknowledged by everybody: Paul Högberg, since 1971 IHF President, together with “Monsieur Handball” Bernhard Kempa.

The modern structure of the “completely renovated” IHF was completed by the Congress decision to install a permanent General Secretariat managed by a full-time managing director. This would guarantee that the routine administrative work could be implemented promptly and in a professional manner. The decision about the place of the federation was left to the Council.

Also in terms of elections nothing should be left to chance in the future. Before decisions had been made by lot in case of equality of votes, but from then on elections were repeated as many times as required until a majority vote could be obtained.

No majority vote received the request to introduce Russian and Spanish as Congress languages, leaving them to German, French and English.

Also the request of USSR to exclude Israel from the European Cup was rejected, after having been refused before at the Congress 1966 in Copenhagen, 1968 in Amsterdam and 1970 in Madrid.

The difficult topic of suffrage

Another “long runner”: the graded suffrage. Hereto the council brought forward the following motion: A-nations with more than 50,000 active participants receive three, B-nations (10,000 – 50,000) two and C-nations (up to 10,000) one vote in Congress.

The motion launched a vivid discussion, which contained quaint arguments for and against it. The British President Jeff Rowland, in general always capable of a little surprise and he had also just won the Hans Baumann Trophy for his federation, mentioned according to the proceedings of the Congress the following statement: "The small handball nations have to deal with lots of difficulties to work with just a small amount of money; therefore those small federations should get three votes." IHF Vice-President Vladimir Krivcov (URS) recognized the problem in the differentiated amount of votes "as an impairment of the small federations, which could result in an artificial increase of active participants to 50,000. Nevertheless would Luxemburg need to write down their whole population as players. Instead the USSR should get 45 votes due to the amount of players."

An inquiry of the world federation eventually found out that at that time five A-, eleven B- and 30 C-nations were playing handball, and out of those not all were members of the IHF.

Only four federations were voting for this motion during the Congress, which was therefore declined. Like that the UN model was maintained and every country had still only one vote. This discussion was supposed to come up again pretty soon after. However to say it right away: the suffrage for the IHF Congresses did not change anymore.

On the other hand did the status of the continents: "At the suggestion of Wagner" as the proceedings said, "did the congress give the approval - without dissenting vote - for the development of continental confederations." Nevertheless was Europe precluded of this in the beginning.

Joy arose when the delegates decided with a solid majority of 22 yes-votes that "in the future the national anthems were supposed to be played and the flags were raised again" - during world championships of course.

The Council still had to deal with two tasks in their meeting after the Congress: the determination of the office of the IHF and the appointment of members for the five new committees.

12:3 was the final vote of the Council for the office in Basle (SUI), instead of Copenhagen (DEN).

The Technical Committees were filled as follows: Organising and Competition (President Curt Wadmark) - Siegfried Perrey (FRG), Lucian Grigorescu (ROM) and deputy Erik Larsen (DEN); Playing Rules and Referee (Emil Horle) - Axel Ahm (DEN), Marijan Flander (YUG) and Pierre Lacoux (FRA); Coaching and Methods (Ioan Kunst-Ghermanescu) - Ernst Mühlethaler (SUI) and Werner Vick (FRG); Promotion and Public Relations (Bernhard Thiele) - Fritz Karlin (SUI)

and Petar Bucu (YUG); Medicine (Istvan Madarasz) – Tino Hess (SUI).

The Women's World Championship in Yugoslavia was the only sporty highlight of the year **1973**, after a successful restart of the Olympic Handball and the Congress Resolutions while looking towards the future. The host won for the first time the gold medal – and two German teams from East and West did not even overcome the preliminary round...

Before, on 15 January 1973, the Confédération Africaine de Handball (CAHB) established the first continental confederation in the Nigerian Lagos. Within four years Asia and Pan-America followed. All of them, which is showed during the history, developed to real power factors within International Handball Federation.

In the meantime the two new full-timers started working in Basle in the Langen Gasse 10, the head office of the World Federation: Friedhelm Peppmeier and Jacqueline Bochu. The administration expert, who was working as executive director for the German Handball Federation before his change, and the Swiss, who spoke several languages, where the ideal team and therefore received a lot of compliments for their professional management in the period following.

The XV IHF Congress in the Italian Jesolo from the 4th to the 5th of October **1974** was the first one, which was not an election Congress at the same time: two years earlier in Nuremberg the delegates decided to vote the top management only every four years in the Olympic rhythm. This made sense: like that the elected members were able to incorporate in their tasks and also had a longer period of time to implement their ideas. Now the 125 delegates from 43 Member Federations were able to concentrate on current topics and problems.

First of all they stopped the ongoing uncertainty about new, changed rules: "Rule changes were from now on only every four years possible, and only during the IHF Congress, which was happening in the year of the Olympic Games. They came into effect in the year after." Like that it was guaranteed that new reforms and modifications reached the basis, the federations, before new guidelines were implemented. This decision helped significantly for the permeability and the security of the work with the regulations.

Six further world championships

The ongoing increasing amount of handball federations (Högberg was talking in his report about 63 in total, however not all of them were IHF members) and the fact, that the juniors were taking pleasure in the game in the hall, induced the Congress to react. Initially the plenum decided the implementation of the men's and women's junior world championships from 1977 on, whereas the age was

limited to 19 for women and 21 for men. Parallel to that – therefore also in 1977 –they introduced the B- and C-world championships for women and men, to give a chance to under-performing nations, to also fight for titles. (More regarding those competitions in chapter “competitions”).

With reluctance they acknowledged the increasing amount of motions, aiming at the implementation of comparing games against the world selection. General tenor: an approval was only granted for extraordinary occasions. One was the 25th anniversary of the Yugoslavian Handball Federation on 13 November 1974.

The sport of handball also accrued that world-wide valid and uniform international match and referee reports were used as well – under the patronage of the IHF – more coaching courses offered, amongst others in Switzerland, South America, England, Israel and Canada. For that purpose the IHF created its own group of lecturers, who from now on worked on all five continents. The Dane Helge Paulsen developed a ball for the minis – for the first time this term appeared – which inherited the same name with a perimeter of 48-50 cm and a weight of 325 g. This ball immediately became very popular. Like that handball was also a great alternative for younger age groups.

All those actions were supported by the newly founded Commission of Promotion and Public Relations, which had its first touring exhibition in Jesolo and provided lots of information regarding the IHF. New as well was the telex terminal of the IHF.

This was desperately needed because especially the non-European continents sent lots of good information: in Africa, as President Babacar Fall announced, 28 federations played handball in 27 zones. Out of those 11 were no members of the IHF; America, as President Peter Buehning announced, prepared its founding Congress; in Asia, as Watanabe mentioned, a continental confederation was founded, which consisted of seven countries. Out of those only Kuwait was a member of the IHF, which did not acknowledge the new structure and declared it as illegal. However: something was happening on the continents. They made their presence felt. They wanted a seat and a vote on the Executive Committee. With reference to the high costs were they able to postpone those motions.

During the awarding of the allocation of places for participants for the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976, the non-European members succeeded in one point. At the men’s tournament Africa, Asia and America received one place each. On top of that the world champion from 1974, host Canada and seven teams from Europe were chosen. For the women’s tournament only one place was given away for Africa, Asia and America, which needed to be played off. Host Canada and the first four women teams from the world championship in 1975 were chosen as well.

Did this mean everything went fine in Jesolo? Of course not. The Soviet Union tried once more to eliminate Israel from the European Cup; however also this attempt failed.

One big problem for the delegates was still the finances: “Regarding Treasurer Pederson the income of CHF 410,000 was in contrast to the expenses of CHF 772,000 in 1975/76.” This meant an expected deficit of CHF 360,000. And: “An income of CHF 450,390 so far, was opposing CHF 460,159 until 1 March 1974.” Writing those (red) numbers made them think if they “should maybe raise a credit or split the costs for participating federations.”

This was however not necessary because in those number games the money from Montreal in '76 was still not considered. And – as the Congress decided - also “the revenues from the television (from the broadcasting of the world championship) went to the IHF. The organizer received a share.” Soon new sources of revenue came up: at all official and international championships it was mandatory to only use balls, which carried the IHF seal and therefore could also be used for merchandising. Aluminium goals and synthetic handballs were discussed and they also did not bring up any concerns after certain tests have been made – after prior payment. The better marketing of the international handball was slowly becoming a topic...

The only highlight during the year **1975** was the VI. Women's World Championship in the Soviet Union in December. For the first time teams from four continents participated and - also for the first time – it was possible for women handball national teams to qualify for the Olympics. The GDR, the Soviet Union, Hungary and Rumania finished one to four in the ranking and therefore had the ticket for Montreal.

Farewell of Emil Horle

Canada should have been the culmination of his activity as IHF official, but he could not experience these games anymore: Emil Horle died after a short but severe illness in his home town Bern at the beginning of the year **1976**, after having taken great influence on the development of international handball for 30 years. The world of sports mourned for his death. The Swiss left a heavy heritage.

Norwegian Carl Wang, who was elected the new President of the Rules and Referees Commission at the XVI Congress in Estoril (POR) on 3/4 October 1976, stepped into his – probably too big – shoes. Furthermore Dutch Albert Schimmel succeeded the German Bernhard Thiele in his position as President of the Commission for Promotion and Public Relations. Apart from that there were no further changes at the top of the IHF.

Thus the 160 delegates from 41 federations could deal intensively with the cash situation, which consolidated, according to the minutes, a little: “The IHF has liquid assets amounting to CHF 62,000.-. The balance shows an income of CHF 439,479.39 and expenses of CHF 471,766.41.” The relatively positive balance was mainly due to the fact that in addition to the, in the meantime, well going selling of TV rights also the quality seals for balls, goals and floors brought additional income. The deal with the French company Taraflex for the delivery of handball floors at world championships completed the marketing success of the IHF leaders.

In a first flush of enthusiasm it was decided to bear with immediate effect the travel costs for all Council members in order to “document the independence of the members and their exclusive activity for the IHF to the outside world.” Not least because of this the budget for 1977/78 in income and expenses was increased to CHF 673,000.-.

Part of this money was invested in development measures such as the publication of an illustrated elementary teaching manual about the basics of handball and the main rules of the game in German, English and French.

For the introduction of two new Congress languages (Spanish and Russian), which were raised every now and then, no majority vote was obtained and thus also no money was approved.

But green light was given for the introduction of a second club competition. In view of the fact that the European Cup of the national men’s and women’s champions had become a real story of success, now the European Cup for cup winners was introduced. The men’s competition took place for the first time in 1976 and the women followed one year later.

And also Israel is back among the IHF members, which had been refused as member of the Asian continental confederation before. The Congress decided with 26 against 6 votes to allocate Israel to the continental confederation of Europe. With this decision it was once and for all made clear where the sporting future of this federation would be placed.

Also rules decisions were no longer subject to Congress decision. It was decided that decisions in terms of rules should be made by the IHF Council and then confirmed by the Congress. This procedure, which made sense from a sporting and also from an administrative point of view, was approved with only three dissentient votes.

After the end of the Congress the task for the IHF Council remained to increase the number of members for the technical commissions, since the number of tasks

for these commissions had widely increased due to the risen number of sporting activities. These commissions were then filled as follows:

COC: Curt Wadmark (SWE), Friedrich Duschka (AUT), Lucian Grigorescu (ROM), Erik Larsen (DEN), Siefried Perrey (FRG) – PRC: Carl Wang (NOR), Erik Elias (SWE), Janis Grinbergas (URS), Herbert Hensel (GDR), Pierre Lacoux (FRA) - CCM: Ioan Kunst-Ghermanescu (ROM), Tadeusz Bregula (POL), Jaroslav Mraz (TCH, Ivan Snoj (YUG), Werner Vick (FRG) – MC: Istvan Madarasz (HUN), Tino Hess (SUI), Jiri Jeschke (TCH) - CPP: Albert Schimmel (HOL), Petar Bucu (YUG), Fritz Karlin (SUI). – On request also contact persons from the continents could be called in.

July of 1976 was entirely dedicated to women's handball, which made its debut at the Olympic Games in Montreal, at the beginning only with six teams, but at least the first step was made.

Handball straight away in midfield

In 1977 the Pan American Team Handball Federation was founded. The PATHF followed the example of Africa and Asia, which already affiliated as a continental confederation in 1973 and 1976.

During a conference in Landersheim at the end of October the Council was not only delighted by this development, but also by a compliment which was announced in Lausanne: The International Olympic Committee and the Association of International Sports Federations underlined towards President Högberg, that the cooperation and flow of information between the General Secretariat and the IHF could be described as exemplarily.

They also seemed to be very content regarding the acceptance of the sport of handball: an overview of the audience of all sports showcased at the Games in 1976 showed that handball ranked 11th place out of 21 disciplines with a total of 63,024 spectators. This was remarkable, remembering that handball had just made its way to the Olympics.

Keyword getting started: towards the end of the year several other international competitions were born. The men's and women's junior world championships, and the title races of the categories B and C gave new impulses and created a more stable base for handball worldwide.

Experiencing this positive development definitely helped to accept the following news: since 1977 the IHF was member of the International Committee for Fair Play. However they never got even close for winning a trophy during the annual awarding.

A tasteless joke

Everybody was ready for the international match between Germany and Iceland in the sports hall Elsenfeld in Aschaffenburg in 1977. The 1500 spectators were ready, also the teams, referees and organizers. However just before the match was supposed to start they announced that everybody needed to leave the hall due to a bomb threat. After one hour researching they came to the conclusion that it was a false alarm. The match was still played (17:12), but it was impossible to create the general handball vibe.

President Paul Högberg initiated the XVII IHF Congress in Reykjavik in Iceland from 7 to 11 September 1978. 110 delegates from 43 federations participated, but he started with an admonitory speech. Not only the greatly aggressive style of playing, which was propagated more and more, but also further nuisances needed to be stopped. “No one could silently accept the development of overvaluation of mercantilization and tendencies for violence in sport, abuse of drugs and especially the search for loopholes in the statutes and rules to achieve an irregular advantage. This means for us to deliver more information and better education.” Still at the time of Högberg’s predecessor, handball only consisted of amateur players. Now, however, it seemed to get out of hand due to the gaining influence of economical thinking, juridical subtleties and reckless medicine. His speech showed already soon after a positive effect.

At the same time the Congress needed to rethink its planning and equalization of all events because the great number of international meetings correlated with each other. This resulted in the change of the men’s world championships to February/March and the women’s world championships to November/



Full house: During the Congress in 1978 in Iceland all delegates (over 100) clustered to a picture, which was a very rare moment.

December. Also the tournaments of the juniors, which became very successful, were set to a two year cycle. Luxemburg brought forward a motion to follow the other continents and launch their own “IHF European Championship”, but the Congress forwarded this to the Council for further discussion.

Innovations came up with regard to the game and the rules. From now on three (instead of two) teams made it to the main round after finishing the preliminary round. Whereas with the same amount of points, the team with the better goal difference and the amount of plus goals moves on; final matches would not be repeated, instead twice prolonged before a 7-m shoot out would take place; and in order to make the game more “vivid, dynamic and attractive” the 45-seconds-rule was introduced. During a research of 42 matches in Denmark it was discovered that an “attack on average takes 34 seconds”.

The President of the Commission of Promotion and Public Relations had other problems. In the IHF’s name he visited “as the first of a world federation nine countries within three weeks (SEN, CIV, CGO, BEN, GAB, CAM, TGO, GUI, and MLI). During this visit he learnt about the concerns and misery at the grassroots level. The federations were waiting for ideational, practical and tangible help: courses for coaches and referees, movies, specialized literature, balls, nets, sports clothing and shoes. The plea of the CPP President didn’t go unheard. The development aid started rolling. The means included the “ABC of Handball”, the first “script and advertising booklet” in German, English, Spanish and French. Another book for advanced persons was in progress.

In the meantime the USSR was demonstrating again against the affiliation of Israel to Europe; this time without avail. The vote finished 23:9.

Three years after introducing the European Cup for Cup Winner’s the club managers, together with the IHF, discovered another market niche. The club championships were successful; therefore they decided to create a competition where the national champion was playing against the reigning champion of the cup winner’s. The Super Cup – that was its name – was played for the first time in **1979**. Two German teams, VfL Gummersbach and TV Grosswallstadt, were fighting for the trophy. Gummersbach won 14:9 and they also won the last happening of this cup against SKA Minsk (BLR) at 17:16. After five years the Super Cup disappeared from the scene again.

Otherwise handball stayed on course for further success. During the meeting on 16/17 August in Dresden (GDR) the Council allowed oneself to be convinced. 19 teams participated at the championship on the continent of Africa, which were

supported daily by 12,000 to 15,000 spectators. This tournament counted at the same time as qualification for the Olympic Games in 1980. New in the agenda was also the Continental Cup for club teams and the Junior Championships. America also included handball in the Pan-American Games. In Europe an “all-time-record of participants” was registered at the coaches and referee symposium in the Yugoslav Pula: over 700 visitors were an evidence for an increasing interest in handball. However “the main goal of the IHF, to point an indicatory way for the future was only partially successful”. No wonder after this boom...

Politics boycotted Moscow

Something else, which technically did not have anything to do with sports, worried the Council: “The Congress found out that more and more organizations were trying to influence the world sport. Especially politicians, who wanted to reach their political goal with the help of the sport. The big world federations came to the conclusion to work against this trend.” Due to painful experiences in the past the IHF joined in as well.

A different problem: the work became too much for the two full-time employees in Basle. The Treasurer announced “the necessity of the personnel development”, however said “at the same time, that half of the income needed to be counted for the fixed costs of the administration office. So far the annual costs added up to CHF 210,000.-.“ Nevertheless the search for an additional, younger employee was started.

The worries, which were occupying the Council regarding the influence of the politics, did have its reason. Russian troops invaded Afghanistan and now the western alliance expected that their sports leaders were supposed to boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow in **1980**. This made the IHF President furious. At the XVIII Congress in Moscow from 15 to 17 July Högberg criticized “the purpose to prevent the Olympic Games and to discriminate against the Olympic idea, as well the pressure of the government towards their national sports organizations to boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow. The International Handball Federation protests against the idea to misuse the sport as a single weapon to solve global political problems. The only victims are the young athletes.” However also the experienced Swede was not able to prevent that the German Federal Republic, Japan and Tunisia did not participate in the Olympic Handball tournaments, which were about to happen, due to the pressure of their National Olympic Committees.

Back to the tasks of the Congress: after four years the 85 delegates from 52 member federations had to vote again and they mainly approved the established

top management of the IHF. Furthermore additional members for the Council were announced because the board was extended from 15 to 18 people. Afterwards the Council consisted of the following members:

President Paul Högberg (SWE), 1. Vice-President Vladimir Krivcov (URS), 2. Vice-President Alberto de San Roman (ESP), Continental Vice-Presidents Babacar Fall (SEN, Africa), Walter Schwedhelm (MEX, America) and Sheikh Fahad (KUW, Asia), General Secretary Max Rinkenburger (FRG), Treasurer Andreas Fredslund (DEN), Commission Presidents Curt Wadmark (SWE, COC), Carl Wang (NOR, PRC), Ioan Kunst-Ghermanescu (ROU, CCM), Istvan Madarasz (HUN, MC), Heinz Seiler (GDR, CPP), Councillors from the continents Peter Buehning (USA, America), Kazumi Watanabe (JPN, Asia) and as well an additional representative of Africa plus Otto Schwarz (SUI) and Nelson Paillou (FRA) as European Councillors.

The Executive Committee consisted of the five members Högberg, Rinkenburger, Pedersen, Wadmark as Representative of the technical commission and Sheik Fahad as continental Vice-President, who handed over the charge to a different continent in a regular cycle of two years.

The elections had just passed, when other political issues came up. The host Soviet Union was trying once again to establish Russian as official language of the Congress – and failed. Palestine was however more successful and succeeded in their second attempt to become a full member, even though that statutory concerns occurred because they did not have a NOC in their country; though this ‘special situation’ turned the balance.

All good trophies come by three

Also from a sporting point of view a lot of things were happening at the Moskva river. The successful Junior World Championship whetted their appetite and prompted the USSR to apply for the introduction of the men’s and women’s youth championships. Furthermore Yugoslavia and others requested European Championship for men and women, as well an Intercontinental Cup for men. With reference to financial and temporal problems, the Congress put these matters to the side for the moment.

The Swedes were more successful, when they plead for the creation of a third European Cup for clubs. IHF Cup was the name of the new competition, which was played from 1982 on besides the European Cup of the National Champions and the Cup Winner’s tournament. With this constellation also the second and third ranked teams of the national championships had a chance to win.

After years of financial deprivation the Treasurer or rather his spokesperson Peppmeier announce positive news: the “balance closed with a profit of around CHF 60,000, additional fixed deposits of CHF 90,000 and a liquidity reserve of CHF 250,000. Withal the European Cup finals of the last two years in FRG generated a profit of CHF 300,000.” This economical upswing was mainly related to a new affiliate. The Swiss César W. Lüthi did not only purchase the TV rights for the world championships, but also started a lucrative business for the world federation conditioned by the advertising boards.

Coach going astray

The German coach and graduated philosopher Adolf Giele is sitting in a taxi taking him through Lisbon – but he cannot enjoy the beauty of the city. Stressed out he is looking for the sports hall, where his team is currently competing in a main round match on the occasion of the 1981 Junior World Championship. But he doesn't know the name of the hall. No advertisements, no newspaper gives him a hint and also the taxi driver is not aware of the event. The named coach has gone, as usual, for a walk before the match – on his own – and has lost his way. Finally the taxi driver by chance manages to find the Belenenses sport hall and the coach his way to the bench at the court – at least for the second half.

Like that it was not surprising that the “budget closed in 1980-82 with the incomes and expenses at CHF 897,000, which resulted in an increase of 25% compared to the former years”. Particularly exciting was for Peppmeier that “CHF 100,000 will be distributed to development aid projects.” This already long overdue project was also generously supported by the IOC. In the context of Olympic Solidarity the project supported countries in need - together with the IHF – in a material, ideally and financial way. (More regarding this in chapter “Basic work”).

Right after the Congress and still in Moscow the Council extended “with regard to the extensive work and the multitude of competitions” the Technical Commissions (with the exception of the MC) to five experts each, who were assisting the President. The new personnel:

COC – Friedrich Duschka (AUT), Lucian Grigorescu (ROM), Aleksandr Koshukhov (URS), Erik Larsen (DEN), Bernhard Thiele (FRG); PRC – Erik Elias (SWE), Janis Grinbergas (URS), Theo Kielhorn (NED), Kurt Schoof (GDR), Werner Vick (FRG); CCM – Tadeusz Bregula (POL), Jaroslav Mraz (TCH), Siegfried Perrey (FRG), Ivan Snoj (YUG), Heinz Suter (SUI); CPP – Said Bouamra (ALG), Petar Bucu (YUG), Ivan Kaspar (TCH), Hansmax Kessler (SUI), Frits Wijk (NED).

Free of political intrigues and financial worries, the international handball lived through the year **1981**. The eyes were only on the sporting highlights, the B world championships for men in France and women in Denmark, as well the title races



The IHF leaders at the 1980 congress in Moscow (from left): Vice presidents Vladimir Krivcov and Alberto de San Roman, President Paul Höjberg, General Secretary Max Rinkenburger, technical committee leader Curt Wadmark, chief executive Friedhelm Peppmeier and Jacqueline Bochud.

for the men's juniors in Portugal and the women's junior in Canada. Everywhere excellent sports was shown.

Curiosity on the side: in 1981 the highest result ever in an international handball match occurred. In August, during a tournament of the military forces in the Hungarian Miskolc, the selective of the Soviet Union won against Afghanistan with 86:2 – in a spirit of friendship.

With the pioneer partner of the IHF

On 7/8 November 1981 the IHF Council meeting took place in French Landersheim, at the headquarters of adidas. Adidas had been one of the first partners of the IHF since the early 1970s and at the named Council meeting a contract was closed turning the sporting goods manufacturer into the main sponsor of the IHF and granting adidas product exclusivity in the upcoming world championships.

Also the offers of different TV stations in view of the broadcasting of the Men's World Championship in Germany and the Women's World Championship in Denmark were discussed. Offers in this regard came to DEM 350,000.- and 50,000.- respectively, and were approved.

In the meantime in Basle the two full-time employees received support from a part-time worker: the Swiss journalist Christoph Krebs started to work for the IHF and was from then on responsible for public relations and the organization of all European Cup events.

At the beginning of 1982, two major things caused concerns to President Högberg:

First, it was the fact that the IHF had not yet entirely reached the - on international level common goal – of being independent from political incidents. That this problem remained became clear at the next Olympic Games in Los Angeles, which were boycotted by several nations.



Good relations: Pioneer partner adidas and IHF. In the middle adidas chairman Horst Dassler, who died a short time after the meeting with the handball delegation.

Second, it was the anger about the unreasonable hardship observed in all halls, at all matches and especially on international level. At the latest after the Men's World Championship in spring of the same year, managing director Peppmeier could give the all-clear in this regard, since at this world championship new and revised rules had been applied, which brought the desired success. In the bulletin of the IHF Peppmeier writes: "Thanks to the new guidelines and instructions the unreasonable violence in our halls has disappeared."

The XIX IHF Congress from 17 – 19 August 1982 in London (GBR) took note of this new development with satisfaction. Handball was and remained clean.

Since elections only took place at the next Congress, the 93 delegates from 53 Member Federations had soon finished the agenda. The implementation of a special fund for teams participating at C world championships and world championship for younger age categories in order to also enable financially weaker federations to participate was decided. To that end a commission was implemented, which was responsible to elaborate the funding conditions. The new IOC regulations for the participation at Olympic Games were acknowledged, and a revised manual for world championships was approved. The request of

Nigeria for an enhanced involvement of women and more of a say for women on all levels was supported. But it remained nothing more than empty phrases since women were still rare at official IHF events.

The Congress did not have any rejections against the work of the responsible from the financial department. Treasurer Pedersen stated that the balances showed the highest numbers in the history of the IHF with an increase of the total assets from approx. CHF 648,000.- to CHF 1.139,993.-. This was, among others, the effect of the money resulting from the Olympic Games and the IHF was now hoping also for additional income at world championships. With 42 against three votes the Congress transferred the “sole right to sell TV and advertising rights in the sport arenas” to the IHF Council.

As, evidently, the main problems had been solved, new and financially weaker members were supported. CHF 140,000.- were granted for development projects, further CHF 50,000.- were dedicated to the work of the contact persons on the continents.

Also the continents received further funds. But they still expected more. Kuwait requested the full membership of the continental confederations, but was instructed by the IHF Council that this would cause “a loss of freedom to act” and that the continental confederations would then “directly be subject to the decisions of the IHF”. Also China fell on deaf ears with their request to increase the number of continental places at IHF events. The IHF decided to stick to the guideline that a further place was only allocated to a continent, if the continent prevailed against the last ranked European team. Further discussions were stopped with the argument that “at the last IHF Congress the members of the developing world have been doubled in the top committees of the IHF” and that at the moment “no necessity to act” was given.

But one success the teams and federations outside Europe could record: the Congress gave them the possibility to participate from **1983** on with their men’s and women’s teams at B world championships, which, until that time, had been reserved to European teams. The newcomers used this opportunity and became highly welcome and appreciated guests. While USA, Canada, China, Brazil, Cote d’Ivoire, Japan and Democratic People’s Republic Korea took part at the women’s competitions, USA, Kuwait, Japan, Tunisia, Congo, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, China and Argentina went for the men’s competitions. Their performances at the events made clear that some of them could soon be expected among the top teams of the world.

The IHF Council meeting on 7/8 October 1983 in Rom was dominated by deep sadness and dismay about the sudden cardiac death of the IHF managing

director Friedhelm Peppmeier. His death caused a huge gap and had brought all administrative processes to a halt. This might be one of the reasons why the Secretary General described the situation (also the financial situation) in Basle as “not very good”.

Högberg leaves and Lanc comes

At the XX IHF Congress on 25/26 July 1984 in San Diego, 48 Member Federations represented through 90 delegates participated. The plenary meeting held on the eve of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles was star-crossed since the Eastern bloc countries took their revenge for the boycott at the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 and did not participate at the forthcoming Olympic Handball Tournaments.

But this was not the only reason why the disappointed President Paul Högberg, who had always been a convinced advocator of a clear separation of sports and politics, resigned from his office. He also wanted to enjoy his private life as well as his associates Pedersen, Wang and Paillou. Thus the following elections brought several new faces into the IHF Council.

Although the Austrian Erwin Lanc, an experienced diplomat and politician, was the only candidate, he had to go through several voting rounds before he could take over the office of IHF President and promise that he would do everything to live up to the expectations. The further positions were held as follows:

1. Vice-President Vadimir Krivcov (URS), 2. Vice-President Alberto de San Roman (ESP), the continental Vice-Presidents Babacar Fall (SEN), Walter Schwedhelm (MEX), Sheikh Fahad (KUW), Secretary General Max Rinkenburger (FRG), Treasurer Raymond Hahn (FRA), Commission Presidents Curt Wadmark (SWE), Erik Elias (SWE), Ioan-Kunst-Ghermanescu (ROM), Istvan Madarasz (HUN), Heinz Seiler (GDR), the Continental Representatives Christophe Yapo (CIV), Peter Buehning (USA), Mohammed Ali Abul (BRN) and the two European Council members Otto Schwarz (SUI) and Concetto Lo Bello (ITA). – New or respectively new in their office were Hahn, Elias, Ali Abul and Lo Bello.

Apart from this, the Congress in California was mainly a routine matter. The Congress approved the revised regulations for penalties and fines, the updated European Cup regulations and also the already existing Anti-Doping regulations. At the same time the Congress took note of the fact that at the B Women’s World Championship in Poland already the first case of drug abuse had been registered. The Congress by majority rejected the use of Spanish and Arabic as official IHF languages and agreed to employ one additional full and one additional half-time

employee at the head office in Basle. The increasing amount of financial affairs should not longer be handled by the (voluntary) treasurer alone and therefore it was considered to implement a financial commission.

A fan sees red

Incident in 1984 in Bitola in the Yugoslavian province Macedonia: at the tournament for the Yugoslavian trophy host Yugoslavia didn't play well in the final against Poland (17:20). One spectator was very upset about this and insulted the referees by use of words which better remain unprinted. "Bandits" was one of the most innocent words he used. Finally it was too much for one of the referees. He interrupted the match and showed the spectator the red card. The punished spectator was then immediately escorted from the hall by two militiamen.

The Secretary General was proud to present the first World Handball Magazine – an international sports magazine in English with German and French inserts. Two or three editions per year were planned with an initial print run of 5000 copies.

While the publication of this magazine caused some financial expenses, another innovation was supposed to guarantee additional income: IHF partner adidas introduced with 'Tango' the first ball made of synthetic material, which had gone through critical examinations before and had then been approved with the seal of quality. Therefore the new ball was ready to be implemented on international level and also the Rules of the Game had been adapted. In 3.1. it was put "The ball is made of leather or synthetic material..."



After the Election Congress in 1984 the Executive Committee held one of its first meetings at the IHF head office in Basle. Below starting from the right: President Erwin Lanc, the Representative of the technical commissions Curt Wadmark, Second Vice-President Alberto de San Roman, Treasurer Raymond Hahn; above starting from the right: Secretary General Max Rinkenburger and continental representative Walter Schwedhelm.

For the first Council meeting President Lanc invited the Council members from 28 to 30 June 1985 to his home city Vienna (AUT). There the whole federation and its administration were examined and revised in detail by the Council members.

This was done in order to define potential room for improvements. Additionally the Member Federations should receive the opportunity to express their wishes through a corresponding survey conducted by the IHF.

Director Jörg Bahrke, who had succeeded Friedhelm Peppmeier, summarized the results of this examination in no less than 57 pages. Hardly surprising that only little space and time remained for other topics such as TV problems, questions about background advertising at world championships and development projects on the continents supported by Olympic Solidarity.

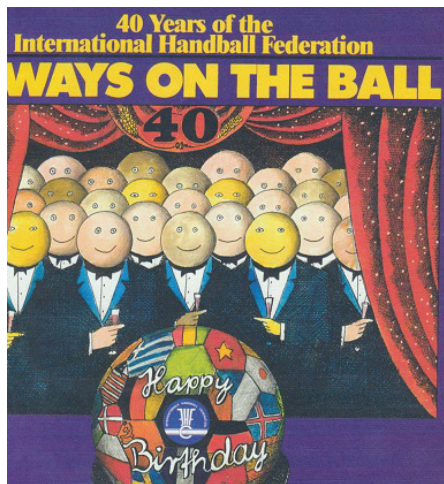
Marathon record

The marathon record for the longest handball match is held by two teams of the Dutch club HC Beringe. They played on 24/25 August 1985 44:20 hours long without interruption against different teams.

The IHF prepared for two smaller anniversaries coming up in the following year: the 25th anniversary of the Women's European Cup and the 40th anniversary of the IHF.

Small anniversary in Dakar

The 40th anniversary of the foundation of the world association was celebrated in Dakar (SEN) on 26/27 April 1986. The World Handball Magazine commented: "the birthday party by itself went off without gaudiness. The representatives



Happy Birthday! With this comic the World Handball Magazine is congratulating the IHF to its 40th anniversary

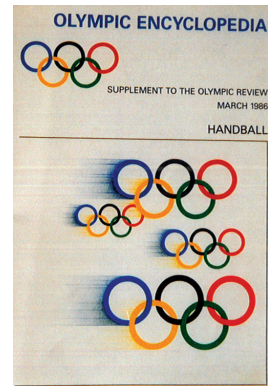
of the Member Federations who were participating at the Congress in Dakar raised their glasses to the welfare of the world organization and moved immediately on to the agenda, which dealt with the question on how to make handball even more attractive, more geared towards the mass and how to increase the fascination for this sport in even more countries as it is already the case..." 151 congratulators, the delegates from 52 federations, were part of this contribution.

As the elections were not part of the agenda, working groups were dealing with the most important problems, before submitting their proposals to the Congress. This included the composition of a working group, responsible for school and youth sports, which had not been paid enough attention

to, so far, and also new awareness and developments which had to lead to further changes of the rules. Part of this was also the creation of further teaching material for training and practice whereat the new medium video was playing an important role.

As at all previous Congresses, the “financial situation was again a concerning subject, as no bigger earnings could have been expected for 1986/87.” The unanimous decision to grade the “annual premiums, which were not increased since approximately a quarter century, in a new way” made a release: depending on the size of members, 2100, 1400 and 700 Swiss Francs had to be paid.

Additional income could have been reached also through the, newly common, advertisement on players jerseys. With a unified imprint on the jerseys of all teams participating at a world championship, the world organization could generate considerable amounts for its Member Federations and itself. Enough potential buyers would have been available. But the IHF itself closed the topic. “It is impossible,” stated the Secretary General, “ that advertisements are made with a team who is representing a country at a world championship. This is an intervention into the rights of the country.” Allowed was – as at Olympic Games – a small company logo of the supplier with a size of approximately 10 cm². Advertisement at the European Cup kept being allowed, but only to the final; for the final, TV could decide. The subject advertisement stayed in the focus of federations and clubs for many years....



On the occasion of the 40th birthday of the IHF the IOC published a special edition “Handball”.

Taking stock of the years 1967–1986

Even though a lot of changes in the rules should have made field handball more attractive, it could not be rescued anymore. Especially the Scandinavian and Eastern European countries were counting on the fast-paced indoor handball, the same applied also for all other nations outside Europe. The development of indoor handball was increasing rapidly: already for the WCh in 1967 25 countries registered. Japan, as the first non-European country, was represented at all title matches.

Handball became finally an Olympic sport – 1972 with the men and 1976 with the women. Also handball had to cope with the consequences of the political boycotts at the Olympics in Moscow in 1980 and in Los Angeles in 1984. 12 men’s

and six women's teams participated in 1984 at the Olympic handball matches. The "weak gender" still had to catch up.

The structures of the world organization had to be adapted to the worldwide increasing significance of the handball sport: the XIV IHF Congress in Nuremberg (GER) in 1972 therefore decided to install a general secretariat in Basel (SUI) and created five working commissions: COC, PRC, CCM, CPP, MC.

Years of growth were following. The selection of international competition increased from year to year: B- and C-groups were implemented to the qualification of world championships (1977), women's and men's junior teams competed for the first time (1977), and the European Cup, which had started so successfully, was increased by the competition of the cup winners (men 1976/women 1977) and the IHF cup of men and women (1982).

Permanent topic of discussion: How to remove the increasing power from the game?

Drastic measures had been taken after the final at the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980, which had been a big topic of discussion by reason of its hardness: slight modifications in the rules and new guidelines for the referees made sure that handball remained a fair sport but still with body contact.

New topic: TV and broadcasting rights, advertising in the halls and on the jerseys, marketing of sports products and the use of new media for teaching the latest practices and tendencies in terms of coaching.

Dominating nations: Romania, GDR, Yugoslavia, USSR, Hungary and Korea with their women...

Two changes of President's took place; Paul Högberg followed 1971 President Hans Baumann, who passed away; the Austrian Erwin Lanc took over in 1984.

Meanwhile the number of federations, which were recognized as full members increased to 96 in the 40th year of existence. They were divided to their respective continents as follows: Asia 23, Africa 29, Europe 31, America 12 and Oceania 1.

New main areas: TV and advertising

In the fifth decade since its foundation, the IHF had set new priorities after having completed its sport offer for clubs and federations. Above all, this applied to senior players. Young people, students & mini-handball players were still waiting for their turn.

Without losing sight of the young hopefuls, the IHF management increasingly focussed on developments accompanying sporting events making handball even more attractive and profitable. This included electronic media, marketing, partners and sponsors as well as an improved image. Also, sports policy had to be taken into account.

This topic had also been discussed at the Council meeting held in September **1987** in Copenhagen (DEN), when the formation of a European continental confederation was on the agenda. The opinions on this subject were as different as the interests and apprehensions of the persons concerned from East and West. IHF Council member Heinz Seiler stated that “for decades, it had been a well-known fact that the interests of Europe were backed by the European group of IHF officials. Many nations of Western Europe, and particularly all socialist countries, are not sure if the formation of a European continental confederation, which would automatically result in considerable and additional organization and costs, would be appropriate at the moment.” President Lanc also commented that “Western Europe clearly decided not to found a European confederation without the consent of the socialist countries and of the IHF. Therefore, no further discussion in this regard is required for the moment.”

However, dealing with another main topic took more time: According to the minutes, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) participated in the meeting to “make broadcasting of handball matches more attractive in terms of TV”. The offer of “home” delivery of World Championships via TV broadcasting had one significant sting in the tail: The offer was only limited to broadcasting of the matches for the places 1-8 since the rest “was not of any interest”. Moreover, fees would only be paid if the match scheme was according to the proposal of EBU. Such demands brought Seiler to the conclusion that, “until now, sport instead of economic values had been the main focus of attention....” And finally Seiler, who had already coached world champions for 30 years, persuaded his Council colleagues. Thus, the IHF did not yield to these demands and categorically refused to shorten the match scheme at the expense of sport values. The EBU gave in, accepted the full programme and paid

500 000 Swiss Francs for the TV rights, after all. Additional income was provided by board advertising fees.

Following the critical remark of “head technician” Curt Wadmark who stated that the IHF had been “too passive in terms of advertising” in the past, it was decided that TV should serve a larger purpose than advertising boards. Thus, the IHF Executive Committee decided “to offer advertising space on players clothing at all World Championships, whereas the finals in the form of qualification matches for the Olympic Games had to be played in advertising-free shirts”. Concetto Lo Bello, a world-famous football referee as well as IHF Council member at that time, even recommended “going ahead as good role model and also allowing advertisements for beer and wine, since both were no alcohol in the common sense, but staple food.” In view of IOC and EBU regulations according to which alcohol and tobacco advertising was prohibited, the IHF Council refrained from this proposal by majority. Also, IHF referees were initially excluded from advertising.

Praise for the women’s project

On the eve of the Olympic Games in Seoul, the South Korean capital, the IHF held its XXIIth Congress where a total of 69 out of 100 member federations were meeting on 14 & 15 September **1988**. Many delegates’ thoughts were with Secretary General Max Rinkenburger who was taken seriously ill and who, for the first time over the last ten years, was not able to attend one of the most important IHF events and to stand for re-election.

In the subsequent elections, the French Raymond Hahn took up this position and handed over the responsibility as Treasurer to the German Rudi Glock, while Heinz Seiler gave precedence to his compatriot Prof. Dr Georg Herrmann (GDR) as CPP President. The further Council members were: President Erwin Lanc (AUT), Vice-Presidents Wladimir Krivcov (URS) and Alberto de San Roman (ESP), Continental Vice-Presidents Babacar Fall (SEN), Sheikh Fahad (KUW) and Dr Peter Buehning (USA) - one of them was also a member of the Executive Committee on an alternating basis - Commission Presidents Curt Wadmark (SWE, COC, member of the Executive Committee), Erik Elias (SWE, PRC), Ioan Kunst Ghermanescu (ROM, CCM) and Istvan Madarasz (HUN, MC), Continental Representatives Christophe Yapo Achy (CIV), Siad Abul Hassan (PAK) and José Maria Teixeira (BRA), European Council members Otto Schwarz (SUI) and Petar Bucu (YUG).

Straight after the Olympic Games, the Council appointed the following members to the Commissions for the next four years: COC – Friedrich Duschka (AUT),

Lucian Grigorescu (ROM), Aleksandr Kozhukhov (URS), Erik Larsen (DEN) and Bernhard Thiele (FRG); PRC – Oivind Bolstad (NOR), Janis Grinbergas (URS), Theodorus Kielhorn (HOL), Vasile Sidea (ROM) and Werner Vick (FRG); CCM – Tadeusz Bregula (POL), Jean-Michel Germain (FRA), Jaroslav Mraz (TCH), Ivan Snoj (YUG) and Heinz Suter (SUI); MC – Dr Jiri Jeschke (TCH), Dr Gijs Langevoort (HOL), Dr Ursula Miedlich (GDR), Dr Walter Pallamar (AUT) and Dr Nabil Salem (EGY); CPP – Said Bouamra (ALG), Ralf Dejaco (ITA), Laszlo Horvath (HUN), Peter Mühlematter (SUI) and Dr Walter Schwedhelm (MEX).

At the Congress in Seoul, there was great praise declared by IOC President for the “first Olympic Solidarity programme in women’s sport”: The Austrian Handball Federation was awarded the Hans Baumann Trophy for the organization of the 1st International Symposium for male and female coaches of women’s teams’.

The first World Handball Players

Progress was made on the continents. Africa appreciated the huge amount of support they were given by France in their economically difficult situation and the commitment of adviser George Graves at the exemplary coaching sessions. Pan-America announced including handball in the programme of the Pan-American Games and organizing the Men’s, Women’s and Junior Championships in South, Central and North America. Asia reported on the first Women’s Championship (with the participation of five teams) and Junior Championship (with the participation of nine teams). Australia, that celebrated its 200th anniversary in that year, was admitted as first representative of Oceania to full membership. Nevertheless, Australia had no continental rights and was affiliated to the Asian continent from a sporting point of view.

Development was also the keyword for other topics, which were treated in Seoul. The IHF made a huge effort trying to provide a worldwide identical piece of equipment and commissioned the Sport University in Cologne (FRG) and in Leipzig (GDR) to scientifically examine balls as far as “weight, volume, air pressure, quality and texture are concerned”. The future aim was to affix the official IHF seal of approval only to those balls that met the expected quality standards. Kunst Ghermanescu was proud of the 32 coaching courses organized with the support of the Olympic Solidarity on all continents over the last four years. There could have been more though... “Doping in sport, especially in high-performance sport, reached a critical stage”, stated Madarasz. “The controls in handball were conducted without any problems though. The IHF is strict and

severe”, said Director Jörg Bahrke who was allowed access to the IHF statistics. According to recent surveys, handball was played in 130 countries whereas “only” 102 nations were fully recognized by the IHF. There were roughly 5 million female and male active handball players in 200 000 teams. This was a great outcome.

There was only one thing left to be reported on: The allocation of the future Men’s World Championships that - after 1990 - had to take place in uneven years to avoid conflicts with the Olympic Games. Sweden and Iceland - two federations that, obviously, had great international support - applied to host the title contests in 1993. But, what could be done in order to not put one of the two federation’s nose out of joint? Thus, in spite of differing opinions, a Solomonic decision was made: Awarding the 1993 World Championship to Sweden and, in anticipation of the next Congress, asking Iceland to organize the World Championship in 1995.

In 1988, a PR event exciting fans as well as experts was the first edition of the vote for the World Handball Players of the Year. Sevetlana Kitic and Veselin Vujovi, two players from Yugoslavia, left everyone else far behind. Due to its popularity, this selection of the player of the year would, in future, be extended by further events as well as a vote for the player of the century.

Goodbye to Rinkenburger and Watanabe

Just like the year before, the main topics at the Council meeting held in May **1989** in Dresden (GDR) included allocating TV rights, advertising optimization and finding further sponsors. In the meanwhile, the IHF had already got in touch with some other international federations that had further experience regarding these objectives. Subsequently, the IHF drew up a line of approach for the forthcoming years – also in order to secure the financial future of the IHF (an ongoing topic) at the next Congress meeting.

The meeting was clouded by the death of two great personalities in international handball: Max Rinkenburger and Kazumi Watanabe who, according to the President, had shown “full commitment to the development of handball around the world without taking account of personal wishes”. They truly made a name for themselves in handball.

The senior management of the IHF continued looking at more attractive and lucrative arrangements from a sporting point of view and could submit first results at the XXIIIth Congress held from 23 to 25 October **1990** in Funchal (Portugal). At this event, there was no election and only 43 federations eligible to vote were present. Treasurer Glock could proudly state: “The IHF is finally beginning to show signs of bottoming out. Good contract negotiations concerning the

allocation of TV rights and board advertising resulted in a positive income of more than 1.7 million Swiss Francs between 1988 and 1990. However, this has to be referred to the four-year report as, considering expenses that remain constant, losses are expected during the forthcoming two business years due to changes in the World Championship frequency from the old to the new system.” At the Congress, everyone was full of praise for the progress achieved.

This positive financial development was partly due to the newly founded Media Corporation. This group was responsible for marketing by means of electronic media and explored additional advertising opportunities. The committee suggested that “the amount of advertising for partners on shirts should not be limited; however, the shirt colours should be clearly visible and the number should not be hidden... On the shorts, advertising was not only allowed on the side border, but also on the front part”. Thus, the Media Corporation had undoubtedly reached its limits - of good taste - in this field.

In focus again – barely failed

A long debate escalated when Great Britain submitted a motion proposing to extend the Council by one position from 1992 and to always “have this position occupied by a woman who should be responsible for the development of women’s handball”. The Canadian Linda Kaye shared this opinion and reminded everyone of the demand made two years ago and stated that “to her knowledge, she had not seen any progress concerning women’s handball in any of the IHF reports”. She gained support from Renate Buehning (USA) who reminded the IHF of the fact that “half of all active (handball) players were women”. The good thing about this discussion was that men showed good faith too. Thus, San Roman and Kunst Ghermanescu explained roughly with the same words that nobody could prevent the Congress from electing 18 women for 18 positions what would be perfectly justified. But Wadmark wondered: “Where should these women come from if they do not even hold leadership positions at national level?”

However, before taking the oath and holding elections, Lanc reminded again “what a rejection of this proposal would mean in public opinion.” But there was nothing to do: 26 votes in favour and 4 against the motion did not allow reaching the two-thirds majority. The proposal failed because of three votes, as – according to the President – “there were several abstentions. However, the high number of those approving the proposal let him suppose that the official rejection was misleading. In many countries, the women’s development in society tried new avenues in a positive way. It was agreed that if women were allowed

playing handball, they should also have the right to decide matters. The national federations should find female candidates for the Commissions – and nominate their own female candidates to the IHF Council. Nominations should help to resolve some of the existing problems more easily than letters or motions”.

First, Dr Ursula Miedlich (GDR) as member of the Medical Commission was the only female member in one of the leading bodies of the international federation. Another interesting personality: Curt Wadmark stepped down and was replaced by Otto Schwarz from Switzerland as COC President who was promoted to the Executive Committee by virtue of office. Staffan Holmqvist (SWE) moved on to the Council. Two other personalities, who would influence the future of international handball, offered their services as minute-takers at the Congress: Dr Hassan Moustafa (EGY) and Tor Lian (NOR).

Two federations increasing to twenty

In the early nineties, there were a few political changes having consequences for the International Handball Federation too. There was the reunification of East and West Germany that were separated since the end of the 2nd World War.

The development happening in the Balkan countries and in Eastern Europe went in the opposite direction. Glasnost and Perestroika initiated by President Gorbatschow caused the fall of the Soviet Empire and its division into 13 states and the same number of handball federations becoming IHF members. Apart from the motherland Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine and Belarus were affiliated to Europe, whereas Kazakhstan, Kirgystan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan joined Asia.

Soon afterwards (and in a less bloodless way), similar changes could be observed in Yugoslavia. Here, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo became independent from Serbia and joined the European Handball Federation after the political upheavals.

The consequence: The number of federations passed from 2 to 20. The number of European members increased rapidly and made the EHF to the strongest continental confederation within the IHF for the time being.

The international federation could only acknowledge this development. However, the IHF had a direct influence on further developments as was shown at the Council meeting on 1 & 2 November **1991** in Vienna. After many years of efforts since 1987, the IHF finally succeeded in including handball in the programme of the World Youth Games organized by the International School Sport Federation. The next competition was going to be held in 1992 in France.

However, the IHF did not have the same success with the FISU, the International University Sports Federation. This association was not (yet) ready to include the Students Handball World Championship, that had successfully been organized for years, as constituent part of the Universiade considered to be the Olympics for young students.

In the meanwhile, a working group had been asked by the Council to examine the IHF's World Championship structure and to propose possibly changes. This resulted from a constant increase in the number of member nations on the continents – with the exception of Oceania – so that they could all expect an equal treatment at the title contests. The solution, submitted by WG chairman and COC President, was very simple and convincing: The IHF had to give up B and C World Championships and to organize only one World Championship for men's and women's senior and junior teams in future. Thus, the tournaments would be open to all teams being qualified. The only restriction at the request of the TV companies: "World Championships shall be held in a minimum number of sports halls and a change of venue shall only take place on rest days due to TV costs". In 1993, the IHF finally made it. That was the end of thinking and playing in terms of categories.

At its April meeting in 1992 in Landersheim (FRA), the Council decided in favour of this new competition system and made further clarifications. The competitions were organized every two years by involving twenty-four teams. There were four preliminary round groups of six teams each. Every participating team would have to play at least five games. This was a good solution in terms of matches played and costs incurred by the participants that were not going beyond the preliminary round and might have to travel far. Thus, the IHF believed that a suitable competition system was found by taking into account "the arguments of advertisers, TV companies and Council members".

Split of opinion over World Championships

The new WC structure found support at the XXIVth Congress held in Barcelona (ESP) on 22 & 23 July 1992. 62 out of 120 IHF members were present and eligible to vote.

On this occasion, the European Handball Federation attempted to demonstrate its strength. The federation agreed on the WC structure, but not about the frequency and requested that the World Championships should take place every four years. The reason for this proposal was the lack of dates due to the newly introduced organization of a European Championship. The debate turned out

to be one of the longest discussions in the history of IHF Congress meetings by focussing on the significance of holding World Championships, the necessary media presence and the expected financial loss. Finally, the EHF retracted its proposal whereas the body decided by 60 (out of 62) votes that an expert group should be commissioned to re-examine the question of the WC frequency and the qualification system under all aspects. The result is well-known. Since 1993, World Championships (as well as Continental Championships) are organized every two years as a rule.

Also, on the eve of the Olympic Games in Barcelona, the International Olympic Committee confronted the participants with an ultimate demand for a “substantial equality between men’s and women’s handball”. However, the IHF turned the tables and informed about their efforts concerning equal rights for women in handball by submitting a strongly-worded resolution in which the IOC was “urgently requested” to work towards equal rights and to “increase the number of women’s teams participating in the Olympic handball tournament from 8 to 12 from 1996”. (Please find further details in chapter “Women”).

No debate was necessary when the Secretary General was taking stock in terms of IHF membership. “Due to the political upheavals in Europe”, among other things, the number of member federations sharply increased to 129 nations that were divided up among the continents as follows: Africa 42, Asia 26, Europe 42 and Pan-America 15. Prior to its elections, the Congress wished to take into account the increasing significance of the four continents by focussing on equality between all continents in the IHF regulations. The result: In future, there would only be one (first and elected) Vice-President instead of two in the Council that would be reduced to 17 members. The four Continental Vice-Presidents would belong to the Executive Committee that was composed of 9 members. The COC and PRC Commissions were made up of four representatives of the continents and three members appointed by the Council. The other three Commissions were composed of five members appointed by the Council.

No European predominance anymore

The elections were affected accordingly: Erwin Lanc (AUT) remained President. The new Vice-President was Babacar Fall (SEN) who prevailed over San Roman and Krivcov from Europe. The Continental Vice-Presidents were Christophe Yapo Achy (CIV), Sheikh Ahmad (KUW) as successor to his deceased father, Staffan Holmqvist (SWE) and Dr Peter Buehning (USA). The Commission Presidents Otto Schwarz (SUI, COC), Erik Elias (SWE, PRC) and Prof. Dr Hans-Georg Herrmann (GER, CPP) were confirmed in office, whereas Dr Hassan Moustafa

(EGY) prevailed over the current office-holder Ioan Kunst-Ghermanescu and candidate Jaroslav Mraz (both from Europe) in the crucial election as CCM President and Dr Gijs Langevoort (NED) became new MC President by ousting Istvan Madarasz (HUN) from his position. The Continental Representatives Dr Nabil Salem (EGY), Chong-Ha Kim (KOR), Karl Güntzel (SUI) and Dr Walter Schwedhelm (CAN) took up their seat on the Council.



After the elections at the Congress held in 1992 in Barcelona, the IHF Council was composed of eight new members.

Also, the subsequent appointments to the five Technical Commissions reflected this new identity of the IHF as there were 17 newly elected members among a total of 29 members. Composition: COC – Erik Larsen (DEN), Aleksandr Kozhukhov (RUS), Miguel Roca Mas (ESP), Rachid Meskouri (ALG), Ahmed Naser Al Fardan (UAE), Michael Wiederer (AUT), Dr Peter Buehning (USA); PRC – Oivind Bolstad (NOR), Janis Grinbergas (LTU), Theodorus Kielhorn (NED), Ferdinand Kitsadi Zorrino (CGO), Chun-Jo Park (KOR), Willi Hackl (GER), Christer Ahl (USA); CCM – Heinz Suter (SUI), Jean Michel Germain (FRA), Alan Henning Lund (DEN), Dietrich Späte (GER), Juan de Dios Roman Seco (ESP); MC – Dr Jiri Jeschke (TCH, Dr Walter Pallamar (AUT), Dr Francois Gnamian (CIV), Prof. Dr Sverre Maehlum (NOR), Dr Roman Zubov (RUS); CPP – Peter Mühlematter (SUI), Carin Nilsson Green (SWE), Said Bouamra (ALG), Ralf Dejaco (ITA), Dr Vladimir Krivcov (RUS).

The World Handball Magazine summarized the outcome of this “meaningful meeting” in Barcelona as follows: “All participants agreed that the Congress would go down in the international federation’s history as the meeting at which the IHF finally resisted the heavy influence from Europe. And the International Handball Federation would be able to succeed in facing increasing sports standards, political influence and economic responsibilities. Good conditions had already been created.”

For most participants, this was a reason to be happy with this Congress meeting and to raise their glass to the IHF. This was done in the “Home of Handball” that the IOC in cooperation with one sponsor made available to all guests during the Olympic Games. This innovation raised hope for the future too.

IOC: burying the hatchet

The year **1993** began in a very promising way, just as the old year had ended. In the February meeting in Paris (FRA), the Treasurer reported that the IHF had finally learnt to stand on its own two feet from a financial point of view and disposed of “assets of around 5 million Swiss Francs”.



1 May 1993: IOC President Samaranch received the IHF Council at its head office in Lausanne. From the right: Secretary General Hahn, President Lanc and Managing Director Birkefeld.

Moreover, two months later, the IHF and the IOC buried their differences that had appeared at the Congress in Barcelona. Thus, Juan Antonio Samaranch invited the IHF Council to attend the forthcoming IOC meeting to be held in Lausanne in late April / at the beginning of May. This was also a special occasion for the representatives of the world of handball. The head of the IOC was full of praise for the sport of handball and its leadership. He described the relations between both federations as “excellent” and considered re-including handball in the programme of the Olympic Games as real enrichment. When talking about equal rights for women’s handball at the Olympics, he believed that “twelve teams would be able to participate in the Olympic Games in 2000”. But he was wrong. What he did not like about handball: In his opinion, there were “too many goals scored making the game somewhat confusing. Apart from that, I am very taken and happy with the game of handball that will certainly have a bright future and will continue to develop.” Here he was not wrong.

The Council agreed with Samaranch about the fact that it would be necessary to take action by all means against drug abuse in handball and to literally follow the corresponding regulations of the IOC. Thus, the IHF Council adopted, among other things, the regulation according to which a minimum suspension of two years should be applied in case of drug abuse. However, there were mixed opinions on sex controls that were requested by the IOC and that were only accepted at IHF World Championships acting as Olympic qualification. In addition, it had to be made sure that “these controls would not discriminate against women”.

Setback on the continents

The sudden and unexpected death of the African President Babacar Fall on 7 June 1993 put the whole continent in a state of shock. However, the new leader Christophe Yapo helped in moving back to normal state shortly afterwards. In the former sports leader’s honour, the African confederation launched a new competition, the so-called Super Cup Babacar Fall. Thus, Africa became the continent with the most complete sporting event offer.

Asia had problems too, in particular when the confederation had to temporarily close its office in Kuwait after an Iraqi attack. However, the federation continued organizing competitions. Men’s teams from Australia participated in this tournament, even though the Oceania Handball Federation as fifth continental confederation had been founded in July of the same year.

Pan-America was still divided into North, Central and South America for competitions. This continent continued to develop under a new leadership composed of Peter Buehning, Walter Schwedhelm moving from Canada to Mexico, Secretary General Robert Gadoua (CAN) and Treasurer Hermann Brunner (CRC).

In the meanwhile, the EHF made all necessary preparations for the European Championship for women’s and men’s teams to be held in Vienna in 1994 by criticizing the WC frequency: Staffan Holmqvist explained at the IHF Council meeting in November (in Kuwait) that the EHF had “scheduling problems because of World Championships being organized every two years. The European nations had neither the time nor the money for these tournaments”. However, they would soon get them both..

And two new members: The Czech Republic and Slovakia were going separate ways in politics and sport. Czechoslovakia did not exist anymore. One of the world’s most renowned handball nations became split up into two very strong handball federations.

At the beginning of 1994, the IHF deeply regretted to announce the death of their first two Secretaries-General who had a decisive influence on the development of the international federation between 1946 and 1972. On 1 January, Albert Wagner died at the age of 84 and, on 6 May, his predecessor Carl Filip Borgh closed his eyes forever at the age of 88 in Vallentuna near Stockholm in Sweden. Their contributions were praised at the autumn meeting of the Congress one more time.

Media event – World Handball Day

However, previously, an event - that was organized by the IHF in cooperation with the IOC - had to be celebrated: The World Handball Day, which was supposed to mark the 100th anniversary of the Olympic Games of modern times on 23 June. More than 100 000 athletes in all age groups, but mainly young people, throughout the world participated in this IHF event following special advertising strategies. This was how a mascot was created, covering posters, t-shirts and other souvenirs. These products were available free of charge to all participants coming from more than 70 different countries. There was a broad range of activities: In Bangladesh, handball players went out into the streets and demonstrated in favour of ‘their’ sport. In Nigeria, disabled people showed their performance. In France, handball was promoted as outdoor sport again after a long time. In Hungary, the former women’s national team played against the young hopefuls. In Germany, beach handball was presented as new handball variation for competitions.



The young players across the globe celebrated the World Handball Day on 23 June 1994 in different ways. Our picture shows a group from Bangladesh.

There were 105 delegates from 59 federations eligible to vote who had to step through a tight programme at the XXVth Congress on 8 & 9 September 1994 in Noordwijk (Holland). They adopted new Statutes that were in line with the latest developments worldwide. Also, a new player eligibility code as well as modern regulations for transfer between federations were adopted.

The birth of Beach Handball

Different working groups were dealing with developing new forms of handball. Under the title 'Open Air Handball', people were searching for additional variations of the game having consciously and specifically to appeal to "those groups of players that were not part of clubs or other federations". The result of these efforts was presented on the beach of Noordwijk. This was the hour of birth of Beach Handball that was first introduced as fun variation and which would later become a real crowd-puller at World Championships and World Games.

As far as young hopefuls and development aid are concerned, the IHF had made good progress too. Thus, the Commission concerned developed, in cooperation with IHF partner adidas, a mini-handball video that became a real best-seller and had to be republished at the end of the year due to the huge demand. The number of coaching courses within the Olympic Solidarity project increased to more than 40 in both years under review. A sum amounting to 430 000 U.S. dollars, being paid by the IOC, had been budgeted only for these actions. In addition, the IHF provided each participant with new coaching manuals.

Although the meeting in Noordwijk was no elective Congress but a working assembly, the delegates had to vote as additional elections where necessary. Europe and Pan-America suggested that Dr Nabil Salem (EGY) should take office as 1st Vice-President and succeed the deceased Babacar Fall. Africa and Asia expressed their thanks by promoting Holmqvist from Sweden to the Executive Committee. Peter Mühlematter from Switzerland succeeded as COC President to the Swiss Otto Schwarz stepping down for personal reasons.

Four World Championships dominated the sporting year **1995**. Korea (women) and France (men) surprisingly won their first titles. On the other hand, the medals winners among the men's and women's junior teams were next-door neighbours coming from the Pan-American strongholds of handball, Argentina and Brazil. This had also been a premiere.

The Council meetings in June and November went off without any huge complications, even though the body discussed important topics. Among other things, the Council dealt with the catalogue of ideas of a specialized 'Brainstorming'

working group thinking about the future of handball. Key points: Using handball messages to improve marketing, differentiating handball from other rival sports, granting scholarships to handball students in less-developed countries in Europe, Africa and Latin America, better commercial exploitation of all continents. And the IHF had already shown success in this point, as the federation turned over a quarter of a million dollars at the Goodwill Games (1995) in Atlanta with Turner Broadcasting USA. As this market offered more opportunities, further TV projects were planned to be discussed with broadcasting experts at the meeting in December in Budapest. This would certainly pay off in the end...

According to the minutes, the Council concentrated on a significant date at its meeting at the end of the year: "In 1996, the IHF will celebrate its 50th anniversary. At the same time, modern handball exists for 100 years whereas handball competitions are organized for 75 years. The IHF decided to take this opportunity to promote handball internally and externally by proposing different activities and publications throughout the year". The IHF expressed solidarity with its members by paying the lodging costs for one participant of each member federation. Furthermore, it had been suggested to the Congress that a "working group on promotion of women's handball and support of women playing handball" should be formed.

Hurricane Bertha disturbing anniversary celebrations

July 1996. Everything was ready. The conditions were ideal: A smart hotel on Hilton Head Island, five-hour drive away from the Olympic venue Atlanta, was waiting for the guests. Strictly speaking, there was nothing that could prevent the successful organization of the XXVIth Ordinary Congress of the International Handball Federation on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. If there had not been Bertha... A few days before the Congress start, the American holiday island was threatened by Hurricane Bertha resulting in the evacuation of the IHF representatives who had already arrived and in the delayed arrival of many delegates. Luckily, Bertha changed direction, did not cause any harm to the island and cleared the way for holding a Congress meeting that, apart from starting difficulties due to stormy weather conditions, could go off smoothly. That had also been confirmed by the IHF delegates from 79 federations eligible to vote, who had finally found their way to Hilton Head Island and could participate in the Congress held from 15 to 18 July.

It seemed that the delegates agreed to the efforts made by the IHF Council and roughly confirmed the leadership positions, apart from two. For the first time in the history of the IHF, a woman, Carin Nilsson Green, was appointed to the

Council. In the crucial election as President of the Commission for Promotion and Public Relations, the Swedish woman prevailed over the outgoing office-holder Prof. Dr Hans-Georg Herrmann (GER) and won by 48 votes to 30. Erik Elias, who was not standing for election again after substituting his favourite rulebook with a golf club after twelve years, was succeeded by Kjartan Steinbach from Iceland as PRC President for whom several election rounds by secret ballot had to be held before “shaking off” his opponents Lo Casio and Bolstad.

After Hurricane Bertha had moved further, the Congress in 1996 on Hilton Head Island was held in a calm atmosphere.



Over the next four years, the IHF Council would be composed of President Erwin Lanc (AUT), 1st Vice-President Dr Nabil Salem (EGY), Continental Vice-Presidents Christophe Yapo Achy (CIV), Sheikh Ahmad (KUW), Staffan Holmqvist (SWE) and Dr Peter Buehning (USA), Secretary General Raymond Hahn (FRA), Treasurer Rudi Glock (GER), Commission Presidents Peter Mühlematter (SUI, COC), Kjartan Steinbach (ISL, PRC), Dr Hassan Moustafa (EGY, CCM), Dr Gijs Langevoort (NED, MC) and Carin Nilsson Green (SWE, CPP), Continental Representatives Ferdinand Kitsadi Zorrino (CGO), Ahmed Naser Al Fardan (UAE), Karl Güntzel (SUI) and Hermann Brunner (CRC).

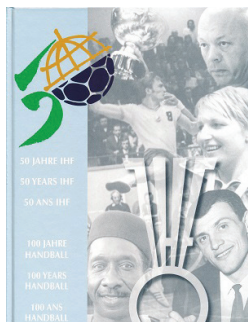
From an administrative point of view, two new IHF bodies were introduced and would, in future, be responsible for justice at highest level: Arbitration Commission and Arbitration Tribunal. The lawyers Ulrich Strombach (GER) and Jörgen Holmqvist (SWE) took office as Chairmen. They were supported by ten qualified employees from the continents including several women.

The Congress had every reason to be pleased after submission of the reports by each group. Treasurer Glock talked about a “further finance improvement that can clearly be shown by an increase in net assets. Sponsorship income, advertising revenues at World Championships and the allocation of funds by the IOC from Olympic Games net profits were decisive in this context. The membership fees played only a limited role” and changes were made so that economically weaker federations had only to pay a symbolic amount.

President Lanc, who had just been appointed as member to the Radio and Television Commission of the IOC, reflected on the relation between sport event frequency and media acceptance: “Today, sport can only survive due to constant TV presence. Here are some comparative figures from 1993 and 1995, also by covering the aspects of 16 participating teams (1993) and 24 participating teams (1995) as well as biennial championships: In 1993, 150 hours, 20 countries covered, 100 million spectators, whereas in 1995, 302 hours, 32 countries covered, 150 million spectators. Due to dividend payments of 32 million Swiss Francs, the IOC classified handball as ‘very media attractive’, thus ranking among top 12 sports”.

In the meanwhile, a new and special promotional programme was taking shape on the continents. Apart from current activities, this project included financial support, educational seminars and publications, free-of-charge delivery of sports equipment ranging from foldable mini-handball goals to seminars for leadership members where Presidents, Secretaries General and Treasurers were introduced to their new responsibilities.

However, the President’s dearest wish had not the desired success: Lanc wished



A 150-pages book was published by the IHF on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. On the top from the left: The anniversary logo.

to develop a new logo for the international federation and took the necessary steps to prepare a test survey (with possible alternatives). The result: The members showed “little inclination to go different ways”.

Also, the well-meant proposal of the Congress to allocate the Men’s World Championships alternately to European and non-European organizers by taking account of the increased importance of non-European continents did not have the desired success either. As Japan hosted the World Championship in 1997, it would have been Europe’s turn in 1999. However, when allocating WCs, the double application of Germany & Switzerland fell by the wayside. In the end, Egypt won the run-off against France by 44 votes to 34. But that was not detrimental to harmony at this Anniversary Congress though.

Shortly before joining the Olympic Games in Atlanta, the Council appointed the IHF Commission members at its meeting on Hilton Head Island: COC – Yoshihide Watanabe (JPN), Rachid Meskouri (ALG), Michael Wiederer (AUT), Dr Peter Buehning USA), Aleksandr Kozhukhov (RUS), Miquel Roca Mas (ESP), Erik Larsen (DEN); PRC – Chun-Jo Park KOR), Babarcar N’doye (SEN), Manfred Prause (GER), Christer Ahl (USA), Roger

Xhonneux (BEL), Janis Grinbergas (LTU), Herbert Jeglic (SLO); CCM – Dietrich Späte (GER), Jean-Michel Germain (FRA), Michal Barda (CZE), Juan de Dios Roman Seco (ESP), Peter Kovacs (HUN); MC – Prof. Hans Holdhaus (AUT), Dr Francois Gnamian (CIV), Prof. Dr Sverre Maehlum (NOR), Dr Petra Platen (GER), Dr Ahmed Mustatab (PAK); CPP – Ahmed Abu Al-Lail (KUW), Rafael Sepulveda (PUR), Said Bouamra (ALG), Ralf Dejaco (ITA), Marc Gysels (BEL).

A new female member, Dr Petra Platen, won a seat and had a vote on the Medical Commission. In cooperation with CPP President Nilsson Green, she was responsible for the “working group on promotion of women’s handball and support of women playing handball” that the Congress had agreed to form the day before. Thus, this was a successful meeting for women too.

Two months after the Olympics in Atlanta, the IHF invited sports, political and



Partners and friends congratulated on the IHF’s 50th anniversary at the federation’s Head Office in Basel where they visited the town and the time-honoured town hall (top) by taking a nostalgic tram (below).

financial personalities to Basel to celebrate the federation’s 50th anniversary at the Head Office of the IHF with a small group of guests, including the delegates of the eight nations that had launched the IHF half a century ago, Gilbert Felli and Pere Miro from the IOC and the District President of Basel, Jörg Schild, who was a former handball player having international experience. A special welcome was given to the widows of the legendary handball personalities Hans Baumann and Max Rinkenburger. They all participated in a discreet ceremony in a dignified atmosphere.

The international federation was taking stock of another positive fact at the end of this excellent anniversary year: Since 1986, the number of federations had increased by more than 40 up to a total of 138 members, what was not only due to the political changes in Europe. The statistics showed that more than eight million members in about 800 000 teams were officially playing handball throughout the world. The member federations were distributed as follows among the continents: Asia 30, Africa 40, Europe 49, Pan-America 16 and Oceania 3. Handball was well on the way to becoming a world sport.

The only club tournament of the IHF

Two premieres added some spice to the events in 1997 that was supposed to be a quite ‘normal’ year. The IHF entered the Internet and hoped to be able to improve and accelerate the communication with its members. That was not going very well, as this new media support was still in its infancy and its efficiency left a lot to be desired. Further progress had to be made.

Less problematic was the curtain-raiser competition that was launched in autumn in Vienna at the President’s home. Thus, the IHF organized its first World Cup for club teams that, over the following years, would become part of the sports calendar as well as an especially lucrative club tournament of the international federation.



At the invitation of the Royal Family, the Executive Committee held its meeting on 22 and 23 September 1997 in the capital of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, where the local federation confirmed its financial support for future development assistance actions.

In addition, a lucrative contract concerning the allocation of TV and advertising rights for the years 1998 to 2001 had also been signed at the November meeting of the IHF Council in Moscow. Apart from the current partner CWL, there was also a French TV agency called Canal+ that submitted an offer of a five-digit million amount. The rival offer from Herisau in Switzerland could not hold its own against the other proposals and the Council could view the TV segment’s potential in a realistic light. The members decided in favour of Canal+ and got well on with this agency.

However, this year - that had started in a normal way - took a rather bad turn. On the day before last of the Women's World Championship in Germany, a drunken German "fan" stabbed to death two Danish spectators when fighting for a seat in the Max-Schmeling-Halle in Berlin. A real shock and a one-off event that, once again, raised the question of security and prohibition of alcohol in sports halls.

Being encouraged by Atlanta, Carin Nilsson Green as first and only female Council member could convince her male colleagues of the importance of a seminar called "Women and Handball" at the meeting held in March **1998** in Basel. She had even an advocate for her project, President Erwin Lanc: "The aim must be to organize a high-quality and popular event". He believed that, in the opinion of many experts, "women's handball is currently making a big step forward. We have to take account of this development by focusing on media and marketing". This was not going to be an easy task...

This project would certainly not fail because of money. According to the IHF Treasurer, the expected financial profit was likely to amount to more than one million Swiss Francs in that year, whereas a large part of this money would be invested in development aid. And, in the wider sense, this concerned the women's seminar too.

In view of this sound financial situation, it came as a surprise to learn that Glock intended to resign at the forthcoming elective Congress in 2000.

However, for the moment, he reported on the solid financial situation of the IHF on the occasion of the Congress meeting held in Yamoussoukro (SEN) from 17 to 19 September. The delegates from the 62 member federations eligible to vote discussed matters of routine that concerned internal administrative issues and had no special public interest: Revising Statutes, changing Beach Handball rules, list of duties and standard contract for World Championships, regulations for awards and standing orders as well as regulations for transfer between federations that was constantly causing problems as players and federations were finding loopholes again and again. These regulations were extended by rules for professional players, including their rights and responsibilities. Professional handball players had already existed for a long time. Now, their rights were finally drawn up in writing. After all...

In one of the few votes getting things straight, the President had to abandon one of his favourite projects: In secret-ballot elections, there were only 29 votes for as well as 25 against the new hoped-for IHF logo. Thus, the majority required could not be obtained and no new official emblem was granted to the international federation.

It was nearly unanimously agreed that English would become “the first official language of the IHF” instead of German. “The official languages of the IHF are English, German and French. In case of inconsistency, the English text shall prevail”. This decision, that was long overdue, allowed taking account of the “international development and situation” of the IHF.

In 1999, the World Championships of men’s teams in Egypt and of women’s teams in Norway and Denmark as well as of men’s junior teams in Qatar and of women’s junior teams in China were setting new standards. In the senior competition, the success was due to the efforts of the organizers as well as the new TV partner ensuring excellent media coverage. The number of broadcast stations, the duration of broadcasting and the number of broadcast countries increased just as the TV ratings. Handball had become a world sport. Qatar that hosted a World Championship for the first time as well as China impressed with a global tournament environment. Moreover, in the Middle Kingdom, an unbelievable audience of 50 million daily watched the junior tournaments on TV.

However, before staging the World Championships, the Council had to intervene in Asia. Here, the AHF leadership was trying to elude the IHF regulations for WC qualifications and to help other teams, not being always the best, to win. Qatar, Bahrain and Jordan immediately objected to this judgement and obtained satisfaction. It would not be the only and the last time that Asia would try to make its own laws.

The election of the Handball Players of the Century



Sinaida Turtschina from Russia and Magnus Wislander from Sweden were elected World Handball Players of the Century.

After having solved this problem, the IOC from Lausanne put slight pressure on the IHF in Basel: The International Olympic Committee would welcome the introduction of an Athletes’ Commission by the IHF, following the example of other international federations and the IOC. This topic remained on the agenda.

The IHF came up with something special at the turn of the millennium. With the support of the World Handball Magazine, its readers and its own experts, the IHF selected the World Handball Player of the Century. The award was granted to Sinaida Turtschina (RUS) and Mats Wislander (SWE). Subsequently, both outstanding athletes were the focus of attention at numerous award and honour ceremonies.

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Council and the Executive Committee of the international federation held meetings in Kuwait and Switzerland, where quite satisfactory results were achieved. Subsequently, in the summer of the year **2000**, unforgettable and memorable Olympic Games took place in Sydney where handball received a lot of praise, also from the IOC. The halls were filled to nearly 100% capacity; handball was one of the crowd-pullers in Down Under. This was reason enough for the IHF leaders to sit back and calmly await the forthcoming IHF Congress in Portugal (Cascais) from 26 to 30 November, where re-elections would take place.

Even IOC President Samaranch insisted on sending his greetings to more than 300 delegates from 122 federations eligible to vote (an absolute record). He wished the Congress and “all participants a smooth running”. However, it turned out that nothing would come of it.

A dramatic meeting in Portugal

Right from the start, when electing the new President, harmony had already been dead and buried. First of all, Aziz Derouaz from Algeria and Staffan Holmqvist from Sweden withdrew their applications. The only candidates were Dr Hassan Moustafa from Egypt and the President-in-Office. Then, Lanc gave a very emotional speech in which he reminded publicly of the events during the run-up to the Congress and resigned from office too. In the election, the remaining candidate Moustafa won 103 federations over to his side (with only 4 votes against him) and finally became the new fifth President of the IHF coming from a non-European country for the first time.

As for the rest, the meeting continued being exciting. The position of 1st Vice-President was taken by Staffan Holmqvist replacing Dr Nabil Salem (EGY) by 101 votes to 18. The position of Treasurer was held by Miguel Roca Mas (ESP) instead of the German Rudi Glock who had already announced his resignation two years ago, but decided to stand for re-election and was defeated by 47 votes to 73. The position of CCM President (until now Moustafa) was taken by Naser Abou Marzouq from Kuwait. An additional voting right and seat on the Council were attributed to Continental Vice-Presidents Christophe Aypo Achy (CIV), Sheikh Ahmad (KUW) and Manoel Luis Oliveira (BRA), Secretary General Raymond Hahn (FRA), Commission Presidents Peter Mühlematter (SUI, COC), Kjartan K. Steinbach (ISL, PRC), Dr Gijs Langevoort (NED, MC) and Carin Nilsson Green (SWE, CPP), Continental Representatives Mansourou Aremou (BEN), Yoshihide Watanabe (JPN), Karl Güntzel (SUI) and Hermann Brunner

(CRC). The Vice-President Europe and the Continental Representative Oceania were appointed at a later date.



IHF Congress in Portugal (2000): Dr Hassan Moustafa from Egypt became the first non-European President of the International Handball Federation.

Even before the elections, when dealing with Statutes changes, the continents had already received good news: If the continents had more than 15 members, they would obtain a voting right and a seat on all Commissions that would be extended to seven members. All continents were concerned, apart from Oceania.

When appointing the members to the bodies of the IHF in the first Council meeting after the Congress, many new faces could be welcomed: COC – Dr Ahmed Abu Al-Lail (KUW), Rachid Meskouri (ALG), Alexander Toncourt (AUT), Waldyr Fonseca (BRA), Aleksandr Kozhukhov (RUS), Lars Erik Klem (DEN), Peter Sichelschmidt (GER); PRC – Hyun-Kyun Chung (KOR), Babacar N'Doye (SEN), Josef Ambrus (SVK), Christer Ahl (USA), Herbert Jeglic (SLO), Manfred Prause (GER), Roger Xhonneux (BEL); CCM – Jalil Asad (BRN), Prosper Keke (CIV), Frantisek Taborsky (CZE), Dr José Cruz (CUB), Peter Kovacs (HUN), Dr Wolfgang Pollany (AUT), Dietrich Späte (GER); MC – Dr Ahmed Mustatab (PAK), Dr Lanre Glover (NGR), Dr Petra Platen (GER), Dr Mario Venegas Perez (CHI), Prof. Hans Holdhaus (AUT), Prof. Sverre Maehlum (NOR), Dr Andras Tallay (HUN); CPP – Bader Al-Thiyab (KUW), Allan Lund (DEN), Rafael Sepulveda (PUR), Dr Gerd Butzeck (BLR), Said Bouamra (ALG), Marc Gysels (BEL).

After these exciting elections, the Congress took a peaceful turn and continued dealing with the other items on the agenda as a matter of routine. Thus, it was decided to pay prize money to the medal winners at Men's and Women's World Championships, an "extra money" amounting to 1 000 Swiss Francs to WC referees and a good "cash injection" of additional 50 000 Swiss Francs to each continent in order to economically support underprivileged countries.

In the first Council meeting under the direction of the new President in Basel on 12 and 13 January **2001**, Moustafa was talking about a 'new beginning'. He expected that all members had to be open and fair with each other and "jointly

represent decisions outside the IHF”. He hoped “that future meetings were shortened as far as the content is concerned and that the members focussed on important issues”. Furthermore, the President “shall have its own office in Basel and shall stay at the Head Office for a certain period of time every month”.

Shortly after his welcome speech, the President was confronted with a new problem that the IHF had never faced in this way: Europe proposed Michael Wiederer, who managed the EHF head office in Vienna, to fill - on a full-time basis - the position of Continental Vice-President being vacant since the Congress. For this purpose, Moustafa submitted a legal assessment of the chairman of the IHF Arbitration Tribunal. The voting on Wiederer’s Council mandate was three votes for, five votes against and three abstentions. Three further members refused point-blank to vote. The proposal was dismissed.

However, everybody agreed that a new and more appropriate place to stay for the international federation, instead of its current Head Office in Lange Gasse in Basel that was bursting at the seams, had to be found to move from the expensive rented to an own acquired property. The decision had not yet been made if this property would be purchased in Lausanne close to the IOC and other international federations or in Basel.

Priority topics: development and marketing

The new leader at the top of the international federation focussed on optimizing strategies for the worldwide development of handball and marketing improvement. This included, first of all, setting up development centres on the continents, issuing international coaching licences, introducing Youth World Championships, a special programme for women’s handball, well-aimed and strategic support for a small number of selected countries per year (end of the watering-can principle) and organization of a ‘Challenge Trophy’ for less-developed countries from a sporting point of view on all continents. Also, he took account of the “older handball players” for whom appropriate “supporting actions” should be developed. Then, he dealt with the topic “marketing” straight away by cancelling all expiring contracts with the former partners and sponsors and setting up a new application procedure worldwide, whereas all offers received by the IHF had to be examined in detail by the Council.

The President set high goals and would be judged correspondingly in the forthcoming years...

His serious intentions became true at the Council meeting held half a year later in Frankfurt (GER) when he reported on the implementation

of some projects that he had announced when taking office: The continents Asia, Africa, Europe and Pan-America received additional 50 000 CHF for the organization of a Challenge Trophy - the tournament for weaker national teams that were able to work their way up to Continental Championships among areas and regions. Furthermore, promoting selected developing countries was carried out as follows: Africa 8, Europe 8, Asia 6, Pan-America 4 and Oceania 2. In addition, the IHF provided straight away 300 000 Swiss Francs for the order and delivery of required material (balls, sports clothing, goals, nets, referee sets, etc.). And, talented referees from Asia and Pan-America were trained at the IHF's expense to achieve a higher performance level.

At the same time, the Council extended the TV rights and advertising contract with Sport+, the legal successor to Canal+, with even better terms and conditions for the years 2002 to 2005. In addition, it was planned to ask an external expert to deal with marketing in the free IHF-owned segment. But this seemed to be problematic and was solved differently at a later date.

Subsequently, the international federation granted part of its additional income - having increased in the meanwhile - to the World Championship organizers, i.e. 1.6 million CHF (men) and 800 000 CHF (women). In an effort to treat everybody equally, the federation finally decided to pay the same amount to the organizers of both competitions.

At the end of the year, a letter dealing with the rights of male and female players, and not with money, landed on the IHF's desk. Once again, the International Olympic Committee reminded the IHF that suitable members should be suggested for an Athletes' Commission. The female participants in the forthcoming World Championship in Italy started thinking about this issue.

Change of scenery and a lot of trouble

There was a change of scenery within the IHF. One year after the corresponding announcement made in the Council meeting, the IHF employees moved in July **2002** to their new and bigger Head Office in Peter Merian-Strasse in Basel. The building was purchased and paid cash, among other things, by means of a non-interest-bearing loan running into millions of Swiss Francs that the President and the Secretary General had received due to their great relationship with the IOC. This financial model allowed the international federation to remain solvent and economically independent. Many important partners appeared at its inauguration in October.



*October 2002:
Many guests of
honour participated
in the inauguration
of the new IHF
Head Office in Basel
and posed in front
of the building with
honorary and full-
time employees for a
group photograph.*

The office purchase was one of the most encouraging topics at the XXIXth Ordinary Congress held in Saint Petersburg (Russia) from 20 to 24 November. Difficulties arose right from the beginning when first 67, then 79 and finally 92 federations eligible to vote registered at this working meeting.

In the secret ballot election concerning the allocation of the Men's World Championship in 2005, Tunisia prevailed with a very slim majority of 46 votes to 44. The other candidate, Germany, feared electoral fraud and asked Returning Officer Otto Schwarz to recount the votes. The result was correct and was confirmed. The friendship between the Presidents of the IHF and the German Handball Federation DHB temporarily broke up. Over days and weeks after this incident, the German NOC had to call the German Handball Federation to order as this could have a bad influence on the Olympics application, seen from abroad. The German Handball Federation did not do itself a favour by such an attitude at the Congress.

Also, Japan expressed its dissatisfaction in Saint Petersburg: At the Asian qualification tournaments for the Olympic Games in 2004, the continental management had excessively interfered in the affairs and responsibilities of the IHF to attempt to influence the match results. Japan felt disadvantaged. There was a sequel to this really annoying incident by involving the highest judicial body, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, ordering to repeat the qualifications. Moreover, the PRC President took the necessary steps and removed the referees from two countries, who were responsible for this scandal, from the international referees list.

However, two further items on the agenda dealt with honesty in sport. Europe insisted with all its might that Youth World Championships should be introduced as these tournaments would have an “influence on the event calendar over the next few years”. Federations interested were asked to submit their applications for the Beach Handball World Championships in 2004. In a few years, both events would usefully expand the IHF’s offer of World Championships.

Another useful decision was to organize future IHF Congress meetings not before the Olympics, but in even years between the Olympic Games. Among other things, this would facilitate the accreditation of more than 100 IHF officials sent to the Olympics. The motion proposing to change to uneven years after the Olympic Games was rejected for the time being.

Strictly speaking, it was up to the working group in Saint Petersburg to revise the complete Statutes and Regulations of the IHF. However, after individual voting concerning the motions 1 to 17 and due to time reasons, the Congress decided by 78 votes “to organize an Extraordinary Congress dealing with regulations changes to be held in 2003”.

Council receiving further responsibilities

Beforehand, the President invited the Council to three meetings to be held in March, July and September **2003** in Basel (SUI), Gothenburg (SWE) and Kobe (JPN). At “half-time” of his presidency, he looked back and reported on the newly formed Marketing Working Group (under his direction) that brought interesting news: “The Agency Sportfive (former Sport+) proposed to extend until 2009 the TV rights and advertising contract expiring in 2005 by paying a lump sum of 15 million Swiss Francs and offering a profit sharing with minimum guarantee”. Marketing was the President’s dearest topic.

In cooperation with the Council, the President was very involved in promoting young hopefuls too. Thus, it was finally decided that World Championships of the men’s youth would be organized in 2005 and of the women’s youth in 2006.

Admission was limited to 8 teams for the time being. In this context, it was important that teams from all the continents participated in the tournaments, whereas the places were allocated as follows: Host 1, Asia 2, Europe 2, Pan-America 1, Africa 1 and Oceania 1.



The new IHF President Moustafa was meeting the new IOC President Jacques Rogge in Lausanne in 2003 for the first time. The picture also shows two veterans: Secretary General Hahn and Sports Director Gilbert Felli.

The Extraordinary Congress, which had only been the second meeting of this kind since the existence of the IHF, took place in Basel on 27 & 28 November 2003 and would go down in history as Structures Congress. The outcome was not spectacular, but resulted in a shift of power within the international federation and a transfer of power to the Council and the Executive Committee. This was deliberately asked by 67 federations and showed growing confidence in the selected bodies.

The best example for this change was the decision to hand over the responsibility of allocating Men's and Women's World Championships to the Council, whereas other topics as well as promoting young hopefuls were still to be decided by the Congress.

To make sure that the IHF management was as neutral and dependent as possible, "the representatives belonging to the Executive Committee were not allowed to be members of a Commission or of the governing board of a continental confederation". At the same time, this body received further rights to be able to make important decisions in the time between the Congress meetings.

Furthermore, the Head Office under the direction of the Managing Director was granted more independence after disagreements had arisen with the Secretary General about sharing responsibility in the past.

Finally, there was another decision on the new "baby" of the IHF: "The Executive Committee and the Head Office were named responsible for professional and competent marketing of handball worldwide, including all

questions of promotion, sponsorship, media reporting, trademarks” etc. Thus, the Executive Committee was asked to submit a complete marketing plan within 6 months. But the IHF did even more and published, shortly after these events, its own brochure called ‘Your Partner’ (see picture below) touting for customers - with great success.

The above-mentioned and other regulations changes clearly showed that the international federation was seriously focussing on improving its professionalization, strengthening its management committees and usefully discharging the Congress. However, the Congress as the highest body of the IHF still had to draw up the “political” guidelines and strategies, to optimize the offer of handball and to define the strategic approach. This allocation of tasks would prove successful...

Here, it should be added that the IHF’s international character was embodied as follows in its Statutes: “Apart from English, German and French as official Congress languages, a simultaneous translation into Arabic, Russian and Spanish shall be provided at Congress meetings”.

In **2004**, after the latest activities in the recent past, the Council was able to present an excellent review and a financial stability that confirmed the upward trend of the past few years. The IHF members attending the Council meetings in Switzerland and Kuwait had also taken note of this situation with great satisfaction. Subsequently, attention turned to three further highlights.

First, there were the Olympic Games in Athens where two handball teams, that had meanwhile become reputable, made a name for themselves. Croatia won the men’s competition by repeating its performance of 1996 in Atlanta and Denmark’s women managed to win their third gold medal, thus having obtained three Olympic titles in succession. Brilliant.

Finally, there was another highlight at the end of November in El Gouna, Egypt, where the International Handball Federation organized its first Beach Handball World Championship after the World Games. Apart from the host team (men) and Russia (women), many players showed high performance on the beach.

Election marathon at the Red Sea

The same place - a different event. The holiday paradise at the Red Sea became the host of the XXXth Ordinary Congress of the IHF from 2 to 4 December. The 350 delegates from 134 nations eligible to vote met under best conditions in a huge tent specially put up for this purpose.

In the elections, being - as always - the focus of attention at such meetings,



Opponents becoming friends: Dr Hassan Moustafa and Staffan Holmqvist.

the Vice-President Staffan Holmqvist from Sweden competed against President-in-Office Hassan Moustafa and was defeated by 46 votes to 85 in the run-off. However, Holmqvist won without difficulty the election as 1st Vice-President after beating Hahn (46) and Strombach (18) by 63 votes and prevailing over Hahn by 77 votes to 52 in the run-off. The position of Secretary General, being vacant since the resignation of Hahn, was taken by Peter Mühlematter (SUI) after winning by 96 votes to 32

against Jean Kaiser (LUX). Miguel Roca (ESP) remained Treasurer after beating Charalambos Lottas (CYP) by 87 votes to 43. Kozhukhov from Russia succeeded Mühlematter as COC President and was promoted to the Executive Committee.

In two election rounds, the only female member of the Council - CPP President Carin Nilsson Green (SWE) - successfully prevailed over Philippe Soubranne (FRA) and Mohammed Al Matroud (KSA), whereas CCM President Naser Abu Marzouq (KUW) won against his opponent Helmut König (AUT) by 85 votes to 39. Two outgoing Commission Presidents fell by the wayside: Kjartan Steinbach (PRC) lost by 55 votes to 73 against Christer Ahl (USA) and Dr Gijs Langevoort (MC) was defeated by Dr Francois Gnamian (CIV) by 49 votes to 75. Vernon Winitana from New Zealand became the first representative of Oceania in the Council as this continent had reached its minimum number of members. Also, the new Council was composed of Continental Vice-Presidents Christophe Yapo Achy (CIV), Sheikh Ahmad (KUW), Tor Lian (NOR), and Manoel Luis Oliveira (BRA) as well as Continental Representatives Taoufik Khouaja (TUN), Yoshihide Watanabe (JPN), Jean Brihault (FRA) and Mario Garcia de la Torre (MEX).

The number of election rounds was even surpassed by the amount of motions concerning the Statutes and Regulations as well as information about rules changes. Please find some decisions of fundamental importance below.

Once again, the Congress tried to pay increased attention to women's issues by embodying a "Commission for Women and Handball" in the Statutes. However, the voting was 57 in favour, 23 against and 14 abstentions so that the two-thirds majority required to change the Statutes was not reached.



After the elections in 2004: The new Council of the IHF: Sheikh Ahmad, Naser Bu Marzouq, Dr Gnamian and Khonaja were absent.

Everyone only getting one chance

Another motion, which had already been submitted for the second time since 2002, was aiming at organizing Congress meetings in uneven years after Men's World Championships and was carried by a majority of votes this time. Thus, the highest body of the IHF would hold its next working meeting in 2007 and its next elective meeting in 2009. If the "merry-go-round" of elections would continue in the same way as in El Gouna remained to be seen. However, one thing was for sure: Every candidate could only apply for one position. And this rule became part of the Statutes.

At the end of the Congress, it was important for the President to say goodbye to all the members withdrawing from their position at their own request or against their will. One personality drew special applause: Raymond Hahn who was nominated Honorary Secretary General by the IHF.

At its first meeting after the Congress in February **2005** in Hammamed (TUN), the Council appointed the members to the Technical Commissions that were composed as follows: COC – Dr Ahmad Abu Al-Lail (KUW), Dr Medhat Elbeltagy (EGY), Alexander Toncourt (AUT), Fabiano Ferreira M. Redondo (BRA), Philippe Bana (FRA), Leon Kalin (SLO), Peter Sichelschmidt (GER); PRC – Dawud Tawakoli (IRI), Babacar N'Doye (SEN), Sandor Andorka (HUN), Miguel Zaworotny (ARG), Francois Garcia (FRA), Manfred Prause (GER), Roland Bürgi (SUI); CCM – Abdul Jalil Mirza (BRN), Prosper Keke (CIV), Frantisek Taborsky (CZE), Michael D. Cavanaugh (USA), Bengt Johansson (SWE), Dietrich Späte (GER); MC – Dr Issei Nishiyama (JPN), Dr Rida Mokni (TUN), Prof. Inge-Lis Kanstrup (DEN), Dr José Rodriguez (DOM), Prof. Hans Holdhaus (AUT), Dr Andras Tallay (HUN), Dr Samir Salim Daher (BRA); CPP

– Bader Al-Theyab (KUW), Emilienne Lekoundzou (CGO), Helmut Höritsch (AUT), Rafael Sepulveda (PUR), Said Bouamra (ALG), Marc Gysels (BEL), Steen Hjorth (DEN).

Also, the International Olympic Committee applied to the IHF for personnel matters and requested (in coordination with the World Anti-Doping Agency) that an independent jury composed of three persons dealing with drug addiction cases as well as another body handling current doping issues should be created.

An Athletes' Commission after all

Moreover, the IOC reminded the IHF that an Athletes' Commission - that was long overdue - should be set up. In the summer of that year, the 'athlete's voice' became reality. Two years later, after the appointment of the commission members by the Council, the athletes participating in the Men's and Women's World Championships in Russia and Germany elected themselves their representatives. The parity commission was composed of ten persons as follows: Erikson (SWE), Dawn Allinger-Lewis (USA), Beata Siti (HUN), Heidi Tjugum (NOR) and Chao Zhai (CHN) as well as their male colleagues Jackson Richardson (FRA), Staffan Olsson (SWE), Talant Duishebaev (ESP), Vlado Sola (CRO) and Jaume Fort Mauri (ESP). Six years later, on the occasion of the Congress in Doha in 2013, it would be likely that a male and a female top handball player would have a vote and win a seat on the Council of the IHF. A corresponding application would then have been submitted.

The Athletes' Commission was an independent group dealing with questions and topics that concerned the athletes directly, including social status, contractual security, insurance protection, scheduling, strains in athletes, medical supervision, anti-doping, rights and obligations towards the club or federation, etc.

To everybody's relief, good news came from Singapore: In its rotational meeting, the Executive Committee of the IOC decided that handball would remain included in the programme of the Olympic Games after 2008. During the run-up to this meeting, there had been rumours that the sport would be put to the test because of the incidents in Athens in 2003. Due to great work done by the IHF and its federations, that obviously sounded convincing to the IOC in Asia, this issue was finally off the agenda. And there was even more good news: At the first Youth Olympic Games in 2010 in Singapore, handball was represented by men's as well as women's youth teams from all the continents.

The World Championships in France (men), the Czech Republic (women's juniors), Hungary (men's juniors) and Russia (women) were running as smooth as expected, apart from the rather poor audience in Saint Petersburg. Subsequently, the handball range was extended by the first Men's Youth World Championships organized in the Sheikhdom of Qatar that had also offered its services in other fields. The Women's Youth World Championships were held one year later in Canada for the first time.

Trouble with Asia again

At the beginning of the year **2006**, difficulties arose again in Asia. At the qualification tournament for the Men's World Championship to be held in Bangkok in 2007, contested decisions of referees resulted in removing them from the official IHF referees list. Furthermore, the Council suspended a lecturer working as IHF official in Thailand.

In the meanwhile, the President continued staying true to his principles and speeded things up, in particular concerning marketing and development. The result was that, in its meeting on 4 and 5 August in Herzogenaurach (GER), the Council unanimously decided to found a "marketing company for economic, tax and personnel reasons". This company was a wholly-owned subsidiary of the IHF and was directed by the Executive Committee and the President. The Council served as supervisory board. The employees were those of the Head Office.

The development aid project 'Challenge Trophy' continued to be improved and was finalized. According to the new system, less-developed national teams were combined in terms of regions. Thus, it was possible for all the teams concerned to participate in the IHF events and competitions at relatively low cost that was mainly covered by the IHF. The best teams of the tournaments in each zone or region qualified for the Continental Championships. – A success model.

Taking stock of the years 1987–2006

International handball was going through a time of upheaval from multiple points of view.

The number of top nations increased. Korea succeeded Japan as leading non-European country. In the men's competition, Egypt made it to the top as second non-European country. The dominant teams worldwide: Sweden, France, Russia, Croatia as well as Germany, to a lesser extent, in the men's tournament and Korea, Norway, Denmark and France in the women's tournament.

The quick and technically advanced system of play initiated by Asia was

successfully imitated by Europe. A great amount of rules changes resulted in considerably reducing the physical aspects of the game and in giving agile and fast athletes more room for manoeuvre. According to the motto: More speed, more attacks, more goals.

More and more countries were playing handball and were offering the very best of this sport to their spectators. In spite of severe critics, the IHF organized a major part of its World Championships on other continents. In most of these tournaments, there was a tremendous audience and a huge interest in the media.

Since 1993/1995, the men's and women's title contests were organized every two years. The B and C World Championships became unnecessary. Under the pressure of non-European countries, the number of participating teams was increased to 24. Consequently, top handball could frequently be broadcasted on TV, whereas the weaker teams were able to take part in top tournaments to gain needed practical experience. Moreover, the WC offer was extended to the fun variation of Beach Handball as well as Youth tournaments at the turn of the millennium.

However, the aim of Olympic gender equality had not yet been achieved completely. Twelve men's teams were allowed to participate in the Olympic Games in Athens, whereas only ten women's teams could attend the Olympics.

The last two continental confederations to be founded were the European Handball Federation and the Oceania Handball Federation in 1991 and in 1993. Just like the others, the formation of these two federations had also contributed to a great increase in the number of member nations. In 2006, 60 years after the founding of the IHF, the situation was as follows: Out of a total of 156 official member federations, 33 were situated in Asia, 45 in Africa, 50 in Europe, 6 in Oceania and 22 in Pan-America.

Handball became a professional sport on and off the court. Special regulations for contract players were drawn up. There was a growing market of managers, player agents, agencies and sports equipment manufacturers. More and more, the sport was considered and sold as attractive entertainment product. Handball succeeded in standing up against other popular sports.

This was also due to the recently established marketing company that, once and for all, helped the international federation get out of the red.

In spite of all this success and progress, the IHF did not forget the teams that had not yet made it to the top. They could benefit from a committed multi-million development aid programme.

The conclusion: Handball was turning into a global, media-catching world sport.

Marketing: “Extremely good results”

Marketing and finance, among other things, were priority topics at the (working) meeting of the Congress held on 27 and 28 April 2007 in Madrid (ESP) with the participation of delegates from 120 member federations. The assembly allowed the IHF to “create a marketing company to maximize its economic benefits”. In the same year, this company succeeded in managing and exploiting the commercial rights of their first two events, the Men’s and Women’s World Championships in Germany and France. Subsequently, the President informed about “extremely good results”.

Furthermore, the Congress had to deal with a huge number of proposals. First of all, the Council withdrew 47 amendments that had been submitted to the Congress in 2002 and 2003. There were 30 further motions, but the applicants changed their mind and cancelled a majority of these requests. The changes to the transfer regulations and the player eligibility code were very time-consuming too. Thus, there were Congress meetings that focussed almost exclusively on administrative tasks.

Moreover, the delegates had to say goodbye to a large number of handball personalities who had passed away in the period under review: Ron Gorgichuk (CAN), Prosper Keke (CIV), Per-Olof-Söderblom (SWE), Gerard Houtbraken and Jan Stuiver (NED), Boris Makarov (RUS), Mihai Stark (ROU), Ernest Djomdi (CMR), Andreas Fredsland Pedersen (DEN), Erik Elias (SWE) and Marin Marin (ROU) among other persons.

In its meeting in Paris in December, the Council tried to make up for the injustice done to women at the Congress in Egypt where - as everybody knows - the proposal to include a Women’s Commission in the Statutes had been rejected by a few votes only. At the meeting in Paris, a “Working Group on Women and Handball” was established and “limited to one year for the time being”. Pan-America’s President Oliveira invited the participants to the first meeting to be held in Brazil. Where there is a will, there is a way...

The President, to whom it meant a lot to develop handball on many ‘white spots’ in the world, brought good news as far as this topic is concerned. Challenge Trophy tournaments, especially in Africa, had taken place for the first time. The submitted reports showed “very positive” results. The same applied to mini-handball competitions. Further projects were planned, including the worldwide organization of courses with a special group of experts. A new decision was made to support wheelchair handball. This sport was advocated by Dr Nabil Salem, President of the African Sports Confederation of Disabled and Executive

Committee member of the International Paralympic Committee. He was also well known to the IHF as long-standing Vice-President and Council member.

Equal rights for women

On the way to equality between both genders, the international federation took the last step, as far as playing technique is concerned, in **2008**. For the first time in the history of the IOC, an equal number of men's and women's teams - to be precise 12 teams - were allowed to participate in the Olympic Games in Beijing. Thus, after more than 30 years of Olympic competitions, the IHF had finally achieved what had always been applied in its own handball tournaments: Absolute equality between men and women. By the way, in the Middle Kingdom handball was one of the Olympic highlights.

Shortly after returning from Beijing, Moustafa informed the Council in its meeting in October in Herzogenaurach about some personnel changes regarding honorary and full-time positions. The successor to Managing Director Bielefeld only gave a short guest performance before leaving the IHF. "The management of the IHF Head Office in Basel is now in the hands of the President who shall frequently stay in the Head Office and shall be responsible for finances".

A new woman was appointed to the Council: Dr Nicole Assele from Gabon, the newly elected Secretary General of the CAHB, would represent the African continent in this IHF body. Vernon Winitana from Oceania was no longer part of the Council, as "the continental confederation did not exist anymore due to the current suspension of New Zealand". Background information about this situation: In New Zealand, dissatisfied handball players rebelled against Winitana. One year later, the Congress decided to found a new national federation under the direction of Frank Stoltenberg and to recognize the continental confederation of Oceania again. Its name was Oceania Continent Handball Federation (OCHF).

From a sporting point of view, everything was running smoothly for the IHF – also in **2009** when four World Championships and the Super Globe in Qatar were organized. However, there was trouble brewing among the federation's management. Harmony went out of the window. This was confirmed at the Council meeting in January in Zagreb (CRO) and continued at the XXXIIth Ordinary Congress held from 3 to 7 June in Cairo (EGY). More than 300 delegates from 147 countries eligible to vote witnessed a dispute in which Secretary General Peter Mühlematter accused IHF President Dr Moustafa of financial irregularities. The Swiss even intended to take the Egyptian to court. The Council had already dealt with these (unfounded) accusations at two of its last meetings, rejected allegations, unanimously supported the President (except Mühlematter) and asked

Mühlematter to step down. He refused and continued holding office although 103 members (with 9 votes against and 11 abstentions) called for him to resign before the elections.

The calm after the storm

Nevertheless, the refractory Swiss had to go. In the election of the future Secretary General, Joel Delplanque (FRA) competed against him and obtained 113 votes (by secret ballot). Mühlematter won 28 votes. Beforehand, the current President Moustafa prevailed over his opponent Jean Kaiser (LUX) by 125 votes to 25 and Miguel Roca from Spain succeeded as Vice-President after the death of Staffan Holmqvist in a unanimous voting. Sandi Sola from Croatia (90 votes) became new Treasurer (instead of Roca) by beating Khouaja from Tunisia and Gunnarsson from Iceland. Leon Kalin (SLO) succeeded as COC President after the death of Aleksandr Kozhukhov at the beginning of that year. Manfred Prause (GER) won the election as PRC President by 71 votes to 65 in a tight race against Dawud Tawakoli from Iran. A clear victory was achieved by Dr Francois Gnamian (CIV) as MC President by defeating Prof. Hans Holdhaus (AUT). The only female Council member, Carin Nilsson Green, had to let Fabiano Redondo from Brazil take the position of CPP President who received 93 votes.

In addition, the Council was composed of the Continental Vice-Presidents Mansourou A. Aremou (BEN), Bader Al-Theyb (KUW), Tor Lian (NOR) and Manoel Luis Oliveira (BRA), CMM President Naser Abu Marzouq (KUW, CCM) as well as the Continental Representatives Nicole Assele (GAB), Yoshihide Watanabe (JPN), Jean Brihault (FRA) and Mario Garcia de la Torre (MEX).



Congratulations to the new Council after the elections at the Congress in Egypt in 2009.

Dealing with the unpleasant dispute started by Mühlematter took so much time that more important issues, such as the motions concerning IHF structure and Statutes changes, had to be delayed. Switzerland requested that an Extraordinary Congress should be organized to deal with these topics. After approving this proposal, it was finally rejected.

By the way: A few days after the memorable meeting in Cairo, the courts of Switzerland acquitted the IHF President of all accusations raised against him by making decisions that were drawn up in English, German and French, as provided for in the IHF regulations. Thus, after pouring oil on troubled waters, the media closed the files on the matter.

Meanwhile, the first members were appointed to the IHF Commissions: COC – Philippe Bana (FRA), Alaa El-Sayed Mohamed Abdel-Kader (EGY), Peter Sichelschmidt (GER); PRC – Roland Bürgi (SUI), Ramon Gallego (ESP), Bjarne Munk Jensen (DEN); CCM – Jasem Mohammed Al-Theyab (KUW), Zoltan Marczinka (HUN), Dietrich Späte (GER); MC – Maria Stella Cristiano (ANG), Mladen Miskulin (CRO), Dr Juan José Munoz Benito (ESP); CPP – Stefan Albrechtson (SWE), Said Bouamra (ALG), Eszter Rudas (HUN).

After the Congress, but still in Cairo, the Council made the landmark decision to reallocate the TV rights (and only the TV rights). After a worldwide competitive tender, the assembly unanimously decided in favour of the agency UFA Sports that submitted by far the best offer amounting to an average two-digit million amount. Thus, the company from Hamburg replaced Sportfive. Moving into another new dimension showed the value and the attractiveness of handball. This opinion had also been shared by the long-time companions of the IHF, adidas and Gerflor, that extended their contracts for up to a further four years, whereas the President received congratulations on “successful marketing”.

In the field of development aid, the President’s second dearest topic, great progress had been made too. As far as the projects of the year 2009 are concerned, where the organization of the Challenge Trophy tournaments played a huge role, “55 national federations from the five continents received support”, as stated by Moustafa.

Coaches being on offer too

As ever, the selection of the World Handball Players of the Year provoked very positive response among spectators and media. These players received not only an award, but also a considerable bonus from one of the IHF sponsors. For the first time, the handball fans interested were able to vote for other outstanding

athletes too: The international coaches and the “rookies” of the year. Among the head coaches, Jewgeny Trefilov, the women’s coach from Russia, and the world champion maker Claude Onesta from France won the elections.

Everything seemed alright within the international federation. However, a European group of top clubs called “Group Club Handball” did not allow releasing club players who were supposed to participate in an international representative match on the grounds that the IHF should have to guarantee compensation and insurance for their active players. Europe’s President Tor Lian was aware of these claims. According to the minutes of the EHF meeting, he stated that “the EHF had been under the influence of this organization for two years. They were making different demands, such as payments of compensation, insurance etc. The EHF tried to communicate with them. That was not very easy. However, the first move had been made.” The IHF as well as the EHF were ready for financial concessions and discussions. But, the IHF – unlike the EHF – did not believe that it would be necessary to grant decision rights concerning the organization and frequency of handball competitions to the representatives of the Group Club Handball. Regardless of this issue, the IHF and Moustafa intended to keep up contacts with the top clubs - but not with the “Forum Club Handball” as this organization is now called.

The unpronounceable volcano

An Extraordinary Congress (the third meeting of this kind in the history of the IHF) was meant to take place in Rome in May **2010**. The only item on the agenda: The complete revision of the IHF Statutes. Preparations were running smoothly, except that “Eyjafjallajökull” thwarted the international federation’s plans. The volcano with the unpronounceable name erupted in Iceland on 15 April. The ash cloud spread over the whole continent of Europe and paralyzed the air traffic for weeks. There was no question of landing or holding a meeting in Italy’s capital. The Congress had to be cancelled. What had not be done by Hurricane “Bertha” in 1996 on Hilton Head Island, happened in Rome because of “Eyjafjallajökull”. Revising the Statutes was postponed until the following year. The Congress would be held in Marrakesh at that time.

At the same time, the international federation presented its new website that was intended to provide more complete information about handball events for fans, experts and journalists. In addition, the Extranet allowing a closer contact between the IHF and the continental and national federations was launched too.

Press, radio and television representatives as well as coaches, officials and other experts were welcome guests at the “IHF Forum for the Future of Handball” that had been initiated by the President in October in Herzogenaurach (GER). Thus, new ideas for increasing the attractiveness of the popular game of handball were developed. Adidas manager Herbert Hainer as host welcomed IOC Vice-President Dr Thomas Bach among the guests, who was lavish in his praise for the IHF and would soon take the highest Olympic position by succeeding Jacques Rogge.

There are no records testifying if the rules changes, which would afterwards be adopted by the Council, had already been discussed at this meeting. According to the new rules, the half-time would be extended from 10 to 15 minutes, what would be put into practice at the forthcoming Men’s World Championship in Sweden on a trial basis, and a third team timeout would be introduced on a general basis. Furthermore, the official WC squad would be composed of 16 instead of 14 active players. The Playing Rules and Referees Commission was asked to think about the use of video evidence, an issue that had long been discussed.

WC in Sweden breaking all records

The Men’s World Championship held at the beginning of **2011** in Sweden broke (nearly) all records. Above all, this concerned media coverage. Obviously, the IHF leaders were proud to present these impressive results to the delegates from 109 nations participating in the Congress meeting in Marrakech (MAR) from 2 to 5 May.

The matches played in Scandinavia were broadcast live by 43 TV stations in 163 countries, thus setting a new record. The local handball halls were filled to 80% capacity and the matches were attended by 430 000 spectators (23 000 more than two years before in Croatia). 200 000 users downloaded the WC application of IHF partner UFA Sports to their iPhone – that was a premiere. Roughly 2 million visitors accessed the IHF website. More than 1 500 media representatives throughout the world were accredited to the title contests, including 100 international TV and radio companies. 17 cameras provided fascinating images of the final – that was international top level. “In terms of TV times and coverage, Sweden is the most successful WC of all time”, commented Robert Müller von Vultejus working for the IHF partner UFA Sports.

However, the report on agenda item “Finances” that was submitted by the President and the Treasurer at the last IHF Congress succeeded in topping the above-mentioned excellent details. But, calculating percentages was necessary to

follow them: The yearly income of the IHF has been increased by 266% since 1998, whereas the administrative expenses decreased. Furthermore, income from Olympic Games increased by 73%, from allocation of TV rights by 361% and from marketing by 1007%.

Mustafa commented: “The money that we earn shall allow financing projects around the world”. Some examples: The budget for the Challenge Trophy, which was very popular in Africa and Pan-America as well as the Caribbean Sea, increased by 15 times. Great amounts were invested in handball at school. Under the title “Fun, Passion and Health”, a working group under the direction of Allan Land (DEN) and Dietrich Späte (GER) put the President’s project into practice and initiated 45 courses called “Global Coaching Clinic-Projects” throughout the world. Teaching material drawn up in six languages and specially developed softballs for youngsters aged 12 to 16 were made available. Thus, the IHF was the first federation to launch a project of such magnitude what is supposed to continue in 2012 and 2013.

24 teams – Youth catching up with seniors

Due to this good economic situation, the IHF decided to release its 181 member federation from paying membership fees for two years.

Prize money for World Championships had been increased by 252% compared to 2009, whereas several millions of Swiss Francs were intended as compensation awarded to federations and clubs releasing active players for World Championships and Olympic Games.

However, the (subsequent) decision to increase, from 2012, the number of participants in Men’s and Women’s Youth World Championships to 24 had no major economic impact. Thus, the juniors were catching up with the seniors.

As the Congress in Rome had to be cancelled due to the unpronounceable volcano in Iceland, the delegates had to wait for the next Congress meeting in Marrakesh to work their way, one by one, through the large number of proposals. This was done and raised a problem: When revising the Statutes, there had been 60 votes in favour of the acknowledgement of “protagonists” as “stakeholders” in the IHF; however, the two-thirds majority required had not been reached. The “protagonists”, who were not taken into account when drawing up the Statutes, were those for whom the European Forum Club Handball claimed decision rights. Subsequently, the Forum decided to sue the IHF for these rights.

At the December meeting of the Council in Sao Paulo, allegations were made against financial mismanagement in Brazil where a sportingly successful Women’s

WC was held at that very moment. The debt was amounting to a few million Swiss Francs. The IHF advanced the sums to save the championship and took tough action: “If the payment by instalments is not made by the end of 2015, all teams, referees and officials shall be suspended for participation in international events until money has been paid back”.

For the time being, the last attempt to build better reputation for women on all the continents was made by the IHF managers at the end of the year when organizing the “Women’s Conference” on 2 December in Sao Paulo. This seminar was aiming at winning the support of women coaches, referees and officials for handball. The event was very well attended. Time will show the real success of this action.



Engagement for female interests: The Women’s Conference in 2011 in Sao Paulo (BRA).

At the beginning of **2012**, the Council met on the River Thames (where else?) to clarify some personnel issues due to changes on the continents. In Europe, Jean Brihault from France had taken the helm by succeeding Tor Lian, who had to resign due to illness. He had also been promoted to Continental Vice-President of the IHF, just like the new Pan-American President Mario Moccia from Argentina. Arne Elovsson (SWE) became Continental Representative. The same position was taken by Charles Omboumahou from Congo succeeding Nicole Assele (GAB), the last female Council member.

In the meanwhile, the continents announced or substituted their Commission members. The Commissions were composed of the following new members: COC – Dr: Ahmed Abu Al-Lail (KUW), Pedro Celestino Sousa Codinho (ANG), Jan Tuik (NED), Carlos Ferrera (ARG), Philippe Bana (FRA), Alaa El-Sayed Mohamed Abdel-Kader (EGY), Peter Sichelschmidt (GER); PRC – Dawud Tawakoli (IRI), Sandor Andorka (HUN), Salvio Sedrez (BRA), Dragan Nacevski (MKD), Roland Bürgi (SUI), Ramon Gallego (ESP), Bjarne Munk Jensen (DEN);

CCM – Jasem Mohammed Al-Theyab (KUW), Djaafar Belhocine (ALG), Frantisek Taborsky (CZE), Zoltan Marczinka (HUN), Dietrich Späte (GER), A. Jalil Mirza Asad (BRN), Mohamed Benkreira (CAN), Habib Labane (ALG), Peter Kovacs (HUN); MC – Dr Shizou Sakamotoa (JPN), Dr Ridha Mokni (TUN), Prof. Hans Holdhaus (AUT), Dr Llew Harper (BAR), Maria Stella Cristiano (ANG), Mladen Miskulin (CRO), Dr Juan José Munoz Benito (ESP); CD – Dr Sari A. Hamdan Ghanima (JOR), Yazid Souadi (MAR), Helmut Höritsch (AUT), Rafael Sepulveda (PUR), Stefan Albrechtson (SWE), Said Bouamra (ALG), Eszter Rudas (HUN).

London – Spain - Qatar

All other sporting events of that year had to take a back seat just before the London 2012 Olympic Games. The handball tournaments that were held in the almost legendary “Copper Box Arena” were an absolute must for everyone, including celebrities, and finished with a victory of France in the men’s competition and of Norway in the women’s competition that became the last Olympic champions for the time being and fully deserved their title. What had endlessly been expressed at almost all Olympics in the past by IOC Presidents Samaranch and Rogge came true in London: These were the best games of all time!

At the turn of the year, a small but important group attracted again attention after a long time. Ironically, this group caused only a stir when positive results were submitted: The ADU (Anti-Doping Unit) that, since 2004 and in cooperation with the IOC, had been turning up at top-level events as well as training courses by requesting that the athletes worldwide should pass a urine test. At the WC in 2011 in Sweden, this independent group had conducted a total of 100 controls. The results were all negative – having a positive effect. At the end of that year, 285 tests had been made during competitions and further 74 during training sessions. In this field, the all-clear was given too. The ADU’s conclusion: Handball was clean. In view of the first sporting highlight of the year **2013**, the Men’s World Championship in Spain, the anti-doping “investigators” announced that, “for the first time at IHF level, they intended to conduct nine tests to set up the athlete biological passport in cooperation with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)”.

This WC went as well as hoped, not only from a medical point of view, but also in terms of success, as the host team managed by legendary coach Valero Rivera won the world title. Thus, in its following meeting, the Council had the possibility of focussing completely on the preparations for the XXXIVth Ordinary Congress to be held in Doha (QAT) on 26 and 27 October.

No big surprises were to be expected, although elections were held in the Gulf State too. However, according to a rumour filtering through, the President should win the elections unopposed. Also, the Vice-President and the Treasurer were likely to have an unrivalled victory. Everything pointed to a relaxed atmosphere at this meeting of the highest body of the International Handball Federation.



Fighting together for the future of sports: Dr. Thomas Bach (IOC) and Dr. Hassan Moustafa (IHF).

After 67 years of existence of the IHF and at the end of this period under review, it is now up to the chroniclers to take stock of the situation. One thing is for sure: Handball is worldwide very well positioned – undoubtedly due to the great work of the five Presidents having steered the fortunes of the IHF by setting different priorities.

The complete sporting offer includes World Championships for men's and women's teams, youth teams in different age groups as well as Beach Handball, whereas there is absolute equality between men and women, with the only exception of the IHF club competition.

It would be hard to imagine the Olympics without handball that is allowed to participate with the same number of female and male players per team. This had also been confirmed by the IOC when including this sport in the programme of the first Youth Olympic Games.

The foundations had been laid carefully, but specifically, over these past few years by including the weaker, the younger, the smallest as well as fringe groups. The keywords are Olympic Solidarity, management seminars, Challenge Trophies, handball at school and mini-handball. For these actions and a lot of other programmes, the international federation is making a huge financial effort.

After decades of long hard haul, the IHF is now on a sound financial footing. Above all, this is due to the new media offering particular advertising opportunities and the improved marketing of handball as premium product that is not anymore considered a pure simple sport, but rather a social event and top-

level entertainment. People are saying that the IHF-owned marketing company has the same amount of net assets tucked away as the annual turnover of the continental confederation in Europe.

However: Handball has not yet reached its limits of development.

That will certainly also be stated by the current IHF President Dr Hassan Moustafa when recalling the past and looking into the future at the Congress meeting in Doha. One of his newly set goals consists in increasing the number of member federations. Recent statistics show that there are 27 million persons worldwide playing handball in 1 952 000 million teams belonging to 190 affiliated national federations. Thus, the international federation is aiming at the magic number of 200 official member federations. In this case, the International Handball Federation would succeed in reaching Olympic heights.

Mares's best advice

Vojtech Mares was one of the world's most feared wingers – and not only during his time as active player. In the Czechoslovakia national team and with the top club Dukla Prague during the 60ties. As young handball player he had already been aware of what would be important for a real top athlete to know and pronounced wise words with a lot of substance that are practically everlasting: “For a good handball player, there is nothing worse than thinking of handball all the time.”

*The congresses
of the International Handball Federation*

	Year	Place	Participants	Members
			eligible to vote	
I.	1946	Copenhagen DEN	8	14
II.	1948	Paris FRA	6	18
	1948	Paris FRA (extraordinary)	14	18
III.	1950	Vienna AUT	13	21
IV.	1952	Saarbrücken FRG	16	22
V.	1954	Opatjia YUG	15	25
VI.	1956	Stockholm SWE	18	26
VII.	1958	Garmisch-Partenkirchen FRG	17	27
VIII.	1960	Liege BEL	21	30
IX.	1962	Madrid ESP	24	34
X.	1964	Budapest HUN	25	38
XI.	1966	Copenhagen DEN	26	39
XII.	1968	Amsterdam NED	34	41
XIII.	1970	Madrid ESP	36	54
XIV.	1972	Nuremberg FRG	43	54
XV.	1974	Jesolo ITA	43	65
XVI.	1976	Estoril POR	44	68
XVII.	1978	Reykjavik ISL	43	74
XVIII.	1980	Moscow URS	52	80
XIX.	1982	London GBR	53	86
XX.	1984	San Diego USA	46	95
XXI.	1986	Dakar SEN	49	98
XXII.	1988	Seoul KOR	69	101
XXIII.	1990	Madeira POR	47	106
XXIV.	1992	Barcelona ESP	62	123
XXV.	1994	Noordwijk NED	59	133
XXVI.	1996	Hilton Head Island USA	79	138
XXVII.	1998	Yamoussoukro CIV	62	143
XXVIII.	2000	Estoril POR	122	146
XXIX.	2002	Saint Petersburg RUS	92	147
	2003	Basle SUI (extraordinary)	67	147
XXX.	2004	El Gouna EGY	134	150
XXXI.	2007	Madrid ESP	120	159
XXXII.	2009	Cairo EGY	139	171
XXXIII.	2011	Marrakesh MAR	109	181
XXXIV.	2013	Doha QAT		190

The 2000 photo of the year:
Bjorn Moe NOR



They threw (new) light on handball

Innumerable male and female players, delegates, coaches, referees, physicians and officials, as well as politicians, put their stamp on world handball, determined its fate and finally threw new light on this sport. Even if - in the following - an attempt has been made to present briefly the most outstanding handball personalities in all fields, it has to be admitted that this list is not and certainly cannot be exhaustive. In fact, the assessment of the protagonists is only based on the personal opinion of the authors of this book. This proposal is an attempt and has to be considered as such. It is an attempt to document the many-sidedness of world handball by means of short personal records and biographical statements.

The presidents of the IHF

Gösta Björk SWE - 1946-1950

Gösta Björk, manager of a Swedish insurance company, is born on 5 November 1900 in Stockholm and had already been President of the Swedish Handball Federation before being elected IHF President. He took office at the age of 39. At the same time, Björk - who had been an active athlete, handball and hockey player - was seriously committed to the Olympic movement in his home country where he was appointed to the Commission of Competition in 1943. After being nominated as Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee in Sweden in 1950, he retired as President of the IHF. Five years later, on 11 February 1955, Gösta Björk died after a long illness.



Hans Baumann SUI - 1950-1971

Hans Baumann, an internationally renowned architect, had already been Vice-President for four years under Gösta Björk. Since 1939, he had also been a member of the management committee of the Swiss Handball Federation that allowed Baumann (born in 1906) to participate in several international matches too. Baumann helped the IHF with a lot of flair in getting through the difficult post-war period from a sports political point of view. This politically “neutral” Swiss citizen seemed to be really predestined to undertake the difficult task of mediating between the power blocks of East and



West Europe. Unfortunately, it was not granted to him to witness that handball would again be included in the Olympic Programme, as he would have wished. On 7 February 1971 Hans Baumann died – one year and a half before the Olympic handball tournament in Munich.

Paul Högberg SWE - 1971-1984



A life devoted to sport: Paul Högberg (born on 30 October 1911) was one of the gymnasts of the Swedish team participating in the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936. Subsequently, he was the manager of the College of Physical Education in Stockholm and the Academy of Sports. At the same time, he was a member of the Swedish National Olympic Committee. In this position, he made the Swedish delegation participate as managing committee in three Winter Olympic Games. Since 1950, he had been an active member of the IHF Council where Högberg as committed Vice-President proposed himself as President. Högberg was particularly concerned to integrate non-European countries into the IHF. In 1984 he was named Honorary President by the International Handball Federation. This Swedish personality had also made a name for himself as author of several books on sport. He died on 19 February 1999 at the age of 87.

Erwin Lanc AUT - 1984-2000



In 1984, an experienced politician and diplomat succeeded as head of the IHF: Before Erwin Lanc, born on 17 May 1930 in Vienna, took office as IHF President, he had already been a member of the Austrian government under Austria's legendary chancellor Bruno Kreisky for more than 13 years – first as Minister of Transport, than as Minister of the Interior and as Foreign Minister for one year. Lanc's sporting and political roots go back to the Austrian "Federation for Sports and Physical Culture". He was the head of this organization as active handball player, skier and swimmer from 1968 to 1982. Lanc - who, after completing his law studies, had worked as a member of the management board of a large bank in Vienna - was also President of the Austrian Handball Association for many years. And even after his retirement, Lanc remained interested in sport – and politically active. Thus, he continued working for the International Institute for Peace in Vienna for a long time.

Dr Hassan Moustafa EGY - 2000

Hassan Moustafa, born on 28 July 1944 in Cairo, devoted his life to handball: handball player with the club El Ahly for 15 years, Egyptian representative player for ten years, club coach and federation coach in Egypt for ten years, international referee, election as best coach in his country in 1998. In addition to his sports career, he started studying at the German College of Physical Education and Sports in Leipzig where he completed a doctoral thesis on the following topic: „The administration elements of a successful mission of clubs and federations“. Further achievements: President of the Egyptian Handball Federation (1984-1992 and 1996-2008), Secretary General of the Egyptian National Olympic Committee, President of the IHF Commission of Coaching and Methods as well as IHF Council member from 1992 to 2000. At the IHF Congress in 2000, he was elected President of the International Handball Federation and, in 2004, he was nominated member of the Council of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF).



The Secretaries General of the IHF

Carl Filip Borgh SWE - 1946-1950

Born on 26 August 1905 in Malmö (SWE). From 1943 to 1948, he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Swedish Handball Federation and, for several years, a member of the Royal Sports Federation. First division football player in Sweden. Sales director for a margarine factory. For many years, he was a member of the International Philatelists Association. Borgh died on 6 May 1994 at the age of 88 in his hometown Kallentuna near Stockholm.



Albert Wagner SUI – 1950-1972

Born on 6 August 1910. Director of a bank in Switzerland. Since 1932, he had been a member of the gymnastics society for commercial employees in Basel, and he had served on the regional committee and later on the Swiss handball committee. As international referee, he entered the International Handball Federation when it was founded in 1946. Four years later he was its Secretary General. Wagner died on 1 January 1994 at the age of 84.



Max Rinkenburger GER - 1972-1988



Born on 11 September 1919 in Lörrach (FRG). Before becoming a businessman, he took part in sport, and was to become one of the best national juniors in athletics, fencing, handball and swimming. Seriously injured during the war, he then devoted himself to his professional career as meat and sausage manufacturer and to sports administration. He became a government adviser to the Ministry for Youth, Family and Health and to the Ministry for Agriculture and Food and was also President of the Scientific Council for Meat Investigation. Apart from the IHF, where he was active as treasurer (1968-1972) and secretary general (1972-1988), he gave good advice as a member of the Programme Commission of the International Olympic Committee. In 1989, Max Rinkenburger died after a long illness.

Raymond Hahn FRA - 1988-2004



The qualified logistics manager, born on 13 March 1929 near Strasbourg, first made a name for himself in the French Handball Federation before being elected Treasurer of the IHF in 1984. In 1990, he succeeded Max Rinkenburger as Secretary General. Priority tasks: promoting handball in Africa, worldwide advanced education for handball managers, development aid on all continents and intensifying IHF media work. Thus, in 1991, he succeeded in publishing again the World Handball Magazine that won highest praise, also from the IOC. After retiring from the IHF (2004), Hahn – who had also been made a Knight of the French Legion of Honour and awarded the National Order of the Ivory Coast – continued to devote himself to sport. One of the highlights of his career: The inauguration of the “Maison des Sports” initiated by him in Strasbourg where IOC President Samaranch participated in the opening ceremony.

Peter Mühlematter SUI - 2004-2009



Born on 2 January 1945 in Bern. While working as manager for a Swiss printing machine manufacturer, he started his IHF career as member of the Commission for Development and Public Relations before becoming a member and then President of the Commission of Organising and Competition. Thus, by virtue of his office, he had also been a member of the IHF Council. At

the IHF Congress in 2004, he was elected Secretary General. Delplanque from France succeeded him five years later.

Joel Delplanque FRA - 2009-2011



Born on 8 June 1946 and current President of the French Handball Federation. At the Congress held in Cairo in 2009 he succeeded Peter Mühlematter as Secretary General of the IHF. Two years later, this position was abolished due to changes in the Statutes and Regulations of the IHF. However, Delplanque continues being a member of the Executive Committee of the International Handball Federation where he undertakes several special tasks.

Fathers and pionieers

Modern handball was first played between the end of the 19th century and 1920 with Denmark, Germany and Sweden providing stimuli in equal shares. German physical education experts are considered the founding fathers of eleven-a-side handball whereas the Northern Europeans committed themselves to the seven-a-side game played on a small court.

Holger Nielsen DEN – The Dane, born in Copenhagen on 18 December 1866, was a successful athlete winning three medals (fencing and pistol shooting) at the 1896 Olympic Games. Quite simultaneously the young physical education teacher staged a so-called ‘haandbold’ game at the secondary school of Ortrup near Nyborg in 1896/97 for the first time while defining special rules. He conceived the idea of creating a game for girls given that football had become a competitive sport for male athletes. The ‘father of modern handball’ died on 25 January 1955 in Hellerup near Copenhagen.

Max Heiser GER – During the war in 1915-1917 sports inspector Max Heiser (1879-1921) came up with an eleven-a-side handball game created in particular for the female employees of a big company. He had an interest in inventing a game for women that does not involve too much body contact. He submitted ‘his rules’ to the Berlin Council for women’s and girl’s gymnastics on 27 October 1917. Many consider Heiser to be the actual founding father of the modern game.

Carl Schelenz GER – Schelenz, born on 6 February 1890 in Berlin, worked at the German university for physical education. He stepped into Heiser’s shoes adapting the rulebook and thus the game itself to be played by both

Brains of the IAHF

The International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) let the sport of handball gain independence in 1926 and form a committee of handball in a first step. From that emerged the International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF) in 1928, an independent worldwide recognized association where a man from America and Germans in particular made the young team sport grow further.

Avery Brundage USA – Born in Detroit on 28 September 1887 Brundage had competed in the decathlon at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm before becoming a sports official. As the vice-president of the IAAF he made a major contribution to the foundation of the International Amateur Handball

Federation to which he belonged from 1928 to 1938 in his capacities as assessor and council member. After being appointed president of the IOC in 1952 he made considerable efforts to have handball included in the Olympic programme again. In 1972, the year when he retired from the IOC, he attended the first ever Olympic seven-a-side handball tournament. And it was meant to be his last one: Avery Brundage died in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (FRG) on 8 May 1975.

Willy Burmeister GER / FRG – The man from Hamburg made his name as the organizer-in-chief of the 1936 Olympic handball tournament in Berlin and was a member of the IAHF's Technical Commission from 1928 to 1938 before being politically sidelined. In 1956 he returned to the IHF as a member of the Technical Commission and became an honorary member in 1966 after being active during 10 years.

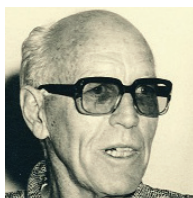
Dr Karl Ritter von Halt GER / FRG – succeeded IAHF President Lang in 1934 to head the world association until 1938. After the Second World War von Halt held important positions in sports in the Federal Republic of Germany and within the International Olympic Committee.

F.P. Lang GER – President of the handball committee as from 1926 and IAHF President as from 1928. In 1931 he had to retire for “health reasons”.

Fritz Hassler GER – Being the secretary general he led the IAHF's fortunes from 1928 to 1938 before being sidelined for political reasons.

The predominance of Germans holding senior positions was due to the fact that people having the same nationality were appointed to senior positions for organizational reasons. That philosophy was also applied after the foundation of the IHF in 1946 when first two Swedes and then (1950) two Swiss were charged with the major tasks within the world association.

Services to IHF and handball worldwide



Emil Horle SUI – The development of the IHF was considerably influenced by the man from Switzerland for 30 years. As a former player, coach and official of the Swiss handball movement he attended the IHF's initial Congress held in Copenhagen in 1946 where he was elected president of the Technical Commission (TC). His first and major task was to draw up international playing rules and to implement them. The TC focused on consistent Rules interpretation by the referees. With help of 15 training courses and symposia the world association came close to that aim within a couple of years. Horle was enthusiastic and proved an eloquent writer but also a wily pragmatist. At an early stage he battled against rudeness in handball. After a short illness Emil Horle died in his home town of Berne just a few months prior to the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal, which were meant to be the rousing finale of his career as IHF official.



Charles Petit Montgobert FRA – He was appointed to the IHF Council in 1948, two years after the foundation before being promoted to become vice-president in 1950. He stayed in office until 1970. The Frenchman committed himself to many different fields rendering particular services to the promotion and development of handball in Africa. He received the highest sports award France bestows.



Willi Daume FRG – The former handball goalkeeper from Dortmund was the first president of the German Handball Federation (1949-1955); later he was the head of the National Olympic Committee and became president of the Organizing Committee for the Munich 1972 Olympic Games. In his capacities as OC president he delivered an impassioned speech at the 1965 IOC Session in Madrid that contributed enormously to the reinstatement of handball as an Olympic sport.



Kazumi Watanabe JPN – The wealthy business man from Tokyo encouraged the development and promotion of handball in Asia even before the foundation of the continental federation in Asia. He obviously focused on Japan he led to the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich where the team came off eleventh. Watanabe kept in close contact with the headquarters in Basle that finally benefited the entire continent and the IHF alike.

Wolf Lyberg SWE – Lyberg (1917-2012) started as a sport journalist in his home country, held different sport positions in Sweden and worked as a historian for the IOC until 2012 when he died. He had been elected treasurer at the IHF Congress in 1946 staying in office until 1950. He made his last contribution to the IHF 60 years later when he wrote an article about the 2004 Athens Games for the World Handball Magazine. The IOC awarded him the Olympic Order in 1988 and the Pierre de Coubertin medal in 2001 for his particular services.



Siegfried Perrey FRG – International player and referee. After the foundation of the national federation he was Germany's first sports director. He was a member of the IHF's Technical Commission between 1966 and 1972 and later on member of the Commission of Organizing and Competition (COC) as well as a coordinator for handball as part of the organizing committee for the 1972 Games in Munich. Due to his organizational skills he was affectionately named 'Mr Olympia'.



Marijan Flander YUG – One of the pioneers of handball in Yugoslavia, one of the first to set up the world-famous Yugoslavian 'handball training centre'. The IHF, which appointed him to the to the Technical Commission, also benefited from his great competence. The 1976 Congress awarded him honorary membership.

Henrique Feist POR – One of the founding fathers of handball in Portugal. He had been involved in handball for over 50 years, 15 of which as a referee. He was awarded the IHF badge of merit in gold at the 1976 Congress in Estoril.

Friedrich Duschka AUT – The secretary general of the Austrian Handball Federation had been member of the IHF's Commission of Organizing and Competition for years where he was held in high esteem due to his expertise and skilful diplomacy. The world association appointed him honorary member in 1992. On 24 July 2007 Duschka died at the age of 88.



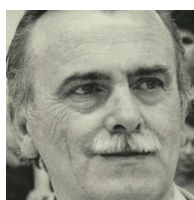
Otto Schwarz SUI – Apart from W. Vick and H. Seiler Schwarz is considered one of the prime movers. He had been an active player at eleven-a-side World Championships before contributing to the technical bodies of the Swiss federation and to the IHF's Commission of Organizing and Competition thanks to his high degree of expertise. Before retiring into private life



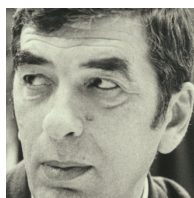
he had also been member of the world association's Council and the Executive Committee.



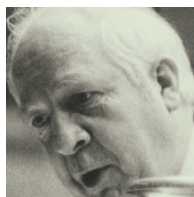
Friedhelm Peppmeier FRG – The IHF's first full-time managing director. In 1973 Max Rinkenburger engaged the administrator, who was working as a sports journalist as a second job and who left the DHB (German federation) office then and to come to Basle. Thanks to his charming and pleasant character as well as his expert knowledge and assertiveness that gentleman soon made his name on the global stage both to gain reputation and make many friends. He suffered a sudden cardiac death in 1983 when he was playing tennis, his favourite sport.



Ivan Snoj YUG – From 1957 to 1978 he was the man of action and manager in Yugoslavian handball he led to the world elite in the Seventies. During economic hard times he assisted some of his players in signing with foreign clubs. He rendered outstanding services to the IHF as a member of the Commission of Coaching and Methods for years. The IHF appointed him honorary member in 1994.



Lucian Grigorescu ROM – Grigorescu, a theoretician, was the secretary general of the national federation of Romania and formed a successful trio with 'Jonny' Kunst, a rather practical person, and 'Nico' Nedef to lead Romania to several World Championship titles. Benefitting from the expertise of the handball player, technician and administrator the IHF appointed him to the Commission of Organizing and Competition in 1972 where he had been in service the longest until 1990. In August of that same year Grigorescu, who had distinguished himself for his humanity, died after battling incurable illness.



Eugen Haas FRG – Initiator, patron, manager, brain and founding father of Germany's most decorated club, VfL Gummersbach, for 43 years. 26 national and international titles won (among which 10 European Cup titles). He had promoted world-class athletes such as Hans-Günther Schmidt, Heiner Brand, Joachim Deckarm and Erhard Wunderlich. The revenues he helped obtain from the European Cup matches staged at the Dortmund Westfalen hall considerably helped the IHF to recover from its financial crisis.

Alberto de San Roman ESP – Subsequent to the leadership reform decided in 1972 the Spaniard was elected Vice-President of the IHF he had been working for over 20 years. As a patron he considerably contributed to the donation of the Hans-Baumann Trophy and the roving cup awarded at Men's World Championships. After becoming honorary member in 1992 he remained faithful to the world association. He was a guest of honour at the 2007 Congress in Madrid.



Petar Bucu YUG – The president of the Yugoslavian federation, who temporarily was also the deputy sports minister in his country, was one of those who provided considerable impetus to international handball with seat and vote on the Council of the International Handball Federation, that awarded him honorary membership at the 1992 Congress.



Said Bouamra ALG – The man from Algeria preferred staying in the background but worked quite efficiently. He has been a member of the Commission for Promotion and Public Relations since 1976 while giving something to think about as part of grass-root activities in his continent. Moreover he translated a range of IHF teaching and training material into Arabic over the many years of service. He is a highly-esteemed technical delegate at IHF events too.



Bernhard Thiele GER – After the Munich 1972 Games he had been the president of the German federation until 1990. As from 1972 Thiele was member of the IHF's Commission for Promotion and Public Relations then member of the Commission of Organizing and Competition where he made his name as a troubleshooter during international events that required a competent handling. He made major contribution to bringing together East European and West European federations founding the European Handball Federation. He was awarded IHF honorary membership in 1992.



Prof. Ioan Kunst-Ghermanescu ROM – The university professor was held in high esteem as both athlete and official. In 1964 he was the Romanian head coach to make the men's side claim the seven-a-side World Championship title before heading the national federation. He held high positions within



the IHF from 1976 to 1992 as the president of the Commission of Coaching and Methods and as member of the Council. He died in 1997 during his visit to the Men's World Championship in Kumamoto / Japan.



Dr Mohamed Fadali EGY – The man from Egypt is the first non-European who played an important role at the IHF. He was a continental representative on the world association's Council from 1970 to 1976. With minor interruptions he was the president of the Egyptian Handball Federation over many years where he rendered outstanding services to handball on the African continent in particular. To honour his great commitment the IHF awarded him the badge of merit in gold.



Janis Grinbergas LTU – He had been acting as a coach and a rules' expert in the Soviet Union, in the CIS and in Lithuania and in 1972 was appointed to the IHF's Playing Rules and Referees Commission he had been a member of until 1996. Later on he became an honorary member. In 2013 he died in his home town of Vilnius.



Curt Wadmark SWE – As the national head coach Wadmark led Sweden to three World Championship titles 1948 (eleven-a-side), 1954 and 1958 (seven-a-side). He had been an assessor of the International Handball Federation's Technical Commission as from 1950 before being elected president of the Commission of Organizing and Competition in 1972 and thus a member of the Council. He had been in that position until 1990. Wadmark died in his home town of Lund in 2003. The world of handball lost one of its successful and prominent collaborators.



Erik Larsen DEN – The secretary general of the Danish handball federation was appointed to the IHF Commission of Organizing and Competition in the year of its foundation in 1972. He was a member of the said commission until the late Nineties partially as an interim president too. Larsen was an engineer by profession; he also represented the IHF at the Federal Institute for Sports Sciences and drew up papers for the construction of handball playing halls and for the history of handball to make his name. Before his retirement he was appointed honorary member in 2000.

Mohamed Ali Abul BRN – The man, who was actually involved in table tennis, was the vice-president of his federation and being considered the Asian continent's mouthpiece firmly defended Asia's interests at IHF Congresses in the Seventies and Eighties. After the assassination of Sheikh Fahad in 1990 he was the interim president of the Asian Handball Federation for a short period.



Prof. Dr Hans-Georg Herrmann GDR – President of the German University for Physical Culture in Leipzig (GDR); last president of the GDR's national handball federation until 1990. He rendered outstanding services to the unification of the two German states in terms of sports. He was the president of the Commission for Promotion and Public Relations from 1988 to 1996 and thus a member of the IHF Council. Hermann died in his home town of Leipzig in 2001.



Erik Elias SWE – In 1976 he became a member of the IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission and was elected president of the said commission eight years later. In his capacity as commission president he was also a member of the IHF Council until 1996 which appointed him honorary member. Elias' firm but also diplomatic character contributed to the production of a proper rulebook.



Aleksandr Kozhukhov URS / RUS – International player, secretary general and president of the national handball federation of the Soviet Union, CIS and Russia. Kozhukhov also proved his expertise within the IHF's Commission of Organizing and Competition which he headed as from 2004. He was held in high esteem within the world association's Council and the Executive Committee due to his expertise and his great commitment. The man from Russia received the rarely awarded IHF ring of honour for his particular services to handball. He died all too young from a heart illness in his dacha in 2008.



Pere Miro ESP – Support from the Spaniard who works for the International Olympic Committee is greatly appreciated: Miro is the director of the Olympic Solidarity in Lausanne allocating funds to the IHF in order to organize training courses for handball leaders, coaches and referees in emerging handball



countries in all continents. Thanks to his initiative the IHF had a house of handball at its disposal during the Barcelona Games in 1992 for PR purposes.



Carin Nilsson Green SWE – The first and sole woman that held a senior position within the International Handball Federation. She was a member of the Commission for Promotion and Public Relations for years and was elected president of that same commission in 1996. She held that position linked with a seat on the IHF Council until 2009 while focusing on improved women’s representation on all IHF bodies and an athletes’ commission to be set up. Additionally the trained teacher devoted herself to mini-handball.



Hermann Brunner CRC – The owner of a large bakery in Costa Rica had a rather unknown but important role in Pan-America. He was tireless in his efforts for the spread and promotion of handball in South and Central America and in his country and never flinched from approaching high-ranked foreign governmental authorities to request their support - successfully. Simultaneously he brought young hopefuls up to management tasks. The continental confederation appointed Brunner as the Pan-American representative on the IHF Council for years to honour his commitment.



Chong Ha Kim KOR – He was elected Asia’s representative on the IHF Council in 1992 while making handball advance in particular in his home country that was proved by Olympic and WCh medals Korea’s national team had won in the Nineties. These achievements occurred during Kim’s term in office. The world association awarded him honorary membership in 1996.



Gilbert Felli BEL – He was the sports director at the IOC headquarters and thus a sports official of strong influence; his support helped women’s handball to improve its status at the Olympic Games. He was handed over the badge of merit in gold by the IHF Council for his services to handball, which is the highest award given to individuals.

Yoshihide Watanabe JPN – He is not that eager to hold an honorary post, but his services are all the more efficient. Yoshihide Watanabe, the son of legendary Kazumi and a successful businessman like his father, prefers staying in the back but is always present such as the Asian representative on the IHF Council and

as the opposite of his counterparts from the western part of the continent. He delivered his masterpiece in 1997 when he organized the World Championship in Kumamoto, which was one of the best-organized events in IHF history.



Rudi Glock GER – The administrator constantly climbed the career ladder in his home town of Weinheim where he served as the mayor from 1989 to 2003. He had been in charge of finances at the German Handball Federation from 1983 to 1989 before being elected treasurer by the 1988 IHF Congress. The lover and connoisseur of wine resigned at the 2000 Congress in Portugal where he was appointed honorary member and awarded the badge of merit in gold.



Bob Elphinston AUS – Although he had not been involved in handball before, Elphinston, after being elected General Manager for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, made considerable efforts to improve the conditions of handball, that was hardly spread on the fifth continent. Handball became one of the most appealing sports at those Games: 99% of tickets sold helped handball spread in Australia. – After the Games Elphinston was appointed to the IOC and temporary served as the president of the International Basketball Federation. Nevertheless he remained close to handball.



IHF awards

Honorary membership is appointed by the IHF Congress to individuals who have rendered outstanding services to international handball. The badge of merit (in gold or silver) is awarded to those who have made a major contribution to handball. The Council awards the IHF ring of honour for exceptional contributions to the sport. – The following individuals were awarded distinctions:

Honorary presidents

1984 Paul Högberg SWE
2000 Erwin Lanc AUT

Honorary secretary general

2004 Raymond Hahn FRA

Honorary members

1966 Willy Burmeister FRG
1970 Einar Kaspersen NOR
Risto Orko FIN
Charles Petit Montgobert FRA
Wobbe Akkermann HOL
1972 Hans Baumann SUI
Charles Martin FRA
René Ricard FRA
Albert Wagner SUI
1976 Axel Ahm DEN
Carl-Filip Borgh SWE
Marijan Flander YUG
Emil Horle SUI
Hermann Milius GDR
Leopold Stipkovich AUT
1984 A. Fredslund Pedersen DEN
Nelson Paillou FRA
Carl E. Wang NOR
Aurelio Chiappero ITA
1988 Max Rinkenburger FRG
Heinz Seiler GDR

1990 Curt Wadmark SWE
1992 Dr Vladimir Krivcov URS / RUS
Albertode San Roman ESP
Prof. Ioan Kunst-
Ghermanescu ROU
Istvan Madarasz HUN
Petar Bucu YUG
Bernhard Thiele GER
Friedrich Duschka AUT
Werner Vick GER
Vasile Sidea ROU
1994 Babacar Fall SEN
Otto Schwarz SUI
Tadeusz Bregula POL
Jaroslav Mraz CZE
Dr Walter Pallamar AUT
Ivan Snoj YUG
1996 Erik Elias SWE
Chong Ha Kim KOR
Dr Walter Schwedhelm MEX
Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg
Herrmann GER
Heinz Suter SUI
Dr. Jiri Jeschke CZE
2000 Rudi Glock GER
Dr Peter Buehning USA
Janis Grinbergas LTU
Erik Larsen DEN
Jeff Rowland GBR
(posthumously)

- Dr Nabil Salem EGY
 Henrik Vaenerberg FIN
 2004 Hermann Brunner CRC
 Karl Güntzel SUI
 Dr Gijs Langevoort NED
 Kjartan K. Steinbach ISL
 Jörgen Holmqvist SWE
 Jean-Michel Germain FRA
 2009 Peter Mühlematter SUI
 Carin Nilsson Green SWE
 Ulrich Strombach GER
 Christer Ahl USA
 Christophe Yapo Achy CIV

Badge of Merit in gold:

- 1974 Paul Högberg SWE
 Aurelio Chiappero ITA
 1976 Enrique Feist POR
 Dr Mohamed Fadali EGY
 2000 Bob Elphinston AUS
 Gilbert Felli IOC
 Rudi Glock GER
 Pere Miro IOC
 Dr Nabil Salem EGY
 Prinz Sultan Fahd Abdul-
 Aziz KSA
 2002 Alberto de San Roman ESP
 Otto Schwarz SUI
 Babacar Fall SEN
 (posthumously)
 Scheich Fahad al-Ahmed al-
 Sabah KUW (posthumously)
 Dr Peter Buehning
 2009 André Amiel FRA
 Christian Gatu ROU
 Jesus Lopez Ricondo ESP
 Luis Santos POR
 S.M. Bali IND

- Shaul Selzer ISR
 Alexander Dimitric AUS
 Vladimir Maximov RUS
 Muhammad Shafiq PAK
 Mihajlo Mihajlovski MKD

Badge of Merit in silver:

- 1996 Robert Rosner AUT
 Edmund Leser AUT
 1998 Aziz Derouaz ALG
 2000 Erik Elias SWE
 Prof. Dr Hans-Georg
 Herrmann GER
 Konstantin Kotona ALB

Ring of Honour:

- 1998 Raymond Hahn FRA
 2000 Aleksandr Kozhkhov URS / RUS
 2002 Sascha Janzen
 (adidas)



- Jérôme Valcke
 (Sportfive)
 2007 Janis Grinbergas
 LTU
 2009 Jürg Steib SUI



Recipient of the Plaque of Merit

- 2002 Marie-Christine
 Gillet (Taraflex)



Recipients of the Olympic Order

The International Olympic Committee awards the Olympic Order to individuals that rendered outstanding services to sports and the Olympic Movement. The following IHF collaborators were awarded the Olympic Order:

1984 – Nelson Paillou FRA – President of the French Olympic Committee and president of the French Handball Federation for many years; member of the International Handball Federation’s Council from 1970 to 1972 and from 1980 to 1984. Afterwards he held additional positions within the IOC.



1984 – Jozsef Szalay HUN – Sports pioneer and one of the founding fathers of Hungarian handball. He represented his home country at the 1912 Olympic Games as an athlete.

1984 – Paul Högberg SWE

1986 – Max Rinkenburger FRG

1991 – Prof. Ioan Kunst-Ghermanescu ROU

1994 - Dr Vladimir Krivcov URS / RUS – Engineer by profession. Krivcov headed the national federation of the Soviet Union for decades to make the men’s and women’s national teams join the world’s elite. As a member of the Council and as vice-president between 1972 and 1992 he held high ranking positions within the IHF that awarded him the honorary membership in 1992.



1996 - Vladimir Maximow URS

1998 - Aleksandr Kozhukow URS / RUS

2001 - Raymond Hahn FRA

2001 - Janis Grinbergas LTU

2002 – Erwin Lanc AUT

World and Club Championships

Competitions through the ages

The competitions organized under the direction of the International Handball Federation have a particularly eventful and complex history when looking back on more than eight decades of development and dissemination of handball.

At first, men's and women's handball world championships were mainly organized on a large field in the open air, but the “little guy” indoor handball would soon outstrip its “big brother” outdoor handball as, finally, only four or five European countries continued to have sports fans and active players interested in this open-air variation of handball played on a football field.



The high number of new IHF member nations – coming from Europe or other continents – clearly preferred the world championships held on a small field. The huge interest of players, spectators and media in the indoor handball highlights organized since 1950 on a regular basis finally had led the IHF to introduce so-called B and C World Championships that were not only used as WC qualification but also served as first international touchstone for teams from non-European countries. Subsequently, these “substitute title contests” were replaced by WC qualification tournaments on the continents.

Logically, the two following steps consisted in introducing men's and women's junior and youth world championships. These competitions among young talented players were launched in 1977 and 2005 – for male as well as for female young hopefuls. Thus, the international federation was taking into consideration that a growing number of young people found their way to handball: According to recent IHF statistics 49 % of all players chasing after the small ball are under 21 or 18 years old.

In an effort to extend the offer of attractive competitions, especially outside Europe, the persons in charge of the IHF revived the Intercontinental Cup and the Super Globe around the turn of the millennium. While the IC as tournament between the best men's national teams from five continents did not attract any

particular interest and would soon be abandoned, the Super Globe – after some starting difficulties – is meanwhile playing an important role when scheduling international handball competitions.

Today, the Super Globe is the only IHF competition among club teams allowing the five men’s continental champions to compete every year in an internationally highly recognized tournament. In this context, it is worth mentioning that the IHF had already launched the European Cup in 1967 leading the three tournament variations (European Cup, Cup Winners Cup, IHF Cup) to real success before the newly founded European Handball Federation took over the organization of this competition at the beginning of the nineties.



The latest competitions to be introduced to this “mixed bag” were the men’s and women’s Beach Handball World Championships. This WC beach and sand game - that, at first, was considered to be a funny variation of handball used as “filler” between two indoor handball events - finally progressed and has meanwhile become a real “hit”. Incurable optimists even believe that, in the long term, indoor handball will be displaced from the Summer to the Winter Olympic Games and that, once every four years, Beach Handball will present itself as one of the Olympic sports in fine weather under the five rings. However, things have not yet come to this point.

The following pages are intended to give a chronological overview of the IHF competitions in all disciplines.



Men's world outdoor championships

On the tracks of the Golden Ibex

Eight years after being founded, the International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF) as predecessor of the IHF decided at the IAHF Congress in 1936 that an international outdoor handball competition as well as an international indoor handball tournament would be organized in 1938 to celebrate the federation's tenth anniversary and to further promote the game of handball. Thus, the starting signal for the first large-field world championship was given.

Better performance compared to the Olympic Games

I. – 7 -10 July 1938 – Germany (GER)

From a sporting point of view, the “World Tournament” - as it was officially called - with matches played in Berlin, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Dessau and Weissenfels showed a considerably higher level of play than the Olympic curtain-raiser two years ago and attracted more than 100 000 spectators. Apart from the host country, Denmark, Holland, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary also took part in the tournament, while a financial contribution to the amount of 500 Reichsmark per team made the participation in the competition more attractive.

The non-participation of a team that, until then, had been considered to be one of the top field handball specialists, was a sign of the disastrous and fatal development that was initiated by Germany and would soon spread all over the world: “Austria, that could undoubtedly have been a serious rival again, did not participate in the tournament because of the political changes in Europe. On the contrary, two Austrian players were members of Germany's team”, wrote Günter Millermann in his “history of international handball”.

Thus, the final was played between the two teams of Germany and Switzerland that had already been considered favourites. In this match, Switzerland was not performing as bad as one could think after losing by 23-0; the team's performance was not worse than in the previous international matches... But the Swiss players came up against an opponent that was able to play handball to perfection based on outstanding and fully developed technical and tactical strategies.” Worth mentioning is the performance of the Swedish team who succeeded in reaching the “little final” without any experience of play in field handball. However, they were beaten by Hungary in the third-place match.

Making the first move

II. – 3 -6 June 1948 – France (FRA)

For handball friends as well as for the “new” international federation IHF, the year 1948 was fully marked by the first post-war world championship organized only for men’s teams and reaching its climax with the final match played in Paris. These title contests were rather an attempt to promote handball, but did not have the same far-reaching effects as subsequent competitions. However, the first move had been made.

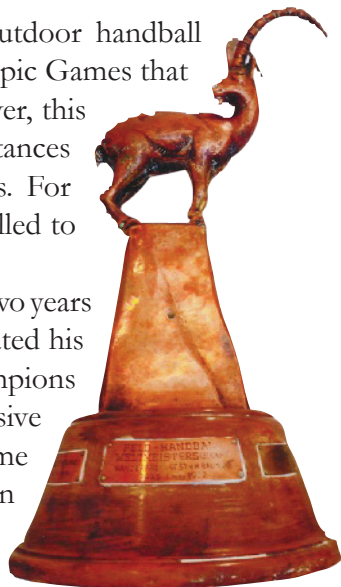
12 nations registered for the competition: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Holland, Luxembourg, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Hungary. As France could only host the finals, two preliminary rounds were organized to determine the best four teams for the semi-finals and the finals. In the matches held in Saarbrücken and Paris, the teams of France, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland qualified for the final round.

In the final, Sweden succeeded in gaining its first (and last) outdoor handball world title with an 11-4 victory over Denmark, while host nation France had not the slightest chance of beating Switzerland that won by 21-4 in the bronze medal match. This might be the reason why this WC with an audience of only 20 000 was not really destined to succeed. However, those who watched the final still attended a real handball show.



In **1950**, the IHF planned to organize a men’s outdoor handball world championship in Budapest instead of the Olympic Games that were supposed to be held in London in 1948. However, this tournament did not take place “as the political circumstances were more important than the motivation in sports. For these reasons, the international federation felt compelled to cancel the competition...”

Prior to the next WC (held in his home country) and two years after his election, IHF President Baumann demonstrated his passion for outdoor handball by awarding a world champions challenge cup: He ordered the creation of an impressive ibex enthroned on the peak of a mountain that became a real symbol of handball. From now on, the golden “mountaineer” would accompany the titleholders at all their matches.



“Technical skills – delicacy – offensive power”

III. - 8.-15. June 1952 – Switzerland (SUI)

The third world championship was a great success based on a brilliant organization and a lovely atmosphere in the impressive surroundings of the beautiful Swiss Alps. The 75 000 paying spectators made this tournament a crowd-puller. This competition surpassed the previous world championship in every respect.

As the number of participants was limited to nine nations, qualifying matches had to be organized in April and May between all teams, except world champion Sweden, Denmark and organizer Switzerland. Luxembourg, Yugoslavia, Belgium, Norway, Portugal and Italy dropped out of the race, while Germany, the Saarland, France, Holland, Spain and Austria succeeded in qualifying for the title contests.

The remaining teams were divided up into three groups and tried to reach the main round, where their ranking decided on their participation in the first, third and fifth-place match. Finally, Germany and Sweden met in the gold medal match, in which the German team - being eligible to play for the first time since the end of the war - clearly won by 19-8. The places 3 to 6 were awarded to host nation Switzerland, Austria, Denmark and Holland.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that the WC in 1952 would remain the measure of all things for a long time “as outdoor handball has nearly achieved perfection as far as technical skills, delicacy, offensive power and spatial distribution on the field are concerned. The sport has almost reached its climax.”

IOC President’s friendly words

IV. – 29 June -10 July 1955 – Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)

A superlative event of mega proportions – that was the way these title contests were described: 17 nations played a total of 33 matches at 32 venues in front of 410 000 spectators. Even the imposing opening ceremony in Berlin’s Olympic Stadium was attended by 30 000 onlookers.

After three days of competition between the teams divided up into six preliminary round groups, the wheat had already been separated from the chaff. The remaining eight nations participating in the two main rounds were fighting for a good ranking allowing them to reach the final and placement round. In the end, just as in 1938, Germany and Switzerland were again facing each other in the final, while the German players won by 25-13 their third title - after their victories in 1938 and 1952 - in front of 50 000 spectators in the “Red Earth” Stadium in Dortmund. Thus, the golden ibex remained in the host country. And there remained the memory of a total of 726 goals scored at this WC setting a new record.

By the way, the most prominent guest at the title contests was Avery Brundage who had already rendered outstanding services to handball in the thirties and had, meanwhile, been promoted to IOC President. He praised the game of handball and promised to support the organization of an Olympic handball tournament. In this context, he did explicitly not refer to outdoor handball although he had just attended one of the most powerful demonstrations of this sport...

Spain's failure to appear – resulting in suspension

V. – 13 -21 June 1959 – Austria (AUT)

“Now everyone knows what the small and often stocky Balkan players are able to do”, raved the Swiss handball magazine after the final. The journalists referred to Romania's team that arrived as an outsider, but won all preliminary round matches - against Austria and Switzerland among other things - and was only defeated in the final by title holder Germany in a tight 11-14 match. Sweden gained the bronze medal ahead of the host nation.

It was not only because of Austria's ungrateful 4th place that these title contests were not blessed with good fortune: After “shirking” of France and Yugoslavia during the run-up to this WC, Spain also withdrew shortly before the start of the tournament making the participation of eight teams impossible. According to a prompt reaction of the IHF, the Iberian team was suspended from international competitions for one year. Naturally, Austria's second substitute team played without scoring points.

And, according to the statement of a Swiss journalist, even the world champion was not really happy with its title win: “This team has never had such a hard time winning the final. That was not only due to the good performance of its opponent, but also had some other reasons...” – and was certainly based on a decision of the IHF, according to which both German handball federations DHB and DHV had to nominate an all-German team with players who were not always getting on well together. Finally, two good teams cannot always result in a better one...

According to the IHF chronicle, the golden ibex “will again set out on a journey to Germany and will be seen alternately in East Berlin and in Dortmund”, where were the head offices of both German federations.

Two medals for Germany – gold and silver

VI. – 3 - 9 June 1963 – Switzerland (SUI)

For the first time, two German teams were among the eight participants in this tournament: The Federal Republic of Germany as well as the German Democratic Republic had their own representative team, while the East German



Switzerland 1963 - Exchange of flags at the german-german final in Switzerland.

handball federation DHV was firstly allowed to appear as independent WC member. In Schaffhausen, St. Gallen, Zofingen, Basel, Winterthur, Biel, Bern, Baden, Lucerne, Aarau and Burgsdorf both teams not only dominated in the group matches, but were also fighting out the final between themselves: The GDR won the gold medal by

14-7 ahead of the FRG as well as host Switzerland that beat Poland by 10-6. Israel and the USA gave an exotic touch to the tournament. However, these teams had no chance of being very successful and finally finished seventh and eighth.

According to the analysis of the IHF Council, these title contests showed a sensationally good performance level. How did the Council members know that? Probably from those who were there! Since the representatives of the Council and the Technical Commissions of the IHF were not allowed to attend the title contests. However, greatest interest was shown by press, radio and television – but only in the countries represented at the WC in Switzerland...

Decisive goal difference

VII. – 25 June - 3 July 1966 – Austria (AUT)

It was only the “hard core” of the representatives of field handball that participated in this world championship held in Austria. Apart from the host country and both German teams, only Poland, Switzerland and Holland attended the tournament. Finally, the IHF decided that these title contests between a half-dozen teams would be organized in the form of a knock-out tournament, while the goal difference should be the decisive factor in all matches if two teams were level on points.

And that is what happened: The decisive match held in Linz in front of 10 000 spectators between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic resulted in a 15-all draw. Finally, the FRG had a better scoring efficiency (104-53) and achieved top ranking ahead of the GDR (90-49) that only finished second. Austria came third.

Thus, the golden ibex - as longstanding travel companion at outdoor handball world championships - set out on its last and final journey to Germany – ending up in Dortmund again...



In 1968, two years after the last world championship held on the large field, the International Handball Federation saw this sport's end drawing near. At its meeting in Amsterdam, the Council decided to "wait for the Congress's decision concerning the organization of the world championship in 1969". At the IHF Congress meeting held several days later, especially Germany and Switzerland were fighting for the survival of outdoor handball – a battle that was first and foremost supported by the Swiss citizen Albert Jordan: "During my information tours, I did notice that there is a great difference in the evaluation of outdoor handball between players and officials. Active players appreciate the game of field handball much more. There still is a general trend towards outdoor handball. This is what I noticed during my fact-finding missions. Therefore, evaluating the situation should essentially be based on the fact that more than 1 000 000 players go in for field handball, even if this concerns only a few countries, and that - on the other hand - the same number of indoor handball players should be divided up among roughly 20 nations..." Jordan's arguments - that actually were aiming for something else - went to the heart of the matter: The number of nations giving priority to outdoor handball had dropped constantly and had decreased to such an extent that holding outdoor handball championships would no longer be possible.

Thus, the IOC only made the following laconic comment in the Olympic Encyclopaedia of 1969: „The world championships in eleven-a-side handball cannot take place, since only five teams entered“. At least at international level, field handball had become a thing of the past.

Outdoor World Championships - Men -	
Medallists:	
1938 – ALL	1 ALL, 2 SUI, 3 HUN
1948 – FRA	1 SWE, 2 DEN, 3 SUI
1952 – SUI	1 FRG, 2 SWE, 3 SUI
1955 – FRG	1 FRG, 2 SUI, 3 TCH
1959 – AUT	1 GER, 2 ROM, 3 SWE
1963 – SUI	1 GDR, 2 FRG, 3 SUI
1966 – AUT	1 FRG, 2 GDR, 3 AUT

Women's world outdoor championships

Coming to an end after three attempts

First gold medal awarded to host

I. - 25 - 28 September 1948 – Hungary (HUN)

One year after the men's tournament, it was up to the women's teams to fight for the world title. The IHF decided to take the plunge after the first post-war field handball match that was organized in 1946 in Paris between Austria and France (7-2) and that had gained widespread acceptance in public.

The IHF had considerable difficulty in setting up four teams for these title contests held in Budapest. Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia and France finally participated in the tournament. After three clear victories in a round-robin (all-play-all) tournament, the host nation succeeded in winning the longed-for gold medal and the world title at this very first women's world championship. The other medals were awarded to Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The conclusion: Nothing starts easy. Furthermore, it had been realized that the outdoor handball game seemed not to be ideally adapted to women's teams, considering that even in Europe only four nations were interested in participating in international tournaments...

Two nations learning the hard way

II. – 1 - 8 July 1956 – Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)

One year before the start of the second edition of the women's WC, the IHF Council had already had a funny feeling that things could go wrong: According to the minutes of the Council meeting, it had been decided that "if, contrary to all expectations, the women's outdoor handball world championship in 1956 does not take place, the efforts ... should focus on the 7-a-side handball world championship to be organized in 1957 in Yugoslavia." However, the Council's doubts were unfounded at that time.

To be precise, the title contests held in six venues in south-western Germany were characterized by particularly exciting and high-level matches played in front of 50 000 spectators that, according to the IHF chronicler, finally were considered to be the "glittering climax" of the very brief history of this handball discipline.

Eight teams registered. Poland and Holland were eliminated in the qualification round. From the remaining two groups of three teams each, Germany and Romania qualified for the final while the visiting team won a narrow but well-deserved 6-5 victory in front of 18 000 (!) spectators in Frankfurt. The bronze

medal was awarded to Hungary ahead of Austria, while the young teams of Yugoslavia and France had to learn the hard way.

And the IHF historians observed that “all debate on women’s handball flaring up from time to time had been completely silenced.” But this would soon change...

“Under an unlucky star”

III. – 12 - 19 June 1960 – Holland (HOL)

The 3rd outdoor handball WC held from 12 to 19 June in Holland was rather “ill-fated”: At first, for a long time, it was doubtful whether the required minimum number of six participants would be reached. Then, serious differences of opinion between both German federations over setting up an all-German team interfered with the competition.

The first problem was solved by Denmark. This handball team from Northern Europe - that had already switched to indoor handball on a small field - decided without any hesitation to join the tournament so that the required number of half a dozen WC participants could be reached.

Concerning the second problem: The IHF put its foot down and decided that the all-German team had to be composed of six West German and ten East German players. Germany’s new team lacking in harmony and management skills had a hard time finishing third ahead of Holland, while Romania won its second and last world title by 10-2 against Austria.



The world championship in Holland marked the end of an era for women’s outdoor handball at international level. There were only a few nations to go in for this sport and a lot of countries to give priority to the more feminine game of indoor handball played in a sports hall and on a smaller court (see Denmark).

The final decision to bring this discipline to an end was officially announced in 1962 in Madrid by the IHF’s highest authority. The IHF Council took down in the minutes: “The women’s outdoor world championships will be suspended for the time being.” And in the minutes of the IHF Congress held subsequently, it was stated that “this competition has to be dropped. The Congress agrees to this proposal by tacit consent.”

There were similar signs and trends to be noticed in men’s outdoor handball. However, it would last six more years until the “WC death knell” would announce the end of field handball for men too...

Outdoor World Championships	
- Women -	
Medallists:	
1949 – HUN	1 HUN, 2 AUT, 3 TCH
1956 – FRG	1 ROM, 2 FRG, 3 HUN
1960 – HOL	1 ROM, 2 AUT, 3 FRG

Men's world indoor championships

A magnet for spectators over and over again

In addition to field handball, indoor handball was also given the international go-ahead in 1938. The countdown was based on a decision of the International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF) founded in 1928 according to which handball should make its first world public appearance on the occasion of the federation's tenth anniversary by introducing a special indoor handball event. The preconditions needed were set up at the IAHF's Congress in 1936 in Berlin where international binding rules of the game on a small field were adopted for the first time. This was the beginning of indoor handball that would soon grow out of infancy stages...

Winning gold at a weekend tournament

I. – 5/6 February 1938 – Germany (ALL)

At least as far as the number of participating teams is concerned, the first title contests could not be considered to be a completely valid world championship: Denmark, Germany, Austria and Sweden were the only four teams to take part in this competition, officially known as “World Tournament”, in Berlin's Deutschlandhalle. According to the chronicle, the fact that a total of 18 000 (!) spectators attended the tournament “already gives us a hint of the phenomenal development of the game of handball in future”.

As the four teams were playing in one group, each team had to play three matches with two halves of 15 minutes each, while one match was held on Saturday and the other two matches were organized on Sunday. Germany clearly won against Denmark and Sweden, but had more difficulty competing against Austria in a tight 5-4 match. Thus, the gold medal was awarded to the host country ahead of its neighbour (??that participated in Berlin, for the last time, with a team of its own in a WC??), Sweden and Denmark.

IHF's Handball History clearly proved how difficult it was for all the teams taking part in this weekend tournament to get used to playing in a hall: “The perfect throwing power of the German players was certainly a decisive factor during the world championship in Germany. Neither the world champion nor the other three participating teams proved to have a specific style of play adapted to indoor handball.” However: The first move had been made.

Firstly, Sweden...

II. - 13-17 January 1954 – Sweden (SWE)

Actually, this was the second WC and the first competition held under the responsibility of the IHF. The ideal venue for this tournament was the very tourist-friendly country of Sweden where only nine matches were organized in a total of seven cities. Thus, only one WC match was held in each city, with the exception of Gothenburg. The event did live up to expectations: Exactly 18 716 spectators filled the halls. And 5 067 visitors attended the final in Gothenburg.

However, before competing, the number of the teams participating in the WC had to be reduced from 11 to 6 as the title contests were only designed for half a dozen teams.

In the qualifying contests, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Austria and Spain were eliminated, while Germany, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Switzerland and France could set out on a journey to the far north where the host team was already waiting. Playing in two groups of three teams each, Sweden and Germany qualified for the final that the host nation won by 17-14. On this occasion, a coach was pushed into the limelight who, during several decades, would continue exerting strong influence on the fortunes of world handball: Curt Wadmark. Czechoslovakia ranked third after a 24-11 runaway victory over Switzerland.

...and, secondly, under coach Wadmark

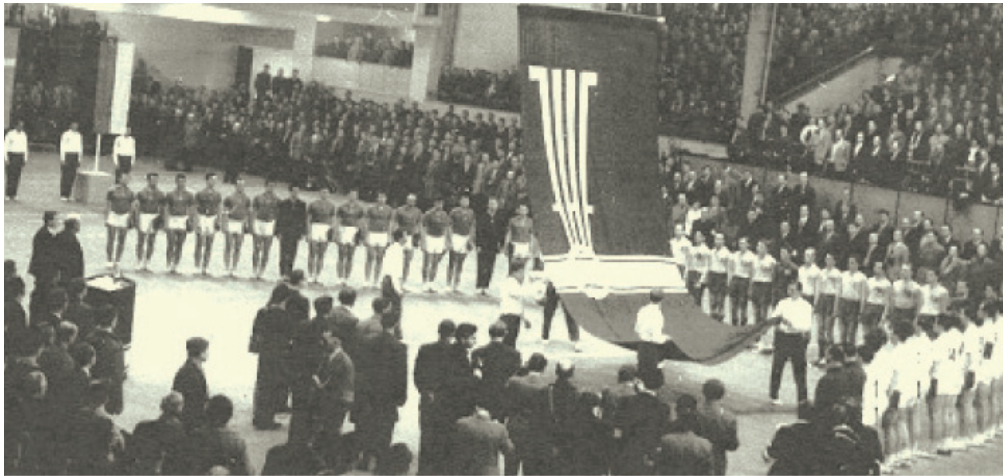
III. – 27 February - 8 March 1958 – German Democratic Republic (GDR)

According to the organizer, the “largest indoor handball tournament in the world that has ever been organized to such a great extent” was held in the German Democratic Republic. 16 nations, including the “world’s best European and overseas teams from Helsinki to Sao Paulo and Reykjavik to Bucharest”, were facing each other in (East) Berlin, Magdeburg, Erfurt, Leipzig and Rostock.

And it is true that this ambitious project set new standards. On the one hand, Brazil as first overseas team added an exotic touch to the competition. On the other hand, the persons in charge agreed that 16 teams could participate in the tournament. The participants were divided up into four groups, in which a total of eight teams qualified for the two main round groups. The top teams took part in the final and the second-best nations competed in the 3rd place match.

Final venue was the Werner-Seelenbinder-Halle in (East) Berlin that was completely packed out. Sweden defended its title with a 22-12 victory over Czechoslovakia. The secret of success: “The particular strength of the Swedish team consists in ... the ability to ... adapt to any opponent and beat him at his own game.” According to

the professional magazine called “Der Handball”, “there is no other team that is able to give such a performance.” And the father of success was again coach Curt Wadmark. – Germany came third, while participating as outsider in the competition and, according to a decision of the IHF, lining up at the start with a joint team made up of East and West German players from clubs in both countries...



German Democratic Republic 1958 – Medal ceremony.

A new star: Romania number one

IV. – 1 - 12 March 1961 – Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)

The number of participants was limited to 12. Thus, seven more participating nations had to qualify among the 22 countries that were interested in competing in this WC. Host country Germany and reigning world champion Sweden were automatically admitted to the competition. Because of too high travel expenses, Brazil, Japan and Iceland directly gained the right to participate. In the qualification round, Finland and Norway (against Denmark!), France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Romania (against the USSR) came out on top.

During the decisive match played in Dortmund in front of 13 000 enthusiastic spectators, a new star was rising at the international handball horizon: In a dramatic final match, Romania gained victory over Czechoslovakia by 9-8 after two extra times and won its first world title. The superior Swedish team took home bronze after a 17-14 victory over the German team made up of players of the East and West German Handball Association (West/DHB-Ost/DHV) at the request of the IHF.

Title successfully defended

V. – 12 - 21 January 1964 – Czechoslovakia (TCH)

16 participants were determined among the 26 registered teams and 18 nations were admitted to the qualification round. Yugoslavia, Switzerland, the USSR, Hungary, Norway and France from Europe, USA from America as well as Egypt winning against Syria as Asian representative succeeded in qualifying. Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire withdrew from the competition.

The final round was marked by two great surprises: The GDR, participating with its own team for the first time, was defeated in the first round and the Soviet Union, also taking part for the first time, beat even Yugoslavia in the fifth-place match. Big highlight: In the final, Romania defended its WC title in front of 18 000 spectators with a 26-22 victory over Sweden. Host country CSSR came third by winning in style (22-15) against the West German team.



*Czechoslovakia
1964 - World
Champion Romania.*

Czechoslovakia climbing from third to first

VI. – 6 - 15 March 1967 – Sweden (SWE)

A very special world championship. First the eighth finals, then the quarter finals, then the extended semi-finals (eight teams), then the real semi-finals and the finals. 8 000 spectators in Västerås were watching the CSSR team that finally reached the place they would already have preferred to have three years ago: On the throne of world handball.

Finally, Czechoslovakia succeeded in winning by 14-11 in the final against the surprisingly strong Danish team. Furthermore, the USSR attracted a great deal of

attention for the first time: In the third-place match, the Russians only admitted defeat during extra time after a tight 19-21 match against Romania.

Additional comment: 25 nations registered for this WC. However, Egypt withdrew. On the other hand, Tunisia was in on it.

Romania again – two on the up and up

VII. – 26 February – 8 March 1970 – France (FRA)

Third WC title for Romania – First WC medal for runner-up GDR – Yugoslavia coming third and title holder CSSR only ranking seventh

Even the events during the run-up to the WC had a lot to offer: Record registrations from 28 nations. The GDR qualified (away match 19-8), as Israel was not able to meet the technical requirements for the return match. Canada succeeded in qualifying for the first time by winning against the USA, but was subsequently disqualified for the participation of an ineligible foreign player in both matches. Finally: Portugal and Morocco withdrew after having accepted participation in the competition because of the difficult tasks during qualification (unnecessary expenses).

But let us return to our medallists: Romania won its third gold medal with a 13-12 victory over the GDR after two extra times and the Danish representative team was outclassed 12-29 by Yugoslavia in the bronze medal match.

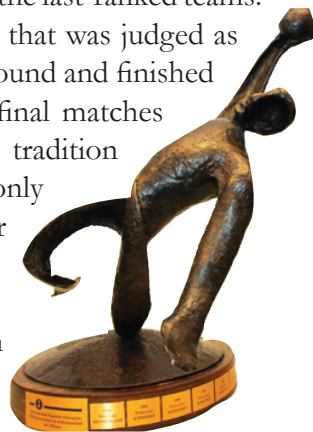
The same situation as four years ago

VIII. – 28 February - 8 March 1974 – German Democratic Republic (GDR)

Nothing new at the top of world handball: As in France four years ago, the still very strong Romanian team came first ahead of the GDR and Olympic champion Yugoslavia. However, there was also a surprise among the last-ranked teams:

The new team of the Federal Republic of Germany, that was judged as quite high-performing, failed to qualify for the main round and finished far behind in ninth place. The other places in the final matches were distributed as follows: Romania continued old tradition and beat the GDR by 14-12, while this team finished only second again. Yugoslavia won the bronze medal after an 18-16 win over Poland. The Soviet Union came fifth with a 26-24 victory over Czechoslovakia and Hungary ranked seventh after a safe 22-15 match against Denmark.

The new challenge cup for the World champion, donated by Spain.





GDR 1974 – In the final Romania (with Birtalan) beats the host.

Sensation caused by Stenzel team

IX. – 25 January - 5 February 1978 – Denmark (DEN)

Outsider beat hot favourite: In the final in Copenhagen, the Federal Republic of Germany - the youngest team of these title contests - defeated the hot favourite and Olympic champion URRS, that meanwhile made it to the world top, by 20-19 in front of 7 800 spectators and sensationally won the world title. The players trained by coach Vlado Stenzel, who had finished third with Yugoslavia at the WC in 1970 and had gained popularity by winning the gold medal at the first Olympic tournament in 1972, formed the only team that went unbeaten through the tournament.

The other German team was decorated with the bronze medal: The GDR beat host country Denmark by 19-15. The other places were distributed as follows: Yugoslavia, Poland, Rumania and Sweden.

Superiority of the new superpower

X. – 23 February - 7 March 1982 – Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)

The USSR, Olympic champion in Montreal in 1976 and runner-up at the world championship in 1978, impressively maintained supremacy in world handball between the two Olympic tournaments boycotted in 1980 and 1984 and succeeded in gaining the world title for the first time. In the final, Yugoslavia had to admit defeat while the Soviet Union won by 27-30 after extra time.

Poland returned back to the top of world handball by winning the bronze medal. In the 3rd place match, they beat Denmark with a very tight 23-22 victory so that the Danish team – after the WC organized in their own country four years ago - had again to make do with the ungrateful fourth rank. They were followed by Romania, the GDR, the Federal Republic of Germany as host country that, actually, had held out greater hope, and Spain.

Yugoslavia: first gold medal after Olympic victory

XI. – 25 February – 8 March 1986 – Switzerland (SUI)

In this well-balanced tournament, world handball was reshuffled. In the B-WC in Norway, where the best teams from Eastern Europe had to re-qualify, only Hungary successfully passed the qualification round. The USSR as title holder gave a disappointing performance (rank 10!).

In the final, Olympic champion Yugoslavia impressively was ahead by a nose when playing against the Magyars. The final score was 24-22. The GDR tightly defeated Sweden by 24-23 and won the bronze medal for the second time. These teams were followed by Spain, Iceland, the Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark occupying rank 5 to 8. The Swiss citizens known as friendly host nation let two other teams go first and finally finished eleventh.

With Johansson back on top again

XII. – 28 February - 3 March 1990 – Czechoslovakia (TCH)

The Berlin Wall came down. The borders between Eastern and Western Europe could be crossed more easily, but the Eastern Bloc sporting systems had not yet changed. And the team of the still existing Soviet Union took particular advantage of this situation: Although they lost the final in Prague in front of 12 000 spectators by 23-27 against the better performing Swedish team as far as playing style and defence are concerned, the USSR players still were WC runner-up title holders. Sweden, being trained by Roger Carlsson until 1988 and then by Bengt Johansson, were profiting from the know-how of both great coaches.

Romania won the bronze medal with a 27-21 victory over title holder Yugoslavia. These teams were followed by Spain, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, the GDR, France, Iceland and Poland. Olympic champion South Korea ended up on rank twelve, just as four years ago in Switzerland.

Independent and unstoppable

XIII. – 10 - 20 March 1993 – Sweden (SWE)

Even the political upheavals in their home country could not stop the Russian team as legal successor to Olympic champion CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States): In front of a record audience including 13 924 spectators in the imposing Stockholm Globen Arena, they defeated challenger France by 28-19. And French coach Daniel Constantini did not beat about the bush: “We wished to win, but we couldn’t.”

And it was also hard for Sweden to have to make do with bronze when playing at home in the presence of King Carl I Gustaf of Sweden. In the third-place match, they defeated Switzerland by 26-19, but the important absence due to injury prevented the Three Crowns from reaching the top: “A team is only as good as its substitutes”, admitted coach Johansson.

While Switzerland and Germany on rank six came as a positive surprise, Spain (5), Iceland (8) and Denmark (9) gave a rather disappointing performance. However, Egypt participated with a refreshing team. The male players of the Nile added an exotic touch to the competition. But there was no significant improvement in their level of play since the WC in 1982.

Very first victory of France

XIV. – 7 - 21 May 1995 – Iceland (ISL)

Finally a new victorious team was chronicled at this tournament: France. After winning the Olympic bronze medal in 1992 and the title of WC runner-up in 1993, it was simply the French team’s turn. In the final in Reykjavik, the convincing Croatians - who participated in a WC for the first time - had no chance of winning against the French team called “Les Tricolores” beating them by 23-19. Sweden was again awarded a medal, that is to say only the bronze medal with a 26-20 victory over Germany.

During these first title contests between 24 handball teams, the non-European teams pointed the way to the future: A total of five teams qualified for the eighth finals. Prestigious European teams, such as Hungary, Denmark and Slovenia, dropped out of the race. Thus, the WC in Iceland led to the conclusion that the so-called Third World handball teams had made a fair bit of headway.

Besides, the world of handball sadly had to realize that dealing with the Russian team’s protest against an infringement of the regulations was not possible as the highest IHF judge went underground in the famous Blue Lagoon and remained untraceable until the appeal could no longer be treated. Nevertheless, the

disadvantaged Russian players succeeded in finishing fifth after a 31-28 victory over Egypt.



Iceland 1995 – The first Gold for France.

Handball festival in Kumamoto

XV. – 17 May – 1 June 1997 – Japan (JPN)

For the first time since 1938, the Men's World Championship was held outside Europe. Was there a risk? Not at all! Finally, this tournament would go down in history as one of the best if not the best WC as far as organization is concerned. And the audience? To the end, all-time records were broken. Over 200 000 spectators attended this event – in a country where baseball, football, sumo wrestling and golf were considered to be royal disciplines. However, for two weeks, handball became the most popular sport throughout Japan.



Japan 1997 – Tradition and perfection in Kumamoto.

Form a sporting point of view, Russia was the only team to go undefeated through the competition and won the gold medal with a 23-21 victory over Sweden. The bronze medal was awarded to France in a tight 28-27 match against Hungary. Apart from Iceland (5) and Spain (7), Egypt (6) and Korea (8) as non-European teams also settled among the eight world's best nations. And what about Japan? They had to make do with rank 15.

However, this was not all for Chief Organizer Yoshihide Watanabe, Vice-President of the Japan Handball Association and IHF Council member. Being very happy with this success, he invited

the new world champion as well as a WC representative team set up in a hurry to a demonstration match in Tokyo where the lure of handball was once again made more accessible to the fellow citizens of his home town via television. For this purpose, the smart businessman had to dig deep into his pockets...

Sweden turning the tables

XVI. – 2 - 15 June 1999 – Egypt (EGY)

25 000 spectators, among them Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, attended in the Cairo Main Hall the repeated performance of the 1997 WC final, but with another result: This time, Sweden was turning the tables and won by 25-24 against Russia. Thus, Sweden finally succeeded in getting revenge for their defeat in Kumamoto where Russia had also won by only one goal. It was particularly remarkable that the “Three Crowns” finally won out without the all-round player Magnus Wislander who received a red card after half-time because of his third time penalty. Thus, Sweden as holder of its fourth WC title could catch up with the previous WC record holder Romania (1961, 1964, 1970, 1974). The bronze



Egypt 1999 – A dream comes true.

medal was awarded to Yugoslavia coming out on top against Spain by 27-24.

Egypt could be proud to consider these title contests as success, even if the team “only” finished seventh in its home country: The first men’s WC on the African continent was characterized by an excellent organization, good media work and a great atmosphere. For this purpose, rigorous security measures were accepted – in particular, in the presence of Head of State Hosni Mubarak attending Egypt’s most high carat sporting event of the time.

Second lucky title win

XVII. – 23 January - 4 February 2001 – France (FRA)

“We have really been very lucky today”, summarized coach legend Costantini after the exciting final with extra time in front of 14 000 spectators in the Palais Omnisports de Paris that was totally packed out. However, France’s 28-25 victory over Sweden was absolutely deserved: Highly performing and powerful handball made a difference to intelligence and dynamics of play in this confrontation between two different handball philosophies.

The surprise team of these title contests was undoubtedly Egypt that, for the first time, succeeded in qualifying for the semi-finals, but was finally defeated in the bronze medal match against Yugoslavia by 17-27. Another dramatic appearance was made by the Ukrainian team that finished seventh taking everyone by surprise. In between ranked Spain and Russia. Conclusion: The balance of power in world handball remained unchanged, but in a slightly different order of ranking.

However, there was one person who was not very interested in top rankings: After the final whistle, French President Jacques Chirac vanished into the catacombs to celebrate the second WC title of “his” French team in the dressing room.

Change in world’s top leadership

XVIII. – 20 January - 2 February 2003 – Portugal (POR)

“Change in world’s top leadership” – that was the main media coverage. This slogan referred to the first title win of Croatia winning out against Germany by 34-31 in the final in Lisbon. The bronze medal was awarded to France after a 27-22 victory over Spain while the Iberians had no chance of winning and had to continue waiting for their first WC medal. But the media coverage also referred to Russia that had to make do with the fifth rank. And finally this slogan referred to the disappointing 13th place for Sweden that failed after the preliminary round defeat against Slovenia because of the new WC rules according to which penalty points had to be taken into consideration in the main round. This method developed by the IHF proved to be unsuitable and was immediately repealed. But that was not much help for Sweden.

In Portugal, Croatia and Germany proved not only to be best but also trendsetting WC teams: These nations, as well as a few other teams, made consistent use of the “quick throw-off” method, that had already been embodied in the international rules of the game for a number of years, and achieved great success as shown above.

Spain – finally winning the title

XIX. – 23 January – 6 February 2005 – Tunisia (TUN)

At last! In the final, Spain defeated Croatia by 40-34 and succeeded in winning the world title for the first time in its history. The bronze medal was awarded to France being one step ahead of Tunisia after a narrow 26-25 victory in the third-place match. Nevertheless, Tunisia was a winner. The North African players not only distinguished themselves as a high-performing handball team, but also as a very hospitable country and a good organizer providing crowded handball halls. Briefly: They earned a great deal of praise from everyone.

Partly, this was also true for Greece ranking sixth at this WC as well as the strong Norwegian team. However, some teams were on the losing side: Egypt that was defeated in the preliminary round, secret favourite Denmark that was eliminated in the early stages of the competition just as Iceland as well as the threshold countries that had to realize that they still had to travel long and stony road to world's top success.

Germany: primus inter pares

XX. – 20 January - 4 February 2007 – Germany (GER)

The world's best teams were almost level on points so that it was impossible to make winner predictions. This was clearly noticeable in the semi-finals where the matches could only be decided after two extra times. Finally, the pronounced team-oriented style of play allowed deciding the issues in favour of Germany and Poland that had to give in during the final when losing by 24-29 against the host team. The third place was awarded to France ahead of Denmark (34-27).

The fact that even the inferior teams of Spain, Iceland, Croatia and Russia in the quarter finals could, until the end of the competition, rightly make it to the “final four” or even to the “final two” proved this WC's high level of performance.

Meanwhile, the last-ranked teams participated in the first “President's Cup” allowing the “weaker” teams that had been eliminated in the preliminary round to gain more experience. The tournament of the last eight teams proved successful and would be organized on a permanent basis from now on.

And world champion Germany as friendly host nation was pleased to organize another “summer fairy tail” after the FIFA World Cup in 2006 and to register a huge improvement in the image of handball.

Dominant Olympic champion

XXI. – 16 January - 1 February 2009 – Croatia (CRO)

World Championship dominated by Olympic champion – Host country Croatia winning silver medal ahead of Poland and Denmark – Title holder Germany ranking fifth – Eleven European teams in the first eleven places – These were the cold facts of a world championship where France beat Croatia in the final match by 24-19 in front of 15 000 spectators in the “lion’s den” in Zagreb. In spite of the silver medal, the Croatian players had tears in their eyes. The bronze medal was awarded to Poland (31-23 win against Denmark).

Apart from Poland, there were also some more teams that came as a positive surprise: Sweden finishing seventh after two unsuccessful world championships, Slovakia as WC “beginner” (rank 10) as well as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (rank 11). The new WC record scorer was a Macedonian player too: In a total of nine matches, Kiril Lazarow scored 92 sensational goals by surpassing the record set up by the former number one Yoon (KOR, 86).

Everyone’s unanimous opinion at the end of the title contests: Croatia was a perfect WC host nation – and missed the gold medal only very narrowly...

The most dramatic final for decades

XXII. – 13 - 30 January 2011 – Sweden (SWE)

By winning the WC title in Sweden, France was again making history. Thus, “Les Bleus” were holder of the Olympic champion, world champion and European champion title at the same time. But before listening to “The Marseillaise”, 13 000 spectators in Malmö attended the most dramatic WC final for decades. Karabatic and co. managed to “overpower” Denmark by 37-35 in a high-class match only after an extra time. However, the third-place match was just as exciting as the final where the WC host team had to realize that the medal dream was over. Spain won the bronze medal by 24-23.

From a sporting point of view, the final was the “icing on the cake” of a high-performance world championship dominated by European teams: The first eleven teams came from Europe. Argentina was the only non-European nation to qualify for the main round. The greatest deception was certainly Germany that finished eleventh at its lowest WC ranking for 72 years. It was also expected that African Champion Tunisia (20), Slovakia (17) and Austria (18) would perform better.

Goal difference of +16 – this had never happened before

XXIII. – 11 - 27 January 2013 – Spain (ESP)

“Everything went wrong”, said Mikkel Hansen at the end of the competition. This appropriate comment of the Danish coach referred to the final in which



Spain 2013 – World Champion in the home country.

Denmark suffered a setback and lost by 19-35 against Spain. A goal difference of +16 – this had never happened before in a WC final. And the Spanish supporters among the 16 500 spectators in Barcelona euphorically celebrated the second WC victory of the Iberians since 2005.

During the competition as a whole, Denmark was no disappointment just as

Croatia that finally won the bronze medal against Slovenia. But let us talk about Slovenia: This team came as a big surprise when they beat Russia and succeeded in reaching a WC semi-final for the first time. And Germany's completely rejuvenated representative team gave a good account of themselves too and finally finished fifth. Russia's newly formed team under young coach Oleg Kuleschow also gave a convincing performance.

However, this competition marked the end of France's golden generation. The team had already been defeated by Germany in the preliminary round, but finally managed to reach the next round after a nail-biting victory over Iceland in the eighth finals. This was the end of the road – heading back home instead of a hat-trick of wins.

Indoor World Championships

- Men -

Medallists:

1938 – GER	1 ALL, 2 AUT, 3 SWE
1954 – SWE	1 SWE, 2 FRG, 3 TCH
1958 – GDR	1 SWE, 2 TCH, 3 FRG
1961 – FRG	1 ROM, 2 TCH, 3 SWE
1964 – TCH	1 ROM, 2 SWE, 3 TCH
1967 – SWE	1 TCH, 2 DEN, 3 ROM
1970 – FRA	1 ROM, 2 GDR, 3 YUG
1974 – GDR	1 ROM, 2 GDR, 3 YUG
1978 – DEN	1 FRG, 2 URS, 3 GDR
1982 – FRG	1 URS, 2 YUG, 3 POL
1986 – SUI	1 YUG, 2 HUN, 3 GDR
1990 – TCH	1 SWE, 2 URS, 3 ROM
1993 – SWE	1 RUS, 2 FRA, 3 SWE
1995 – ISL	1 FRA, 2 CRO, 3 SWE
1997 – JPN	1 RUS, 2 SWE, 3 FRA
1999 – EGY	1 SWE, 2 RUS, 3 YUG
2001 – FRA	1 FRA, 2 SWE, 3 YUG
2003 – POR	1 CRO, 2 GER, 3 FRA
2005 – TUN	1 ESP, 2 CRO, 3 FRA
2007 – GER	1 GER, 2 POL, 3 DEN
2009 – CRO	1 FRA, 2 CRO, 3 POL
2011 – SWE	1 FRA, 2 DEN, 3 ESP
2013 – ESP	1 ESP, 2 DEN, 3 CRO

Women's world indoor championships

With “feminine charm and dignity”...

Eleven years after the founding of the International Handball Federation, a new premiere was coming up: The first indoor handball world championship for women, as it was officially called. And mindful of the experience on the large field, the persons in charge of the rules and regulations drawn up for the future title contests appealed for promoting the “ideals of women’s sport” by cherishing “feminine charm and dignity”. The new game played on a small field was very convenient for female handball players and would soon spread like wildfire. But only with charm and dignity? This was going to change – and not only within the regulations. The future would be made of attractive handball as 7-a-side game.

Starting off in the open air

I. – 13 - 20 July 1957 – Yugoslavia (YUG)

Through lack of handball halls and by arrangement with the IHF, the nine teams participating in the tournament had to compete in the open air – namely in Belgrade, Virovitica and Novi Sad. On this occasion, other teams - than those that had set the tone for handball so far - became the focus of attention. Thus, Czechoslovakia went unbeaten through the preliminary and intermediate round and succeeded in defeating Hungary by 7-1 in the final match in front of 8 000 spectators in the smart small-field stadium Tasmajdan in Belgrade. In spite of good experience on the small field and after having won high premature praise, Denmark gave a weaker performance in the intermediate round and finally had to make do with rank 5.



Yugoslavia 1957 – Czechoslovakia takes the first title.

In the bronze medal match, the host team held its own against Germany and won by 9-6. Strictly speaking, Germany was supposed to participate with an all-German team in the competition but had to do without the East German players

(GDR) as the managers of the East German Handball Federation had refused to place active players at the team's disposal because of the World Youth Games that were subsequently held in Moscow. Large-field champion Romania had a similar attitude: At first, the Romanian federation withdrew from participating in the competition because of Moscow, but was afraid of IHF sanctions and finally sent a young representative team to the tournament that finished ninth in last place.

IHF turning a blind eye

II. – 7 - 15 July 1962 (small field) – Romania (ROM)

By turning a blind eye, the IHF allowed Romania - that had participated with its best team in the World Games in Moscow in 1957 (1 URS, 2 ROM, 3 GDR) instead of the WC in Yugoslavia - to become the worthy host country of the title contests and, from a sporting point of view, to do justice to its role as clear favourite in small-field handball.

At that time, Romania's women were undoubtedly the world's best team and won the triumphant final against Denmark by 8-5 in front of 15 000 spectators in Bucharest. Title holder Czechoslovakia gained the bronze medal (6-5 against Yugoslavia). A surprise in the qualification round: The Federal Republic of Germany held its own against the GDR in two matches played in Vienna (2-4) and in Warsaw (10-6), but failed to qualify in the preliminary round of the WC and was beaten by the USSR (11-18) participating in the tournament for the first time as well as Czechoslovakia (7-7).

Tournament full of surprise

III. 7 -13 November 1965 – Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)

The first indoor WC played in a handball hall: Apart from the host country and title holder Romania, the women's teams from Hungary, the USSR, Denmark, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Japan also qualified for the competition. Thus, this world championship became a tournament full of surprises.

Japan defeated Poland by 6-5 and finished seventh. Denmark gave a better performance than Romania, won by 10-9 and came fifth. The Federal Republic of Germany beat Czechoslovakia after two extra times by 11-10 and gained the bronze medal. Finally, Hungary won the new world title in front of 6 000 spectators in the legendary Westfalenhalle in Dortmund against the strong women's team of Yugoslavia. The 5-3 victory pointed to a clear win.

End of the “Prague Spring”

(IV.) – 1969 - cancelled – Soviet Union (URS)

The three venues had already been chosen in 1968 as the organizer was making good headway with the WC preparation. But, finally, the IHF cancelled the championship for political reasons (and because of the refusal of most handball nations to participate in the WC too): The invasion of Czechoslovakia by Eastern Bloc armies to prevent the so-called “Prague Spring” was the reason for the decision of the international federation.

GDR stealing the show

IV. – 11 - 19 December 1971 – Netherlands (NED)

The GDR team stole the show and managed, for the first time, to make it to the world top ahead of highly sought-after challenging teams from Southeast Europe. Yugoslavia was beaten in the final by 8-11 and gained the silver medal for the second time, while Hungary won the bronze medal after a 12-11 victory over favourite Romania that came away empty-handed. In places 5 to 9: Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands host team and Japan. However, two important teams had already been defeated in the qualification round: USSR by Romania and Czechoslovakia by GDR.

Host country becoming world champion for the first time

V. – 7 - 15 December 1973 - Yugoslavia (YUG)



Yugoslavia 1973 – The 150th international match of Anne-Marie Nielsen (DEN).

The host team of Yugoslavia gained the world title for the first time and, thus, was rewarded for its intensive WC preparation. In the final, Yugoslavia held its own against Romania with the greatest of ease and won by 16-11.

And there was another change in world handball: The Soviet Union won the bronze medal by 20-12 in a one-sided match against Hungary. Surprising preliminary round: Both German teams were eliminated from the tournament, even title holder GDR. Poland, Czechoslovakia, Denmark and Norway gave a better performance: These teams ranked fifth to eighth.

Back on the throne

VI. – 2 - 13 December 1975 – Soviet Union (URS)

This world championship was a milestone for the development of women's handball around the world. 24 countries from all continents registered for the 12 WC places. Teams coming from Africa (Tunisia) and America (USA) participated in the tournament for the first time. In the Asian group, Israel was defeated by Japan. The Federal Republic of Germany also lost in the qualification round (against Romania). – New rules of the game: A placement round was played where the six best teams of the three preliminary rounds were fighting for WC gold in the form of a (all-play-all) tournament. For the first time, the WC was also used to determine which teams would qualify for the Olympic Games (the four best-placed teams were allowed to travel to Canada).

Conclusion: The unbeaten team of the GDR again made it to the world top ahead of the new star USSR and the still very strong team of Hungary that won the bronze medal for the second time. They were followed by Romania, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

Same as ever: GDR – URS - HUN

VII. 30 November – 10 December 1978 – Czechoslovakia (TCH)



Czechoslovakia 1978 – Gold again for the German Democratic Republic.

Apart from Czechoslovakia as well as the USSR, the GDR and Hungary, the medal winners of the Montreal Olympics and the B-WC in Yugoslavia, Poland, Romania, the FRG and the Netherlands as well as, for the first time, Algeria (Africa), Canada (America) and Korea (Asia) qualified for the tournament.

And, at the end of the placement tournament, the medals were distributed in exactly the same way as three years ago: The GDR (winning its third world title), the USSR and Hungary again determined the quality of the title contests so that Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Poland had to make do with a lower ranking. The newcomers from Korea, Algeria and Canada had already been beaten in the preliminary round and finished in the last three places.

Commendable performance of Korea

VIII. – 2 - 12 December 1982 – Hungary (HUN)



Hungary 1982 – The medal winners: Hungary (Silver), Soviet Union (Gold) and Yugoslavia (Bronze).

Good things come to those who wait: Olympic champion USSR was finally holder of its first world title, host country Hungary gained the silver medal for the second time and the bronze medal was awarded to Yugoslavia for the second time too. Worth mentioning: Korea was the first non-European team to come sixth ahead of Norway and Romania (!). In between: GDR and CSSR ahead of the Asian women's team. Participating for the first time: African champion Congo finished last in 12th place behind the Federal Republic of Germany, Bulgaria and the USA.

Norway's newly promoted team: the first medal

IX. – 4 - 14 December 1986 – Netherlands (NED)

Because Syria as fourth Asian representative behind China, Japan and Korea did not wish to participate, France was allowed to play. Congo withdrew too, so that Austria could take part in the tournament. For the first time, a WC with 16 teams was organized. Again, the Soviet Union triumphed in the final although chief coach Igor Turtshin was not allowed to give instructions to his team during the final (30-22 against Czechoslovakia) for disciplinary reasons and only acted as speechless spectators as he was “banished” behind the stand.

The newly promoted team of Norway gained its first WC medal with a 23-19 victory in the third-place match - so that the GDR again finished only in fourth place. They were followed by Romania, Yugoslavia, the FRG and Hungary. – A novelty: Asia had great success with the teams of China (9), South Korea (11) and Japan (14).

A little inglorious anniversary

X. – 24 November – 4 December 1990 – Korea (KOR)

This 10th edition of the world indoor championship in the history of women's handball was no showpiece. Except for the first and the final match, hardly any spectators attended the games in both halls of Seoul. In addition, the performance level of the title contests – compared with the three predecessor tournaments – was far from causing quite a stir. And there was a clear downward trend.

However, the fact of the matter was that, due to its physical superiority, the team of the USSR - for the first time under coach Alexander Tarassikow as successor to the legend Igor Turtschin - won its third world title in a row. Runner-up Yugoslavia was a bright spot in the competition despite the 22-24 defeat in the final. The Balkan squad with playmaker Svetlana Kitic was one of the few teams to confirm a considerable upward trend. In the third-place match, the more motivated (East) German team gained the bronze medal after a 25-19 victory over (West) Germany, while Austria took everybody by surprise and clearly won by 23:19 against the disappointed and disappointing women from Norway who finished only sixth.

An even greater downfall was made by the host team of Korea after its Olympic victory in 1988. Finally, the team from the Land of the Morning Calm ranking only eleventh had to face the same debacle as in the Netherlands four years ago. However, China was the best Asian representative team taking 8th place.

World championship full of surprises

XI. – 24 November – 5 December 1993 – Norway (NOR)

It was not the high school of handball playing that 7 800 spectators, among them King Harald V of Norway, could watch during the final taking place in the Oslo “Spektrum”. But it was a match full of suspense: Germany needed an extra time to win by 22-21 against Denmark and gained unexpectedly the world title. However, the greatest surprise was undoubtedly the defeat of top favourite Norway that only won the bronze medal with a 20-19 victory over Romania, but still fell far short of its own team's and its compatriots' expectations.

Finally, most observers agreed that the performance of the women's handball teams stagnated too. Especially the Eastern European teams were going through a time of upheaval from an economic as well as a sporting point of view. However, Croatia and Ukraine were two nations to be on the threshold of the world top.

In addition, a positive development is worth mentioning: This world championship was a fair competition full of surprises. Only two red cards, but no

disqualification. At least, as far as “fair play” is concerned, women’s handball took a step in the right direction.

Korea’s first title

XII. – 5 - 17 December 1995 – Austria / Hungary (AUT / HUN)

This world championship, held in two different countries for the first time, was mainly characterized by a final full of suspense. During 50 minutes, the match was kept open by Hungary in front of 5 500 spectators in the Arena Nova in Wiener Neustadt. Finally, Korea had more to offer and succeeded in winning its first world title by 25-20 after two Olympic victories. Denmark gained the bronze medal with a 25-24 victory over Norway that, for the first time since 1990, won no medal at an important tournament. Russia had to make do with finishing sixth after a tight 28-29 match against Romania.

The probably biggest disappointment of the tournament was host team Austria. Starting as co-favourites, they even clearly failed to reach their minimal goal, the Olympic qualification. The quarter finals spelled the end of the road for Austria that finally finished eighth.



Austria / Hungary 1995 – Korea is World Champion.

As expected: successful top favourite

XIII. – 30 November – 14 December 1997 – Germany (GER)

The top favourite met everybody's expectations: Denmark won WC gold. In the final, the protégés of Ulrik Wilbek played, to packed houses, a game of cat and mouse with the everlasting rival Norway in front of 6 500 spectators in the Max-Schmeling-Halle in Berlin. Finally, Denmark won by 33-20 and succeeded Korea as Olympic and world champion. This time, the dethroned title holder from Asian only finished fifth. The bronze medal was awarded to Germany beating Russia by 27-25. The leading teams of these past few years came out on top again.

The only dark cloud on the horizon of this WC was an act of murder committed by a German spectator on the day before last: A drunken man stabbed to death two Danish fans when fighting for a seat. The crime was committed during the half-time of the semi-final match between Denmark and Russia. However, the culprit was overpowered in the arena and handed over to the police. Unfortunately, there is no absolute security against the acts of drunken madmen...

All predictions messed up

XIV. – 29 November – 12 December 1999 – Norway / Denmark (NOR / DEN)

At the beginning of the WC, the host teams of Norway and Denmark were the two main favourites. But, shortly afterwards, all these predictions would be messed up. To be precise, only European champion Norway fulfilled its intended role. The protégés of Marit Breivik won the gold medal for the first time and made the whole country happy. For this purpose, two extra times were needed in the final against France before the latter admitted defeat by 24-25.

However, apart from Norway, important handball teams disappointed: Title holder Denmark only finished sixth ahead of 1997 bronze medal winner Germany. The former world champion Korea was eliminated in the eighth finals. But there was also a triumphant victory of France taking everybody by surprise and the promotion of Austria by winning its first WC medal after a 31-28 match against Romania that finally ranked fourth and managed to stage an unexpected comeback. The handball scene was on the move again – and the world top was moving closer together.

No chance for the title holder

XV. – 4 - 16 December 2001 – Italy (ITA)

“We really had no chance of winning”, frankly admitted Marit Breivik after the game. And Norway's coach was right. In the final, the title holder was fighting a losing battle against a group of no-name players under the Russian success coach

Jewgeniy Trefilov playing to packed houses in the Meranarena where the final score was 25-30. The Russian women were successful in all nine WC matches and und absolutely deserved their world title.

Remarkable third-place match: In the game with the highest number of goals scored in the tournament, Denmark lost against Yugoslavia by 40-42 after an extra time. But it is more than doubtful whether this victory of the Balkan women would remove all their worries about the civil war and the unstable economy in their home country.

Finally, it is important to notice that some teams characterized by the word “exotic” succeeded in considerably reducing the gap at the world top. Worth mentioning are in particular China, Brazil and Angola. But there was nothing these teams could do about the level of popularity in Italy that only reached its peak at the end of the tournament.

No superteams – but new faces

XVI. – 2 - 14 December 2003 – Croatia (CRO)

For many observers, this WC was the start of a new hierarchy: Korea returned back to the world top, Russia was eliminated in the early stages of the competition and Spain was a newcomer. In addition, teams such as Angola became the focus of attention, while the “Danish dynamite” turned out to be a non-starter (rank 13) and Norway finishing sixth fell into a depression. But others were in a similar situation.

And in the first places? In the final, France - the “Grande Nation” - under its successful coach Olivier Krumbholz won the gold medal after an extra time by 32-29 against Hungary where a player called Anita Görbicz attracted more and more attention. And the team of Korea, growing stronger and shining by refreshing attacking techniques, gained the bronze medal with a 31-29 victory over Ukraine that surprisingly finished in fourth place. They were followed by the nations that were supposed to be established as top teams. – In Croatia there were no “superteams” any more, but some new faces.

Unbeaten fifth title win

XVII. – 5 - 18 December 2005 – Russia (RUS)

In front of its home crowd, Russia rounded off the well organized tournament with its meanwhile fifth world title. During the final played in Saint Petersburg, the representative team of success coach Jevgeni Trefilov held its own against Romania with the greatest ease and won by 28-23. Thus, Russia was the only team to go unbeaten through the tournament. The bronze medal was awarded to Hungary (27-24) ahead of Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany – a sign of the current European supremacy. Favourite Korea (rank 8) and European champion Norway (rank 9) had to come away empty-handed.

For the first time in WC history, a worldwide competition was held in a single town: Saint Petersburg. In the four handball halls, only few spectators watched the passionate matches of the strangers coming from Brazil (rank 7) or Angola (rank 16). In the end, 57 000 spectators attended 84 matches. “A black spot” according to the opinion of the IHF President.

A great deal of praise – but no medal

XVIII. – 2 - 16 December 2007 – France (FRA)

Handball halls filled with spectators, a good organizer, a successful title holder and a surprise team from Africa – these were the “ingredients” of a world championship going down in IHF history as the most important tournament so far. 166 350 tickets were sold for 92 matches played by 24 teams at eleven venues – this had never happened before. The halls were filled to 93% capacity. This resulted in a new dimension – and a great deal of praise.

Once again, Russia won the world title with a 29-24 victory over European champion Norway in the final. The bronze medal was awarded to Germany after a 36-35 match with extra time against Romania, while host team France made a bit of a boob in the quarter-finals and had to make do with finishing fifth. However, Angola gave a particularly encouraging performance. During the tournament, the reigning African champion not only beat Austria but also defeated France as well as Hungary in the seventh-place match.

On the way of success

XIX. – 5 - 20 December 2009 – China (CHN)

Everything was perfectly well organized in the handball halls of the province Jiangsu. But there were only a few spectators – handball still had to develop in the host country and was less popular than its big brothers football and basketball. However, 13 000 spectators finally attended the final match in Nanjing.

Russia gained another (seventh) world title after a successful 29-24 victory over Norway what was the only constant value at these title contests. In view of the approaching Olympic Games, some teams were going through a time of upheaval and had a hard time, as shown by the following tight end rankings: Germany won the bronze medal by 36-35 against Romania and France came fifth after a 26-25 victory over Korea.

Fast-paced handball

XX. – 3 - 18 December 2011 – Brazil (BRA)

The first women’s WC on American soil brought about some changes and surprises. The final in Sao Paulo was not fought out by seasoned world champion Russia, but between Norway and France. France’s women had to make do with



Brazil 2011 – Enthusiasm and top handball.

medal so far after beating Denmark in the bronze medal match. The Iberian women owed the successful 24-18 victory, first of all, to the outstanding performance of their goalkeeper Navarro.

And the Russians? They were literally thrown out of the hall by Brazil in the fifth-place match. The demoralizing score was 36-20 for the away team. However, the host team - that had been faced with several organizational difficulties during the run-up to the WC - finally had every reason to celebrate.

the silver medal (for the second time since 2009) after a clear 24-32 defeat, while the Scandinavian female players - after having given lessons in fast-paced handball - rejoiced at the second WC title in their history. Spain also had every reason to be happy as the team gained its first WC

Indoor World Championships - Women -

Medallists:	
1957 – YUG	1 TCH, 2 HUN, 3 YUG
1962 – ROM	1 ROM, 2 DEN, 3 TCH
1965 – FRG	1 HUN, 2 YUG, 3 FRG
1971 – HOL	1 GDR, 2 YUG, 3 HUN
1973 – YUG	1 YUG, 2 ROM, 3 URS
1975 – URS	1 GDR, 2 URS, 3 HUN
1978 – TCH	1 GDR, 2 URS, 3 HUN
1982 – HUN	1 URS, 2 HUN, 3 YUG
1986 – NED	1 URS, 2 TCH, 3 NOR
1990 – KOR	1 URS, 2 YUG, 3 FRG-DHV
1993 – NOR	1 GER, 2 DEN, 3 NOR
1995 – AUT/HUN	1 KOR, 2 HUN, 3 DEN
1997 – GER	1 DEN, 2 NOR, 3 GER
1999 – NOR/DEN	1 NOR, 2 FRA, 3 AUT
2001 – ITA	1 RUS, 2 NOR, 3 YUG
2003 – CRO	1 FRA, 2 HUN, 3 KOR
2005 – RUS	1 RUS, 2 ROM, 3 HUN
2007 – FRA	1 RUS, 2 NOR, 3 GER
2009 – CHN	1 RUS, 2 FRA, 3 NOR
2011 – BRA	1 NOR, 2 FRAU, 3 ESP

World Championships B and C

For alternates from all over the world

In the mid 1970s, the International Handball Federation already had more than 70 full members. These members had to be given the possibility – despite all other rights and duties – to participate in Men’s and Women’s World Championships. It was therefore absolutely fundamental to create a solid basis for these competitions, particularly since the European Handball Federation as the continental confederation, didn’t exist and, as a consequence, was not able to stage internal World Championship qualifications. But especially the many European teams needed an opportunity to catch up to the world’s best. As widely known, already at that time compulsory places were given to the continents of Asia, Africa and Pan-America, which consequently were allocated according to internal qualification criteria.

The solution to the puzzle: The world association set up World Championships B and C interested nations could use to push ahead. Initially the Europeans reserved the right to participate in the said World Championships, since the remaining continents had already

secured the performance places. In 1985 things changed when the B World Championship was open to all nations worldwide to allow non-Europeans

World Championships

- Men B -

Medallists:

1977 – AUT	1. SWE, 2. GDR, 3. TCH
1979 – ESP	1. ESP, 2. SUI, 3. HUN
1981 – FRA	1. POL, 2. TCH, 3. SWE
1983 – NED	1. HUN, 2. TCH, 3. FRG
1985 – NOR	1. GDR, 2. URS, 3. POL
1987 – ITA	1. URS, 2. TCH, 3. POL
1989 – FRA	1. ISL, 2. POL, 3. ROM
1992 – AUT	1. NOR, 2. AUT, 3. ISL

- Men C -

Medallists:

1976 – POR	1. POR, 2. NED, 3. SUI
1978 – SUI	1. SUI, 2. ISR, 3. NOR
1980 – FAR	1. NOR, 2. FRA, 3. AUT
1982 – BEL	1. BUL, 2. BEL, 3. NOR
1984 – ITA	1. BUL, 2. FIN, 3. NED
1986 – POR	1. FRA, 2. NED, 3. ISR
1988 – POR	1. AUT, 2. NED, 3. ISR
1990 – FIN	1. NOR, 2. FIN, 3. FRG

- Women B -

Medallists:

1977 – FRG	1. YUG, 2. POL, 3. ROM
1981 – DEN	1. TCH, 2. ROM, 3. NOR
1983 – POL	1. GDR, 2. POL, 3. ROM
1985 – FRG	1. GDR, 2. HUN, 3. FRG
1987 – BUL	1. YUG, 2. ROM, 3. HUN
1989 – DEN	1. FRG, 2. SWE, 3. GDR
1992 – LTU	1. HUN, 2. TCH, 3. SWE

- Women C -

Medallists:

1986 – ESP	1. AUT, 2. DEN, 3. ESP
1988 – FRA	1. SWE, 2. FRA, 3. ESP
1991 – ITA	1. HUN, 2. NED, 3. TCH

to take part in order to join the A category. Nations such as Japan, Brazil, Tunisia, Egypt, USA, PR Korea and China, which ranked eighth in 1987 in front of the Federal Republic of Germany, thus regularly appeared in the list of participants at B WCh.

There was another reason why so many teams from continents outside Europe participated: They sold the B WCh to the governments in their home country as the perfect example thus as an A World Championship to obtain support in terms of funds and expertise in order to participate. Well, if it helps to advance in terms of sports...

Finally none of those teams managed to qualify for the A WCh in that manner though.

After all the Europeans proved (still) all too strong. Taking a glance at the medals' table you may notice that teams that had been among the world's elite earned the title at B World Championships. These are Sweden, Spain, Poland, Hungary, GDR, Soviet Union, Iceland and Norway (men) and Yugoslavia (twice), Czechoslovakia, GDR (twice), Federal Republic of Germany and Hungary. All of them experienced that it could be hard to join the world's handball elite again.

The end of World Championships B and C came in 1991/92. The European countries finally closed ranks to found the European Handball Federation. Similar to the remaining continents the new EHF also held their own qualifications for the one and only World Championship in the men's and women's category. Since then performance criteria have been setting the bar.

Men's and Women's Junior World Championships

A chance for young hopefuls

The International Handball Federation included the World Championships B and C and the title contests for male and female juniors alike in the competition programme in 1977. It's only natural as not only the number of member federations but also the number of young athletes

in those countries had tremendously increased in previous years. Young hopefuls showed their increasing interest in the team sport of handball and were eager to compete at international level.

Sweden and Romania, two founding federations, undertook to organize the first World Championships, which met with a positive response from participants and fans alike. 20 men's junior teams (21 years of age or younger) competed in Sweden whereas the female juniors (once a U19 event and afterwards a maximum age of 20) faced a smaller field of participants (14) first. One single non-European team



Sweden 1977 - Carl-Gustav XVI, King of Sweden handed over the champions' trophy to USSR captain Kushnirjuk.



Brazil 1995 – Prof. Dr. Herrmann awarded the silver medal to team Denmark.

(Congo) participated in the first WCh what was meant to be a real exception as for the event held biennially.

Following a number of successful women's junior events (Canada 1981, Korea 1985 and Nigeria 1989) and men's junior events (Egypt 1989) the responsible IHF officials took their courage in both hands: The 1994 Congress awarded the 1995 Junior World Championships to Argentina and Brazil voting in favour of South America twice. Handball broke new grounds. Some officials from the motherlands of handball might have had their doubts that proved totally unfounded though. 40 teams in total, officials, referees, spectators and media representatives experienced title contests whose organizational standard was above average. Africa made its debut two years later in 1997 when Ivory Coast proved an excellent host. Thus the continents managed to catch up to the world's elite in that respect either.

After an auspicious opening the number of participants at both the Men's and Women's Junior WChs was increased to 24 to obtain WCh standard in terms of calculation too. And the young athletes took their chance to advance. Thus Junior World Championships proved quite interesting for both fans and talent scouts.

As expected the 'usual' suspects, which also set the tone at Senior WChs, proved predominant in the Junior WChs. One country especially stood out from the rest in both the men's and women's category: The Soviet Union or successor Russia respectively climbed the very top of the rostrums no less than 18 times all others can only dream of.

Men's Junior World Championships*

Medallists:

1977 – SWE	1. URS, 2. HUN, 3. YUG
1979 – SWE	1. URS, 2. YUG, 3. SWE
1981 – POR	1. YUG, 2. URS, 3. TCH
1983 – FIN	1. URS, 2. FRG, 3. DEN
1985 – ITA	1. URS, 2. SWE, 3. YUG
1987 – YUG	1. YUG, 2. ESP, 3. URS
1989 – ESP	1. URS, 2. ESP, 3. YUG
1991 – GRE	1. YUG, 2. SWE, 3. URS
1993 – EGY	1. EGY, 2. DEN, 3. ISL
1995 – ARG	1. RUS, 2. ESP, 3. POR
1997 – TUR	1. DEN, 2. UKR, 3. FRA
1999 – QAT	1. DEN, 2. SWE, 3. EGY
2001 – SUI	1. RUS, 2. ESP, 3. SWE
2003 – BRA	1. SWE, 2. DEN, 3. SLO
2005 – HUN	1. DEN, 2. SCG, 3. HUN
2007 – MKD	1. SWE, 2. GER, 3. DEN
2009 – EGY	1. GER, 2. DEN, 3. SLO
2011 – GRE	1. GER, 2. DEN, 3. TUN

* Age limit: 21 years of age or younger

Women's Junior World Championships*

Medallists:

1977 – ROM	1. YUG, 2. URS, 3. ROM
1979 – YUG	1. URS, 2. GDR, 3. YUG
1981 – CAN	1. URS, 2. YUG, 3. FRG
1983 – FRA	1. URS, 2. GDR, 3. KOR
1985 – KOR	1. URS, 2. KOR, 3. POL
1987 – DEN	1. URS, 2. DEN, 3. GDR
1989 – NGR	1. URS, 2. KOR, 3. BUL
1991 – FRA	1. URS, 2. KOR, 3. DEN
1993 – BUL	1. RUS, 2. BUL, 3. KOR
1995 – BRA	1. ROM, 2. DEN, 3. NOR
1997 – CIV	1. DEN, 2. RUS, 3. ROM
1999 – CHN	1. ROM, 2. LTU, 3. DEN
2001 – HUN	1. RUS, 2. HUN, 3. GER
2003 – MKD	1. RUS, 2. HUN, 3. NOR
2005 – CZE	1. RUS, 2. NOR, 3. KOR
2008 – MKD	1. GER, 2. DEN, 3. KOR
2010 – KOR	1. NOR, 2. RUS, 3. MNE
2012 – CZE	1. SWE, 2. FRA, 3. HUN

* Age limit: 20 years of age or younger

Men's and Women's Youth World Championships

Hotspot of talents

The time was ripe in 2005. There were 150 full members precisely affiliated to the International Handball Federation. Many of them made outstanding efforts to promote young hopefuls. So why not set up an international platform for future talents and stars to progress? Given that it was impossible to test the performances between the different continents at that age category, those responsible made a very wise decision: Continents equal in terms of member federations are treated equally.

Consequently three teams each from Europe, Asia and Africa and one representative from Pan-America competed for medals at the first Men's Youth WC staged in Qatar in 2005. One year later – during the Women's Youth WCh in Canada – four representatives each were from Europe and Asia, two from Africa aside from host Canada (representing America). Africa's model 'seven', the side from Côte d'Ivoire, was meant to be the twelfth team but had to cancel their participation due to visa problems.

Europe gained the upper hand in both events, Serbia-Montenegro in the men's youth category and Denmark in the women's youth category. Nevertheless



Korea that gained two silver medals followed closely behind proving that not just one continent is able to perform fine youth handball.



Afterwards Youth World Championships, which have been staged biennially, steadily gained popularity. In general 20 teams participate. The young hopefuls' event caused a real sensation not just in terms of sports but also entailed other positive aspects. Firstly, 'emerging' federations such

The first youth world champions in IHF history: Serbia-Montenegro (male) and Denmark (female).

as Bahrain or the Dominican Republic dared to attempt to host such a major handball event. Moreover nothing but young referees were nominated, who had previously proved their skills as part of the IHF's Global Referee Training Programme. – To summarize: Every time and in every respect the Youth World Championships turned out to be a hotspot of talents.

Men's Youth World Championships*

Medallists:

2005 – QAT 1. SCG, 2. KOR, 3. CRO

2007 – BRN 1. DEN, 2. CRO, 3. SWE

2009 – TUN 1. CRO, 2. ISL, 3. SWE

2011 – ARG 1. DEN, 2. ESP, 3. SWE

* Age limit: 19

Women's Youth World Championships*

Medallists:

2006 – CAN 1. DEN, 2. KOR, 3. ROM

2008 – SVK 1. RUS, 2. SRB, 3. DEN

2010 – DOM 1. SWE, 2. NOR, 3. NED

2012 – MNE 1. DEN, 2. RUS, 3. NOR

* Age limit: 18

Beach Handball World Championships / World Games *Quickly and unexpectedly...*

When the International World Games Association (IWGA) decided to add beach handball to the programme of the 2001 World Games in Akita, Japan, comprising a total of 23 sports, for the first time, the world association's Council made use of an opportune moment. The IHF leaders announced that very event as the 1st Beach Handball World Championship after accepting to organize the fun sport event on the Hondo beach to be held under their governance. The gift was also willingly accepted, as the game in the sunshine, on the sandy beach was getting more and more popular in the member federations not being considered as a pure leisure activity but as an appropriate transition for professional athletes between two indoor seasons.

Six teams each in the male and female category from four continents were eligible to participate in the first WCh edition in Asia. In the end two surprise teams, Belarus and the Ukraine, had every reason to celebrate. The first Beach WCh stood the test so that Beach WChs were held biennially as from 2004 like all other World Championships. Twelve teams each compete in the WCh tournament amongst whom have always been newcomers, such as Turkey and Italy, which are rather considered underdogs when it comes to indoor handball. The summertime activity for pleasure has gradually developed into a serious competitive sport - a real pleasure to watch and play.

The Beach WCh has been a source of fascination not only for those who are less successful in indoor handball: marvellous beaches like El Gouna, Egypt, Rio's legendary Coppa Cabana in Brazil or Turkish Riviera in Antalya are all dream destinations for athletes and fans alike where male and female national teams unite under the blue sky to compete for sought-after WCh titles. The Sultanate of Oman was the host of the 2012 WCh to extend that list of worthy hosts.

Taking stock after ten years of Beach WChs reveals a rather positive outcome. The open air alternative at world-class level has become firmly established in the four continents. It has yet failed to spread in Oceania but who knows what the future holds ...

Beach Handball World Championships

Medallists:

	MEN	WOMEN
2001 – JPN	1. BLR, 2. ESP, 3. BRA	1. UKR, 2. GER, 3. BRA
2004 – EGY	1. EGY, 2. TUR, 3. RUS	1. RUS, 2. TUR, 3. ITA
2006 – BRA	1. BRA, 2. TUR, 3. ESP	1. BRA, 2. GER, 3. RUS
2008 – ESP	1. CRO, 2. BRA, 3. SRB	1. CRO, 2. ESP, 3. BRA
2010 – TUR	1. BRA, 2. HUN, 3. TUR	1. NOR, 2. DEN, 3. BRA
2012 – OMA	1. BRA, 2. UKR, 3. CRO	1. BRA, 2. DEN, 3. NOR

Olympic consecration?



Beach handball met with an overwhelming response at the first edition in Japan in 2001.

consecration'. So, after 2001, 2005 and 2009, will beach handball be included into the Olympic Summer Games programme? Actually there is no evidence. But the IHF President said he could think of handball as part of the Summer Olympics (beach) and Winter Games (indoor). There hasn't been any reaction or official statement from the IOC yet ...

As for beach handball the IHF has been making efforts for both their own World Championships and for the IWGA, helping beach handball to emerge and that hosts the World Games in odd years following the Olympic cycle. Since its debut beach handball has been attractive and met with an overwhelming response.

It is an unwritten law but has never been confirmed that a sport which has been successfully staged three times obtains 'Olympic

Beach Handball at the World Games

Medallists:

	MEN	WOMEN
2001 – JPN	1. BLR, 2. ESP, 3. BRA	1. UKR, 2. GER, 3. BRA
2005 – GER	1. RUS, 2. ESP, 3. CRO	1. BRA, 2. HUN, 3. TUR
2009 - TPE	1. BRA, 2. HUN, 3. CRO	1. ITA, 2. CRO, 3. BRA

The European Cup competitions

A real “success story”

When the French sports magazine “L’Equipe” and Council member Charles Petit-Montgobert (FRA) in 1956 launched the initiative to introduce the European Intercity Cup in men’s indoor handball, it could not be foreseen, that they and the IHF Congress in the same year gave birth to a competition that, within a short period of time, would turn out to become a “bestseller” and an absolute “success story”. It was the beginning of the European Cup competitions having been carried out up to these days in different categories for men’s and women’s clubteams.

From 1957 to 1972, it was handball federations, associations, clubs and local bodies that organized these competitions. The International Handball Federation took over from 1972 to 1993. Starting in the 1993/94 season, the European Cup went under the umbrella of the newly created European Handball Federation. The success story which started nearly sixty years ago seems to be a “never ending story”...

The reader finds hereafter all Cup winners having won the title between 1957 and 1993.

National Champions Men

1957 City selection Prag TCH
1958 - (WCh)
1959 RIK Göteborg SWE
1960 Frischauf Göppingen FRG
1961 - (WCh)
1962 Frischauf Göppingen FRG
1963 Dukla Prag TCH
1964 - (WCh)
1966 DHfK Leipzig GDR
1967 VfL Gummersbach FRG
1968 Steaua Bukarest ROM
1969 - cancelled by IHF
1970 VfL Gummersbach FRG
1971 VfL Gummersbach FRG
1972 Partizan Bjelovar YUG
1973 MAI Moskau URS

1974 VfL Gummersbach FRG
1975 ASK Vorwärts Frankfurt GDR
1976 Borac Banjaluka YUG
1977 Steaua Bukarest ROM
1978 SC Magdeburg GDR
1979 TV Grosswallstadt FRG
1980 TV Grosswallstadt FRG
1981 SC Magdeburg GDR
1982 Honved Budapest HUN
1983 VfL Gummersbach FRG
1984 Dukla Prag TCH
1985 Metaloplastica Sabac YUG
1986 Metaloplastica Sabac YUG
1987 SKA Minsk URS
1988 ZSKA Moskau URS
1989 SKA Minsk URS

1990 SKA Minsk URS
1991 FC Barcelona ESP
1992 RK Zagreb CRO
1993 Badel Zagreb CRO

National Champions Women

1961 Stiinta Bukarest ROM
1962 Spartak Prag TCH
1963 Trud Moskau URS
1964 Rapid Bukarest ROM
1965 HG Kopenhagen DEN
1966 SC Leipzig GDR
1967 Zalgiris Kaunas URS
1968 Zalgiris Kaunas URS
1969 - cancelled by IHF
1970 Spartaak Kiew URS
1971 Spartak Kiew URS
1972 Spartak Kiew URS
1973 Spartak Kiew URS
1974 SC Leipzig GDR
1975 Spartak Kiew URS
1976 Radnicki Belgrad YUG
1977 Spartak Kiew URS
1978 TSC Berlin GDR
1979 Spartak Kiew URS
1980 Radnicki Belgrad YUG
1981 Spartak Kiew URS
1982 Vasas Budapest HUN
1983 Spartak Kiew URS
1984 Radnicki Belgrad YUG
1985 Spartak Kiew URS
1986 Spartak Kiew URS
1987 Spartak Kiew URS
1988 Spartak Kiew URS
1989 Hypobank Südstadt AUT
1990 Hypobank Südstadt AUT
1991 TV Lützellinden GER

1992 Hypobank Südstadt AUT
1993 Hypobank Südstadt AUT

Cupwinners Men

1976 Balonmano Granollers ESP
1977 MAI Moskau URS
1978 VfL Gummersbach FRG
1979 VfL Gummersbach FRG
1980 Calpisa Alicante ESP
1981 TuS Nettelstedt FRG
1982 SC Empor Rostock GDR
1983 SKA Minski URS
1984 FC Barcelona ESP
1985 FC Barcelona ESP
1986 FC Barcelona ESP
1987 ZSKA Moskau URS
1988 SKA Minsk URS
1989 TuSEM Essen FRG
1990 TEKA Santander ESP
1991 TSV Milbertshofen GER
1992 Bramac Veszprem HUN
1993 OM Vitrolles FRA

Cupwinners Women

1977 TSC Berlin GDR
1978 Ferencvarosi Budapest HUN
1979 TSC Berlin GDR
1980 Iskra Partizanske TCH
1981 Spartacus Budapest HUN
1982 RK Osijek YUG
1983 RK Osijek YUG
1984 Dalma Split YUG
1985 Buducnost Titograd YUG
1986 Radnicki Belgrad YUG
1987 Kuban Krasnodar URS
1988 Kuban Krasnodar URS
1989 Stiinta Bacau ROM
1990 Rostelmash Rostow URS

- 1991 Radnicki Belgrad YUG
- 1992 Radnicki Belgrad YUG
- 1993 TV Giessen-Lützellinden GER

IHF-Cup Men

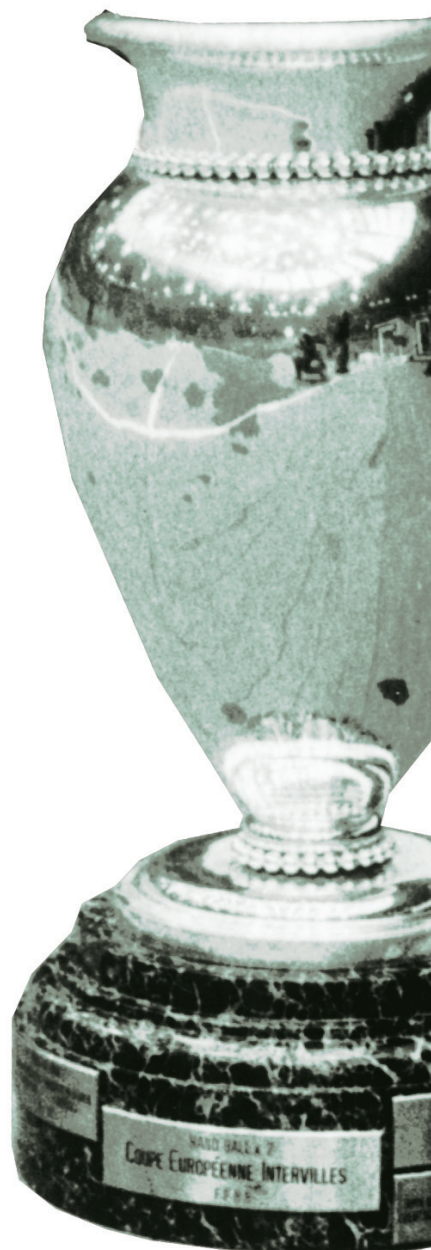
- 1982 VfL Gummersbach FRG
- 1983 IL Saporoshe URS
- 1984 TV Grosswallstadt FRG
- 1985 Minaur Baja Mare ROM
- 1986 Raba Vasas Etö Györ HUN
- 1987 Granitas Kaunas URS
- 1988 Minaur Baja Mare ROM
- 1989 TuRu Düsseldorf FRG
- 1990 SKIF Krasnodar URS
- 1991 Borac Banjaluka YUG
- 1992 SG Wallau-Massenheim GER
- 1993 Teka Santander ESP

IHF-Cup Women

- 1982 HK Tresnjevka Zagreb YUG
- 1983 Automobilisti Baku URS
- 1984 Chimistul Vilcea ROM
- 1985 ASK Vorw. Frankfurt/O. GDR
- 1986 SC Leipzig GDR
- 1987 Buducnost Titograd YUG
- 1988 Egle Vilnius URS
- 1989 Chimistul Vilcea ROM
- 1990 Vorwärts Frankfurt/O. GDR
- 1991 Lokomotiva Zagreb YUG
- 1992 SC Leipzig GDR
- 1993 Rapid Fem. Bukarest ROM

Supercup Men

- 1979 VfL Gummersbach FRG
- 1980 TV Grosswallstadt FRG
- 1981 SC Magdeburg GDR
- 1982 SC Empor Rostock GDR
- 1983 VfL Gummersbach FRG



Super Globe + Intercontinental Cup

Only club event still alive

The basic idea of the IHF leaders was to make the international competitions calendar even more attractive and, if possible, to get all continents involved when introducing two new competitions after the 1996 Congress. The world's best club teams and the world's top national teams from the five continents were to meet in the said events.

Supported by industrious hosts the world association launched the Super Globe for club teams and the Intercontinental Cup for national teams while setting up best conditions and later on distributing attractive prize money. In 1997 the first Super Globe was held in Austria followed by the first IC Cup organized in Qatar in 1998.



Austria 1997 – President Lanc awarded the first Super Globe.

People noticed quickly that it was really difficult to find a date that was suitable for all top teams. No wonder that it was not always the actual champion competing in the event, at least when it comes to the Intercontinental Cup. Although an illustrious field of participants gathered in Moscow in 2002 the last hour had come shortly afterwards: Due to a fully packed calendar of events the Intercontinental Cup dropped.

Attractive prize money at stake

On the other hand the Super Globe, that is the unofficial World Championship for club teams, made its way after some initial problems and has meanwhile been firmly established as part of the international

Intercontinental Cup

- 1998 – Doha (QAT)
1. ALG, 2. KUW, 3. ROM
- 2000 – Dammam (KSA)
1. SWE, 2. KOR, 3. EGY
- 2002 – Moscow (RUS)
1. RUS, 2. SWE, 3. ARG

competitions calendar in all continents thanks to the IHF and organizer Qatar, that hosts the said tournament once a year providing excellent conditions and distributing highly attractive prize money: The winner receives 400,000.- US dollars whereas the runner-up and the third ranked team earn 200,000.- US dollars and 150,000.- US dollars respectively.

Aside from the European Cup, which is in the European Handball Federation's capable hands today, the Super Globe is the sole club event organized under the auspices of the IHF and most probably continuously limited to men's teams.



Doha 2012 – The winner is Atletico Madrid.

1997 – Vienna Neustadt (AUT)

1. Santander ESP
2. Drammen (NOR)
3. Seoul (KOR)

2002 – Doha (QAT)

1. Al Sadd (QAT)
2. SC Magdeburg (GER)
3. Metodista San Bernardo (BRA)

2007 – Cairo (EGY)

1. Ciudad Real (ESP)
2. Al-Ahly (EGY)
3. Mouloudia MCA (ALG)

2010 – Doha (QAT)

1. Ciudad Real (ESP)
2. Al-Sadd (QAT)
3. Zamalek Kairo (EGY)

2011 – Doha (QAT)

1. THW Kiel (GER)
2. Ciudad Real (ESP)
3. Al Sadd (LIB)

2012 – Doha (QAT)

1. BM Atletico Madrid (ESP)
2. THW Kiel (GER)
3. Al-Sadd (QAT)

The 2009 photo of the year:
Tilo Wiedensohler GER



World Top Handball Players and Coaches

Simply the best – not just in terms of sports

Since the 1930s when handball gained independence to make its way under its aegis as an international association it has not only attracted millions of fans in all continents but also produced at all times outstanding talents and coaches of both genders, who stand out from the crowd and distinguish from others due to their performance, originality and personality. You will find below a selection that is not exhaustive. The division into decades just gives a hint when the persons concerned were at the peak of their career.

The 1930s

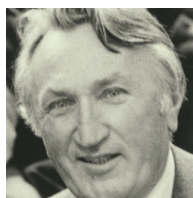
Time for stars had yet to come. Added to that there were just three international events staged during the period referred to. Nonetheless the following deserve a special mention:

Hans Keiter and **Hans Theilig** GER – They won the gold medal with the German national team at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin while contributing to Germany's title at the first eleven- and seven-a-side World Championship in the year 1938.

Günther Otto Kaundynia GER – Coach of the German team that earned the gold medal at the 1936 Olympic Games and the 1938 eleven-a-side and seven-a-side World Championships.

In the wake of the Second World War and after the foundation of the International Handball Federation international competitions indeed got quickly under way, however, it was only in the mid Fifties that the teams' best athletes drew the general public's attention.

The 1950s



Bernhard Kempa FRG – After the Second World War he was one of the most outstanding handball players (1952 and 1955 eleven-a-side World champion and runner-up at the 1954 seven-a-side WCh). As the coach of Frisch Auf Göppingen he earned titles at international (European Cup winner in 1960) and national (9 national titles) level. Afterwards he was a handball tutor in 13 countries ('Mister Handball').

Anna Stark ROM – Goalkeeper and powerful thrower in attack. Eleven-a-side World champion in 1956 and 1960 and seven-a-side outdoor World champion in 1962; sixth at the 1965 WCh (seven-a-side); 1964 European Cup winner with Rapid Bucharest. She was also a international basketball player.

Kweta Janeckova TCH – Goalkeeper; 1957 World champion; 1962 WCh runner-up; fourth at 1965 WCh; 1962 European Cup winner with Spartak Praha.

Kjell Jönsson SWE – 1954 and 1958 World champion; third at 1961 WCh.



Roland Mattson SWE – Goalkeeping legend, 1954 and 1961 World champion, third at 1964 WCh; later on Swedish head coach: sixth at 1970 WCh; sixth at 1972 Olympic Games and tenth at 1974 WCh.

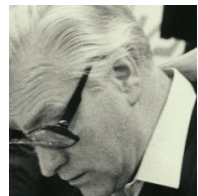
Hans Theilmann DEN – Fifth and top scorer at 1954 World Championship; fourth at 1958 WCh.

Hinrich Schwenker FRG – 1959 eleven-a-side World champion; runner-up at 1954 WCh; third at 1958 WCh; fourth at 1961 WCh; runner-up at 1963 eleven-a-side WCh; fourth at 1964 WCh.

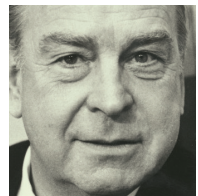
Jiri Vicha TCH – Outstanding goalkeeper in the Fifties and Sixties; third at 1954 WCh and runner-up at 1961 WCh; fourth at 1964 WCh; successful with army sports club of Dukla Praha over 30 years, 22 national championship titles (fifteen as a player, seven as a coach); European Cup winner in 1957, 1963 (as a player) and in 1984 (as a coach). Later on he was the TCH head coach: among others seventh at the 1976 Olympic Games, third at the 1983 WCh qualification and seventh at the 1990 WCh.



Werner Vick GER – Four-time world champion in 11-a-side handball: two times (1952, 1955) as player and two times (1959, 1966) as coach of German teams; manager of the national indoor handball team of the Federal Republic of Germany until 1973; highly esteemed expert in several Technical Commissions of the IHF with his last official appearance at the Olympic Games in 1992.



Heinz Seiler GDR – Successful coach of the all-German team (in cooperation with Werner Vick) at the outdoor handball world championship in 1959 and with the GDR in 1963; Technical Director of the GDR German Handball Federation and in several bodies of the International Handball Federation; appointment as IHF Honorary Member in 1988.



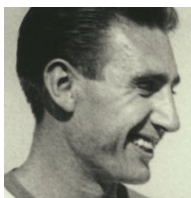
The 1960s

Anne-Marie Nilsen DEN – runner-up at 1962 WCh; fifth and top scorer at 1965 WCh; seventh at 1971 and 1973 WCh.

Ioan Moser ROM – Playmaker and dive shot expert. 1961 and 1964 World champion; top scorer at 1964 WCh; third at 1967 WCh; 1965 European Cup winner with Dynamo Bucharest. He worked as a coach in Germany, Switzerland and Austria.



Gheorghe Gruia ROM – He possessed outstanding throwing power to be the world's top left-hander in the back-court over many years. 1964 and 1970 World champion; third at 1967 WCh; runner-up and top scorer at 1972 Olympic Games; 1968 European Cup winner with Steaua Bucharest. After his playing career he got married in Mexico and worked as a coach and a sports commentator.



Josef Steffelbauer AUT – One of the most decorated eleven-a-side handball players. The Austrian became the top scorer at the 1963 (fifth/24 goals) and 1966 (third/25) World Championships.



Bedrich König TCH – Highly-esteemed handball coach; 1967 World champion; 1968 European Cup runner-up with Dukla Praha; national champion with Dukla Praha.



Peter Kretzschmar GDR – Eleven-a-side handball player and women's coach; 1963 eleven-a-side World champion; 1974 and 1975 women's World champion; runner-up at 1976 Olympic Games, third at 1980 Olympic Games; fourth at 1986 WCh; married to Waltraud Kretzschmar.

Vojtech Mares TCH – 1967 World champion; third at 1974 WCh; seventh at 1979 WCh; 1963 European Cup winner with Dukla Praha. Later on he made his mark as a national head coach and club coach.

Bernd Munck FRG – 1966 eleven-a-side World champion; sixth at 1967 WCh, fifth at 1970 WCh, ninth at 1974 WCh; 1969 and 1970 European eleven-a-side Cup winner with Grün-Weiss Dankersen; 4 national titles with Grün-Weiss Dankersen.

Nicolae Nedef ROM – First post-war coach who became as popular as his top players. 1961, 1964, 1970 and 1974 World champion; third at 1965 WCh, seventh at 1978 WCh; third at 1972 Olympic Games, runner-up at 1976 Olympic Games.



Herbert Lübking FRG – 1966 eleven-a-side World champion; runner-up at 1963 eleven-a-side World Championship; fourth at 1964 WCh; seventh and top scorer at 1967 WCh; fifth at 1970 WCh; sixth at 1972 Olympic Games; 1968, 1969 and 1970 European Cup winner (eleven-a-side) with Grün-Weiss Dankersen.

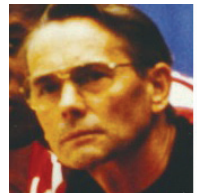


Hans-Günther Schmidt ROM/FRG – Jump shot expert representing the Romanian handball philosophy; after moving to the Federal Republic he earned four European Cup titles with VfL Gummersbach between 1966 and 1976; sixth at 1967 WCh as a German international, fifth at 1970 WCh and ninth at 1974 WCh, seven national titles with Gummersbach.

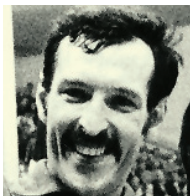
Bodog Török HUN – Hungary's most decorated women's coach. 1995 World champion; runner-up at 1957 WCh; fifth at 1962 WCh; third at 1971 WCh, fourth at 1973 WCh, third at 1978 WCh; third at 1976 Olympic Games.



Paul Tiedemann GDR – Playmaker, 1963 eleven-a-side World champion; runner-up at 1967 eleven-a-side WCh; fourth at 1961 WCh; 1966 European Cup winner with DHfK Leipzig. Later he was an important national coach: 1980 Olympic champion; sixth at 1982 WCh, third at 1986 WCh before working in other countries like Egypt or Austria.



The 1970s



Cornel Penu ROM – Charismatic goalkeeper. Thanks to his technique and elegance he was the first one to show the importance of goalkeepers for their team. 1970 and 1974 World champion; runner-up at 1976 Olympic Games.



Christian Gatu ROM – The first outstanding playmaker in seven-a-side handball, skilful feeds in attack, forward defender ('sneaker') and counter-attack expert. 1970 and 1974 World champion, third at 1967 WCh; third at 1972 Olympic Games; runner-up at 1976 Olympic Games; 1977 European Cup winner with Steaua Bucharest. Later he was the president of the Romanian Handball Federation.

Larissa Karlowa URS – Pure world-class player for years. 1986 World champion; 1976 and 1980 Olympic champion; runner-up at 1978 WCh; European Cup winner with Spartak Kiev in 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988.



Waltraud Kretzschmar GDR – World champion in 1971, 1975 and 1978; runner-up at 1976 Olympic Games; third at 1980 Olympic Games; 1974 European Cup winner with SC Leipzig.

Kristina Richter GDR – One of the best-ever playmakers; World champion in 1971, 1975 and 1978; runner-up at 1976 Olympic Games, third at 1980 Olympic Games; European Cup winner with TSC Berlin in 1977, 1978 and 1979. Later she was a coach especially for young hopefuls.

Sinaida Turtschina URS / UKR – see World Handball Player of the Century

Igor Turtschin URS / UKR – Head coach of the Soviet Union's and Ukraine's



women's national team for nearly two decades. 1976 and 1980 Olympic champion; 1982 and 1986 World champion; 1975 and 1978 vice World champion; eleven European Champions' Cup titles with Spartak Kiev between 1970 and 1986. He had been married to Sinaida Turtschina since 1966. He suffered a cardiac death in 1994.

Milena Foltynova-Geschiessl TCH / AUT – Sixth at 1973 and 1975 World Championships; fourth and top scorer at 1978 WCh; fifth at 1980 Olympic Games; sixth at 1984 Olympic Games.

Amalia Sterbinsky HUN – Predominant back-court player. Third at World Championships in 1971, 1975 and 1978; fourth at 1974 WCh; runner-up at 1982 WCh; third at 1976 Olympic Games; fourth at 1980 Olympic Games; 1982 European Cup winner with Vasas Budapest.



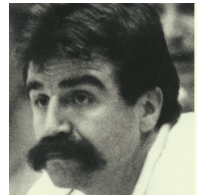
Mara Torti YUG – Elegant playmaker. 1973 World champion; runner-up at 1971 WCh.



Abas Arslanagic YUG – Magic goalkeeper. 1972 Olympic champion; third at 1970 World Championship, third at 1974 WCh; fifth at 1976 Olympic Games. 1981 junior World champion as a coach.



Heiner Brand FRG – The face of German handball between 1994 and 2012 as the head coach, World champion as a player in 1978 and as a coach in 2007; eightfold European Cup winner (as a player) with VfL Gummersbach (Champions' Cup, Cupwinners' Cup, IHF Cup).



Stefan Birtalan ROM – World champion in 1974 and 1979; 1974 WCh top scorer; seventh at 1978 WCh; fifth at 1982 WCh; third at 1972 Olympic Games; runner-up and top scorer at 1976 Olympic Games; 1977 European Cup winner with Steaua Bucharest.

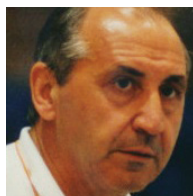
Joachim Deckarm FRG – 1978 World champion; ninth at 1974 WCh; fourth at 1976 Olympic Games; European Cup winner in 1974 and 1978 with VfL Gummersbach. He suffered a terrible accident during the 1979 European Cup. In June 2013 Deckarm was admitted as the second handball player after Heiner Brand in the German Hall of Fame.



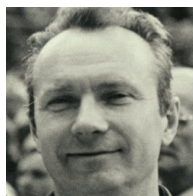
Hrvoje Horvat YUG – Elegant playmaker. 1972 Olympic champion; fifth at the 1976 Olympic Games; fourth at 1970 and 1974 World Championships; 1972

European Cup winner with Partizan Bjelovar. Later he worked as a club coach in Germany.

Vladimir Belov URS – One of the greatest playmakers in the Eighties. 1982 World champion; 1977 and 1979 junior World champion; runner-up at the 1980 Olympic Games in his home town of Moscow.



Vladimir Maksimov URS / RUS – 1976 Olympic champion; fifth at 1972 Olympic Games; ninth and top scorer at 1970 WCh; fifth at 1974 WCh; 1973 and 1977 European Cup winner with MAI Moscow. As a coach he won everything: 1992 and 2000 Olympic champion, 1993 and 1997 World champion, 1996 European champion; third at 2004 Olympic Games, runner-up at 1999 WCh, 1989 junior World champion; 2006 European Cup winner with Medvedi Chekhov.

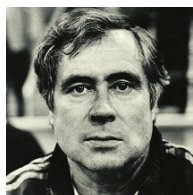


Anatoli Jewtuschenko URS – Coach at the Moscow Aeronautic Institute. 1976 and 1988 Olympic champion; runner-up at 1980 Olympic Games; 1977 junior World champion; 1973 European Cup winner with MAI Moscow.

Jerzy Klempel POL – One of the most powerful throwers in the world. Third at 1976 Olympic Games, seventh and top scorer at 1980 Olympic Games; sixth and top scorer at 1978 WCh; third at 1982 WCh. Triple top scorer of the German Bundesliga.



Kurt Klühspies FRG – One of the most stunning left-handers of the Seventies. 1978 World champion; fourth at 1976 Olympic Games; European Cup winner with TV Großwallstadt in 1979, 1980 and 1984; 8 national titles with TV Großwallstadt (elven- and seven-a-side).



Spartak Mironowich URS / BLR – Coach; junior World champion in 1979, 1983 and 1985; European Cup winner with SKA Minsk in 1983, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990. Later he also was the national coach of Belarus.

Lothar Doering – GDR / GER – Player and women's coach. 1980 Olympic champion; runner-up at 1974 WCh; 2 national titles with SC Leipzig; 1993 World champion (women). Then he coached men's club teams.

Vasile Stinga ROM – Outstanding back-court player. Third at 1980 and 1984 Olympic Games; fifth and top scorer at 1982 World Championship; ninth at 1986 WCh; 1977 European Cup winner with Steaua Bucharest.



Wieland Schmidt GDR – Goalkeeper. 1980 Olympic champion; seventh at 1988 Olympic Games; runner-up at 1974 World Championship, third at 1978 WCh, sixth at 1982 WCh, fourth at 1986 WCh; 1978 and 1981 European Cup winner with SC Magdeburg.



Daniel Waszkiewicz POL – Elegant playmaker. Third at 1976 Olympic Games, seventh at 1980 Olympic Games; third at 1982 World Championship. After ending his playing career he worked as a coach; he was the assistant coach of the Polish team at the 2007 WCh.

Marianna Godor-Nagy HUN / AUT – Left-hander and playmaker. Third at 1976 Olympic Games, fourth at 1980 Olympic Games; third at 1978 WCh, runner-up at 1982 WCh, eighth at 1986 WCh, fifth at 1990 WCh; 1982 European Cup winner with Vasas Budapest.

Vlado Stenzel YUG – Charismatic coach with unique list of achievements: 1972 Olympic champion with Yugoslavia, 1978 World champion with the Federal Republic of Germany. Later he was the coach of many German clubs (e.g. national cup winner with TSV Milbertshofen).



Erhard Wunderlich FRG – Left back-court player. 1978 World champion; seventh at 1982 and 1986 WCh; runner-up at 1984 Olympic Games, European Cup winner with VfL Gummersbach in 1979, 1982 and 1983, 1983 European Club champion with VfL Gummersbach; fifth at 1977 Junior WCh. He was elected Germany's Handball Player of the Century in 1999. He passed away on 4 October 2012 at the age of 55.



The 1980s

Maria Durisinova TCH – Powerful scorer on the centre position: first at 1981 WCh qualification, runner-up and top scorer at 1985 WCh qualification; runner-up at 1986 WCh.

Tatjana Gorb URS – 1990 World champion; third at 1988 and 1992 Olympic Games; 1981 junior World champion; fifth at 1985 WCh qualification; European Cup winner with Spartak Kiev in 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988.

World Handball Players of the Year

In cooperation with partner adidas and with support from the World Handball Magazine (WHM) the IHF presented the World Handball Player of the year award since 1988. Coaches and other experts initially acted as the jury then the readers of the WHM were entitled to vote. The award winners are briefly presented below.



Svetlana Kitic YUG – Eccentric back-court player. 1984 Olympic champion; runner-up at 1980 Olympic Games; sixth at 1986 WCh, runner-up at 1990 WCh; 1977 junior World champion; European Cup winner with Radnicki Belgrade in 1980, 1984 and 1986. She was elected the first World Handball Player in 1988.



Jasna Kolar-Merdan YUG/AUT – Olympic champion and top scorer in 1984; runner-up at 1980 Olympic Games; fifth at 1992 Olympic Games (with Austria); third and top scorer at 1982 WCh; twelfth at 1986 WCh, fifth at 1990 WCh; European Cup winner with Hypobank Südstadt Vienna in 1989 and 1990. World Handball Player in 1990.

Natalja Morskova URS – World champion in 1986 and 1990; top scorer at 1986 WCh; third at 1988 Olympic Games; 1985 junior World champion; 1990 European Cup winner with Rostselmasch Rostow Don.

Tamila Oleksjuk URS – World champion in 1986 and 1990; fifth at 1985 WCh qualification.

Dagmar Stelberg FRG – Germany's first entirely professional player in women's handball; left-hander possessing a delayed throwing profile. Fourth at 1984 Olympic Games; seventh at 1986 World Championship; fourth at 1990 WCh, fifth at 1981 WCh qualification, third at 1985 WCh qualification, fifth at 1986 WCh qualification; national titles with VfL Engelskirchen and TuS Walle Bremen.

Ingrid Steen NOR – Outstanding in building up play. Runner-up at 1988 Olympic Games, runner-up at 1992 Olympic Games; sixth at 1985 WCh qualification; third at 1986 WCh.

Cynthia Stinger USA – Dynamic playmaker. Fifth and second-best scorer at 1984 Olympic Games; sixteenth at 1986 WCh.

Heidi Sundal NOR – Runner-up at 1988 and 1992 Olympic Games; seventh at 1982 WCh; third at 1986 WCh; sixth at 1990 WCh; third at 1993 WCh.

Morten Stig Christensen DEN – Outstanding playmaker. Fourth at 1978 World Championship, fourth at 1982 WCh, eighth at 1986 WCh; eighth at 1976 Olympic Games, ninth at 1980 Olympic Games, fourth at 1984 Olympic Games. Later he became a TV presenter and secretary general of the Danish Handball Federation.



Julian Duranona CUB – First world-class player from Pan-America possessing great jumping power and skilful at standing up against opponents. Fifteenth and second-best scorer at 1986 World Championship, fourteenth and top scorer at 1990 WCh.



Peter Rost GDR – Elegant playmaker. 1980 Olympic champion; runner-up at 1974 World Championship; 1999 European Cup winner with SC Magdeburg as a coach.

Jae-Won Kang KOR – Runner-up and top scorer at 1988 Olympic Games; twelfth and top scorer at 1986 World Championship; thirteenth and top scorer at 1985 Junior WCh; he was the first non-European in 1989 to receive the World Handball Player award. He was a player-coach in Switzerland from 1990 to 2002 before coaching women's teams in different Asian countries.



Peter Kovacs HUN – Powerful scorer from the back court. Ninth and top scorer at 1978 World Championship, ninth at 1982 WCh, runner-up at 1986 WCh, seventeenth at 1993 WCh; sixth at 1976 Olympic Games, fourth at 1980 and 1988 Olympic Games; 1982 European Cup winner with Honved Budapest.



Alexander Karschakewitsch URS – Wily wing player. 1982 World champion; runner-up at 1980 Olympic Games; 1979 junior World champion and top scorer; 1987 European Cup winner with SKA Minsk.

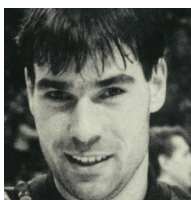
Veselin Vujovic YUG – Creative but also emotional back-court player. 1984 Olympic champion; 1986 World champion; third at 1988 Olympic Games; runner-up at 1982 WCh; fourth at 1990 WCh; 1981 junior World champion; European Cup winner with Metaloplastica Sabac in 1985 and 1986 and with FC Barcelona in 1991. World Handball Player in 1988. Afterwards he was the head coach of the Serbia national team as well as manager and club coach in Macedonia.

Georgi Sviridenko URS / BLR – Playmaker. 1988 Olympic champion; 1981 junior World champion; European Cup winner with SKA Minsk in 1983, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990. Then he was the coach of the Belarus national team and coach of different clubs in Germany.

Frank-Michael Wahl GDR – 1980 Olympic champion; fourth at 1988 Olympic Games, tenth at 1992 Olympic Games; sixth at 1982 World Championship; third at 1986 WCh; eighth at 1990 WCh; 1982 European Cup winner with SC Empor Rostock.



Leora „Sam“ Jones USA – First handball player of international standing from the United States; key player of the national team at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles; she later moved to Europe to play successfully at the several-time German champion, Bayer Leverkusen.



Tomas Svensson SWE – Legendary richly decorated goalkeeper. He performed at international level from the 1985 Junior WCh until the 2000 Olympic Games; runner-up at Olympic Games in 1992, 1996 and 2000; World champion in 1990 and 1999; third at 1993 and 1995 WCh; European champion in 1994, 2000 and 2002; 1993 European Cup winner with Spanish club Bidasoa Irun, European Cup winner with FC Barcelona in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000. European Club champion with FC Barcelona in 1999 and 2000.

Hyun-Mee Kim KOR – The back-court player was the first non-European and the then youngest to become the World Handball Player in 1989. Olympic champion in 1988 and 1992; 1995 World champion; runner-up at 1984 Olympic Games; multiple Asian champion.

Andrej Lavrov URS/EUN/RUS) – Goalkeeper. Olympic champion in 1988, 1992 and 2000, third at 2004 Olympic Games (at the age of 40); World champion in 1993 and 1997; runner-up at 1990 WCh, fifth at 1995 WCh; 1996 European champion. He was elected Russia's Handball Player of the Century.



Talant Duishebaev URS / GUS / RUS / ESP) – Brilliant player, who was successful with four different national teams. 1989 junior World champion with URS first, 1992 Olympic champion with EUN, 1993 World champion with Russia and finally third at the 1996 Olympic Games with Spain; eleventh at the 1995 WCh; 1993 and 1994 European Cup winner with Teka Santander; World Handball Player in 1994 and 1996. As a coach he was the Champions League winner in 2006, 2008 and 2009 with Ciudad Real (Athetico Madrid since 2012).



The 1990s

Magnus Wislander SWE – see World Handball Player of the Century

Anja Andersen DEN – Controversial playmaker full of emotions; the 'enfant terrible' in Danish handball. 1996 Olympic champion; 1997 World champion; 1994 and 1996 European champion; runner-up at 1993 World Championship, third at 1995 WCh; two national titles with Norwegian club Baekkelagts SK, three national titles with German club TuS Walle Bremen; as a coach she won the European Cup with Slagelse DT in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2007 and with FCK Handbold in 2009. World Handball Player in 1997



Cecilie Leganger NOR – Goalkeeper. 1999 World champion; 1998 European champion; third at 2000 Olympic Games; third at 1993 WCh, fifth at 1995 WCh; third at 1994 European Championship; third at 1995 Junior WCh; European Cup winner with Baekkelagts SK Oslo in 1998 and 1999; multiple national club titles. World Handball Player in 2001 and thus the first female goalkeeper to receive that honour.



Sung-Ok Oh KOR – She made a major contribution to the boost of women's handball in Korea in the early Nineties. 1992 Olympic champion; 1995 World champion; eleventh at 1990 and 1993 WCh.



Stefan Loevgren SWE – Elegant playmaker. Ranking second at the Olympic Games in 1996 and in 2000; world champion and best player of the tournament in 1999, ranking second at the WC in 1997, ranking second and best player at the WC in 2001, ranking third at the WC in 1995; European champion in 1994, 1998, 2000 and 2002, ranking fourth at the European Championship in 1996; European Cup winner in 2002, 2004 and 2007 with the club THW Kiel; 9 national titles with THW. Ambassador to the European Handball Federation.



Mia Hermansson-Högdal SWE – Powerful build-up scorer (1091 goals in 216 international matches). Thirteenth at 1990 WCh, sixth at 1993 WCh; 1994 and 1995 European Cup winner with Hypobank Südstadt/Niederösterreich; six national titles with Norwegian club Byasen IL, eight national titles with Austrian club Hypobank. After a sortie to Spain she became the assistant coach of the Norwegian women's national team. World Handball Player in 1994.



Marc Baumgartner SUI – Switzerland's most popular back-court player and powerful right-handed thrower. Ranking fourth and being elected top scorer of the World Championship in 1993; participating in 170 international matches (1113 goals); winning the European Cup in 1996 and five national titles when playing for the club TBV Lemgo (GER).

Bianca Urbanke GDR / GER – Left-handed powerhouse. 1993 World champion; runner-up at 1994 European Championship; fourth at 1992 Olympic Games, sixth at 1996 Olympic Games; 1999 European Cup winner with Frankfurter HC; Spanish Cup winner with El Ferrobús Mislata.



Daniel Costantini FRA – French coaching legend. World champion with the Equipe Tricolore in 1995 and 2001; third at 1992 Olympic Games, fourth at 1996 Olympic Games, sixth at 2000 Olympic Games; ninth at 1990 WCh, runner-up at 1993 WCh, third at 1997 WCh; sixth at 1994 European Championship, seventh at 1996 ECh, seventh at 1998 ECh and fourth at 2000 ECh.

Bengt Johansson SWE – Sweden’s charismatic head coach. 471 international matches in total between 1988 and 2004 crowned with great success: 13 Olympic medals, World and European Championships. His major achievements: World champion in 1990 and 1999, European champion in 1994, 1998, 2000 and 2002. Runner-up at 1972 Olympics as a player.



Belal Ahmed Hamdy EGY – One of the outstanding figures in African handball, who brought Egypt’s national team into the top ten of international handball in the Nineties. He had a large repertoire of shots and skilful at keeping control of the match. Hamdy’s career highlights came at the 1995 World Championship in Iceland and the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games where he ranked sixth rather unexpectedly.



Chao Zai CHN – She has been the first and sole Chinese to date who was elected World Handball Player in 2002. Fifth at 1996 Olympic Games, eighth at 2004 Olympic Games; eighteenth at 1999 World Championship, eleventh at 2001 WCh; European Cup (Champions League) winner with Danish club Viborg HK in 2006 and 2009. Before she had performed successfully at clubs in Berlin and Randers.



Staffan Olsson SWE – Left back-court player possessing exceptional assist skills. World champion in 1990 and 1999; third at 1993 and 1998 WCh, runner-up at 1997 and 2001 WCh; runner-up at 1992 and 2000 Olympic Games; European champion in 1994, 1998, 2000 and 2002, fourth at 1994 ECh; runner-up at 1985 Junior WCh; European Cup winner with THW Kiel in 1998 and 2002, 1995 European Cup winner with TV Niederwürzbach; 7 national titles with THW Kiel. Runner-up at 2012 Olympic Games as a coach - with Ola Lindgren – and two national titles with Hammarby IF.



Erszebet Koszsis HUN – Third at 1996 Olympic Games; runner-up at 1995 World Championship; 125 international matches. The 1995 World Handball Player earned all European Cup titles including the Champions League with her club, Dunaujvaros, she remained faithful to after the end of her playing career in 2000 as part of the management.





Kyung-Shin Yoon KOR – Handball Player and Athlete of the Century in Korea, World Handball Player in 2001. The powerful left-hand thrower – he is the eleventh tallest living Korean – participated in five (!) Olympic Games: sixth in 1992, ninth in 2000, eighth in 2004, 2008 and eleventh in 2012 (at the age of 40). He participated in five World Championships and earned the top-scorer crown twice (1995 and 1997); quadruple Asian champion. He is a coach at a Korean university.



Dawn Allinger-Lewis USA – Though she had not been at the very top as a player she made major contributions to handball in Pan-America and in the USA in particular: After her playing career she was a TV commentator at the Olympic Games (Atlanta, Sydney, Athens) and World Championships, member of the IHF Athletes' Commission.



Jackson Richardson FRA – Outstanding playmaker and offensively acting defender. World champion in 1995 and 2001, ninth at 1990 WCh, third at 1993 WCh; third at 1992 Olympic Games, fourth at 1996 Olympic Games, sixth at 2000 Olympic Games; 1993 European Cup winner with OM Vitrolles, 2000 European Cup winner with TV Großwallstadt, 2004 European Cup winner with Portland San Antonio Pamplona. 1995 World Handball Player and France's World Handball Player of the Century. Then he worked at AS Monaco as part of the management.



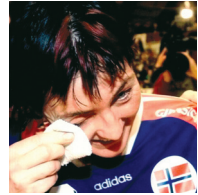
O-Kyeong Lim KOR – Olympic champion in 1992; 1995 World champion; runner-up at Olympic Games in 1996 and 2004; she temporary was a player and player-coach in Japan. Lately she worked as a manager at a club in Seoul. World Handball Player in 1996.



Valero Rivera ESP – He became World champion with Spain in 2013; he claimed 71 (!) national and international (12 European Cup titles) titles with his club, FC Barcelona where he had been working for decades to be the world's most decorated coach. He was also a players' agent over a couple of years.

Stephane Stoecklin FRA – Left-hander, who played 238 international matches for France and 900 goals precisely. 1995 World champion, runner-up at 1993 WCh, third at 1997 WCh; third at 1992 Olympic Games; he played in Japan between 1998 and 2003 before returning to his home club of Chambéry. World Handball Player in 1997.

Trine Haltvik NOR – 1999 World champion; third at 1986 WCh, runner-up at 1997 WCh; runner-up at 1988 Olympic Games, third at 2000 Olympic Games; 1998 European champion, runner-up at 1996 ECh. The Norwegian Handball Federation has the 1998 World Handball Player as part of its coaching staff where she is in charge of the youth national team.



Daniel Stephan GER – Though he never participated in World Championships due to injury he was elected World Handball Player in 1998. His major achievements: runner-up at 2004 Olympic Games; 2004 European champion, runner-up at 2002 ECh, third at 1998 ECh; double European Cup winner with TBV Lemgo. Since the end of his playing career he has worked as a manager and TV commentator.



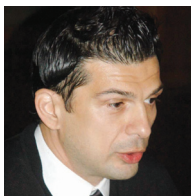
Ausra Fridrikas AUT – After becoming World champion with the Soviet Union in 1990 the 1999 World Handball Player moved to Austria where she was equally successful: third and most valuable player at 1993 World Championship; third at 1996 European Championship; six Champions League titles with Hypo Niederösterreich (4) and SK Slagelse (2). After her playing career she coached the young hopefuls at the Austrian Handball Federation.



Rafael Guijosa ESP - 1999 World Handball Player. third at 1996 and 2000 Olympic Games; runner-up at 1996 and 1998 European Championships; quintuple Champions League winner with FC Barcelona.

Bojana Radulovics HUN – The only one to date to earn the World Handball Player award twice, in 2000 and 2003. She was born in Serbia and assumed Hungarian nationality after 70 matches for Yugoslavia and Serbia-Montenegro. Runner-up at 2000 Olympic Games, fifth and top scorer at 2004 Olympic Games; runner-up at 2003 World Championship; third at 2004 European Championship; 1999 Champions League winner with Dunaujvaros.





Dragan Skrbic YUG/SRB – The 2000 World Handball Player never won a gold medal with his national team but ranked third with Serbia-Montenegro at the World Championships in 1999 and 2001; third at the 1996 European Championship. The pivot, who was elected into the all-star team at the 2000 Olympics, made his mark on handball at German and Spanish club teams in particular. He played at FC Barcelona from 2002 to the end of his career in 2008 gaining the IHF Cup and the Champions League.

World Handball Players of the century

The IHF honoured the World Handball Players of the Century on the threshold of the new millennium. The vote that was unique in every respect saw the IHF member federations, IHF experts and selected media representatives as well as partners and sponsors select two highly-esteemed representatives of international handball: Ukraine's Sinaida Turtschina and Magnus Wislander from Sweden.

Sinaida Turtschina – *Unparalleled magician with the ball*



She is simply the most decorated handball player ever: double Olympic champion (1976 / 1980), double World champion (1982 / 1986), double vice-World champion (1975 / 1978), and she won 11 European Cup (1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1981, 1983, 1985 und 1986) titles and the Champions' Cup title with Spartak Kiev. Today experts still go into rhapsodies when remembering her pure elegance and ease to cruise to success with the USSR team and the team of Spartak Kiev. The 1946-born is the complete handball player of the era: boss in defence with a good eye for the fast counter-attacks, playmaker with a good feeling for ingenious passes to the line and thrower with a wide repertoire of shots. Moreover her charisma and personality are unique. In 1966, at the

age of 19, she married her mentor and coach Igor Turtschin with whom she soared to all great victories. She was his coaching arm and the undisputed boss of the team until the age of 42. After her husband had passed away the charismatic player personality in women's handball also acted as a coach and club president in the Ukraine.

Magnus Wislander – *Top-allrounder with a sense of family*

Magnus Wislander's parents must have suspected what was coming, as Magnus simply and appropriately means 'the great'. Standing 1.94 metres tall, the Swede admittedly does not belong to the giants of the handball world. The greatness of the man who trained as a postman in Gothenburg, is a result of his achievements in sport, the success associated with that and his always-friendly public appearances.

Wislander is simply a handball all-rounder. He used to be more of a play-maker, then he was more of a pivot, sometimes he was also a play-making pivot and coincidentally also happens to be the organizer of defensive duties. He somehow left his mark on all of these positions, and was, in contrast to so many top scorers, on the court for almost the full 60 minutes of a match. In addition he is considered a model handball professional when it comes to motivation, effort and life style what is also proved by his important trophy cabinet:

1990 World Champion; fourth at 1986 WCh, third at 1993 and 1995 WCh; fifth at 1988 Olympics, runner-up at Olympic Games in 1992, 1996 and 2000; European champion in 1994, 1998, 2000 and 2002; runner-up at 1985 Junior WCh; European Cup winner in 1998 and 2002 with THW Kiel; 10 national titles with THW Kiel. World Handball Player in 1990.

Since the end of his playing career the 'old Swede' (born in 1965) has worked as a coach. Moreover the family man likes playing golf in his spare time.



The new Millennium



Marit Breivik (NOR) – The by far most popular female coach in the world. She did not only led Norway's women to the global handball elite but also brought them the 1999 World Championship title, Olympic gold in 2008 and four European Championship titles in 1998, 2004, 2006 and 2008. Added to that: runner-up at 1997 WCh, runner-up at 2001 WCh, third at 2000 Olympic Games, runner-up at 2008 Olympic Games; third at 1994 ECh, runner-up at 1996 ECh, runner-up at 2002 ECh; in 2009, she was awarded the First Class Order of Saint Olav in Norway for her services in sports.

Another Award: World Coach of the Year

The International Handball Federation extended their range of awards in 2009 to award the coaches of the year in the male and female category. You may read their short profiles on these pages.



Ulrik Wilbek DEN – One of the most versatile coaches with achievements in both the men's and women's category: 1997 World champion and European champion with the Danish women's team in 1994 and 1996; runner-up at 1993 WCh, third at 1995 WCh. European champion with the men's national team in 2009 and 2012; third at 2007 WCh, fourth at 2009 WCh, runner-up at 2013 WCh; fifth at 2010 ECh; quadruple national champion with women's team of Viborg. He was elected World Coach of the Year (men) in 2011.



Claude Onesta FRA – Nobody but Claude Onesta won that many titles with the national team during such a short period. He received the World Coach of the Year award twice – in 2009 and 2010. After having been a player and a coach at Handball Toulouse he stepped into legendary Daniel Costantini's big boots in 2001 and became successful just a few years later: Olympic champion in 2008 and 2012; World champion in 2009 and 2011, fourth at 2007 World Championship; European champion in 2006 and 2010.



Bertrand Gille FRA – Brawny pivot, skilful at standing up against opponents and defence expert. Olympic champion in 2008 and 2012; World champion in 2001 and 2011; European champion in 2006 and 2010. The 2002 World Handball Player scored more than 800 goals in 276 international matches. After ten years at German club Hamburger SV he returned to his home club of Chambéry in 2012.

Ivano Balic CRO – Along with Talant Duishebaev he is a double World Handball Player award winner (2003 and 2006). Major achievements: Olympic champion in 2004, third at 2012 Olympic Games; 2003 World champion, runner-up at 2005 and 2009 WCh; runner-up at European Championship in 2008 and 2010, third at 2012 ECh; he was elected the most valuable player five times in a row at World and European Championships between 2004 and 2007. He has been playing at Atletico Madrid since 2012.



Jewgeny Trefilov RUS – He was the 2009 World Coach (women) of the Year; coach of the Russian women's national team from 2000 to 2012. World champion in 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2009; runner-up at 2008 Olympic Games; runner-up at 2006 European Championship. When Russia had missed three semi-finals in a row (2010 ECh, 2011 WCh and 2012 Olympics) he was dismissed in September 2012. Aside from multiple national titles at club level he also won all three European Cup titles including the 2008 Champions League with Zvenigorod.



Anita Kulcsar HUN – The Hungarian who died in a car accident on 19 January 2005 at the age of 29 was posthumously elected the 2004 World Handball Player. Member of the Hungarian national team which gained the 2000 European Championship and ranked second at the 2000 Olympics and third at the 2003 WCh. Last major success: third at the 2004 ECh on home soil. She gained one national championship title and one Cup title each with the clubs of Györ, Cornexi-Alcoa and Dunaujvaros.



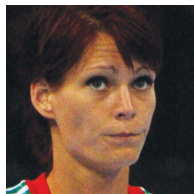
Henning Fritz GER – First goalkeeper to receive the World Handball Player award in 2004. 2007 World champion, runner-up at 2003 WCh; 2004 European champion, runner-up at 2002 ECh; runner-up at 2004 Olympic Games. Best goalkeeper at Olympic Games, WCh and ECh in 2003, 2004 and 2007. He claimed six European Cup titles and five national championship titles with SC Magdeburg and THW Kiel.



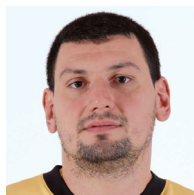
Olivier Krumbholz FRA – Krumbholz made France's women's handball rise to make it to the top. He was appointed head coach in 1998 to roar to victory at international level shortly afterwards: 2003 World champion; runner-up at 1999 WCh; runner-up at WCh in 2009 and 2011; sixth at 2000 Olympic



Games, fourth at 2004 OG, fifth at 2008 OG and fifth at 2012 OG; third at 2006 European Championship. The former handball player from Metz was elected the World Coach of the Year in 2010.



Anita Görbicz HUN – Elegant playmaker although she failed to claim major victories. Runner-up at 2003 World Championship, third at 2005 WCh; third at European Championships in 2004 and 2012. She reached six European Cup finals with the club of Győr out of which were two Champions League finals in 2009 and 2010. World Handball Player in 2005.

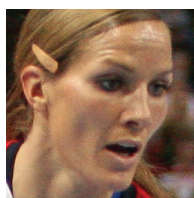


Arpad Sterbik SCG/ESP – The 2005 World Handball Player is also named the goalkeeper with three passports: He was born as part of the Hungary minority in Serbia and assumed Spanish nationality in 2008. 2013 World champion with Spain, third at WCh in 1999 and 2001 with Serbia-Montenegro; Champions League winner in 2006, 2008 and 2009 with Ciudad Real.



Nadine Krause GER – Third at 2003 World Championship, sixth and top scorer at 2005 WCh; eleventh at 2008 Olympic Games; she twice ranked fourth at European Championships; four bronze medals at Junior and Youth World and European Championships beforehand. The 2006 World Handball Player won different club titles with Bayer Leverkusen (GER) and HK

Copenhagen (DEN).



Gro Hammerseng NOR – Olympic champion in 2008; runner-up at World Championships in 2001 and 2007; European champion in 2004, 2006 and 2010. The 2007 World Handball Player missed the 2011 WCh and the 2012 Olympics due to the birth of her son Mio. She has played for just three clubs during her long career that are Gjøvik (NOR), Mitjylland (DEN) and Larvik (NOR) where she gained the Champions League in 2011.



Nikola Karabatic FRA – Olympic champion in 2008 and 2012; World champion in 2009 and 2011; third at 2003 and 2005 WCh; European champion in 2006 and 2010, third at 2008 ECh; Champions League winner in 2001 (with Montpellier) and in 2007 (with THW Kiel) in addition to multiple national titles. 2007 World Handball Player. He lately made headline news in

France related to betting fraud.

Linn-Kristin Riegelhuth NOR – Olympic champion in 2008 and 2012; 2011 World champion, runner-up at 2007 WCh, third at 2009 WCh; European champion in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 (top scorer), runner-up at 2012 ECh; Champions League winner in 2011 European Cupwinners' Cup champion in 2005 and 2008 with Larvik. 'Linka' was elected World Handball Player in 2008.



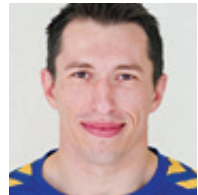
Thierry Omeyer FRA – The goalkeeper's and 2008 World Handball Player's list of achievements is something to be proud of: Olympic champion in 2008 and 2012, World champion in 2001, 2009 and 2011, third at 2003 and 2005 WCh; European champion in 2006 and 2010, third at 2008 ECh; Champions League winner with Montpellier (2003) and THW Kiel (2007, 2010 and 2012); 25 national titles. He returned to his home club of Chambéry in 2013 after thirteen years at THW Kiel.



Allison Pineau FRA – She was elected World Handball Player of the Year in 2009 at the age of 20; runner-up at 2009 and 2011 World Championships where she was also elected the best playmaker to join the all-star team. She has been playing at Romanian top club of Valcea since 2012.



Slawomir Szmaj POL – The first Pole and the fourth goalkeeper to win the World Handball Player award in 2009. Runner-up at 2007 World Championship, third at 2009 WCh; fourth at 2010 European Championship. He has been a great support to his club teams of Kielce (POL) and Rhein Neckar Löwen (GER) for years.

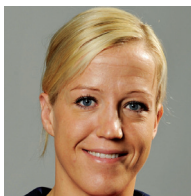


Cristina Neagu ROM – Aged 22, she became World Handball Player of the Year after being elected IHF Rookie of the Year a year before. Third and top scorer at 2010 European Championship. She was forced to take a two-year break following a shoulder injury.



Filip Jicha CZE – The Czech powerhouse failed to claim major titles with the national team but he was the top scorer and MVP at the 2010 ECh. Yet, he gained everything you could at club level between 2010 and 2012: German champion, Cup winner, Champions League winner with THW Kiel. Jicha received the World Handball Player award in 2010.





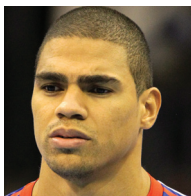
Heidi Løke NOR – The 2011 World Handball Player belongs to Norway's golden generation which won three major gold medals. 2012 Olympic champion; 2011 World champion, third at 2009 WCh; European champion in 2008 and 2010, runner-up at 2012 ECh; 2011 Champions League winner and top scorer with Larvik HK. Lately she has been at the Hungarian club of Győr.



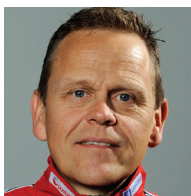
Mikkel Hansen DEN – His formidable hammered shots brought 'MC Hammer' the World Handball Player award in 2011. European champion in 2012; runner-up and top scorer at 2011 World Championship, runner-up and MVP at 2013 WCh. His clubs: Gudme (DEN), Barcelona (ESP), Copenhagen (DEN) and Paris St. Germain (FRA).



Alexandra do Nascimento BRA- First Brazilian and first Pan-American player to gain the World Handball Player award in 2012. Seventh at 2004 Olympic Games, ninth at 2008 Olympics, fifth at 2012 OG as well as top scorer and all-star team member; fifth and top scorer at 2011 World Championship; quadruple Pan-American champion with Brazil. She has been at the Austrian club of Hypo Niederösterreich since 2004.



Daniel Narcisse FRA – The back-court player possessing outstanding jumping power is the key to success of the French national team that brought him two Olympic gold medals (2008, 2012), two World Championship titles (2001, 2009) and two European Championship titles (2006, 2010). Champions League winner in 2010 and 2012 with THW Kiel. It is perfectly understandable that 'Air France, as he is affectionately named, was elected World Handball Player in 2012.



Thorir Hergeirsson NOR – After having been the assistant coach of Marit Breivik since 2001, the Icelander was promoted to head coach of the Norwegian women's national team in 2009 to extend the list of achievements: 2011 World champion, third at 2009 WCh; Olympic champion in 2012; 2010 European champion, runner-up at 2012 ECh. It's impossible to achieve more during such a short period. Consequently it was absolutely reasonable that he was elected World Coach (women) of the Year in 2011.

Handball *at the Olympics*

Ever since it has been the dream of every top athlete (official) to participate in the Olympic Games one time. The committee of handball, which emerged from the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) in August **1926**, had been aiming for. The umbrella organization instructed the body to both set up rules for handball and to make efforts to have the sport included in the Olympic programme. Thus an official request was put forward to the 25th IOC Session held in Monaco. A demonstration match was first played by students from the Berlin University for physical education at the **1928** Olympic Games in Amsterdam.

Another two years later, in **1930**, the makers of the Games formally admitted handball as an Olympic sport. It has not come down whether or not Avery Brundage, a quite influential American at that time and a friend of handball, had a hand in that.

The implementation of the IOC decision, however, was pending. Handball did not appear at the **1932** Games in Los Angeles, as according to the IHF history book published in 1960 “the conditions for the organization and participation ... have simply not been set.” Basketball and court ball were on the programme instead as world championship competitions as part of special game series.“

The Congress of the International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF), which had been set up in 1927, must have sensed the like, since it treated the Los Angeles Games with contempt to anticipatory resolve in 1930 that eleven-a-side handball would be an official sport on the occasion of the **1936** Games provided that Germany was awarded the Olympics that year. In order to be better prepared, it attempted to organize continental championships for the different games in the meantime.“ The continental championships did not take place, but handball was included in the Olympic programme at the 1936 Games thanks to a joint effort made by IOC, IAHF and the German sports authorities.



Berlin 1936 (6 -14 August)

Both a debut and a farewell



THE
11TH OLYMPIC GAMES
BERLIN, 1936

It was the first ever international handball event at global level straight away as part of the Olympic Games! Actually you couldn't have wished a better start for that sport.

Six men's teams competed on the field for Olympic medals in the eleven-a-side competition – unfortunately not more than six.

That's what the acting handball president, Dr Karl Ritter von Halt, also worried about: "The outcome is not that satisfying given the non-attendance of Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Holland and Luxemburg. The federations of those countries were unable to convince their National Olympic Committee of their teams' playing abilities and game philosophy to be strong enough to participate in the tournament. The committees' opposing views were partially backed by the results some of those teams had obtained against Austrian and German teams. Financial reasons were not relevant for the objection..."

The field of six (America, Germany, Austria, Romania, Switzerland and Hungary) first met in two preliminary round groups the four top teams of whom advanced to the final round where those teams met which had not yet played one another before the final table was drawn up. Thus a real final match was not staged.

Thanks to their 'choreographic skills' and experts' knowledge the decision-makers had, the decision was only made on the last matchday, that was on 14 August, in the match of Germany and Austria. In front of more than 100,000 spectators at the Olympic stadium with rain pouring down the Germans claimed a 10:6 (5:3) win to be the sole team that remained unbeaten and thus to win the first handball gold medal. Switzerland secured the bronze before Hungary, Romania and America (USA), that had sent a team of students just to take part....

100,000 spectators at the 'final' – an everlasting record? – was nothing exceptional, as another match of the later Olympic champions attracted the same number of fans. And they inspired 100,000 fans more at the other three arenas. Those 300,000 handball friends certainly gave the first impetus to the 1st World Handball Championship held in Germany again two years later.

Following that terrific debut 36 years passed by before handball was included in the

Olympic programme for the second time presenting itself to the world public along with other sports...



Berlin 1936 -An everlasting record? More than 100,000 spectators saw the first Olympic handball champions.



Hard times for handball

Similar to its predecessors the new International Handball Federation (IHF), founded in Copenhagen in **1946**, was equally interested in the Olympics. The decision-makers apparently started from the assumption that the inclusion under the Five Rings at the 1952 Games in Helsinki would just be a formality: “As we have learned that the Olympic programme was reduced, we might confine ourselves to having the last four compete for the final round in Helsinki. The IOC decision in Copenhagen in 1950 was the following: “The ‘chairman’ (President Baumann) did not share that rather optimistic approach”, as referred to in the minutes of the Council of **1949**. Not the IOC ‘but the OC of the hosting country selects the sports to be presented.’ He had ‘no illusions about the inclusion’. Unfortunately he was right for a fairly long time.

Below you may read about different stages during those lean years the International Handball Federation had to go through before rejoining the Olympic family.

1952 – Olympic Games in Helsinki – Sweden won the demonstration match against Denmark by 19:11 in front of 13,175 spectators during heavy rainfall (like at the Berlin 1936 Games) Siegfried Perrey (FRG), who played a rather important role 20 years ahead at the first Olympic seven-a-side handball tournament, was the referee of the match. According to the Council of the IHF Helsinki had made the handball people desire respect for handball as an Olympic sport.

1955 – The world association soon gave up its hope of having a presence at the Melbourne 1956 Olympics with one tournament, but the President was thinking aloud about another demonstration match instead: “We would indeed be able to have two strong teams travel to Melbourne. Related costs would amount to about 200,000 Swiss francs. However, that sum provided it could be raised is grossly disproportionate to the practical benefits from the Melbourne match, especially as handball is virtually unknown in Australia. Further it might be that match would probably be staged at the secondary venue in the end. “

That same year the IHF executives submitted an official request for inclusion of handball in the Olympic Games at the **1960** Olympics to the IOC Session in Paris on 24 September 1955 hoping for support from Avery Brundage, who had meanwhile assumed IOC presidency and who had promised in 1955 during his visit to Germany that he would advocate that handball be at the Olympics provided that the country provided the necessary conditions.“

In fact, conditions were not provided for the time being – at least not at the Rome 1960 Games.

“Things weren’t that easy“

... although the IHF (according to President Baumann) had strong arguments: “We currently have about 1.8 million members – a figure to be proud of. There are 24 full IHF member federations and one provisional member.“ Yet, experienced Baumann also showed understanding for the opposing side: “People keep asking: What about handball and the Olympic Games? Why aren’t you included? – Gentlemen, things aren’t that easy. As you all know, handball is one of the so-called optional sports that could be added to the programme at the host’s request. However, there are major influences affecting the inclusion of handball as an ordinary sport, as the International Olympic Committee aims at reducing the number of athletes and team members which has constantly increased. Those efforts made it even more difficult for team sports to be included in the programme.“

Nevertheless after the 1959 IOC Congress in Munich and prior to the **1961** meeting of the Olympians in Athens, Baumann held out hope that handball could finally be admitted at the Tokyo Games in 1964. After all there had been some signals from the land of the rising sun in the run-up to the meeting. But the plans went nowhere once again. Japan turned the IHF down referring to the limited spread of handball around the world and to commercial reasons. They added volleyball and judo to Olympic programme instead. Baumann named it ‘breach of promise’ and ‘a sad chapter in IHF history’.

In the ensuing period the stream of bad news didn’t stop: During its meeting in Baden Baden (FRG) in 1963 the IOC resolved that handball was not reinstated for the 1968 Games either ‘given that the sport is virtually unknown outside Europe.’ Hardly knowing what to do the IHF distributed an illustrated brochure in English, French, Spanish and in one Slavic language entitled ‘What is handball?’.

A clearly formulated resolution passed by the **1964** IHF Congress and submitted to the IOC was more effective though:

“The Congress of the International Handball Federation convened in Budapest on 18/19 September 1964. Prior to the opening of the XVIII Olympic Summer Games in Tokyo, the body took the opportunity to bring forward again its request for inclusion of handball in the Olympic programme.”

The International Olympic Committee unites over 100 nations. Handball is played as an amateur sport in more than half of them; there are about 2 million handball athletes fully justifying the request for reinstatement of handball in the Olympic programme.

In the light of the global spread of the sport of handball the IHF Congress

feels affronted if handball is excluded from the greatest sports festival of nations. Therefore the International Handball Federation makes a well-founded request to the International Olympic Committee inviting it to carefully examine the status of handball again and to include handball in the Olympic programme of the 1972 Games.”

Daume's memorable plea

While the IHF resolution made most of the IOC members think it all over again, a single man finally managed the quantum jump one year later: The impassioned plea made by the president of the organizing committee for the 1972 Games of the XX Olympiad and honorary president of the German Handball Federation, Willi Daume, in Madrid in October **1965** convinced the members of the International Olympic Committee of the value of the handball game on the international stage. He was highly skilled at promoting the game by demonstrating the status of handball as a pure amateur sport all around the world. – IOC President Avery Brundage was absolutely delighted with the demonstration match between Spain and the Federal Republic of Germany attended by all the Olympic notables. It wasn't difficult for him to support Daume's request to have handball fully included in the Olympic programme.

And the resolution the world of handball had been waiting for over more than three decades was finally made: “On the occasion of the 64th IOC Session in Madrid in October 1965 the members of the IOC decided to make handball part of the programme of the Olympic Games with a first event – a men's Olympic tournament - to be held in Munich in 1972.”

Thus the world association had been fed the ball again as for the question which form of handball would be played in Munich and in the future that was still pending. The IHF Congress convened in **1966** had to make a choice between eleven-a-side, seven-a-side indoor or seven-a-side outdoor handball. By unanimous agreement seven-a-side indoor handball with 16 participating teams was chosen.

When Siegfried Perrey, who had meanwhile been the responsible person for handball within the Munich Organizing Committee, added the OC was basically interested in including women's handball in the programme, the Congress unanimously decided to propose a women's tournament too, even so it failed, as was revealed in **1970**. The Olympic village burst at all seams anyway, and necessary venues are missing. As is common knowledge those were needed for 16 men's teams...

Women were still behind ...

Subsequently 37 nations eager to participate in the first men's Olympic seven-

a-side handball tournament submitted their registration to the IHF: 24 from Europe, six from Africa, four from Pan-America and three from Asia. According to the qualification criteria 16 earned a ticket to Munich.

President Baumann stated as follows what Munich had in store for the handball friends: “We are assured that the sport of handball will add value to the Games. It is certainly true regarding sporting performances, as the world’s best handball players will meet in Munich, quite in contrast to football.“ And Siegfried Perrey added: “Having been included in the Olympic programme, seven-a-side handball became a global sport which cannot be ignored.“



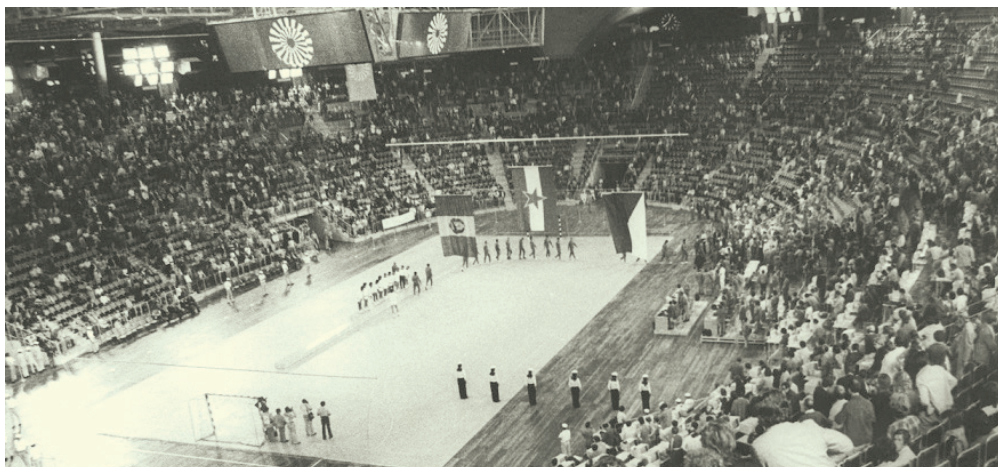
Munich 1972 (30 August – 10 September)

Powerless against a magician



Munich1972

Comeback of handball under the Olympic Rings. Spectators at the hall of Munich Göppingen, Augsburg, Ulm and Böblingen witnessed a giant tournament featuring 16 teams. After the matches of the four preliminary round groups the top eight teams are comprised in two groups of four where each nation played another three matches. With CSSR and GDR tied in group I the goal difference decided in favour of Czechoslovakia to advance to the final. In group II favourites Yugoslavia earned a clean sweep to leave behind Romania behind, which earned a 19:16 (11:8) win over the GDR in the consolation final to secure the first Olympic handball bronze medal at the hall.



Munich 1972 - Preparing for the victory ceremony. The flags of the three medallists were already flying at the Olympic hall.

The Yugoslavians who had been predominant from the very beginning continued their clean sweep until the final to soar to an easy 21:16 victory over the CSSR with a half-time score of 12:5. The silver medallists couldn't do anything about outstanding athletes such as goalkeeper Abas Arslanagic and Hrovje Horvat, Milan Lazarevic or Zdravko Miljak. Vlado Stenzel was the father of success. The 'magician' was to become a talking point six years later in the Federal Republic of Germany...

Speaking of the Federal Republic of Germany, the host team, which had high hopes when starting the tournament, that was the second on German territory, had to settle for sixth place in the end.

Montreal 1976 (18 – 28 July)

Women made their debut



Montréal 1976

The first women's Olympic tournament featuring six teams in a first step. More wasn't possible at that time. 11 teams competed in the men's tournament – The odd number was due to the boycott of some African countries among whom

was Tunisia.

World champion Romania and host Canada had directly qualified in the men's category; another ten participants out of 46 nations registered had to be established. Faroe Islands were not eligible to play, as they did not dispose of their own NOC. Surprising results during the qualification: The Federal Republic of Germany kicked out the GDR as Yugoslavia did with Iceland and Czechoslovakia with Sweden, Denmark with Spain and Tunisia (before they stayed away) with Egypt. The USA qualified by default, as Argentina withdrew. Japan defeated Israel.

The remaining eleven teams first met in two main round groups before entering the final stage where the USSR overcame several-time World champions Romania by 19:15 to claim their first ever handball title in front of a 14,000 audience for the first time. A number of stars to become world famous later on formed the core team of the Olympic champion coached by legend Anatoli Jewtuschenko: Alexander Anpilogov, Jury Klimov or Vladimir Maximov to mention just a few of them. Poland downed the Federal Republic by 21:18 to earn the bronze and to relegate their opponent to rank four.

In the women's category the Olympic champion was established in a round-robin format. The top four teams of the 1975 WCh directly qualified added to that were Canada and intercontinental champion Japan (against USA and Tunisia). The Soviet women dominated the tournament as they liked (five

victories in five games) and were home and dry prior to the last matchday. Their 14:11 win over later silver medallists GDR was the closest one. USSR coach Igor Turtschin and his husband Sinaida, who proved skilful at pulling the strings on the court were the keys to success. Hungary on level points with the GDR had to be content with bronze due to a poor goal difference.

Moscow 1980 (20 - 30 July)

West countries boycott



According to the boycott from their NOC the handball federations of the Federal Republic of Germany (reigning World champion), Tunisia and Japan withdrew following a political declaration from the US government because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The IHF nominated Hungary (Europe), Kuwait (Asia) and Algeria (Africa) to serve as the substitutes in the men's tournament.

There were two groups again. Strictly speaking the men's tournament, on a high level in terms of sports, saw no less than seven teams on equal level – a novelty in top handball that with that clarity had never been the case at major tournaments before. An essential feature was that extra time was needed to decide three final matches out of four. Two years after the their WCh final defeat against the Federal Republic of Germany in Copenhagen host USSR conceded another defeat against a German team: The GDR prevailed by 23:22 after extra time that was a little sensation at least caused among others by Wieland Schmidt, the 'phantom' between the posts of the GDR. He sent the host into sheer despair. While Romania's 20:18 win against Hungary, that brought them the bronze, was in line with the forecast, Spain's close 24:23 victory (after extra time) over favourites Yugoslavia could be a first sign of their progress to join the world's handball elite.



Moscow 1980 - Russia was undisputed to claim the gold medal in front of their fans.

The outcome of the tournament was that GDR, USSR, Romania, Hungary, Spain and Yugoslavia directly qualified for the WCh in 1982.

The second women's tournament in Olympic history featuring six teams and a round-robin format again. Yugoslavia won the silver medal in front of the GDR to cause a splash. The Soviet Union was undisputed though to gain their second Olympic gold with the 'golden boy', coach Igor Turtschin, again. The top three sides directly qualified for the 1982 World Championship.

Los Angeles 1984 (31 July – 11 August)

Tit-for-tat from the East



Boycott Games again that was a tit-for-tat from the Eastern bloc countries: At the USSR's initiative the actually qualified teams of USSR (World champion), GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia as well as Cuba withdrew whereas the Socialist Republic of Romania did not. FR Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and Iceland (to replace Cuba) were the substitute nations.

*Los Angeles
1984 – The
Opening
Ceremony.*



The Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia did participate and was rewarded with two gold medals – until then a unique success in Olympic handball history.

The men's side beat the Federal Republic by 18:17 (7:8) in the final with the star of the probably best ever Yugoslavian team, beginning to shine, e.g. Vujovic, Vukovic, Basic and Co. beginning to shine. Favourites Romania (23:19 against Denmark) settled for bronze that was their fourth medal at four Olympic seven-a-side tournaments.

Yugoslavia's women led by Svetlana Kitic and Jasna Kolar, celebrated their first Olympic triumph in front of two strong Asian teams, Korea (silver) and China (bronze), to herald changes in international women's handball, as Europe's predominance collapsed at the Los Angeles Games for the first time.

Seoul 1988 (20 September – 1 October)

Korea's rise: gold and silver



It was for the first time after twelve years and two boycotts in Moscow and Los Angeles that the entire world's elite participated in the Olympics except for the Federal Republic (men) and the GDR women (women) who missed the qualification. As eight women's teams participated, the competition format was changed. The preliminary round was followed by the main round taking into consideration the previously obtained results. There weren't any finals but the table ranking was decisive.

The men's team of the USSR that had been brilliantly prepared in terms of tactics and technique celebrated their second Olympic triumph after Montreal. In one of the best finals ever (32:25), they deployed all their skills against the quick and strong South Koreans. Competitors from Yugoslavia (first bronze medal), Hungary, Sweden, CSSR, GDR, Iceland and Spain fell short of those two teams' outstanding class. The GDR and Iceland caused something new in Olympic handball history in their match for seventh place: Two extra-time periods were needed to determine the winner with help of a 7m shoot-out. The Germans finally prevailed by 31:29.

Upheaval in international women's handball continued. Korea was the first non-European side to become Olympic champion in front of the rising Norwegians followed by double Olympic champions Soviet Union, title defenders Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

Both handball tournaments staged in the province city of Suwon suffered from little interest, as the sport was hardly spread in the land of the morning calm. In order to avoid a completely empty Olympic sports hall school children were sent there every day. Sole the men's final met a perfect and worthy setting at the big Seoul Olympic hall that was filled to capacity.

Barcelona 1992 (27 July – 8 August)

No changes at the top



The field of participants – twelve men’s and eight women’s teams – remained unchanged but the women’s competition format was new. Semi-finals, finals and placement matches were staged after the preliminary round. Those changes were also due to the political change: After the fall of the Iron Curtain the GDR didn’t exist anymore, and the former Soviet Union competed as part of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

That didn’t change much regarding the predominance of the Soviet men’s side: The CIS team was dominant during the preliminaries, edged Iceland by 23:19 in the semis and overrun Sweden by 22:20 to become Olympic champion. Top scorer Talant Duishebaev (47 goals), made a major contribution to success and for sure was appointed member of the all-star team nominated for the first time. A 24:20 win against Iceland in the match for bronze brought France their first Olympic medal.

Korea’s women proved even more predominant than four years ago. It was quite an effort to overcome Germany (26:25) at the semi-final stage but in the final against Norway it wasn’t. The final score was 28:21 in favour of the Asian side, whose most successful scorer was 19-year-old Oh Seong Ok. Like the men’s team the women’s side from the former Soviet Union had coped well with their country’s upheaval securing bronze after their 24:20 win against Germany.



Barcelona 1992 – Gold for the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Atlanta 1996 (24 July – 4 August)

Two new faces and a record



Surprises occurred in the land of the unlimited opportunities where handball rather played a minor role. All matches of the Olympic handball tournaments were sold out; more than 35,000 spectators followed the men's final at the Georgia Dome – a new Olympic seven-a-side handball record. And there were new champions: the men's team from Croatia and Denmark's women claimed Olympic gold!

Russia, the legal successor to the CIS, didn't have a chance in the men's tournament that time (fifth). But the group winners such as Sweden and France as well as second-ranked Croatia and Spain were the more successful to advance to the semis. Sweden overcame Spain (25:20) while Croatia beat France (24:20). The Croatians, who had experienced the foundation of their state just four years before, gained the upper hand by a whisker (27:26 (16:11)) to cause a sensation. Father Velimar Kljaic, the coach, and his son Nenad, the player, thus became the Croatian heroes of Atlanta.

*Atlanta 1996 -
Excited spectators, as
were the Norwegians,
provided a perfect
setting in the Georgia
Dome.*



The female Olympic champions, Denmark, had their hero too: Anja Andersen. The outstanding player was both brain and scorer. During extra time of the final against Korea (29:29 after 60 minutes) she led her team to a 37:33 victory and thus to the gold. She sent the audience and the whole of Denmark into raptures. Hungary soared to a 20:18 victory over Norway to earn the bronze.

A lot of good news in Atlanta too but the number of participating teams (twelve men's sides and eight women's teams) remained unchanged. Equal representation had yet to come.



*Sydney 2000 –
Welcome to all guests.*

Sydney 2000 (16 September – 1 October)

At the top in Down Under



Another leap forward on the road to equal representation: For the first time the number of women's teams entitled to participate was ten whereas the men's field comprised twelve as before. Nice to see that 99.9% per cent of tickets were sold. Both tournaments proved highly attractive; the media had nothing but high praise in store for the sport that was widely unknown in down under.

Russia, which had regained strength, made their contribution when they downed 'eternal runners-up' Sweden in the final (28:26 (13:14)). Those two teams were the sole which had made a clean sweep until the final. Two athletes from the Olympic champion were in the focus: goalkeeper Andrei Lavrov, who gained his third gold medal during his fourth Olympic campaign, and pivot Dimitri Torgovanov earning his second gold medal. On the Swedish side captain Stefan Lövgren contributed 51 goals but could not avoid defeat. Bronze went to Spain, which were fine with a 26:22 victory over newcomers Serbia Montenegro.

Denmark's women continued their brilliant performance they had already shown in Atlanta to bring home and dry the final win against Hungary by 31:27 (14:16) despite some trouble in the opening phase and thus to secure the second gold for Danish dynamite. Hungary won silver whereas Norway defeated Korea by 22:21 to claim bronze and to leave the Asian side empty-handed after four medals in a row (2x gold, 2x silver).

A word regarding Australia: Both teams let all other teams go in front in terms of sports to rank last. They were a very good host though and could be proud of the Sydney Games that proved to be one of the best organized events in Olympic history full of atmosphere.

Athens 2004 (13 – 29 August)

Denmark: third gold in a row



ATHINA 2004



The number of participants remained unchanged whereas the format changed: Quarter-finals were held for the first time at the Olympic handball tournaments.

In the men's category Russia (against France), Hungary (against Korea), Croatia (against Greece) and Germany (against Spain) gained the upper hand at that stage although Germany was forced into two extra-time periods before being lucky in the 7m shoot-out thanks to goalkeeper Henning Fritz, who was mainly involved in keeping hold of the 32:30 win. Croatia (33:31 against Hungary) and Germany (21:15 against Russia) advanced to the final. A 26:24 victory in front of over 25,000 spectators at the Athens arena and thus Croatia's second gold medal after 1996 earned coach Lino Cervar a spot in the history books.

The performance shown by the Danish women was equally impressive. They managed a pure hat-trick after 1996 and 2000 thanks to a two-hour final thriller against Korea. Following a draw at the preliminary round stage between the two teams the ordinary 60 minutes (25:25) and two extra-time periods (29:29, 34:34) were not enough to establish a winner. Finally a 7m shoot-out tipped the scale for the Danes (38:36) while deeply disappointed Koreans having to settle for silver. The team from the Ukraine earned a surprising 21:18 victory over France to claim the bronze medal celebrating the biggest achievement of their young handball history.



Athens 2004 – Denmark's women won their third gold in a row.



Confusion in the world of handball: Due to the unpleasant behaviour of some athletes as part of the Pre-Olympic test event in Athens word had it the IOC was thinking about removing handball from the Olympic programme in the future. The world association reacted promptly by producing an ad video about ‘Handball at the Olympic Games’ especially for the Olympians and in good time prior to the coming meeting. The 8-minute video clip that showed highlights from the Games in Sydney, Atlanta and Athens was convincing. Against all odds handball remained on the Olympic programme.



Beijing 2008 (8 - 24 August)

Women on equal terms



Mission accomplished! Inequality was over. The women’s finally were on equal terms.

For the first time in IOC history equality was reached as for the number of men’s and women’s teams at the Olympic handball tournaments, that was twelve. The competition format (including the quarter-finals) remained unchanged, however, top teams and medallists changed.

France soared to their first Olympic triumph in the men’s tournament whereas Germany made an early exit at the preliminary round stage. ‘Les Bleus’ remained unbeaten in the preliminaries to overcome Russia at the quarter-final stage and double Olympic champions Croatia in the semis. Quite surprisingly Iceland also advanced to the finals after eliminating Poland and Spain. Still, the men from the land of the geysers had to accept the supremacy of coach Claude Onesta’s protégés. Despite of that the Icelanders enjoyed their biggest Olympic success, as did Olympic champions France. Spain secured the bronze thanks to their 35:29 win over Croatia.

In the absence of triple Olympic champions Denmark, which had missed the qualification, two teams proved predominant in the women’s tournament: Norway and

Olympic Games	Men		Women	
	Teams	Athletes	Teams	Athletes
Berlin 1936	6	22	-	-
Munich 1972	16	16	-	-
Montreal 1976	11	14	6	14
Moscow 1980	12	14	6	14
Los Angeles 1984	12	15	6	15
Seoul 1988	12	15	8	15
Barcelona 1992	12	16	8	16
Atlanta 1996	12	16	9	16
Sydney 2000	12	15	10	15
Athens 2004	12	15	10	15
Beijing 2008	12	15	12	15

Russia. Both sides remained unbeaten progressing to the final although Norway got quite unsettled in their semis against Korea – people considered to be the anticipated final – but finally prevailed 29:28. Then the Norwegians earned a trouble-free 34:27 (18:13) win against Russia to claim their first gold. Marit Breivik, the world's most decorated female coach, had made her dream come true. And Korea's 39:33 defeat against Hungary that earned them the bronze medal was a kind of consolation to the Asian side.



Youth Olympic Games: handball included twice

The 1st Youth Olympic Games were staged in Singapore from 14 to 26 August 2010 including handball! Five national teams from five continents were eligible to play in the men's (players born in 1992) and women's (players born in 1993) tournament each. Thus and in line with the IOC dictum the youth coming from all over the world was given priority over performance principles. The medallists in Singapore: Men's Youth: 1. EGY, 2. KOR, 3. FRA; women's youth: 1. DEN, 2. RUS, 3. BRA



London 2012 (28 July – 12 August)

Great atmosphere at the Copper Box



In fact, London is not considered to be the heart or the cradle of handball. But whoever watched the games in the British capital might have had such idea. It was simply amazing what was going on at the Copper Box, the handball venue, already at the preliminary round stage: Fully packed stands, a breathtaking atmosphere also during matches which normally wouldn't appeal masses of people – and high interest from the media. No doubt that the handball tournaments were a big success at the London Games. The Copper Box proved a crowd-puller at the Olympic Park. Venerable BBC invited to the box that rocks on a daily basis. World-class sport was performed there anyway, and France and Norway proved to be the very best once again.

The Frenchmen had some trouble in the preliminaries then outclassed Spain in the quarter-finals to advance to the final where they met surprisingly strong Swedes, who had overcome Denmark and Hungary beforehand. Hence France's final 22:21 win turned out pretty close. Thus gold went to France, silver to Sweden and bronze to Croatia, which defeated Hungary by 33:26 in the 'consolation final'.

Norway followed suit in the women's category, although things had looked completely different in the beginning: After completion of the preliminary round the Scandinavians ranked fourth before remembering their strength to outstrip

Brazil and old rivals Korea at the quarter-finals and semi-finals. Montenegro, which had already caused a surprise when they had qualified for the Olympics, fared similarly. Following rank four after the preliminaries the players from the Balkan region overcame France and Spain but had to give in to Norway in the final (23:26). Spain earned the bronze (31:29 against Korea).

All things considered: 220,000 spectators attended great matches in London – The utilization of halls amounted to 96 per cent (tickets sold) – Handball ranked sixth in the overall spectator's ranking considering all Olympic sports and won high praise from the IOC. Handball is firmly established at the Olympics.



London 2012 – The second gold medal in a follow up for Norway.

Olympic Medallists		
	Men	Women
Berlin 1936	1. GER, 2. AUT, 3. SUI	- - -
Munich 1972	1. YUG, 2. TCH, 3. ROM	- - -
Montreal 1976	1. URS, 2. ROM, 3. POL	1. URS, 2. GDR, 3. HUN
Moscow 1980	1. GDR, 2. URS, 3. ROM	1. URS, 2. YUG, 3. GDR
Los Angeles 1984	1. YUG, 2. FRG, 3. ROM	1. YUG, 2. KOR, 3. CHN
Seoul 1988	1. URS, 2. KOR, 3. YUG	1. KOR, 2. NOR, 3. URS
Barcelona 1992	1. EUN, 2. SWE, 3. FRA	1. KOR, 2. NOR, 3. EUN
Atlanta 1996	1. CRO, 2. SWE, 3. ESP	1. DEN, 2. KOR, 3. HUN
Sydney 2000	1. RUS, 2. SWE, 3. ESP	1. DEN, 2. HUN, 3. NOR
Athens 2004	1. CRO, 2. GER, 3. RUS	1. DEN, 2. KOR, 3. UKR
Beijing 2008	1. FRA, 2. ISL, 3. ESP	1. NOR, 2. RUS, 3. KOR
London 2012	1. FRA, 2. SWE, 3. CRO	1. NOR, 2. MNE, 3. ESP



IOC: handball to be one of 25 Olympic Core Sports in 2020

In February 2013 the International Olympic Committee's Executive Board announced the 25 Olympic core sports for the 2020 Olympic Games to be presented at the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires in September 2013 for approval. Handball was one of those premium sports that proved the quality, popularity and acceptance from the media, which lately drew the general public's attention at the London Games. In a first reaction IHF President Dr Moustafa stated: "We are proud of being among the 25 Olympic core sports that underlines the global significance and the development of our sport. The Olympic Games are the most important platform for handball to gain in popularity and to further progress." Hence a good signal for the future that, according to the Olympic calendar, will already start at the 2016 Olympic Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro seeing handball tournaments for 12 teams each in the men's and women's category.



World Selection – always something special

Gala of the stars

You take the world's best handball players, a special occasion, an attractive opponent – a fully packed hall, a top coach, top referees and a competent crowd. These are the essential ingredients of outstanding and rarely encountered sporting delight. If the mixture is well done you may certainly expect a real highlight that is the appearance of the World Selection.



August 1968: 1st appearance of the World Selection against Czechoslovakia on the small court in Karvina

Such star ensemble appeared in public only two-dozen times in IHF history. And every time you read the squad list it was like the all-stars of international handball. For that reason alone their appearance is always something special. And nearly all the time the 'handball artists' claim victory although that is actually of no importance, as something else is in the focus aside from presenting the sport that has meanwhile spread along all five continents: The elite players aim at paying respect to a federation – or a club – and additionally commit themselves to charities.

Nonetheless some obstacles were formed on the course. When in Czechoslovakia in 1967, the press proposed the 'world's top 16 players' to meet the national selection and federation president Bocek submitted a corresponding request to the IHF, the Council's opinion on that issue was divided: five votes in favour, five votes against, three abstentions. President Baumann used his veto set fourth in the bylaws to favour the staging of the match.

The World Selection played its first match in Karvina (TCH) on 11 August 1968 Am 11. August 1968. Headed by World champion coach Ioan Kunst-Ghermanescu handball artists such as Gheorghe Gruia, Herbert Lübking und

Hrvoje Horvath showed handball at its best on the small court in front of 7,000 spectators. The media that got the ball rolling were thrilled to bids.

After further matches in Yugoslavia, Germany and the Soviet Union the World Selection featuring among others Vladimir Kravzov, Peter Kovacs, Jerzy Klempel, Vasile Stinga and Kurt Klühspies met a club team for the first time in 1980 – VfL Gummersbach and lost in front of 12,000 rapturous fans: The important thing was that the proceeds from the event were added to a fund to support world-class player Joachim Deckarm, who had a terrible accident.

In 1992 the elite team (including Andrei Lavrov, Ahmed El Attar, Robert Licu, Talant Duishebaev and Per Carlen and headed by coaching legend Bengt Johansson) performed a gala in Paris whose net proceeds went to the French aids federation.

Two appearances in 1995 on the island of La Réunion added to the promotion of handball in the Indian Ocean region with World champion France as the opponent. Among others Mats Olsson, Irfan Smajagic, Staffan Olsson, Kyung Shin Yoon and Talant Duishebaev did not want to miss out on that trip. Jackson Richardson was part of the French side. After his playing career he launched into the fight against doping as an ‘ambassador’ of his home country’s government in that region

Where handball had started...

And in 1997 the selection met in Nyborg (near Odense), Denmark, that is supposed to be the cradle of handball. That’s where handball had started precisely 100 years ago making its way around the world. As part of that jubilee coach Juan de Dios Roman Seco relied on big names again such as Lavrov, Al Attar, Yoon and Duishebaev.

Further jubilees were celebrated in 2003 and 2004. It was the 75th anniversary of the Handball Union of Russia that was celebrated in Moscow, and Joachim Deckarm turned 50 one year later in Saarbrücken. The proceeds went to the fund which had been created for him.

The World Selection played three matches in Spain and Russia in 2005. Double World Handball Player Talant Duishebaev had his farewell game in Ciudad Real, and the ball artists met the then World champion, Spain, in order to raise money for the tsunami victims in Phuket, Thailand. The match in Chekov was to bid farewell to the World champions and Olympic champions of the golden Russian national team, who were to enter their well-deserved retirement from handball.

The exceptionally gifted ball artists made their last appearance to date on 2 December 2007 at the Cairo arena, venue of the 1999 WCh final, that was filled to capacity. It was the 50th anniversary of the Egyptian Handball Federation. Croatia’s charismatic coach Lino Cervar lined up Thierry Omeyer, Stefan Lövgren, Igor Vori, Didier Dinart, Siarhei Rutenka and others.



December 2007: last appearance of the World Selection to date in its friendly match with Egypt at the Cairo arena.

The women still live under the shadow of their male counterparts in that field. The Women's World Selection only had three matches all of which played in Scandinavia against Scandinavian teams to pay women's handball in Northern Europe a compliment.

Matches of the World Selection				
Date	Venue	Opponent	Result	Spectators
Men				
11.08.1968	Karvina	TCH	24:21 (13: 6)	7.000
13.10.1974	Ljubljana	YUG	20:20 (10: 4)	3.500
01.11.1975	Dortmund	FRG	25:21 (12:12)	4.000
13.06.1978	Kiev	URS	18:23 (5:12)	6.000
23.11.1980	Dortmund	VfL Gummersbach	20:21 (12:13)	12.000
26.11.1980	Gothenburg	SWE	28:24 (15:12)	3.500
20.04.1985	Copenhagen	DEN	26:23 (11:13)	3.500
08.07.1989	Lisbon	POR	29:26 (13:11)	1.400
08.01.1991	Stockholm	Scandinavia	31:26 (19:12)	4.800
09.01.1991	Oslo	Scandinavia	30:27 (15:13)	7.500
14.12.1992	Paris	FRA	32:31 (16:15)	4.800
16.12.1992	Saarbrücken	GER	23:23 (12:12)	2.300
21.12.1994	Cairo	EGY	26:24 (16:12)	12.000
23.07.1995	La Reunion	FRA	36:31 (19:16)	6.000
25.07.1995	La Reunion	FRA	31:31 (13:15)	6.500
03.08.1997	Nyborg / Odense	DEN	29:26 (17:13)	1.800
28.12.2003	Moscow	RUS	30:30 (14:19)	2.500
30.03.2004	Saarbrücken	GER	44:38 (23:15)	3.700
04.06.2005	Ciudad Real	Ciudad Real	34:35 (19:20)	4.500
05.06.2005	Madrid	ESP	30:42 (15:19)	12.000
28.12.2005	Chekov	RUS	37:33 (18:18)	2.500
02.12.2007	Cairo	EGY	40:39 (23:20)	10.000
Women				
02.05.1987	Oslo	NOR	27:23 (14:13)	5.270
08.01.1991	Stockholm	Scandinavia	26:25 (15:13)	4.800
09.01.1991	Oslo	Scandinavia	22:19 (9:11)	8.000

The 2009 photo of the year:
Stephane Pillaud FRA



Women and handball

In terms of sports on equal level

Whether it's outdoor, indoor or beach handball – women have been playing according to the same rules as men. Not as dynamic, not as hard; they rather focus on the game itself. Unfortunately women's handball has not been as popular as men's handball in most of the countries of the world. Given the tough principles of the market, i.e. of the money, it also means that women have to fight much more than men for public acceptance and attention.

In spite of the different preconditions, the position of the International Handball Federation and its predecessor has been very clear in terms of importance of women's handball: The IHF has always kept a careful eye on the equality of women and men ensuring they are treated the same way in sporting terms. This has been proven by the world championships in all categories as well as by the club competitions. The Olympic Games (apart from the Super Globe) formed the only exception, as IOC and IHF left the women out in 1972. However, bit by bit and finally by the 2008 Games in Beijing, compensation was made in this regard. In terms of sport, women are now on the same level as men.

Albeit scantily clad ...



Without subtitle

Looking back at the history, this development is actually logic and understandable. Two very positive aspects become clear: As can be seen on a relief in the Villa Romana de Casale, women – albeit scantily clad – had been throwing balls from one to another during leisure time already in the Roman Empire (photo). Swimming, dancing and ball games were the only sports women were allowed to carry out during antiquity. The balls games may not be considered as team sport competition, but at least they were known as “Herpestum” (Roman) or “Harpaston” (Greek). Also in the following centuries, the apple-sized ball was one of the favourite objects for women's games, in which also the men often took part.

It was only the German physical education teacher Max Heiser who, in view of the increasing number of boys playing football, thought about suitable games for girls and women. Out of the popular goalball game, he developed a handball game and created rules for it in 1917, after Sweden and Denmark had already played handball according to rules thanks to Holger Nielsen eleven years earlier.

It was of utmost importance for Heiser that the handball game remained a sport without body contact, that the ball could only be held for three seconds and that running was not allowed when being in ball possession. Harpaston had probably been somewhat similar to that. Even though there are centuries between these two games, they may be regarded as pioneers for women's handball.

Women's handball continued to develop in the same way as men's handball after the 2nd World War, but it received less publicity and was rather inconspicuous. It had its competitions as men's handball. Again money played a substantial role with the women's game less prominent to the public, and therefore the public's perception made the women's game fade into the (media) background against the men. There were though two exceptions:

Two exceptions

The first exception occurred in the socialist countries in the Eastern bloc over a period of 40 years, where female handball players were not only equal to men on performance level, but also received a better reputation from the public, even though directed more or less by the government, in comparison to the publicity in most of the western countries. The other exception was the two Northern countries Norway and Denmark. The Norwegians marketed women's handball with huge success to the public and have maintained this success until today; the so far only world-class coach Marit Breivik has played an important role in this development. Thanks to Ulrik Wilbek and their international success, also the Danish women managed to top the popularity of the Danish men's team. The Danish national women's team has received wide recognition in their country, much more than women receive in most of the other countries in the world. This is probably also due to the facts that they have always focused on 7-a-side indoor handball and that this discipline has received huge support as the country's national sport.

Furthermore the women received more recognition at the 2011 Women's World Championship in Brazil on a worldwide basis. The changes and development of the performance level were as significant as never before. Brazil did not only defeat vice-world champion France, but also Romania, Croatia and Russia. The team achieved a sensational fifth rank and their left-handed player Alexandra Nascimento became top scorer. For the first time in the history of women's handball, a Brazilian back-court player became World Handball Player of the Year. Also new: African champion Angola beat Iceland and China and thus stopped Germany's dreams of the Olympics in London 2012. Furthermore Spain finished third ahead of Denmark. The women's team of Montenegro became European

champions for the first time in 2012, which fit well into the changing picture. The international women's handball has been as successful as never before. A good sign for the future, for the International Handball Federation and all its members.

Failed at the first attempt

In terms of sports performance women can thus definitely keep up with men. But how about their recognition and representation on administrative and management level of the National Federations and Continental Confederations as well as of the International Handball Federation? The attempt to achieve equality has become clear at conferences again and again.

A satisfying solution has not (yet) been found, but step-by-step progress has been made. In the following you will find an overview of the most important stages of this development.

At the 1954 IHF Congress in Opatija, host Yugoslavia requested forming a subcommission for women's handball and succeeded. The main task of the commission was to support women's handball and to define ways on how to strengthen the recognition of women's handball. Austrian Ludwig Clima became chairman of the commission. In the election of the members, the two female candidates Mrs Taange (SWE) and Mrs Duboisset (FRA) (the first names are not provided in the minutes) had to give way to their three competing male candidates. Hostility towards women or just spirit of the time? Most probably the latter. – Two years later, at the Congress in Stockholm, the commission was removed, as it became clear to the delegates that implementing a commission alone did not solve the problems if there's a lack of working basis and initiative. – The issues were to be handled by the TK including an elected expert in women's empowerment.

Nothing happened for a long time in this matter until the Nigerian D.D. Kubeyinje took the floor at the 1982 Congress in London. Apart from female representatives from Bulgaria, China and Italy, she was one of four women within the 93 delegates from 53 member countries and requested a stronger involvement of women and more rights to a say from other continents. The request was unanimously approved, pointing out that only at the last Congress the number of IHF top management members coming from Third World countries had doubled. Although women had not been included in that increase, the Congress did not see any necessity to go one step further at that point of time.

Other International Federations faced similar problems in getting women into the spotlight, which became clear in 1987, when the IHF asked for the needed funds at the IOC for the first symposium on women's handball. The IOC President conveyed his congratulations on the seminar and called it the first experiment of

Olympic Solidarity for women's sport. Handball was thus ahead of the game and showed everyone else the way. One year later a lot of praise was also given to the organizer of the symposium, the Austrian Handball Federation, which received the Hans Baumann Trophy.

At the same Congress the Canadian Linda Kaye referred to the constantly increasing role of women in sport and in particular in women's handball. She asked the Council, the Executive Committee and the Member Federations to study the role of women in handball carefully. She asked the Council to consider including a woman in the Council having a vote. – Lanc thanked her for the short but impressive words. He agreed that the Council would deal with this matter at its next meeting. For the time being, Kaye together with her colleagues Williams (GBR) and Kubeyinje had to be content with counting the votes of the Congress delegates, which was not an affront, but a reward.

Two years later the first ever woman within an IHF body received a lot of applause: Dr Ursula Miedlich (GDR) was appointed as member of the IHF Medical Commission (MC) and fought against doping offences. At a later point Dr Petra Platen (GER) and Grete Myklebust (NOR) followed.

In favour – and still against

At the same time Great Britain and the USA, in the person of Renate Buehning, fought for a seat and a vote in the Council. Their proposal was to increase the Council by one seat to in total 19 members, adding that the additional seat should always be held by a woman. The arguments for this proposal made sense, since half of all people in the world were women; no one prevented the Congress from electing more women into Council positions. After a long debate, a vote took place, in which only four federations rejected the proposal. Nevertheless, it was declined, as 26 votes in favour were not enough to achieve the two-third majority required for changes to the Statutes. The experienced Curt Wadmark from Sweden called the problem outright: If we do not have any women on national management level, there are of course no women to move up. It's as simple and true and difficult as that. President Lanc closed the debate with a recommendation that the National Federations should look for female candidates for the commissions among their own people and nominate female candidates for the positions of the Council. Nominations would solve the problem better than official letters and requests.

Reproach from Lausanne

Before the federations were able to implement this well-intentioned advice, the International Olympic Committee came into play, requesting the substantial equality of women's handball in all areas. People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones though. The number of women within the IOC (and other leading associations) was not exactly exemplary. At the recommendation of the Council, the 1992 Congress stroke back and unanimously adopted the following resolution to the IOC:

In consideration of the facts:

- that the IHF, in cooperation with the IOC and Olympic Solidarity, has made substantial contributions to the equality of women's sports by organizing the first women's handball coaching symposium
- that the organizers of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta had assured the IHF, prior to the awarding of these Games, that no technical and financial barriers would hinder equality of the Women's Olympic Tournament and the Men's Olympic Tournament (12 nations)
- that the equality of the Women's Olympic Tournament and the Men's Olympic Tournament for volleyball and basketball was decided by the IOC
- that no oral and written steps taken by the IHF had led to any reaction to the IHF's arguments

the 1992 IHF Congress urgently requested the IOC to increase the number of participating teams at Women's Olympic Handball Tournaments from 8 to 12 as of 1996, in order to avoid disadvantaging women's sport and to avoid discrimination of handball compared to similar sports.

The first woman in the Council

The fact that the IHF lacked women in leading positions was however not changed by this resolution. It is not known either whether it was the reproach from Lausanne that set the ball rolling. It is a fact, however, that in 1996 when the International Handball Federation celebrated its 50th anniversary, the first woman was elected into the IHF Council: The Swede Carin Nilsson Green succeeded in the election as President of the Commission for Promotion and Public Relations over her predecessor Prof Herrmann (GDR) and fought for the interests of women in the second-highest body after the Congress for over 14 years.

As the highest ranking office-bearer of the IHF, she took part, together with Sheila Aganzibwa, the President of the Handball Federation of Uganda, in the

first international “Women in Sports” conference, which was held in Lausanne, under the auspices of the IOC, a bit later. The 220 female colleagues from 96 countries unanimously expressed their anger about the unequal treatment of women, and repeated the well-known and very precise requests. They were especially angry about the “sex test” introduced by the IOC, forcing women to prove their gender before and during Olympic Games.



Women power at the IOC in Lausanne: Carin Nilsson Green amongst her colleagues from China, USA and Sweden.

Since then Carin Nilsson Green has not been the only woman in the International Handball Federation to stand her ground. The call for more women met with a wide response. Besides the three women, who worked within the Medical Commission one after another, female representation has also been relatively high within the two adjudicating bodies of

the IHF, the Arbitration Commission and the Arbitration Tribunal.

Taking a look at the Member Federations, it became more and more obvious that management skills were not restricted to men. For example in Puerto Rico and Uruguay Acacia Rochas Davis and Laura Yanez were leading their respective handball federations. In Uganda Sheila Agonzibwa had been on top of the federation for years. The newly elected board of the handball federation of the USA offered the most distinctive women power. The former international players Sandra deLaRiva and Cindy Stinger held two out of five seats on the board. The third one is the CEO Maureen Stone.

In terms of referees, without whom the game would be simply unthinkable, the Argentinean Patricia Malik de Chara and the Spaniard Maria Cristina Fernandez Pineiro made a name for themselves. They all could claim to be international referees.

Another country which was in line with the trend was Iran, where the first course for female coaches took place in December 1996, supported by Olympic Solidarity and led by former international player Sigrid Bierbaum. Five years later, a national women’s handball federation led by Robab Shahriyan was founded. This institution, probably also founded for socio-political reasons, has of course been affiliated to its governing body, the I.R. Iran Handball Federation.



December 1996: The first course for female coaches is being held in Iran. In the centre of the photo is the course lecturer Sigrid Bierbaum (GER)

The women were proud of what they had achieved and were thus encouraged to keep going in the same direction. The CPP President, supported by President Lanc, invited the Swedish IOC Member Gunilla Lindberg to the final of the 1997 Women's WCh in Berlin (GER) to hand over to her the "Women in Handball" brochure, which recorded the progress of the IHF in its efforts to achieve equality of men and women as well as wishes for the future. The Swede was to submit the document to the IOC President personally, and promised to speak up for the requests of the IHF.

According to Erwin Lanc and according to the opinion of many experts it was nothing less than a quantum leap forward taken in women's handball, and this development had to be taken into account – also in terms of media and marketing. The Council followed his suggestion to seize the opportunity and to carry out a "Women in Handball" seminar for the first time in 1999.



Erwin Lanc and Carin Nilsson Green hand over a resolution on equality to IOC Member Gunilla Lindberg at the end of 1997

According to the President, the objective was to hold a high-ranking event with public appeal. 47 participants from 15 countries followed the invitation to Hamar in Norway. Many high-ranking speakers were present to express their point of view, including Nilsson Green and the Norwegian Sports Minister Aslaug M.

Haga, the American international player Cynthia Stinger, the African federation presidents Sheila Agonzibwa and Dr Ndi Okereke-Onyie, the Egyptian journalist Inas Mazhar, the German physician Dr Petra Platen, the Secretary General of the Islamic women's sport federations, Mandana Rassouli, as well as Marianna Racz (HUN), Kari Solem (NOR) and Helga Magnusdottir (ISL). Marit Breivik, who had strongly influenced women's handball as the world's best coach, was not available to attend this seminar, as she was meant to win the world championship title with the Norwegian team on home soil a few days later.

At the end of the seminar, Swedish IOC Member Gunilla Lindberg concluded that in ten years such a seminar would probably no longer be necessary. She was convinced that the IHF, given its support measures for women's handball, was on a good way. This was true, but another seminar would indeed have to be organized though.



Together in Oslo for the right of the women (from left): Kari Solem (NOR), Marianna Racz (HUN), Cindy Stinger (USA), Inas Mazhar (EGY), Dr Petra Platen (GER) and Helga Magnusdottir (ISL).

The efforts of giving women even more opportunities to push through their interests continued. Secretary General Hahn proposed to engage women from national level for the work at international level, whereas the Council, on the occasion of the 2004 Congress, tried again to solve the problem at least partially through a change to the Statutes. The motion of implementing a “Women and Handball” commission, initiated by Sheikh Fahad, received 57 votes in favour and 23 votes against. 14 federations abstained from voting. The required two-third majority was thus not achieved.

It is in fact much easier to achieve objectives without the powerful Congress, which became apparent in 2005 and 2007, when the IHF – slightly pushed by the IOC – formed the Athletes’ Commission. The members were for the beginning appointed by the Council and elected by the male and female athletes two years later at the world championship. Five young women from three continents had a say in the equally represented Commission: Asa Erikson (SWE), Dawn Allinger-Lewis (USA), Beata Siti (HUN), Heidi Tjugum (NOR) and Chao Zhai (CHN).



The female members of the first IHF athletes commission (from left): Heidi Tjugum (NOR), Sinaida Turtchina (RUS), Christine Lindemann (GER), Dawn Allinger-Lewis (USA) und Chao Zhai (CHN).

Wanted: Courageous women

In 2009, the Council recalled the procedure of implementing the Athletes' Commission. The Council undertook once again the effort to make the women's voice heard, by forming a "Women and Handball" working group, which was for the beginning limited to one year. Pan-America's President Manoel Luis Oliveira spontaneously extended invitations to the first meeting, which was held during the 2011 Women's World Championship in Brazil. The objective of the IHF initiative was again to involve former female players as referees, delegates, officials and coaches.

A first success has already been reported: From 2006 to 2010 the number of female referees at IHF competitions increased from eleven to 26. Involving further female office-bearers, the IHF wanted to follow the example of Europe, where a "Women's Handball Board" was in the process of being formed, similar to the "Professional Handball Board" for men. According to EHF Vice-President Jean Brihault (FRA), the main purpose of this board was to help increase the number of women in all EHF Commissions and the National Federations. Philippe Bana (FRA), IHF COC member and Technical Director of the French federation, explained how this problem was solved in his country: "Every euro that we spend for the men is also given to the women. It was a hard fight – but it's a question of will to fight for women's handball."

The question remains on whether, when and how enough qualified persons would be available. Everyone might agree that quota system requirements would

not solve the problem. It is rather women with technical know-how who are required; courageous women with character who are ready to climb the career ladder on a voluntary basis. The opportunities are available – at national, continental and international level.



Role models (from left): Federation president Robab Shariyan (IRI), national coach Marit Breivik (NOR), referee Patricia Malik de Chara (ARG), federation president Sheila Agonzibwa (UGA) and Lecturer Monika Hagen (SWE).

How it can actually work has currently (2012) been proved by Maria Stella Cristiano from Angola, member of the Medical Commission, Eszter Rudas from Hungary, member of the Commission for Development, and former referee Monika Lundin from Sweden, IHF Lecturer. In all honesty, it could and should be more.

The continents and the IHF

Mediator between top and basis

The continental confederations of Asia, Africa, Europe, Oceania and Pan-America were founded within two decades between 1973 and 1993. The period was no coincidence at all since the foundations have been the result of an earlier started process. It was at the time that eleven-a-side handball disappeared more and more, and the popularity of seven-a-side handball increased significantly. This development was reflected in the fast rise of active players and national federations. The growing demand for continental championships as one step beneath world championships made clear that structures were needed in order to clearly guide handball on each continent. Appropriate leaders were ready to act as mediator in this regard.

Continental confederations form the link between national member federations and the International Handball Federation. The flow of information works in both directions and partly they are also autonomic bodies. In detail, they organise, according to the regulations and guidelines provided by the IHF, qualification tournaments for world championships and Olympic Games. At the same time they stage – according to their own organisation forms and according to their regulations - continental championships and develop further activities considered as necessary for their purpose. Further they make sure that the IHF Bylaws and Regulations are respected and implemented by their affiliated member federations, as far as their area of responsibility is concerned. Of course the same regulations and structures apply worldwide.

From a legal point of view, the continental confederations are not affiliated to the IHF. But at the same time it is clear that their contribution is essential. This ambiguous position also becomes evident when looking at the definition of their statutory function: they are entitled to make motions to the Congress, but they don't have a right to vote. The right to vote is exclusively reserved to national federations.

In the following, the five continental confederations will be presented with current numbers of member federations (effective June 2013) per continent (in brackets the corresponding IOC code).



Three great names of handball and three continents: Max Rinkenburger (Europe and IHF), Kazumi Watanabe (Asia) and Babacar Fall (Africa).

Asian Handball Federation (AHF)

Foundation: January 1976 in Kuwait

President: Sheikh Ahmed al-Fahad al-Ahmed
al-Jaber al-Sabah KUW

Secretary General: Dr Roshan Anand IND

Head quarter of the federation: Safat KUW

Member federations: 43

Previous Presidents:

Martyr H.E Sheikh Fahad al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah KUW – 1974/6 – 1990

Sheikh Ahmed al-Fahad al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah KUW – from 1990 on



Like father, like son

The Asian Handball Federation (AHF) is in one way absolutely unique: during its 40 years of history it only had two presidents – and they were father and son...

When in 1976 the federation was officially founded and Sheikh Fahad al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah was elected for president, the committed Sheikh had already put a lot of efforts and preparation work into it. In 1974, during the 7th Asian Games in Teheran (IRI), he applied as head of the Kuwaiti delegation at the executive committee for the inclusion of handball into the sports programme and the foundation of a continental handball confederation. The explanation was easy and convincing: meanwhile handball was widely spread in Asia. The leaders of the Asian Games accepted handball as an official sport and asked the Sheikh to act as interim president – quasi as a “king without an empire” – and to prepare the statutes of the federation. In this task he was supported by the “secretary general” Syad Abul Hassan (PAK).

About two years later they presented the result of their work to the delegates of 14 handball federations in Kuwait and received a lot of reward for their efforts: the meeting approved the paper and, in the presence of the secretary general of the IHF, founded the Asian Handball Federation. The Sheikh and the Pakistani were officially appointed as president and secretary general and Kuwait became (and still is) the head quarter of the confederation.

Words became actions. In 1977, already one year after its foundation, the first Asian Championships for national men’s teams took place. Japan came off victorious. 10 years later the first women’s championships took place with Korea as the first champion, and from 1988 on also men’s and women’s junior teams competed at continental championships. Since then, every two years all these competitions have been staged – and even more.

When Sheikh Fahad was killed by Iraqi troops during the Gulf War in 1990, he was only 45 years old. He became a martyr in his own country and left a big heritage – not only in terms of sports. He was holding more than 20 offices on national and international level. Among others he was a member of the IOC and its executive committee, president of the Olympic Council of Asia and chairman of several sport organisations in his home country. And of course he was also Vice-President of the IHF.

Also his descendant and successor in his office, Sheikh Ahmed al-Fahad al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah, could not complain about not having enough work or tasks. Not only was he temporarily working minister of information and oil in Kuwait, he also held several high ranked positions, same as his father had done before, in the IOC, in Asia and Kuwait. He also stood out due to his dedication to handball, just as his father had done before.



A wholesome mixture: Council of the Asian Handball Federation during a conference in Bahrain in 1993. In the middle of the picture: Sheikh Ahmad.

Father and son repeatedly had to face problems, resulting from the different cultural, sociological, ethnical and social structures in Asia. Their eastern neighbours, with Korea, Japan and China leading the way, were starting rebellions from time to time and propagated the split into an eastern and western federation, because they felt underprivileged especially towards their neighbouring Gulf States. The most recent example in this regard is the Asian qualification for the Olympic Games in Peking 2008. The IOC and its highest sports jurisdiction eventually laid down the law...

Despite all problems, occurring every now and then, both presidents can attribute great achievements to themselves: they promoted handball on their

continent very successfully. With Korea they were holding an Olympic and World Champion and players of international prestige coming from Korea, Japan, China and Qatar, only to mention some of them. The proof of their success was that Asia was again awarded as host of a Men's World Championship.

The AHF-members:

- Afghanistan (AFG)
- Bahrain (BRN)
- China (CHN)
- India (IND)
- Jordan (JOR)
- Kirgizia (KGZ)
- Kuwait (KUW)
- Macao (MAC)
- Mongolia (MGL)
- Pakistan (PAK)
- North Korea (PRK)
- Sri Lanka (SRI)
- Tajikistan (TJK)
- United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- Yemen (YEM)
- Bangladesh (BAN)
- Brunei (BRU)
- Hong Kong (HKG)
- Iran (IRI)
- Japan (JPN)
- South Korea (KOR)
- Laos (LAO)
- Malaysia (MAS)
- Nepal (NEP)
- Philippines (PHI)
- Qatar (QAT)
- Syria (SYR)
- Turkmenistan (TKM)
- Uzbekistan (UZB)
- Bhutan (BHU)
- Cambodia (CAM)
- Indonesia (INA)
- Iraq (IRQ)
- Kazakhstan (KAZ)
- Saudi Arabia (KSA)
- Lebanon (LIB)
- Maldives (MDV)
- Oman (OMA)
- Palestine (PLE)
- Singapore (SIN)
- Thailand (THA)
- Chinese Taipei (TPE)
- Vietnam (VIE)

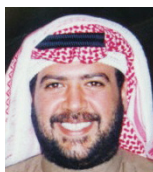
Continental leaders



Martyr H.H. Sheikh Fahad al-Ahmed al-Jaber al Sabah KUW – Founding father and first president (1974 – 1990) of the Asian Handball Federation. The multiple official heading six sport federations in his country also held office as IHF vice-president and member to the IOC Executive Board for ten years. When Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in 1990 he died to become a martyr.



Siad Abul Hassan PAK – First secretary general of the Asian Handball Federation. When the continental federation was founded he considerably contributed to the composition of statutes and regulations. He proved his expertise during many IHF Congresses.



Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah KUW – He is the son of Sheikh Fahad succeeding him as president of the Asian Handball Federation. Apart from his temporary political positions (e.g. minister of communications and oil) he holds multiple positions within the IOC and Asian sport. He marked the headlines prior to the Beijing 2008 Games as part of the Asian qualification, which had to be replayed.

Dr Roshan Anand IND – He followed Siad Abul Hassan to become the second secretary general – still in office - of the Asian Handball Federation. The Indian takes a dim view of spectacular appearances in public and rather remains in the back. Insiders consider him a diplomatic figure between partially opposing interests of the East Asians and those from the Gulf region.



Confédération Africaine de Handball (CAHB)

Foundation: January 15th 1973 in Lagos (NGR)
President: Mansourou Arémou BEN
Secretary General: Charles Omboumahou CGO
Head quarter of the federation: Abidjan CIV (since 1996); before (from 1973 until 1996): Dakar SEN
Member federations: 51
Previous Presidents:
Dr. Nabil Salem EGY – 1973 – 1978 and 1993 - 1995
Babacar Fall SEN – 1978 – 1993
Christophe Yapo Achy CIV – 1996 – 2008
Mansourou Arémou BEN – since 2008



The first federation – and the biggest one

The African Handball Confederation (CAHB) has been first continental confederation and with its 51 national federations it is also the continental confederation with the highest numbers of members within the IHF.

Similar to the Asians also the Africans needed some time until their confederation was finally founded: in 1972 a committee was established in Tunisia, which was authorized to prepare the foundation of the continental federation on the occasion of the second African Games in Lagos (Nigeria) in January of the following year. The six federations Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Senegal and Cameroon were part of this working group, which had the following temporary executive board: president Dr Nabil Salem (EGY), secretary general Babacar Fall (SEN), treasurer Mohamed N'Cerie (MAR) and the members Saleh Brahimi (ALG) and Slim Ben Ghachem (TUN).

The founding congress took place on the 15th of January 1973 in Lagos. It was attended by Alberto de San Roman (ESP), the vice-president of the International Handball Federation. The committee, which had done all the preparation work, was awarded with executive functions within the new confederation. Dr Salem became president and Babacar Fall secretary general. For the time being the capital of the host was chosen as headquarter of the CAHB. Only shortly afterwards the first competitions on continental level were held. In 1974 the first championships for men, women, junior and youth national teams took place and Tunisia won all 4 titles. In the following years the championships took place every two years with further countries such as Egypt and Algeria for the men and Angola and Nigeria for the women applying to host the event. These

federations had also obtained the most titles, when in 1979 club championships and five years later also cup championships took place. Africa was and still is state of the art when it comes to handball.

When Fall and Salem changes their positions in 1978, probably due to sport political reasons, handball flourished in Africa under the lead of the Senegalese. Fall promoted courses for coaches and referees, organized tournaments and also brought lecturers to the continent to further develop and promote the sport. In terms of development aid France became a great support by sending experienced people



The women of Petroathletico Luanda (Angola) win the first ever staged Super Cup Babacar Fall in 1994, which takes place in remembrance of the African sports leader.

and financial support. This help was highly appreciated since their own Youth and Sports Ministries in the primarily French-speaking countries could often not raise the financial means. But Babacar Fall made it happen – mainly thanks to the support of his French friends like Nelson Paillou and “the man on-site” George Graves, only to mention two.

Shortly after the CAHB Congress in 1993 Babacar Fall, whom man had seen as a cast of fortune for African Handball, died. In honour of his achievements every year since 1994 the Super Cup Babacar Fall with the best African men’s and women’s teams has taken place.



Lots of VIPs at the CAHB-congress in Yaounde (CMR) in 1998.

His predecessor became also his successor. Nabil Salem was leading the CAHB until 1996 again. After that followed Christophe Yapo Achy (CIV), who was CAHB president for 12 years and moved the headquarter of the confederation to Abidjan, his home country. From 2008 until today Mansourou Arémou, the former secretary general, has been leading the federation very successfully - as all his predecessors.

The CAHB-members:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| – Algeria (ALG) | – Angola (ANG) | – Burundi (BDI) |
| – Benin (BEN) | – Botswana (BOT) | – Burkina Faso (BUR) |
| – Central African Republic (CAF) | – Congo (CGO) | – Chad (CHA) |
| – Ivory Coast (CIV) | – Cameroon (CMR) | – DR Congo (COD) |
| – Comoros (COM) | – Cape Verde (CPV) | – Djibouti (DJI) |
| – Egypt (EGY) | – Ethiopia (ETH) | – Gabon (GAB) |
| – Gambia (GAM) | – Guinea Bissau (GBS) | – Ghana (GHA) |
| – Guinea (GUI) | – Kenya (KEN) | – Libya (LBA) |
| – Liberia (LBR) | – Lesotho (LES) | – Madagascar (MAD) |
| – Morocco (MAR) | – Malawi (MAW) | – Mali (MLI) |
| – Mozambique (MOZ) | – Mauritius (MRI) | – Mauritania (MTN) |
| – Namibia (NAM) | – Nigeria (NGR) | – Niger (NIG) |
| – South Africa (RSA) | – Ruanda (RWA) | – Senegal (SEN) |
| – Seychelles (SEY) | – Sierra Leone (SLE) | – Somalia (SOM) |
| – Sao Tome e Principe (STP) | – Sudan (SUD) | – South Sudan (-) |
| – Tanzania (TAN) | – Togo (TOG) | – Tunisia (TUN) |
| – Uganda (UGA) | – Zambia (ZAM) | – Zimbabwe (ZIM) |

Continental leaders



Babacar Fall SEN – When Seringe M Baye Fall, that’s his complete name, died in 1993 he had already been the renowned architect of handball in Africa. He held major positions in African handball for 30 years among others he was the president and 1st vice-president of the IHF for the last 20 years. Within the world association he defended the interests of Africa, Asia and Pan-America against apparently superior European interests. With three major IHF events awarded to Africa Babacar Fall gained widespread international esteem: the 1986 IHF Congress in Senegal, the 1989 Women’s Junior World Championship in Nigeria and the 1993 Men’s Junior World Championship in Egypt. The Babacar Fall Super Cup tournament is to commemorate the man whose great credit was that he made African handball join the world’s elite.

Dr Nabil Salem EGY – First president of the African Handball Confederation from 1973 to 1978 and from 1993 to 1996; vice-president of the International Handball Federation as from 1992. In 2000 the Egyptian, a doctor by profession, resigned from that post when his fellow countryman, Dr Hassan Moustafa was elected president of the IHF. Salem rendered particular services to African handball.



Christophe Yapo Achy CIV – Third president of the African Handball Confederation from 1996 to 2008, who, after being elected had the headquarters move from Lagos (NGR) to Abidjan (CIV). During his presidency the IHF awarded a couple of World Championships to Africa for the many successful activities in the continent to be rewarded. During his term in office the politician among others created a professional training centre in his home country.



Mansourou Aremou BEN – The high-ranking state official had been the secretary general since 2004 to become the fourth continental president outclassing reigning president Yapo in a crucial vote. He was re-elected in 2012. Similar to all continental presidents he is a member of the IHF Council where he is one of the four vice-presidents.



European Handball Federation (EHF)

Foundation: Congress 15th-17th November 1991 in Berlin

President: Jean Brihault FRA

Secretary General: Michael Wiederer AUT

Headquarter of the Federation: Vienna AUT

Member Federations: 50

Previous Presidents:

Staffan Holmqvist SWE - 1991 - 2004

Tor Lian NOR - 2004 – 2012

Jean Brihault FRA – since 2012



The heavyweight started late

The European Handball Federation (EHF) is a true heavyweight among the continents, being the cradle of the most successful national federations with the highest number of members. And in terms of affiliated national federations, the EHF trails only one member behind the African Handball Confederation in 2013.

The EHF was founded very late compared to the other continental confederations. This was due to several reasons. One was that in the 1970s the International Handball Federation was mainly constituted of European members, meaning that the IHF was technically Europe – and vice versa. Given this situation several members (Europeans) were not in favour of creating something new.

In the following period when other continents and their countries were possessing increasing memberships, the Europeans began to realize the necessity of having an own continental confederation, though the war had left its marks. Handball players on either side of the Iron Curtain were still having issues with each other. In the beginning an Eastern and Western European Federation was founded and it was not until the end of the 80s that the representatives of both sides agreed to create (equal composition of all committees etc.) of one sole strong confederation. From then on handball history began to move.

The first climax of this handball history was the founding congress in Berlin from 15th to 17th November 1991. At that time the Europeans – all national federations were present – elected Staffan Holmqvist from Sweden as first president of the “new alliance” – as it was partly called from EHF side.

Scarcely in office, Holmqvist already implemented the Youth European Championships for men and women in 1992, which from then on took place every 2 years. Only after that he established the championships for senior’s men and women and also for the junior’s of both genders. By doing so, the Swede set

an example: he took advantage of all the age classes presented in the EHF and wanted to give especially the young players the chance to collect experience in order to then further strengthen the already top level senior teams.

At the same time the EHF took over from the IHF the organization of the 6 European Cup Championships (for men and women) in 1994, which had already in the hands of the IHF been very successful, and which from then one set new standards in sporting and economic respect.

Continuity was always a strength in the leadership of the EHF. They only had 3 presidents within 22 years. The tenure of Holmqvist, who died in 2007 just before he turned 66 years old, lasted until 2004. His deputy Tor Lian (NOR) followed, who won a crucial vote at the congress in Zyern against his competitor Jean Kaiser (LUX). In 2012 vice president Jean Brihault (FRA) superseded Lian because due to impairment to his health did he not run for the post again. All three presidents had one thing in common: they could benefit from a lot of experience resulting from the high positions in the sports field they had in their home countries. However they all came from very different professions: Holmqvist – the administration expert; Lian – the top manager in human recourses; Brihault – the humanities scholar, professor and president of the Université de Bretagne. This variety always had good effects on the EHF – from a sporting, medial and economic point of view.

Since the founding of the EHF in 1991, secretary general Michael Wiederer has been part of the continental federation at the headquarter in Vienna, being a guarantor for reliable work and new ideas. In the central office with its own



At the EHF-founding congress also the IHF members Erwin Lanc and Raymond Hahn (in the centre of the picture) were among the congratulates. They are flanked by president Holmqvist (SWE) and board member Karl Güntzel (SUI).

marketing department situated next to the Danube, currently 53 employees work for the EHF. Wiederer is, as we would probably say in the 21st century, the boss of a healthy and well organized, medium sized enterprise.

The EHF-members:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| – Albania (ALB) | – Andorra (AND) | – Armenia (ARM) |
| – Austria (AUT) | – Azerbaijan (AZE) | – Belgium (BEL) |
| – Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) | – Belarus (BLR) | – Bulgaria (BUL) |
| – Croatia (CRO) | – Cypress (CYP) | – Czech Republic (CZE) |
| – Denmark (DEN) | – Spain (ESP) | – Estonia (EST) |
| – Faeroe Islands (FAR) | – Finland (FIN) | – France (FRA) |
| – Great Britain (GBR) | – Georgia (GEO) | – Deutschland (GER) |
| – Greece (GRE) | – Hungary (HUN) | – Ireland (IRL) |
| – Island (ISL) | – Israel (ISR) | – Italia (ITA) |
| – Kosovo (KOS) | – Latvia (LAT) | – Liechtenstein (LIE) |
| – Lithuania (LTU) | – Luxemburg (LUX) | – Moldavia (MDA) |
| – Macedonia (MKD) | – Malta (MLT) | – Montenegro (MNE) |
| – Monaco (MON) | – The Netherlands (NED) | – Norway (NOR) |
| – Poland (POL) | – Portugal (POR) | – Rumania (ROU) |
| – Russia (RUS) | – Slovenia (SLO) | – Serbia (SRB) |
| – Switzerland (SUI) | – Slovakia (SVK) | – Sweden (SWE) |
| – Turkey (TUR) | – Ukraine (UKR) | |

Continental leaders



Staffan Holmquist SWE – He was the president of the Swedish Handball Federation as from 1979 and the first president of the European Handball Federation from 1991 to 2004. One of his first actions in office: He introduced the European Championship. Interests of the other continents were also close to his heart, as he had been a member of the Council and IHF Vice-President for many years. He died in 2007 shortly before turning 65.



Tor Lian NOR – He had been the president of the national handball federation and member of the National Olympic Committee in Norway before being elected new president of the European handball people in a crucial vote against Jean Kayser (LUX). He was in office for eight years. He had been a member of the IHF Council until 2012 when he resigned for health reasons. He also was a quite successful businessman in human resources.

Jean Brihault FRA – A university professor (president of Université de Bretagne) became the third EHF president in Europe in 2012. As his predecessors he has been member of the Council and vice-president since 2004. He is famous for his expertise and his diplomacy skills.



Michael Wiederer AUT – As a player and managing director he gained first experience within the Austrian Handball Federation. He was elected the first secretary general of the European Handball Federation in 1990 after the constitutive congress and has been in that position ever since. Temporarily he was a member of the IHF Commission of Organizing and Competition too.



Oceania Handball Federation (OHF)

Foundation: July 19th 1993 in Sydney AUS –

21st April 2011 Re-foundation in ‘Oceania

Continent Handball Federation’

President: Paul Smith AUS

Secretary General: Eric Mouhica NZL

Headquarter: Sydney AUS

Member Federations: 8

Previous Presidents:

Alexander Dimitric AUS - 1993 - 1997

George Costas AUS - 1997 - 2000

Alex Gavrilovic AUS – 2000 - 2004

Vernon Winitana NZL – 2004-2008

Paul Smith AUS – since 2011



Overshadowed by the others

The Oceania Handball Federation (OHF) went through lots of uneasy and difficult times during its 20 years of existence. It started very promising when Alexander “Sasha” Dimitric founded the Continental Federation on July 9th 1993 in Sydney. Already in 1994 was the native Yugoslav able to establish the first men’s and women’s championships, where, unsurprisingly, Australia prevailed. One year later the first junior championships both for men and women took place – and again Australia was on top, but also New Zealand for the first time.

At these championships, although called continental championships, in general only few countries took part, since besides Australia and New Zealand at that time only the Cook Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu were having fairly regular gaming operations. And these 3 were not yet members of the IHF.

When trying to increase the number of countries and to promote handball in down under, the responsible persons also encountered geographical and financial limits: the continent is divided in several little island countries. Travel and other costs for scheduled international matches were causing almost insoluble problems.

And if then, as in the years before the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000, the TV station TV Number 7 supports the federation with annual six-digit sponsoring contributions, the money is used by the second president for other things, it is hardly surprising that no progress can be achieved.

Also the IHF was making big efforts to promote handball in Oceania, especially because the fast and physical game is appreciated on the continent. The legendary coach Bengt Johansson (SWE) was sent to support on site, economic support was given, development aid granted and additional help sent wherever possible. With Alex Gavrilovic, Handball Competition Manager in Sydney and 3rd president of the OHF, a very competent and qualified leader was at the top of the continental federation, but nevertheless Oceania remained overshadowed by the others.



Also coach legend Bengt Johansson (here together with Alex Gavrilovic) assisted in establishing handball in Oceania.

This also did not change when Vernon Winitana (NZL) was elected as 4th president because he mainly was running his own business. He was focussing on foreign handball players, who did not have the citizenship of the country and eventually was removed from circulation in his home country and also on the continent. The federation disbanded and was re-established on 21st April 2011 as Oceania Continent Handball Federation. Since then the Australian Paul Smith is has been on top of the continental federation and every year the member federations are re-electing the executive committee.



Preparation for Sydney: the international match between the national men's team of Australia and Japan on September 9th 1999 in Sydney.

The continent Oceania cannot share and discuss its problems in front of the IHF Council, since it doesn't have a vote. According to the statutes of the IHF a continental federation needs a minimum of 15 member federations before "it may nominate a council member for the continent that shall be confirmed by the Congress". And: it "may nominate one vice-president" if "it has at least 23 national federations as full members". In 2013 the continental confederation is counting 8 member federations. Therefore it is still a long way until they will have a voice in the Council. The only comfort is that Oceania is allowed to participate with one team at World Championships and Olympic Games – of course only after a corresponding qualification event has been held...

The OHF-members:

- Australia (AUS)
- Samoa (SAM)
- Tuvalu (TUV)
- Cook Islands (COK)
- Solomon Islands (SOL)
- Vanuatu (VAN)
- New Zealand (NZL)
- Tahiti (-)

Continental leaders



Alexander Dimitric AUS – At the constitutive congress in July 1993 Dimitric was elected first president of the Oceania Handball Federation. Sasha, as friends use to call him, is a former Yugoslavian international player from Belgrade. Ten years prior to his appointment as Oceania’s first man in handball he had already contributed to the spread of handball in his new home country in his capacity as the president of the Australian Handball Federation thanks to good expertise and skills.



George Costas AUS – He followed Dimitric in 1997. He could not benefit from the Games drawing closer and was unable to provide major stimuli for handball on the fifth continent. Thus the Greek-born soon retired.



Alex Gavrilovic AUS – Oceania’s second president of Yugoslavian origin. He is a chemist by profession and continued the work of his fellow countryman staging IHF continental qualification on behalf of the IHF in order to make handball gain popularity on the fifth continent. He made his name as the handball competition manager at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and in London twelve years ahead.



Vernon Winitana NZL – In 2003 the man from New Zealand ended the Australians’ clean sweep for a couple of years but had to back-pedal due to resistance in his own country. The IHF was not amused about that situation and excluded Winitana and his national federation in 2008 to grant full membership to a newly established New Zealand handball federation.

Paul Smith AUS – When the Oceania Handball Federation was re-founded on 21 April 2011 in the wake of the controversy over and in New Zealand, another Australian, that is Paul Smith, ran for presidency. Since then he’s been trying to patch things up on the continent.

Pan-American Team Handball Federation (PATHF)

Founding: 23 May 1977 in Mexico City MEX

President: Mario Moccia ARG

Secretary General: Rafael Sepulveda PUR

Head office: Guaynabo PUR

Member Federations: 38

Former Presidents:

Dr Peter Buehning USA - 1977 - 1980 and 1987 - 1996

Dr Walter Schwedhelm MEX - 1980 - 1984

Andy Meszey CAN - 1984 - 1987

Rubén Gómez URU - 1996 (Interim President)

Manoel Luiz Oliveira BRA - 1996 - 2012

Mario Moccia ARG - 2012



Argentina: the driving force

First attempts to reconcile the interests of various handball nations in Pan-America date back to 1950 when Argentina proposed the formation of a continental federation for the purpose of including handball in the programme of the Pan-American Games to be held in 1951 in Buenos Aires. However, this turned out to be a failure.

Two protagonists and presidents who are well-known in Pan-American handball: Dr Peter Buehning (USA, first) and Manoel Luis Oliveira (BRA, second from the left) in March 1997 in San Juan (PUR).



Over the next few years, especially Canada and the USA did not see any necessity for founding a global federation in the New World. Instead, they preferred to fight out the participation in world championships between themselves. However, once - in 1958 - Brazil succeeded in taking part in the title contests.

The second attempt at founding a continental federation had also been initiated by Argentina in 1960 to mark a very special occasion: A tournament to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the country's independence. But, finally, the initiators failed again.

Ten years later, the Pan-American nations decided among themselves what team would participate in the Olympic Games in 1972 and the World Championship in 1974. However, it was only on the occasion of the IHF Congress organized in 1976 in Estoril (POR) that Mexico, Canada and the USA (Argentina could not participate for financial reasons) created a “management committee” under the direction of Peter Buehning promoting the formation of a continental federation.



Also represented in Pan-America: Greenland men's national handball team.

On 23 Mai 1977, the handball federations of Argentina, Chile, Canada, Mexico and the USA (all of them being full members of the IHF) finally founded the Pan-American Team Handball Federation (PATHF). Silent observers: Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. The management committee was composed of President Peter Buehning (USA), Vice-President Juan Mainzhausen (ARG), Secretary Walter Schwedhelm (MEX) and Treasurer Francis Geulen (CAN).

The first tournament under the direction of this continental federation was organized in January 1980. It was the Olympic Qualifying Tournament for the Olympic Games held in the same year in Moscow, where Cuba finished first ahead of Canada and the USA. From that time on, the Pan-American Championships were staged on a regular basis. And in 1987 handball was finally included in the programme of the Pan-American Games.

During almost four decades of PATHF history, six Presidents tried to get the federation on track. In this context, especially Buehning from the USA and Oliveira from Brazil left their mark on Pan-American handball. No wonder: Only these two Presidents stayed at the helm for whole 30 years. Recently, one more time, a fresh impetus has been given by Argentina where the current President comes from. Since the accession to power of Mario Moccia, the number of member federations increased sharply – from 26 to 38. Thus, there is still potential...

However, even the new “strong man” was not able to solve a problem existing since the founding of the continental federation: The size of the huge continent managed by the PATHF and made up of three regions: North, South and Middle America as well as exotic countries, such as Greenland that even has a brilliant handball team. Internal and official efforts to split the federation into three sub-federations failed – not least because the IHF was not at all in favour of such a break-up process. Thus, in the near future, the top teams from the South, such as Argentina and Brazil, will still continue setting the tone on the whole continent.

The PATHF members:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| – Argentina (ARG) | – Antigua & Barbuda (ANT) | – Bahamas (BAH) |
| – Barbados (BAR) | – Belize (BIZ) | – Bolivia (BOL) |
| – Brazil (BRA) | – Canada (CAN) | – Cayman Islands (CAY) |
| – Chile (CHI) | – Colombia (COL) | – Costa Rica (CRC) |
| – Cuba (CUB) | – Dominica (DMA) | – Dominican Republic (DOM) |
| – Ecuador (ECU) | – El Salvador (ESA) | – French Guiana (–) |
| – Guadeloupe (–) | – Greenland (GRL) | – Grenada (GRN) |
| – Guatemala (GUA) | – Guyana (GUY) | – Haiti (HAI) |
| – Honduras (HON) | – British Virgin Islands (IVB) | – Martinique (–) |
| – Mexico (MEX) | – Nicaragua (NCA) | – Panama (PAN) |
| – Paraguay (PAR) | – Peru (PER) | – Puerto Rico (PUR) |
| – Saint Kitts and Nevis (SKN) | – Trinidad & Tobago (TRI) | – Uruguay (URU) |
| – United States of America (USA) | – Venezuela (VEN)* | |

Continental leaders

Dr Peter Buehning USA – Co-founder of the Pan-American Team Handball Federation and first president (1977-1980). He had a second term in office from 1987 to 1996 when he was also a member of the IHF Council. He made contribution to the Pan-American Games and as the organizer of the first Pan-American Men’s Youth Championship in Mexico in 1980. Peter Buehning passed away in 2003.





Dr Walter Schwedhelm MEX – He was the second president in Pan-America from 1980 to 1984. He successfully contributed to regional tournaments being introduced in Central and South America. He had been Pan-America’s representative on the IHF Council for years.

Andy Mezey CAN – He was the president for many years –1984 - 1987 – and organized the first Pan-American Women’s Youth Championship in 1986. One year later, in 1987, women’s handball made its debut on the programme of the Pan-American Games thanks to the initiative made by the Hungarian-born official.



Manoel Luis Oliveira BRA – He held office as PATHF president from 1996 to 2012 and thus had been in office the longest. During his office term many Pan-American national teams managed to close up to the world’s elite and to perform at World Championships in front of their home crowd (Pan-America) including beach handball. The man from Brazil organized the first Pan-American Championship for club teams in 2007. In the wake of the 2011 Women’s World Championship in Brazil, that was a financial disaster, he resigned from the international stage.



Mario Moccia ARG - In 2012 Moccia became the fifth president of the Pan-American Team Handball Federation. He was quite experienced as a sports administrator. After all heading the Argentine federation for years he had led his national men’s team to world’s elite and to several WCh participations. It remains to be seen what he is able to achieve for his continent.

Structure – Technique – Training – Rules

The philosophy of handball

Handball in its present form, meaning indoor handball, is one of the most recent disciplines in ball sports. It presents a perfect symbiosis of three fundamental, inherent, natural physical abilities and virtues of athletics: running, jumping and throwing.

When this sport over time has become more popular all over the world, this can be primarily attributed to the fact that the player only needs to use the natural ability to grab, namely his/her hand and doesn't need – apart from the ball – any further equipment or tools. This puts the player into the position of creating and implementing own ideas and develop intelligent tactics in order to be able to score a goal by various means. All these are technical possibilities which no other sport offers. Implemented in the best possible way this creates a faster play and a constantly increasing entertainment value, making handball – right after ice-hockey – the fastest team sport that exists. A consequence of the speed of the game is that handball cannot do without substitutes for the duration of a whole match.

Contrary to other related sports where also the hand is used, handball presents a competitive sport, where playing without body contact and with gentle dignity is replaced by full and – with all due fairness – tough body contact, physical attack and defending reactions, hard shots at the goal with various throwing possibilities and brave and courageous saves of the goalkeepers. Technique and elegance combine with courage and strength.

Handball has friends wherever people are looking for a game that requires mental flexibility, skilfulness, proficiency, power and strength, courage and 'heart'. And handball is affordable. The expenses for a ball and basic sportswear are kept within a limit and generally don't cause major financial problems. The rules are not complicated and basically comprehensible for everyone. After a short introduction it offers creative players an uncountable number of possibilities.

Three pillars – Starting with the referees

As handball lives in sporting terms from the three components running – jumping – throwing, also three pillars can be identified which sustain the game: the referees, the coaches and the medical attendance. As a logical consequence they are also always close: the referees on the court, the coaches and the medical expert, generally a physiotherapist, at the court or on the bench. It is

not surprising that the International Handball Federation created these three pillars already shortly after its foundation. Together with the Member Federations corresponding courses have been offered on national and international level. The first education course was directed at referees, who present an irreplaceable part of handball, and took place 1947 in Vejle (DEN), in one of the home countries of handball. Since then, corresponding referee courses have been on the agenda every two years. Male and female referee couples between 28 and 50 years who officiate at world championships and later on also at Olympic Games have been eligible to participate.



The knowledge and the international experience deriving from this education programme have been summarized in ‘The handball referee’ – a book which is available in many different languages and which has in the meantime become the standard work also in National Federations.

For talented alternates the ‘Global Referee Training Program’ has been developed, which was started in 2006 and is directed at referees coming from developing countries. The carrier of 59 referee couples who are now among the A-referees of the IHF has started with this programme.

From 1966 on also the best lecturers and coaches, who had graduated at the universities of their home countries, have been nominated for international courses with the purpose of exchanging their knowledge with other lecturers from the new Member Federations. They transfer the latest knowledge in training and methodology, present doctrines and the latest trends. The world’s best lecturers gather together all four years. In addition, so-called handball schools take place to which an own chapter is dedicated.

A further step, as logical as it is sensible, has been the gathering of the world’s best coaches and the top class referees and referee chiefs, respectively, in a symposium held ever four years starting from 1974 on. This symposium gives referees the possibility to get familiar with the latest techniques and tactics of the teams and the coaches can get to know the latest tendencies with regard to rule interpretation. Understanding for each other and harmonization among each other – a common line – this is the motto which makes handball even more attractive.

In terms of sports medical attendance the autodidacts first dictated the rhythm before qualified physiotherapists took the place on the bench. Then the sport physicians followed, mostly orthopaedists. At that time the IHF only published specialized literature and released in 1974 and 1978 volume 1 and 2 of 'Exchange of Experiences in the field of sports medicine', before focussing on specialized topics such as 'Possibilities of injuries through non-respect of Rule 6 (behaviour towards the opponent)'. The first Congress about Sports Medicine then took place in Oslo (NOR) in 1993 with 75 participants.

When talking about the medical aspect of handball, the fight against doping has always played a special role. In 2009 the IHF funded an independent body to intensively focus on this task:

the Anti-Doping-Unit (ADU), which collaborates closely with the IOC and the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA). Since then, doping tests have been carried out at all IHF events – from Youth and Beach Handball World Championships to the Olympic Handball Tournaments. Between 2005 and 2013 thousands of samples were taken and all of them have been negative.

The following pages provide information about the IHF activities in terms of referee education, coaches' courses and sports medicine. Further topics and aspects of the 'handball philosophy' will be discussed in the subsequent chapters.

International referee courses

		Fede- rations	Parti- cipants
1947	Vejle DEN	8	29
1949	Maglingen SUI	12	28
1951	Schilleiten AUT	11	18
1953	Munich FRG	12	28
1955	Saarbrücken FRG	14	33
1957	Prague CZE	14	40
1959	Wageningen NED	17	44
1961	Bosön SWE	18	46
1963	Paris FRA	24	55
1965	Piran YUG	23	81
1967	Poiana-Brasov ROM	21	75
1969	Madrid ESP	27	95
1971	Opatija-Rijeka YUG	22	74
1973	Slancev Brjag BUL	26	90
1975	Sittard NED	27	107
1977	Copenhagen DEN	28	91
1981	Lindabrunn AUT	38	100
1985	Lisbon POR	46	89
1989	Liège BEL	39	68
1993	Brixen ITA	45	87
1997	Lindabrunn AUT	44	89
1997	Vilnius LTU	6	12
1999	Budapest HUN	7	14
2000	Sao Paolo BRA	5	23
2001	Rotterdam NED	6	12
2001	Antwerpen BEL	4	8
2005	Teheran IRI	6	24
Since 2006	GRTP program		

International coaching courses

		Fede- rations	Parti- cipants
1966	Magglingen SUI	19	62
1970	Solna Stockholm SWE	23	50
1977	Warsaw POL	24	45
1981	Magglingen SUI	33	82
1985	Papendal NED	40	111
1989	Liège BEL	42	101
1993	Düsseldorf GER	29	146
1997	Sherbrooke CAN	29	86
2002	Lisbon POR	48	97
2006	Mexico City MEX	43	140
2007	Dormagen GER	20	212
2011	Doha QAT	19	45
2011	Muscat OMA	19	43
2012	Doha QAT	15	106
2013	Johannesburg RSA	13	29
2013	Cotonou BEN	13	31

Symposia for coaches and referee chiefs

		Fede- rations	Parti- cipants
1974	Magglingen SUI	30	60
1979	Pula YUG	43	750
1983	Saarbrücken FRG	39	117
1987	Strasbourg FRA	43	119
1991	Athens GRE	42	110
1995	Cairo EGY	43	191
2000	Nabeul TUN	36	142
2005	Bangkok THA	20	87
2006	Manama BRN	18	35
2009	Tunis TUN	34	61

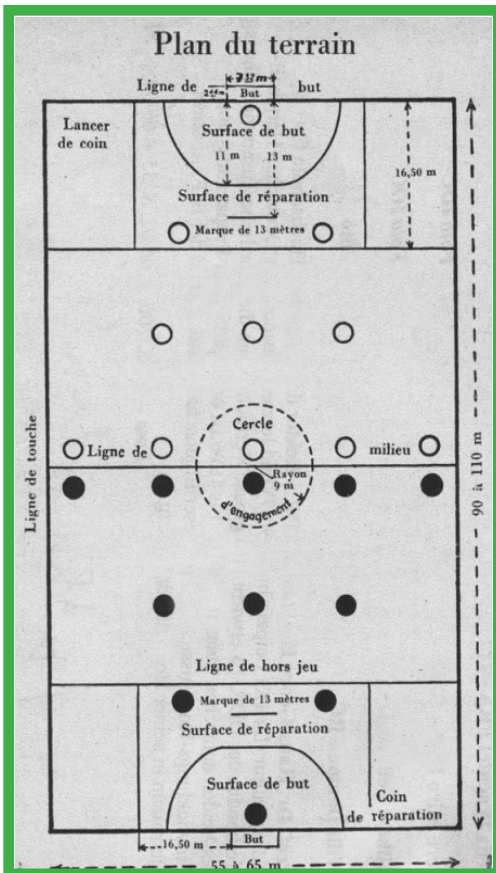
Congresses of sports medicine

		Fede- rations	Parti- cipants
1993	Oslo NOR	14	75
1995	Vienna AUT	21	60
1997	Kumamoto JPN	15	50
1999	Oslo NOR	17	60
2007	Berlin GER	15	50

Handball through the ages

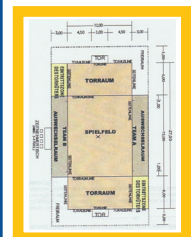
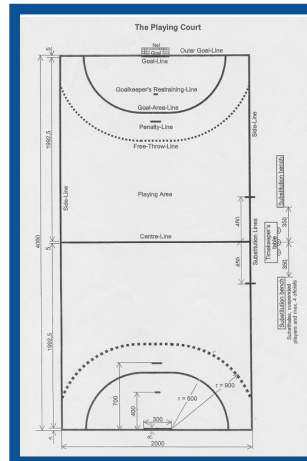
From outdoor over indoor to beach handball

The reflections of the German sports teacher Carl Schelenz on introducing handball could be considered to be brilliant. In 1919, his ideas formed the first far-reaching and long-lasting basis for the fast development and recognition of outdoor handball in the 20ties and 30ties. In practice: Similar to football, outdoor handball was played by ten players and one goalkeeper, using the existing infrastructure, such as organization, playing courts, changing rooms and clubhouses, except employing a smaller ball. In addition, special rules for this new sport were drawn up. And the game could start. This was the way handball developed first in Europe and spread then outside Europe too. The first highlight: At the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936, 100 000 spectators attended the outdoor handball final between Germany and Austria. A peak in popularity!



The fields of handball in their size relation:

- Outdoor (left)
- Indoor (middle)
- Beach (right)



After the 2nd World War, this popularity would further increase until the early 60's, even if a certain downward trend had already been observed at that time. There were two main reasons for this development: First, the Nordic European countries gave preference to indoor handball played in a hall with seven players due to the weather, whereas the Balkan countries as well as [Czechoslovakia](#) played handball on a small outdoor field with seven players according to indoor handball rules through lack of handball halls. Second, a tactical strategy having a negative influence on outdoor handball was developed by practically paralyzing the deliberate and pleasant running movements over the whole court: Preventing scoring opportunities by the opposing defence. What had happened? Outdoor handball had changed: There were no exciting activities anymore in the centre of the court; handball was losing its original attractiveness. The decision, made in the mid-fifties, to divide the playing court into three sections, whereas one inactive part of the team had to observe the moves in the penalty area, had not succeeded in increasing this sport's popularity. The consequence: The competitive sport of outdoor handball began to die out. The World Championship in 1969 was not organized as the six teams required could not be lined up.

On the other hand, indoor handball was gaining popularity. In 1938 and from 1954 after the 2nd World War, World Championships were held in this 7-a-side game and, after the first Olympic tournament in Munich in 1972, handball unexpectedly set out to conquer the world and was soon played everywhere throughout the world. Obviously, a top priority was to control and improve permanently the existing rules of the game by organizing IHF referee symposia (in cooperation with coaches) at international level. However, there was nothing to sugar-coat: There was not always a good balance between playing skills and toughness of play. The public acceptance of handball was finally based on the ability of the referees to manage this much faster game. Today, to be successful, players (and coaches) are increasingly aiming at taking advantage of the referees' decision-making during the game. Furthermore, it was also agreed that a match supervision to support the referees should be introduced into the national leagues (such as major tournaments and European Cups).

Two main problems

Unfortunately, there are also two main problems in modern handball. First, as far as the interpretation of the rules is concerned, especially attacking fouls, entering the goal area when shooting and the so-called "time play" that is contrary to the philosophy of the game and is included in the rules of the game as passive play. Second, the accumulation of major events since 1993/1994: World and

Continental Championships every two years as well as Olympic tournaments. Thus, the players of the world's best club teams have to give nearly impossible performance resulting in great physical strain and overload in players, short recovery times and increasing risk of injury. Handball is often performed to the limits of capability that should be taken very seriously and is often considered to be too tough.

A key feature of the development of handball is the worldwide education of young hopefuls by introducing rules of the game for mini-handball played by young girls and boys aged up to nine. Finally, it has been very important to deal with this absolute necessary area of development that had been underestimated for decades: Establishing contacts between officials/coaches and schools to introduce children (and their parents) to handball.

At the turn of the millennium, the fun variation of Beach Handball was presented at international level. Beach Handball is clearly considered to be a competitive sport having its own IHF rules (three field players and one goalkeeper as well as up to five substitute players) and championships. This variation of handball is a particularly valuable and pleasant sport, although many high-performing federations do not completely share this opinion.

Rules are changing the game – and the game is changing the rules

It is all a matter of give and take

Just like every other sport, handball needs rules too. These rules are decisive for the game, they regulate handball (court size, duration of the game, team timeout etc.) and control undesirable trends (behaviour towards opponent, provocations), but also – what is very important – support the philosophy of play (penalizing passive play, quick throw of the goalkeeper). This means that our rules are the most important pillar of the development of handball. The rules are changing the game, but the practiced game is also changing the rules.

On this occasion, it should be reminded that contested rules, such as limiting the duration of attack (the 45-second rule had already been proposed by the USSR in 1972), that had long and intensely been discussed over years and had even been put into practice by individual federations on a trial basis, were finally not included in the rules of the game of the IHF. In 1979, this rule was tested in the “Yugoslav Trophy” tournament in Pula when organizing a referee and coaching symposium and was considered to be obsolete. For this reason: Rules are similar to a human organism that needs a lot of attention. You will find some examples below.

The referees raise the arm. A basic signal. Thus, this is more than good advice and much more than an arbitrary indication. This is a very important signal given to the attacking team that is supposed to prepare an active play resulting in shooting at goal. This is no coincidence, but clearly recognizable. This means: If there is no immediate preparation of a calculated attack in the direction of the goal, the opposing team will gain possession of the ball by making a free throw. In fact, there are two referee decisions that are made at the same time. The first one to interrupt the passive play of the attacking team and the second one to grant some more seconds of time to this team to be able to shoot at goal. This is only one of the examples showing how the rules may be interpreted by the referees. There are different points of view. Not to mention the increasing number of provoked fouls (of the attacking team) in these situations.

Goalkeeper participating in the game

This is one of the rules being able to influence the philosophy of play as well as the purpose, the character and the nature of the handball match to a great extent. Above all: This is a rule depending on the referee’s level of judgement. Thus, it should be emphasized that referees may have a great influence on the game. Happily, in the meanwhile, the IHF improved the rules of the game by taking this

fact into account. That means: Since 2005, the training of international referees was pioneered by the international federation according to the following motto: “Good referees are providing good handball”. The worldwide standardized training project “Global Referee Training Programme” (GRTP) is intended to ensure that all international referees (aged up to 32) follow the same training and controlling criteria, video analyses and indoor performance tests (shuttle run) at international level.

Another rule that had frequently been rejected by the Congress believing that it would change the game to a considerable extent has finally been adopted. Today, this rule allowing the participation of the goalkeeper in the game has really influenced and has considerably improved the match situation. In different cases, the “goalie” is allowed to make a quick pass to another player of his team by creating a completely new situation (fast counter-attack). And: After a goal has been scored, he is able to quickly pass the ball to the pivot (quick throw-off) before the opposing team is back on its own half of the court (rejected proposal of Yugoslavia in 1972).

Main problems always attract and require close attention: Tough play, identification of attacking fouls and landing in the goal area when shooting. As ever, the rules’ main focus is the behaviour towards the opponent. The growing toughness of play is constantly controlled by using the rules of the game assisting the referees in decision-making. It can be stated that the introduction of progressive penalties (yellow card, 2-minute penalty, red card after three time penalties) has been widely accepted around the world and has considerably reduced the toughness of play. Nevertheless, the decision-making concerning the contested attacking foul (duel between pivot and centre back or jumping of the diagonal attacker towards the opposing defence when shooting) remains a main problem. A balanced play between attack and defence, discrimination neither against the one nor against the other team, rewarding good defensive behaviour as well as the skilful prevention of scoring opportunities by staying always in compliance with the rules – all these features are part of the vivid sport of handball with all its advantages and disadvantages. Or: Admitting high technical difficulty in scoring although the thrower has (maybe) already entered the goal area.

Help coming from the table

In this context, it is important to consider that an improvement in the players’ physical and technical skills result in high-quality infringements of the rules. Thus, the training of referees has to focus increasingly on recognizing and penalizing such behaviours. Only slightly bumping into a jumping winger or imperceptibly

pushing behind the back of a back-court player making a jump shot may have a lot of negative consequences (risk of injury!), but these actions have indeed to be remarked. This is only possible by ensuring a consistent referee education. Because it is important to further reduce the considerably pronounced benefit given to attackers by referees (it is in the nature of things).

In this field, another rule may be considered to point the way ahead. In international tournaments organized under the direction of the IHF (WCs, Olympic tournaments), the referees have now the possibility of completely focussing on the game as the “administrative tasks” required for the game (substitution errors, notation of yellow cards and penalty times as well as playing time) are only performed by the officials from the “table” (match supervision). What a huge progress!

The rules changes being discussed are always focussing on increasing the attractiveness of handball. As, for example, in the 80ties, when different remarkable ideas were suggested, but were not accepted by majority: Reducing the number of players from six to five, granting more points for a successful goal scored from outside the 9-m line, introducing a clear playing time (similar to basketball), enlarging the goal area and increasing the number of steps from three to four. However, considering the current rules of the game, it may be observed that the rules changes made handball become a physical, but also a very fast sport of international reputation.

From Amateurism to Professionalism

You can tell it just by looking at the socks

To simplify the matter one can state that the society in which we live is comparable to the philosophy of handball. But all in good time. The social systems of the twenties and thirties, when handball in Europe began to develop very rapidly, had completely different points of view and codes of conduct. The sport of handball as well as the handball players adapted themselves to the situation. The shirt had to be neatly tucked into the shorts, the leg socks had to be arranged in the same manner as for the other teammates and the team had to give a perfect image to the spectators being interested in sport. The handball player had to be educated to become a person knowing everything about loyalty, good manners, honesty and gallantry – on and off the playing court. Fast cooperation between players, identification of permanently changing situations on the court, switching from defence to attack as well as good skills and ball handling techniques required full concentration on the game.

A lot of these things were continued to be applied after the 2nd World War when this sport had only been considered to be a pleasant secondary activity that had no influence on the career or life plans of the players. In the 60ties, Emil Horle from Switzerland, university lecturer and legendary President of the Technical Commission of the IHF, described the educational value of handball in a report as follows: “The spirit, in which and with which you may fight, is mainly a question of character. It is in the nature of things that everyone possesses a certain fighting spirit. Everybody is endowed with such a fighting spirit from birth that is absolutely necessary not only for the game, but also for life in general. By education, this fighting spirit that is really essential for our existence can be influenced and affected in a good or a bad way. Thus, handball can be considered to be an educationally valuable factor.” And Horle continued to state: “Although we all encourage a certain fighting spirit in each game we play, it is also our duty to take advantage of this excellent method for educating people, forming their character and expressing sporting opinions in particular and human attitudes in general within the boundaries of decency and mutual respect.”

Company logo instead of club emblem

However, over the years, handball was progressively moving from pure amateur sport to a professional competitive game. Many clubs added their sponsor to their own name, the club logo was barely visible on sports clothing and in the

sport halls everybody could easily identify the companies supporting the home team allowing them to meet all their financial obligations. There was an excessive increase in training sessions leaving less flexibility in professional development. The fact that handball has also become a professional sport turned out to be irreversible. During this change from amateurism to professionalism, the athletes were paid first in hiding, then semi-officially and finally as full-time players with professional ambitions. The external look was also different: The shirts did not have to be tucked into the shorts anymore, the socks could be short or long according to the players' taste. However, there was another thing that was becoming very important – advertising had to be clearly visible. And this rule had absolutely to be followed.

In the 80ties already it has been realized that it was possible to make good use of ambitions of sport and business that were beneficial to each other in spite of the dangers of commercialization. Hans-Jürgen Hinrichs, the former EHF Vice-President being successful in handball as well as in his profession, wrote in a report on the NOC working conference held on the subject “Victory before morality?” as follows: “Honest competitions, contests, quarrelling about success, about victory, about winning, a permanent search for an always better solution, for the best performance, for being the best performer, this applies to all fields – in sport as well as in business. The only way to achieve long-term success is to pursue competitions in a decent manner. In this respect, the same moral and ethical principles do certainly apply to business and sport.” In this context, Hinrichs claimed: “Sport and business do not exclude each other. In the meanwhile, everyone has realized that times are over in which high-level athletes had not been allowed to be paid for their performance.”

The same ethical principals, such as honesty, fairness and loyalty, still apply in professional handball too. Even if this sport is now based on the growing premise that absolute pursuit of victory is becoming more and more important in handball. But, above all, the following applies too: Commercialized competitive handball needs clear rules in all areas as well as very brave and smart rules supervisors. Within the IHF as well as all its Continental Confederations.

Credit to federations and clubs

Handball schools and tournaments

Seven-a-side handball (indoor and outdoor) at international level - globally and when it comes to Europe in particular - was given a tremendous boost in the sixties and seventies for three reasons:

1. The national leagues became better organized to gain in sporting significance.

2. Nearly all European countries organized tournaments for national teams on a yearly basis to prepare for major international events. Soon they became an integral part of European federations' event calendars and thus were integrated into the national competitions calendar. It goes without saying that such intensive deployment of players during international competitions that was continued for years also benefited coaches and referees, who improved their performance, to illustrate why the majority of European nations basically were still superior to competitors from other continents. In such a way, structural, organizational physical and techno-tactical experience constantly contributed to the work of the national federations.

The popularity of the handball sport boosted everywhere. Events such as Super Cup, Baltic Cup, Carpathians Cup, Yugoslavia Trophy, Spain Cup, Coupe de France and DHV Tournament such to name a few of the most important ones aside from the great variety of tournaments in the different countries. They formed the basis for a stable extraordinary handball quality on the European continent, also with regard to the women's category. Club tournaments such as the one in Rangsdorf (GDR) and Urach (FRG) particularly garnered an enviable reputation. All those tournaments represented a stage of development at international level that should never be reached again given nowadays' busy competition calendar (World Championships held biannually).

By including WCs for junior (since 1977) and youth (since 2005/2006) teams to extend its WC programme, the IHF increased the potential for development at international level.

With the continental confederations founded in the seventies, the inclusion of handball tournaments at Asian Games, African Games and Pan-American Games was also part of that potential.

3. Last but not least the handball schools whose most famous ones are internationally renowned as inestimable pedagogic and sport expertise value. Two institutions which influenced the work of numerous national coaches and club

coaches and thus provided a strong stimulus for the development of handball at international level deserve a special mention.

The Yugoslavian handball school staged on the Mediterranean Sea in the summertime proved a successful combination of training and relaxation to hold attraction in Central Europe and the entire Mediterranean Region. You could witness coaches from Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Israel aside from those from



Break: snapshot of the Yugoslavian handball school in Sibenik in 1974. On the left, instructor Ivan Snoj.

elite leagues in France and Germany discussing tactical teaching goals. Romanian, Yugoslavian for sure but also Czech handball philosophies were in the focus of attention when teaching attack and corresponding defence configurations as well as questions on the Rules of the Game (a constant issue). The International Handball Federation held its coaching and referee symposium in parallel to the Yugoslavian handball school several times in order to train

its referees at the Yugoslavian Trophy tournament and to put changes to the Rules (e.g. 45 sec. time limit of attacks) to the test.

The International Handball School of South Baden, where the intensity of training for coaches was really high, had to do without the perfect relaxation under the Yugoslavian sun. In Freiburg, Southern Germany, first Czech then Romanian and Russian philosophies were taught. Coaches from very different countries attended the internationally famous event every year.

Both schools largely contributed to improved comprehensive cognitive skills and training methods and were also included in the national training of coaches. Summarizing those events provided the essential foundation for the unprecedented progress of handball without which today's handball would not exist.

Calling for all-round coaching

Advisers, agents and Co.

Advisers are giving advice, agents are acting as mediator and dealers are dealing – for/with male and female handball players. There is a fast-growing market for these issues as great physical strain in handball players results in an increase in the clubs' squad size to maintain their teams' high performance level. For active members, there are many problems that need to be solved: adequate salary, health and life insurance, old-age pension, rehabilitation after injury, change of club, investments, legal advice, psychological assistance and much more. In brief: All-round coaching would be best.

This type of coaching had not yet existed in the sixties and seventies. When Yugoslavia's citizens were allowed to accept jobs in the countries of Western Europe to reduce economic bottlenecks (number of unemployed persons) in their own country, the Yugoslav Handball Federation released its former international players and even club coaches. That is to say: Contacts with numerous handball associations and clubs in Western and Southern Europe were used to make top-class handball players available – for payment in foreign currency of course.

Within a few years, Italy, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, France and Germany as well as Arab countries employed handball players who were mostly registered as students or sports instructors. Officially, the clubs were not allowed to pay the welcome “reinforcements” - as everybody knows - since professional handball players did not exist at that time.

In the case where payments were actually made in the form of expense allowances, it was done in an unofficial way. Of course, the Yugoslav coaches could expect to earn good money with their job. Their particular activities had a quite significant influence on the development of top handball in many countries as far as training intensity and quality, as well as the level of the relevant top clubs are concerned. However, there was not much talk of the financial extent of the business with the Yugoslav handball players over the years; there was only a general idea among the persons concerned. The benefit remained positive, apart from some unavoidable annoyances: An intended player who did not come or a coach who fell short of expectations.

An increased professionalism and a growing player market with supply and demand resulted by definition in a higher number of advisers. Even before the fall of the Iron Curtain, especially Polish and Hungarian handball players followed the call from the “Golden West”. This concerned also top-class players from

Romania, Czechoslovakia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The change was based on good consultation and negotiation – for payment in good western currency – by well or even not well informed agents who did not do such a job for nothing.

Thus, from now on, the situation would look like this: On the one hand there were advisers who used fair working methods, and on the other, there were so-called “black sheep” - such as club managers and referees - who were not really allowed to work as advisers, but took this opportunity to earn some extra money. And, finally, there were also those who palmed dubious investments in real property off on players or encouraged them to change clubs, for the sole purpose of accelerating their own business performance.

Another rather rare variation that had also been put into practice: A players’ agent of country A gets himself voted in as presidential member of the handball federation of country B; as member of this body, he decides to transfer active players to country A and finally negotiates the conditions with the players’ agent of country A – that is, with himself..

In August 2011, the International Handball Federation put a stop to such excesses by adopting the Regulations for Players’ Agents that were long overdue. Herein, the rules to be followed by advisers, agents and mediators are clearly laid down: prerequisites for issuing, validity and duration of licence; insurance policy and bank guarantee; contract details and concluding a contract; remuneration and commission; obligation to act professionally and seriously by signing a code of conduct; sanctions. The regulations are completed by a standard contract in which is laid down what can be done and what must be done. If an agreement is concluded between player and agent, this contract - after being signed by both parties - has to be confirmed in writing by the agent’s national federation, by the player’s national federation and by the International Handball Federation. Better safe than sorry – if all parties stick to the written word. Whether this is always possible, is a completely different matter.

Germany's dilemma

Handball - a matter for debate – two different views

The fact whether or not German handball is healthy does indeed affect international handball. After all you know the enthusiasm for handball within the German Handball Federation which is the world's largest federation (approx. 847,000 members in 2013). However, Germany's handball people painfully experienced that handball had been a subject of considerable debate that haunted them from time to time to learn from that and to reorient themselves. That's how it has been ever since.

Slightly exaggerating you might say that the German handball people were victorious to death to dig the grave for eleven-a-side handball. In fact they had made the game on the large court grow over a long period of time making outstanding performances even beyond the Second World War but their never ending success also led to the decline of handball. They claimed all World Championships they participated in, and all the European Cups went to Germany. They secured 21 consecutive wins at international level and seldom lost, to Switzerland in Luzern in 1963 for instance when in the wake of heavy rainfall the team was technically inferior on the muddy pitch.

Notwithstanding the German handball people as well as senior executives inside and outside the IHF ignored a gradually decreasing public interest resulting from the lack of competition the Germans had caused at international level on a grand scale and thus the fact that eleven-a-side handball had no future. Year-long rejoicing obstructed the view on the development of handball in many European countries that had been changing.

It went to such lengths that highly-esteemed experts pledged their support for eleven-a-side handball to be continued by evaluating tactical opportunities of eleven-a-side handball splitting up the field into three parts with six defenders against six attackers as a support for the seven-a-side game. Getting out of the stuffy hall to get fresh air and refreshing for the coming indoor season by increasing stamina, these were the statements the Germans had given. Whoever backed the idea of doing without eleven-a-side handball had to put up with resentment and distrust.

When seven-a-side handball irrevocably emerged to become the number one in international handball the ball throwers of the Federal Republic of Germany, who absolutely preposterously set up a national eleven-a-side league still in 1967, had dropped out of the world's top teams (sixth at 1972 Olympic Games, ninth

at 1974 World Championship). After claiming the World Championship title in 1978 handball in Germany fell silent whereas the German Bundesliga gradually attracted more and more players from abroad to open a new debate.

How to build up a competitive national team if foreign players take the major positions at the German league clubs? The top teams from Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and France, from Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Serbia, Greece, Slovenia and Russia did not only earn their living in Germany but also constantly competed in high-quality matches in front of a big crowd to improve their national team's level. Under these circumstances the young German players were hardly able to develop properly.

The ensuing discussion even continued during a real high between 2000 and 2008 when the German national team claimed both the European Championship (2004) title and the World Championship title (2007). People always envision a rather dark future for handball.

However, that opinion is currently being revised. Structural reforms are being drawn up. The German clubs plan on introducing a German youth league to promote their young talents to the top and thus to produce world-class players among others for financial reasons. That new format is to put an end to the everlasting debate over handball in Germany and might be a showcase for the development at international level too.

When politics get involved

Powerlessness - anger – change

Political power play leaves only little room for independence and autonomy in sports. International handball made that same experience. Secretary general Albert Wagner admitted resignedly at the 1968 IHF Congress: ‘Sports can’t exist without politics anymore.’ And: “The current situation is much stronger than all efforts to keep politics excluded from sports.” There were different findings supporting that thesis, however, others prove that political decisions could have positive impacts in sports too.

The first big boycott

The first big boycott in handball history occurred in the year of the Moscow **1980** Olympic Games. Many Western nations followed the USA, which didn’t sent athletes to the Games in protest for the USSR invasion of Afghanistan. Tunisia and Japan also boycotted the Games. So the IHF nominated substitutes. The Eastern Bloc’ retaliatory action seriously harmed the Los Angeles **1984** Olympic handball tournaments. At the behest of their government the teams from USSR, GDR, Poland, Hungary, CSSR and Cuba did not take part in the men’s tournament forcing the IHF to appoint new participants. The teams of USSR, Hungary and GDR did not participate in the women’s tournament.

While the non-participation harmed the sporting level of the men’s tournament, you easily made out the absence of world-class teams in the women’s tournament. Nevertheless it could be identified that both boycotts considerably hampered or even harmed continuous efforts made by some of the national teams. They had to undergo tournaments of the second performance level (WCh B) to reorient themselves.

No WCh – no European Cup

In **1968** the IHF had to react to the Eastern Bloc troops’ invasion of the land of its ally, CSSR. First the IHF cancelled all the European Cup competitions and secondly the **1969** Women’s World Championship, whose preparations were well underway in the Soviet Union after having fixed the venues, could not be taking place according to the world association’s standards due to the political circumstances. The title contests were then held in 1975.

German disputes

Since 1960 the IHF had been facing the different political circumstances in Germany being divided into East and West. The world association shared the IOC position in that point that allowed a united team of Germany to participate in World Championships. The coaches in charge were to line up a team including the best players while being compelled to achieve parity (eight players each) in order to live up to both parties' expectations, mostly considering the current sporting skills of the individual players. There were test matches between East and West, a lot of discussions and even more talks between Deutscher Handballbund (BRD) and the Handball Section, later named Deutscher Handball-Verband (GDR) – and every time after a long debate they forced themselves to agree on a comprise that was hard to achieve but that both parties had to settle for. Yet, all that had only little to do with professional sport in general and handball in particular.

It was more difficult for the IHF to have a unified women's team. In the run-up to the 1960 eleven-a-side WCh in the Netherlands the world association, following unsuccessful talks between both German federations (By orders from above the East Germans were not allowed to compete for a unified team) determined two observation matches to be held without spectators in West Berlin and East Berlin. With regard to that the East German federation considered those games to be qualification games and thus claimed that its team was sent to the WCh. A compromise could finally be reached allowing ten players from East Germany and six from West Germany. However, under such unsatisfactory circumstances the athletes were unable to form a strong team and sold themselves short. In order to prevent further useless dispute the IHF fixed two qualification matches to be played in Vienna and Warsaw in view of the 1962 seven-a-side WCh.

Ich bin ein Berliner...

The IHF couldn't avoid a dispute breaking out just prior to the Women's World Championship in 1969. The USSR refused to compete in two preliminary round matches scheduled in (West) Berlin, as the city was not considered a part of the Federal Republic of Germany (four-power status), although according to international sports agreements athletes from (West) Berlin basically joined the team of the Federal Republic as regards the participation at Olympic Games. Consequently the USSR did not participate in the said World Championship for political reasons.

Israel: gradual transition

Another political decision made by the IHF had meanwhile (since 1976) been commonplace: Israel was affiliated to European handball given that being a member of the Asian continent and competing with Arab neighbouring countries would have given rise to new absurdities. Yet, the world association once had to put up with a WCh qualification match featuring Israel that was cancelled, as the GDR did not travel to the Middle East because of the hall in Israel that was simply too small even so it was just slightly too small. The IHF stated the East Germans were formally right. In principle the decision was correct as it was made for sporting reasons and not politically motivated.

Sheikh made martyr of himself

It was the time of the Gulf War in 1990 when the Iraqi invaded Kuwait for economic and political reasons. Sheikh Fahad al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah belonging to one of the country's leading families was among those who opposed the enemy quite openly. The man from Kuwait, who, among others, was the president of the Asian Handball Federation was killed in a bomb attack placed on his car in the middle of a street. The allied troops' intervention to free the country came too late for him. The Kuwait government made the sheikh, who died at the age of 45, a martyr. There is memorial to the man who had rendered outstanding services to his country and to the sport of handball in Asia.



Individuals were also hit

Individual persons involved in handball were also hit: Heinz Seiler, one of the most important personalities of the world association was not allowed to attend the IHF Congress in San Diego (USA) in 1984 by order of the Soviet Union. Fortunately, such irrational requests are indeed very rare these days.

Political changes – new members

As from 1990 Perestroika and Glasnost caused the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The giant empire split up into 13 parts or independent states respectively: Aside from Russia, the legal successor to the USSR, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus became European states in 1992 whereas Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan joined Asia. Shortly

afterwards something similar happened in Yugoslavia where Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Kosovo became independent from their Serbian motherland to found their own states (and federations). As a result of these changes the number of member federations and the number of (partially very good) national federations involved in international top handball. – In **1993** Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. A similar story happened ten years later in Africa: South Sudan became politically independent of Sudan to become associated member of the IHF in **2012**. – Political changes to the opposite occurred in Germany in **1989** where two federations had made life difficult for one another for decades (see above). The two German states reunited in 1990. The fact that Germany’s achievements in handball couldn’t simply be doubled after that reunification was willingly accepted.



As a basic principle the International Handball Federation feels compelled to make every effort that handball can be played, whenever and wherever possible. However, the world association is not in a position to intervene in mental and social disputes like in Asia (East Asia and the Arabic states which are situated thousands of kilometres away), in Africa (Arab countries in the north and a majority of Black African countries) and least of all in America (North and South). All it could do is to encourage the training of coaches and referees or to enforce the compliance of regulations or to make recommendations.

Manipulation - corruption - doping

Just as everywhere else: black sheep...

Manipulation, corruption, doping and other machinations may also be used by handball players to gain advantage. Happily, it does not happen often; however, it did happen in the past and it will again happen in future. In general, negative items attract greater attention than good news. The following examples are intended to show how nasty tricks are used to prevent and distort fair results from a sporting point of view and how an advantage can be obtained by deception. All these incidents have a realistic background and are based on real facts. To guarantee the protection of the personality of the persons involved, it has been decided not to mention the names of “horse and rider”. This decision is also based on the fact that the supposed malefactor has often been a victim of criminal characters who are “playing games” within the sphere of influence of handball. The “wire pullers” as real culprits remain there where they do not want to be found: in the shadow. However, those who are standing in the light get it in the neck.



After Romania’s team as subsequent title winner had lost the last preliminary round match against outsider Sweden at the Men’s World Championship held in **1974** in the GDR, the Romanian playmaker Cristian Gatu meaningfully referred to this defeat as a “technical accident”. The whole truth: By winning this match, Sweden succeeded in reaching the next round and Spain had to go back home. And this is what everyone was thinking without saying it clearly: The Romanian and Swedish Handball Federations, being of internationally decisive importance at that time, could afford to do themselves mutual favours as these incidents cast almost no bad shadow. Nobody bothered, nobody rebelled against and nobody was hurt. Except Spain, as the saying goes: “Every cloud has a silver lining.” And nobody uttered the word “deception”. However, fairness in sports is something else.



Men’s Junior World Championship in **1995** in Argentina. The preparations were going as planned; the title contests were running their course as was to be expected from a sporting point of view. But there was something that people did not realize and only discovered - if at all - after their arrival in Buenos Aires: During the run-up to this tournament, a head of agency - who is himself a handball player and

who has been asked by the host association to organize this WC - lined his own pockets with money from participation fees and the fixed deposit to be paid to the IHF, omitted to pay outstanding invoices and disappeared for good shortly before the WC start with half a million Swiss Francs. Holding the tournament according to the rules was really threatened as hoteliers, bus companies and owners of handball halls wished to be paid before boarding, lodging, transporting and allowing to play a total of 500 participants. After daily nerve-racking discussions with local financial institutions, the IHF finally succeeded in finding the required money to cover current costs and in saving the world championship – by making available a six-figure sum that the member federation reimbursed at a later date. After a long time, the “chief organizer” emerged again with his little daughter called “little fire” – but without the money. That has literally been burnt...



Olympic Games in **1996** in Atlanta. As usual, IHF partner adidas asked the technical delegates and referees to come to the Olympic department store to be fitted out. The officials' and athletes' equipment of other sports partners was also stored there. And the guests could also buy a souvenir to keep particularly pleasant memories of their stay in Atlanta. However, several IHF guests seemed to misunderstand the purpose of these souvenirs: They were helping themselves to articles that were destined for other athletes. A phone call received in the morning after the IHF visit caused great excitement. Several products were missing in the warehouse: the specially manufactured sports shoes of Ethiopia's legendary runner Haile Gebreselassi that were absolutely essential for the marathon finals as well as the beach volleyball equipment of Cuba's national teams, in particular the mini-clothes of the women's team.

Subsequently, the IHF tried to clarify and come to terms with this more than embarrassing situation. Possible persons were interrogated in the presence of lawyers and were given the opportunity to return the important stolen goods at night without being recognized in the darkened and deserted village by putting them at the door of a reliable person (a referee acting as mayor in his home country). This action resulted in finding some of the lost goods; however, the running shoes and the bikinis have never been found. Overnight, adidas experts working extra hours finally managed to reproduce the special sports shoes and to sew the miniature textiles for the women's volleyball team. Ethiopia's athlete Gebreselassi won the gold medal at the marathon finals and Cuba's beach volleyball champions also reached their goal. The IHF refrained from sending

the malefactors home earlier out of consideration for their families and their professional evolution. The IHF also refrained from nominating them again for another international event.



The fact that handball is a sport where there is no need for dietary supplements, meaning doping, is a complete fabrication. If players are unexpectedly unable to participate in large international tournaments, such as the pre-Olympic test event in **2003** in Athens, they will naturally escape dope testing. Isolated cases in handball do not really help in developing public awareness of doping in this physically demanding and fast sport. And the fact that the members of the international federation's bodies have different opinions about how the doping problem should be treated does not really help to put people's mind at rest. There are clear instructions that have to be met. Taking stimulants, cannabis as well as medicines against painful joints to be able to cope with high physical strain is tolerated. This is the grey area of sport at top level and an important issue of the IHF's Medical Commission too. Thus, this body has to take over a quite difficult controlling function because, as is always the case in the history of handball, all officials do not take the view that making a big thing about every doping case would be necessary.



It is often that referees take on the role of the culprit and the victim as their special function and position seem to make them particularly "well suited" for such a situation: They are neutral and above suspicion, ranging from referee selection and coaching to decision-making on the court. In between, there are a large number of creative possibilities. The whole panoply ranges from board and lodging of referees via leisure-time activities proposed by the host nation ("if absolutely necessary") and a visit to the referee's dressing room during the match to various offers of the winning club to organize their next holidays, not to mention some little presents and other gifts.

Compared with these infringements, the year **2006** was marked by a far more serious affair: Before returning home after the European Cup final, two referees had to pass through customs control. During the inspection, a five-figure dollar amount was found in a plastic bag. Both referees concerned were not able to provide a plausible explanation. There were two versions to explain where the money comes from. On the one hand, there was the version of a top official

making allusion to taking bribes. On the other hand, there was the version of the referees concerned. They considered themselves to be the victims of a conspiracy. This case is still unsolved after seven years and shows that everyone should be cautious about apportioning blame.

As far as accusations of corruption at the final match of the European Champions League in **2007** are concerned, there was talk of finding the sources of suspicion and the culprits. Public prosecutors, lawyers, courts of law, handball officials and female coaches tried to clear up the regrettable incidents what often resulted in apportioning blame and claiming damages. In the present case, a final judgment has not yet been passed (the first judgment was acquittal for lack of evidence). In the meanwhile, everyone is entitled to the presumption of innocence.

However, if referees are aware that they are no longer employed after having reported on “dubious incidents” to the highest authority, then suspicions could be confirmed that illegal machinations have not to be discussed. Finally, our good reputation must not be damaged. But this strange development should give us food for thought...



The incidents in the run-up to the Olympic handball tournament in Beijing in **2008** had also been considered quite unpleasant when the IHF - without having a particularly clear conscience - left it to the continental federation concerned to supervise and control the organization of the Olympic Games. The different opinions about fairness in sports and basic ethical attitudes as well as not very critical-minded media resulted in a tournament raising a lot of questions, giving not very reasonable answers and, finally, having a negative effect on international handball. Once again, referees were the “hired” malefactors who, based on video tapes, were proved to follow an imposed and very questionable interpretation of the rules of the game. In other words: They exerted an excessive influence on the game, strongly violated neutrality and falsified results. And what made things even worse: The “impartial” referees were employed by the organizer against the will of the IHF that had already appointed a referee pair from another continent. The scandal was not without consequences and the affair was finally brought to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), the highest judicial body of the IOC. The judgment: The tournament had to be held again (and finally resulted in the participation of the best Asian teams in Beijing). The CAS partly laid the blame for this disgraceful performance on the IHF that had acted with gross negligence.

The lesson from this case: The IHF must strictly insist on reaching the required

standards of top handball. Because: The IOC as well as its sponsors do not wish to be concerned with difficulties in the game of handball in view of the organization of the Olympic Games. Among other things.



A new form of manipulation - that had been observed in handball in **2012** for the first time - concerns money and only money. And that is the way it works: Some players of a clearly fancied team have the absurd idea of betting a quite large amount of money just in case they would intentionally lose the match against a clear outsider. And the result: Taking the audience completely by surprise, the clear favourite suffers shameful defeat. Only the players involved in this bet know about things and finally emerge victorious in this unsporting and manipulative behaviour. Who had the idea of such unbelievable and stupid things to be done by professional handball players earning big money? The joys of betting, gambling addiction or highly changing moral values? It is even said that it may only be a sort of leisure-time activity of some female players. However, all in all it boils down to the same thing: Making negative headlines for handball in a world-wide new discipline called highly profitable betting game. Unfortunately, it has already become a matter of global concern.

The 2011 photo of the year:
Michael Heuberger GER



Basic work and development aid

Getting to the roots...

An ancient wisdom says that if you want to eliminate something evil, you must get to the root of the problem. In this case the evil is the fact that people from many countries would like to play handball, but don't have the possibilities due to a lack of resources and know-how. This evil must be defeated.

After years of consolidation and the foundation of Continental Confederations, the International Handball Federation was asked to set the groundwork wherever necessary and to tackle the problem at grassroots level. The keyword was development aid. In order to enable everyone to play handball, the IHF has focused on different fields over the years, which altogether form part of the development aid as a whole.

Olympic Solidarity

In 1984 the IHF started the first worldwide project together with the International Olympic Committee: The Olympic Solidarity courses. They are conducted by qualified experts and have been initiated by IHF Secretary General Raymond Hahn and IOC Director Pere Miro. Often successful national coaches, together with local experts, aim primarily to educate talented coaches of the respective countries, who are afterwards working as coaches of the federation and transferring their knowledge to the masses. From time to time the best referees of the respective countries are on board as well.

Many younger and weaker Member Federations have largely taken advantage of this offer. Since 1984, when coaches from five countries of Africa, Asia and Europe were taught for the first time about the secrets of handball, courses have taken place on all five continents every year. According to surveys, a total of



*In October 1997
Dietrich Späte (GER)
visits Bahrain to conduct
an Olympic Solidarity
course*

390 courses have so far been held, and over the years, Olympic Solidarity has contributed almost 40 million US dollars in this regard. The commitment of the IHF corresponds to these figures. The joint project of IOC and IHF is a long-term success. To be continued.

Seminars for executives

It was soon realized that newly founded, emerging federations needed support in establishing their national handball organizations. The seminars for executives, which were introduced in 1994, aimed to provide support in this respect. During these information sessions lasting several days, further education was provided to the invited Presidents, Secretary Generals and Treasurers of about ten to 15 National Federations. The contents of those events included organization and establishment of a federation, budget and financial administration, marketing, merchandising, fundraising and sponsoring, communication and public relations, development aid as well as specific regional issues.

Between 1994 and 2004, the IHF held nine of those seminars in Kenya, Ghana, Costa Rica, Jordan, China, Senegal, Tanzania, Mongolia and India. In so doing,



*Mai 2004:
In Ulanbator,
the capital of
Mongolia, there is
another seminar
for executives
in the eastasian
region.*

130 countries were reached, thus far more than half of all IHF members. The Secretary General Raymond Hahn and the Managing Director Frank Birkefeld were always present during the seminars, which were supported financially and in non-material ways by Olympic Solidarity including Pere Miro, who proved to be a highly competent and committed partner.

Material support

Immediately after taking office in 2000, the President, who has regarded development aid as one of his priority issues, launched the third major project. He wanted everyone to benefit from the IHF – at least everyone who was in need of any support. Together with the Council he defined a certain number of

Member Federations, which were supported in terms of sports equipment per year and per continent. Priority was of course given to those who needed it most. Material support was effected in the form of balls, goals, sports clothing, shoes, and refereeing equipment. After two years, Moustafa noticed with satisfaction that already 69 (of the 147 affiliated) federations had received the eagerly demanded equipment. Until the end of his first term of office in 2004, all nations in need had been supplied at least once with the most necessary equipment. Also these development measures were continued in addition to the other related activities. They required a huge amount of money, which was well-invested though.



Joseph Samalesu, President of Zambia Handball Federation, and his team receiving the urgently required sports equipment as a present of the IHF in March 2005

Challenge Trophy

The most recent initiative of the President is his favourite project, which is also due to the fact that it perfectly complements the present development aid activities: the Challenge Trophy. Assuming that weaker federations, which are supported financially as well as in material and non-material ways, also need to gain match practice, less developed teams were grouped from the regional point of view to compete against each other as part of a tournament.

The Challenge Trophy offers as many teams concerned as possible the opportunity to participate with relatively low organizational expenses. In the second phase, the matches are conducted by referees who successfully passed the Global

Referee Training Programme (GRTP). The winners of the individual zones and regions compete for the tournament title which includes the qualification for the respective continental championship.



Challenge Trophy final 2011 in India. The winner is the team of Finland.

The Challenge Trophy, which was launched in 2006, found followers everywhere and has in the meantime found its place in the international calendar of events as some figures show: 2009 – six tournaments with 42 teams; 2010 – 15 tournaments with 85 teams; 2011 – eight

tournaments with 44 teams; 2012 – another 17 tournaments. Youth competitions have by now been integrated as well. The budget for the Challenge Trophy or more precisely IHF Trophy, as it is called now, amounted to 2 million Swiss francs in 2010 alone, showing an upward trend.

Off to school

Not necessarily part of the development project, but also a highly important and long overdue project to be tackled is School Handball, the implementation of which the IHF started in 2010. On initiative of President Dr Hassan Moustafa a working group consisting of Allan Lund (DEN), Dietrich Späte (GER) and Philippe Bana (FRA) was created, which elaborated a concept by use of which



physical education teachers of 5 – 17 year old children and youngsters are educated to become handball coaches. The project was put under the slogan 'Fun, passion, and health' and the first corresponding course was held in September 2011. Since then a total of 35 courses have been conducted on all five continents with more than 3000 course participants. The IHF has been the first international sports federation to implement this kind of project in these dimensions and the success and the positive feedback from teachers all over the world proves the IHF right.

And in addition

Besides the main work, the IHF also supports wherever help is required. In 2002 the IHF delivered a handball floor for Special Olympics, the world meeting of handicapped athletes, free of charge to Ireland. Further, mini handball projects in Chinese elementary schools were financially supported and the IHF made it possible for some continental representatives to participate at the World Games in 2001 in the Japanese Akita. Support was also given at the Olympic Games in Athens, Beijing and London, where handball has not necessarily been considered as a traditional sport in the population.

And also the professional international federations which the IHF has supported and where handball amongst other sports is also represented in their disciplines most not be forgotten: the students, the military, the deaf, physically disabled persons, the wheelchair users. And this list could easily be continued.



In all these years several publications were made, and later videos, DVDs and other interactive electronic contributions, which supported developing countries on their way to the top. For more information in this regard, please refer to chapter XII.

The financial investments going into all these and many other projects rose between 1999 and 2010 by unbelievable 2156%! And everybody has profited from this development - more than once.

The 2012 photo of the year:
Ben Dawson AUS



The public relations of the IHF

With media – for the media – in the media

Initially the International Handball Federation both struggled with communication and finances. This is not really surprising taking into consideration that the little money available at that time was being used otherwise. And also newspaper publishers and readers had other priorities at that time.

This lack of communication lasted until 1957, before Secretary General Wagner seized the initiative and proposed the publication of a communication sheet to the Council. The bulletin appeared four to six times per year and was initially published in German and English and later also in French. According to the corresponding minutes it was determined that “CHF 110.- without postage” were approved for each edition. This was a high amount at that time. Receivers of the news service were the press agencies as well as the National Federations, which on their part also further distributed the publication. This was the beginning of press work and public relations of the IHF. Before the publication of the bulletin was finally stopped in the early 90s, more than 200 multilingual issues had run by the copy machines in Basle.

The ‘History of International Handball’ of the IHF was published together with author Günter Millermann in 1960 and was of interest for the Member Federations, but also for the media.

Four years later the magazine «Handball throughout the World» appeared which appealed to the wider general public and was available in English, French, Spanish and German.

While the IHF leaders still mainly focussed on printing, already a new medium for communication was knocking at their door: the television. However, negotiations with the people responsible for TV rights and fees were first led by those National Federations, to which the IHF Congress had awarded the hosting of a world championship. Later the IHF – as organiser of the event - took over the negotiations and also the corresponding income.



Handball was already a media event in 1957: Elsa Hanschmann and Lidia Simonek of the vice-world champion Hungary pose for the Wochenschau.

The International Olympic Committee gave an example of how to win over the representatives of press, radio and television and reach at the same time many friends and fans of handball. In 1972, on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Munich, all represented international federations had for the first time the possibility to accredit a professional journalist and a photo reporter of their choice - a skilful and sensible decision which paid off.

IHF President Paul Högberg stated at the Council meeting in 1976 that promotion had not been considered sufficiently. He made clear that the purpose must be to give more material to the media in view of the rising interest in handball. The result was that the work with journalists was intensified; a travelling exhibition informed the media at different occasions about the history of handball; news services were published more frequently; the IHF received a telex connection and became accessible at any time; the collaboration with the press became more intensive; even for advertising material the federation now spent money; the magazine 'The ABC of Handball' was brought onto the market in German, English, French and Spanish; a textbook for advanced was in preparation.

The IHF found support on the 8th October 1983, when the AIPS Handball Commission, a spin-off of the international journalists' union AIPS (Association International de la Press Sportive) was brought to life. The purpose of this committee was to form a closer partnership with journalists in order to improve information flow. Klaus Pohlenz, a highly respected handball expert from the GDR, became president.

Pohlenz also belonged to the editorial staff who published the first World Handball Magazine in July 1984, backed by the initiative of IHF Secretary General Max Rinkenburger (FRG). Further responsible editor in chief Klaus-Dieter Kimmel (GDR), Christian Wiegels (FRG), Leon Undersen (DEN), Peter Lattmann (SUI), Ivica Vukotic (YUG) and layouter Siegmur Förster (GDR) were responsible for this first edition of the WHM, which was produced in English with German and French inserts at 5000 copies per edition three times a year.



The AIPS Handball Commission 1992 in Barcelona. At the left Günther Pfeistlinger, Jozsef Simon and Thorsten vom Wege, who can look back in 2013 at their more than 20-year lasting activity in this committee.

officials, and was complemented from 1995 on with official announcements from the IHF. The information bulletin was stopped, the WHM, which acquired a high reputation in the following years, was continued.

Alongside the magazine the federation developed other activities to continue promoting handball and attracting public interest. The increasing appeal to the public grew with media orientated competitions. This also provided the platform to introduce the World Handball Players of the Year for the first time in 1988. In the new millennium fans and experts also received the opportunity to elect the World Handball Coaches and the Rookies of the year.

In 1991 & 1992 the IHF launched the search for the ‘photo of the year’. The advertising to enter was not limited to professionals, but still those who publish their work in the press. The first prize-winner was Gerhard Uhl (GER). After several years break from the competition it was reintroduced in 1996 & 1997 with Kerstin Jönsson (AUT) as the prize-winner. She had previously become well-known as a national handball player. All other prize-winners: 1998 Sandor Kodrusz HUN - 1999 Björn Langsem NOR - 2000 Björn Moe NOR - 2001 Naoto Sasaki JPN - 2002 Jessica Gow SWE - 2003 Jack Mikrut SWE - 2004 Sascha Klahn GER - 2005 Leena Manhart AUT + Lars Rönbög DEN - 2006 no contest - 2007 no contest - 2008 no contest - 2009 Tilo Wiedensohler GER + Stephane Pillaud FRA - 2010 Antonio Bronic CRO - 2011 Michael Heuberger GER + Stephane Pillaud FRA – 2012 Ben Dawson AUS.

For those particularly interested in handball subjects the ‘Rules of the IHF’ was created. This offered a range of special editions ranging from editions of the World and European Championships onto instructions on how to construct a handball hall. All special editions were again produced in the three main languages English, German, and French and when required also in Arabic or Spanish.

The AIPS Handball Commission led by Christian Wiegels (GER), Lars Stenfeldt (SWE) and Günther Pfeistlinger (AUT) also contributed during the following years. But the collaboration didn’t work very well. Conversations at the highest level, between the President of the AIPS and the IHF, did not change anything on this. Erwin Lanc summarized his appeal for cooperation in one of the many talks as follows: “A media and TV society is awaiting us. We have to face this fact; otherwise we are out of the race.” Soon afterwards the IHF followed the proposal of the handball AIPS Handball Commission and employed a media representative to take care about public relations and questions from the press. Working conditions of the journalists and supporting the organizer in media matters were also among the duties of this representative. The words of the

president fell – figuratively spoken – on fertile ground as the feedback from journalist’s circles states.

Why he didn’t want to employ a press agent, will remain his secret. Nevertheless, in the end, he had just been appointed as a member (1996) of the TV and radio committee of the IOC which, as everybody knew, was also a fulltime role in order to present the IOC to the general public in a suitable way.

Lanc stated that “Sport has only survival chances by permanent TV presence nowadays. The comparative figures of 1993 (16 teams) and 1995 (24 teams) saw improvements every two years. In 1993 150 hours of coverage across 20 countries with 100 million viewers could be achieved, in 1995 302 hours of coverage across 32 countries with 150 million viewers. The IOC categorizes handball with a payout of CHF 32 million as highly attractive for media - we are among the top 12.”

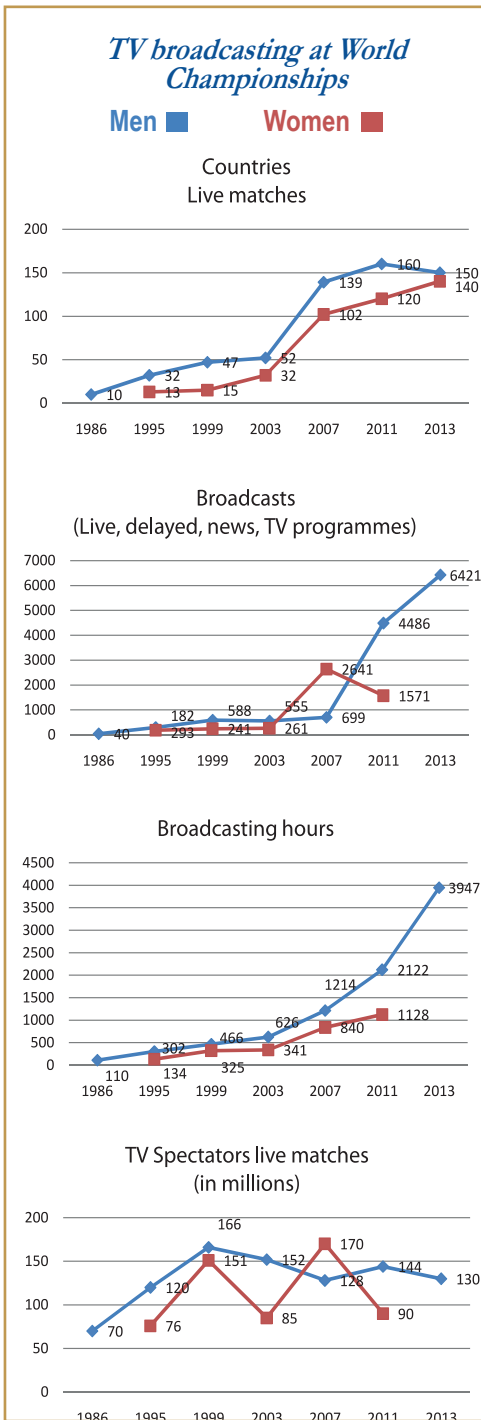
At the same time the efforts to attract more public attention were continued in Basle. At the beginning of 1997 the introduction of the internet was carried out with some trouble, but at least it took place and also a symposium for journalists was planned, which then, under the new President, finally also took place.



Christian Wiegels, an intimate expert of the international handball scene, was a co-author of this book. The photo shows him together with Max Rinckenburger at the handball school in 1987 in Tivat.



The IHF also contributed to the success of the ORIS project. On our photo: the study group for the Olympic Games 2000 in Sydney



Scholarships for gifted journalists were awarded and the IHF sent their experts to Lausanne, where they cooperated in the construction of a media service which the IOC wanted to provide for the first time at the Olympic Games in 2000 in Sydney. ORIS, the Olympic Review and Information System, made it possible to access all conceivable data about all sports disciplines to all accredited journalists involved in the Olympics. ORIS flooded the representatives of press, radio and television in Sydney and all following Olympics with information and left no wishes or questions unanswered. With approval from Lausanne the IHF took over the system and used it at their world championships – with the same success!

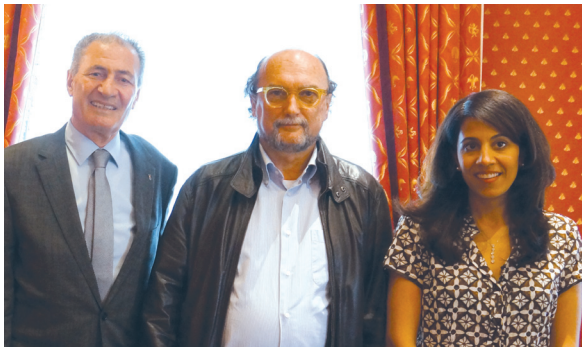
Meanwhile the World Handball Magazines became 20 years old in 2004, and rather by chance the 50th issue also appeared in the same year. But this anniversary passed rather unnoticed similar to the new membership of AIPS member and broadcasting journalist Thorsten vom Wege (GER) in the IHF Commission for Promotion and Public relations, which moved the two ‘hostile brothers’ again closer together.

More of importance for the press was that from 2005 on the printed news service of the IHF was also sent by email in order to increase its up-to-datedness.

The interest in the IHF web page likewise increased. 511,000 visitors in 2009 and 600,000 visitors in 2011 were recorded. This is also probably due to the fact that the IHF improved its online appearance in 2010. Page views rose from 1 million to 2.66 million. Besides, again a year later, in 2012, the IHF launched their extra net which contributed substantially to the simplification of many processes and was not only of use for the media.

“At international top level”

The highest recorded interest and largest media coverage came at the world championships. The facts and figures provided by the organizing countries were improving from event to event and are simply impressive. The Men’s World Championship in 2011 in Sweden is a good example (the media figures for 2013 have not been fully available at the copy deadline): the title games were broadcasted via television into 160 countries and for the first time to Great Britain and Ireland. This started to create appetite for London 2012. More than 100 international TV institutions and radio institutions as well as more than 350 journalists reported. Altogether 200 people worked on the production and in the final 17 cameras were used. This is according to Robert Müller Von Vultejus of UFA Sports, “international top level”.



For better contacts with the media: The IHF President and Media Officer Mona Orban met in June 2013 in Lausanne the AIPS Chairperson Gianni Merlo (ITA).

The hard work was repaid with 2122 hours of handball being broadcasted on TV, the number of transmission reaching 4662 hours. The games were viewed by millions of people worldwide. 430,000 spectators came to see the matches in the arenas in Sweden. Comparative figures from 1996 to 2011 illustrate even more clearly the increased popularity of handball in and

through the media – this path should be continued.

For the first time in the history of a world championship Sweden also offered an iPhone application with all information available starting from scored goals, results and tables, video clips, highlights and ending up with daily news - and all of this was free of charge. The result was 250,000 app downloads with 25 million page views and 4.5 million app connections.

The 2010 photo of the year:
Antonio Bronic CRO



The finances of the IHF

Coming from poor circumstances

Before the International Handball Federation - in its seventh decade of existence – reached financial security and had established itself as a great in international sports, it had gone through a lot of changes and had created many good ideas together with its partners.

When the IHF was founded in 1946 after the 2nd World War, the finances of the federation for then Treasurer Wolf Lyberg (SWE) just like for his colleagues from most other sports federations worldwide began at zero. Because with the money being required in Europe for the reconstruction and other vital purposes, nobody could even think about large membership fees and other income. Initiative and idealism was asked for. The IHF Council still suggested to the Congress in 1948 that the yearly membership fee was raised “to four pound of gold” for 1948 since this was deemed necessary for the finances of the IHF. And referees – naturally needed for all international matches – received “travel compensation for a second class train ticket or a first class steamboat ticket”. Additionally they received a daily allowance of “CHF 20.- per travel day and max. until the third day at the venue”.

In 1949, in the fourth year of the existence of the IHF, the treasurer presented the first balance. The balance was at “a deficit of approximately 100 Swedish kronors, with outstanding debts amounting to a figure of 2000 kr.” The deficit resulted among other things from the travel expenses of the office members (the executive) including TK president at Council Meetings, Congresses and official events of the IHF, which were borne from the IHF. The travel expenses of the remaining Council members were covered by the Federations. The quoted ‘Swedish kronors’ presented the basis of calculation because “the country providing the treasurer is also liable for the assets of the IHF.”

The following four years the IHF not only had to face financial troubles, but also ‘foreign currency-juridical’ difficulties. These were caused by Dutch treasurer Jan Krijgsman who had retired from his national federation, but not from the IHF. But the whole story took a good end: “The Treasurer and the responsible Federations settled the financial matters completely before the next Congress.” Also the rise of the yearly membership fee to CHF 200.- and the international match fee of 2% contributed to the growth.

In 1954 the new Treasurer Max Rinckenburger (FRG) stepped in and shortly after announced good news. “The balance shows assets of CHF 18,204.19. The international match fee amount to the new top amount per year of CHF 10,309.05, whereas still several Federations have payments to make or don't react at all.” Four years later, in 1959, Rinckenburger again presented his budget for the years 1959/60, closing in income and expenses at CHF 46,500.-.

A bigger typewriter

“The financial position is absolutely healthy”, Rinckenburger announced to the Council in 1960. The IHF takes over travel expenses and expenses for the meetings of the Council and the TK”. This sounded good and raised hopes – also still in 1964 when the Treasurer stated that “the IHF never had as much money as at the present time.” However, this fact was down to no administrative costs. The current work was done exclusively in honorary capacity by Baumann, Wagner and Rinckenburger and “gradually the limits within reasons” were reached. However, the President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer still continued without professional help, “as despite the currently good financial situation an ordinary office for the IHF cannot be financed.” Instead, the Council “unanimously agreed to invest in a better typewriter for the Secretary General Wagner as well as in an addresser for the office of Baumann for the shipping of IHF services and other transmissions of the IHF.”

20 years after the IHF foundation the President still occupied a part-time employee at his own expense for federation work. Because of the “missing economical possibilities” there was no thought of a full time managing director.

But then glimmers of hope were raised when the IHF Council wanted to bring in the new medium of television and to distribute the income from the world championships – modest as always - with a 50:50 split between the organiser and the IHF. In addition, a graded increase in membership fee was decided. According to the member's financial strength the Federations paid CHF 600, CHF 1,200 or CHF 1,800 yearly. However, the income expected was used immediately again for the production of promotional material and advertisement in general and for the “1972 Olympic Games and the required intensified public relations.”

The financial up and down continued. The Treasurer announced to the Congress in 1970 that the IHF had never achieved such a high income. In general it could have been even higher and thus the German Bernhard Thiele questioned “Why does only VfL Gummersbach pay CHF 24,000.- for the European Cup, while the other teams only pay CHF 2,000.- all together?” On correct account of all clubs

the budget dismissed by Rinckenburger would probably have amounted to more than to the agreed CHF 192,000.-. It was sufficient, at least, to raise the daily allowance of the other IHF Council members with immediate effect on CHF 80.-.

How fragile the financial system of the IHF was became clear in 1972 when the IHF received their first payments for the Olympic participation and thus disclosed additional income avenues. But, according to the minutes of the Council meeting in Nuremberg (FRG) “the present income from European Cup matches cannot be calculated in future, since the VfL Gummersbach is not involved in the Cup anymore and with that the income from the Westfallen hall in Dortmund will be absent.” Further financial loss caused the Congress decision in 1972 to employ full-time positions at the IHF head office in Basle.

This development was confirmed in 1974 by Anders Fredsland Pedersen who had taken over as Treasurer from Rinckenburger. According to the Dane, “In 1975/76 the income was around CHF 410,000.-, whereas outgoings amounted to CHF 772,000.-, creating a deficit of CHF 360,000.-”. Not taken into consideration was the IOC money from the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976, amounting to approx. CHF 250,000.-. Besides that additional income, the IHF made a financial gain by providing accredited ‘approved stamps’ for certain sports equipment. Further it was considered to “pre-finance currently open costs by raising a credit or to apportion costs to the participating Federations.”

The first liquid measures

The income rose as well as the outgoings. On the credit side additional money paid from the new partners of the IHF for certified handballs, handball goals and hall floors was registered in 1976. This was at first only CHF 80,000.- however this market offered up further possibilities. This year the IHF had available about CHF 62,000.-. The cash overview showed an income of CHF 439,479.39 and outgoings of CHF 471,766.41.

When the IHF Council met in Lunderheim (FRA) in 1977, the financial situation was quite the same. But at this meeting, an old friend of the International Handball Federation waited: Horst Dassler, boss of the world-famous company with the three stripes, was a pioneer in terms of IHF partners and a partner every international federation could only wish for. Reliability, mutual esteem, fairness and long term cooperation were his basic principles. Also after the death of Dassler on 7th April 1987, adidas has always – with small interruptions – remained at the side of the IHF.

In view of a rise in memberships and the resulting increase in administrative expenses linked to the introduction of further world championships, Rinkenburger and his Managing Director Peppmeier had to propose to hire further employees at the Head Office in Basle at the Council meeting in 1978 in Dresden (GDR). At that time half of the income had to be calculated for the fixed costs of the Head Office, which came to CHF 210,000.- per year with an income of CHF 369,000.- and outgoings of CHF 481,000.-. Still the assets of the IHF amounted to CHF 400.000.- at that moment which “was noted with satisfaction”.

The trend towards positive numbers was continuing. The budget of 1980-82 then reached CHF 897.000.-, which was a significant rise of 25% compared to the reference period. However particularly pleasant was the income of CHF 60,000.- and further fixed assets amounting to CHF 90,000.- together with a reserve of CHF 250,000.-. With such figures CHF 100,000.- could be designated and used for development projects.

In 1982, according to the Treasurer, the final report showed the highest figures in the history of the IHF. The assets had increased by CHF 648,000.- to CHF 1,139,993.-. This was, among others, also the result of ongoing Olympic Games payments and the rise in income at the world championships: the IHF held in the meantime the sole right to sell TV rights as well as advertisements in the sport halls. With CHF 1,119,700.- the budget had again crossed the million border. CHF 140,000.- were then invested in development projects and further CHF 50,000.- was given to reliable representatives from the continents, meaning that also this sum went into projects for the development of the sport.

A turn for the better

According to Rudi Glock in his personal IHF balance, the real turn for the better came in 1984 when Raymond Hahn was elected Treasurer of the IHF. At that time a real financial policy was implemented, which also included the production

The Treasurers of the IHF

1946-1950	Wolf Lyberg SWE
1950-1954	Jan Krijgsman NED
1954-1972	Max Rinkenburger FRG
1972-1984	Anders Fredslund Pedersen DEN
1984-1988	Raymond Hahn FRA
1988-2000	Rudi Glock GER
2000-2009	Miguel Roca Mas ESP
2009-2013	Sandi Sola CRO

of a financial plan and the computerization of the accounts. This was also when the World Championship Solidarity Fund for competitive countries with less financial means was created, the membership fees (for the first time in a quarter of a century) were increased

and lucrative agreements with partners and sponsors were concluded. All this however did not hinder the auditors in 1988 to mention worries in their report for the Congress. They stated that the management of the IHF had to consider ways of balancing the discrepancy between incomings and outgoings. The IHF was living beyond its means.

After his election in 1988 Treasurer Glock (FRG), an expert in this field, continued his restructuring efforts and checked all sponsor contracts. Cesar W. Lüthi, an expert in television and advertisement, then agreed to double the amount paid to the IHF (to 4 million Swiss Francs), before the changing to French TV provider Canal+ was made. There the amount was even more increased.

But before it came that far, Glock could announce in 1990 that thanks to positive negotiations and the corresponding contracts for the awarding of the TV rights and the background advertising until 1993, the financial difficulties were overcome. Nevertheless Glock put this income of CHF 1.7 million of his first three years in office in the scope of a 4 year plan, since financial losses had to be expected resulting from temporary rearrangements of the world championships from the old to the new rhythm on steady issues. Praise though was provided for this recognition and foresight.

At the beginning of 1993, the IHF had a balance of about CHF 5 million of which CHF 330,000.- resulted from contracts with sporting goods manufacturers. This amount would have been enough in 1970 to cover the entire annual budget. Sheikh Ahmad, Council member from Kuwait, nevertheless believed that marketing, merchandising and sponsorship were still not being utilized to full extent.

Also the Treasurer remained reserved with all optimism and stated that although the balance was according to plan, the figures proved that the IHF was still dependant on the income from the world championships and Olympic Games. However the IHF had at its disposal liquid assets at the rate of CHF 1.5 million and a property value at approximately 4 million Swiss Francs.

In 1994/95 the balance sheet amounted to CHF 5,539.065.-. Liquid assets were at CHF 5.1 million and the fixed assets at CHF 3.1 million. In this situation the IHF Council didn't have to consider long to decide to additionally release CHF 100,000.- for the anniversary projects of 1996.

In 1996 according to Glock, the improvement in the finances could most clearly be seen in the development of the net assets. Decisively in this regard was the profit coming from sponsorship, the advertising yielded from the world championships and the payments from IOC coming from the revenues of the Olympic Games.

The membership fees only played a minor role. Nevertheless they were raised, whereas financially weaker Federations – which made the biggest part – only had to pay a symbolic contribution of CHF 100.-.

The anniversary congress on Hiltonhead Island, the Olympic Games in Atlanta, higher personnel expenditures and internal rearrangements caused temporary losses in 1997. The balancing in 1995/96 stated a loss of CHF 1.77 million. However, the net assets were still at CHF 4.927 million.

Good profits were gained during the subsequent years and the IHF used the available money sensibly. The budget for development projects was increased to CHF 300,000.- annually (if it was down to Glock, it should have been even higher); the prize money for the medal winners (the actual protagonists) at men's and women's world championships hit a 5-figure height; the continents received additional amounts to support underprivileged countries; and the world championship referees (who must not be forgotten) received bonus (achievement) payments.

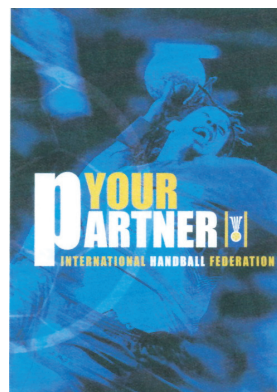
The IHF striking new paths

Under the new President Dr. Hassan Moustafa (Spaniard Miguel Roca Mas had just become Treasurer) the IHF was striking new paths in 2000. All existing contracts were being reviewed. All marketing segments became available for application worldwide (which was new). Competition lifted the business and brought considerably more money to the federation.

An example presented the selling of the television rights. The IHF received nine offers for this segment. Sportfive, the legal successor of Canal+, offered to extend the contract expiring in 2005 until 2009 with the payment of an additional fee and profit sharing with a minimum guarantee. The Council accepted this – by far best - offer and took marketing into a new dimension.

The income to be expected was not included yet in the balance of 2004, which concluded with outgoings of CHF 7.1 million and an income of CHF 7.5 million. The forecasted slight profit was confirmed by the end of the year.

In the same year the IHF tackled their marketing at its own initiative and published the brochure «Your Partner». This paid off. The interest in international handball grew further. As new partners the IHF could soon greet further companies producing high-quality floors, balls and goals, and for the first time also a famous Swiss manufacturer of official time keeping installations. By doing so, only in this sector an income of CHF 2.2 million was obtained. Meanwhile “old friends”



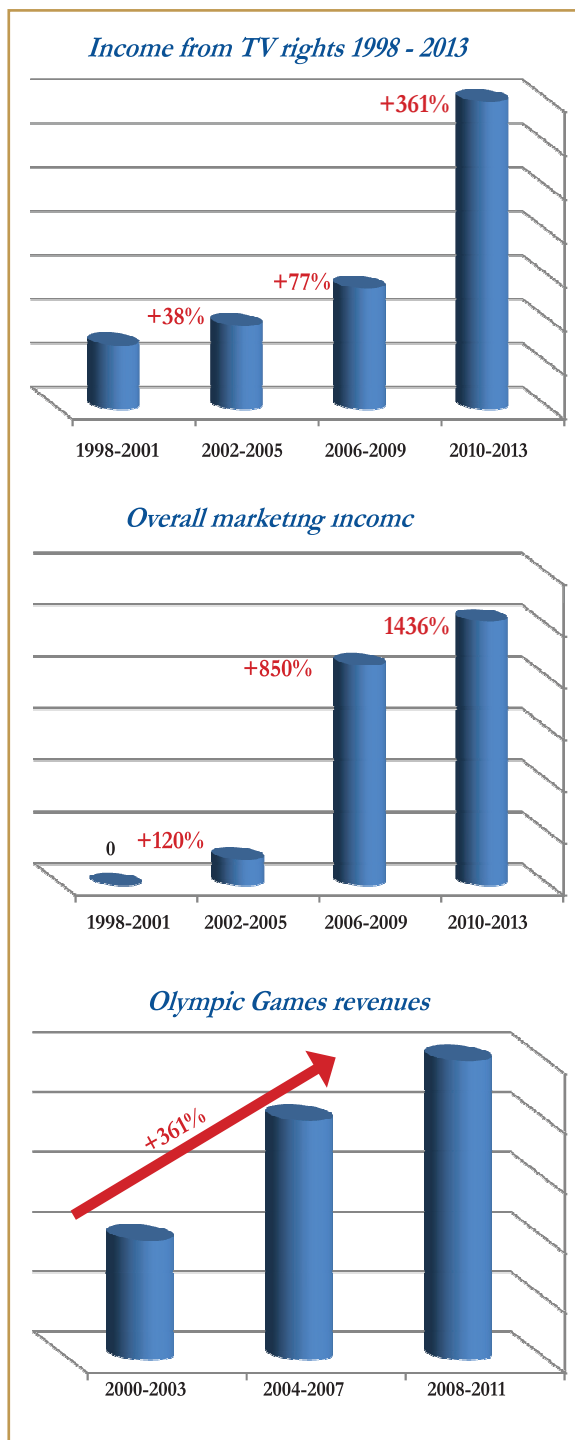
extended their contracts as official providers and general sponsors.

The unanimous Council decision of 2006 to found a Marketing AG was only the logical consequence of these developments. The foundation of the Marketing AG already paid off one year later, when at the world championships in France and Germany millions were gained. As always, mainly the emerging countries benefited from this success. (Read more about that in chapter XI). The athletes profited from a new form of sponsoring which Danish partner Grundfos introduced: the World Handball Players of the Year received the prize money of EUR 10,000.-Euros.

In January 2009 the Council scored its last coup for the time being, when it – after having offered to submit new applications - transferred the TV rights to UFA Sports, which had beaten its competitors with an impressive offer by far. The quality of the product was already shortly after generally evaluated as very good.

An unpolished diamond

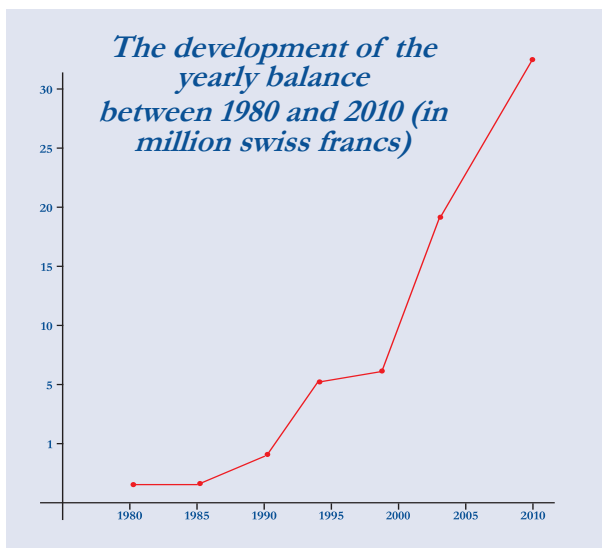
At the Congress in 2011 the President, who had given top



priority to marketing on coming to office, could present impressive figures. He reported about the increase of the annual income by 266% since 1998 by reducing the administrative costs at the same time. Furthermore the income from Olympic Games has risen in the mentioned period by 73%, the income deriving from the TV rights by 361% and the general marketing gains by 1007%. The following figures illustrate this development:

The money which was gained came primarily from TV rights holder UFA Sports as well as the general sponsors and world championship sponsors adidas, Gerflor (floors) and Select (balls). Beyond it, 41 contracts existed with manufacturers of floors (15), handballs (18), for goals (7) and time keeping providers (1). Other event sponsors advertised on occasions such as the world championships on the «back» of the IHF, meaning on advertising boards, to promote their products.

And the gained millions were not put by, but were used by the IHF, de Jure a non-profit organization, to invest huge sums into different, sensible projects – primarily, in development projects. By doing so, the budget for the Challenge Trophy had grown by unbelievable 1748%. High sums had gone into the GRTP, the Global



Referee Training project, the Handball at School project and other tailor-made programs for continents and National Federations. The Federations were relieved by abolishing the membership fees. And the IHF must also raise substantial sums for its flagship - the world championships: the national team players, clubs and National Federations participating at world championships receive a qualifications bonus,

compensation fee and a bonus fee. And of course all players are insured. The amount for these financial efforts has risen since 2009 by 252%.

Which figures Dr. Moustafa will present at the next IHF Congress in Doha (QAT), remains to wait. Nevertheless, one thing is certain: if he remains in office, he will keep polishing tenderly the ‘unpolished diamond’ as he called the IHF in his last report to the IHF Congress.

The IHF 2013

Structure and Administration

The objectives of the International Handball Federation consist of leading, developing and promoting handball around the world. According to the Statutes it shall ensure (among others)

- that its business is transacted pursuant to the Statutes and Regulations
- the organisation and execution of all IHF competitions (Olympic Games, World

Championships, qualifications, Intercontinental Cup, Super Globe, etc) and the related

- tasks with exclusive responsibility for media work, marketing and sponsorship
- the organisation of all IHF events (Congresses, symposia, courses, etc)
- the promotion of handball in general (coaches, referees, mini-handball, beach handball, etc)
- the observance and support of ethics in handball
- the fight against doping to protect the health of the players

The Organizational Chart

Congress

The Congress is the highest authority and the supreme head of the IHF. Ordinary Congresses are held every two years (from 1946 to 2004 in even years and since 2007 in odd years, after the Men's World Championship).

Each Member Federation (and nobody else) possesses one vote at the Congress.

Council

The Council

- takes decisions outside the Congress' competence
- ensures that Congress and Executive Committee resolutions are adhered to
- defines the duties of the permanent Commissions and working groups
- decides urgent matters between Congresses
- submits its own motions to the Congress
- awards Men's and Women's World Championships

The Council consists of 17 members, elected for four years. Current members (2013):



*President
Dr Hassan Moustafa
(EGY)*



*1st Vice-President
Miguel Roca Mas
(ESP)*



*Vice-President Africa
Mansourou Aremou
(BEN)*



*AHF President
Sheikh Ahmad Al Fabad
Al Sabah (KUW)*



*Vice-President Europe
Jean Brihault
(FRA)*



*Vice-President
Pan-America
Mario Moccia (ARG)*



*Vice-President Asia
Bader Al-Thayab (KUW)
replaces the AHF
President in the Council*



*Treasurer
Sandi Sola
(CRO)*



*Executive Committee
Member
Joel Delplanque (FRA)*



*COC Chairman
Leon Kalin (SLO)*



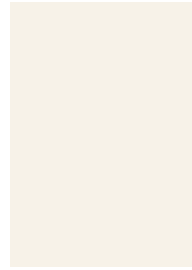
*PRC Chairman
Manfred Prause
(GER)*



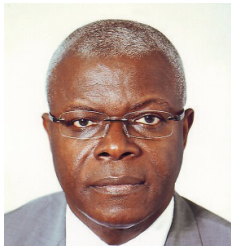
*CCM Chairman
Naser Abu
Marzouq (KUW)*



*MC Chairman
Dr François
Gnamian (CIV)*



*CD Chairman
n.n.*



*Representative Africa
Charles Omboumabou
(CGO)*



*Representative Asia
Yoshihide Watanabe
(JPN)*



*Representative Europe
Arne Elohnsson
(SWE)*



*Representative Pan-America
Mario Garcia de la Torre
(MEX)*

The continent of Oceania does not have any vote in the Council. According to the Statutes (Art. 13.2.2.), a Continental Confederation must have at least 15 National Federations as full members in order to “nominate a Council member for the continent that shall be confirmed by the Congress. Each Continental Confederation may nominate one Vice-President if it has at least 23 National Federations as full members.” In 2013 the Continental Confederation of Oceania has eight Member Federations.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee

- leads the IHF as the executive body elected by the Congress
- is in charge of all activities of the IHF (leading the Head Office, the Commissions, etc)
- decides urgent matters between Council meetings
- has the right to submit proposals and motions to the Congress

The Executive Committee consists of four members:

President Dr Hassan Moustafa (EGY)

1st Vice-President Miguel Roca Mas (ESP)

Treasurer Sandi Sola (CRO)

Executive Committee Member Joel Delplanque (FRA)

Commissions

The following five permanent Commissions are technical IHF bodies with specific tasks:

COC – Organising and Competition: 8 members, Chairman: Leon Kalin (SLO)

PRC – Playing Rules and Referees: 8 members, Chairman: Manfred Prause (GER)

CCM – Coaching and Methods: 8 members, Chairman: Naser Abu Marzouq (KUW)

MC – Medical: 8 members, Chairman: Dr Francois Gnamian (CIV)

CD – Development: 8 members, Chairman: n.n.

Member Federations

The IHF is comprised of 190 Member Federations (184 full members, three associated members and three regional members).

The 184 full members

(NOC abbreviation, full name and year of affiliation to the IHF)

AFG	Afghanistan	2004	ALB	Albania	1992
ALG	Algeria	1964	AND	Andorra	2011
ANG	Angola	1980	ANT	Antigua & Barbuda	2011
ARG	Argentina	1954	ARM	Armenia	1992
AUS	Australia	1974	AUT	Austria	1946
AZE	Azerbaijan	1992	BAH	Bahamas	2011
BAN	Bangladesh	1986	BAR	Barbados	2004
BDI	Burundi	1992	BEL	Belgium	1946
BEN	Benin	1966	BHU	Bhutan	2013*
BIH	Bosn.Herzegovina	1996	BLR	Belarus	1992
BOL	Bolivia	2009	BOT	Botswana	2011
BRA	Brazil	1954	BRN	Bahrain	1978
BRU	Brunei Darussalam	2013*	BUL	Bulgaria	1964
BUR	Burkina Faso	1970	BIZ	Belize	2011
CAF	Central African Rep.	1978	CAM	Cambodia	2013*
CAN	Canada	1962	CAY	Cayman Islands	2011
CGO	Congo	1970	CHA	Chad	1986
CHI	Chile	1980	CHN	China	1980
CIV	Côte d'Ivoire	1962	CMR	Cameroon	1970

COD	Dem.Rep. Congo	1970	COK	Cook Islands	2000
COL	Colombia	1984	COM	Comoros	1982
CPV	Cape Verde	1988	CRC	Costa Rica	1992
CRO	Croatia	1992	CUB	Cuba	1974
CYP	Cyprus	1974	CZE	Czech Republic	1994
DEN	Denmark	1946	DJI	Djibouti	1984
DMA	Dominica	2011	DOM	Dom. Republic	1982
ECU	Ecuador	2006	EGY	Egypt	1960
ESA	El Salvador	2000	ESP	Spain	1948
EST	Estonia	1992	ETH	Ethiopia	1972
FAR	Faroe Islands	1974	FIN	Finland	1946
FRA	France	1946	GAB	Gabon	1980
GAM	Gambia	1990	GBR	Great Britain	1970
GBS	Guinea-Bissau	1992	GEO	Georgia	1992
GER	Germany	1950	GHA	Ghana	1978
GRE	Greece	1978	GRL	Greenland	1998
GRN	Grenada	2011	GUA	Guatemala	1990
GUI	Guinea	1972	GUY	Guyana	2011
HAI	Haiti	2004	HKG	Hong Kong	1974
HON	Honduras	1996	HUN	Hungary	1948
INA	Indonesia	2009	IND	India	1974
IRI	Iran	1978	IRL	Ireland	1984
IRQ	Iraq	1976	ISL	Iceland	1948
ISR	Israel	1956	ITA	Italy	1968
IVB	British Virgin Isl.	2011	JOR	Jordan	1966
JPN	Japan	1962	KAZ	Kazakhstan	1992
KEN	Kenya	1982	KGZ	Kyrgyzstan	1992
KOR	Korea	1960	KSA	Saudi Arabia	1974
KUW	Kuwait	1970	LAO	Laos	2011
LAT	Latvia	1992	LBA	Libya	1972
LBR	Liberia	2004	LES	Lesotho	2002
LIB	Lebanon	1968	LIE	Liechtenstein	1980
LTU	Lithuania	1992	LUX	Luxembourg	1946
MAC	Macau	1998	MAD	Madagascar	1970
MAR	Morocco	1960	MAS	Malaysia	1994
MAW	Malawi	2009	MDA	Moldova	1992
MDV	Maldives	2011	MEX	Mexico	1970
MGL	Mongolia	2000	MKD	Macedonia	1994
MLI	Mali	1966	MLT	Malta	1996
MNE	Montenegro	2007	MON	Monaco	2007
MOZ	Mozambique	1988	MRI	Mauritius	1992
MTN	Mauritania	1988	NAM	Namibia	1990
NCA	Nicaragua	1998	NED	Netherlands	1946
NEP	Nepal	1984	NGR	Nigeria	1974

NIG	Niger	1986	NOR	Norway	1946
NZL	New Zealand	1990	OMA	Oman	1982
PAK	Pakistan	1984	PAN	Panama	1992
PAR	Paraguay	1984	PER	Peru	2009
PHI	Philippines	1990	PLE	Palestine	1980
POL	Poland	1946	POR	Portugal	1946
PRK	D.P.R. Korea	1974	PUR	Puerto Rico	1984
QAT	Qatar	1978	ROU	Romania 1948	
RSA	South Africa	1994	RUS	Russia	1992
RWA	Rwanda	1992	SAM	Samoa	1998
SEN	Senegal	1962	SEY	Seychelles	2002
SIN	Singapore	2009	SKN	St. Kitts + Nevis	2009
SLE	Sierra Leone	1984	SLO	Slovenia	1992
SOL	Solomon Islands	2011	SOM	Somalia	1982
SRB	Serbia	1950	SRI	Sri Lanka	2011
STP	Sao Tomé e Príncipe	1982	SUD	Sudan	1982
SUI	Switzerland	1946	SVK	Slovakia	1994
SWE	Sweden	1946	SYR	Syria	1962
TAN	Tanzania	1974	THA	Thailand	1998
TJK	Tajikistan	2009	TKM	Turkmenistan	1992
TOG	Togo	1972	TPE	Chin. Taipei	1972
TRI	Trinidad & Tobago	2004	TUN	Tunisia	1962
TUR	Turkey	1978	TUV	Tuvalu	2013*
UAE	U. Arab Emirates	1978	UGA	Uganda	1976
UKR	Ukraine	1992	URU	Uruguay	1984
USA	USA	1962	UZB	Uzbekistan	1992
VAN	Vanuatu	1990	VEN	Venezuela	2007
VIE	Vietnam	2002	YEM	Yemen	1994
ZAM	Zambia	2002	ZIM	Zimbabwe	1994

The three associated members

KOS	Kosovo	2007	South Sudan	2013*
	Tahiti	2013*		

The three regional members

Guadeloupe	2013*	French Guiana	2013*
Martinique	2013*		

* Waiting for final recognition from the IHF Congress

The Council may grant provisional membership to a National Federation. The next Congress shall decide on definite membership. – Regions and federations which apply for IHF membership and whose country has no National Olympic Committee can be admitted as “associated” or “regional members”. These members shall have a seat and no vote at the IHF Congress and are not allowed to participate in the official IHF competitions.

Evaluation of Numbers of IHF Members

1946 : 14	1948 : 18	1950 : 21	1952 : 22
1954 : 25	1956 : 27	1958 : 27	1960 : 30
1962 : 34	1964 : 38	1966 : 39	1968 : 41
1970 : 54	1972 : 54	1974 : 65	1976 : 68
1978 : 74	1980 : 80	1982 : 86	1984 : 96
1986 : 98	1988 : 101	1990 : 106	1992 : 123
1994 : 133	1996 : 138	1998 : 143	2000 : 146
2002 : 147	2004 : 150	2007 : 159	2009 : 171
2011 : 181	2013 : 190		

Number of Teams and Players

In 2013, the Member Federations have a total of

1,952,000 teams (men, women, men's and women's juniors, youth) comprising

8,440,000 male players

5,222,000 female players

13,672,000 men's and women's juniors and youth, which makes a total of

27,334,000 players

Players in schools and universities and military players are not included in this total.

The Continental Confederations

Asian Handball Federation, President: Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah (KUW)

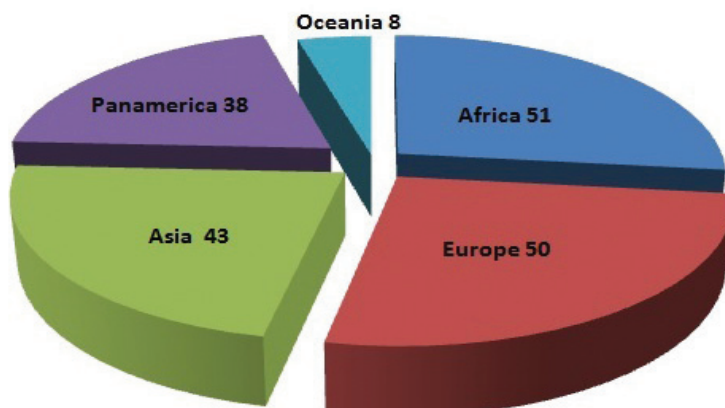
Confédération Africaine de Handball, President: Mansourou Aremou (BEN)

European Handball Federation, President: Jean Brihault (FRA)

Oceania Continent Handball Federation, President: Paul Smith (AUS)

Pan American Team Handball Federation, President: Mario Moccia (ARG)

Number of Member Federations in the Continents



The Head Office

has been based in Basle since 1972 and has been under the supervision of the first female Managing Director since 2008: Amal Khalifa (EGY). Her predecessors: Friedhelm Peppmeier (FRG) 1973-1984, Jörg Bahrke (FRG) 1984-1993, Frank Birkefeld (GER) 1993-2007. – 18 employees are currently working at the Head Office under the supervision of the Managing Director.



Amal Khalifa

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Handball – from the beginnings until the present era

The chronicle as a pocket calendar

- 800 BC In his “odyssey” Homer was reporting on the “Game of the Urania”, a ball game for women and men.
- 170 The Roman gladiator doctor Claudius Galenus described “Harpaston” as a popular ball game and underlined its positive health effect.
- 1200 The minstrel Walther von der Vogelweide praised the “catch a ball game” as a popular medieval pleasure.
- 1417 Poggio Bracciolini, a Florentine clergyman, was reporting about a ball and parlour game in the spa town Baden in the Aargau (Switzerland).
- 1525 In France the poet Francois Rabelais wrote about a special form of handball, where “they were using their palms”.
- 1793 Also the Eskimos in Greenland illustrated a game, where they were using their hand.
- 1870 Before the turn of the century “Courtball” was played in Ireland, which afterwards spread out in America as well.
- 1890 The German physical education teacher Konrad Koch promoted “Raffball”, but the game didn’t establish itself.
- 1897 The pedagogue Eduard Hagelauer developed in Wiesbaden (GER) the “Game of Goalball” and the corresponding rules.
- 1898 The Danish gymnastics supervisor Holger Nielsen let the girls and boys at the grammar school in Ortrup play “Haandbold” and also implemented rules for it. From then on Denmark was considered the cradle of handball.
- 1912 The Dutch Hirschmann, secretary general of the International Football Association tried to promote an eleven-a-side-handball game, but without success...
- 1905 The Smichover teacher Vaclav Karas was able to incarnate the “Hazena” in Czechoslovakia, a type of seven-a-side handball.
- 1909 In Germany they presented a game specifically developed for women, the “Königsberger Ball”.

- 1910/1912 The Swede G. Wallström established “Handboll” in Karlskrona. His compatriot H.G. Wallden released the first rulebook, which also included handball.
- 1.1.1917 The Berliner Max Heiser presented to the council of women’s and girls gymnastics in Berlin the rules of the game developed by himself – a lot of people describe this as the date of founding handball.
- 1917-1920 Carl Schelenz, lecturer at the German Sport University in Berlin, developed with the help of Heiser’s handball for women the eleven-a-side-handball for men and propagated it as outdoor handball in Europe. – Schelenz is also described as the “father of the handball”.
- 1.1.1920 Carl Diem, the principal of the German Sport University in Berlin, brought forward a motion whereupon the university officially introduced male handball in Germany, based on the rules of Schelenz.
- 1921 In Buenos Aires the “Argentinian Balon Federation”, the first handball federation of Pan-America, is founded
- 8.7.1923 The first international match in “Argentinian Balon“ takes place in the Ferro Carril Oeste arena in Buenos Aires (ARG). Uruguay prevails against Argentina at 7:3.
- 25.1.1925 Foundation of the first national handball federation worldwide in Vienna: the Austrian Handball Federation.
- 13.9.1925 Austria won 6:3 (3:1) against Germany in Halle/Saale (GER), the first male national team match of field handball in front of 3000 spectators.
- 1926 The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), which included all ball games, was planning at its August-Congress in Den Haag (NED) to withdraw those federations and instructed a commission for hand-ball games to develop international rules of the game, among others for field handball.
- 1.1.1927 At their conference in Amsterdam the commission accepted the German rules and confirmed them to be valid worldwide.
- 4.8.1928 At the VIII congress of the IAAF in Amsterdam the International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF) was founded. All ball games (basketball, volleyball, handball, courtball, rounders, netball,

fistball, Hazena etc.) were from then on under the umbrella of this federation, which counted 11 member federations.

- 1928 The first compulsory rule book in German, English and French was published in December.
- 7.9.1930 On the occasion of the Women's World Games in Prague the first international women's match in field handball took place. Austria won against Germany at 5:4 (1:4).
- 18./19.5.1930 At the II IAHF congress in Berlin the federation already counted 19 members from 4 continents (Oceania was not represented).
- 8.5.1934 The IOC-congress decided in Brussels the admittance of field handball (11 players) into the programme of the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936.
- 30.8.1934 The IAHF grew in the meantime to 25 members and elected Karl Ritter von Halt (GER) as their president at the III congress in Stockholm (SWE).
- 8.3.1935 The first international match of indoor handball took place in Copenhagen between Denmark and Sweden (12:18)
- 1.-16.8.1936 Handball became part of the Olympics. Six teams participated at the indoor handball tournament during the Olympics in Berlin. They played in front of hundreds of thousands enthusiastic spectators.
- 5./6.2.1938 Four nations participated at the first Men's World Championships in indoor handball in the "Deutschlandhalle" in Berlin.
- 7.-10.7.1938 Also the first Men's Field Handball World Championships took place in Germany with 10 nations participating.
- 9.7.1938 V (and last) IAHF-congress in Berlin. Changes at the top of federation due to political reasons.
- 1.9.1939 Start of the World War II
- 1939 -1945 World War II - the Olympic Games in Tokyo and also other international events did not take place – the sport stood still.
- 10.-13.7.1946 The founding congress of the International Handball Federation (IHF) in Copenhagen (DEN). The representatives of 8 member federations elected the Swede Gösta Björk as their first president. The official founding date is the 12th of July.

- 4.-8.8.1947 The first international course for referees of the IHF took place in Vejle (DEN) with 29 participants from 8 countries attending the course.
- 3.-6.6.1948 II Men's Field Handball World Championships in France. It was the first one organised by the IHF.
- 25.-28.9.1949 The I Women's Field Handball World Championships was held with 4 teams in Hungary with the host winning the tournament.
- 8.-12.9.1950 President Gösta Björck resigned during the III IHF congress in Vienna (AUT). Hans Baumann (SUI) was elected as his successor by the 13 attending representatives.
- 27.-29.9.1954 The V congress in Opatija (YUG) elected Max Rinkenburger (FRG) as the new treasurer of the IHF and decided that Men's and Women's Indoor Handball World Championships should, for the first time, be held under the supervision of the IHF.
- 13.-20.7.1957 The I Women's Indoor Handball World Championships took place in Yugoslavia. The event took place outside.
- 1957/58 On request of the French sports magazine "L Equipe", games of the European Cup were staged for the first time (in the beginning for cities, later for club teams). First club winner was RI Göteborg (SWE) in 1959. They won against FA Göppingen (FRG) at 18:13.
- 1961/62 The European Cup was also initiated for women, sponsored by the Czechoslovak sports magazine "Star". Stiinta Bukarest (ROM) won the final against Dynamo Prag (TCH) in the first (8:1) and second leg (5:4).
- 1965 At its 64th conference in Madrid in October the IOC decided to re-establish handball in the programme of the Olympic Games, starting from 1972 on.
- 21.-27.8.1966 The first international coaching course of the IHF took place in Magglingen (SUI). 62 participants from 19 countries attended the course.
- 1966 The International Handball Federation presents the first federation logo. The inventor was Max Rinkenburger.
- 11.8.1968 First presentation of the men's handball world selection. The team of the IHF won at 24:21 against the National Team of Czechoslovakia in Karvina (TCH).

- 1968/69 The invasion of the Soviet Union into the CSSR resulted in the cancelation of the Women's World Championships in the USSR and all Men's and Women's European Cup games.
- 1969 The end of field handball: the World Championships and the European Cup could not take place due to an insufficient number of participating teams.
- 1971 Paul Högberg (SWE) became the third president of the IHF. He succeeded Hans Baumann who had died in February. In remembrance of him the IHF and the Spanish Handball Federation created the Hans Baumann-Trophy.
- 23./24.8.1972 The Congress in Nürnberg (FRG) approved Högberg as president and elected Max Rinkenburger (FRG) as the new secretary general of the IHF as successor of the resigned Albert Wagner. Furthermore they gave a new structure to the IHF and it was decided to implement a head office in Basle (SUI) with full-time employees.
- 30.8.-10.9.1972 At the Olympic Games in Munich indoor handball gave its debut on the programme of the Olympic Games. 16 men's teams from 4 continents were entitled to play with Yugoslavia winning the gold medal.
- 15.1.1973 In Lagos, Nigeria, the first continental handball confederation was founded, the Confédération Africaine de Handball (CAHB).
- 1976 In January 14 national federations founded in Kuwait the second continental confederation, the Asian Handball Federation (AHF) and Sheikh Ahmad (KUW) became president.
- 18.-28.7.1976 First appearance of women's handball at the Olympic Games in Montreal (CAN).
- 3./4.10.1976 The IHF Congress in Estoril (POR) decided to assign Israel to the continent of Europe. Carl Wang (NOR) succeeded the deceased PRC president Emil Horle (SUI).
- 1976/77 The European Cup of the national champions was replaced by the competition of the men's (1976) and women's (1977) Cup Winner.
- 1976/77 Introduction of the B-and C-world championships for men and women.
- 1977 First men's and women's junior (winner Soviet Union and

- Yugoslavia) world championships took place in Sweden and Rumania.
- 23.5.1977 Foundation of the Pan-American Team Handball Federation (PATHF) by 5 national handball federations. It is the third continental handball confederation within the IHF.
- 7.-11.9.1978 During the XVII IHF congress in Reykjavik (ISL) President Högberg criticized the tendencies of violence in sport and also the abuse of drugs.
- 1980 The IHF extended its development aid projects by implementing Olympic solidarity courses.
- 20.-30.7.1980 Western countries boycotted the Olympic Games in Moscow (URS).
- 1982 The implementation of the IHF Cup (for men and women) brought the third competition on European level for club teams.
- 25./26.7.1984 The fourth president of the IHF, Erwin Lanc (AUT), was elected in San Diego.
- 1.-9.8.1984 Eastern countries boycotted the Olympic Games in Los Angeles.
- 1984 In cooperation with the special handball commission of the AIPS the IHF published the first edition of the World Handball magazine.
- 26./27.4.1986 At the IHF congress in Dakar (SEN) the International Handball Federation celebrated its 40th anniversary. The federation counted 98 members.
- 2.5.1987 The women's handball world selection played its first game in Oslo against Norway and prevailed at 27:23.
- 14./15.9.1988 Erwin Lanc (AUT) was approved as IHF President at the XXII congress in Seoul (KOR). Raymond Hahn (FRA) followed Max Rinkenburger as secretary general and Rudi Glock (GER) Raymond Hahn as treasurer. Australia became the first full member of the IHF of the continent Oceania.
- 20.9.-1.10.1988 Korea's women's team was the first non-European team to win the gold medal at the Olympic handball tournament in Seoul.
- 1988 For the first time the IHF elected the World Handball Players of the year: Svetlana Kitic (YUG) and Veselin Vujovic (YUG).

- 23.-25.10.1990 After the resignation of Curt Wadmark (SWE), Otto Schwarz (SUI) became the new president of the COC at the congress in Funchal (POR).
- 1990 AHF president Sheikh Ahmad was killed openly in the street during the invasion of Iraqi troops in Kuwait.
- 1990ff The political decay of the handball great powers Soviet Union and Yugoslavia created lots of new nations.
- 15.-17.11.1991 Founding congress of the European Handball Federation (EHF) in Berlin (GER). 31 out of 33 member federations were present. Staffan Holmqvist (SWE) was elected as first president of the EHF.
- 22./23.7.1992 Erwin Lanc (AUT) was re-elected as IHF President for the third time during the XXIV congress in Barcelona (ESP). New Vice-President became Babacar Fell (SEN). IOC and IHF requested in mutual remonstrance the substantial equality of women in handball.
- 9.7.1993 The foundation assembly of the (AUS) Oceania Handball Federation (OHF), the 5th continental confederation, took place in Sydney.
- 8.-18.9.1993 Egypt was the first non-European country to win the Junior World Championships in Cairo and established itself among the top of the world.
- 23.6.1994 The “World-Handball-Day” was organized on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Olympic Games of the modern era and was a big success on all five continents. All 70 member federations participated.
- 1994 In accordance with the IOC the development aid program of the IHF was extended on all continents by conduction leader seminars.
- 15.-18.7.1996 At the IHF congress in Hilton Head Island (USA) Erwin Lanc (AUT) acceded his fourth term of presidency after 1984, 1988 and 1992. Carin Nilsson Green (SWE) was the first woman to enter the council as President of the Commission for Promotion and Public Relations.
- 1996 In the 50th year after its foundation the International Handball Federation officially counted 138 member federations with 800.000 teams and more than 8.000.000 participants.

- 3.-8.1.1997 The first Men's Super Globe for club teams was held in Wiener Neustadt (AUT) with the first champion Santander (ESP).
- 17.-19.9.1998 At the congress in Yamoussoukro (SEN) English was chosen as first official language of the IHF. Up to that moment German had been dominant.
- 2000 Experts, journalists and fans elected Sinaida Turtschina (RUS) and Magnus Wislander (SWE) as World Handball Players of the century.
- 26.-30.11.2000 Dr. Hassan Moustafa (EGY) was elected as President of the International Handball Federation at the congress in Estoril (POR). He has been the first non-European president and replaced the Austrian Erwin Lanc.
- 23.-25.8.2001 Belarus (men) and Ukraine (women) won the Beachhandball tournaments at the World Games in Akita (JPN). Later the event was recognized as World Championships.
- 2002 In July, President Dr Mustafa inaugurated the new head office of the IHF, located in the Peter-Merian Street 23 in Basle.
- 27./28.11.2003 An extraordinary congress was held in Basel (SUI). It is the second extraordinary congress ever held in the history of the IHF.
- 30.11.-1.12.2004 For the first time after the World Games in Akita (JPN), men's and women's Beachhandball World Championships were staged under the auspices of the IHF. They were held in El Gouna (EGY)
- 2.-4.12.2004 The congress in El Gouna (EGY) elected Dr. Moustafa again as President of the IHF. His opponent Staffan Holmqvist (SWE) became Vice-President. From now on congresses take place in uneven years.
- 2.-4.12.2004 Dr Hassan Moustafa (EGY) was approved as IHF President at the XXX Congress in El Gouna (EGY).
- 3.-11.8.2005 The first Men's Youth World Championships took place in Qatar. 8 Teams participated at the event.
- 11.-20.8.2006 The first Women's Youth World Championships also counted 8 participating teams. Winners in Qatar and Canada: SCG and DEN.
- 4./5.8.2006 In Herzogenaurach (GER) the IHF Council enacted the foundation of the Marketing AG, a 100% subsidiary of the IHF. The approval followed...

- 27./28.4.2007 during the XXXI ordinary IHF congress in Madrid (ESP). The main aim of the Marketing AG is the optimization of economic efficiency.
- 2007 At the World Championships in Russia the attending athletes elect the equally represented Athletes Commission of the IHF.
- 8.-24.8.2008 12 men's and women's teams participated at the handball tournaments at the Olympic Games in Beijing.
- 3.-7.6.2009 Dr Hassan Moustafa (EGY) was confirmed again as IHF president at the congress in Kairo (EGY).
- 2009 In addition to the IHF election of the World Handball Players, from now on also the World Handball Coach and the "Rookie" of the year were elected.
- 14.-26.8.2010 According to the decision of the IOC 6 men's and 6 women's handball national teams participate at the first Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. Egypt (men's) and Denmark (women's) won the gold medals.
- 2010 The third extraordinary IHF congress in Rome (ITA) was cancelled due to the volcanic eruption of Eyjafjallajökull on Island.
- 2.-5.5.2011 The main purpose of the working congress in Marrakesh (MAR) was the passage of new statutes and other regulations, which resulted in a structural improvement of the IHF.
- 2.12.2011 The IHF organized a "Women's Conference" in Sao Paulo (BRA) aiming at recruiting more female coaches, referees and officials for handball.
- 28.7.-12.8.2012 The men's and women's handball tournaments at the Olympics in London proved to be once more a crowd puller.
- 26./27.10.2013 The XXXIV ordinary congress of the International Handball Federation will take place in Doha (QAT).

The 2011 photo of the year:
Stephane Pillaud FRA



NOC-abbreviations

There are 204 current NOC's (National Olympic Committees) within the Olympic Movement. Their country codes are also used by the International Handball Federation. The following tables show the currently used code for each country and the codes, which have been used in former times, when these countries existed and were acknowledged by the IOC and the IHF (in brackets the time of usage).

Current codes

AFG	Afghanistan	CAF	Central African Republic
ALB	Albania	CAM	Cambodia
ALG	Algeria	CAN	Canada
AND	Andorra	CAY	Cayman Islands
ANG	Angola	CGO	Congo
ANT	Antigua & Barbuda	CHA	Chad
ARG	Argentina	CHI	Chile
ARM	Armenia	CHN	China
AUS	Australia	CIV	Ivory Coast
AUT	Austria	CMR	Cameroon
AZE	Azerbaijan	COD	Democratic Republic Congo
BAH	Bahamas	COK	Cook Islands
BAN	Bangladesh	COL	Colombia
BAR	Barbados	COM	Comoros
BDI	Burundi	CPV	Cape Verde
BEL	Belgium	CRC	Costa Rica
BEN	Benin	CRO	Croatia
BHU	Bhutan	CUB	Cuba
BIH	Bosnia and Herzegovina	CYP	Cyprus
BIZ	Belize	CZE	Czech Republic
BLR	Belarus	DEN	Denmark
BOL	Bolivia	DJI	Djibouti
BOT	Botswana	DMA	Dominica
BRA	Brazil	DOM	Dominican Republic
BRN	Bahrain	ECU	Ecuador
BRU	Brunei Darussalam	EGY	Egypt
BUL	Bulgaria	ESA	El Salvador
BUR	Burkina Faso	ESP	Spain

EST	Estonia	KUW	Kuwait
ETH	Ethiopia	LAO	Laos
FAR	Faroe Islands	LAT	Latvia
FIN	Finland	LBA	Libya
FRA	France	LBR	Liberia
GAB	Gabon	LES	Lesotho
GAM	Gambia	LIB	Lebanon
GBR	Great Britain	LIE	Liechtenstein
GBS	Guinea-Bissau	LTU	Lithuania
GEO	Georgia	LUX	Luxembourg
GER	Germany	MAC	Macau
GHA	Ghana	MAD	Madagascar
GRE	Greece	MAR	Morocco
GRL	Greenland	MAS	Malaysia
GRN	Grenada	MAW	Malawi
GUA	Guatemala	MDA	Moldova
GUI	Guinea	MDV	Maldives
GUY	Guyana	MEX	Mexico
HAI	Haiti	MGL	Mongolia
HKG	Hong Kong	MKD	Macedonia
HON	Honduras	MLI	Mali
HUN	Hungary	MLT	Malta
INA	Indonesia	MNE	Montenegro
IND	India	MON	Monaco
IRI	Iran	MOZ	Mozambique
IRL	Ireland	MRI	Mauritius
IRQ	Iraq	MTN	Mauritania
ISL	Iceland	NAM	Namibia
ISR	Israel	NCA	Nicaragua
ITA	Italy	NED	Netherlands
IVB	British Virgin Islands	NEP	Nepal
JOR	Jordan	NGR	Nigeria
JPN	Japan	NIG	Niger
KAZ	Kazakhstan	NOR	Norway
KEN	Kenya	NZL	New Zealand
KGZ	Kyrgyzstan	OMA	Oman
KOR	South Korea	PAK	Pakistan
KOS	Kosovo	PAN	Panama
KSA	Saudi Arabia	PAR	Paraguay

PER Peru
 PHI Philippines
 PLE Palestine
 POL Poland
 POR Portugal
 PRK North Korea
 PUR Puerto Rico
 QAT Qatar
 ROU Romania
 RSA South Africa
 RUS Russia
 RWA Rwanda
 SAM Samoa
 SEN Senegal
 SEY Seychelles
 SIN Singapore
 SKN Saint Kitts and Nevis
 SLE Sierra Leone
 SLO Slovenia
 SOL Solomon Islands
 SOM Somalia
 SRB Serbia
 SRI Sri Lanka
 STP São Tomé and Príncipe
 SUD Sudan
 SUI Switzerland
 SVK Slovakia
 SWE Sweden
 SYR Syria
 TAN Tanzania
 THA Thailand
 TJK Tajikistan
 TKM Turkmenistan
 TOG Togo
 TPE Chinese Taipei
 TRI Trinidad and Tobago
 TUN Tunisia
 TUR Turkey
 TUV Tuvalu

UAE United Arab Emirates
 UGA Uganda
 UKR Ukraine
 URU Uruguay
 USA USA
 UZB Uzbekistan
 VAN Vanuatu
 VEN Venezuela
 VIE Vietnam
 YEM Yemen
 ZAM Zambia
 ZIM Zimbabwe

Former and historic codes

ALL Germany (-1945)
 BSH Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992)
 EUA Unified Team of Germany
 EUN Unified Team of the athletes
 from the former Soviet Union
 FRG West Germany (Fed. Rep. of
 Germany)
 GDR East Germany (German Dem.
 Republic)
 CIS Commonwealth of Independent
 States
 GUS Commonwealth of Independent
 States
 HOL Netherlands (1968-1988)
 IRN Iran (1956-1988)
 LIT Lithuania (1992)
 MLD Moldova (1994)
 ROM Romania (1956-1960, 1972-2006)
 SAA Saarland (1952)
 SAU Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 SCG Serbia and Montenegro
 TCH Czechoslovakia
 UCS Unified Team of Czech Republic
 and Slovak Republic
 URS Soviet Union
 YUG Yugoslavia

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