



**EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION**

**To the EHF Member Federations**

Vienna, 25 June 2018

### **General Information: Men's World Championship 2021 – Qualification Europe**

Dear Handballfriends,

In order to keep you updated about the current situation concerning the Men's World Championship qualification pathway for Europe and the Men's EURO 2022 qualifier phase 1 together with the corresponding decisions of the EHF EXEC in March and in June 2018 in this regard and in order to enable you to save the respective dates, we want to inform you about the different details as follows:

The current status of the qualification pathways to the Men's World Championship 2019 in DEN/GER and for 2021 in EGY together with the proposed pathway to the Men's EHF EURO 2022 (see attachment 1 and 2) were discussed in detail in the EHF Competitions Commission. The basic elements of the two qualification pathways for the World Championships were compared and the necessary preconditions of the international calendar were also taken into consideration. The new WCh qualification system to 2021 as well as the new pathway to the Men's EURO 2022 qualifier phase 1 was in the meantime approved by the EXEC.

It must be emphasized, that according to the available national team weeks especially in years with Olympic Games (2020 and 2024) and at the same time after the implementation of the Men's EURO with 24 teams possible alternatives can hardly be identified.

The foreseen periods –taking into consideration the National team weeks- as well as the foreseen structure (system in general, participants and playing modus included) as well as the differences between the qualification to 2019 and 2021 are presented in the attached files.

The main aspects for the Men's EURO 2022 as well as the time line is as follows:

**European Handball Federation Hoffnnergasse 18, 1120 Vienna, Austria**  
T: +43 1 80151 0 F: +43 1 80151 149 E: office@eurohandball.com W: eurohandball.com

Bank Account: Bank Austria, bank code: 12000, account no: 00640 000 204  
IBAN: AT46 1200 0006 4000 0204, BIC: BKAUATWW | DVR 0856371 | ZVR 263489108 | UID/VAT ATU 38516405



**EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION**

**From 2020 in SWE/AUT/NOR to 2021 Men's World Championship in EGY qualification Europe and to 2022 Men's EURO in HUN and SVK Qualifiers:**

Directly qualifying to 2022 (from 2020):	1 <sup>st</sup> (probably also the 2 <sup>nd</sup> depending on an EXEC decision in this regard)
M EURO 2020 Q 2 (Rd. 1 and 2):	24 to 28 October 2018 (32 Nations)
M EURO 2022 Q 1: (number of teams open)	played in a tournament format on either 4 to 6 or 11 to 13 January 2019
M EURO 2020 Q 2 (Rd. 3 and 4):	10 to 14 April 2019 (32 Nations)
M EURO 2020 Q 2 (Rd. 5 and 6):	12 to 16 June 2019 (32 Nations)
Emerging Nations Championship: (number of teams open)	10 to 16 June 2019
MWCh 2021 Q 1 (Rd. 1 and 2)	23 to 27 October 2019
MWCh 2021 Q 1 (Rd. 3 and 4)	1 to 5 January 2020
MWCh 2021 Q 1 (Rd. 5 and 6)	8 to 12 January 2020
Playing periods EURO 2022 Q-phase 2:	Oct/Nov 2020 (Rd. 1 and 2) March/April 2021 (Rd. 3 and 4) April/May 2021 (Rd. 5 and 6)

The most important facts for the upcoming qualifying events are:

1. The qualifier phase 1 must be played in tournament format in January 2019.
2. A single registration for the Emerging Nations Championship is not any longer possible.
3. A so-called "relegation round" is implemented.

This basic structure of the qualification to the Men's EHF EURO 2022 as well as the necessity of free places for the winners of phase 1 and the Emerging Nations Championship require the relegation of up to 4 teams (the 4 lowest ranked teams of the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked teams in the EURO-Qualification for 2020). The number of relegating teams is maximum 4.

**European Handball Federation Hoffingergasse 18, 1120 Vienna, Austria**  
T: +43 1 80151 0 F: +43 1 80151 149 E: office@eurohandball.com W: eurohandball.com

Bank Account: Bank Austria, bank code: 12000, account no: 00640 000 204  
IBAN: AT46 1200 0006 4000 0204, BIC: BKAUATWW | DVR 0856371 | ZVR 263489108 | UID/VAT ATU 38516405



**EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION**

It will be possible to define the exact number at a very early stage (once the number of registrations for phase 1 is known). It was already decided by the EXEC that the 4 (maximum, depending on the number of registrations for qualification phase 1) lowest ranked of the 4<sup>th</sup> ranked teams of the EURO 2020 deserve a second chance by the implementation of a “relegation round” between these 4 teams and the winners of the EURO 2022 qualification phase 1 as well as the winner of the Emerging Nations Championship (ENCh). All these 8 teams will be known at the end of June 2019.

Taking into consideration the necessary preconditions of the international calendar as well as the possible pathway of the MWCh 2021 qualification Europe this “relegation round” has to be played in a National Team Week/Period, which is more or less free of any other obligatory matches of the involved federations.

To play this round in October 2019 would mean to force the participants in the WCh-qualification to play rounds 1 to 6 in tournament format in January 2020. This was considered as a clear disadvantage for (approx. for up to 25) nations, who want/need to play in home and away format.

If the participants in the 2021 WCh-Qualification decide to play in a tournament format in October 2019 or in January 2020, the National Team Weeks in October 2019 or in January 2020 can be used for the “relegation round”. In case the participating federations are involved in both qualification pathways and they can't find a free NTW in October 2019 or in January 2020, they have to play the relegation matches between 15 and 19 January 2020.

In a second step we will send out the registration documents for the Men's EURO 2022 HUN/SVK Qualifiers phase 1 in summer 2018 and we now really hope, that all necessary facts are in your hand.

Best regards,

**EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION**

Peter Sichelschmidt

National Team Competitions

Enclosures: M EURO and MWCh-Q-Men\_Periods\_2020-2024  
MWCh 2021-Q Europe\_Structure  
Copies: Member Federations, EXEC, CC, NB

**European Handball Federation Hoffingergasse 18, 1120 Vienna, Austria**  
T: +43 1 80151 0 F: +43 1 80151 149 E: office@eurohandball.com W: eurohandball.com

Bank Account: Bank Austria, bank code: 12000, account no: 00640 000 204  
IBAN: AT46 1200 0006 4000 0204, BIC: BKAUATWW | DVR 0856371 | ZVR 263489108 | UID/VAT ATU 38516405