

IHF - International Handball Federation



Sports games in which the ball was played with the hand have existed since the earliest times and in all epochs and cultures.

However, the modern game of team handball only emerged in the second half of the 19th century. Preliminary forms are: Initially, push ball games against or across a border (Grenzball and Raffball in Germany), then games on baskets or against nets (netball, korfball).

Goals followed, but the ball was not allowed to be run and

held for a maximum of three seconds (Neuer Raffball and Turmball in Germany). Finally, then games for goals, whereby the ball could be running a maximum of three steps or held for a maximum of three seconds. The latter are next to the Czech Házená, the field handball game¹ for the female workers of the Siemens works², which was presented for the first time on October 29, 1917 (commonly considered the "hour of birth" of handball) by Max Heiser (1879-1921), a Berlin gymnastics functionary. But it was not until Karl Schelenz (1890-1956), teacher at the German University for Physical Culture (Deutsche Hochschule für Körperkultur), created the changed handball rules for men in 1919 that the conditions for the rapid spread, especially in German-speaking countries, were given.

Carl Diem, at that time General Secretary of the German sports organization Deutscher Reichsausschuß für Leibesübungen and Rector of the German University for Physical Culture, completed the establishment of men's field handball as an officially recognized sport on September 13, 1920. In the first international match, Germany beat Austria by 6 to 3 goals on September 3, 1925.

In November 1925 in Köln GER, the IAAF invited to the first meeting of a handball committee to be set up. Handball was understood to mean all ball games played with the hands, including court handball, fistball, bat-and-ball-games and korfball (which was later separated into basketball and korfball). The 7th IAAF Congress on 08.08.1926 in den Haag NED confirmed the founding of a special committee for handball. The task of the committee, which was formed in Köln GER on 27.11.1926, was to organize the countries playing handball and to standardize the rules.

The IAAF then prepared the establishment of an independent federation. The founding congress of the Fédération Internationale des Sports de Handball d'Amateurs (FIHA) attended by eleven countries took place on 04.08.1928 in Amsterdam NED. In 1929, the association responsible for basketball as well as field and court handball³ was recognized by the IOC and became a member of the Permanent Bureau of the Union des Fédérations Internationales Sportives. After the FIBB was founded as the basketball world federation in 1932, the FIHA renounced its claim to also control basketball at its congress on 30.08.1934. However, a new technical commission for fistball and volleyball⁴ was created.

After World War II, a new federation was founded on 11.07.1946 in København DEN - the International Handball Federation (IHF).

Member federations

1928: AUT, CAN, DEN, GER, FIN (until 1936), FRA, GRE (until 1934), IRL, SWE, TCH, USA

1929: additional ARG, BRA, EGY, HUN, JPN, POL, ROU, SUI

1934: additional BEL (until 1936), EST, HAI, LUX, NED, URU, YUG (until 1936)

1936: additional POR

1946: founding members of IHF: DEN, FIN, FRA, NED, NOR, POL, SWE, SUI

2007 159 member associations

2022 209 member associations

¹ On that day, the committee for women's and girls' gymnastics of Turngau II Berlin of the Deutsche Turnerschaft decided "to call the game, which was previously referred to as Torball, Handball in the future" (Nachrichtenblatt für den Berliner Turnrath, no 812 of November 1917)

² Catching was important in this game for girls. The throwing was a bad concession at that time. Neither the fight for the ball nor the duel were allowed. The ball had a diameter of 71 cm!

³ In 1928 the following technical commissions were formed: for **field handball** (President Arvid Karlsson SWE after his death followed by Willy Burmeister GER on 30.08.1934, from 1934 also extended to **indoor handball**), **Házená** until 1934 included at field handball, own commission from 30.08.1934 under President František Bareš TCH, **court handball** (President Sean O'Hanlon IRL) and **basketball** (President René Beaupuis FRA, 13.05.1930 - 30.08.1934 Armand Lill FRA).

⁴ The chairman of this commission was Colonel Mieczysław Rawicz-Mysłowski POL until 13.08.1936. He was followed from January 1936 by acting secretary of the Commission Romuald Wirszyński POL, from 13.08.1936 as President Tadeusz Kuchar POL.

Presidents

Chairman of the IAAF Handball Committee

27.11.1926 - 04.08.1928 Franz-Paul Lang GER

President of FIHA

04.08.1928 - 28.08.1931 Franz-Paul Lang GER

28.08.1931 - 30.08.1934 Dr. Karl Ritter von Halt GER; acting

30.08.1934 - 09.07.1938 Dr. Karl Ritter von Halt GER

09.07.1938 - 27.12.1941 † Richard Herrmann GER

28.12.1941 - 11.07.1946 -----

President of IHF

11.07.1946 - 09.09.1950 Gösta Björk SWE

09.09.1950 - 07.02.1971 † Hans Baumann SUI

07.02.1971 - 23.08.1972 Paul Högberg SWE; acting

23.08.1972 - 25.07.1984 Paul Högberg SWE

25.07.1984 - 26.11.2000 Erwin Lanc AUT

26.11.2000 - Dr. Hassan Mustafa EGY

Secretaries General

Secretary General of the IAAF Handball Committee

27.11.1926 - 04.08.1928 Otto A. Schaer SUI

Secretary General of FIHA

04.08.1928 - 09.07.1938 Fritz Haßler GER

09.07.1938 - 10.07.1946 Adam Nothelfer GER

Secretary General of IHF

11.07.1946 - 09.09.1950 Carl-Filip Borgh SWE

09.09.1950 - 23.08.1972 Albert Wagner SUI

23.08.1972 - 14.09.1988 Max Rinckenburger FRG)

14.09.1988 - 02.12.2004 Raymond Hahn FRA

02.12.2004 - 04.06.2009 Peter Mühlematter SUI

04.06.2009 - 02.05.2011 Joël Delplanque FRA

The position has been replaced since 2011 by that of Managing Director.

World Player of the Year

	Men	Women
1988	Veselin VUJOVIĆ YUG	Svetlana KITIĆ YUG
1989	KANG Jae-Won KOR	KIM Hyun-Mee KOR
1990	Magnus WISLANDER SWE	Jasmiza KOLAR AUT
1991 - 1993	<i>not awarded</i>	<i>not awarded</i>
1994	Talant DUISHEBAYEV RUS	Mia HERMANSSON-HÖGDAHL SWE
1995	Jackson RICHARDSON FRA	Erszébet KOSZIS HUN
1996	Talant DUISHEBAEV ESP	LIM O-Kyeong KOR
1997	Stéphane STOECKLIN FRA	Anja ANDERSEN DEN
1998	Daniel STEPHAN GER	Trine HALTVIK NOR
1999	Rafael GUIJOSA ESP	Ausra FRIDRIKAS AUT
2000	Dragan ŠKRBIĆ YUG	Bojana RADULOVICS HUN
2001	YOON Kyung-Shin KOR	Cecilie LEGANGER NOR
2002	Bertrand GILLE FRA	CHAO Zhai CHN
2003	Ivano BALIĆ CRO	Bojana RADULOVICS HUN
2004	Henning FRITZ GER	Anita KULCSÁR HUN
2005	Arpad ŠTERBIK SCG	Anita GÖRBICZ HUN
2006	Ivano BALIĆ CRO	Nadine KRAUSE GER
2007	Nikola KARABATIC FRA	Gro HAMMERSENG NOR
2008	Thierry OMEYER FRA	Linn-Kristin RIEGELHUTH NOR
2009	Stawomir SZMAL POL	Alison PINEAU FRA
2010	Filip JÍCHA CZE	Cristina NEAGU ROU
2011	Mikkel HANSEN DEN	Heidi LØKE NOR
2012	Daniel NARCISSE FRA	Alexandra do NASCIMENTO BRA
2013	Domagoj DUVNJAK CRO	Andrea LEKIĆ SRB
2014	Nikola KARABATIC FRA	Eduarda AMORIM BRA
2015	Mikkel HANSEN DEN	Cristina NEAGU ROU
2016	Nikola KARABATIC FRA	Cristina NEAGU ROU
2017	<i>not awarded</i>	<i>not awarded</i>
2018	Mikkel HANSEN DEN	Cristina NEAGU ROU
2019	Niklas LANDIN Jacobsen DEN	Stine Bredal OFTEDAL NOR
2020	<i>not awarded</i>	<i>not awarded</i>
2021	Niklas LANDIN Jacobsen DEN	Sandra TOFT DEN
2022	<i>not awarded</i>	<i>not awarded</i>
2023	Mathias GIDSEL DEN	Henny REISTAD NOR