



DRAW INFORMATION

EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN 2020/21
GROUP PHASE DRAW

1 July 2020, 18:00 CEST
Vienna

I TABLE OF CONTENTS

EHF/M & Clubs Media contacts	3
Introduction to the new season	4
We play handball: A new brand identity	5
Brand sound project	6
Relaunch of EHFTV	7
Home of Handball	8
New social media set-up	9
New design for the winners' trophy	10
Suppliers' overview	11
Playing system diagram	12
Map of participating clubs	13
Seeding for the Group Phase Draw	14
Clubs pages	15
Pot 1 - Paris Saint-Germain Handball	16
Pot 1 - HC Vardar 1961	17
Pot 1 - Telekom Veszprém HC	18
Pot 1 - Barça	19
Pot 2 - THW Kiel	20
Pot 2 - PGE Kielce	21
Pot 2 - Aalborg Handbold	22
Pot 2 - FC Porto Sofarma	23
Pot 3 - HC Meshkov Brest	24
Pot 3 - HC Motor Zaporozhye	25
Pot 3 - HBC Nantes	26
Pot 3 - MOL-Pick Szeged	27
Pot 4 - RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	28
Pot 4 - HC PPD Zagreb	29
Pot 4 - Elverum Handball	30
Pot 4 - SG Flensburg-Handewitt	31
2019/20 season overview	32
2019/20 top scorers	33
Past winners	34
All-time club standings	35
History	36

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I INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW SEASON

In almost three decades of EHF Champions League history there has hardly ever been as much excitement as for the upcoming 28th edition, and not only because all handball fans eagerly await new match action after the previous season was paused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Europe's premium competitions open their new chapter after the EHF has teamed up with Infront and DAZN for the next decade and the EHF Champions League will get a fresh look across several layers.

New brand, new playing system and new trophy

Already before the group phase draw the new attractive brand identity has been rolled out, the competition will be played in a new playing system and also the playing times have been fixed with Wednesdays and Thursdays reserved for the EHF Champions League Men and weekends for the DELO EHF Champions League. On every match day an appointment to view has been confirmed with all matches starting either at 18:45 or 20:45 (CET/CEST).

Both competitions open as usual with a group phase, though this time only two groups of eight teams are starting the long and exciting road to the EHF FINAL4.

The group phase will be followed by the play-offs and the quarter-finals, to find the four teams that will battle for the prestigious title in the LANXESS arena in Cologne.

16 elite teams on the starting grid

The number of participating teams has been reduced to 16 but not the representation of the continent's different regions and 13 countries can boast at least one club in the European top-flight. Most of the teams have a rich history in the European top-flight and besides the record holders with the biggest number of participations, like HC PPD Zagreb (27) and Telekom Veszprém HC (26), also the most decorated teams can be found with Barça (8 titles) or THW Kiel (3 titles). In total, there will be six former EHF Champions League winners on the starting grid when the race for the newly designed trophy commences on 16 September.

I WE PLAY HANDBALL: A NEW BRAND IDENTITY

We play handball. It is what we do, and it is the sport we have had in hearts ever since the European Handball Federation was born back in 1991. In the 29 years that have followed we have kept pace with an ever-evolving society that shapes the way we work and see ourselves. One thing we have not changed, however, is our commitment to staying true to the origins of handball. This spirit of an active, social community is a core part of the handball DNA even today. Since the European Handball Federation was founded, we have served each national federation, each club, thousands of players and millions of fans with respect, honesty and transparency.

A fresh approach to logo design

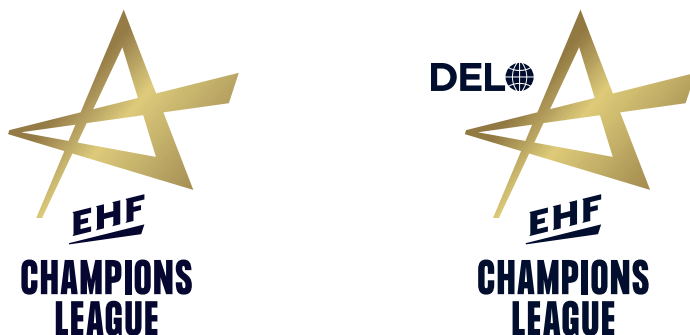
At the heart of the new approach is an updated and fresh representation of how the origins and successes of European handball are communicated, expressed and promoted. Therefore, subtle alterations have been made in the visual presentation of the EHF and its associated competitions with a newly developed design, created to offer consistent communication of the new handball umbrella brand across all European competitions. The shape of a handball itself is referenced throughout the entire EHF brand system. On a national team level, the circular shape of the ball is used to empower all national team competition logos.

By emphasising an individual tile on the ball – represented by the pentagon and the lines which form the stitching – the form becomes a strong abstract symbol for the club competitions, including the pentagon which is visible in the distorted version of the logo. The new EHF Champions League logo is the best example with a rejuvenated golden star forming the basis of the refreshed emblem of European handball's elite competitions.

New claims, same aims

We do play handball. We always have and always will – but the European Handball Federation does more than that. The new era is an opportunity for the EHF, EHF Marketing, players, fans and officials to not only celebrate what has been achieved so far, but to strengthen core values and beliefs from which the EHF has been built on and make handball an even greater success story. While the new brand identity heralds the start of a new era, our goals remain the same as they have always been: to encourage the public to pick up a ball and join their local club; to promote the highest profile matches on television and across our digital ecosystem; and to motivate fans to experience the spine-tingling atmosphere of a live match inside Europe's biggest handball arenas.

We are all part of the game, so if you are ready, we will let the new era begin...



I BRAND SOUND PROJECT

As part of a holistic brand experience strategy, sound is an essential brand asset. Together with the sound agency WESOUND, EHF and EHF Marketing developed an acoustic identity for their brands, reflecting and representing the core of handball.

A modern brand sound approach is part of the vision of positioning handball as the most attractive indoor sport and it supports the goal of attracting a younger audience. Through the coherent and consistent use of unique and recognisable sound elements together with the consistent graphical picture conveyed, an improved connection of the competitions and their followers will be achieved. Much like the visual brand identity, the brand sound identity will acoustically connect the various leagues and tournaments which fit under the EHF umbrella.

For the EHF Brand Sound, the authors got to the core of “The Sound of Handball” and created a handball sound DNA as the recurring element across all audio-visual applications. The jump shot was identified as the most iconic and defining handball movement. Through video analysis and motion tracking, the jump shot was extracted into a rhythmic design pattern.

There are numerous application opportunities of the brand sound, which will be developed over time. First implementations of the new EHF Brand Sound will be heard in the EHF Champions League. The premium character of this tournament was translated into a modern sound design through a new EHF Champions League sound logo and anthem. Both will come to life in the arena and will consistently complement all audio-visual communications.



I RELAUNCH OF EHFTV

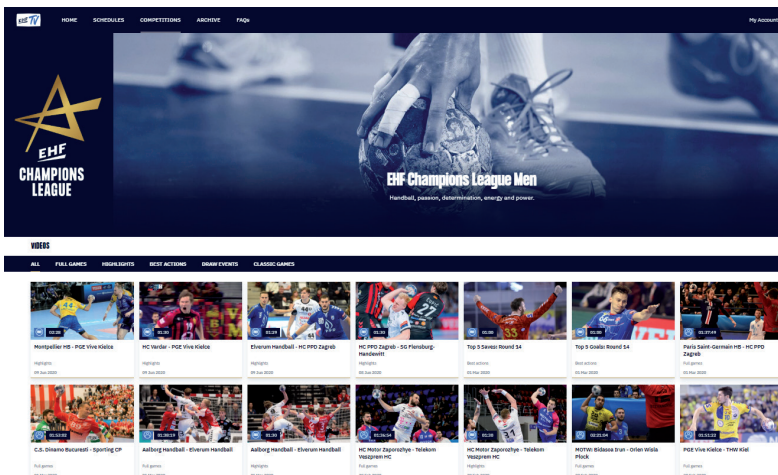
Starting with the official throw-off for the 2020/21 season with the EHF Champions League draw event on 1 July and complementing the launch of the new Home of Handball, EHFTV, the OTT portal of the EHF and EHF Marketing, will be relaunched. The new Brand identity applied to Home of Handball has been followed to create a new look for EHFTV, an OTT service which will be powered by DAZN Group.

EHFTV has established itself over the past decade as a meeting point for all handball fans. The option to watch EHF games for free, live and on-demand, as well as the opportunity to enjoy additional content created for the EHF competitions on a regular basis, has made EHFTV a unique and highly-appreciated OTT service in the sport market. The general approach of EHFTV will remain, offering the best handball content for free. This approach will be complemented with the option to register to the portal for free. This registration will give the handball fans the option to watch games live and on-demand, but will also allow fans to improve and personalise their fan experience during the season – and all of that for free.

On EHFTV, matches from every EHF competition will be available, complemented with highlights, the best goals and saves and plenty of additional content created exclusively for the portal. As the new EHFTV has been designed to be fully adaptable to all devices, regardless of whether fans are at home or on the go, the best handball action will be accessible any time and from anywhere. Once the fans enter in the re-launched EHFTV, they will find an adapted filter menu, an improved navigation through the portal and the option to personalise the favourite competition and/or club directly on their registration account. These new features will permit all users to find, select and enjoy the best handball in an easy manner.

Furthermore, the new and state-of-the-art video player, which also includes a multi-screen feature, will guarantee the best quality and the perfect conditions to follow the EHF Champions League, whenever it is played.”

Join EHFTV and get ready for a new handball era.



I HOME OF HANDBALL

1 July sees the launch of the newly designed Home of Handball website. The European Handball Federation and EHF Marketing in cooperation with Kraftwerk, the number one digital agency in Austria, are excited to introduce a new home and single hub for all fans, friends and the entire family of handball.

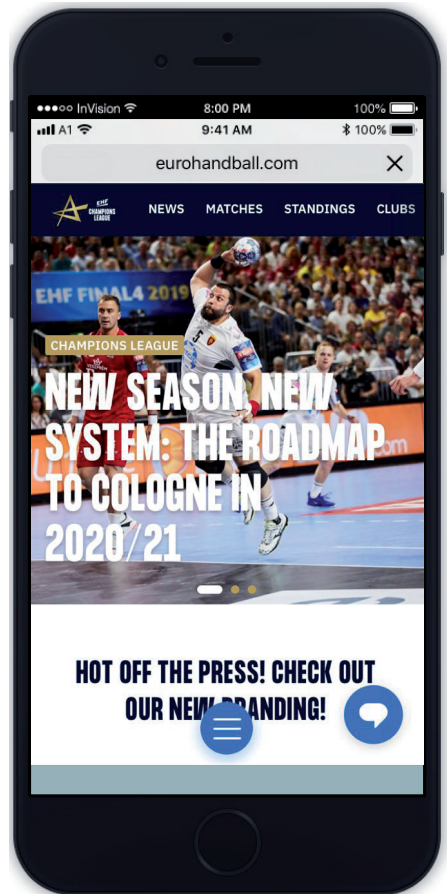
The old website was calling for an overhaul and needed rejuvenation, both visually and functionally. In a first step, the decision has been taken to merge the many different web assets onto one and from 1 July, the websites of the EHF Champions League, ehfTV, EHF FINAL4 and EHF Marketing as well as EHF national team competitions are all to be found under one single EHF roof with: www.eurohandball.com.

One of the main goals was to best represent the EHF's personality, culture and spirit, thus the new corporate identity. A newly-developed brand strategy will be reflected on every page, providing a modern, professional and comprehensive look and feel. Every competition is presented in its very own premium colour pallet, easily distinguishable and featuring elegant new logos.

Another one of the key objectives was a 'mobile first' strategy to accommodate mobile users. A team of designers and developers kept this focus throughout the process, ensuring the site will function on all devices.

A key element in functionality is the so-called "Home of Handball-button" on the new website. It is located at the bottom centre of the page ensuring quick navigation to key features such as 'Competitions', 'TV', 'Teams', 'Tickets', 'Home' and 'More'.

Furthermore, to ensure a real-time information stream of ongoing or upcoming handball matches EHF, EHF M and Kraftwerk have developed a Live Ticker located at the very top of the page which allows the handball community to stay on the ball at all times. The Live Ticker provides live match results and follows the user on their entire journey through the new Home of Handball.



I NEW SOCIAL MEDIA SET-UP

To reflect the new digital set-up with the Home of Handball website, the EHF's social media channel structure has been adapted accordingly.

Overall, there are three pillars to the EHF's social media presence:

- **Top competitions keep their own channels**
- **'Home of Handball' approach on website is mirrored**
- **'Activities' as the EHF's educational and corporate hub**

The EHF Champions League as the premium club competition will continue to be represented on its own social media channels on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

In addition, there are the newly created Home of Handball channels, which showcase the best content from all EHF competitions, including the EHF Champions League. Handball fans worldwide can keep up to date with everything happening in European handball, from club and national team competitions to beach handball, all on one channel.

This also includes the video-sharing social network Tiktok, which is mostly used by a younger audience. For the first time, the EHF Champions League will be featured on TikTok through the Home of Handball channel.



I NEW DESIGN FOR THE WINNERS' TROPHY

The new ultimate prize for Europe's elite handball clubs will be revealed on the fringes of the EHF Champions League Group Phase Draw in Vienna. One design has emerged from 27 submissions across 12 European nations to become the new EHF Champions League trophy.

With a new era of European handball on the horizon, EHF Marketing launched a public tender through the website and social media with the goal of finding the best possible new trophy design for the EHF Champions League. During this process, a total of 27 designs were received from companies and artists in 12 countries, making it a truly European competition.

The new trophies, which will be lifted by the champions of the DELO EHF Champions League and the EHF Champions League Men from the 2020/21 season onwards, have been created in accordance with the new brand guidelines. The winning agency was [Sustain Awards](#) by [Oiko Design Office](#), a Spanish agency based in Barcelona, specialising in the design and production of environmentally responsible trophies.

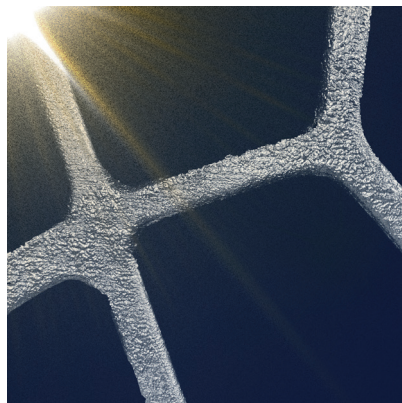
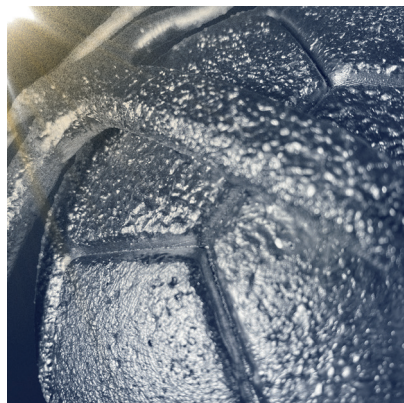
Idea behind it

The core idea of the trophy was to represent a goal as the main objective of the sport, to reflect the dynamic movement of a ball hitting the target and to transmit handball as a team sport by forming the net in the shape of a shield. The net itself symbolises the needed connection within a team - all for one and one for all.

For the first time, the design is the same for both men's and women's competitions and every element from the font to the logo fits the new competition identity.

The materials of which the trophies consist of are aluminium cast (30% recycled aluminium) for the body and base, and recycled balls used for the sculptural ball which hits the net. A golden bath covers the trophies, making sure they are in line with the new brand image, giving them the premium touch that all trophies need. The sustainability of the materials, a design that reflects the equality between women and men as well as the spectacular way in which the trophies reflect the core of the sport have been the key elements in the choice of the winning design.

The trophies are each 80 cm high, 57 cm wide and weigh 10 kg.



I SUPPLIERS OVERVIEW

SELECT

- Recently signed a four-year contract extension until 2023/24
- Official Ball Supplier for the EHF Champions League and EHF European League
- Dedicated ball designs for EHF Champions League and EHF European League as of the 2021/22 season, so that men and women of the same competition play with the same design



SELECT

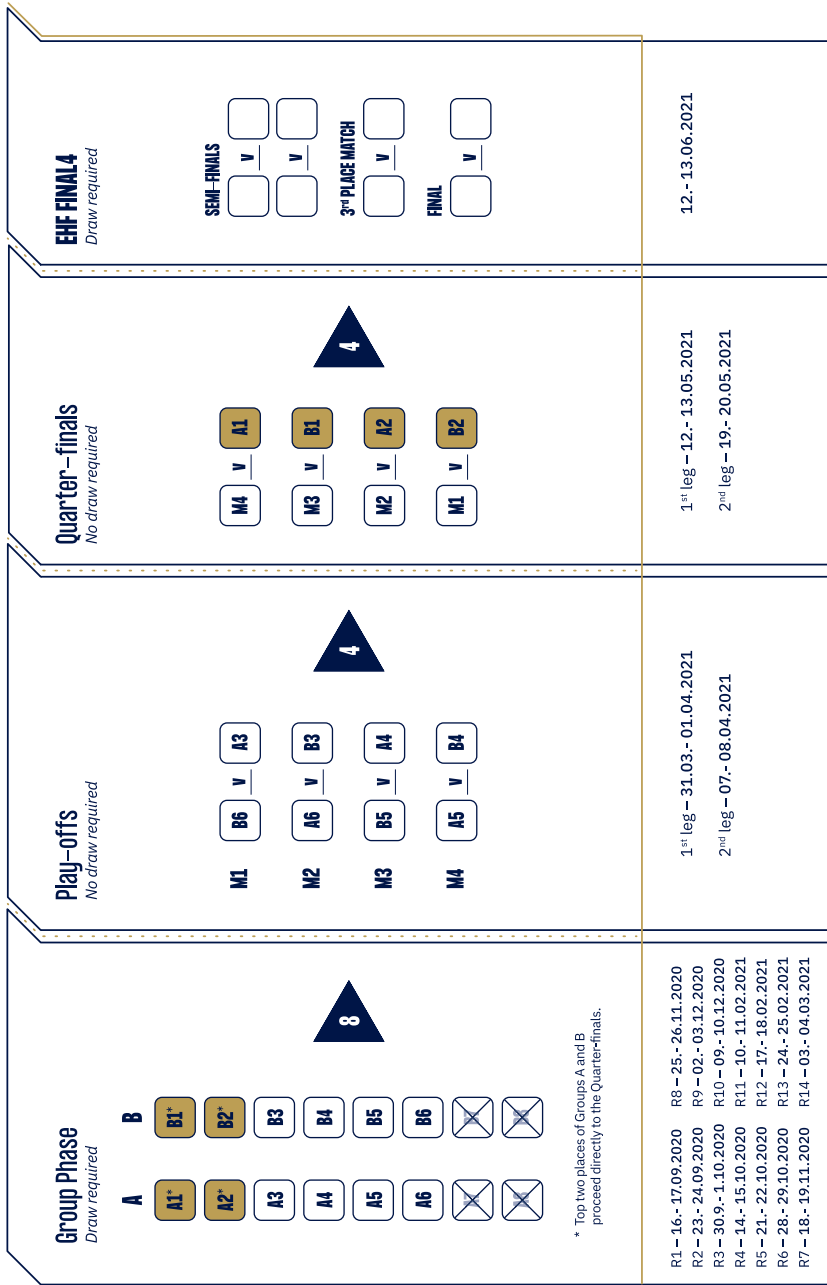
hummel

- New contract from 2020/21 until 2023/24
- Official apparel supplier for EHF Champions League and EHF European League
- EHF/M webshop to be launched in Autumn 2020 with special products designed according to the competition designs, merchandising at the EHF FINAL4s and EHF European League Finals

The hummel logo, featuring a stylized bee icon and the word "hummel" in a bold, sans-serif font.

EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN 2020/21 SEASON

Playing system and dates



EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

SEASON 2020/21



I SEEDING FOR THE GROUP PHASE DRAW

Paris Saint-Germain Handball, HC Vardar 1961, Telekom Veszprém HC and Barça will be seeded in the first pot when the group phase draw for the EHF Champions League Men 2020/21 determines two groups on Wednesday 1 July 2020, 18:00 CEST in Vienna.

Starting next season, the European top flight will be played in a changed format, with only 16 elite teams divided into two groups of eight. The participating teams will enter the draw in Vienna in four pots. From each pot, two teams will be drawn/allocated into group A, while the other two will be in group B.

Country protection

Country protection will be applied, therefore, the teams from France, Hungary and Germany will not meet their national league opponents in the group phase.

The group phase will be played in a round-robin format. After 14 rounds, the top two teams in each group will qualify directly for the quarter-finals, while the teams that finish in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth places will contest the play-offs. The lowest ranked two clubs in each group will be eliminated from the competition at the end of the group phase.



Draw run-down

- Step 1 = a team from Pot 1 will be drawn to one of the positions A1, A2, B1, B2 (four times)
- Step 2 = a team from Pot 2 will be drawn to one of the positions A3, A4, B3, B4 (four times)
- Step 3 = HBC Nantes from Pot 3 will be allocated a different group to Paris Saint-Germain HB
- Step 4 = MOL-Pick Szeged from Pot 3 will be allocated a different group to Telekom Veszprém HC
- Step 5 = a team from Pot 3 will be drawn either to group A or group B (two times)
- Step 6 = SG Flensburg-Handewitt will be allocated a different group to THW Kiel
- Step 7 = a team from Pot 4 will be drawn either to group A or group B (three times)

Follow the draw live

The group phase draw will be streamed on EHFTV, the Home of Handball YouTube channel and the EHF Champions League Facebook page. Additionally, the live coverage will be available on the @ehfcl Twitter and right after the draw players' interviews will take place on @ehfcl Instagram TV.



CLUBS

EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN 2020/21
GROUP PHASE DRAW

POT 1



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[PSGHand](https://www.facebook.com/PSGHand)



[@psghand](https://twitter.com/psghand)



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Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green



Playing hall

Stade Pierre de Coubertin
82, Avenue Georges Lafont
75016 Paris
France
Capacity: 3,500

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN HANDBALL



- entering their eighth straight CL season, and ninth overall, after winning French title for sixth time in a row
- played at EHF FINAL4 three times (2016-18) but have failed to win the trophy so far
- will get next chance for first CL title in December at postponed VELUX EHF FINAL4 2020
- new arrivals for 2020/21 season include 2019 CL winner Dainis Kristopans and EHF EURO 2018 All-star wing Ferran Sole
- notable players who left include EHF EURO 2020 champion Rodrigo Corrales (Veszprém), Luc Abalo (Elverum) and Sander Sagosen (Kiel)

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 9
Runners-up (1): 2016/17
Semi-final (3): 2015/16, 2017/18 (3rd), 2019/20
Quarter-final (3): 2013/14, 2014/15, 2018/19
Last 16 (1): 2005/06

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2006/07, Last 16 2003/04

French league: 7 titles (2013, 2015-20)

French cup: 4 titles

League Cup: 3 titles

Trophee des Champions: 4 titles

POT 1



Club contact

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 [@HCVardar](https://twitter.com/HCVardar)

 [@rkvardar](https://www.instagram.com/rkvardar)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: red

Dark

Player shirt: black/red
Player short: black
GK shirt: green, black



Playing hall

Jane Sandanski

Bubl. Avnoj b.b
1000 Skopje
FYR Macedonia
Capacity: 5,000

HC VARDAR 1961



- club changed name in June 2020 after ownership returned from Sergej Samsonenko to Mihajlo Mihajlovski, who previously held club for two decades
- were favourites to win domestic title again in 2019/20 but Macedonian championship was canceled
- starting new season with drastic changes in roster, though two-time CL winners Timur Dibirov, Ivan Cupic and Stojanche Stoilov all stayed with the club
- former legendary Vardar player Stevche Alushovski as head coach will lead the club, the most successful in the country with 13 national league and cup titles

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 15
Winners (2): 2016/17, 2018/19
Semi-final (1): 2017/18 (4th at the FINAL4)
Quarter-final (3): 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16
Last 16 (1): 2019/20
Group Phase (6): 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2007/08, 2009/10
Last 32 (1): 1999/2000

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 1998/99, 2004/05, 2010/11, Quarter-finals 2006/07
SEHA league: 4 titles (2012, 2014, 2017, 2018)

Macedonian league: 13 titles (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2013, 2015-19)
Macedonian cup: 13 titles

POT 1



Club contact

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[Veszprembandballteam](https://www.facebook.com/Veszprembandballteam)



[@telekomVeszprem](https://twitter.com/telekomVeszprem)



[@handballVeszprem](https://www.instagram.com/handballVeszprem)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: black

Dark

Player shirt: red/black
Player short: black
GK shirt: yellow



Playing hall

Veszprém Arena
Külső Kádártai ut
8200 Veszprém
Hungary
Capacity: 5,096

TELEKOM VESZPRÉM HC



- are entering their 26th CL season and will get another shot at first title at VELUX EHF FINAL4 2020 in December
- reached the final four times, most recently in 2019, but are yet to lift the CL trophy
- Bosnian left back Mirsad Terzic, 37, left the club after 11 years, moving to Wisla Plock in Poland
- swapped players with Szeged, as Borut Mackovsek moved to the domestic rivals while Jorge Maqueda arrived
- coach David Davis, left wing Manuel Strlek and defender Blaz Blagotinsek were all voted into the CL 2019/20 All-star Team
- Veszprém could not defend their domestic title in 2019/20 as the Hungarian league was terminated prematurely without the championship being awarded

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 26
Final (4): 2001/02, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19
Semi-final (5): 2002/03, 2005/06, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2019/20
Quarter-final (9): 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2012/13
Last 16 (4): 1993/94, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2017/18
Group Phase (3): 1994/95, 1995/96, 2007/08

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2008, Finalists 1997
SEHA-league: 2 titles (2015, 2016)

Hungarian league: 26 titles
Hungarian Cup: 27 titles

POT 1



Club contact

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 [@FCBHandbol](https://twitter.com/FCBHandbol)

 [@FCBHandbol](https://www.instagram.com/FCBHandbol)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: light green
Player short: light green
GK shirt: blue or yellow

Dark

Player shirt: blue and red
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green or black



Playing hall

Palau Blaugrana
Av. Aristides Maillol, s/n
08028 Barcelona
Spain
Capacity: 7,250

BARÇA



- Spanish champions are eyeing two CL titles this season, as they are also part of delayed VELUX EHF FINAL4 2020 in December
- title contenders each year, Barça have not won the CL since 2015, and especially the 2019 semi-final defeat against Veszprém is still hurting
- long-term head coach Xavi Pascual successfully introduced new, faster playing philosophy two seasons ago
- entering their first season after team captain and club legend Victor Tomas's retirement
- with the Tokyo Olympics postponed until 2021, team veterans Raul Entrerrios and Cedric Sorhaindo have extended their contracts with another year
- most notable newcomer in Barça's squad is Slovenian wing Blaz Janc, arriving from Kielce

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 24
 Winner (8): 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2004/05, 2010/11, 2014/15
 Final (3): 2000/01, 2009/10, 2012/13
 Semi-final (5): 2007/08, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2019/20
 Quarter-final (4): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2011/12, 2015/16
 Last 16 (2): 2003/04, 2017/18
 Main Round (1): 2008/09

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2002/03, Runners-up 2001/02

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 1993/94, 1994/95

(IHF) European Champions Cup: 1990/91

IHF Super Globe: 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018

Spanish league: 27 titles (1969, 1973, 1980, 1982, 1986, 1988-92, 1996-2000, 2003, 2006, 2011-20)

Spanish Cup: 24 titles

POT 2



Club contact

Club Address

THW Kiel
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Germany

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 [@thw_handball](https://twitter.com/thw_handball)

 [@thwhandball](https://www.instagram.com/thwhandball)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
Goalkeeper shirt: black

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: red



Playing hall

Wunderino-Arena-Kiel
Europaplatz 1
24103 Kiel
Germany
Capacity: 10,285

THW KIEL



- three-time CL champions qualified for postponed VELUX EHF FINAL4 in December, as first team from Germany since 2016
- Kiel were represented twice in CL 2019/20 All-star Team, with goalkeeper Niklas Landin and right wing Niclas Ekberg
- going into their 23rd CL season, Norwegian back-court ace Sander Sagosen, joining from PSG, is biggest arrival for THW in years
- together with Duvnjak, Nikola Bilyk and Harald Reinkind, Sagosen will form new back-court axis
- only one player left Kiel in the off-season in 2020, wing Ole Rahmel
- Kiel ended five-year wait for their 21st Bundesliga title in 2019/20 after season ended prematurely

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 23
Winners (3): 2006/07, 2009/10, 2011/12
Runners-up (4): 1999/2000, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2013/14
Semi-final (6): 1996/97, 2000/01, 2012/13, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2019/20
Quarter-final (7): 1998/99, 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2017/18
Group Phase (2): 1994/95, 1995/96

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 1997/98, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2018/19
Champions Trophy: Winners 2006/07; Runners-up: 2000/01, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2007/08

German league: 21 titles

German cup: 11 titles



POT 2

**Club contact****Club address**

PGE Kielce
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Poland

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 [@kielcehandball](https://twitter.com/@kielcehandball)

 [@kielcehandball](https://www.instagram.com/@kielcehandball)

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
GK shirt: blue

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green

**Playing hall**

Hala M.O.S.I.R. – Legionów
ul. Łaszka Drogosza 2
15-116 Kielce
Poland
Capacity: 4,200

PGE KIELCE

- Polish champions enter CL for ninth time in a row and 17th overall
- were awarded their 17th domestic title in shortened 2019/20 season without play-offs
- CL winners in 2016; played EHF FINAL4 three more times: 3rd in 2013 and 2015, 4th in 2019
- since 2014 the team is led by iconic coach Talant Dujšebaev; his sons Alex (since 2017) and Daniel (2018) also play for Kielce
- squad for 2020/21 contains eight nationalities: Polish, Croatian, Montenegrin, Spanish, German, French, Belarussian, Islandic
- team is mixture of international stars like Andreas Wolff, Alex Dujšebaev and Igor Karacic, and young talents like Arkadiusz Moryto, Artsem Karalek, Tomasz Gebala and Branko Vujović
- name sponsor VIVE Group ended cooperation with club after 18 years; Kielce are running crowd funding campaign to secure budget for 2020/21 season

Past achievements**EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 18
Winners (1): 2015/16
Semi-final (3): 2012/13, 2014/15, 2018/19
Quarter-final (1): 2017/18
Last 16 (7): 1993/94, 1994/95, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2019/20
Last 32 (2): 1996/97, 1998/99
Group Matches (3): 1999/2000, 2003/04, 2010/11

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 1997/98, 2005/06
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals 1995/96

Polish league: 17 titles
Polish cup: 16 titles

POT 2



Club contact

Club Address

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[@aalborghaandbold](https://www.instagram.com/aalborghaandbold)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
GK shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: red
Player short: white
GK shirt: black



Playing hall

Jutlander Bank Arena
Willy Brandts Vej 31
9220 Aalborg Ost
Denmark
Capacity: 4,666

AALBORG HÅNDBOLD



- surprise contender last season, securing victories over Flensburg at home and away
- showed their dominance in traditionally hard-fought Danish league, losing just once in 24 encounters last season
- entering their fifth season in the CL and only once have failed to progress beyond the group phase
- large fluctuation in the squad this summer for Stefan Madsen's team, with six players in and eight out, including four moving to Bundesliga clubs
- among new signings are Elverum back court duo Sebastian Henneberg and Lukas Sandell and Felix Claar from Alingsas, who made CL debut in 2014 at age 17

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 6

Last 16 (2): 2013/14, 2019/20

Group Phase (3): 2010/11, 2014/15, 2017/18

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-final 2003/04, Group Phase 2015/16

Challenge Cup: Round 4 2002/03

Danish league: 5 titles (2010, 2013, 2017, 2019, 2020)

Danish cup: 1 title (2019)

POT 2

FC PORTO SOFARMA



Club contact

Club Address

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 [@fcportosports](https://www.instagram.com/fcportosports)

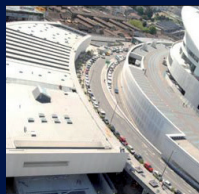
Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: blue and white (stripes)
Shorts: blue or white
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

Dark

Player shirt: Yellow
Player shorts: yellow
Goalkeeper shirt: dark blue



Playing hall

Dragao Arena
Via Futebol Clube do Porto
4350419 Porto
Portugal
Capacity: 2,225

- returning to CL as the only team from Portugal
- impressed with superb results last season, including away victories at Kiel and Montpellier
- led domestic league table in 2019/20 but were not awarded the championship when season was cut short due to global pandemic
- Croatian left back Ivan Sliskovic and German line player Manuel Späth are main newcomers in Swedish head coach Magnus Andersson's third season at the club
- line player Alexis Borges (Montpellier) and goalkeeper Thomas Bauer (Athens) and Hugo Laurentino (retired) have left

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 11

Last 16 (1): 2019/20

Group phase (2): 2013/14, 2015/16

Qualification (7): 1999/00, 2004/05, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2014/15

Other

EHF Cup: 3rd: 2018/19; Group Phase: 2014/15, 2016/17; Last 16: 1998/99, 2010/11, 2011/12
Cup Winner's Cup: Quarter-final 2000/01, 2001/02; Last 16: 1996/97, 2007/08

Portuguese league: 21 titles (1954, 1957-60, 1963-65, 1968, 1999, 2002-04, 2009-15, 2019)

Portuguese cup: 8 titles

POT 3



Club contact

Club Address

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[@meshkovbrest](https://www.instagram.com/meshkovbrest)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: red
GK shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: black



Playing hall

Sportshall Victoria
Leningradskaya 4
224028 Brest
Belarus
Capacity: 3,500

HC MESHKOV BREST



- won Belarusian league for seventh successive year and 12th overall
- failed to reach CL Last 16 in 2019/20 for first time since 2014/15
- Spanish head coach Raul Alonso extended his contract for another season in May 2020
- start season with many changes in squad after departure of William Accambray, Nemanja Obradovic, Artsiom Kulak, Darko Dukic, Branko Kankaras and Daniel Andrejew
- added Stas Skube, Dmitrii Santalov, Pawel Paczkowski and Vladimir Vranjes to squad for 2020/21

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 12
Last 16 (4): 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19
Group Phase (6): 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2014/15, 2019/20
Qualification (1): 2008/09

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 2011/12
EHF Cup: Last 16 2003/04

Belarusian league: 12 titles (2004-08, 2014-20)
Belarusian cup: 11 titles

POT 3

HC MOTOR



Club contact

Club Address


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Ukraine

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 [handball.club.motor](https://www.instagram.com/handball.club.motor)

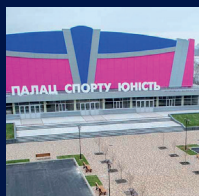
Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white/red
Player short: white
GK shirt: yellow/black

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: red/black



Playing hall

Palace of Sports Yunost
Pobeda St. 66
69000 Zaporozhye
Ukraine
Capacity: 3,500

- became Ukrainian champions in 2020 for eighth consecutive season
- hope to bounce back from rather disappointing CL 2019/20 season, finishing bottom of group B
- changed head coach twice within a year, as Mykola Stepanets was replaced by Rostislav Linevich in November 2019, and the latter gave way to Gintaras Savukinas in February 2020
- head coach Savukynas, from Lithuania, will work with squad that has changed in various positions
- a total of six players have left after the 2019/20 season, while Motor attracted four newcomers

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 8
Last 16 (3): 2013/14, 2015/16, 2018/19
Group Phase (4): 2014/15, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2019/20

Other

EHF Cup: Group Phase 2012/13
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals 2011/12

Ukrainian league: 8 titles (2013-2020)

Ukrainian cup: 6 titles (2013, 2015-19)

POT 3



Club contact

Club Address

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44200 Nantes
France

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[HBCNantes](https://twitter.com/HBCNantes)



[HBC Nantes](https://www.instagram.com/HBC_Nantes)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: grey/black
Player short: grey/black
GK shirt: yellow, blue or green

Dark

Player shirt: purple/yellow
Player short: purple
GK shirt: yellow, blue or green



Playing hall

H ARENA
Palais des Sports de
Beaulieu
7-9 rue André Tardieu
44200 Nantes, France
Capacity: 5,400

HBC NANTES



- 2018 finalists return to CL after one-year absence, after finishing runners-up to PSG in French league in 2019/20
- entering their fourth CL season, advanced from group phase on all previous occasions
- after being led by head coach Thierry Anti for 10 seasons, Nantes are going into their second season with three-time CL winner Alberto Enterrrios, who rebuilt team in 2019/20
- among the players leaving are local hero Nicolas Tournat (Kielce), Julian Emonet, Senjamin Buric and Antonio Garcia
- new arrivals include two-time EHF EURO winner Adria Figueras

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 4

Runners-up (1): 2017/18

Quarter-finals (1): 2018/19

Last 16 (1): 2016/17

Other

EHF Cup: runners-up 2012/13, 2015/16, quarter-finals 2013/14

French Cup: 1 title (2017)

French League Cup: 1 title (2015)

Trophee des Champions: 1 title (2017)

POT 3

MOL-PICK SZEGED



Club contact

Club Address

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Hungary

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[@pickhandball](https://twitter.com/pickhandball)

[@pickhandball](https://www.instagram.com/pickhandball)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: light blues/
white stripes
Player short: dark blue

GK shirt: white or yellow

Dark

Player shirt: dark blue
with stripes or gold blue
Player short: blue or
gold blue

GK shirt: black



Playing hall

Varosi Sportcsarnok
Szeged
Temesvari Krt.33
6726 Szeged
Hungary
Capacity: 3,200

- going into their 19th CL season after request for upgrade from EHF European League was granted
- had four players among the nominees for CL 2019/20 All-star Team, with Bence Banhidi winning the vote for All-star line player
- key players like goalkeeper Mirko Alilovic and right back Luka Stepancic extended their contracts
- defensive specialist Alen Blazevic left the club after eight seasons for Romanian side HC Dobrogea Sud Constanta
- Borut Mackovsek arrived from domestic rivals Veszprém while Jorge Maqueda moved in opposite direction
- Spain's world and EHF EURO champion Joan Canellas underwent surgery but should be fit in time for start of 2020/21 season

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 19

Quarter-final (5): 1996/1997, 2003/2004, 2014/15, 2016/17, 2018/19

Last 16 (7): 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007, 2010/2011, 2012/13, 2015/16, 2017/18, 2019/20

Main Round (1): 2007/2008

Group Phase (3): 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2011/2012

Qualification (1): 2013/14

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2015, Quarter-final 2001

Last 16: 1994/95, 1999/2000

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-final 1993/94, Quarter-final: 2002/03, 2008/09

Hungarian league: 3 titles (1996, 2007, 2018)

Hungarian cup: 7 titles

POT 4



Club contact

Club Address

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3000 Celje
Slovenia

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[rkceljepivovarnalasko](https://www.facebook.com/rkceljepivovarnalasko)



@RK CPL



@rkcp1

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: yellow-blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: black

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: red



Playing hall

Dvorana Zlatorog
Opekarniška cesta 15
3000 Celje
Slovenia

RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LAŠKO



- 2004 champions are entering their jubilee 25th CL season
- won domestic title for seventh season in a row in 2019/20 and 24th time overall
- in 2019/20 Celje finally advanced from CL group phase again for first time in six seasons
- team has no significant changes in roster: Diogo Silva and Klemen Ferlin left, while Filip Ivic, Veron Nacinovic and Tadej Mazej arrived
- Celje remain one of the youngest teams in CL

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 25

Winner (1): 2003/04

Semi-final (6): 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99,
1999/2000, 2000/01, 2004/05

Quarter-final (2): 2001/02, 2005/06

Last 16 (5): 1995/96, 2006/07, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2019/20

Main Round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09

Group Phase (7): 1993/94, 1994/95, 2010/11, 2014/15, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19

Qualification (1): 2009/10

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2009/10

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 2002/03, 2011/12

Slovenian league: 24 titles (1991-2001, 2003-08,
2010, 2014-20)

Slovenian cup: 21 times

POT 4



Club contact

Club Address

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RKZagreb



@RKZagreb



@rkzagreb_official

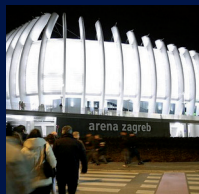
Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: red

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: yellow



Playing hall

Arena Zagreb
Laniste b.b.,
10000 Zagreb
Croatia
Capacity: 15,200

HC PPD ZAGREB



- new head coach Igor Vori, who replaced Veselin Vujovic, is leading the record participants into their 27th CL season
- Zagreb could not add their 29th consecutive domestic title last season as Croatian championship was not played to a finish
- Vori will work with heavily changed squad as eight players, including Zlatko Horvat, Josip Vekic, Gasper Hrastnik and Ante Gadza, have left
- Damir Bicanic and Arian Jovic have retired and taken up new roles in the club
- among newcomers are Vlado Matanovic, Nemanja Obradovic, Senjamin Buric, Ziga Mlakar and Todor Jandric

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 27
Runners-up (4): 1994/95, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99
Semi-final (1): 1999/00
Quarter-final (7): 2000/01, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2008/09, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16
Last 16 (5): 2005/06, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2018/19
Main Round (1): 2007/08
Group Phase (8): 1993/94, 1995/96, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2017/18, 2019/20

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 2004/05, Semi-finals 2006/07
(IHF) European Champions Cup: 2 titles (1991/92, 1992/93)

SEHA League: 1 title (2013)
Croatian league: 28 titles (1992-2019)
Croatian Cup winner: 25 times

POT 4



Club contact

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Media contact

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[@ElverumHandball](https://twitter.com/ElverumHandball)



[@elverumhandball](https://www.instagram.com/elverumhandball)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: black
GK shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
GK shirt: green



Playing hall

Terningen Arena
Hamarvegen 112
2418 Elverum
Norway
Capacity: 2,400

ELVERUM HANDBALL



- entering CL group phase for fifth consecutive season since first qualifying in 2015
- announced the probably biggest signing of the summer, bringing in Olympic, world and EHF EURO champion Luc Abalo from PSG
- set attendance record for handball in Norway last season with 12,377 fans visiting Lillehammer's Hakons Hall for match against PSG
- 2010 CL winner and Norwegian men's assistant coach Borge Lund takes over as coach from Michael Apeltgren, who moves to IK Sävehof
- won regular season in Norway, suffering just one defeat, and were awarded the title after play-offs were cancelled

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 7
Group Phase (5): 2015/16, 2016/2017,
2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20
Qualification (1): 2013/14

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 2010/11
EHF Cup: Group Phase 2012/13

Norwegian play off: 11 titles (1995, 2008, 2012-20)
Norwegian league: 4 titles (2013, 2017, 2018, 2020)
Norwegian Cup: 1 title

POT 4



Club contact

Club Address

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Germany

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 sg-flensburg-handewitt.de

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 [@SGFlHa](https://twitter.com/SGFlHa)

 [@sgflensburghandewitt](https://www.instagram.com/sgflensburghandewitt)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: blue
GK shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: grey
Player short: grey
GK shirt: red



Playing hall

Flens Arena
Campusallee 2
24943 Flensburg
Germany
Capacity: 6,300

SG FLENSBURG— HANDEWITT



- starting in their 16th CL season; reached at least QF in 13 of their 15 participations so far and won the title in 2014
- in 2019/20, Flensburg lost six straight matches in CL group phase and finished group only in fifth place
- German champions in 2018 and 2019, were ranked second behind leaders Kiel when Bundesliga was halted in early 2020 amid global pandemic
- Maik Machulla is starting in his fourth season as head coach
- biggest name among new arrivals is Danish Olympic, world and EHF EURO champion Mads Mensah Larsen, coming from Rhein-Neckar Löwen
- also joining are Franz Semper and Lasse Kjaer Möller, while club legend Holger Glandorf has retired and Simon Jeppsson (Erlangen), Anders Zachariassen (GOG) and Michal Jurecki (Azoty Pulawy) have left
- left back Simon Hald is still recovering from tearing ligaments in October 2019

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2020/21 season): 16

Winners (1): 2013/14

Final (2): 2003/2004, 2006/2007

Semi-final (1): 2005/2006

Quarter-final (8): 2004/2005, 2008/2009, 2010/2011, 2012/2013, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19

Last 16 (2): 2014/15, 2019/20

Main Round (1): 2007/2008

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2001, 2012

EHF Cup: Winners 1996/1997

City Cup: Winners 1998/1999

German league: 3 titles (2004, 2018, 2019)

German cup: 4 titles

I 2019–20 SEASON RECAP

Like in the most of the sports in Europe the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted also the national teams and club competitions under the EHF umbrella. The VELUX EHF Champions League 2019/20 has been paused and the Last 16 and the quarter-final matches cancelled.

VELUX EHF FINAL4 2020 postponed to December

The EHF also rescheduled the final tournament of the club season to 28 and 29 December 2020. Based on the final group phase ranking, qualified for the VELUX EHF FINAL4 are the best two teams of groups A and B: Barça, Paris Saint-Germain HB, THW Kiel, Telekom Veszprém HC.

Facts & figures of the season

0 teams in group A or B won or remained unbeaten in all their 14 group matches.

26 points, earned by Barça, were (together with PSG in the 2018/19 season) the highest number of all teams since the start of the previous playing system in 2015/16.

41 straight unbeaten home CL matches was the impressive series from PSG (started in November 2014 and lasted until 1 December 2019, when Barça ended the series with a 35:32 victory in France).

79 goals represent the highest scoring match in the group phase, when Barça beat Aalborg 44:35.

75 goals were scored by Montpellier's Hugo Descat, making him the top scorer of the group phase.

176 matches have been played so far in the 2019/20 season.

370 goals conceded by Szeged in 14 matches represents the most effective defence in groups A/B.

485 goals scored by Barça in 14 matches represents the most effective attack in groups A/B.

10,046 goals (more than ever in the previous playing system) were scored in the group phase

12,377 fans (Elverum vs PSG) in Lillehammer was the highest number of spectators so far in 2019/20.

Over 50,000 fans cast their votes to decide the All-star team line-ups

Handball fans across the world have voted in their thousands to determine the EHF Champions League 2019/20 All-star teams. Last season's voting took place in unique circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic leading to a number of matches being cancelled and EHF FINAL4s postponed. However, that did not deter over 50,000 fans voting for their favourite players.

VELUX EHF Champions League 2019/20 All-star Team, presented by Gorenje:

Goalkeeper: Niklas Landin, THW Kiel

Left wing: Manuel Strlek, Telekom Veszprém HC

Centre back: Mikkel Hansen, PSG Handball

Line player: Bence Banhidi, MOL-Pick Szeged

Right back: Alex Dujshebaev, PGE VIVE Kielce

Right wing: Niclas Ekberg, THW Kiel

Defender: Blaz Blagotinsek, Telekom Veszprém HC

Young player: Aleix Gomez, Barça

Coach: David Davis, Telekom Veszprém HC

Nearly a million views for the live streaming of the press conferences

The live post-match press conferences, launched at the beginning of the 2019/20 season and streamed by clubs competing in this season's EHF Champions League competitions, have proven to be a huge hit with handball fans. The teams have been broadcasting press conferences live across their own social media channels straight after their matches to give fans even more insight. The interest in the post-match thoughts of the coaches and the players involved have been popular since the concept's introduction, with the number of combined views across both competitions already approaching one million mark after the group phase and main round respectively.

I 2019/20 TOP SCORERS

Rank	Player	Club	Goals
1	Hugo Descat (FRA)	Montpellier HB (FRA)	75
2	Barys Pukhouski (BLR)	HC Motor Zaporozhye (UKR)	74
3	Niclas Ekberg (SWE)	THW Kiel (GER)	70
4	Timur Dibirov (RUS)	HC Vardar (MKD)	69
5	Sebastian Barthold (NOR)	Aalborg Handbold (DEN)	65
	Alex Dujshabaev (ESP)	PGE VIVE Kielce (POL)	65
	Vladislav Ostroushko (UKR)	HC Eurofarm Rabotnik (MKD)	65
8	Valentin Ghionea (ROU)	Sporting CP (POR)	64
	Sigvaldi Björn Gudjonsson (ISL)	Elverum Handball (NOR)	64
	Sander Sagosen (NOR)	Paris Saint-Germain HB (FRA)	64
	Gøran Johannessen (NOR)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	64
12	Bogdan Radivojevic (SRB)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	63
13	Aleix Gómez (ESP)	Barça (ESP)	62
	Petar Nenadic (SRB)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	62
	Josip Sarac (CRO)	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko (SLO)	62
16	Dragan Gajic (SLO)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	61
	Ante Kuduz (CRO)	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti (ROU)	61
18	Lukas Sandell (SWE)	Elverum Handball (NOR)	60
19	Emil M. Jakobsen (DEN)	GOG (DEN)	59
	Blaz Janc (SLO)	PGE VIVE Kielce (POL)	59
21	Aidenas Malasinskas (LTU)	HC Motor Zaporozhye (UKR)	58
	Harald Reinkind (NOR)	THW Kiel (GER)	58
	Teemu Tamminen (FIN)	Cocks (FIN)	58
24	Alexander Blonz (NOR)	Elverum Handball (NOR)	57
25	Bence Banhidi (HUN)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	55
	Diogo Branquinho (POR)	FC Porto Sofarma (POR)	55

I PAST WINNERS

Year	Club	Nation
2020	<i>TBD on 29 December 2020</i>	
2019	HC Vardar	MKD
2018	Montpellier HB	FRA
2017	HC Vardar	MKD
2016	Vive Tauron Kielce	POL
2015	FC Barcelona	ESP
2014	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	GER
2013	HSV Hamburg	GER
2012	THW Kiel	GER
2011	FC Barcelona Borges	ESP
2010	THW Kiel	GER
2009	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2008	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2007	THW Kiel	GER
2006	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2005	FC Barcelona-Cifec	ESP
2004	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	SLO
2003	Montpellier HB	FRA
2002	SC Magdeburg	GER
2001	Portland San Antonio	ESP
2000	FC Barcelona	ESP
1999	FC Barcelona	ESP
1998	FC Barcelona	ESP
1997	FC Barcelona	ESP
1996	FC Barcelona	ESP
1995	Elgorriaga Bidasoa	ESP
1994	TEKA Santander	ESP

I ALL-TIME CLUB STANDINGS 1993–2020

TR	Name of the club	MP	W	D	L	GF:FA	GD	P	NP	%
1	Barça ESP	310	233	20	57	9612:8040	+1572	486:134	(24)	78,39%
2	Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	292	198	14	80	8496:7649	+847	410:174	(25)	70,21%
3	THW Kiel GER	290	193	20	77	8812:7815	+997	406:174	(23)	70,00%
4	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	216	128	18	70	6341:5919	+422	274:158	(16)	63,43%
5	HC PPD Zagreb CRO	286	121	31	134	7434:7494	+60	273:299	(27)	47,73%
6	Montpellier HB FRA	232	128	15	89	6646:6352	+294	271:193	(20)	58,41%
7	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	244	113	15	116	6906:6772	+134	241:247	(23)	49,39%
8	BM Atletico Madrid ESP	144	111	5	28	4502:3803	+699	227:61	(10)	78,82%
9	PGE Kielce POL	178	100	16	62	5302:5078	+224	216:140	(14)	60,67%
10	MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	200	97	17	86	5567:5503	+64	211:189	(18)	52,75%
11	Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA	128	88	7	33	3854:3530	+324	183:73	(10)	71,48%
12	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	176	75	18	83	5250:5200	+50	168:184	(18)	47,73%
13	HC Vardar 1961 MKD	156	74	16	66	4320:4382	-62	164:148	(14)	52,56%
14	Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	134	72	17	45	3971:3774	+197	161:107	(9)	60,08%
15	HSV Hamburg GER	98	68	9	21	3088:2670	+418	145:51	(7)	73,98%
16	Portland San Antonio ESP	100	64	6	30	2929:2594	+335	134:66	(9)	67,00%
17	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP	122	61	8	53	3440:3386	+54	130:114	(12)	53,28%
18	KIF Kolding København DEN	118	54	9	55	3330:3361	-31	117:119	(12)	49,58%
19	Orlen Wisla Plock POL	136	44	11	81	3594:3833	-239	99:173	(13)	36,40%
20	HC Motor UKR	90	36	11	43	2638:2669	-31	83:97	(8)	46,11%
21	HC Metalurg MKD	102	35	6	61	2516:2718	-202	76:128	(10)	37,26%
22	HC Meshkov Brest BLR	110	31	11	68	3000:3229	-229	73:147	(11)	33,18%
23	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	106	31	9	66	2966:3133	-167	71:141	(11)	33,49%
24	HBC Nantes FRA	52	28	10	14	1548:1465	+83	66:38	(4)	63,46%
25	Rk Gorenje Velenje SLO	72	32	1	39	2050:2046	+4	65:79	(7)	45,14%
38	Elverum Handball NOR	54	18	5	31	1461:1558	-97	41:67	(6)	37,96%
39	Aalborg Handbold DEN	62	17	7	38	1697:1818	-121	41:83	(6)	33,07%
46	FC Porto Sofarma POR	34	15	3	16	937:953	-16	33:35	(4)	48,53%

I HISTORY: 27 YEARS OF EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

1993 – 2007

1993/94

**Final: ABC Braga vs TEKA Santander
22:22/21:23 (43:45)**

The inaugural year of the Men's EHF Champions League saw the classic home and away knockout matches being replaced with a totally new system. 32 teams went into two qualification rounds, eliminating 24 clubs. The remaining eight teams were placed into two groups of four teams each playing in a round-robin system. TEKA Santander and ABC Braga topped their respective groups and faced each other in the final. Santander narrowly kept the upper hand and started what should become an eight-year Spanish club winning streak in the Men's EHF Champions League.

1994/95

**Final: Elgorriaga Bidasoa Irun vs Badel Zagreb
30:20 / 26:27 (56:47)**

The final of the EHF Champions League's second season became the match of a lifetime for Irun's Nenad Perunicic, nicknamed "the canon" or "El Conquistadore" by the fans. He was his team's key player in the final and, in his first year in Spain, not only he lifted the EHF Champions League but also the national championship trophy with Irun.

1995/96

**Final: FC Barcelona vs Elgorriaga Bidasoa Irun
23:15 / 23:23 (46:38)**

In the season that was marked by the "Bosman decision", which had substantial effects on transfer regulations and transfer fees in sport, FC Barcelona won their first EHF Champions League title. No other should be capable of dethroning the Catalan side for the next four years.

1996/97

Final: FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb

31:22 / 30:23 (61:45)

In their second consecutive EHF Champions League Final Barcelona dominated both matches against Badel Zagreb. And while the Spanish side celebrated their second EHF Champions League triumph, the Croatian side had lost their second final. Also in 1996/97 the so called "fast break" was born due to a rule change, making handball more attractive and athletic than ever before.

1997/98

**Final: FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb
28:18 / 28:22 (56:40)**

Barcelona beat Zagreb once more to win their third consecutive EHF Champions League title. But at least as much news as the repeated triumph made the wedding of Barcelona player Inaki Urdangarin who married Christina, youngest daughter of Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, on 4th October 1997.

1998/99

**Final: Badel Zagreb vs FC Barcelona
22:22 / 18:29 (40:51)**

Once again there were tears in Zagreb and joy in Barcelona. The Spanish team beat Zagreb in their third consecutive final and lifted the EHF Champions League trophy for the fourth time in a row. Zagreb's coach Velimir Klajic had to admit that Barcelona "at this moment in time, were quite simply the best club team in the world."

1999/00

**Final: THW Kiel – FC Barcelona
28:25 / 24:29 (52:54)**

THW Kiel became the first German team to make it into the Final but even a 28:25-victory in the final's first leg was not enough to end Barcelona's EHF Champions League winning streak. Backed by half of the Spanish national team and international stars like Christian Schwarzer and Tomas Svensson, Barcelona won their fifth title.

2000/01

**Final: Portland San Antonio – FC Barcelona
30:24 / 22:25 (52:49)**

For Barcelona it was a whole new feeling to watch another team celebrating at the end of the Champions League Final. Following five consecutive titles an era came to end when Spanish King Juan Carlos handed the huge trophy to Portland San Antonio at the end of all-Spanish Final.

2001/02

**Final: Fotex Veszprem vs SC Magdeburg
23:21 / 25:30 (48:51)**

One year after Barcelona's dominance had ended in the EHF Champions League, the dominance of Spanish clubs also came to an end, when SC Magdeburg became the first German team to win the competition. And late at night, at the end of a glittering party, Stefan Kretzschmar and coach Alfred Gislason were still up for jokes: "Training is on the agenda. The entire team is going to run through the whole town until 08:00 tomorrow morning," they said.

2002/03

**Final: Portland San Antonio – Montpellier HB
27:19 / 19:31 (46:50)**

A new star was born during the finals of the 2002/03 EHF Champions League season. Montpellier's Nikola Karabatic scored 11 goals in the first leg in Spain and another six in front of his home fans, enabling his team to turn around the eight goal defeat from the first leg and to become the first French side to win the CL.

2003/04

**Final: Celje vs Flensburg- Handewitt
34:28 / 28:30 (62:58)**

In March 2003 the EHF had decided on a new structure for the competition. Three teams from Spain and Germany now had a starting slot. Two representatives from Hungary, Slovenia, Denmark and Croatia would start in the Group Phase. Overall 32 teams (8 groups of 4 teams each) made up the Group Phase. Flensburg had

profited from the new system but Slovenian side Celje was too strong in the final.

2004/05

**Final: BM Ciudad Real vs FC Barcelona Cifec
28:27 / 27:29 (55:56)**

Following four years without being present in the final, Barcelona won their sixth EHF Champions League title. And while the spectator record for one match was 10,000 fans, the whole city celebrated Barcelona's victory. "We did a lap of honour in the Stadion Nou Camp in front of 100,000 spectators and were celebrated by the whole town," remembers Barcelona's Dane Lars Krogh Jeppesen.

2005/06

**Final: Portland San Antonio vs BM Ciudad Real
19:25 / 28:37 (47:62)**

Spanish businessman and BM Ciudad Real president, Domingo Diaz de Mera, had put together a team that proved to be unbeatable in the 2005/06 Champions League season. Mera bought superstars from all over Europe and the team around Olafur Stefansson, Mirza Dzomba, Didier Dinart et al. paid justified Mera's expenses when they beat Spanish rival San Antonio in the final.

2006/07

**Final: SG Flensburg- Handewitt vs THW Kiel
28:28 / 27:29 (55:57)**

The EHF Champions League, through the efforts of the 2005 founded EHF Marketing GmbH, became a unified look. Since 2006, TV spectators across Europe know they are watching a men's EHF Champions League match when they see the distinct blue lagoon and black supplied by flooring specialists Gerfloor in addition to the season's individual yellow and blue handball supplied by adidas. On the sport side of things, Kiel won their first EHF Champions League title, beating arch rival Flensburg-Handewitt.

I HISTORY: 27 YEARS OF EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

2007 – 2019

2007/08

Final: BM Ciudad Real vs THW Kiel

27:29 / 31:25 (58:54)

In the 2007/08 season a second Group Phase with four groups of four teams each replaced the Last 16-matches and the quarter-finals.

The first teams of each group qualified for the semi-finals and in the final 2006 champion Ciudad Real faced 2007 champion THW Kiel. The Spanish side prevailed and could win their second EHF Champions League trophy.

2008/09

Final: THW Kiel vs BM Ciudad Real

39:34 / 27:33 (66:67)

THW Kiel and BM Ciudad Real faced each other in the final for the second year in a row and even though Kiel had won the first leg of the final by five goals, it was Ciudad Real that won the EHF Champions League for a second consecutive time. Kiel were still in the lead by 20:16 after 39 minutes but with a series of 10:3 goals within 11 minutes Ciudad Real turned the match in their favour.

2009/10

Final: FC Barcelona Borges vs HW Kiel

34:36

In the 2009/10 season the number of participating teams in the first Group Phase was reduced from 32 to 24. Four groups of six teams each were formed and the first four teams qualified for the knockout phase which replaced the second group phase. For the first time the VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournament, which combined the Semi-finals and the Final, was held in Cologne, Germany, to decide the champion. THW Kiel won their second title when they beat Barcelona.

2010/11

Final: FC Barcelona vs Renovalia Ciudad Real

27:24

Since 2010 the event is known as the VELUX EHF Champions League. 40,000 fans stormed to Cologne to attend the VELUX EHF FINAL4 weekend and TV viewing audience figures went to a new height. 310 million viewers from 76 countries worldwide watched 2,800 hours of TV transmissions 2010/11. Barcelona extended their lead as the most successful club in EHF Champions League history when won their seventh title, beating Ciudad Real in the Final.

2011/12

Final: THW Kiel vs BM Atletico Madrid

26:21

The German powerhouse sensationally lost in their first home match of the season against Montpellier, but no other team was able to overcome THW Kiel throughout the remaining of the season. Gislason led his team to the third trophy in the club's history becoming the first coach who won with two different teams. Defending champions from Barcelona were eliminated in the quarter-finals by AG København, but the Danish side was stopped in the semi-final by Atlético Madrid, who made it to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 for the fourth time in a row.

2012/13

Final: FC Barcelona vs HSV Hamburg

29:30 AET

HSV Hamburg go into the new season as the defending champion. For the first time the extra-time had to decide the winner. In 20 years of EHF Champions League history there have only been two champions, Montpellier in 2003 and Celje in 2004, who neither came from Spain nor from Germany. The All-Stars team of the 20 years were announced: Goalkeeper Tomas Svensson (SWE), Left Wing Stefan Kretzschmar (GER), Left Back Filip Jicha (CZE), Line Player Andrei Xepkin (ESP), Centre Back Jackson Richardson (FRA), Right Back (Oláfur Stefansson), Right Wing Mirza Džomba (CRO), Best defender Didier Dinart (FRA)

2013/14

**Final: SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs THW Kiel
30:28**

For the third year in a row a team from Northern Germany prevailed as SG Flensburg-Handewitt took both of their opponents at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 by surprise. In the semi-final the “Vranjes boys” eliminated giants of FC Barcelona after a penalty-shoot-out thriller and made the Cinderella story perfect by beating their neighbours from Kiel 30:28 in the final.

2014/15

**Final: FC Barcelona vs MKB-MVM Veszprem
28:23**

The defending champions from SG Flensburg-Handewitt were eliminated already in the Last 16 as well as Rhein-Neckar Löwen. The end of the three-year-old reign of Bundesliga was sealed only in Cologne as THW Kiel were unable to repeat their 2014 semi-final win against Veszprem. However, the effort of Hungarian champions for their premiere trophy were denied by FC Barcelona who rose to the throne for the eighth time in the EHF history.

2015/16

**KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs MVM Veszprem
39:38 after 7m shootout**

This final went down to history books of the Champions League as a breathtaking classic. Deep in the second half Veszprem were leading by nine goals, still Kielce put up a spritid fight to force the extra-time. Even the additional ten minutes could not solve the thriller and in the 7m shootout Kielce were luckier with Julen Aguinagalde’s last effort clinched the maiden title for the Polish champions adding only fifth country to the list of winners.

2016/17

**Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Vardar
23:24**

For the first time in history no German team made it to the EHF FINAL4. The sold-out arena still saw yet another edition of some showcase

handball and three out of four matches ended in only one goal differences. HC Vardar beat the buzzer for two days in a row as Luka Cindric sank FC Barcelona Lassa in the semi-final and Ivan Cupic clinched the maiden title for the Macedonian team in the final against PSG sending their country into a handball frenzy.

2017/18

**HBC Nantes vs Montpellier HB
27:32**

In its 25th anniversary the European top flight once again underlined the rule that favourites cannot take anything for granted in this fierce competition. No fewer than three French teams made it to the final tournament in Cologne and after both finalists from the previous edition (Vardar and PSG) failed in the semi-finals it was a showdown between two pre-season underdogs HBC Nantes and Montpellier HB in the final. Mainly courtesy of a brilliant performance of their playmaker Diego Simonet Montpellier returned to the European throne after 15 years and became the first team from Group C or D with this achievement.

2018/19

**HC Vardar vs Telekom Veszprém HC
27:24**

The Macedonian champions unexpectedly returned to the throne. Despite losing several key players in the summer and during the season Vardar reached their third VELUX EHF FINAL4 in a row. After having stunned Barcelona in the semi-finals they held the upper hand throughout the whole final over Veszprem, whose losing streak in the Champions League finals was extended to four games. After what many saw as the club’s last shot at glory tens of thousands of people were welcoming the champions in the streets of Skopje.

2019/20

EHF FINAL4 postponed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the CL has been paused after the group phase and the EHF FINAL4 postponed to 28/29 December 2020.

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