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# **ANALYSIS OF THE 2014 EHF EURO TEAMS - CONSEQUENCES FOR REFEREEING**

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# Participants on Woman ECh 2014

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Hungary	Norway	Sweden	Montenegro
Spain	Denmark	Germany	France
Russia	Romania	Croatia	Serbia
Poland	Ukraine	Netherlands	Slovakia

Out: Island, Macedonia, Czech

In: Netherlands, Slovakia, Poland



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## Final Standing ECh 2012

1. MNR - Montenegro	9. FRA - France
2. NOR - Norway	10. ROU - Romania
3. HUN – Hungary	11. ESP - Spain
4. SRB – Serbia	12. CZE – Czech
5. DEN - Denmark	13. CRO – Croatia
6. RUS - Russia	14. UKR – Ukraine
7. GER - Germany	15. ISL – Island
8. SWE - Sweden	16. MKD - Macedonia



# Characteristics of 2012 Woman ECH (P. Kovacs, 2013)

- The goal-difference in the results of the matches (47):

Draw	1 goal	2 goals	3 goals	4-5 goals	6-9 goals	> 10 goals
4	6	8	12	4	7	6

Defence set-play:

- Generally the top 12 teams used a closed 6:0 defensive system, and they only changed it in case of man advantage;
- Only one team (ESP) used the 5:1 defensive system as default system;



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- Almost no changes of defence systems during the game (with a few exceptions);
- On the average the two teams of a match stole 9 times the ball from each other, and blocked 6 shots.
- The number of steals and blocks depend on the defensive system of the given team, on the height of the players and on the experience and anticipation skill of the players.
- The most steals were made by FRA (6,7), ESP (6) and NOR (5,8), but ESP (1,8) had poor results in blocking shots.



- The largest number of blocks were made by SWE (4,8), followed by SRB (3,9) and MNE (3,9).
- In these two parameters of defensive efforts the teams FRA (10,2), NOR (9,2), SWE (9,1) and MNE (9) performed well, while DEN (6), HUN (7,1) and GER (5,4) were not the best.



## Suspensions:

- In 2010 the referees gave 299 times 2 minutes suspension, and this number decreased to 288 in 2012 (Men2012 ECh – 353).
- During the entire tournament 9 red cards were given to the participants (Men2012 ECh – 10).
- The largest number of suspensions were given against MNE (36) and SRB (33).
- SWE could receive the Fair-Play award, with only 6 times of 2 minutes suspensions in the tournament.
- UKR had extremely large number of suspensions: 22 times in 3 games, which means 7,3 suspensions per game in average.



## Offensive play:

The average number of attacks per "team/ game" at the Women and Men ECh 2012

	No. of attacks	% successful att.
Men ECh 2012	53,76	50
Women ECh 2012	58,5	43

The average number of shots and goals per "team/ game" at the Women and Men ECh 2012

	No. of shots	No. of goals	%
Men ECh 2012	46,64	26,68	57
Women ECh 2012	48,06	25,33	53



- Women's teams try to follow the men's offensive solutions and offensive tactics – especially team tactic solutions;
- Individually less strong – some physical, technical and tactical weaknesses;



The number of successful fast breaks show a slight decrease - just like in men's handball -, which is a result of better transition to defence.

Quick throw-offs were used by all teams, with varying success.

	Turnovers
Men ECh 2012	11,5
Women ECh 2012	15,1

- The number of turnovers is relatively high, compared to the same statistics of men's handball.



## General conclusions:

- Similar tendencies could be seen in the defensive and offensive tactics of the teams (unification);
- Fast game, with many attacks, but less goals;
- Scarce shoot efficiency;
- A lot of turnovers;
- Not too many tactical play;



# Particular team characteristics:

## Montenegro

- 6:0 zone defence;
- Strong and rough in a body contacts;
- Excellent shooters from a distance and very good pivot and wings;
- Tactically very strong – good team attack concept with individual solutions;

## Poland

- 6:0 zone defence;
- Occasionally try also 5+1 and individual defence;
- Strong and rough in a body contacts;
- Sometimes low shoot efficiency;
- Good shooters from a distance;
- Good in a break through;
- Forcing a rapid game — a lot of technical errors .



## France

- 6:0 and 5:1 zone defence;
- On ball oriented defence;
- Very good goalkeeper;
- Sometimes too rough fouls „without sense“;
- Excellent individual CA;
- Very good shooters from a distance;
- Sometimes too individual attack play – too few tactics.

## Slovakia

- 6:0 zone defence;
- Very good goalkeeper;
- Good CA;
- Not so good shooters from a distance; at least not in a jump shoot – more ground shoots;
- Try to find a break through chance, pivot and wings.



## *Germany*

- Classic 6:0 zone defence – not too deep approach to the attackers;
- Elements of modern way of defence – anticipation and demolition of opponents tactical combinations;
- Excellent goalkeeper;
- Good shooters from a distance – pronounced RB;
- Good collaboration with pivot;
- Forcing a rapid game — a lot of technical errors.

## *Russia*

- 5:1 zone defence;
- 5+1 combined defence - particularly with a player advantage;
- On the body and ball oriented defence play;
- Physically very strong and tall, but more mobile as in the past;
- Classical play in offence with many crossing actions;
- Good shooters from a distance;
- Forcing a rapid game — a lot of technical errors.



## *Spain*

- Classic 6:0 zone defence, combined with a anticipation actions;
- 5:1 zone defence;
- Players change - attack – defence;
- Tall pivot player;
- Forcing a rapid game — CA and fast throw-off.
- Excellent wings;
- Good right handed RB;

## *Netherlands*

- Classic 6:0 zone defence;
- Occasionally combined defence 5+1 – with a player more;
- Classical tactic in attack vs. set zone defence – good piston movements combined with crosses;
- Forcing a rapid game — CA and fast throw-off.



## Serbia

- Classic 6:0 zone defence, combined with a anticipation actions;
- Players change - attack – defence;
- Pivot player with a great body mass;
- Back players with good 1:1 play and break-through abilities;
- Forcing a rapid game — CA.

## Sweden

- Classic 6:0 zone defence;
- Occasionally combined defence 5+1 – with a player more;
- Classical tactic in attack vs. set zone defence – good piston movements combined with crosses;
- Good shooters from a distance;
- Forcing a rapid game — CA and fast throw-off.
- Good right handed RB;
- Goalkeeper substitution in numerical inferiority.



## Norway

- Classic 6:0 zone defence – not to deep approach to the attackers;
- Elements of modern way of defence – anticipation and demolition of opponents tactical combinations;
- Excellent goalkeeper;
- Players are not too tall and not have great body mass – but they are very skilful and tactical well prepared;
- Not too good shooters from a distance;
- Good collaboration with excellent pivot;
- Forcing a rapid game — especially different kind of CA.

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## Romania

- Classic 6:0 zone defence;
- On the body and ball oriented defence play;
- Defence – attack change one or even two players;
- Physically very strong and tall, but also very mobile as in the past;
- Classical play in offence with many crossing actions, good piston movements and changing position;
- Good shooters from a distance;
- Right-handed RB;
- Forcing a rapid game — a lot of technical errors.



## Denmark

- Classic 6:0 zone defence;
- Elements of modern way of defence – anticipation and demolition of opponents tactical combinations;
- Players substitution defence – attack (pivot);
- Classical tactic in attack vs. set zone defence – good piston movements combined with crosses and changing of position;
- Good shooters from a distance;
- Forcing a rapid game — CA and fast throw-off - a lot of technical errors.

• Well balanced team – all positions good covered;

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## Ukraine

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## Croatia

- 5:1 zone defence;
- On the body and ball oriented defence play;
- Classical play in offence with many crossing actions (especially good collaboration with pivot);
- Good shooters from a distance;
- Forcing a rapid game — a lot of technical errors;
- Well balanced team with a good individual abilities;
- Right-handed RW.

## Hungary

- Classic 6:0 zone defence (rarely 5:1)
- Occasionally combined defence 5+1 – with a player more;
- Classical tactic in attack vs. set zone defence – good piston movements combined with crosses;
- Sometimes too much individual play in attack:
- Very good in break-through;
- Forcing a rapid game;
- Well balanced team with a good individual abilities.



# GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Generally play in defence is based on the following principles:
  - Equality by providing the depth, width and density of defence regardless of baseline selected defensive formation;
  - Great aggressiveness and sharpness in the play 1:1, where the offenses are at the limit of the "game against an opponent." The all permitted and impermissible means (pulling and pushing the players with or without the ball, ...);
  - With constant and quick fouls break up organization of attacks and so bring the attackers in time pressure;
  - Anticipation of attackers performance (especially those based on the most typical activities undertaken by individual attackers and the team used), and empathy in their play. This enables the reactions in a due time.



- Great emphasis on the play against the attackers without the ball, which could be dangerous in the following actions - (e.g. preventing or hindering run-in of wing or back players who want to reach the position of second pivot);
- Almost all the best teams have defence specialists who has almost no playing time in attack. They usually cover the most important positions and are pillars who underpinning the operation of their defences.
- Due to the lack of time for the common preparation of the National teams trainers are forced to develop a model of defence play in accordance with the habits of players from their clubs (Example – Sweden played 5:1 with excellent forward Källman who had great experience in this set-defence from his club)



## Return into set-zone defence (transitional phase)

- Basic objective of most teams is to form set-zone defence as soon as possible (quick run into defence to occupy their basic playing positions in the zone defence);
- In the cases when it's situational reasonable players attempt to break the opponent's counterattack already on their half of the court;
- Some teams use a combination - 3 or 4 players try to return as quickly as possible to the starting playing positions in the zone, 2 or 3 players have the task to prevent the development of the counterattack across the playing court;
- Goalkeeper also provide a significant support to the returning players. He leaves his area and tries to intercept a long pass near to goalkeeper's area - despite the change in the rules.



# Goalkeeper

- The role of the goalkeeper is becoming increasingly important;
- Individual preparation becomes more and more important for goalkeepers. Their training often differs significantly from the preparation of the other players;
- In the recent period almost all top teams rely on one excellent keeper even if they have also very good second or third keeper – less changes as in the past;
- Some goalkeepers make better performance when their team play a certain zone defence - e. g. – 6:0;
- Typological differences are getting smaller, the same is valid for the technique and tactics of defending - the different schools merge with each other, collected the best for build-up a universal, global "school" of defending;...



- Empathy in the shooter and "reading" his intentions is based on a different analysis of the shooters abilities, and awareness of shooter opportunities regardless to his position;
- Extremely important is collaboration between keeper and defenders by blocking the shoots



Thank you very much for your  
attention!



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