

National Handball Federations of Europe

Attn: Registered National Teams

Vienna, 27 October 2020

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2020 EHF YAC EUROS/Championships

Dear Handball Friends,

The EHF, particularly the competitions department, is currently more than active endeavouring to secure the matches on a club and national team level. In addition, the EHF/EHFM are working on the women's EHF EURO and the men's Final4 in December. All this is undertaken in close contact with the organisers, federations, and clubs on the one hand, and on the other hand, securing the logistics on a technical level in order to preserve the competition structure as best as possible. We are gaining a lot of experience from these activities and are facing challenges that cannot be solved on the level of sport and, in particular handball as well.

Although the parties involved are working on a professional level and doing their utmost to grant the best possible conditions, the challenges sometimes, due to the varying health situations and restrictions, do not allow for all matches being played. However, in order to safeguard the inventory, these efforts are undertaken and will be continued despite the currently complex situation.

Obviously, it is now the right time to take conclusions regarding the Younger Age Category events, namely the M18 (corresponding to M19 in 2021) and M20 (corresponding to M21 in 2021). The timetable foreseen and, at the same time, the input received on the level of the Nations Board, shows that we need to fix or to cancel competition dates by the end of October in order to allow a reasonable preparation for the organisers and respectively the participants.

In spring, the Executive Committee had to decide to postpone the Men's 18 and Men's 20 EUROS and Championship to January 2021. Within the last days, a careful analysis of the situation has taken place and contact with the organisers was established. At the same time, challenges in other sports, particularly the Younger Age Category competitions without strict precautions, were observed. Whereas in professional handball for individual matches and for the EURO, a special bubble situation can be created. The control of the environment on the level of the Younger Age Categories is much more complex, as well bearing in mind that the conditions for accommodation and venues are not the same.

Additional precautions and restrictions, which could be introduced by the authorities of the host countries could result in enormous costs that can be borne on the level of the adult events, but obviously not for YAC competitions.

In addition to that, for the YAC EUROS and Championships, a big number of Federations with their national teams, as well as approximately 50 referee couples and 60 officials have to be transferred across Europe, which is, currently due to the restrictions, questionable.

On the other hand, we have the responsibility to ensure the playing possibilities for the different handball generations, otherwise e.g. the M18 on the level of the Championships would see two consecutive years without a competition whereas the top teams will at least be at the World Championship in 2021.

The evaluation of different options and, as well, ensuring the sporting development, but not overloading individual players, was done in a careful way. In addition to that, the postponement of several European and International Handball Federation activities till 2021 might result in a heavy organisational and financial burden on the shoulders of the Federations especially those taking part in all of the YAC competitions - male and female, Europe and worldwide.

Thus, the EHF opted to cancel four competitions – the Men's 18 and Men's 20 EHF EUROs scheduled to take place in Slovenia and Croatia respectively, and the Men's 20 EHF Championships scheduled to take place in Bosnia Herzegovina and Latvia in January 2021. The Men's 18 EHF Championships were postponed to August 2021 and will take place in Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Latvia.

The M18 and M20 EURO teams will continue their path to the summer IHF World Championships with a specific qualification mode with the 13th and 14th ranked teams and previously promoted teams. In this respect, the qualification mode must follow the number of European places in the World Championship and grant a fair competition situation at the same time; specific information to the four M18 and four M20 teams will follow separately. The Men's 20 Championships (meanwhile 21), as the last competition part of this age category were cancelled as most of the players are already active on an adult level.

The summer activities for the female YAC events on a European level are unchanged and the preparations are ongoing.

Due to the complex situation, and following a consultation meeting with the IHF, the EHF now provides an attachment giving the overall status and, by that, easing the orientation.

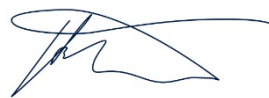
For any questions you may have, the EHF Competitions Department, especially Peter Sichelschmidt - Senior Director National Teams, will be at your disposal. We do hope that this information enables you to plan your activities in these complex times and with consequences of decisions outside of our reach.

Sincerely,

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION



Michael Wiederer
President



Martin Hausleitner
Secretary General

2021 YAC Events

(2020 and 2021 events)

Competition	Planned Date	New Date/Cancellation	Planned Organiser	(New) Organizer/Cancellation
M18 (19) EURO	January 2021	-	Slovenia	-
M18 (19) Championship 1	January 2021	15-22.08.2021	Bulgaria	Bulgaria
M18 (19) Championship 2	January 2021	15-22.08.2021	North Macedonia	North Macedonia
M18 (19) Championship 3	January 2021	15-22.08.2021	Montenegro	Latvia
MU19 WCh (IHF)	02.08. - 15.08.2021	18-29.08.2021 (tbc by IHF)	Greece	Greece (tbc by IHF)
M20 (21) EURO	January 2021	-	Croatia	-
M20 (21) Championship 1	January 2021	-	Bosnia & Herzegovina	-
M20 (21) Championship 2	January 2021	-	Latvia	-
MU21 WCh (IHF)	23.06. - 04.07.2021	23.06. - 04.07.2021 (tbc by IHF)	Hungary	Hungary (tbc by IHF)
M17 European Open	05-09.07.2021	05-09.07.2021	Sweden	Sweden
W19 EURO	08-18.07.2021	08-18.07.2021	Slovenia	Slovenia
W19 Championship 1	10-18.07.2021	10-18.07.2021	Italy	Italy
W19 Championship 2	10-18.07.2021	10-18.07.2021	North Macedonia	North Macedonia
WU18 (19) WCh (IHF)	December 2020	to be decided by IHF	Croatia	Croatia (tbd by IHF)
WU20 (21) WCh (IHF)	December 2020	to be decided by IHF	Romania	Romania (tbd by IHF)
W17 EURO	05-15.08.2021	05-15.08.2021	Montenegro	Montenegro
W17 Championship 1	07-15.08.2021	07-15.08.2021	Georgia	Georgia
W17 Championship 2	07-15.08.2021	07-15.08.2021	Lithuania	Lithuania