



Competitions Conference

Team 4 - Playmaker

Topic 2: Competitions Balance – System & Calendar

- Too many different handball events in one season can create confusion and it is not always easy for people to have a good overview
- ECH and WCH shall be held every four years, so the qualifiers can take place over a longer period – a system which could make the qualifying rounds more attractive/important
- The ECHs shall be conducted in January and the EC finals in May
- Also the women's competitions need to be considered when developing the competition calendar
- Also the interest and opinion of the small federations (incl. the ones from the other continents) and "isolated" clubs need to be balanced and resolved (handball is not only played in ESP, GER and FRA)
- Winter is reserved by the clubs, therefore the national team competitions shall take place either in June or September (= best period when taking into account the medical aspect)
- Commercial interests appear to have more influence in the choice of the playing dates than physiological principles
- Why are we trying to reduce the number of games? A top player in the NBA or NHL plays more games per season than a handball player
- Only a "small" percentage (approx. 10%) are affected by an overloaded calendar – the top players
- All parties involved must at least try to resolve the calendar related issues with a "give and take" mentality, instead of only thinking / taking care about the own interests
- The new qualification system is perfect for most of the federations
- The players need at least five weeks of vacations
- If dates are thrown out from the competitions calendar then it is not the idea to block them again with a new competition
- In some smaller federations the number of club teams playing in the 1st division has been increased to develop their domestic league
- Federations shall benefit from WCH/ECH incomes