



MEDIA GUIDE

EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2020/21
GROUP PHASE

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I INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW SEASON

It is with our great pleasure, for the very first time, to welcome you to the EHF European League Men group phase for 2020/21. As you may have seen over the summer, our European club competitions underwent several changes and, as part of that process, they all received a striking new and impressive facelift. The end product saw a new brand for the EHF unveiled, a process which saw competitions rebranded and renamed.

So welcome to the new-look EHF European League, the new name for our second tier competition, and you will certainly agree that the new logo and colour scheme reflects just how dynamic and exciting this competition is in our handball landscape.

The new, orange-coloured logo, for instance, is an abstract version of the letter 'E', rotating around the sides of a pentagon – the shape which, you will notice, is referenced through all of our club competitions. In its appearance, the logo and brand sound symbolise the energy, toughness and intensity that transform from the action on court and the performance of the teams to the visual presentation of the new competition. Words such as 'tough', 'intense' and 'competitive' spring to mind when one thinks of the EHF European League, and those phrases could not be more fitting for this first campaign as we embark on what promises to be a fascinating group phase. What all fans can be looking forward to most over the next 10 rounds of matches is witnessing a real eclectic mix of teams going head-to-head over the coming months as they fight for their places in the all-important knockout stages.

Seventeen nations across the EHF are represented among the 24 competing teams, which gives this season's competition a hugely diverse combination of styles, further proof of what makes this competition so captivating. What lies in wait for handball fans is a mouth-watering series of matches featuring some of the biggest names in our sport with no easy games for any team. Just one look at some of clubs in the group phase is enough to whet the appetite. With the likes Rhein-Neckar Löwen and Füchse Berlin joining former EHF Champions League winners SC Magdeburg and Montpellier, the race to reach the elimination phase is going to be a battle of epic proportions.

We pride ourselves at the EHF and EHF Marketing on our positive and cooperative relationship with our colleagues from the press and media and we are sure that this will continue to develop in the future. Should you require any information, help or assistance during the course of the season, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at the EHF Office in Vienna, and we will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you might have.

We look forward to working with you during the 2020/21 season!

EHF Media & Communications Team

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.

The new, orange-coloured logo is an abstract version of the letter 'E', rotating around the sides of a pentagon. It makes reference to the EHF, while the pentagon derives from the shape of a handball's tile and is used in the new EHF brand system to empower the club competitions.



In its appearance, the logo and additional elements that will be used in the EHF European League's imagery symbolise the energy, toughness and intensity that transform from the action on court and the performance of the teams to the visual presentation of the new competition.

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

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. Much like the visual brand identity, the brand sound identity will acoustically connect the various leagues and tournaments which fit under the EHF umbrella.

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.

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.

In the case of the EHF European League, the toughness and intensity of the sport was translated into a modern sound design through a new EHF European League sound logo and anthem. Both will come to life in the arena and will consistently complement all audio-visual communications.



I HOME OF HANDBALL

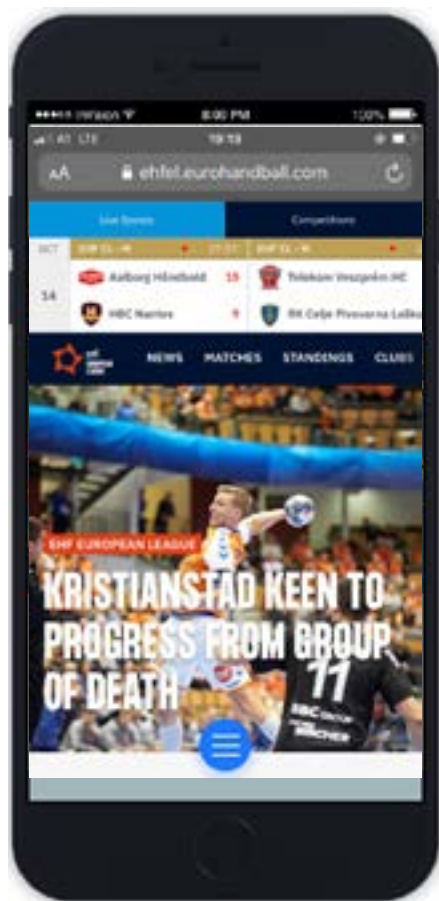
1 July saw the launch of the newly designed Home of Handball website. The European Handball Federation and EHF Marketing in cooperation with Kraftwerk, the number one digital agency in Austria, are excited to introduce a new home and single hub for all fans, friends and the entire family of handball. 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, EHF European 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: 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, EHFM 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 European League as the 2nd tier club competition is 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 European 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 Tik Tok, which is mostly used by a younger audience. For the first time, the EHF European League will be featured on TikTok through the Home of Handball channel.

MORE SAVES, MORE GOALS, MORE HANDBALL

For the new era of European handball and together with digital partner DAZN, a campaign for both EHF European League competitions under the claim MORE HANDBALL was created. The basis of the campaign are the toughness and intensity of handball and the characteristics of the EHF European League. Handball is thrilling and fast-paced, intense, tough and passionate. The EHF European League showcases exactly this.

In addition, fans will be able to keep up with the latest news about the EHF European League on the IQONIQ app, an innovative new fan engagement platform made for sports and entertainment.





IQONIQ

BECOME ONE



The exclusive and official Fan Engagement Platform
of the **EHF Champions League Men** and
EHF European League Men

www.iqoniq.com

I RELAUNCH OF EHFTV

Complementing the launch of the new Home of Handball, EHFTV, the OTT portal of the EHF and EHF Marketing, has been relaunched. The new Brand identity applied to Home of Handball has been followed to create a new look for EHFTV, an OTT service 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 remains, offering the best handball content for free. This approach is complemented with the option to register to the portal for free. This registration gives the handball fans the option to watch games live and on-demand, but also allows fans to improve and personalise their fan experience during the season – and all of that for free.

On EHFTV, matches from every EHF competition are 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 is accessible any time and from anywhere. Once the fans enter in the re-launched EHFTV, they 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 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, guarantees the best quality and the perfect conditions to follow the EHF European League, whenever it is played.”

Join EHFTV and get ready for a new handball era.





EHF
**EUROPEAN
LEAGUE**

MORE TOUGHNESS
MORE HANDBALL
EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE

WATCH ON EHFTV

I TV STATIONS TO BROADCAST MATCHES ALL OVER THE WORLD

The matches of the upcoming season will be shown live all over the world with 18 TV stations and EHFTV broadcasting the matches either live or delayed.

Fans in 25 European countries will be able to watch the premium European club competition.

TV PARTNERS BROADCASTING THE EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2020/21*

ALB – Arenasport

AUT – ORF, DAZN

BIH – Arenasport

CRO – Arenasport

CZE – SportTV

DEN – TV3 Sports

ESP – DAZN, RTVCYL

FIN – NENT Group

FRA – Eurosport

GER – DAZN

HUN – Sport TV

KOS – Arenasport

MKD – Arenasport

MNE – Arenasport

NOR – NENT Group

POL – Eurosport

POR – SportingTV

ROU – Digi Sport, Telekom Sports, Look Sports

RUS – MatchTV

SLO – Arenasport

SRB – Arenasport

SUI – DAZN

SVK – Sport TV

SWE – NENT Group

TUR – TRT

Worldwide – EHFTV (Geo-restrictions could apply)

* as of 19 October 2020



COMPETITION

I EHF/M MEDIA CONTACTS

MEDIA MATTERS

Vlado Brindzak

Media and Communications
European Handball Federation
+43 1 80 151 161
brindzak@eurohandball.com

Thomas Schöneich

Director of Media and Communications
European Handball Federation
+43 1 80 151 164
schoeneich@eurohandball.com

TV & RADIO MATTERS

Miguel Mateo Marcellan

Director of Media Operations
EHF Marketing GmbH
+43 1 80 151 224
mateo@ehfmarketing.com

I CLUB MEDIA CONTACTS

GROUP A

Abanca Ademar Leon (ESP)
Pablo Castro Alvarez
+34 987 263171
administracion@ademar.com

ORLEN Wisla Plock (POL)
Tomasz Bauman
+48 882 975 087
t.bauman@sprwislaplock.pl

Chekhovskie medvedi (RUS)
Olga Belysheva
+79096391839
victi@bk.ru

Fenix Toulouse Handball (FRA)
Carolyn Sturtzer
+33645058987
carolyn.sturtzer@fenix-toulouse.fr

Fivers (AUT)
Markus Riedlmayer
+43664 184 69 60
riedlmayer@kommunikationsatelier.info

HC Metalurg (MKD)
Branko Kazakovski
+38971209862
branko.kazakovski@gmail.com

GROUP B

USAM Nimes Gard (FRA)
Maximilien Costeseque
+336 16 83 76 10
maximilien.costeseque@usam-nimesgard.fr

CS Dinamo Bucuresti (ROU)
Alexandru Enciu
+40 754 929 106
sanenciu@yahoo.com

TATRAM Presov (SVK)
Ivan Kriššák
+421 905478115
ivan.krissak@gmail.com

Füchse Berlin (GER)
Kim Martin Heess
+49 178 58 00 915
heess@fuechse.berlin

Sporting CP (POR)
Sérgio Cavaleiro
+351 938888157
socavaleiro@sporting.pt

IFK Kristianstad (SWE)
Sebastian Rosenberg
+46 768 506651
sebastian.rosenberg@ifkkristianstad.se

GROUP C

SC Magdeburg (GER)
Katja Müller
+4939188685613
k.mueller@sc-magdeburg.de

Alingsås HK (SWE)
Daniel Vandro
+46 705 35 55 17
daniel@bobbybannister.se

Besiktas Aygaz (TUR)
Eren Çetin
+905353166596
ctn85@gmail.com

Montpellier HB (FRA)
Suzy De Monte
+33 6 87 73 58 42
s.demonte@montpellierhandball.com

RK Nexe (CRO)
Vedran Zrnic
+385 91 550 3115
vedranzrnic@rknexe.hr

HC CSKA (RUS)
Aleksander Akimov
+7 926 151 3694
a.akimov@mhccska.ru

GROUP D

Grundfos Tatabanya KC (HUN)
Kata Székely-Marosi
+36 70 633 6733
kata.marosi@tatabanyahandball.com

Kadetten Schaffhausen (SUI)
Barbara Imobersteg
+41 78 720 32 47
barbara.imobersteg@bluewin.ch

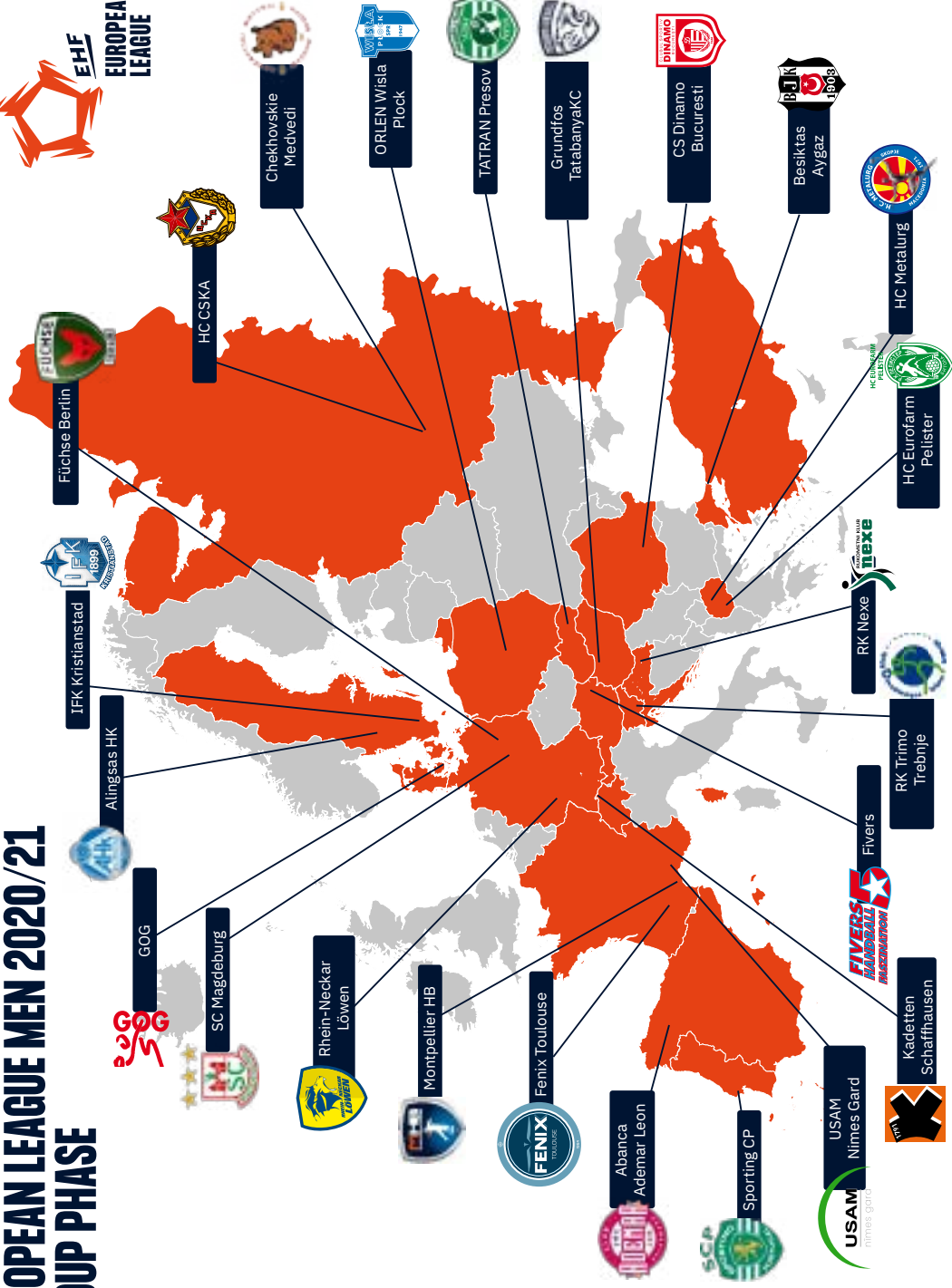
HC Eurofarm Pelister (MKD)
Zoran Mishevski
+38970893005
z_misevski@yahoo.com

Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)
Christopher Monz
+49 174 428 8849
monz@rhein-neckar-loewen.de

GOG (DEN)
Mads Bruus
+45 51 90 33 75
mads@gog.dk

RK Trimo Trebnje (SLO)
Dominik Pekeč
+386 41 524 258
dominik.pekec@rkrtrimotrebnje.si

EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2020/21 GROUP PHASE



MEN'S EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE

2020/21 SEASON

Playing system and dates



<div>Qualification</div> <div>Draw required</div> <div>Round 1</div> <div><div><div></div><div>v</div><div></div></div></div> <div>Round 2</div> <div><div><div></div><div>v</div><div></div></div></div> <div><div>12th</div><div></div></div> <div><div>* Number of clubs involved in Qualification rounds t.b.d., although 12 teams will qualify for the Group Phase.</div></div>	<div>Group Phase</div> <div>Draw required</div> <div>12 teams directly qualify for the Group Phase</div> <div><div><div>A</div><div>B</div><div>C</div><div>D</div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div><div><div><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I 148 GAMES, 17 COUNTRIES, 1 EUROPEAN DEBUTANT

FACTS AND FIGURES: THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBERS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE INAUGURAL SEASON OF THE EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN

The EHF European League Men enters the arena with its premiere season, a new playing system, featuring 24 clubs in the group phase from all over Europe. The field includes two former EHF Champions League winners SC Magdeburg (2002) and Montpellier HB (2003, 2018).

Here are the most important facts and figures before the start of the season:

1

European Cup debutant - CSKA Moscow - are part of the group phase.

1 former EHF Champions League winner - Bidasoa Irun from Spain - failed in the qualification (against CSKA Moscow).

1 coach has won the EHF Champions League four times as a player: Uros Zorman (Trebnje) with Ciudad Real (2006, 2008, 2009) and Kielce (2016).

1 player, who won the last edition of the EHF Cup in 2019 with THW Kiel, can win the trophy in the new EHF European League Men: Lukas Nilsson, who joined Rhein-Neckar Löwen before this season.

2 former EHF Champions League winners - Montpellier Handball (2003, 2018) and SC Magdeburg (2002) - have qualified for the group phase.

2 former Cup Winners' Cup winners have qualified for the group phase: Ademar Leon and Chekhovskie Medvedi.

2 nations - France and Germany - are represented by each three group phase participants. North Macedonia, Russia and Sweden have two teams each in the group phase.

2

former top scorers of the merged EHF Cup are part of this season's group phase of the European League Men: Hans Lindberg (Berlin, top scorer in the 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons) and Momir Rnić (Metalurg, top scorer in the 2012/13 season for Göppingen).

2 former EHF Champions League top scorers are part of the EHF European League in 2020/21: Uwe Gensheimer (2010/11 for Löwen, 2016/17 and 2017/18 for PSG) for Rhein-Neckar Löwen and Hans Lindberg (2012/13 for Hamburg) for Berlin.

3 coaches had won the EHF Champions League FINAL4 as coaches: Martin Schwalb (Rhein-Neckar Löwen) with Hamburg in 2013, Ljubomir Vranjes (Kristianstad) with Flensburg in 2014 and Patrice Canayer (Montpellier) in 2018

3 former EHF Cup winners are part of the group phase: Rhein-Neckar Löwen (2013) and Füchse Berlin (2015 and 2018) have won the competition in the new format, SC Magdeburg (1999, 2001, 2007) in the old format.

3 former EHF Cup titles with two different teams under the belt of the new head coach of CSKA Velimir Petkovic, who won twice with Frisch Auf! Göppingen (2011, 2012) and once with Füchse Berlin (2018)

3 Danish teams - including former Danish champions Skjern and the two former EHF Cup Finals participants Holstebro and Bjerringbro/Silkeborg - were eliminated in the qualification.

4 teams made it from the first qualification round to the group phase: CSKA, Fivers, Metalurg and Trebnje.

4 of the 24 group phase participants have already been part of EHF Champions League FINAL4 tournaments: Chekhovskie Medvedi, Rhein-Neckar Löwen, Füchse Berlin and Montpellier Handball, the only winner among them (in 2018).

4 of the 24 teams have been part of EHF Cup Finals: the three German sides, Berlin, Löwen and Magdeburg and French side Montpellier.

6 of the 24 teams had been part of the EHF Cup Group Phase in the 2019/20 season: Leon, Nimes, Füchse, Löwen, Magdeburg and Tatabanya.

10 of the 24 teams had been part of the EHF Champions League Group Phase 2019/20: GOG, Montpellier, Eurofarm, Plock, Sporting, Dinamo, Chekhov, Schaffhausen, Presov and Kristianstad.

10 group matches are ahead for each of the 24 teams.

12 teams had directly been set for the group phase.

17 nations from all over Europe represented by the 24 participants: Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, France, Germany, Hungary, North Macedonia,

Poland, Portugal, Russia, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Slovakia, Sweden and Turkey.

20 of the 24 group phase participants have already been part of the EHF Champions League before.

20 times in the old and merged format of the EHF Cup, German clubs won the trophy, including six from seven times in the new format with final tournaments (2013-2019).

20 games at the most are ahead for those four teams, which qualify for the final tournament.

44 matches of two qualification rounds have already been played before the group phase.

49 years is the age difference of the oldest coach of the competition, Vladimir Maximov (Chehov/75) and the youngest, Jaron Siewert (Füchse Berlin/26).

120 group matches decide the 16 participants of the knock-out stage.

148 matches are ahead until the first ever winner of the EHF European League Men is decided, including 28 knock-out matches from the Last 16 to the final.

TEAMS BY AGE AVERAGE		TEAMS BY HEIGHT AVERAGE		TEAMS BY WEIGHT AVERAGE	
C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	29,3	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	192,8	Besiktas Aygaz	95,4
SC Magdeburg	28,8	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	192,5	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	95,3
RK Nexø	27,4	Füchse Berlin	192,3	Kadetten Schaffhausen	94,2
Rhein-Neckar Löwen	27,2	Montpellier HB	192,3	Montpellier HB	93,7
Besiktas Aygaz	26,3	Besiktas Aygaz	191,9	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	93,4
TATRAM Presov	26,1	Kadetten Schaffhausen	191,6	Füchse Berlin	93,0
HC CSKA	25,9	HC CSKA	191,3	GOG	92,7
IFK Kristianstad	25,8	TATRAM Presov	191,3	IFK Kristianstad	92,3
Orlen Wisla Plock	25,6	GOG	191,3	SC Magdeburg	92,1
USAM Nimes Gard	25,6	Grundfos Tatabanya KC	191,2	Grundfos Tatabanya KC	91,9
HC Eurofarm Pelister	25,5	SC Magdeburg	191,0	HC Eurofarm Pelister	91,8
Kadetten Schaffhausen	25,3	HC Metalurg	190,9	Alingsas HK	91,1
EL Average	25,2	Orlen Wisla Plock	190,1	EL average	90,6
Sporting CP	25,0	IFK Kristianstad	190,0	Fivers	90,3
HC Metalurg	25,0	EL average	190,0	Chekhovskie medvedi	90,2
Grundfos Tatabanya KC	25,0	Abanca Ademar Leon	189,9	RK Nexø	90,0
Fenix Toulouse Handball	24,4	RK Trimo Trebnje	189,5	RK Trimo Trebnje	89,7
Montpellier HB	24,4	HC Eurofarm Pelister	189,3	Sporting CP	89,3
Fivers	24,2	Alingsas HK	189,2	Abanca Ademar Leon	88,7
Chekhovskie medvedi	24,1	Sporting CP	188,7	TATRAM Presov	88,4
Füchse Berlin	24,0	Fenix Toulouse Handball	187,6	HC Metalurg	88,2
RK Trimo Trebnje	24,0	RK Nexø	186,8	HC CSKA	87,3
GOG	23,5	Fivers	186,7	Orlen Wisla Plock	87,0
Abanca Ademar Leon	23,1	Chekhovskie medvedi	186,4	USAM Nimes Gard	84,6
Alingsas HK	22,6	USAM Nimes Gard	186,0	Fenix Toulouse Handball	84,4

I FACTS AND FIGURES – MAX AND MIN

YOUNGEST



24/05/2004

Aleksandar Petkovski

HC Metalurg

Aleksandar Petkovski	MKD	HC Metalurg	24/05/2004
Oliwier Kaminski	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	24/04/2004
Antonio Machado	POR	Sporting CP	11/03/2004
Andrej Markovski	MKD	HC Eurofarm Pelister	23/12/2003
Carlos Honrado Cristobalena	ESP	Abanca Ademar Leon	02/12/2003
Filip Gucevski	MKD	HC Eurofarm Pelister	27/11/2003
Hristijan Ristevski	MKD	HC Eurofarm Pelister	22/10/2003
Nilton Danilo Cordeiro	POR	Sporting CP	22/09/2003
Kolen Krancz	HUN	Grundfos Tatabanya KC	11/09/2003
Maxime Discamps	FRA	Fenix Toulouse Handball	03/07/2003
Adam Bodnar	HUN	Grundfos Tatabanya KC	27/06/2003
Max Beneke	GER	Füchse Berlin	27/05/2003
Antonio Martinez Llamazares	ESP	Abanca Ademar Leon	17/05/2003
Hristijan Jovanovski	MKD	HC Eurofarm Pelister	28/04/2003
Stefan Vasko	SVK	TATRA Presov	16/03/2003
Stefan Dodic	SRB	HC Metalurg	13/03/2003

SHORTEST



169 cm

Samuel Queiros

USAM Nimes Gard

Samuel Queiros	FRA	USAM Nimes Gard	169
Romain Giraudeau	FRA	Fenix Toulouse Handball	170
Lou Derisbourg	FRA	USAM Nimes Gard	172
Pierrick Chelle	FRA	Fenix Toulouse Handball	173
Luc Steins	NED	Fenix Toulouse Handball	173
Tim Freihofer	GER	Füchse Berlin	173
Gael Tribillon	FRA	Fenix Toulouse Handball	174
Albin Nilsson	SWE	IFK Kristianstad	174
Tomas Tavares Ferreira	POR	Sporting CP	174
Kirill Klimasev	RUS	Chekhovskie medvedi	174
Mice Shilegov	MKD	HC Metalurg	175
Gonzalo Perez Arce	ESP	Abanca Ademar Leon	175
Eduardo Guimaraes	POR	Sporting CP	175
Jaime Fernandez	ESP	Abanca Ademar Leon	176
Josh Mongin	FRA	Fenix Toulouse Handball	176
Emil La Cour Andersen	DEN	GOG	176

LIGHTEST



57 kg

Samuel Queiros

USAM Nimes Gard

Samuel Queiros	FRA	USAM Nimes Gard	57
Lou Derisbourg	FRA	USAM Nimes Gard	63
Gueric Vincent	FRA	USAM Nimes Gard	63
Romain Giraudeau	FRA	Fenix Toulouse Handball	65
Josh Mongin	FRA	Fenix Toulouse Handball	67
Eduardo Guimaraes	POR	Sporting CP	68
Luc Steins	NED	Fenix Toulouse Handball	69
Gonzalo Perez Arce	ESP	Abanca Ademar Leon	70
Dawid Lemanowicz	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	70
Péter Hornyák	HUN	Grundfos Tatabanya KC	70
Josef Hozman	CZE	TATRA Presov	70
Michal Daszek	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	70
Nuno Santos	POR	TATRA Presov	70
Evgenii Borovoi	RUS	Chekhovskie medvedi	70
Antonio Martinez Llamazares	ESP	Abanca Ademar Leon	70
Dario Kofiloski	MKD	HC Metalurg	71

OLDEST



05/07/1973

Alexandr Radcenko*TATRAN Presov*

Alexandr Radcenko	CZE	TATRAN Presov	05/07/1973
Arunas Vaskevicius	LTU	Kadetten Schaffhausen	03/08/1973
Søren Haagen Andreassen	DEN	GOG	26/03/1974
Kasper Dan Jorgensen	DEN	GOG	09/02/1977
Alexander Petersson	ISL	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	02/07/1980
Makrem Missaoui	TUN	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	14/02/1981
Ramazan Döne	TUR	Besiktas Aygaz	10/07/1981
Hans Lindberg	DEN	Füchse Berlin	01/08/1981
Ferenc Ilyés	HUN	Grundfos Tatabanya KC	20/12/1981
Michaël Guigou	FRA	USAM Nimes Gard	28/01/1982
Ivan Stevanovic	CRO	Orlen Wisla Plock	18/05/1982
Rafael Baena Gonzalez	ESP	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	07/11/1982
Saša Barišić Jaman	SLO	RK Nexe	10/11/1982
Mirsad Terzic	BIH	Orlen Wisla Plock	12/07/1983
Daniel Dupjachanec	MKD	HC Metalurg	15/07/1983
Razvan Gavriloiu	ROU	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	25/07/1983

TALLEST



213 cm

Angel Montorro*Kadetten Schaffhausen*

Angel Montoro	ESP	Kadetten Schaffhausen	213
Marko Kopljär	CRO	Füchse Berlin	210
Josip Buljbasic	TUR	Besiktas Aygaz	205
Oliver Rabek	SVK	TATRAN Presov	204
Jihed Jaballah	TUN	TATRAN Presov	204
Erik Schmidt	GER	Kadetten Schaffhausen	204
Jonas Truchanovicus	LTU	Montpellier HB	204
Leon Šušnja	CRO	Orlen Wisla Plock	204
Jakov Gojun	CRO	Füchse Berlin	203
Jens Schöngarth	GER	Sporting CP	203
Nikola Potić	SRB	HC Metalurg	203
Emil Lærke	DEN	GOG	203
Mats Hirt	SUI	Kadetten Schaffhausen	203
Philipp Ahouansou	GER	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	203
Marc Walter	GER	Füchse Berlin	203
Maxime Discamps	FRA	Fenix Toulouse Handball	203

HEAVIEST



























































































135 kg

Dejan Milosavljev*Füchse Berlin*

Dejan Milosavljev	SRB	Füchse Berlin	135
Rafael Baena Gonzalez	ESP	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	128
Tobias Wagner	AUT	Fivers	126
Gregor Rilak	SUI	Kadetten Schaffhausen	120
Ludvig Jurmala Åström	SWE	IFK Kristianstad	118
Jesper Nielsen	SWE	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	118
Dmytro Ilchenko	UKR	HC CSKA	117
Muhammet Mirhan Kasarci	TUR	Besiktas Aygaz	115
Rene Ingram	GER	IFK Kristianstad	115
Dmytro Doroshchuk	UKR	Sporting CP	115
Erik Schmidt	GER	Kadetten Schaffhausen	115
Zeljko Musa	CRO	SC Magdeburg	114
Fredric Pettersson	SWE	Montpellier HB	114
Jihed Jaballah	TUN	TATRAN Presov	114
Dino Slavic	CRO	Abanca Ademar Leon	113
Leon Šušnja	CRO	Orlen Wisla Plock	113

I PLAYERS LIST BY COUNTRIES

	FRA 62			TUR 15			EST 2	
	SWE 49			ROU 11			HUN 2	
	GER 40			SVK 10			LIT 2	
	RUS 35			BIH 8			ARM 1	
	CRO 34			ISL 8			ARG 1	
	DEN 31			MNE 6			BEL 1	
	MKD 27			NOR 6			FIN 1	
	SLO 27			BRA 4			GEA 1	
	AUT 26			CUB 3			LAT 1	
	HUN 23			EGY 3			JAP 1	
	ESP 20			TUN 3			NED 1	
	POR 20			UKR 3			QAT 1	
	SRB 19			ALG 2			CYP 1	
	SUI 17			BLR 2			USA 1	
	POL 15			CZE 2				



CLUBS



GROUP A PREVIEW

PLOCK AND LEON HEAD COMPETITIVE GROUP A

Four of the six clubs drawn in group A have played in the EHF Champions League within the last two seasons, which should tell you how hard it is for anyone to predict the four teams that will progress.

ORLEN Wisla Plock look like favourites, though not by a big margin. The Polish side, led by Spanish coach Xavier Sabate, features names that could ring a few bells to handball specialists. Bosnian left back Mirsad Terzic played for Veszprém for 11 years, while Michal Daszek and Niko Mindegia do not have much left to prove on the European circuit. However, Plock's anything but ideal preparation may force them to scale down their ambition.

If the theme for group A is Spanish handball, then Abanca Ademar Leon fit in perfectly. The Spanish side suffered four defeats in as many EHF Cup group phase games last season, but that does not mean they are not a dangerous side. The arrivals of Polish line player Mateusz Piechowski and Champions League-winning goalkeeper Khalifa Ghedbane should reinforce one of the team's weak points last season: defence.

Behind the leading two contenders, we could see four teams fighting to grab the last two Last 16 tickets. Felix Toulouse have not played the former EHF Cup since 2014, but they were a sensation in France last season. And with players like Ayoub Abdi and Luc Steins, they might not stay under the radar for long.

Chekhovskie medvedi have been chasing past glories for a while now. The Russian side took part in the first VELUX EHF FINAL4, back in 2010. 10 years later, they are in the EHF European League group phase, with a young team eager to match their elders' results.

HC Metalurg have also known better days in the past. In 2013 and 2014, the club from North Macedonia reached the Champions League quarter-finals. With the help of Zlatko Horvat, the iconic Croatian right wing, they could recapture some of their former lustre this season.

Fivers, on the other hand, are new to this level of competition, but the Austrian club will try to make the best of their first European opportunity since 2012.

Kevin Domas

I GROUP A HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS EC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP A TEAMS

Abanca Ademar Leon vs Orlen Wisla Plock 1-0-1 (50:49) 2:2

06.10.2018	Abanca Ademar Leon vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	27:24 (15:9)
24.11.2018	Orlen Wisla Plock vs Abanca Ademar Leon, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	25:23 (9:10)

Abanca Ademar Leon vs Chekhovskie medvedi 4-0-6 (283:294) 8:12

02.12.2001	C.BM. Ademar Leon vs CSKA Moskau, EHF Champions League – Group C	34:24 (17:12)
17.11.2001	CSKA Moskau vs C.BM. Ademar Leon, EHF Champions League – Group C	23:28 (8:14)
18.10.2003	Chehovski Medvedi Moscow vs C.BM. Ademar Leon, EHF Champions League – Group D	30:28 (16:14)
16.11.2003	C.BM. Ademar Leon vs Chehovski Medvedi Moscow, EHF Champions League – Group D	32:29 (18:15)
08.02.2008	Chekhovskie Medvedi vs C.BM. Ademar Leon, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	30:28 (17:15)
08.03.2008	C.BM. Ademar Leon vs Chekhovskie Medvedi, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 1	28:27 (17:12)
28.03.2010	Reale Ademar vs Chekhovskie Medvedi, EHF Champions League – Last 16	36:37 (20:18)
01.04.2010	Chekhovskie Medvedi vs Reale Ademar, EHF Champions League – Last 16	29:25 (15:14)
17.11.2012	Reale Ademar Leon vs Chekhovskie Medvedi, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	22:29 (10:12)
22.11.2012	Chekhovskie Medvedi vs Reale Ademar Leon, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	36:22 (18:8)

Abanca Ademar Leon vs Fenix Toulouse Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

Abanca Ademar Leon vs Fivers

No previous encounters in European competitions

Abanca Ademar Leon vs HC Metalurg

No previous encounters in European competitions

Orlen Wisla Plock vs Chekhovskie medvedi 1-0-1 (57:53) 2:2

14.09.2019	Chekhovskie medvedi vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	25:23 (9:7)
10.11.2019	Orlen Wisla Plock vs Chekhovskie medvedi, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	34:28 (18:15)

Orlen Wisla Plock vs Fenix Toulouse Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

Orlen Wisla Plock vs Fivers

No previous encounters in European competitions

Orlen Wisla Plock vs HC Metalurg 0-0-2 (47:55) 0:4

20.10.2011	HC Metalurg vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	31:27 (17:10)
19.02.2012	Orlen Wisla Plock vs HC Metalurg, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	20:24 (11:11)

Chekhovskie medvedi vs Fenix Toulouse Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

Chekhovskie medvedi vs Fivers

No previous encounters in European competitions

Chekhovskie medvedi vs HC Metalurg 5-0-3 (233:213) 10:6

30.09.2006	Chehovskie Medvedi vs RK Metalurg Skopje, EHF Champions League – Group D	40:25 (22:9)
04.11.2006	RK Metalurg Skopje vs Chehovskie Medvedi, EHF Champions League – Group D	28:32 (12:16)
06.10.2016	Chekhovskie Medvedi vs HC Metalurg, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	25:21 (14:8)
12.02.2017	HC Metalurg vs Chekhovskie Medvedi, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	31:24 (15:10)
14.10.2017	Chekhovskie Medvedi vs HC Metalurg, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	26:32 (15:15)
05.11.2017	HC Metalurg vs Chekhovskie Medvedi, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	26:29 (12:17)
13.10.2018	Chekhovskie Medvedi vs HC Metalurg, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	33:25 (18:13)
04.11.2018	HC Metalurg vs Chekhovskie Medvedi, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	25:24 (16:10)

Fenix Toulouse Handball vs Fivers

No previous encounters in European competitions

Fenix Toulouse Handball vs HC Metalurg

No previous encounters in European competitions

Fivers vs HC Metalurg

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP A



Club contact

Club Address

Abanca Ademar León
Av. Ingeniero Saénz de Miera S/N
24009 León
Spain

Media contact

Pablo Castro Alvarez
+34 987 263171
administracion@ademar.com

 ademar.com

 [Ademar-León](https://www.facebook.com/Ademar-Leon)

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

 [leonademar](https://www.instagram.com/leonademar)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: orange

Dark

Player shirt: dark grey or blue
Player short: black
GK shirt: black or turquoise



Playing hall

Palacio de los Deportes de León
Paseo saenz de miera s/n
24009 León
Spain
Capacity: 5,900

ABANCA ADEMAR LEON



When you sit down to watch ABANCA Ademar León this season you can expect fireworks. Fast-tempo handball with some highly technical playmakers and wingers – a real joy to watch. However, it might not be all sunshine and lollypops for León this season after letting eight names go during the transfer season. Cadenas will have work cut out to come up with solutions to chinks in their armor as well as attempting to make everything click with the newcomers.

- **Manolo Cadenas' third stint at León as head coach**
- **Cadenas brought the club big success back in 2001 when they won the ASOBAL**
- **An eclectic mix of nationalities with an American, Cape Verdian, Chilean, Portuguese, Serbian, Algerian and Croatians making up the squad**
- **León have two European cup titles also under Cadenas**

It's no secret that ABANCA Ademar León are a team currently in development. Cadenas stated himself recently that there is a lot of room for improvement especially in defense. Only time will tell if Cadenas can bring his diverse band of brothers together once the EHF European League rolls around. One of the more visible issues from this transitional period is the fact that the club were not able to bolster the right-hand side of the court in pre-season. With the exodus of right back David Fernandez (to Wisła Płock) and winger Mario Lopez (to BM Benidorm / combined 178 goals last season) the club only managed to bring in 19-year-old, Serbian, Milan Gostovic, who is currently the only right back in the squad.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Quarter-finals (4): 1997/98, 1999/00, 2001/02, 2011/12
Last 16 (4): 2003/04, 2005/06, 2009/10, 2012/13
Main round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09
Group Phase (2): 2017/18, 2018/19

Cup Winner's Cup

Winners (2): 1998/99, 2004/05
Runners-up (2): 2000/01, 2006/07

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2010/11

Liga ASOBAL (1 title): 2000/01

ASOBAL Cup (2 titles): 1998/99, 2008/09



Manolo Cadenas

Coach

- joined Leon for a third time in the summer of 2019, after previously coaching the club in 1995-2007 and 2012-13
- named best coach of the ASOBAL league in 2019/20
- led Leon to Cup Winners' Cup titles in 1999 and 2005, after also winning the trophy with Santander in 1990
- highly experienced coach, who also worked with clubs like Barça, Granollers, Wisla Plock and Meshkov Brest
- was head coach of Spain from 2013-16, winning bronze at EHF EURO 2014 and silver at EHF EURO 2016
- head coach of Argentine national team since 2017

EC trophies: CWC 1990, 1999, 2005; EURO: S 2016, B 2014

Newcomers

Khalifa Ghedbane (HC Vardar 1961/MKD)
 Oleg Kisselev (BM Nava/ESP)
 Leandro Semedo (Helvetia Anaitasuna/ESP)
 Natan Suarez (Incarlopsa Cuenca/ESP)
 Milan Gostovic (HC Bruck/AUT)
 Mateusz Piechowski (Orlen Wisla Plock/POL)
 Leandro Semedo (Helvetia Anaitasuna/ESP)

Left the club

Dzmitry Patotski (BM Nava/ESP)
 Juan Jose Fernandez (Istres Provence HB/FRA)
 Ivan Masic (Riihimäen Cocks/FIN)
 Acacio Marques (Al Arabi SC/QAT)
 David Fernandez (Orlen Wisla Plock/POL)
 Federico Vieyra (Raimond Handball Sassari/ITA)
 Mario Lopez (BM Benidorm/ESP)
 Gonzalo Carou (Fertiberia Puerto Sagunto/ESP)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
2	Ruben	Marchan	ESP	Line Player	20.09.1994	Manzanares, ESP	202	110
4	Erwin Jan	Feuchtmann	GER	Left Back	02.05.1990	Punta Arenas, CHI	195	96
6	Leandro	Semedo	CPV	Left Back	24.12.1994	Praia, CPV	192	82
7	Natán	Suárez	ESP	Centre Back	20.01.1998	Gerona, ESP	185	80
8	Tin	Lucin	CRO	Centre Back	16.08.1999	Rijeka, CRO	196	94
9	Pedro	Martínez	ESP	Centre Back	20.12.1999	Buenos Aires, ARG	187	85
12	Andrew	Donlin	USA	Line Player	09.02.1992	Minnesota, USA	202	100
14	Milan	Gostovic	SRB	Right Back	12.02.2001	Vrbas, SRB	190	80
C 15	Jose Mario	Carrillo	ESP	Left Wing	18.12.1990	León, ESP	180	75
16	Dino	Slavic	CRO	Goalkeeper	04.12.1992	Rijeka, CRO	185	113
17	Jaime	Fernandez	ESP	Left Wing	27.01.1997	León, ESP	176	72
19	Gonzalo	Perez Arce	ESP	Right Wing	20.07.1998	León, ESP	175	70
22	Khalifa	Ghedbane	ALG	Goalkeeper	26.11.1996	M'sila, ALG	202	99
23	Alex	Lodos	ESP	Left Back	26.06.2002	León, ESP	185	85
24	Antonio	Martinez	ESP	Right Wing	17.05.2003	León, ESP	180	70
35	Mateusz	Piechowski	POL	Line Player	01.03.1995	Plock, POL	196	104
37	Oleg	Kisselev	ESP	Left Back	02.08.1997	Santander, ESP	198	104
85	Adrian	Casqueiro	ESP	Left Wing	18.05.2000	León, ESP	190	79
99	Carlos	Cristobalena	ESP	Goalkeeper	02.12.2003	Madrid, ESP	195	80



Dino Slavic

 @dinoslavic

Goalkeeper

- arrived at León in summer of 2018 from RK Umag in his native Croatia
- first choice between León's posts since departure of Ignacio Biosca to Kadetten
- forms goalkeeper duo with Algerian international Khalifa Ghedbane, who joined León from Vardar in 2020, a year after winning the CL with the Macedonian side



Jaime Fernandez

 @jaimefdez_17

Left wing

- born in León, made A team debut in 2014/15 season
- named MVP of the ASOBAL League in 2019/20, the first León player to receive the award since Daniel Sarmiento in 2009
- has also been chosen best left wing of the domestic league in past two seasons
- a versatile wing, who can also play as a centre back



Natan Suarez

 @suareznatan

Centre back

- joined León in summer of 2020 from Cuenca on a two-year deal
- was 'revelation player' of ASOBAL league in 2018/19, playing for Teucro and Cuenca
- playmaker with great eye for the game and a strong shot from nine metres
- played for national U-18 and U-21 teams but not yet for national A team



Gonzalo Perez

 @gonzaloperez_19

Right wing

- born in León, made A team debut for the club in 2014/15 season
- will get more responsibility since captain Mario Lopez, also a right wing, has left León
- also a keen football player as a kid, but chose handball at the age of 14
- his brother Rodrigo is also a handball player, at Club Balonmano Nava

GROUP A



Club contact

Club Address

ORLEN Wisła Płock
Plac Celebry Papieskiej 1
09-400 Płock
Poland

Media contact

Tomasz Bauman
+48 882 975 087
t.bauman@sprwislaplock.pl

 sprwislaplock.pl

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

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

 [sprwisla](https://www.instagram.com/sprwisla)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: blue
GK shirt: navy blue

Dark

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



Playing hall

ORLEN Arena
Pl. Celebry Papieskiej 1
09-400 Płock
Poland
Capacity: 5,467

ORLEN WISLA PŁOCK



For two years now, ORLEN Wisła Płock, under the guidance of coach Xavi Sabate, have been implementing a sport development strategy. The 2020/21 season is the third year of this strategy, and the club has been clear that now they are not only in the hunt for domestic titles but are ready for the next step on the international stage as well. And what better stage than the EHF European League for the 'Oilers' to make their mark?

- **10 names leave and Plock welcome eight signings for 2020/21**
- **Finished runners-up to Kielce in the Polish league for eight seasons in a row**
- **Also go by the nickname 'Nafciarze,' in Polish meaning the 'Oilers'**
- **The club has 15 EHF Champions League seasons under its belt**

There is a certain freshness about the signings and changes that Sabate has made before this season. Gone are the likes of Zdrahala (37), Igropulo (35) and Sulic (40) and in are Fernandez (24), Komarzewski (21) and Serdio (26). An injection of youth into the dressing room. However, just in case Sabate was worried about the average age of the squad dropping too low and TikTok taking over dressing room proceedings, the Spanish coach did find a balance in signing defensive specialist Mirsad Terzic (37), who he worked with during his time in Veszprém. Jeremy Toto (28) joining from Saint-Raphaël Var Handball and Abel Serdio (26), the Spanish international coming in on loan from Barça, make for an interesting new pairing on the line. The signings do seem like a shift away from the 'old-but-gold' strategy recruitment style in the past. Was this all part of the masterplan? Or is it time for a fresh crack at leaving Kielce's shadow domestically and pushing on for that elusive quarter-final spot in European cup competitions? Whatever the reason, it is a welcome change and will make for interesting watching once the EHF European League group phase gets underway.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (6): 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19, 2019/20
Group Phase (7): 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2016/17, 2017/18

EHF Cup

Quarter-final 1993/94; Group Phase 2012/13

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-final 1996/97

Polish league: 7 titles (1994/95, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2007/08, 2010/11)

Polish Cup: 10 titles (1991/92, 1994/95, 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 2000/01, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2007/08)



Xavier Sabate

Coach



@xavi_sabate

- Płock head coach since July 2018, taking over a few months after Piotr Przybecki had left the club
- experienced coach who worked at Veszprém from 2015-17, leading the Hungarian team to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2016 final, where they lost to Kielce in a penalty shoot-out
- was voted coach of the CL 2015/16 All-star Team
- great eye for detail, engaging in all aspects of coaching including tactical analysis and team building

Newcomers

Krzysztof Komarzewski (Wybrzeże Gdansk/POL)
 Abel Sordio (Barça/ESP)
 Predrag Vejin (Ramahat Tel Aviv/ISR)
 David Fernandez (Abanca Ademar Leon/ESP)
 Mirsad Terzic (Telekom Veszprém HC/HUN)
 Jeremy Toto (St.-Raphaël Var Handball/FRA)
 Oliwier Kaminski (SKF Wisła Płock/POL)
 Zoran Ilic (Telekom Veszprém HC/HUN)

Left the club

Ondrej Zdrahala (Al-Wakrah/QAT)
 Mateusz Góralski (MKS Energa Kalisz/POL)
 Konstantin Igropulo (Gwardia Opole/POL)
 Pawel Kowalski (Gwardia Opole/POL)
 Jerko Matulic (HC PPD Zagreb/CRO)
 Ziga Mlakar (HC PPD Zagreb/CRO)
 Mateusz Piechowski (Abanca Ademar Leon/ESP)
 Renato Sulic (RK Zamet/CRO)
 Igor Zabic (Limoges Hand 87/POL)
 Wiktor Jankowski (MMTS Kwidzyn/POL)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Adam	Morawski	POL	Goalkeeper	17.10.1994	Ciechanów, POL	190	82
C 3	Michał	Daszek	POL	Right Wing	27.06.1992	Tczew, POL	180	70
4	Philip	Stenmalm	SWE	Left Back	03.03.1992	Vaxjo, SWE	198	90
5	Predrag	Vejin	SRB	Right Back	17.12.1992	Apatin, SRB	196	95
7	Dawid	Lemanowicz	POL	Centre Back	09.09.2001	Plock, POL	176	70
8	Oliwier	Kaminski	POL	Right Back	24.04.2004	Plock, POL	190	76
12	Ivan	Stevanovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	18.05.1982	Rijeka, CRO	193	101
13	Alvaro	Ruiz Sanchez	ESP	Centre Back	08.04.1991	Almeria, ESP	194	90
14	David	Fernández	ESP	Right Back	14.04.1996	Valladolid, ESP	196	90
17	Abel	Serdio Guntín	ESP	Line Player	16.04.1994	Avilés, ESP	195	100
19	Leon	Šušnja	CRO	Line Player	05.08.1993	Siroki Brijeg, CRO	204	113
21	Zoltan	Szita	HUN	Left Back	10.02.1998	Veszprém, HUN	196	92
22	Szymon	Rybicki	POL	Goalkeeper	19.11.1997	Plock, POL	184	77
23	Dominik	Mierzwicki	POL	Right Wing	08.07.1999	Plock, POL	182	78
24	Leon	Sowul	POL	Left Wing	19.06.1996	Plock, POL	189	78
25	Krzysztof	Komarzewski	POL	Right Wing	18.09.1998	Gdansk, POL	188	85
26	Przemysław	Krajewski	POL	Left Wing	20.01.1987	Ciechanów, POL	184	85
27	Jakub	Kozłowski	POL	Goalkeeper	18.06.2000	Plock, POL	194	90
30	Mirsad	Terzic	BIH	Left Back	12.07.1983	Priboj, BIH	196	103
31	Jeremy	Toto	FRA	Line Player	15.05.1992	Courbevoie, FAR	197	106
34	Lovro	Mihic	CRO	Left Wing	25.08.1994	Zagreb, CRO	180	74
44	Mikołaj	Czaplinski	POL	Left Wing	11.08.2000	Plock, POL	188	77
55	Niko	Mindegia Elizaga	ESP	Centre Back	19.07.1988	Santesteban, ESP	184	87
74	Zoran	Ilic	HUN	Right Back	02.01.2002	Zenta, HUN	197	86
77	Filip	Witkowski	POL	Right Wing	10.05.2001	Plock, POL	182	80



Adam Morawski

 @loczek1994

Goalkeeper

- Polish international, who started to play at senior level in 2013/14, debuted in the national team in 2013 and in the CL two years later
- excelled for Plock in 2016/17, earning him a nomination for the best goalkeeper of the season award in the Polish league
- his nickname 'Loczek' means 'Curl'



Zoltan Szita

 @szita_zozo

Left back

- Hungarian back, who joined Plock in 2019 after two seasons with Balatonfüredi KSE
- previously played for Veszprém, knows coach Sabate from their joined time there
- was best left back of Hungarian league in 2018/19 season and those good league performances won him a place in the national team
- talented player, both in attack and defence, one of the main distance guns of the Oilers



Niko Mindegia

 @nikomindegia

Centre back

- Spanish playmaker, who arrived at Plock in 2019 as Poland became the fifth country on his career journey
- also had stints in Hungary (Szeged, 2013-16), Denmark (KIF Kolding, 2016/17), and France (Chambéry Savoie MHB, 2017-19) after leaving Spain (La Rioja) in 2013
- played at EHF EURO in 2012, 2014 and 2016, reaching the semi-final on each occasion

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2014
EURO: S 2016, B 2014



Michal Daszek

 @michaeldaszek

Right wing

- arrived at Plock from MMTS Kwidzyn in 2014, a year after he had made his debut in the Polish national team
- useful both on the right wing and on the centre back position
- was best wing and MVP of the Polish league in 2018/19
- won bronze with Poland at WCh 2015 and played at Olympics the following year

WCh: B 2015

GROUP A



Club contact

Club Address

Chekhovskie medvedi
Poligrafistov str. 30
142300 Chekhov, Mosk.
oblast
Russia


Media contact

Olga Belysheva
+79096391839
victi@bk.ru

 ch-medvedi.ru

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

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

 [hc_chekhovskie](https://www.instagram.com/hc_chekhovskie)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: purple
Player short: purple
GK shirt: red



Playing hall

Sport Hall "Olimpiyskiy"
Chekhov

Poligrafistov Str. 30
142300 Chekhov
Russia
Capacity: 3,000

CHEKHOVSKIE MEDVEDI



Chekhovskie Medvedi have been an unstoppable force in Russian handball over the past two decades, winning 19 consecutive league titles. However, their ability to compete in Europe has waned over the years and they will compete outside of the EHF Champions League for the first time since 2006.

- **The 21-year-old left back Sergey Kosorotov is widely regarded as one of the hottest talents in Russian handball**
- **Russian international Dmitriy Kiselev returned to Russia last summer, following a short stint at Vardar where he won the EHF Champions League**
- **A very interesting signing here for Chekhov, managing to bring Artem Kulak, the Belarusian playmaker in from Meshkov Brest**

Between 2008 and 2011, Chekhovskie Medvedi were a force to be reckoned with in European handball with two quarter-final appearances bookending a trip to the very first EHF FINAL4 in 2010. One last foray into the last 16 in 2013 was followed by a year without European handball and with that began the exodus of star players with the likes of Timur Dibirov, Daniil Shishkarev and Dmitry Zhitnikov leaving for pastures new.

With that came six straight group phase exits, where the Russian club would always claim some wins but look likely to progress. This season offers them a new challenge in Europe's second tier and a place directly in the group phase. Their opponents are of a similar calibre to those they faced in groups C and D in the EHF Champions League, so although this may be their true level, there is no guarantee they will flourish.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Semi-final (1): 2009/10
Quarter-final (2): 2008/09, 2010/11

Cup Winners' Cup

Winners: 2005/06

Russian league: 19 titles (2002-2020)

Russian cup: 10 titles



Vladimir Maximov

Coach

- legend of the sport, still the only person in handball to have won Olympic gold both as a player and as a coach
- also led Russia to several European and world titles
- resigned from his national team job in 2012 to fully focus on his work as club coach in Chekhov
- has been with Chekhov since 2001, when the club was founded, and won the domestic title every year since

EC trophies: CWC 2006

OG: G 1976 (as player), 2000, B 2004; WCh: G 1993, 1997, S 1978 (as player), 1999; EURO: G 1996, S 1994, 2000

Newcomers

Mark Larin (Dinamo Astrakhan/RUS)
Alexander Ermakov (Dinamo Astrakhan/RUS)
Artem Kulak (Meshkov Brest/BLR)

Left the club

Dmitry Santalov (Meshkov Brest/BLR)
Denis Vasilyev (Chartres Métropole Handball/FRA)
Igor Karlov (FyllingenBergen/NOR)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
5	Dmitriy	Kiselev	RUS	Right Back	15.11.1994	Voronezhskayaobl, RUS	193	98
5	Aleksandr	Ermakov	RUS	Line Player	14.01.1996	Astrakhan, RUS	195	105
6	Kirill	Klimasev	RUS	Right Wing	14.05.2002	Chekhov, RUS	174	80
7	Artsiom	Kulak	BLR	Centre Back	23.02.1996	Brest, BLR	92	87
C 9	Kirill	Kotov	RUS	Centre Back	23.05.1992	Moscow, RUS	185	79
11	Pavel	Andreev	RUS	Line Player	19.07.1992	Saint Petersburg, RUS	195	98
12	Dmitry	Pavlenko	RUS	Goalkeeper	01.01.1991	Zaporozhe, UKR	191	86
14	Evgenii	Borovoi	RUS	Right Wing	12.02.2003	Krasnodar, RUS	180	70
16	Artem	Grushko	RUS	Goalkeeper	20.06.1993	Odessa, UKR	193	91
17	Alexander	Kotov	RUS	Right Back	11.07.1994	Volgograd, RUS	198	95
18	Egor	Ovchinnikov	RUS	Left Back	23.05.2001	Moscow, RUS	195	93
19	Roman	Ostashchenko	RUS	Left Wing	26.09.1992	Moscow, RUS	190	83
24	Dmitriy	Kornev	RUS	Right Wing	16.06.1992	Vologda, RUS	186	78
31	Viktor	Furtsev	RUS	Line Player	17.06.1996	Belgorod, RUS	198	95
33	Aleksei	Stelmakh	RUS	Goalkeeper	25.04.1998	Volgograd, RUS	192	105
34	Mark	Larin	RUS	Left Back	02.07.1997	Astrakhan, RUS	198	90
38	Timofei	Maslennikov	RUS	Right Wing	10.03.1997	Chekhov, RUS	185	88
54	Egor	Novokreshchenov	RUS	Line Player	27.02.2000	Volgograd, RUS	198	100
90	Evgenii	Gribkov	RUS	Centre Back	29.09.2000	Naro-Fominsk, RUS	184	80
98	Nikita	Kamenev	RUS	Right Back	14.04.1998	Belgorod, RUS	198	98
99	Sergei Mark	Kosorotov	RUS	Left Back	16.06.1999	Moscow, RUS	195	95



Dmitry Pavlenko

Goalkeeper

- one of the veterans in a young Chekhov squad, became first-choice goalkeeper in 2017/18 after Oleg Grams left for Dunkerque HB
- Ukrainian-born player who started career at ZTR Zaporozhye
- moved to Chekhov at young age and became Russian citizen



Sergei Mark Kosorotov

Left back

- one of the biggest talents of Russian handball, already a regular in national team
- wears number 99 because 1999 is his year of birth
- has two first names, rather unusual in Russia, but is usually called just Sergei
- his father was a famous judoka, while his mother played handball at Luch Moscow
- set to join Wisla Plock in the summer of 2021



Kirill Kotov

Centre back

- started playing handball in Dolgoprudny, a small town near Moscow
- joined Chekhov in 2007 at age 15 and became first-team player in 2013
- national team player, who became team captain of the Bears in 2017 after several experienced players left



Dmitrii Kiselev

Right back

- moved to Chekhov from Vardar in summer of 2019, after winning the CL in his only season with the Macedonian club
- born in Voronezh region, played only for St.-Petersburg before 2018/19 season
- also a member of the Russian national team

EC trophies: CL 2019

GROUP A



Club contact

Club Address

Fenix Toulouse Handball
Palais des Sports André Brouat
3 rue Pierre Laplace
31000 Toulouse
France

Media contact

Carolyne Sturtzer
+33645058987
carolyne.sturtzer@fenix-toulouse.fr

 fenix-toulouse.fr

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

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

 [fenix_toulouse_handball](https://www.instagram.com/fenix_toulouse_handball)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: pink

Dark

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



Playing hall

Palais des Sports Andre
Brouat Toulouse
3, rue Pierre Laplace
31000 Toulouse
France
Capacity: 3,800

FENIX TOULOUSE HANDBALL



After over a six-year absence from EHF competitions, Fenix Toulouse Handball are back in action! They will fancy their chances too in group A and have their sights firmly locked on the knock-out rounds. Let's continue our countdown to the throw-off of the EHF European League 2020/21.

- **Had to work hard in qualification against Romanian side Turda to book a spot**
- **Since 2015 have been led by World champion and ex-PSG Handball coach Philippe Gardent**
- **Four new players put pen to paper over the summer; Ferran Sole left**
- **Right wing Pierrick Chelle is captain of the side**

A big loss for Fenix is of course their top scorer from last season, Ferran Sole. With Sole now wearing the colours of Starligue rivals PSG Handball, Edouard Kempf has made his way from Paris to Toulouse to attempt to fill the shoes of the Spaniard. Kempf along with team captain Pierrick Chelle now make up the right-wing pairing. Chelle is clear about what his side wants to achieve this season: "My main motivation is to reach the knock-out stages and to help the club get to the next level. I think group A is really tough with a lot of historic clubs and it's a new experience for us so we'll give it our all to win." Interestingly Chelle sees the first EHF European League trophy going to a French team: "My favourite is Montpellier because the club has experience in winning such competitions. I know German clubs are also very strong but for us the most important thing is to win the first game at home in order to give us some good momentum and maybe after that, everything is possible."

Kempf and Chelle on the wing and the likes Ayoub Abdi at right back will be vital in creating this momentum as they form the threat axis from the right-hand side of the court.

Past achievements

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals 1998/99

Coupe de France: 1997/98



Philippe Gardent
Coach



@philippe_gardent

- French former international, who started as head coach in Toulouse prior to the 2015/16 season
- previously coached Chambéry Savoie HB (1996-2012) and Paris Saint-Germain HB (2012-15)
- nicknamed 'Boule' (Ball), he played for the French national team for 13 years and celebrated many successes
- was captain of the team that won the country's first world title, in 1995

WCh: G 1995, S 1993; OG: B 1992 (as player)

Newcomers

Edouard Kempf (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)
Luka Sokolic (Pontault-Combault Handball/FRA)
Gonçalo Martins Vieira (Sporting CP/POR)
Uros Borzas (Grundfos Tatabánya KC/HUN)

Left the club

Jordan Bonilauri (CB Ciudad de Logrono/ESP)
Arnau Garcia Barcelo (S.L. Benfica/POR)
Markus Olsson (IFK Kristianstad/SWE)
Ferran Sole Sala (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Jef	Lettens	BEL	Goalkeeper	12.08.1990	Hasselt, BEL	194	90
2	Remi	Leventoux	FRA	Line Player	12.02.1992	Levallois Perret, FRA	202	110
C 3	Pierrick	Chelle	FRA	Right Wing	08.12.1989	Toulouse, FRA	174	80
5	Melvin	Delanghe	FRA	Right Wing	27.03.1999	Fort de France, FRA	190	79
6	Josh	Mongin	FRA	Left Wing	09.03.1999	Belfort, FRA	176	67
7	Téo	Jarry	FRA	Left Wing	03.03.2000	Toulouse, FRA	183	75
8	Matthieu	Marmier	FRA	Right Back	08.06.2000	Montauban, FRA	186	92
9	Henrik	Jakobsen	NOR	Line Player	16.12.1992	Lorenskog, NOR	196	116
10	Maxime	Gilbert	FRA	Centre Back	22.05.1991	Talence, FRA	187	90
11	Edouard	Kempf	FRA	Right Wing	20.03.1998	Mulhouse, FRA	178	83
13	Uros	Borzas	HUN	Left Back	28.07.1999	Zenta, SRB	198	97
15	Pierre	Soudry	FRA	Right Back	27.03.1988	Amiens, FRA	183	83
16	Théo	Gehin	FRA	Goalkeeper	14.03.1999	Nancy, FRA	189	75
19	Nemanja	Ilic	SRB	Left Wing	11.05.1990	Beograd, SRB	177	73
20	Tom	Bertini	FRA	Centre Back	06.03.1999	Valence, FRA	193	85
22	Luc	Steins	NED	Centre Back	22.03.1995	Voerendaal, NED	174	69
23	Goncalo	Martins Vieira	POR	Left Back	27.04.1999	Porto, POR	190	103
24	Milan	Jovanovic	SRB	Left Back	24.01.1998	Vrbas, SRB	196	94
32	Romain	Giraudeau	FRA	Right Wing	02.03.2000	La Tronche, FRA	170	65
33	Gael	Tribillon	FRA	Left Wing	03.02.1998	Saint-Doulchard, FRA	174	78
44	Nori	Ben Halima	FRA	Left Back	15.05.1998	Paris, FRA	190	97
50	Matis	Gardent	FRA	Line Player	05.05.1999	Chambéry, FRA	189	80
51	Luka	Sokolic	CRO	Centre Back	15.04.1990	Zagreb, CRO	194	97
69	Maxime	Discamps	FRA	Left Back	03.07.2003	Le Chesnay, FRA	203	86
77	Kylian	Ferrier	FRA	Goalkeeper	09.07.2001	Tournan en Brie, FRA	192	80
87	Ayoub	Abdi	ALG	Right Back	16.02.1997	Chlef, ALG	197	96
89	Cesar Oliveira	de Almeida	BRA	Goalkeeper	06.01.1989	Sao Paulo, BRA	190	103
95	Aaron	Codina Vivanco	ESP	Right Back	19.02.1999	Santiago, CHI	193	94



Jef Lettens

 @jeflettens_1

Goalkeeper

- Belgian international, who joined Toulouse in summer of 2019
- arrived in France four years earlier and played for USM Saran and Cesson-Rennes before moving to Toulouse
- born in Hasselt, he started his career at local side Initia, one of the leading clubs in the Belgian league as well as the joined Belgian-Dutch BENE league



Nemanja Ilic

 @nemanjailic19

Left wing

- Serbian wing and team captain, who has been with Toulouse since 2013
- arrived from the only previous club in his pro career, Partizan in his native Belgrade
- his younger brother Vanja also plays in France, for Chartres
- joined Barça for four months at end of 2018/19 to replace injured Casper Mortensen



Luc Steins

 @luc_steins

Centre back

- Netherlands international, who arrived in France in 2016 from Dutch side Lions
- a short but quick playmaker at 1.73 metre, he spent three seasons with Massy Essonne and Tremblay-en-France before joining Toulouse in 2019
- his older brother, Ivo, still plays for Lions and they both were part of the Dutch team that competed at EHF EURO 2020



Henrik Jakobsen

 @henrikjakobs

Line player

- Norwegian international who, at age 25, joined Toulouse from Danish side GOG in 2018
- missed entire 2019/20 season with a knee injury
- latest addition to string of Scandinavian players at Toulouse, following the likes of Andreas Cederholm, Fredric Pettersson and Markus Olsson

WCh: S 2019

GROUP A




Club contact

Club Address

Fivers
Ziegelofengasse 35/2/18
1050 Wien
Austria

Media contact

Markus Riedlmayer
+43664 184 69 60
riedlmayer@kommunikationsatelier.info

 fivers.at

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

 [fivers_handball_team](https://www.instagram.com/fivers_handball_team)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Sporthalle Hollgasse
Hollgasse 3
1050 Wien
Austria
Capacity: 900

FIVERS



For the first time in 12 years an Austrian side has entered one of handball's top tiers. And with a squad entirely made up for Austrian nationals, they will relish the opportunity to collect vital experience in the all-new EHF European League and build for the future.

- **Fivers are the first Austrian side since Bregenz (2008) to play in a top international competition**
- **The club celebrated their 125-year anniversary last year**
- **18 of the players from their squad come from Fivers youth**
- **Vytautas Ziura said goodbye to the team after 16 years during the summer**

It's fair to say that Fivers Handball will be going into each and every tie in the European League Group A as the underdogs. However, their upset knock-out of Benfica in qualification will give them great confidence, especially when they host their opponents in the Sporthalle, Margareten. Team manager Thomas Menzl made the club's intentions clear: "It's a great honor and pleasure to play in the EHF European League Group Phase. For our team, that consists of only Austrian players, it will be an unforgettable experience. We want to fight for as many points as possible in this very challenging group and make other teams sit up and take notice."

Team captain Markus Koler will be 36 when the European League season throws off and it will be a season to be relished: "Being able to present myself on an international level is my greatest of all motivations and this at my age! Things in life always seem to happen when you least expect them." The Austrian international's experience will be key with him leading a very young side onto the big stage - the large majority of the squad were born between 1996 – 2000. But don't let their age fool you, this side from the fifth district in Vienna packs a punch.

Past achievements

IHF Cup: Semi-final 1984/85

Austrian league (3 titles): 2010/11, 2015/16, 2017/18

Austrian cup (7 titles): 1998/99, 2008/09, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17



Peter Eckl Coach

- played in the youth ranks of Fivers from 1987-94
- at the age of 18, he ended his playing career and decided to become a coach
- never worked for another club than Fivers, was an assistant coach until taking over as head coach in 2010
- steered Fivers to three league and six cup titles in Austria
- was awarded Coach of the Year in Austria three times

Newcomers

-

Left the club

Vytas Ziura (Sportunion Leoben/AUT)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
5	Tobias	Wagner	AUT	Line Player	26.03.1995	Wien, AUT	198	126
15	Eric	Damböck	AUT	Wing	06.09.1999	Wien, AUT	180	77
25	Nikola	Stevanovic	AUT	Back	17.04.1998	Wien, AUT	190	91
35	Lukas	Gangel	AUT	Wing	27.09.1998	Wien, AUT	186	82
45	Lukas	Hutecek	AUT	Back	02.07.2000	Horn, AUT	190	98
50	Vincent	Schweiger	AUT	Line Player	07.10.1996	Wien, AUT	183	90
51	Wolfgang	Filzwieser	AUT	Goalkeeper	30.09.1984	St. Pölten, AUT	185	102
52	Boris	Tanic	AUT	Goalkeeper	22.06.1996	Wien, AUT	190	94
53	Christian	Saric	AUT	Back	07.01.2001	Wien, AUT	191	95
54	Fabian	Glätzl	AUT	Back	06.06.1999	Wien, AUT	182	85
55	Marin	Martinovic	AUT	Back	10.10.1996	Wien, AUT	189	92
56	Jan	David	AUT	Goalkeeper	15.07.2001	Wien, AUT	186	84
57	Herbert	Jonas	AUT	Wing	12.12.1988	Wien, AUT	180	78
58	Leander	Brenneis	AUT	Line Player	27.11.1996	Korneuburg, AUT	193	97
C 59	Markus	Kolar	AUT	Back	12.10.1984	Wien, AUT	195	95
65	Philipp	Gangel	AUT	Wing	12.05.2001	Wien, AUT	179	74
75	Maximilian	Riede	AUT	Wing	15.07.1996	Wien, AUT	179	83
85	David	Brandfellner	AUT	Wing	20.11.1992	Wien, AUT	179	87
95	Thomas	Seidl	AUT	Back	08.08.1992	Wien, AUT	200	97
	Marin	Kopic	AUT	Line Player	18.06.1998	Wien, AUT	184	94
	Florian	Haag	AUT	Goalkeeper	01.08.1997	Wien, AUT	189	89
	Fabio	Schuh	AUT	Back	28.09.2001	Wien, AUT	178	78
	Mathias	Rieger	AUT	Line Player	21.02.1999	Graz, AUT	188	90



Wolfgang Filzwieser

Goalkeeper

- his saves in the qualification paved the way for Fivers to the club's first ever appearance in the group phase of a European club competition
- Austrian international, who is the most experienced player of a young Fivers squad
- was Austrian cup winner with Hard and Krems, and champion with Hard and Fivers
- signed for Trelleborg in 2007 but played only two games for the Swedish club



Lukas Hutecek

 @luki_huti

Left back

- at age 20, one of the brightest prospects of Austrian handball, voted Player of the Year in the Austrian league in 2019/20
- played for Austria at the home EHF EURO 2020, five days after his national team debut
- key player for Fivers in reaching the group phase, scoring 18 goals in qualification
- his brother, Sebastian, also plays in Austria's first division, for HSG Bärnbach Köflach



Tobias Wagner

 @tobiaswagner5

Line player

- physically strong defence specialist, who started his career at Fivers in 2013
- had two-year stint (2016-18) at HBW Balingen-Weilstetten in the German Bundesliga before returning to Fivers
- played for Austrian national team at WCh 2019 and EHF EURO 2020
- was part of Austria's successful junior national team, alongside Kiel star Nikola Bilyk



David Brandfellner

 @koenig_brandur

Right wing

- joined Fivers at the age of 12 and never played for another club since, had his debut in the Austrian league at the age of 15
- is the only player in the squad who won the domestic cup six times with Fivers
- has scored more than 800 goals in the Austrian league prior to the 2020/21 season
- was awarded Newcomer of the Year in Austria in 2011

GROUP A



Club contact

Club Address

HC Metalurg
ul. Jane Lukroski 6
1000 Skopje
North Macedonia

Media contact

Branko Kazakovski
+38971209862
branko.kazakovski@gmail.com

 rkmetalurg.mk

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

 [rkmetalurg](https://www.instagram.com/rkmetalurg)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Sport Center
Jane Sandanski
Bubl. Avnoj b.b
1000 Skopje
North Macedonia
Capacity: 5,000

HC METALURG



In a spectacular summer for Macedonian clubs in the transfer market, Metalurg made their fair share of shrews signings as they aim to propel themselves back into contention for European glory.

- **Zagreb legend Zlatko Horvat the biggest acquisition of the summer**
- **Former Vardar coach Zoran Kastratović leading the new-look squad**
- **Survived two tight qualification rounds, defeating Spacva Vinkovci by three goals and Kriens-Luzern by one**
- **Managed just three victories in European competition over the last three seasons**

Since Vardar burst back onto the European scene in 2013, Metalurg have suffered a slow and steady decline. Five consecutive group phase exits in the EHF Champions League was compounded last season with an early exit from last season's EHF Cup and being demoted to the third best Macedonian team. Zoran Kastratović took over the reins last year and has been able to build a very solid squad, thanks to serious investment in the club. A number of proven international players have been brought in to complement the likes of the talented 20-year-old right back Martin Serafimov, moves which appear to give Metalurg a chance to make a solid if unspectacular run in the European League. Club manager Zorica Blazhevaska echoes that feeling, stating: "My main objective was to stabilise our club and getting it back to the European handball elite. By reaching the group phase it is achieved." Captain Daniel Dupjahanec sees the group phase as an opportunity to help the squad blend. "My primary motivation would be our team to grow match by match. Because playing 10 matches against strong European teams would mean a lot to us in gaining experience and improvement."

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Quarter-finals (2): 2012/13, 2013/14

Last 16 (1): 2011/12

Group Phase (7): 2006/07, 2008/09, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals: 2007/08

Cup Winners' Cup:

Quarter-finals: 2008/09

SEHA league: runners-up 2012

Macedonian league: 8 titles (1980, 1986, 1992, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014)

Macedonian cup: 7 titles (2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2019, 2020)



Zoran Kastratovic

Coach

- joined Metalurg in 2019, his first club team in four years
- also worked as men's national team coach in Montenegro and Iran, and women's national team coach in North Macedonia
- in 2013 he coached eventual two-time CL winners Vardar
- apart from Metalurg and Vardar, he has been coach at Kometal Gjorče Petrov, RK Sutjeska and El Jaish SC
- married to Macedonian great and former Vardar coach, Indira Kastratovic

Newcomers

Zlatko Horvat (HC PPD Zagreb/CRO)
 Momir Rnic (HC Proleter Zrenjanin/SRB)
 Branko Kankaras (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
 Marko Tarabochia (HC Czurgoi KK/HUN)
 Nikola Potic (VfL Lübeck-Schwartau/GER)

Left the club

Mario Tankoski (RK Eurofarm Pelister/MKD)
 Irakli Kbilashvili (CSM Resita/ROU)
 Tomislav Jagurinovski (HC Vardar 1961/MKD)
 Filip Arsenovski (RK Eurofarm Pelister/MKD)
 Dejan Pecakovski (RK Tineks Prolet/MKD)
 Revaz Chanturia (RK Prilep 2010/MKD)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
3	Darko	Kondev	MKD	Left Wing	24.08.2001	Skopje, MKD	185	77
4	Aleksandar	Petkovski	MKD	Right Wing	24.05.2004	Skopje, MKD	185	73
5	Branko	Kankaras	MNE	Line Player	28.05.1988	Novi Sad, MNE	192	97
6	Milan	Popovic	MNE	Left Wing	23.09.1990	Cetinje, MNE	186	82
7	Dario	Kofiloski	MKD	Left Wing	18.05.2000	Skopje, MKD	181	71
C 10	Daniel	Dupjachanec	MKD	Goalkeeper	15.07.1983	Prilep, MKD	190	95
11	Mice	Shilegov	MKD	Right Wing	19.06.1998	Skopje, MKD	175	75
13	Zlatko	Horvat	CRO	Right Wing	25.09.1984	Zagreb, CRO	179	87
15	Marijan	Maric	CRO	Left Back	08.02.1996	Mostar, CRO	193	91
17	Martin	Serafimov	MKD	Right Back	03.03.2000	Skopje, MKD	190	80
19	Milan	Lazarevski	MKD	Line Player	09.02.1997	Skopje, MKD	194	94
20	Daniel	Gjorgjeski	MKD	Goalkeeper	03.12.1993	Gostivar, MKD	189	84
21	Mihajlo	Mladenovikj	MKD	Left Back	21.09.2000	Vranje, SRB	194	95
22	Luka	Vujovic	MNE	Line Player	11.04.2000	Cetinje, MNE	193	94
26	Marko	Tarabochia	BIH	Centre Back	28.11.1988	Zagreb, BIH	192	92
27	Teodor	Todeski	MKD	Left Back	03.09.2002	Prilep, MKD	200	105
28	Andrej	Mitikj	MKD	Line Player	14.05.2000	Skopje, MKD	195	98
42	Momir	Rnic	SRB	Left Back	01.11.1987	Zrenjanin, SRB	196	102
44	Stefan	Dodic	SRB	Centre Back	13.03.2003	Vranje, SRB	197	84
55	Nikola	Potic	SRB	Right Back	07.01.1994	Beograd, SRB	203	88
64	Velko	Markoski	MKD	Back	05.04.1986	Struga, MKD	194	100
96	Predrag	Mijatovic	SRB	Goalkeeper	15.02.2002	Blace, SRB	196	76



Daniel Dupjachanec

Goalkeeper

- returned to Metalurg in 2019 after two seasons abroad: at Kadetten Schaffhausen in Switzerland and KS Azoty-Pulawy in Poland, respectively
- earlier he played four years for KH BESA Famiglia in Kosovo
- strong performances with Metalurg in 2015 earned him a place in the Macedonian national team



Marko Tarabochia

@tarabochia_marko

Centre back

- experienced centre back, who joined Metalurg in summer of 2020 from Czurgo
- won silver with Croatian U19 national team at WCh 2007 in Bahrain, but gained Bosnian citizenship in 2015 and started playing for their national team
- previously also played for Zagreb, Maribor, Azoty-Pulawy, Wisla Plock, and Sesvete



Branko Kankaras

@brankokankaras

Line player

- experienced Montenegrin line player, who arrived in Metalurg in the summer of 2020 after one season at EHF Champions League contenders Meshkov Brest
- won Serbian league and cup with RK Vojvodina, later also played in Turkey (Mersin) and France (Valence, Istres)
- national team player, who competed for Montenegro at EHF EURO 2016 and 2020



Zlatko Horvat

@horvat_zlatko

Right wing

- joined Metalurg in the summer of 2020 from Zagreb, where he had played since the start of his career, competing in 18 CL seasons for the Croatian champions
- a counter-attack specialist, but also an important player in defence
- made national team debut in 2006; has won seven major championship medals, including four at EHF EURO events

OG: B 2012; EURO: S 2020, S 2008, B 2012, B 2016; WCh: S 2009, B 2013



GROUP B PREVIEW

GROUP WITH NO OUTSIDERS

Group B is on everyone's lips ahead of the EHF European League Men group phase as Fuchse Berlin, the main contender, were thrown in alongside USAM Nîmes Gard, Dinamo Bucuresti, Tatran Presov, Sporting CP and IFK Kristianstad.

German club Fuchse Berlin, winners of the EHF Cup in 2015 and 2018 and runners-up in 2019, are the main contender in this group and one of the strongest candidates to conquer the EHF European League this year. In addition to the German side, USAM Nîmes Gard, who in recent years have achieved excellent results in France, are also in group B.

Tatran Presov, Slovakian champions since 2006/07, also want to demonstrate their quality in group B and in this new competition. Having been extraordinarily dominant in their own country for so long, Presov want to transfer their domestic success to the EHF European League.

Eight-time Swedish champions IFK Kristianstad have played in the EHF Champions League in the past five seasons, but they have a whole new challenge on their hands in the EHF European League. A very tough team, Ljubomir Vranjes' men aim to re-establish themselves as Sweden's top dogs while also becoming a serious contender in Europe.

Sporting CP and Dinamo Bucuresti complete group B. Sporting and Dinamo will meet in a European club competition for the third consecutive season, after facing each other in the EHF Champions League knockout play-off round in the last two seasons.

Tiago Noqueira

I GROUP A HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS EC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP A TEAMS

USAM Nîmes Gard vs CS Dinamo București

No previous encounters in European competitions

USAM Nîmes Gard vs TATTRAN Presov 2-0-0 (40:31) 4:0

25.09.1993	USAM Nîmes vs Tatran Presov, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round 2	22:16 (11:6)
03.10.1993	Tatran Presov vs USAM Nîmes, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round 2	15:18 (0:0)

USAM Nîmes Gard vs Fûchse Berlin

No previous encounters in European competitions

USAM Nîmes Gard vs Sporting CP

No previous encounters in European competitions

USAM Nîmes Gard vs IFK Kristianstad

No previous encounters in European competitions

CS Dinamo București vs TATTRAN Presov 1-0-1 (53:54) 2:2

15.10.2005	Dinamo Baimit București vs Tatran Presov, EHF Champions League – Group F	28:24 (14:14)
12.11.2005	Tatran Presov vs Dinamo Baimit București, EHF Champions League – Group F	30:25 (15:15)

CS Dinamo București vs Fûchse Berlin

No previous encounters in European competitions

CS Dinamo București vs Sporting CP 4-0-2 (174:164) 8:4

05.11.2006	Dinamo Baimit Bucurest vs Sporting CP Lisboa, Cup Winners' Cup – Round 3	35:29 (17:10)
12.11.2006	Sporting CP Lisboa vs Dinamo Baimit Bucurest, Cup Winners' Cup – Round 3	27:30 (13:13)
23.02.2019	Sporting CP vs Dinamo Bucuresti, VELUX EHF Champions League – Elimination Matches C/D	32:31 (14:14)
28.02.2019	Dinamo Bucuresti vs Sporting CP, VELUX EHF Champions League – Elimination Matches C/D	26:27 (15:11)
22.02.2020	Sporting CP vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti, VELUX EHF Champions League – Elimination Round C/D	25:26 (9:13)
01.03.2020	CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs Sporting CP, VELUX EHF Champions League – Elimination Round C/D	26:24 (14:12)

CS Dinamo București vs IFK Kristianstad 1-1-0 (57:54) 3:1

18.09.2019	CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs IFK Kristianstad, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	28:25 (13:10)
13.11.2019	IFK Kristianstad vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	29:29 (16:17)

TATRAN Presov vs Füchse Berlin

No previous encounters in European competitions

TATRAN Presov vs Sporting CP 1-0-3 (101:125) 2:6

13.10.2018	TATRAN Presov vs Sporting CP, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	27:30 (13:15)
03.11.2018	Sporting CP vs TATRAN Presov, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	26:28 (11:14)
21.09.2019	Sporting CP vs TATRAN Presov, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	32:24 (17:14)
13.11.2019	TATRAN Presov vs Sporting CP, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	22:37 (10:16)

TATRAN Presov vs IFK Kristianstad 1-0-1 (64:64) 2:2

08.02.2014	TATRAN Presov vs IFK Kristianstad, EHF Cup – Group C	37:30 (19:16)
22.03.2014	IFK Kristianstad vs TATRAN Presov, EHF Cup – Group C	34:27 (14:12)

Füchse Berlin vs Sporting CP

No previous encounters in European competitions

Füchse Berlin vs IFK Kristianstad

No previous encounters in European competitions

Sporting CP vs IFK Kristianstad

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP B



Club contact

Club Address

USAM Nîmes Gard
160 avenue du Languedoc
30900 Nîmes
France

Media contact

Maximilien Costesque
+336 16 83 76 10
maximilien.costesque@usam-nimesgard.fr
usam-nimesgard.fr



usam-nimesgard.fr



USAM Nîmes Gard



USAMNIMESGARD



[usam_nimes_gard](https://www.instagram.com/usam_nimes_gard)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Le Parnasse - Nîmes
160 Avenue du Languedoc
30900 Nîmes
France
Capacity: 4,041

USAM NIMES GARD



USAM Nîmes Gard won their last major trophy in the 1990s, so is there an end to this barren run in sight? Well, while it could be somewhat premature to cast them as genuine contenders for the title, the club's current trajectory does put them in the upper echelon of EHF European League Men teams. So, what can we expect from the green of Nîmes?

- **The club celebrates their 60th anniversary this season**
- **They are four-time national champions and three-time French cup winners**
- **Had a 25-year hiatus from European cup competitions before their EHF Cup run last season**
- **Their marquee signings include Michaël Guigou in 2019 and Vid Kavtchnik in 2020**

2019/20 was going very smoothly for the French side: they were third behind Paris Saint-Germain and Nantes when the Starligue season was halted by the COVID-19 pandemic. On the international front, they were enjoying a solid EHF Cup campaign with two wins, a draw and only a narrow, one-goal loss, to Rhein-Neckar Löwen. You can be certain that the French outfit will be chomping at the bit to get back on the court and attempt to reignite their good domestic and international form.

Last season there was one key figure for Nîmes, and his name was on everyone's lips: Elohim Prandi. The 22-year old was understandably snapped up by PSG Handball ahead of this season and his raw talent will be extremely hard to replace at left back. Despite losing their star shooter, team captain and left wing Julien Rebichon is not lacking any confidence in his squad as it is at the moment: "We have a great side, which is able to beat any team; we have vast experience and players with incredible enthusiasm for the game. While we always respect our opponents, we are not afraid of anyone."

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Group phase (1): 1993/94

Cup Winners' Cup

Last 32 (1): 1994/95

EHF Cup

Group phase (1): 2019/20

French league: 4 titles (1987/88, 1989/90, 1990/91, 1992/93)

French cup: 3 titles (1984/85, 1985/86, 1993/94)



Franck Maurice

Coach



@franckmaurice930

- Paris-born coach, who has been in charge of Nîmes since November 2014
- earlier he coached ES Besançon and US Saintes
- in his playing career, he was a left wing at five different clubs and played 21 games for the French national team before ending his career at Nîmes in 2002
- played a Cup Winners' cup semi-final with Ivry in 1997

Newcomers

Quentin Minel (HC Erlangen/GER)
Vid Kavticnik (PAUC Handball/FRA)
Tom Poyet (Club de Valence Handball/FRA)

Left the club

Elohim Prandi (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)
Steven George (Sélestat Alsace Handball/FRA)
Hichem Kaabeche (unknown)
Joze Baznik (Cesson-Rennes Métropole HB/FRA)
Aurélien Padolus (Sarrebourg Moselle Sud/FRA)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Paul	Keller	FRA	Goalkeeper	13.03.2001	Nîmes, FRA	186	78
16	Louis	Gouaze	FRA	Goalkeeper	28.01.2003	Montpellier, FRA	192	95
2	Tom	Poyet	FRA	Line Player	29.11.1999	Nîmes, FRA	187	84
10	Damien	Giberson	FRA	Right Wing	17.05.2000	Nîmes, FRA	181	76
9	Quentin	Pugliese	FRA	Goalkeeper	21.05.2000	Toulouse, FRA	195	80
3	Lou	Derisbourg	FRA	Centre Back	18.02.2002	Aix en Provence, FRA	172	63
83	Samuel	Queiros	FRA	Right Wing	24.04.2002	Montfermeil, FRA	169	57
4	Benjamin	Gallego	FRA	Line Player	24.11.1988	Montpellier, FRA	184	86
C 6	Julien	Rebichon	FRA	Left Wing	18.10.1988	Montpellier, FRA	179	79
7	Remi	Salou	FRA	Line Player	09.02.1988	Brest, FRA	197	102
8	O'Brian	Nyateu	FRA	Right Back	07.11.1992	Bordeaux, FRA	187	85
66	Billy	Chabaud	FRA	Line Player	18.06.1996	Decine Charpieu, FRA	183	85
30	Baptiste	Joblon	FRA	Line Player	16.02.2003	Compiègne, FRA	188	87
82	Hugo	Jovani	FRA	Centre Back	19.01.1999	Gleize, FRA	181	80
97	Clement	Esparon	FRA	Left Back	12.06.2002	Le Port, FRA	187	86
11	Quentin	Dupuy	FRA	Left Back	01.07.1994	Nîmes, FRA	194	97
18	Michaël	Guigou	FRA	Left Wing	28.01.1982	Apt, FRA	180	78
15	Romain	Tesio	FRA	Right Wing	14.03.1997	Avignon, FRA	183	81
23	Vid	Kavtichnik	SLO	Right Wing	24.05.1984	Gradec, SLO	191	90
24	Luc	Tobie	FRA	Right Back	24.06.1988	Cayenne, FRA	180	84
27	Jean-Jacques	Acquevillo	FRA	Left Back	17.01.1989	Le Lamentin, FRA	195	100
28	Nicolas	Nieto	FRA	Line Player	06.04.1994	Vernon, FRA	195	111
38	Quentin	Minel	FRA	Left Back	03.09.1992	Argenteuil, FRA	185	88
44	Ahmed	Hesham Elsayed	EGY	Centre Back	15.05.2000	Cairo, EGY	194	88
55	Teodor	Paul	SVK	Goalkeeper	22.04.1987	Kosice, SVK	195	94
5	Gueric	Vincent	FRA	Left Wing	18.08.2002	Lyon, FRA	180	63
91	Mohamed	Hisham Sanad	EGY	Right Wing	16.01.1991	Cairo, EGY	186	86
92	Remi	Desbonnet	FRA	Goalkeeper	28.02.1992	Montpellier, FRA	182	85



Michaël Guigou

@michael_guigou

Left wing

- French international and two-time CL winner, who joined Nîmes in summer of 2019 after 19 seasons with Montpellier HB, the club where he started playing handball
- only player in Montpellier's CL-winning squad of 2018 who also won the title in 2003
- adds necessary experience to Nîmes; one of two Nîmes players, alongside O'Brian Nyateu, to have played an EHF Cup final

EC trophies: CL 2003, 2018. OG: G 2008, 2012, S 2016; WCh: G 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, B 2005, 2019; EURO: G 2006, 2010, 2014, B 2018



Quentin Minel

@quentinminel38

Left back

- returned to France in summer of 2020 from one season with Erlangen in Germany
- previously played three seasons each for US Créteil and Chambéry
- both his brothers are professional handball players as well
- named in the U-21 WCh 2013 All-star Team



O'Brian Nyateu

@obrian_nyateu

Centre back

- played for only one other club, HBC Nantes, before joining Nîmes in 2017
- scored four goals for Nantes in the EHF Cup final against Rhein-Neckar Löwen on home court in May 2013 - but the trophy went to the German side (26:24)
- used to be defensive-only before turning into an all-round player in recent years



Mohamed Sanad

@sanad_91

Right wing

- arrived at Nîmes in 2017 after playing for various clubs in his native Egypt, Hungary (Komlói BSK) and Spain (La Rioja)
- his speed on fast breaks, along with goalkeeper Rémy Desbonnet's long passes, have become a nightmare to many defenders in the French league
- won African Championship in 2020 and competed at Rio Olympics in 2016 with Egypt

GROUP B



Club contact

Club Address

C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti
Sos.Stefan cel Mare n°
7-9 ,sec2
Bucuresti
Romania

Media contact

Alexandru Enciu
+40 754 929 106
sanenciu@yahoo.com

 csdinamo.eu

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

 [csdinamobucuresti](https://www.instagram.com/csdinamobucuresti)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Dinamo Bucuresti

Soseaua Stefan Cel Mare
7-9; Sector 2
020121 Bucuresti
Romania
Capacity: 2,538

CS DINAMO BUCURESTI



Dinamo Bucuresti were delighted with their major breakthrough last season, progressing through the group C/D play-offs to reach the EHF Champions League Last 16. However, their opportunity to take on Europe's heavyweights was cruelly taken away by the COVID-19 pandemic and now they must prepare for a new challenge as they enter the new-look EHF European League at the group phase.

- **Invincible in all of their 12 matches in the interrupted 2019/20 EHF Champions League season**
- **Tunisian right back Amine Bannour scored 111 goals over the last two seasons**
- **Two summer arrivals from Portugal - Valentin Ghionea (Sporting CP), Rome Hebo (SL Benfica)**

Dinamo built a reputation for themselves over the past couple of years as a side well-capable of breaking into Europe's elite, thanks to their dominance at home as well as their well-rounded and somewhat exotic squad, featuring players from Africa, Asia and South America. The core of that squad has remained intact and was bolstered over the summer with some proven quality and exciting potential, all of which points towards a big year for the club.

They will not be considered underdogs at this level and their direct placement into the group phase means they will be well-prepared when the time comes to tackle this bigger and better second tier. You feel that if this club wishes to make a case for inclusion in the top flight next season, they will have to let their handball do the talking and reach the knockout rounds.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Last 16: 1 (2019/20)
Elimination Play-offs: 1 (2018/19)

EHF Cup

Semi-finals: 1 (2003/04)

Romanian League: 16 titles (1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1978, 1986, 1995, 1997, 2005, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

Romanian cup: 5 titles (1979, 1982, 1988, 2017, 2020)



Constantin Stefan

Coach

- returned to Dinamo Bucuresti for a third term in 2018 to replace Eliodor Voica
- has worked at many different clubs, varying from men's teams like HC Odorhei and Poli Timisoara to women's teams like HCM Ramnicu Valcea and CSM Roman
- was a Dinamo player in his active years, hence the loyal support from the fans

Newcomers

Octavian Bizau (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)
Tudor Botea (CS Minaur Baia Mare/ROU)
Andras Szasz (Grundfos Tatabánya KC/HUN)
Javier Humet (Steaua Bucuresti/ROU)
Romé Hebo (S.L. Benfica/POR)
Valentin Ghionea (Sporting CP/POR)

Left the club

Raul Nantes Campos (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)
Muhamed Zulfic (unknown)
Kamel Akouini (Al Ahli Club Dubai/UAE)
Calin Demetrios Hossu (CS Buzău/ROU)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Makrem	Missaoui	TUN	Goalkeeper	14.02.1981	Tunis, TUN	188	94
4	Mihai	Dima	ROU	Left Wing	25.09.1998	Calinesti, ROU	185	80
5	Rome Antonio	Diogo Hebo	ANG	Centre Back	11.04.1992	Luanda, ANG	192	92
7	Stefan	Vujic	SRB	Centre Back	06.07.1991	Rijeka, CRO	192	90
9	Amine	Bannour	TUN	Right Back	21.02.1990	Mahdia, TUN	196	95
C 17	Dan Andrei	Savenco	ROU	Line Player	12.10.1985	Galati, ROU	198	105
20	Mihai Alexandru	Asoltanei	ROU	Left Wing	14.09.1989	Vaslui, ROU	186	85
20	András	Szász	ROU	Line Player	24.01.1994	Odorheiu Sec., ROU	195	107
23	Saeid	Heidarirad	IRI	Goalkeeper	22.09.1990	Khorramabad, IRI	194	95
24	Nicusor Andrei	Negru	ROU	Left Wing	24.05.1994	Resita, ROU	180	77
29	Valentin Marian	Ghionea	ROU	Right Wing	29.04.1984	Craiova, ROU	197	90
29	Razvan	Gavriloaia	ROU	Right Wing	25.07.1983	Iasi, ROU	186	90
47	Ante	Kuduz	CRO	Left Back	11.04.1995	Osijek, CRO	202	104
51	Javier	Humet Gaminde	ROU	Right Back	22.01.1990	Barcelona, ESP	196	87
73	Catalin Octavian	Bizau	ROU	Centre Back	21.11.1997	Baia Mare, ROU	194	96
77	Jakov	Vrankovic	CRO	Right Back	12.06.1993	Split, CRO	200	97
81	Dan Andrei	Lazar	ROU	Goalkeeper	11.06.2000	Gaesti , ROU	192	89
88	Seyed Alireza	Mousavi	IRI	Line Player	27.04.1990	Esfahan, IRI	197	100
89	Mohamed	Mamdouh Shebib	EGY	Line Player	01.04.1989	Cairo, EGY	193	100
	Tudor	Botea	ROU	Left Back	07.07.1997	Baia Mare, ROU	193	95



Saeid Heidarirad

 @saeid_heidari

Goalkeeper

- Iranian international, who is in his third season with Dinamo
- one of the team's most beloved players among the Romanian fans
- missed two months of the 2018/19 season, fulfilling his military duty in Iran
- initially played volleyball in his youth but switched to handball and became goalkeeper



Dan Savenco

 @dan_andrei_savenco

Line player

- a defensive specialist, well-known in Romania for his power and robustness
- gained CL experience well before joining Dinamo, with Steaua MFA Bucuresti in 2008
- played in Spain for Antequera before returning to Romania in 2014 to join Dinamo
- deployed as a police officer by the state during the 2020 pandemic



Mohamed Mamdouh

Line player

- joined Dinamo from Montpellier HB before the 2019/20 season
- has played three CL seasons, including 2017/18 with Montpellier, winning the title
- considered one of biggest talents in Macedonian handball, part of national team since WCh play-off against Greece in 2014
- dreamed of a career as goalkeeper in football before becoming a handball pro

EC trophies: CL 2018



Amine Bannour

 @amine_bannour9

Right back

- nicknamed the 'Tunisian hammer' for his powerful shots
- joined Dinamo from French side Chambéry Savoie in 2018, and scored a total of 111 goals (60, 51) in his first two seasons in the CL with the Romanian club
- two-time African champion with Tunisia, in 2012 and 2018
- was IHF Super Globe top scorer in 2012, netting 42 times for Saudi team Mudhar Club

GROUP B



Club contact

Club Address

TATRAN Presov
Holleho 3
080 01 Presov
Slovakia

Media contact

Ivan Kriššák
+421 905478115
ivan.krissak@gmail.com

 tatranpresov.sk

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

 [_tatranpresov_](https://www.instagram.com/_tatranpresov_)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Tatran Handball Arena
Jana Pavla II 2
08001 Presov
Slovakia
Capacity: 4,056

TATRAN PRESOV



Domestically, the Slovakian champions are untouchable with 15 national titles. However, on the international stage they have struggled. Could the European League be the perfect platform for their revitalised squad to break this trend?

- **Head coach Slavko Goluzha has been in the job since 2017**
- **The club have had 16 appearances in the EHF Champions League**
- **Core players Stranovsky, Lapajne, and Urban have left the club**
- **Players from Brazil, Cuba, Tunisia, Russia, Slovenia & Portugal make up the squad**

Head coach Slavko Goluzha has been hard at work researching, scouting and signing talent from abroad ahead of this season - sticking to his diverse locker room strategy of years gone by. Goluzha said goodbye to Slovakian talent and left back Lukas Urban (25) who signed for Chartres after a strong outing in the EHF Champions League last season (35 goals). But Goluzha is far from lacking options with five official left backs. Team captain, Oliver Rabek, Slovenian national team player Nino Grzentic will likely be the main driving force here and young Tomas Recicar will be fighting for court time this season. There have been big changes on the line. Vucko and Djerić have parted ways with the club so Goluzha has only one "official" line player this season in Tunisian Jaballah who signed in the summer. But Russian, Roman Tsarapkin will likely share court time with the Tunisian. The new-look right back position with Anouar Ben Abdallah making his way from Tunisia for his first stint abroad and Brazilian, Guilherme Linhares de Souza, will also need time to gel.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (1): 2004/05
Last 32 (1): 1993/94
Group Phase (4): 2010/11, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2019/20
Group Matches (3): 2005/06, 2007/08, 2008/09

EHF Cup

Quarter-final: 2011/12

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-final: 2005/06

Slovak league: 15 titles (2004, 2005, 2007-2019)

Slovak cup: 15 titles



Slavko Goluza

Coach

 @slavko.goluza_5

- former Croatian international, who joined Presov as coach in 2017 after working at Zagreb and Sisak in his native Croatia
- won Olympic gold with Croatia as a player in Atlanta (1996) and Athens (2004), and bronze as a coach in London (2012)
- won two CL titles (1992 and 1993) with Zagreb as a player
- named best coach in Croatia in 2012, 2013 and 2014

EC trophies: CL 1992, 1993. OG: G 1996, 2004 (player), B 2012 (coach);
WCh: G 2003, S 2005 (p), B 2013 (c); EURO: S 1994 (p), B 2012 (c)

Newcomers

Lucijan Fizuleto (UHK Krems/AUT)
Nuno Santos (Sporting Clube da Horta/POR)
Pavel Caballero Hernández (SC da Horta/POR)
Jihed Jaballah (IFK Kristianstad/SWE)
Guilherme Linhares de Souza (RK Borac/BIH)
Marcos Colodeti (E.C. Pinheiros/BRA)
Anouar Ben Abdallah (Etoile Sportive du Sahel/TUN)

Left the club

Leon Vucko (l'ESSAHB/FRA)
Mario Cvitkovic (BSV Bern/SUI)
Janus Lapajne (HC Kriens-Luzern/SUI)
Lukas Urban (C' Chartres Métropole HB/FRA)
Rares-Marian Fodorean (Povoa Andebol/POR)
Javier Munoz (PAUC Handball/FRA)
Titouan Afanou Gatine (C' Chartres MHB/FRA)
Ognjen Djeric (unknown)
Martin Stranovsky (MOL-Pick Szeged/HUN)

I TEAM ROSTER

	No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
C	2	Oliver	Rabek	SVK	Left Back	30.09.1987	Nove Zamky, SVK	204	102
	3	Nuno	Santos	POR	Right Wing	26.11.1992	Lisabon, POR	180	70
	4	Pedro	Souza Pacheco	BRA	Centre Back	04.04.1998	Sao Paulo, BRA	188	86
	7	Guilherme	Linhares	BRA	Right Back	17.12.1998	Niteroi, BRA	190	86
	9	Dominik	Krok	SVK	Left Back	22.01.1991	Bardejov, SVK	189	79
	10	Tomas	Recicar	SVK	Left Back	30.11.1998	Presov, SVK	192	92
	15	Alexandr	Radcenko	CZE	Centre Back	05.07.1973	Krasnodar, RUS	187	90
	18	Josef	Hozman	CZE	Right Wing	26.07.1998	Praha, CZE	179	70
	26	Lucijan	Fizuleto	SLO	Centre Back	23.02.1994	Celje, SLO	186	84
	27	Jakub	Kravcák	SVK	Left Back	09.12.2002	Prešov, SVK	195	90
	33	Dávid	Michalka	SVK	Left Wing	28.11.1996	Topolcany, SVK	186	75
	55	Nino	Grzentic	SLO	Left Back	27.11.1992	Koper, SLO	194	97
	66	Pavel	Hernandez	CUB	Left Wing	20.09.1991	Matanzas, CUB	188	93
	69	Tomas	Fech	SVK	Right Wing	08.10.2001	Prešov, SVK	192	85
	69	Jihed	Jaballah	TUN	Line Player	29.07.1989	Soussie, TUN	204	114
	71	Stefan	Vasko	SVK	Goalkeeper	16.03.2003	Prešov, SVK	188	80
	73	Igor	Chupryna	SVK	Goalkeeper	25.04.1990	Illychevsk, UKR	200	96
	77	Roman	Tsarapkin	RUS	Line Player	09.05.1995	Moscow, RUS	197	95
	86	Marcos Vinicios	Colodeti	BRA	Goalkeeper	09.01.1996	Venda Novado Im., BRA	193	87



Oliver Rabek

 @oliverrabek

Left back

- Slovakian international, who made his European debut for Presov in a CL qualification tournament in 2012/13
- known for his strong physics, also an excellent shooter
- previously played for HC Start in his place of birth, Nove Zamky
- calls Mikkel Hansen his sports role model



Roman Tsarapkin

 @romatsarapkin

Left back

- 2020/21 is the Russian's fifth season at Presov
- joined the Slovakian club from Chekovskie medvedi in his native Russia
- versatile player, who can be used in back court as well as on the line
- competed for Russia at M20 EHF EURO 2014 and Junior WCh 2015



Pedro Pacheco

 @_pepacheco

Centre back

- Brazilian international, who arrived at Presov in 2020
- previously played for 10 years at HC Pinheiros in his native Brazil
- started playing handball at age nine, calls Brazilian former football international Rogerio Ceni - a long-term goalkeeper at Sao Paulo - his sports idol



Jihed Jaballah

 @jihed_jaballah_officiel

Line player

- joined Presov in summer of 2020 after one season with IFK Kristianstad
- played in EHF Champions League for the Swedish club; earlier European experience includes a Challenge Cup campaign with Turkish side Selka Eskisehir
- Tunisian international, who is nicknamed 'Gladiator' or 'King'

GROUP B



Club contact

Club Address

Füchse Berlin
Markgrafenstraße 34
10117 Berlin
Germany

Media contact

Kim Martin Heess
+49 178 58 00 915
heess@fuechse.berlin

fuechse.berlin

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

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

[fuechse_berlin](https://www.instagram.com/fuechse_berlin)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Max-Schmeling-Halle
Falkplatz 1
10437 Berlin
Germany
Capacity: 8,521

FÜCHSE BERLIN



Füchse Berlin are one of the names you can throw into the “favourites” hat for the EHF European League title. However, in a team scattered with well-known names, there is one name on the beach where people outside of Germany will be scratching their heads, after Bob Hanning & Co. have entrusted the job as head coach to the youngest coach in Bundesliga history.

- **The 26-year-old Jaron Siewert took over the role as head coach**
- **Biggest signing of the summer Lasse Andersson coming in from Barça**
- **The club recruited Stefan Kretzschmar as Sports Director**
- **Mandalinic, Heinevetter, Kristopans left Berlin in the summer**

Füchse Berlin have undergone a bit of a facelift off the court over the last few months with German legendary winger Stefan Kretzschmar joining the club as Sports Director and then most recently Jaron Siewert (previously of TUSEM Essen) being given the role as head coach. The question of Jaron Siewert age (26) seems to follow him around since it was announced he would take over the wheel.

With players in the squad being up to 13 years his senior (Hans Lindberg), it's difficult to avoid getting dragged into the topic of his age. But it's fair to say this is a very unique situation. Siewert is a 'Fox' through and through, playing for the youth team and even making an EHF Champions League appearance for the club at 19. Bob Hanning (Managing Director) has had his eye on the new head coach for a while now. Stating in several interviews that Siewert showed potential as coach even from a young age. The young trainer, got off to a good – but perhaps slightly nervous - start as he won his first tests internationally in qualification for the European League (25:23 & 36:24 wins over HEDO-B. Braun Gyöngyös) and domestically (31:27 against TSV Hannover-Burgdorf) in the German Bundesliga.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League
FINAL4 2011/12

EHF Cup
Winners (2): 2014/15, 2017/18

IHF Super Globe
Winners (2): 2015, 2016

German cup: 2013/14



Jaron Siewert
Coach

- at 26, the youngest head coach in German Bundesliga history
- played for Füchse since he was a kid, but ended his playing career at age 21 to become a coach
- started as youth coach at Füchse and assistant coach at Germany's national U-18 team
- arrived at Essen in 2017, led them to the Bundesliga in 2020
- took over at Füchse from Michael Roth, who had stepped in after the departure of Velimir Petkovic in February 2020

Newcomers

Lasse Andersson (Barça/ESP)
Marian Michalczyk (GWD Minden/GER)
Milos Vujovic (Grundfos Tatabánya KC/HUN)
Nils Lichtlein (Füchse U19/GER)
Fredrik Genz (TUSEM Essen/GER)
Tim Freihöfer (Füchse U19/GER)
Matthes Langhoff (Füchse U19/GER)
Robin Heinis (Füchse U19/GER)

Left the club

Stipe Mandalinac (RK Eurofarm Pelister/MKD)
Michael Müller (unknown)
Silvio Heinevetter (MT Melsungen/GER)
Martin Ziemer (HC Erlangen/GER)
Kevin Struck (1. VfL Potsdam/GER)
Dainis Kristopans (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)
Javier Munoz (PAUC Handball/FRA)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Lasse	Ludwig	GER	Goalkeeper	29.09.2002	Achern, GER	194	90
2	Simon	Ernst	GER	Centre Back	02.04.1994	Düren, GER	195	97
3	Fabian	Wiede	GER	Right Back	08.02.1994	Belzig, GER	192	89
6	Jacob Tandrup	Holm	DEN	Centre Back	05.09.1995	Esbjerg, DEN	194	94
10	Jakov	Gojun	CRO	Line Player	18.04.1986	Split, CRO	203	112
11	Lasse	Andersson	DEN	Left Back	11.03.1994	København, DEN	195	98
16	Frederik	Genz	GER	Goalkeeper	08.03.1997	Waldbröl, GER	194	93
17	Nils	Lichtlein	GER	Centre Back	31.07.2002	Regensburg, GER	183	76
18	Hans	Lindberg	DEN	Right Wing	01.08.1981	Höje Taastrup, DEN	188	88
19	Miro	Schlurhoff	GER	Left Back	25.04.2000	Bregenz, AUT	198	90
20	Tim	Freihöfer	GER	Left Wing	21.08.2002	Reutlingen, GER	173	72
22	Marian	Michalczyk	GER	Left Back	01.02.1997	Beckum, GER	198	96
23	Maxim	Orlov	GER	Left Back	01.03.2002	Kreuztal, GER	190	92
24	Frederik	Simak	GER	Left Back	24.01.1998	Gengenbach, GER	197	102
25	Matthes	Langhoff	GER	Left Back	30.03.2002	Neubrandenburg, GER	192	90
26	Valter	Chrintz	SWE	Right Wing	26.04.2000	Kristianstad, SWE	185	76
27	Max	Beneke	GER	Right Back	27.05.2003	Greifswald, GER	195	90
28	Enes	Keskic	BIH	Left Wing	29.12.1999	Berlin, GER	183	84
30	Marc	Walter	GER	Line Player	05.01.2002	Potsdam, GER	203	112
31	Tim	Matthes	GER	Left Wing	05.05.1999	Berlin, GER	181	82
35	Marko	Kopljär	CRO	Right Back	12.02.1986	Pozega, CRO	210	108
37	Robin	Heinis	SUI	Right Back	28.04.2002	Therwil Basel, SUI	195	91
66	Milos	Vujovic	MNE	Left Wing	05.09.1993	Cetinje, MNE	181	72
77	Johan	Koch	DEN	Line Player	29.11.1990	Svendborg, DEN	185	91
93	Mijajlo	Marsenic	SRB	Line Player	09.03.1993	Berane, SRB	202	107
C 95	Paul	Drux	GER	Left Back	07.02.1995	Gummersbach, GER	192	92
96	Dejan	Milosavljev	SRB	Goalkeeper	16.03.1996	Panchevo, SRB	196	135
98	Ivan	Eres	CRO	Goalkeeper	07.03.1998	Ljubuški, CRO	191	84



Dejan Milosavljev

 @dejanmilosavljev

Goalkeeper

- Serbian international, who arrived at Füchse in summer of 2019 from Vardar, shortly after winning CL with the Macedonian side
- was EHF Champions League All-star Team goalkeeper in 2018/19
- shared position with Silvio Heinevetter in his first season at the club, but has become the No. 1 goalkeeper following Heinevetter's move to MT Melsungen

EC trophies: CL 2019



Paul Drux

 @pauldrux

Left back

- Gummersbach-born player, who joined Füchse at age 16 and has been playing for the Berlin team since 2011, helping them win the EHF Cup twice
- All-star Team member at M20 EHF EURO 2014, where he led Germany to gold
- long-term injuries kept him away from EHF EURO events in 2016 and 2020 while he suffered a knee injury in 2018, but he won Olympic bronze with Germany in 2016

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2015, 2018
OG: B 2016



Fabian Wiede

 @fabian_w3

Right back

- arrived from Potsdam at Füchse youth team at age 15, has won numerous junior and senior titles with the Berlin club since
- made national team debut at 19, missed EHF EURO 2020 with shoulder injury
- started apprenticeship at a bank in Berlin only two days after winning EHF EURO 2016

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2015, 2018
EURO: G 2016; OG: B 2016



Hans Lindberg

 @hanslindberg18

Right wing

- Danish international who joined Füchse in 2016 after nine seasons at HSV in Hamburg
- top scorer of CL 2012/13 with HSV and of EHF Cup 2016/17 and 2017/18 with Füchse
- started career in Viborg in his native Denmark; his nickname back then was 'Majestæt'
- won WCh 2019 and EHF EURO 2008 and 2012, was part of WCh 2013 All-star Team

EC trophies: CL 2013; EHF Cup 2018
EURO: G 2008, 2012, S 2014; WCh: G 2019, S 2011, 2013, B 2007

GROUP B



Club contact

Club Address

Sporting CP
Rua Professor Fernando
Fonseca
Apt. 4120
1501-806 Lisboa
Portugal

Media contact

Sérgio Cavaleiro
+351 938888157
socavaleiro@sporting.pt
Andreia Brites Dias
+351 96778618
andreiabdias@sporting.pt



sporting.pt



SportingClubePortugal



Sporting_CP



sportingclubedeportugal

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Pavilhão João Rocha
Rua Prof. Fernando da
Fonseca Ap
1501-806 Lisboa
Portugal
Capacity: 3,000

SPORTING CP



Following three seasons competing in the rough and tumble world of groups C and D of the EHF Champions League, Sporting CP should be well-set to deal with the challenges posed in the European League Group Phase.

Rui Silva's men already came through one nervy test in qualification, beating Constanta by a single goal, and now have 10 matches to prove themselves a true contender for the crown.

- **Competing in the second tier after three years in the EHF Champions League**
- **Reached the Last 16 in 2019, losing to Veszprém**
- **Won the Challenge Cup in 2010 and 2017**
- **Coach Rui Silva and winger Darko Djukic are their big summer arrivals**

Group B was on everyone's lips since the group phase draw. It is a group chocked full of teams with recent EHF Champions League experience coupled with clubs from Europe's top league, in which two teams will be left incredibly disappointed with an early exit. "We know the group phase is going to be tough, because we are going to play with really strong teams, but we are preparing to face anyone. All I know for sure is that the team is looking forward to start the group phase and honour this great club and its supporters," says club captain Frankis Marzo. This kind of tense situation is nothing new to Sporting. In fact, this group feels an awful lot like the old groups C and D of the EHF Champions League, which they progressed from in the last two seasons.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (1) : 2018/19
Group phase (2): 2017/18, 2019/20
Group matches (1): 2001/02

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals: 2000/01, 2013/14

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals: 2003/04

Challenge Cup

Winners 2009/10, 2016/17; Semi-finals 2011/12

Portuguese league: 21 titles (1952, 1956, 1961, 1966-67, 1969-73, 1978-81, 1984, 1986, 2001, 2017, 2018)

Portuguese cup: 15 titles



Rui Silva

Coach

- former FC Porto player, who took over from Thierry Anti as head coach of Sporting in the summer of 2020
- already worked at Sporting in the 2019/20 season, as an assistant under Anti
- earlier coached eight different clubs, most recently at FC Porto (2014/15) and ADA Maia/ISMAI (2015-2019)
- ended his playing career in 2008

Newcomers

Salvador Salvador (Boa-Hora FC Andebol/POR)
 Joel Ribeiro (Boa-Hora FC Andebol/POR)
 Jens Schöngarth (SG Flensburg-Handewitt/GER)
 Darko Djukic (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
 Dmytro Doroshchuk (Dynamo Zaphorozhye/UKR)
 Nuno Roque (CF Belenenses/POR)
 Théo Clarac (Fenix Toulouse/FRA)

Left the club

Edmilson Araujo (CS Minaur Baia Mare/ROU)
 Gonçalo Vieira (Fenix Toulouse/FRA)
 Luis Frade (Barça/ESP)
 Ivan Nikcevic (BM Benidorm/ESP)
 Carlos Carneiro (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
2	Pedro	Veitia Valdez	CUB	Left Back	17.08.1994	Habana, CUB	190	101
4	Tomas	Tavares Ferreira	POR	Right Wing	25.04.2002	Lisbon, POR	174	73
8	Theo Jacques	Clarac	FRA	Line Player	16.12.1998	Toulouse, FRA	195	99
11	Carlos	Ruesga Pasarin	ESP	Centre Back	10.03.1985	Gijon, ESP	185	90
C 13	Frankis Carol	Marzo	CUB	Left Back	07.09.1987	Guantanamo, CUB	192	100
14	Dmytro	Doroshchuk	UKR	Line Player	29.09.1986	Volyn region, UKR	202	115
14	Dinis	Corte Real	POR	Left Wing	14.11.2002	Lisboa, POR	180	74
16	Aljosa	Cudic	SLO	Goalkeeper	09.03.1988	Celje, SLO	190	89
17	Tiago	Rocha	POR	Line Player	17.10.1985	S. Paio Oleiros, POR	196	104
18	Alexandre	Oliveira	POR	Goalkeeper	19.04.2001	Lisbon, POR	185	82
19	Tomas	Van-Zeller	POR	Goalkeeper	11.07.1997	Leiria, POR	198	89
20	Eduardo	Guimaraes	POR	Centre Back	08.06.2002	Lisbon, POR	175	68
22	Francisco	Tavares	POR	Right Wing	14.11.1996	Almada, POR	180	81
23	Salvador	Salvador	POR	Left Back	29.07.2001	Samora Correia, POR	196	93
24	Manuel	Gaspar	POR	Goalkeeper	09.12.1998	Setubal, POR	192	98
27	Duarte	Ramires	POR	Left Wing	04.07.2002	Lisbon, POR	179	73
28	Arnaud	Bingo	FRA	Left Wing	12.10.1987	Lyon, FRA	190	83
33	Jens	Schöngarth	GER	Right Back	07.12.1988	Emmendingen, GER	203	111
34	Nuno	Silva Soares	POR	Centre Back	13.03.1987	Lisboa, POR	183	87
45	Darko	Djukic	SRB	Right Wing	11.12.1994	Nis, SRB	191	78
50	Antonio	Machado	POR	Line Player	11.03.2004	Lisboa, POR	190	103
72	Joel	Ribeiro	POR	Left Wing	24.12.2000	Almada, POR	189	83
77	Nilton	Danilo Cordeiro	POR	Left Back	22.09.2003	Lisbon, POR	190	90
77	Miguel	Lourenco	POR	Left Back	23.09.2002	Lisbon, POR	183	77
86	Matevz	Skok	SLO	Goalkeeper	02.09.1986	Celje, SLO	189	92



Frankis Carol

@frankis13

Left back

- Cuban player who arrived at Sporting in 2011
- key to the team's defensive play
- won several titles with Sporting, including the Portuguese league and Challenge Cup
- versatile player with great technique and instinct

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017



Pedro Valdes

@valdes.2

Left back

- born in Cuba, started playing handball at Villa Clara
- a strong player with great shooting power
- one of the most complete players at Sporting, important at both ends of the court
- won Portuguese league title with Sporting, where he proved to be a scoring machine

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017



Carlos Ruesga

@ruesga11

Centre back

- Spanish playmaker, who played for Portland San Antonio, Veszprém and Barcelona
- won the WCh 2013 and has an impressive European resume
- won several titles and awards in his passage by Spain and Hungary
- known for his vision of the game and offensive power

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017

WCh: G 2013; EURO: B 2014



Darko Djukic

@darko_djukic

Right wing

- Serbian international who arrived at Sporting from Meshkov Brest in summer of 2020
- started career at RK Zeleznicar and played for Metalurg (MKD) and Besiktas (TUR) before joining freshly crowned CL winners Kielce in 2016
- scored 95 goals in the CL in two seasons with Meshkov Brest (2018-20), but had his best CL season in 2015/16, netting 87 times for Besiktas

GROUP B



Club contact

Club Address

IFK Kristianstad
Västra Storgatan 69
29154 Kristianstad
Sweden

Media contact

Sebastian Rosenberg
+46 768 506651
[sebastian.rosenberg@
ifkkristianstad.se](mailto:sebastian.rosenberg@ifkkristianstad.se)

 ifkkristianstad.se

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

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

 [ifk1899](https://www.instagram.com/ifk1899)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Kristianstad Arena
Västra Storgatan 1
29154 Kristianstad
Sweden
Capacity: 4,800

IFK KRISTIANSTAD



Following five straight seasons in the EHF Champions League, IFK Kristianstad have a whole new challenge on their hands in the European League as Ljubomir Vranjes' men aim to re-establish themselves as Sweden's top dogs while becoming a serious contender in Europe.

- **World Championship finalist Espen Christensen and former star Markus Olsson among new arrivals**
- **Lost Valter Chrintz to Berlin shortly before the campaign began**
- **Defeated Azoty-Pulawy by three goals on aggregate to progress**
- **First time out of the EHF Champions League in six seasons**

Since taking over as coach in early 2019, Ljubomir Vranjes has yet to enjoy much success with the club but with a full season in charge now behind him, we are beginning to see his impact. Kristianstad have enjoyed a perfect start to the season with five wins in the Swedish league and two in European League qualification, the kind of consistency which will be crucial in the toughest group in town. There has been plenty of change in the squad over the summer, including the late move of Valter Chrintz to Berlin, but Vranjes has brought in some serious quality, in the form of Espen Christensen, Emil Frend Öfors and Markus Olsson. Breaking through group B will be a seriously tough task, but few coaches in the competition know the ins and outs of a successful voyage as well as 2014 EHF Champions League winning coach Vranjes.

Captain Olafur Gudmundsson is aware of the challenge ahead but fancies a proper run in Europe. "We always strive to get better and do better than last year and to be able to measure with the top teams of Europe is motivation enough. With a little luck we have a possibility to pass the group phase. We want to go through to the last 16 and develop our game. It will be hard but it is our goal."

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (1): 2017/18

Group Phase (3): 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2019/20

EHF Cup

Group Phase: 2013/14

Swedish league: 8 titles (1941, 1948, 1952, 1953, 2015-18)



Ljubomir Vranjes

Coach



@ljubomirvranjes

- returned to Sweden and joined Kristianstad in March 2019, five months after leaving Veszprém
- won CL with Flensburg in 2014 and is still the only Swedish coach so far to achieve that feat
- appointed coach of Slovenian national team in December 2019, reached EHF EURO 2020 semi-final few weeks later
- previously led Serbia (2013) and Hungary (2017-18)
- one of Sweden's all-time greats, won three EHF EURO trophies and a world title playing as centre back

EC trophies: CL 2014 (as coach)

OG: S 2000; WCh: G 1999, S 1997, 2001; EURO: G 1998, 2000, 2002 (player)

Newcomers

Espen Christensen (GWD Minden/GER)
Gustaf Banke (HIF Karlskrona/SWE)
Johan Nilsson (IFK Ystad/SWE)
Emil Frenn Öfors (HSG Wetzlar/GER)
Markus Olsson (Fenix Toulouse/FRA)

Left the club

Leo Larsson (retired)
Richard Kappelin (retired)
Viktor Hallén (Lugi HF/SWE)
Jihed Jaballah (TATRA Presov/SVK)
Valter Chrintz (Füchse Berlin/GER)
Simon Birkefeldt (Ribe-Esbjerg HH/DEN)
Philip Henningsson (HSG Wetzlar/GER)
Evan Mohlin (Amo HK/SWE)
Hugo Svensson (Vinslövs HK/SWE)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Espen	Christensen	NOR	Goalkeeper	17.06.1985	Stavanger, NOR	190	88
4	Adam	Nyffjäll	SWE	Line Player	29.07.1992	Lysekil, SWE	196	101
7	Markus	Olsson	SWE	Left Back	31.03.1990	Karlshamn, SWE	186	90
9	Gregor	Ocvirk	SLO	Centre Back	05.12.1998	Celje, SLO	183	89
12	Gustaf	Banke	SWE	Goalkeeper	07.01.1999	Kristianstad, SWE	191	100
c 13	Olafur Andres	Gudmundsson	ISL	Left Back	13.05.1990	Hafnarfjarðar, ISL	194	92
14	Teitur Örn	Einarsson	ISL	Right Back	23.09.1998	Selfoss, ISL	190	90
16	Rene	Ingram	GER	Goalkeeper	05.03.1999	Landshut, GER	195	115
17	Helge	Freiman	SWE	Centre Back	26.02.1992	Lidingö, SWE	188	94
20	Emil	Frend-Öfors	SWE	Left Wing	13.09.1994	Stockholm, SWE	193	92
21	Alfred	Ehn	SWE	Left Wing	22.10.1994	Lidköping, SWE	188	88
24	William	Bengtsson	SWE	Line Player	20.06.2000	Kristianstad, SWE	195	96
25	Ludvig	Jurmala Åström	SWE	Line Player	29.12.1999	Tyreso, SWE	196	118
27	Johan	Nilsson	SWE	Left Back	23.08.1995	Kristianstad, SWE	191	78
30	Anton	Halén	SWE	Right Back	28.11.1990	Helgum, SWE	192	96
37	Zoran	Bozic	SWE	Centre Back	03.04.2001	Kristianstad, SWE	188	78
42	Albin	Nilsson	SWE	Right Wing	17.11.2001	Kristianstad, SWE	174	75
50	Leo	Larsson	SWE	Goalkeeper	16.10.1990	Ystad, SWE	188	92
83	Fredrik Raahauge	Petersen	SWE	Centre Back	27.08.1983	Ystad, SWE	188	85



Espen Christensen

@espench

Goalkeeper

- two-time WCh finalist and EHF EURO bronze medallist with Norway
- joined Kristianstad in summer of 2020 to replace the club's two retiring goalkeepers
- spent the previous three seasons with Minden in the German Bundesliga
- his second spell in Sweden, having spent seven years with two different clubs in Lund between 2008 and 2015

WCh: S 2017, 2019; EURO: B 2020



Emil Frend-Öfors

@emilfrend

Left wing

- joined Kristianstad in summer of 2020, returning to Sweden after three seasons in the German Bundesliga with THW Kiel and HSG Wetzlar
- gained first European experience in CL and EHF Cup playing for Alingsås (2014-17)
- made national team debut in Scandinavian derby against Norway in early January 2017 and played at WCh in France that month



Olafur Gudmundsson

@oligudmunds

Left back

- Icelandic international who has been with IFK since 2012, except for one season with TSV Hannover-Burgdorf in Germany (2014/15)
- IFK team captain since 2016/17
- left Iceland at age 20, moving to AG København in Denmark in 2010
- good all-round player, can be used as centre back and left back

EURO: B 2010



Markus Olsson

@trazanbanarne

Left back

- arrived back at IFK in 2020 from fellow EL contenders Fenix Toulouse in France
- strong back court shooter, who started career with IFK in Swedish second division in 2008, leaving the club seven seasons later as champions of first division
- joined Danish side Skjern Håndbold in 2015, and in 2017/18 helped them win their first domestic title in nearly 20 years
- played all EURO and WCh events with Swedish national team between 2014-19



GROUP C PREVIEW

FRENCH AND GERMAN HEAVYWEIGHTS READY FOR GROUP C

In a diverse group C of the EHF European League, two former EHF Champions League winners – Montpellier HB and SC Magdeburg – and long-time participants RK Nexø will meet less experienced contenders when it comes to European competition: Besiktas Aygaz, Alingsås HK and HC CSKA. Montpellier and Magdeburg are heavyweights in group C due to their history in EHF competitions. The French powerhouse surprised everyone in 2018 when they lifted the EHF Champions League trophy – but they failed to progress to the Last 16 in 2018/19. Under the helm of Patrice Canayer, who is one of the longest-serving coaches in Europe, Montpellier are eager to show their capability.

Magdeburg have had the taste of success in both the EHF Champions League and the EHF Cup. The German side have not reached their desired goals in recent seasons but with familiar faces they will be a hard nut to crack.

In their 12th consecutive season in Europe's second-tier competition, Nexø will try to keep up with their powerful opponents. Nexø wish to repeat their 2018/19 success, when they reached the EHF Cup quarter-finals, and coach Hrvoje Horvat has gathered young Croatian talents who will have strong support from experienced players.

Alingsås do not have the experience of playing as many group phase matches. Gaining experience and developing young players is the main task in their third group phase appearance at this level. With 2016 EHF Cup winner Niclas Barud as team captain, the Swedish club will try to spoil things for others.

Top Turkish club Besiktas are ready for their second year in the second tier after previous EHF Champions League involvement. Besiktas have been unable to make an impact in Europe so far, but Arin Muftić's team hope that they have found the perfect harmony this season. A special treat for them will be the match against Alingsås, as everyone at the club remembers when they recorded their first Champions League win in 2014.

CSKA are a fresh face in the EHF European League. The newly formed club will play in the group phase for the first time. In qualification round 2, they surprised Bjerringbro-Silkeborg. The key lies in their squad list, which includes former HC Motor goalkeeper Viktor Kireev, Russia international Pavel Atman and Ukraine international Stanislav Zhukov. However, with new coach Vladimir Petkovic, they are only part of the puzzle.

Danijela Lemaic

I GROUP C HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS EC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP C TEAMS

SC Magdeburg vs Alingsas HK

No previous encounters in European competitions

SC Magdeburg vs Besiktas Aygaz 2-0-0 (60:35) 4:0

09.02.2013	SC Magdeburg vs Besiktas JK, EHF Cup – Group D	33:18 (17:6)
16.03.2013	Besiktas JK vs SC Magdeburg, EHF Cup – Group D	17:27 (9:10)

SC Magdeburg vs Montpellier HB 1-0-1 (56:57) 2:2

08.10.2005	SC Magdeburg vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Group A	32:28 (12:12)
22.10.2005	Montpellier HB vs SC Magdeburg, EHF Champions League – Group A	29:24 (15:12)

SC Magdeburg vs RK Nexe 3-0-1 (115:102) 6:2

11.02.2012	SC Magdeburg vs RK Nexe Nasice, EHF Cup – Last 16	33:31 (17:13)
18.02.2012	RK Nexe Nasice vs SC Magdeburg, EHF Cup – Last 16	22:21 (10:6)
19.11.2016	SC Magdeburg vs RK Nexe, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	31:22 (17:12)
26.11.2016	RK Nexe vs SC Magdeburg, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	27:30 (12:14)

SC Magdeburg vs HC CSKA

No previous encounters in European competitions

Alingsas HK vs Besiktas Aygaz 1-0-1 (53:52) 2:2

16.11.2014	Besiktas MOGAZ HT vs Alingsas HK, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:26 (13:15)
20.11.2014	Alingsas HK vs Besiktas MOGAZ HT, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:24 (14:12)

Alingsas HK vs Montpellier HB

No previous encounters in European competitions

Alingsas HK vs RK Nexe

No previous encounters in European competitions

Alingsas HK vs HC CSKA

No previous encounters in European competitions

Besiktas Aygaz vs Montpellier HB 1-0-1 (65:64) 2:2

08.10.2017	Besiktas Mogaz HT vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	32:36 (16:20)
26.11.2017	Montpellier HB vs Besiktas Mogaz HT, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	28:33 (14:19)

Besiktas Aygaz vs RK Nexø 0-1-1 (48:60) 1:3

26.11.2011	RK Nexø Nasice vs Besiktas JK, EHF Cup – Round 3	31:19 (12:8)
03.12.2011	Besiktas JK vs RK Nexø Nasice, EHF Cup – Round 3	29:29 (14:15)

Besiktas Aygaz vs HC CSKA

No previous encounters in European competitions

Montpellier HB vs RK Nexø

No previous encounters in European competitions

Montpellier HB vs HC CSKA

No previous encounters in European competitions

RK Nexø vs HC CSKA

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP C



Club contact

Club Address

SC Magdeburg Handball
Magdeburg GmbH
Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 68
39114 Magdeburg
Germany

Media contact

Katja Müller
+4939188685613
k.mueller@sc-magdeburg.de

scm-handball.de

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

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

[scmagdeburg](https://www.instagram.com/scmagdeburg)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Getec Arena Magdeburg
Berliner Chaussee 32
39114 Magdeburg
Germany
Capacity: 6,800

SC MAGDEBURG



SC Magdeburg are always worth turning in to watch. With an attractive brand of handball, coupled with their ability to beat the best teams around one day, then crash and burn against underdogs the next, they are an ideal fit for the revamped and bolstered EHF European League.

- **2002 EHF Champions League winners primed for another assault on Europe's second tier**
- **Reached the 2017 and 2018 EHF Cup Finals**
- **Three-time champions of the EHF Cup**
- **Threadbare squad at the moment due to injuries coupled with five players leaving over the summer and only two arriving**

The burning question – do Magdeburg have the killer instinct at this level? Magdeburg have long been considered serious contenders at this level, but have routinely fallen short in recent years. In 2017, they lost the semi-final to EHF Cup Finals hosts and eventual winners Frisch Auf Göppingen, a surprise but not a disaster. The following year was a disaster, however, as they went into the final tournament as hosts and favourites, only to be beaten in the semi-final by Saint-Raphael Var. It would be unfair to call Magdeburg bottlers, seeing as they won the German cup in 2016, but their killer instinct has been lacking in recent seasons. Whether it be the Bundesliga or in Europe, the German club look capable of beating any team on their day but have yet to show up and be counted when titles are on the line. The squad has enough players with medal winning experience to know how its done and the core of the team has remained together under coach Bennet Wiegert for long enough now to expect that something big is on the way.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Winners (1): 2001/02

EHF Cup:

Winners (3): 1998/99, 2000/01, 2006/07

Champions Cup (forerunner of EHF Champions League):

Winners (2): 1977/78, 1980/81

EHF Champions Trophy:

Winners (3): 1980/81, 2000/01, 2001/02

German league (11): 2001 (GDR league: 1970, 1977, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1988, 1991)

German Cup (7): 1996, 2016 (GDR Cup: 1970, 1977, 1978, 1984, 1990)



Bennet Wiegert

Coach

 @bennetwiegert

- played for Magdeburg from 1998-2013, except for three years, and won CL with the club in 2002
- former German international on the left wing
- replaced head coach Ger Sveinsson in December 2015, previously worked as director of the club's youth academy
- his father, Ingolf, won Olympic gold as a player in 1980 and later was also Magdeburg coach

EC trophies: CL 2002 (as player)

Newcomers

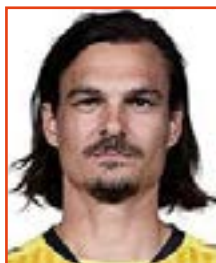
Ómar Ingi Magnússon (Aalborg Håndbold/DEN)
Magnus Gullerud (GWD Minden/GER)

Left the club

Lukas Diedrich (TUSEM Essen/GER)
Filip Kuzmanovski (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER)
Albin Lagergren (Rhein-Neckar Löwen/GER)
Kay Smits (end of loan - TTH Holstebro/DEN)
Erik Schmidt (Kadetten Schaffhausen/SUI)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
2	Zeljko	Musa	CRO	Line Player	08.01.1986	Mostar, CRO	200	114
3	Piotr	Chrapkowski	POL	Left Back	24.03.1988	Goreczno, POL	202	100
6	Matthias	Musche	GER	Left Wing	18.07.1992	Magdeburg, GER	186	75
8	Christoph	Steinert	GER	Right Back	18.01.1990	Berlin, GER	196	99
10	Gisli Thorgeir	Kristjansson	ISL	Centre Back	30.07.1999	Reykjavik, ISL	191	90
11	Daniel	Pettersson	SWE	Right Wing	06.05.1992	Eskilstuna, SWE	179	72
11	Ómar Ingi	Magnusson	ISL	Right Back	12.03.1997	Selfoss, ISL	184	87
12	Tobias	Thulin	SWE	Goalkeeper	05.07.1995	Göteborg, SWE	198	99
16	Jannick	Green	DEN	Goalkeeper	29.09.1988	Lemvig, DEN	195	94
17	Tim	Hornke	GER	Right Wing	04.08.1990	Hannover, GER	189	85
21	Magnus	Gullerud	NOR	Line Player	13.11.1991	Kongsvinger, NOR	194	100
22	Lukas	Mertens	GER	Left Wing	22.03.1996	Wilhelmshaven, GER	182	85
C 24	Christian	O'Sullivan	NOR	Centre Back	22.08.1991	Oslo, NOR	190	89
25	Marko	Bezjak	SLO	Centre Back	26.06.1986	Ptuj, SLO	184	87
34	Michael	Damgaard	DEN	Left Back	18.03.1990	Lolland, DEN	192	95
95	Moritz	Preuß	GER	Line Player	22.02.1995	Dachau, GER	194	103



Jannick Green

Goalkeeper

- Danish goalkeeper who played CL with two different clubs: Aalborg and Bjerringbro
- arrived in Magdeburg in 2014, coming from Bjerringbro
- his mother was Danish international, his father coached him at Lemvig
- undisputed No. 1 since Dario Quenstedt moved to THW Kiel in 2019

OG: G 2016; EURO: S 2014; WCh: G 2019, S 2013



Matthias Musche

 @matzemusche

Left wing

- playing for Magdeburg since age eight, but spent one season on loan with Schwerin
- had his Bundesliga debut at the age of 19
- went through all youth teams before his debut in Germany's national team in 2014, was part of squad for WCh 2019 on home court
- Bundesliga top scorer in 2018/19 with 256 goals



Michael Damgaard

 @dgaard34

Left back

- joined Magdeburg in 2015 from TTH Holstebro in his native Denmark
- started professional career at GOG before moving to Holstebro in 2010
- was Magdeburg's best scorer in last EHF Cup 2019/20 season
- his older brother, Allan, is also a professional handball player, for Holstebro

OG: G 2016; WCh: G 2019



Marko Bezjak

 @25bezo

Centre back

- Slovenian international who arrived in Magdeburg from Velenje in 2013
- won Slovenian league title three times and gained CL experience with Velenje
- shares playmaker position with captain Christian O'Sullivan and Gisli Kristjansson
- shoulder injury kept him away from the court for six months in 2019/20

WCh: B 2017

GROUP C



Club contact

Club Address

Alingsås HK
Bryggaregatan 4
44130 Alingsås
Sweden

Media contact

Daniel Vandor
+46 705 35 55 17
daniel@bobbybannister.se

 ahk.nu

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

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

 [alingsashkofficiell](https://www.instagram.com/alingsashkofficiell)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: blue
GK shirt: purple

Dark

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



Playing hall

Estrad Alingsås
Bryggaregatan 2
44130 Alingsås
Sweden
Capacity: 2,600

ALINGSÅS HK



For only the third time in 11 years, Swedish club Alingsås HK have reached the group phase of a European competition and while they are under no illusions about the task at hand, they expect to make the most of their opportunity in the European League.

- **sat top of the Swedish league when it came to a premature end last season**
- **competing in the group phase of Europe's second tier for the first time having lost in qualification rounds three times in recent years**
- **2016 EHF Cup winner Niclas Barud is the club captain**
- **star player Felix Claar left for Aalborg over the summer**

Since their second appearance in Europe's top flight in 2014/15, the Swedish club have been regular contenders in their domestic league and consistently entered European competition. However, they have yet to really make an impact, bowing out early in every competition they have played. And it is not for want of trying, as coach Mikael Franzén alludes to the importance of Europe for the club.

"It is a great environment for us as a club to develop players. For us it's a party every time we can reach a place in a European tournament. The audience in Estrad Alingsås loves games against top European clubs." As they were designated as series winners in a shortened Swedish championship, the west coast club will not have to contend with qualification rounds this year and the direct seeding for the group phase offers an opportunity to enjoy some big nights. "We understand that this competition is very tough for us as a club but we are confident that we can beat every team in our group. For us is important to take game after game to maximize our performance," says Franzén.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League
Group Phase (2): 2009/10, 2014/15

EHF Cup:
Round 3: 2010/11

Swedish championship (2): 2009, 2014



Mikael Franzén

Coach

- started his coaching career at HK Aranäs in 2004, 10 years after he had left that club as a player
- played CL as a defender for Redbergslid IK in the late 1990s in one team with his two brothers, Mathias and Anders
- former national team player who joined Alingsås as head coach in 2012 after leading IK Sävehof to two Swedish Championships and to quarter-finals in the CL in his two years there
- serves as the video analyst for the Swedish men's national team
- nobody has won more Swedish championships on the men's side as a player (seven times between 1994 and 2003)
- has also three gold medals as a coach

Newcomers

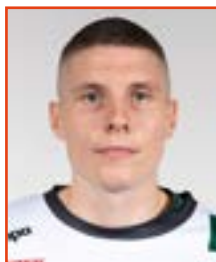
Anton Hagvall (Lugi HF/SWE)

Left the club

Fredrik Teern (retired)
 Niklas Kraft (Ystads IF/SWE)
 Felix Claar (Aalborg Håndbold/DEN)
 Andreas Berg (Önnereds HK/SWE)
 Alexander Regen (Kungälv HK/SWE)
 Erik Andreasson (Sörhaga HK/SWE)

I TEAM ROSTER

	No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
C	26	Niclas	Barud	SWE	Line Player	22.03.1988	Partille, SWE	196	102
	88	Aron Dagur	Pálsson	ISL	Left Back	18.10.1996	Grótta, ISL	200	90
	13	Benjamin	Helander	FIN	Left Wing	28.09.1998	Karis, FIN	179	77
	27	Andreas	Lang	SWE	Right Back	01.09.1996	Stockholm, SWE	191	90
	11	Fredrik	Teern	SWE	Centre Back	28.09.1988	Kungsbacka, SWE	200	105
	21	Johan	Nilsson	SWE	Right Back	09.07.1992	Göteborg, SWE	193	96
	12	Gustav	Skagerling	SWE	Goalkeeper	22.02.1993	Stockholm, SWE	186	90
	16	Anton	Hagvall	SWE	Goalkeeper	16.04.1997	Göteborg, SWE	192	90
	4	Samuel	Lindberg	SWE	Right Wing	19.02.1998	Partille, SWE	178	78
	31	William Andersson	Moberg	SWE	Centre Back	25.03.2000	Göteborg, SWE	182	95
	17	Jacob	Lundahl	SWE	Left Back	23.01.2001	Göteborg, SWE	200	101
	15	Alexander	Wedin	SWE	Left Wing	21.01.2000	Alingsås, SWE	184	86
	22	Axel	Franzén	SWE	Line Player	22.11.1996	Uddevalla, SWE	190	98
	28	Isak	Hane	SWE	Right Wing	21.07.2000	Kristinehamn, SWE	184	82
	32	Daniel	Blomgren	SWE	Left Back	23.06.1997	Eskilstuna, SWE	193	99
	24	Naoyuki	Shoji	JPN	Centre Back	25.05.1995	Hiroshima, JPN	186	86
	25	Joshua Mesias	Wästerlund	SWE	Right Back	27.04.2002	Norrköping, SWE	187	80
	1	Elvir	Kulic	SWE	Goalkeeper	04.03.2001	Kristinehamn, SWE	189	101
	2	Jonathan	Sandberg	SWE	Right Wing	14.08.2001	Lysekil, SWE	188	87
	3	Nils	Mellert	SWE	Line Player	06.03.2001	Lysekil, SWE	184	95
	9	Adam	Svensson	SWE	Centre Back	03.01.2001	Alingsås, SWE	186	88
	14	Hjalmar	Macfie	SWE	Centre Back	11.11.2001	Alingsås, SWE	188	88
	98	Pontus	Josefsson Säll	SWE	Line Player	13.05.2002	Lysekil, SWE	194	94
	99	William	Lundh	SWE	Left Back	08.06.2002	Västerås, SWE	190	88



Gustav Skagerling

 @guxxen

Goalkeeper

- joined Alingsås at age 24 in 2017 from Swedish second division side Tyresö
- was reunited at Alingsås with fellow goalkeeper Rickard Frisk, who had made the same move from Tyresö two years earlier
- gathered European experience with Alingsås in the EHF Cup (qualification) and Challenge Cup (Last 16) in his first two seasons with the club



Benjamin Helander

 @benjamin_helander

Left wing

- Finnish wing, who arrived at the handball academy in Alingsås in 2014 together with his brother, Oliver
- the pair had previously played at BK-46 Karis in their native Finland
- Benjamin is a very reliable penalty shooter, saying he has learned a lot from watching Uwe Gensheimer and Anders Eggert
- his brother Oliver has meanwhile become a world-class javelin thrower



Niclas Barud

 @barran26

Line player

- experienced line player, who joined Alingsås for the 2017/18 season from Göppingen
- played two seasons for Göppingen, winning the EHF Cup on both occasions
- previously played three seasons for Aalborg in Denmark and eight years for Sävehof in his native Sweden, where he made his EHF Cup debut in the 2006/07 season
- has played 46 games for Sweden including the EURO 2012 and WCh 2015

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2016, 2017



Andreas Lang

Right back

- moved to Alingsås in 2018, having previously played for HK Tyrold, IK Bolton and Ricoh
- scored 30 goals in Alingsås' Challenge Cup 2019/20 campaign, which ended in the Last 16 following a narrow 53:52 aggregate defeat against CSM Bucuresti
- was part of the Swedish national team for U21 WCh in 2017

GROUP C



Club contact

Club Address

Besiktas Aygaz
Mr.Berk Karahan Hentbol
Sube Dikilitas Mah. Emir-
han Cad No:26
34349 Besiktas - Istanbul
Turkey

Media contact

Eren Çetin
+905353166596
ctn85@gmail.com

bjk.com.tr

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Sehit Mustafa Ozel Spor Kompleksi

Fevzi Cakmak SK. No. 7
34194 Bahcelivler-Istanbul
Turkey
Capacity: 2,050

BESIKTAS AYGAZ



Dominance in Turkey has not translated to success in Europe for Besiktas Aygaz as they often looked a bit out of place in the EHF Champions League. However, a change of approach in the squad appears to suggest long-term building and their seeding to the European League Group Phase allows them opportunity to learn and grow.

- **Second consecutive year in the second tier, following five seasons in the EHF Champions League**
- **In a departure from recent years, all but two of the squad have Turkish nationality**
- **Müfit Arın, coach since 2004, remains at the helm**
- **Captain Ramazan Döne enters his 13th European season with the club**

When Besiktas made their first breakthrough to the EHF Champions League in 2014, they relied fairly heavily on international players to supplement the inexperienced talent within Turkey. That remained the case throughout their four season stint in the top flight and while they threatened on two occasions to make the breakthrough to the knockout stages, there was no clear sign of progression for the club or national team. The club's change of approach was evident last season as the squad many more young Turkish players. However, they were unable to make an impact in Europe, losing to Sabac in the first round of the EHF Cup on away goals. "This year, our team is structured with young players supported by experienced team mates, aiming to catch a powerful harmony," says team manager and former keeper Mesut Çebi. The young Turkish team will be supported by the likes of Portugal's Hugo Lima, a centre back joining from Rennes, and Latvian Austris Tuminskis.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Group Phase (5)

EHF Cup:

Group Phase: 2012/13

Challenge Cup:

Semi-finalists: 2008/09

Turkish league: 15 titles (1980, 1981, 2005, 2007, 2009-2019)

Turkish cup: 14 titles (1980, 1981, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2012, 2014-2019)



Müfit Arin

Coach

- successful coach, who joined Besiktas in 2004 and has been dominating the Turkish league ever since
- under his guidance, Besiktas became the first Turkish club to reach the group phase of the CL, in 2014/15
- led the club to the semi-final of the Challenge Cup in 2008/09
- notable achievement in his playing career was winning the Turkish league with Arcelik in 1983

Newcomers

Josip Buljubasic (HC Izvidac/BIH)
 Hugo Alexandre Cruz de Lima (Cesson Rennes/FRA)
 Harun Hocaoglu (Göztepe SK/TUR)
 Genco İlanç (Göztepe SK/TUR)
 Fatih Çalkamış (Seyhan Bld. SK/TUR)
 Doğukan Keser (Beykoz, returned from loan/TUR)
 Mirhan Kasarcı (BJK Aygaz youth/TUR)
 Berat Çebi (BJK Aygaz youth/TUR)

Left the club

DeTolga Özbahar (İzmir BŞB SK/TUR)
 Baran Nalbantoğlu (Din Suceava/ROU)
 Onur Ergin (HC Dobrogea Sud Constanta/ROU)
 Özgür Sarak (RK Trimo Trebnje/SLO)
 Doğukan Gök (İstanbul Uni/TUR)
 Mijo Tomic (unknown)
 Makro Lasica (unknown)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
2	Enis Harun	Hacioglu	TUR	Left Wing	01.01.1998	Ankara, TUR	182	75
4	Hugo	Carvalho	POR	Centre Back	21.04.1993	Lisboa, POR	185	94
7	Josip	Buljubasic	TUR	Back	11.07.1988	Metkovic, CRO	205	103
9	Fatih	Çalkamis	TUR	Left Back	27.03.1999	Adana, TUR	198	98
10	Ömer Ozan	Arifoglu	TUR	Right Back	20.08.1989	Zonguldak, TUR	195	100
11	Genco	İlanç	TUR	Left Back	30.04.2001	Adana, TUR	194	90
14	Mehmet	Demirezen	TUR	Line Player	03.08.1988	Ankara, TUR	193	100
16	Burak	Turan	TUR	Goalkeeper	27.10.1988	Ankara, TUR	192	92
17	Görkem	Biçer	TUR	Right Wing	02.01.1999	Bursa, TUR	188	83
22	Taner	Günay	TUR	Goalkeeper	01.11.1986	Samsun, TUR	190	91
23	Dogukan	Keser	TUR	Right Wing	24.01.2000	Arpacay, TUR	180	80
C 53	Ramazan	Döne	TUR	Right Back	10.07.1981	Rize, TUR	192	106
61	Bilal Berat	Cebi	TUR	Line Player	07.03.2002	Istanbul, TUR	195	107
76	Austris	Tuminskis	LAT	Left Back	07.06.1990	Ludza, LAT	199	105
77	Gökay	Bilim	TUR	Left Wing	10.01.2002	Istanbul, TUR	188	87
94	Muhammet	Kasarci	TUR	Goalkeeper	15.02.2002	Istanbul, TUR	194	115



Hugo Lima

Centre back

- experienced Portuguese playmaker, who joined Besiktas from Cesson-Rennes
- played for Benfica and Madeira, gathering EHF Cup and Challenge Cup experience, before moving to the French second division in 2019/20
- a creative centre back with a powerful shot, but also with the brains to create space in the opponent's defence



Ramazan Döne

 @ramazondone

Right back

- club icon, who joined Besiktas in 2006 from Cankaya Belediyesi
- was Besiktas' top scorer in each of their five seasons in the CL group phase
- also top scorer of Challenge Cup 2005/06 (66 goals in seven games) and multiple top scorer of Turkish league
- played more than 150 matches for Turkey before retiring from the national team



Dogukan Keser

Right wing

- returned to Besiktas in the summer of 2020 from playing on loan for Beykoz
- started playing handball at age eight in Istanbul, joined Besiktas in 2014
- his breakthrough season was 2016/17, joining the senior team and playing CL at age 16 while winning the Turkish league, cup and Super Cup titles
- excelled at both the M18 and M20 EHF Championship 2018, scoring 48 resp. 26 goals



Görkem Bicer

 @gorkembicerr

Right wing

- one of hottest prospects in Turkish handball, signed with Besiktas in summer of 2019
- arrived from Göztepe SK and previously played for Ankara İl Özel Idare, gaining European experience with both clubs in the Challenge Cup
- made his Turkish national team debut at age 18

GROUP C



Club contact

Club Address

Montpellier HB
Centre Jean Paul Lacombe
- 1000
34090 Montpellier
France

Media contact

Suzy De Monte
+33 6 87 73 58 42
sdemonte@montpellierhandball.com

montpellierhandball.com

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

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

[mhbofficiel](https://www.instagram.com/mhbofficiel)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: green/orange

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green/orange



Playing hall

Palais des Sports René Bognol

1000 Av. du Val de Montferrand
34090 Montpellier
France
Capacity: 3,000

MONTPELLIER HB



For most of the past decade, the discussion around the EHF Cup's hot favourites has revolved around the German clubs, well that is not the case in the new-look European League with Montpellier in the mix.

Naturally, the restructuring of club competitions has made the second tier much stronger and the inclusion of the 2018 EHF Champions League winners is a clear sign of that.

- **Two-time EHF Champions League winners, in 2003 and 2018**
- **2018 title was a phenomenal story as they went all the way from groups C and D to the trophy**
- **Reached the EHF Cup Final in 2014, losing to Szeged**
- **Beat Skjern in a thrilling qualification round 2 battle**

Montpellier are not just here for a good time, they have their eyes on the prize. With a squad featuring Diego Simonet, Melvyn Richardson, Valentin Porte, Hugo Descat and Marin Sego, they could easily be competing in the EHF Champions League and there is no reason to suggest they will not be major contenders in the new European League. Coach Patrice Canayer knows exactly what it takes to win at this level and wants to be there at the business end of the season: "The ultimate objective is to fight to the end to win a new European title." Their qualification victory over Skjern in round 2's headline encounter was a serious test for them and a sign of the long road to come. Montpellier journeyed through a similarly long campaign en route to European glory in 2018. "My biggest motivation is to achieve a full season with my club without interruption and win the European title this season. The EHF European League must be within our reach and we will give ourselves all the means to win this competition this season," claims captain Valentin Porte.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Winners (2): 2002/03, 2017/18
Semi-final (1): 2004/05
Quarter-final (5): 2000/01, 2005/06, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2016/17
Last 16 (6): 1995/96, 2003/04, 2006/07, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2016/17

EHF Cup:

Finalists (1): 2013/14
Quarter-final (1): 1996/97

Cup Winners' Cup:

Quarter-final (1): 2001/02

French league: 14 titles (1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002-06, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

French cup: 13 titles

French league cup: 10 titles



Patrice Canayer

Coach

- in his 27th season on the club's bench, one of the longest serving coaches at a single club in professional handball
- has meanwhile won more than 40 trophies with Montpellier, most notably the two CL titles in 2003 and 2018
- still the only French coach to win the CL
- was voted CL All-star Team coach after the club won their second CL title in 2017/18
- played for Stade Pessacais UC, Bordeaux and Racing Paris in his active years

EC trophies: CL 2003, 2018

Newcomers

Alexis Borges (FC Porto/POR)
Lucas Pellas (Lugi HK/SWE)
Benjamin Bataille (US Ivry Handball/FRA)

Left the club

Mathieu Gréville (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)
Nikola Portner (Chambéry Savoie Handball/FRA)
Benjamin Afgour (US Dunkerque Handball/FRA)
Mohamed Soussi (Tremblay en France HB/FRA)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Marin	Sego	CRO	Goalkeeper	02.08.1985	Mostar, BIH	194	98
2	Paul-Louis	Guiraudou	FRA	Line Player	13.05.2000	Montpellier, FRA	194	105
3	Alexis	Berthier	FRA	Right Back	12.03.2002	Aubagne, FRA	193	84
4	Diego	Simonet	ARG	Centre Back	26.12.1989	Buenos Aires, ARG	189	88
5	Kyllian	Villeminot	FRA	Centre Back	20.05.1998	Lyon, FRA	189	85
6	Hugo	Jullian	FRA	Centre Back	23.03.2000	FRA	185	85
7	Jonas	Truchanovicus	LTU	Left Back	24.06.1993	Siauliai,, LTU	204	110
9	Hugo	Descat	FRA	Left Wing	16.08.1992	Paris , FRA	183	92
10	Lucas	Pellas	SWE	Left Wing	28.08.1995	Stockholm, SWE	184	80
11	Giorgi	Tskhovrebadze	GEO	Right Back	19.02.2001	Tbilisi, GEO	193	80
13	Julien	Bos	FRA	Right Wing	18.08.1998	Pessac , FRA	188	82
15	Mathis	Mougin	FRA	Left Back	02.02.2002	Besancon, FRA	200	95
16	Kevin	Bonnefoi	FRA	Goalkeeper	03.12.1991	Toulon, FRA	190	103
17	Benjamin	Bataille	FRA	Left Back	27.07.1992	Paris, FRA	196	96
18	Fredric	Pettersson	SWE	Line Player	11.02.1989	Blidsberg, SWE	202	114
19	Arthur	Lenne	FRA	Line Player	02.05.2001	Colmar , FRA	194	96
20	Robin	Puigsegur	FRA	Line Player	18.12.2002	Montpellier, FRA	194	100
21	Kenny	Vermont	FRA	Left Wing	22.02.2001	Villiers-le-Bel , FRA	186	78
22	Melvyn	Richardson	FRA	Right Back	31.01.1997	Marseille, FRA	190	92
27	Alexis	Borges	POR	Line Player	06.10.1991	Havana, CUB	196	111
C 28	Valentin	Porte	FRA	Right Back	07.09.1990	Versailles, FRA	190	96
32	Yanis	Lenne	FRA	Right Wing	29.06.1996	Colmar, FRA	187	88
90	Gilberto	Duarte	POR	Left Back	06.07.1990	Lagoa, POR	196	102
98	Elie	Ona	FRA	Goalkeeper	23.08.2002	FRA	196	88
99	Charles	Bolzinger	FRA	Goalkeeper	14.12.2000	Sete, FRA	198	96



Hugo Descat

 @hdescat

Left wing

- returned to France in 2019 after two years in Romania with Dinamo Bucuresti
- earlier played six seasons for another French club, US Créteil
- leading goal scorer of CL 2019/20, with 75 goals, but could still lose that No. 1 position following the postponed VELUX EHF FINAL4 in December 2020



Diego Simonet

 @chinosimonet

Centre back

- Argentine international, born into a handball family with two brothers - Sebastian and Pablo - also playing the sport professionally
- was MVP of Montpellier's golden VELUX EHF FINAL4 in 2018
- suffered from various injuries recently, missed most of the 2018/19 season
- five-time Argentinian handball player of the year

EC trophies: CL 2018



Valentin Porte

 @valhand28

Right back

- arrived in Montpellier in 2016 from Fenix Toulouse, reached CL quarter-final in his first season with the club and won the CL in his second year
- right wing until 2014, when France coach Claude Onesta placed him on back court
- rose to prominence during EHF EURO 2014, scoring 16 goals in semi-final and final

EC trophies: CL 2018

OG: S 2016; WCh: G 2015, 2017; EURO: G 2014, B 2018



Melvyn Richardson

 @melvyn_richardson

Right back

- son of Jackson Richardson, who won CL with Portland San Antonio in 2001, 17 years before Melvyn would repeat the feat with Montpellier
- French international, at his best on the back court but also able to play on the wing
- was fourth-best CL scorer with 87 goals in 2018/19 despite Montpellier being eliminated in the group phase

EC trophies: CL 2018

WCh: B 2019

GROUP C



Club contact

Club Address

RK Nexe
Matice Hrvatske 1
31500 Nasice
Croatia

Media contact

Vedran Zrnic
+385 91 550 3115
vedranzrnic@rknexe.hr

 rknexe.hr
 [rknexenasice](https://www.facebook.com/rknexenasice)
 [rk_nexe](https://twitter.com/rk_nexe)
 [rknexe](https://www.instagram.com/rknexe)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

OS Kralja Tomislava
Matice Hrvatske 1
31500 Nasice
Croatia
Capacity: 2,000

RK NEXE



RK Nexe already battled through one of the toughest qualification matches and look set to make a splash in the EHF European League Group Phase.

- **in their 12th consecutive season in Europe's second-tier club competition**
- **already atoned for last season's early exit, losing to Benfica in round 3**
- **lost to eventual champions Berlin by a single goal in the 2018/19 quarter-final**
- **22-year-old Halil Jaganjac top scored with 11 goals in qualification**

While their domestic rivals Zagreb toil away in the EHF Champions League, struggling to get a victory or two every season, RK Nexe have developed a taste for winning in Europe, albeit in the second-tier competition. A regular in the old EHF Cup group phase and coming within a whisker of the final tournament two years ago, everyone in the European League will be aware of the threats posed by the men in green.

SC Magdeburg and Montpellier HB are the heavyweights in group C but coach Hrvoje Horvat is ready to give them an uncomfortable trip to Nasice. "In our little town, no opponent can be sure of winning. We are sure that we give the last atom of strength to win every game."

With some battle-hardened pros and rising stars such as Halil Jaganjac, Nexe already came through the toughest tie in round 2, beating Bidasoa Irun 56:54, and club captain Marko Mrdenović is quietly confident of a good run this season.

"I see us having a chance to go through the group phase, which is tough. With a little bit of luck, we seek the chance to go to the quarter-finals."

Past achievements

EHF Cup:

Quarter-final (1): 2017/18

Group Phase (2): 2014/15, 2018/19

Last 16 (1): 2011/12

Round 3: 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2019/20

Round 2: 2012/13



Hrvoje Horvat

Coach

- coaching Nexe since 2016, building the club around young Croatian talents
- former successful beach handball player, with seven medals from major competitions, including WCh gold
- cut his playing career short to focus on coaching
- also works as Croatian national team assistant, the right hand of head coach Lino Cervar
- son of legendary Croatian playmaker Hrvoje Horvat Cveba

Newcomers

Mateo Rodin (Grand Nancy Métropole HB/FRA)
Aleksandar Bakić (RK Kumovi/MNE)

Left the club

Ivan Sršen (HSG Wetzlar/GER)
Marin Greganić (SSV Bozen Loacker/ITA)
Tomislav Kvastek (RK Umag/CRO)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Edi	Vesligaj	CRO	Goalkeeper	30.06.1993	Nasice, CRO	193	90
4	Aleksandar	Bakic	MNE	Left Wing	03.09.2000	Berane, MNE	194	86
5	Bruno	Cuic	CRO	Left Back	20.08.2001	Našice, CRO	189	76
6	Albin	Eter	CRO	Left Wing	20.03.1984	Zagreb, CRO	185	91
7	Fran	Mileta	CRO	Right Wing	14.08.2000	Rijeka, CRO	181	72
C 8	Marko	Mrdenovic	CRO	Line Player	19.08.1984	Rijeka, CRO	197	95
9	Saša	Barišic Jaman	SLO	Left Back	10.11.1982	Brežice, SLO	200	93
11	Ivan	Dumencic	CRO	Centre Back	10.07.1990	Zagreb, CRO	189	92
12	Moreno	Car	CRO	Goalkeeper	22.04.1996	Rijeka, CRO	184	79
15	Marko	Buvinic	CRO	Right Back	28.06.1992	Rijeka, CRO	190	90
16	Mihailo	Radovanovic	SRB	Goalkeeper	18.12.1992	Cacak, SRB	194	86
18	Marin	Jelinic	CRO	Left Wing	07.12.1996	Metkovic, CRO	194	93
19	Ivan	Vida	CRO	Right Wing	14.03.1995	Zagreb, CRO	186	86
23	Tomislav	Severec	CRO	Left Back	29.06.1997	Zagreb, CRO	191	95
25	Zivan	Pesic	SRB	Line Player	07.07.1993	Novi Sad, SRB	196	112
28	Janko	Kevic	CRO	Centre Back	21.04.1986	Zagreb, CRO	190	87
29	Mateo	Rodin	CRO	Right Back	21.07.1992	Metkovic, CRO	196	95
33	Mario	Tomic	QAT	Line Player	22.06.1988	Zagreb, CRO	191	93
45	Halil	Jaganjac	CRO	Left Back	22.06.1998	Rijeka, CRO	200	95
66	Tomi	Vozab	CRO	Centre Back	26.04.1990	Zagreb, CRO	188	88
87	Gianfranco	Pribetic	CRO	Line Player	28.04.2000	Rijeka, CRO	195	96



Moreno Car

 @moreno.car96

Goalkeeper

- joined Nexe prior to the 2018/19 season
- started his career in Crikvenica, had a short stop in Matulji, and gained a lot of experience in Porec, where he spent three seasons
- played for various Croatian youth and junior national teams; in one of them his current coach Hrvoje Horvat was also his coach back then



Halil Jaganjac

 @haliljaganjac45

Left back

- joined Nexe as a 20-year-old in 2018, after stints with HC Metalurg and Paris Saint-Germain HB, where he played in the second team for a season
- had his breakthrough season with Metalurg in 2017/18, when he became top scorer of the SEHA league
- first called to national team by Lino Cervar in 2017; was part of EHF EURO 2018 squad



Janko Kevic

 @jankokevic18

Centre back

- returned to Nexe in January 2020, having spent much of his early career with the Nasice club between 2004 and 2012
- his journey after 2012 took him to countries like Qatar, Poland, Turkey and Romania
- played for various Croatian national youth teams but only sporadically for the A team
- playmaker with an eye for assists, also capable of scoring goals as powerful shooter



Mario Tomic

 @mriotmic33

Line player

- experienced Croatian player with Qatari passport
- joined Nexe in 2017 and plans to end his career at the club, having extended his contract until 2026
- started career in Medvescak, later played for Siscia, Al Sadd and Lekhwia
- important player for Nexe, both in attack and defence

GROUP C






Club contact

Club Address

HC CSKA
Donskaya, 15, office 607
119049 Moscow
Russia

Media contact

Aleksander Akimov
+7 926 151 3694
a.akimov@mhccska.ru

 mhccska.ru
 [mhccska](https://www.facebook.com/mhccska)
 [mhccska](https://twitter.com/mhccska)
 [mhccska](https://www.instagram.com/mhccska)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Dynamo Palace of Sports
Lavochkina Street 32
125581 Moscow
Russia
Capacity: 4,298

HC CSKA



A club that was formed in 1973 to much success, disbanded in 2001 and then reestablished only recently. So, it's a fresh start for this "renewed" club on the European scene and they do not lack confidence.

- **the club was renamed HC CSKA in 2019 (previously Spartak)**
- **new head coach Velimir Petkovic replaced Oleg Kuleshov only one week prior to the group phase's start**
- **captain Pavel Atman playing now for his 10th club**
- **Aleksander Dereven suffered a knee injury and will be out for four months**

Team captain Pavel Atman stating that his goals are clear and simple: "To win every competition our team is participating in." Atman eying up his group as sees "two possible contenders for the title and we will meet them already in the group phase: Montpellier and SC Magdeburg." However, the Russian international is tipping someone else for the title: "the main favourite is, in my opinion, another German team – Rhein-Neckar Löwen," Atman added. It's hard to fully judge the level of this team, they looked convincing in one leg of the qualification and a bit shaky in the next. However, their second half performance against Bjerringbro-Silkeborg in leg one, did show us their upper potential.

Before its reestablishment, the club was a very successful entity on the handball scene. And in the 1987/88 season, the club from the capital of Russia took gold in the European Cup (forerunner to the EHF Champions League) after beating TUSEM Essen in the final only due to more away goals.

Past achievements

European Cup (forerunner of the EHF Champions League)

Winners (1 title): 1987/88

Runners-up (2): 1976/77, 1982/83

Cup Winner's Cup

Winners (1 title): 1986/87

Runners-up (1): 1984/85

IHF Cup

Runners-up (1): 1990/1991

Soviet Handball Championship (9 titles): 1973, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1987

Soviet Handball Cup (3 titles): 1984, 1985, 1986

Russian Handball Super League (4 titles): 1994, 1995, 2000, 2001



Velimir Petkovic

Coach

- joined CSKA just one week before the start of the group phase
- worked the past four seasons at Fühse in Berlin, and previously 10 years at another German side, Göppingen
- won EHF Cup with Göppingen twice, in 2011 and 2012, and again with Fühse, in 2018
- with Borac Banja Luka he won the the European Champions Cup (1976) as player and the IHF Cup Winners' Cup (1991) as coach

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2011, 2012, 2018; CWC 1991 (as coach)
Champions Cup 1976 (as player)

Newcomers

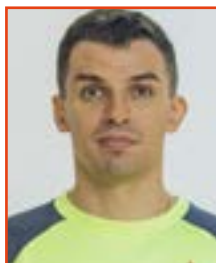
Dmitriy Kuznetsov (SKIF Krasnodar/RUS)
Sergey Nikolaenkov (SKIF Krasnodar/RUS)
Aleh Astrashapkin (Csurgói KK/HUN)
Valentin Vorobev (SKIF Krasnodar/RUS)

Left the club

Vladislav Korshunov (unknown)
Egor Evdokimov (Parnassos Strovolou/CYP)
Evgenii Tsakharias (HC Neva SPb/RUS)
Nikita Samarskiy (Donskie Kazaki/RUS)
Igor Radojevic (HC Dobrogea Sud Constanta/ROU)
Dmitrii Shelestukov (Dynamo Astrakhan/RUS)
Oleg Skopintsev (unknown)
Lev Tcelishchev (Dynamo Astrakhan/RUS)
Inal Aflitulin (Dinamo-Viktor Stavropol/RUS)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
3	Sergey	Nikolaenkov	RUS	Left Wing	11.06.1998	Krasnodar, RUS	186	75
5	Dmitrij	Ionov	RUS	Left Wing	17.06.2000	Saratov, RUS	178	75
9	Aleksey	Fokin	RUS	Right Wing	29.08.1997	Volgograd, RUS	186	75
10	Vladislav	Korshunov	RUS	Line Player	04.06.1999	Moscow, RUS	202	100
11	Mikhail	Vinogradov	RUS	Centre Back	04.04.1997	Volgograd, RUS	195	87
13	Ilya	Ryabov	RUS	Line Player	12.04.1997	Moscow, RUS	191	91
15	Dmitrij	Chernetsov	RUS	Right Wing	10.05.2001	Tashkent, UZB	194	78
17	Aleksandr	Dereven	RUS	Left Back	26.03.1992	Toliatti, RUS	199	85
C 19	Pavel	Atman	RUS	Centre Back	25.05.1987	Volgograd, RUS	193	95
24	Dener	Jaanimaa	EST	Right Back	09.08.1989	Tallinn, EST	189	90
26	Stanislav	Zhukov	UKR	Left Back	26.03.1992	Novovolynsk, UKR	200	104
27	Valentin	Vorobev	RUS	Centre Back	27.05.1995	Krasnodarregion, RUS	190	77
44	Igor	Soroka	RUS	Left Wing	27.05.1991	Cherkessk, RUS	180	73
56	Nikita	Avtonomov	RUS	Goalkeeper	08.04.1998	Samarkand, RUS	194	81
77	Dmytro	Ilchenko	UKR	Line Player	09.07.1996	Kiev region, UKR	198	117
87	Victor	Kireev	RUS	Goalkeeper	05.05.1987	Penzenskayaobl., RUS	190	94
90	Aleh	Astrashapkin	BLR	Right Back	20.01.1992	Mogilev, BLR	190	88
93	Dmitriy	Kuznetsov	RUS	Goalkeeper	11.03.1994	Krasnodar, RUS	189	86



Viktor Kireev

 @kireev_handball87

Goalkeeper

- joined CSKA in February 2020 after more than three seasons at Motor Zaporozhye
- born in Volgograd, he started his handball career at local club Kaustic
- moved to St.-Petersburg in 2014, and was awarded best goalkeeper of the Russian domestic league in 2015/16
- had part of little finger removed after injury in 2017 but it has not affected his career



Stanislav Zhukov

 @zhukovstanislav26

Left back

- Ukrainian back, who moved to CSKA from Motor Zaporozhye in early 2020
- had returned to Zaporozhye in 2019 after an earlier stint in 2012-17
- played two seasons for VfL Gummersbach in Germany but left after club was relegated
- also had spells at Budyvelnyk and ZNTU-ZAS early in his career



Pavel Atman

 @atmanpavel

Centre back

- CSKA team captain, joined the club in February 2020 from Vardar
- born in Volgograd, started career at local club Kaustik before leaving them in 2010
- spent 10 years abroad, playing for clubs like Dinamo Minsk, Meskhov Brest, Metalurg, Hannover-Burgdorf, Vardar, and Al-Djaish in Qatar
- key player for Russian national team, where he debuted in 2008



Dmytro Ilchenko

 @ilchenko__77

Line player

- arrived at CSKA in early 2020 from ZTR Zaporozhye
- born in Mironovka, a town close to the Ukrainian capital Kyiv
- started as a goalkeeper in his younger years but switched to line player position later
- Ukrainian international, member of national team that took part in EHF EURO 2020



GROUP D PREVIEW

WORLD CLASS ON THE COURT AND ON THE BENCHES

If you need proof of the significance of the newly formed EHF European Handball League Men, just look at the names that will duel in group D. If we just talk about players, Stipe Mandalinac, Uwe Gensheimer, Andy Schmid, Morten Olsen, Zsolt Balogh and Zarko Sesum are only the top selection of big names. Among the coaches there are more highly decorated handball people: Four-time EHF Champions League winner Uros Zorman, former Croatia national team coach Zeljko Babic, Martin Schwalb, the only German coach who has won the EHF Champions League Men, and former Celje and Serbia national team coach Vladan Matic.

On paper, international stars such as Uwe Gensheimer, Andre Schmid and Lukas Nilsson should make Löwen favourites in group D, but the qualification round already proved how tough the new competition can be for Martin Schwalb's side. After losing their home match against Danish club Holstebro, they profited from their clear away win. Unfortunately for the Lions, their fabulous Swedish goalkeeper duo of Mikael Appelgren and Andreas Palicka is broken, as Appelgren is out after shoulder surgery.

In terms of EHF Cup titles, Zarko Sesum's tally of three makes him the king of the group. Sesum won the trophy with Löwen in 2013, and he won twice more with Göppingen subsequently. The Serbian left back forms part of a world-class back court axis at Kadetten Schaffhausen alongside Hungarian centre back Gabor Csaszar. The Swiss champions will also profit from new arrival Erik Schmidt, who won the EHF Cup in 2018 with Füchse Berlin. When Kadetten face Eurofam Pelister from the handball-crazy city of Bitola, Schmidt will duel with his former Berlin teammate Stipe Mandalinac, one of the biggest signings in the EHF European League 2020/21 season. Like Mandalinac, his countryman Zeljko Babic, previously coach of Meshkov Brest, is new at Bitola.

Two more big names coming from German Bundesliga should boost GOG: Former Bundesliga top scorer Morten Olsen has arrived from TSV Hannover-Burgdorf and line player Anders Zachariassen has joined from SG Flensburg-Handewitt. After facing Pfadi Winterthur in qualification (33:24 at home/31:35 away), the match at Schaffhausen will already be GOG's second trip to Switzerland this season. With former EHF Champions League star Zsolt Balogh in Tatabanya's squad, coach Vladan Matic hopes to make it to at least the Last 16. Balogh's experience should help guide Tatabanya's many top Hungarian talents. Slovenian side Trimo Trebnje, coached by Uros Zorman, had the longest journey to reach the group phase. Trimo Trebnje beat Belenenses twice in qualification round 1, and their qualification was decided in just one encounter against Balatonfüredi KSE. Gal Cirar's fifth and final goal secured the 23:22 victory and their ticket to the group phase.

Björn Pazen

I GROUP D HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS EC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP D TEAMS

Grundfos Tatabanya KC vs Kadetten Schaffhausen

No previous encounters in European competitions

Grundfos Tatabanya KC vs HC Eurofarm Pelister 2-0-0 (61:48) 4:0

17.02.2019	HC Eurofarm Rabotnik vs Grundfos Tatabanya KC, EHF Cup – Group B	21:31 (11:14)
31.03.2019	Grundfos Tatabanya KC vs HC Eurofarm Rabotnik, EHF Cup – Group B	30:27 (12:13)

Grundfos Tatabanya KC vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen

No previous encounters in European competitions

Grundfos Tatabanya KC vs GOG

No previous encounters in European competitions

Grundfos Tatabanya KC vs RK Trimo Trebnje

No previous encounters in European competitions

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs HC Eurofarm Pelister 1-0-1 (61:58) 2:2

08.10.2005	Pelister Bitola vs Kadetten Schaffhausen, EHF Champions League – Group G	30:27 (11:15)
22.10.2005	Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Pelister Bitola, EHF Champions League – Group G	34:28 (18:13)

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen

No previous encounters in European competitions

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs GOG 1-0-1 (70:63) 2:2

20.10.2019	GOG vs Kadetten Schaffhausen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	35:30 (18:15)
31.10.2019	Kadetten Schaffhausen vs GOG, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	40:28 (18:11)

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs RK Trimo Trebnje

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Eurofarm Pelister vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Eurofarm Pelister vs GOG 1-0-1 (38:40) 2:2

13.10.1996	GOG Gudme vs 'Pelister' Bitola, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round 2	21:24 (10:10)
19.10.1996	'Pelister' Bitola vs GOG Gudme, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round 2	14:19 (6:8)

HC Eurofarm Pelister vs RK Trimo Trebnje

No previous encounters in European competitions

Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs GOG

No previous encounters in European competitions

Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs RK Trimo Trebnje

No previous encounters in European competitions

GOG vs RK Trimo Trebnje

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP D



Club contact


Club Address

Grundfos Tatabánya KC
Szent Borbála út 11.
2800 Tatabánya
Hungary

Media contact

Kata Székely-Marosi
+36 70 633 6733
kata.marosi@tatabanyahandball.com

 tatabanyahandball.com

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

 [tatabanyahandball](https://www.instagram.com/tatabanyahandball)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Audi Arena Győr
Toth Laszlo utja
9027 Győr
Hungary
Capacity: 5,500

GRUNDFOS TATABÁNYA KC



With two quarter-final appearances in the EHF Cup in recent years, Tatabánya have become regulars in the second tier but not much more than that. With proven international class and some of Hungary's top talents, could this be the season the Tigers enjoy a breakthrough season in Europe?

- **storied club which enjoyed success in the 70s and 80s**
- **in recent years have become the perennial bronze medallists in Hungary**
- **huge turnover in the squad this summer with 12 players leaving and nine coming in**
- **regularly on the verge of breaking through at this level with two recent EHF Cup Quarter-final appearances**

In a domestic scene dominated by Veszprém and Szeged, Grundfos Tatabánya KC have cemented their place as the best of the rest in recent years with five consecutive third place finishes in the Hungarian league. While the two big dogs are busy fighting in the EHF Champions League, Vladan Matic's men have been making a name for themselves in the second tier, reaching the EHF Cup Quarter-finals on two occasions. But reaching the final tournament has eluded them and that is what you feel will properly put them in the spotlight.

Achieving that this season appears difficult as an incredible 12 players left the club over the summer, including perennial top scorer Milos Vujovic to Berlin, while nine players were brought in. Mixed fortunes in early league games suggests the squad is still gelling and it is still too early to know whether they can finally make the leap to become true contenders at this level.

Past achievements

EHF Cup:

Quarter-final (2): 2016/17, 2018/19
Last 16 (1): 2010/11

Hungarian league: 4 titles (1974, 1978, 1979, 1984)

Hungarian cup: 2 titles (1969, 1978)



Vladan Matic

Coach

- Serbian former right wing international, who is in his seventh season as coach of Tatabánya
- previously worked for Szeged, Ferencváros and Celje as well as the national teams of Serbia and Hungary
- as a rookie coach, he led Szeged to their first Hungarian league title in 12 years
- played more than 100 times for the Serbian national team and won bronze at World Championships twice

WCh: B 1999, 2001 (as player)

Newcomers

Nándor Bognár (NEKA/HUN)
 Dávid Debreczeni (FTC KN KFT/HUN)
 Bence Hornyák (Telekom Veszprém HC/HUN)
 Michal Martin Konecny (HK Slovan Duslo Sala/SVK)
 Balázs Molnár (SBS-Eger/HUN)
 Richárd Nemes (Budakalász Kft/HUN)
 Stefan Sunajko (IK Sävehof/SWE)
 Piotr Wyszomirski (TBV Lemgo/GER)
 Bence Zdolik (Balatonfüredi KSE/HUN)

Left the club

Ádám Borbély (Veszprémi KKFT/HUN)
 Uros Borzas (Fenix Toulouse Handball/FRA)
 Marko Davidovic (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)
 Xavér Deményi (FTC KN KFT/HUN)
 János Dénes (Balatonfüredi KSE/HUN)
 Bence Ernei (unknown)
 Ákos Pásztor (Ceglédi KKSE/HUN)
 András Szász (CS Dinamo Bucuresti/ROU)
 Vitaly Komogorov (HC Dobrogea Sud Const./ROU)
 Vladimir Vranjes (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
 Milos Vujovic (Füchse Berlin/GER)
 Milos Bozovic (HC PPD Zagreb/CRO)

I TEAM ROSTER

	No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
C	18	Ferenc	Ilyés	HUN	Left Back	20.12.1981	Odorhei S., ROU	198	103
	19	Zsolt	Balogh	HUN	Right Back	29.03.1989	Orosháza, HUN	189	96
	27	Gábor	Ancsin	HUN	Right Back	27.11.1990	Bekescsaba, HUN	202	97
	1	Piotr	Wyszomirski	POL	Goalkeeper	06.01.1988	Warszawa, HUN	194	95
	16	László	Bartucz	HUN	Goalkeeper	05.11.1991	Oroshaza, HUN	192	107
	8	Adrián	Sipos	HUN	Line Player	08.03.1990	Szombathely, HUN	198	110
	29	Bence	Zdolik	HUN	Left Back	16.05.1992	Bekescsaba, HUN	199	105
	23	Dávid	Debreczeni	HUN	Line Player	23.09.1992	Budapest, HUN	198	105
	47	Péter	Hornyák	HUN	Right Wing	04.10.1995	Debrecen, HUN	178	70
	7	Ádám	Juhász	HUN	Centre Back	06.06.1996	Debrecen, HUN	183	75
	22	Mátyás	Gyori	HUN	Centre Back	02.02.1997	Debrecen, HUN	194	89
	13	Richard	Nemes	HUN	Line Player	11.12.1996	Veszprém, HUN	195	100
	96	Michal Martin	Konecny	SVK	Goalkeeper	08.11.1996	Trnava, SVK	193	93
	3	Balázs	Molnár	HUN	Left Wing	25.06.1997	Veszprém, HUN	180	75
	17	Stefan	Sunajko	SRB	Left Wing	10.04.1998	Zombor, SRB	194	83
	14	Bence	Hornyák	HUN	Right Wing	23.11.2000	Veszprém, HUN	185	72
	24	Csanad	Neukum	HUN	Left Back	19.03.2001	Budapest, HUN	193	87
	4	Nándor	Bognár	HUN	Line Player	29.09.2001	Budapest, HUN	187	97
	77	Kolen	Krancz	HUN	Line Player	11.09.2003	Komárom, HUN	187	88
	44	Adam	Bodnar	HUN	Left Back	27.06.2003	Tatabánya, HUN	184	88
	46	Henrik	Hunyadvári	HUN	Right Back	06.02.2001	Budapest, HUN	193	95



Ferenc Ilyés

Left back

- joined Tatabánya in 2016 from Szeged, and also played for Veszprém, Wisła Płock (in Poland) and Lemgo (in Germany)
- Romania-born left back, who played over 200 matches for the Hungarian national team, scoring more than 500 goals
- won three European cups in his career: EHF Cup twice and Cup Winners' Cup once

EC trophies: EHF Cup: 2010, 2014; CWC: 2008



Ádám Juhász

 @juhaszadam.7

Centre back

- joined Tatabánya in 2012 as a 16-year-old
- missed almost the entire 2019/20 season after tearing his Achilles tendon
- was MVP of M18 EHF EURO 2014, where Hungary won silver
- made debut in Hungarian senior national team in 2017



Adrián Sipos

 @adrian_sipos_8

Left back

- arrived at Tatabánya in 2016, has since become a key player in the team's defence
- played CL with Veszprém in 2009/10 before spending several seasons in Romania
- has dual Hungarian-Romanian citizenship but opted to play for Hungarian national team in 2018, then had his debut at age 28



Zsolt Balogh

 @baloghzs19

Right back

- joined Tatabánya in summer of 2019 after seven seasons in Szeged
- scored 324 CL goals in total for Szeged and won EHF Cup with the club in 2014, the last non-German team to lift the trophy
- had national team debut in 2008, was key to Hungary's attack at EHF EURO 2020

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2014

GROUP D



Club contact

Club Address

Kadetten Schaffhausen
Schweizersbildstrasse 10
8207 Schaffhausen
Switzerland

Media contact

Barbara Imobersteg
+41 78 720 32 47
barbara.imobersteg@bluewin.ch

 kadetten.ch
 [kadettensh](https://www.facebook.com/kadettensh)
 [kadettensh](https://twitter.com/kadettensh)
 [kadettensh](https://www.instagram.com/kadettensh)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: orange
Player short: black
GK shirt: yellow

Dark

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



Playing hall

BBC Arena
Schweizersbildstr. 10
8207 Schaffhausen
Switzerland
Capacity: 3,500

KADETTEN SCHAFFHAUSEN



It has been a while since Kadetten have looked at home on the international stage. However, with an interesting change on the bench and perhaps an update in philosophy, could this be all about to change?

- **Icelander Adalsteinn Eyjolfsson is the new head coach**
- **side is captained by Swiss international Dimitrij Küttel**
- **only two new signings this season in Eric Schmidt and Marian Teubert**

Kadetten have a new man on the bench this season: 42-year-old Icelander Adalsteinn Eyjolfsson, who took over from Petr Hrachovec in July of this year. The Icelander makes his way to Kadetten from German Bundesliga side HC Erlangen after much success. Working in Germany for the past 12 years, Eyjolfsson has built a bit of a name for himself taking clubs like ThSV Eisenach to the Bundesliga or going all the way from the third division with TV Hüttenberg to the Bundesliga.

Most recently, he gave HC Erlangen their best ever finish in the Bundesliga, when they managed a ranking of ninth in the 2018/19 season. Kadetten fans are now surely excited to see if Eyjolfsson can take the Swiss side to new heights in European League group D and beyond. The Icelander made very few changes to his squad over the summer months, but maybe some stability is just what they need after being drawn into a tough European League group.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (2): 2010/11, 2011/12
Group Phase (9): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2012/13, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2019/20

EHF Cup

Final (1): 2009/10

Cup Winners' Cup

Semi-finals (2): 2007/08, 2008/09
Quarter-finals (1): 2005/06

Swiss league (11 titles): 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19

Swiss cup (8 titles): 1998/99, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2010/11, 2013/14, 2015/16



Adalsteinn Eyjólfsson

Coach

- started his mission at Kadetten in the summer of 2020, taking over from Slovakian coach Petr Hrachovec
- earlier he coached various German men's clubs, including Hüttenberg, Eseinach and, until February 2020, Erlangen
- was also coach of several Icelandic women's teams and German women's club TuS Weibern from 2000-08
- ended his playing career in 1997, his last club was Balingen in Germany

Newcomers

Marian Teubert (Kadetten Schaffhausen youth/SUI) Erik Schmidt (SC Magdeburg/GER)

Left the club

Bojan Beljanski (RK Vojvodina/SRB)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Kristian	Pilipovic	AUT	Goalkeeper	10.12.1994	Dakovo, AUT	192	94
2	Mehdi	Ben Romdhane	SUI	Left Wing	02.12.2001	Yverdon-les-Bains, SUI	188	87
3	Angel	Montoro Cabello	ESP	Right Back	10.04.1989	Toledo, ESP	213	105
4	Samuel	Zehnder	SUI	Left Wing	29.02.2000	Einsiedeln, SUI	183	83
C 6	Dimitrij	Küttel	SUI	Right Back	18.02.1994	Aarau, SUI	192	92
7	Gabor	Csaszar	HUN	Centre Back	16.06.1984	Celldömölk, HUN	188	94
9	Jonas	Schopper	GER	Line Player	05.02.1999	Singen am Hoh., GER	186	105
12	Ignacio	Biosca García	ESP	Goalkeeper	17.07.1995	Barcelona, ESP	193	92
13	On	Langenick	SUI	Left Wing	31.12.2000	Luzern, SUI	183	81
14	Philip	Novak	SUI	Line Player	11.04.1999	Schaffhausen, SUI	198	107
15	Zarko	Sesum	SRB	Centre Back	16.06.1986	Backa Palanka, SRB	196	96
16	Arunas	Vaskevicius	LTU	Goalkeeper	03.08.1973	Druskininkai, LTU	193	100
17	Marian	Teubert	GER	Left Back	22.06.2000	Donaueschingen, GER	192	90
18	Maximilian	Gerbl	SUI	Right Wing	25.06.1995	Basel, SUI	178	73
19	Zoran	Markovic	SUI	Left Back	06.05.1995	Schaffhausen, SUI	197	103
20	Luka	Maros	SUI	Left Back	20.03.1994	Zürich, SUI	197	103
21	Erik	Schmidt	GER	Line Player	28.12.1992	Mainz, GER	204	115
21	Jonas	Schelker	SUI	Centre Back	09.04.1999	Ravensburg, GER	182	84
22	Sebastian	Frimmel	AUT	Left Wing	18.12.1995	Perchtoldsdorf, AUT	190	89
24	Nik	Tominec	SUI	Right Wing	26.03.1991	Luzern, SUI	188	88
26	Lukas	Herburger	AUT	Line Player	19.12.1994	Bregenz, AUT	197	103
	Nikola	Cvijetic	SUI	Right Wing	01.12.1989	Schaffhausen, SUI	183	84
	Elia	Schaffhauser	SUI	Goalkeeper	10.12.1999	SUI	183	86
	Nicolas	Markovic	SUI	Centre Back	08.07.2000	Neuhausen am Rh., SUI	182	75
	Gregor	Rilak	SUI	Line Player	29.01.2001	Baar ZG, SUI	197	120
	Benedek	Kovacs	HUN	Goalkeeper	30.10.2001	Köln, GER	194	92
	Mats	Hirt	SUI	Line Player	19.05.2000	Bolligen BE, SUI	203	103



Zarko Sesum

Left back

- going into his third season with Schaffhausen
- joined Veszprém in 2007 at age 21, later played for RN Löwen and Göppingen
- broke skull in 2009 night club incident that killed his teammate Marian Cozma
- was hit in the eye by a coin thrown from the stands after EHF EURO 2012 semi-final in Belgrade against Croatia and missed the final

EC trophies: CWC 2008, EHF Cup 2013, 2016, 2017
EURO: S 2012



Gabor Csaszar

Centre back

- joined Kadetten mid-season in 2014/15 from French powerhouse PSG
- was best scorer of CL 2016/17 group phase with 84 goals, and scored 16 goals in a single game in the CL 2019/20 group phase, against GOG in October 2019
- has played in five countries: Hungary, Denmark, Spain, France and Switzerland
- finished fourth at Olympics twice with Hungarian national team, in 2004 and 2012



Erik Schmidt

 @erikschi28

Line player

- 2.04-metre tall German line player, arrived in Schaffhausen in the summer of 2020 to replace injured Zoran Markovic
- played for four Bundesliga clubs: Friesenheim, Hannover, Füchse and Magdeburg. and has experience of five EHF Cup seasons, including two finals with Füchse
- one of the surprises at EHF EURO 2016, where Germany won gold, but has not played for the national team since 2017

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2018
EURO: G 2016



Dimitrij Küttel

 @dkuttel

Right back

- Kadetten team captain, successor of David Graubner, who is manager since 2017
- played for Suhr/Aarau in Switzerland before joining Kadetten in 2012
- was part of all Swiss youth and junior national teams, now core player of senior team and competed at EHF EURO 2020

GROUP D



Club contact


Club Address

HC Eurofarm Pelister
st. Dobrivoe Radosavlevic 3
7000 Bitola
North Macedonia

Media contact

Zoran Mishevski
+38970893005
z_misevski@yahoo.com

 rkeurofarmpelister.com

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

 [rkeurofarmpelister](https://www.instagram.com/rkeurofarmpelister)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Boro Curlevski - Mladost
Bitola
Polygon b.b.
7000 Bitola
North Macedonia
Capacity: 3,000

HC EUROFARM PELISTER



These are exciting times for Macedonian handball and HC Eurofarm Pelister as they venture into the territory of the European League. With a big name joining the team in the summer and a new, very experienced coach on the bench, they will be looking to make some noise this season.

- **RK Eurofarm Pelister is the new name of RK Eurofarm Rabotnik after a 2019 joint ownership agreement with RK Pelister**
- **Former Croatian national team coach Zeljko Babic took on the job before this season**
- **Made seven signings over the summer, including fellow Croatian Stipe Mandalinic**
- **They have six Macedonian league titles; joint second most with Metalurg**
- **Their arena is named in honour of the late Boro Churlevski, a former player from Bitola**

HC Eurofarm Pelister's pre-season has been very impressive. The Macedonian side played 12 friendly matches and won 11 of them, even beating Vardar twice along the way. Head coach Zeljko Babic had clear plans in pre-season: "Our target during the summer was to sign younger players with a lot of energy. We have a great team this year, but my best 'players' are work, discipline and team spirit." With the retirement of Petrovski along with Kuzmanoski and the departure of old-heads like Mitrevski (FC Porto) and Ostroushko (Al-Sharaf), an injection of youth was needed. Babic didn't waste any time over the summer months signing seven new names. Stipe Mandalinic (28) was their biggest transfer news when the club signed the Croatian international after he was released by Fuchse Berlin amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League:

Group phase (1): 2019/20

EHF Cup:

Group Phase (1): 2018/19

Challenge Cup:

Last 16 (1): 2017/18



Zeljko Babic

Coach

- Croatian former right wing, who started as Pelister coach in the summer of 2020
- previously coached clubs like Meshkov Brest and Velenje
- was assistant to head coach Slavko Goluzza when Croatia won bronze at EHF EURO and Olympics in 2012 and WCh in 2013
- as head coach he led Croatia to bronze at EHF EURO 2016

EURO: B 2016 (as coach)

Newcomers

Stipe Mandalinic (Fuchse Berlin/GER)
 Mario Tankovski (HC Metalurg/MKD)
 Dejan Kukulovski (HC Vardar 1961/MKD)
 Josip Peric (Frisch Auf Göppingen/GER)
 Tomislav Kusan (CB Ciudad de Logrono/ESP)
 Nenad Kostaske (HC PPD Zagreb/CRO)
 Mateo Maras (RK Metkovic/CRO)

Left the club

Nikola Mitrevski (FC Porto/POR)
 Lovro Jotic (HC Vardar 1961/MKD)
 Vladislav Ostroushko (Al Rayyan/QAT)
 Olexadr Shevelev (unknown)
 Goran Kuzmanoski (retired)
 Mihajlo Petrovski (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
24	Milorad	Kukoski	MKD	Left Back	12.07.1987	Struga, MKD	195	100
3	Goce	Ojleski	MKD	Left Wing	10.10.1989	Struga, MKD	180	80
4	Nikola	Markoski	MKD	Line Player	22.05.1990	Struga, MKD	195	110
6	Bojan	Madzovski	MKD	Left Wing	08.05.1994	Skopje, MKD	184	90
7	Dejan	Kukulovski	MKD	Left Back	17.08.1998	Resen, MKD	194	97
9	Stipe	Mandalinic	CRO	Left Back	09.09.1992	Split, CRO	195	90
9	Tomislav	Kusan	CRO	Line Player	16.12.1994	Zagreb, CRO	200	110
11	Neven	Stjepanovic	BIH	Right Back	14.02.1993	Ilijas, BIH	197	100
13	Mirko	Radovic	MNE	Right Wing	15.06.1990	Cetinje, MNE	182	85
14	Mario	Tankoski	MKD	Centre Back	28.08.1998	Struga, MKD	192	90
16	Blagojche	Trajkovski	MKD	Goalkeeper	06.10.1986	Prilep, MKD	184	85
19	Nenad	Kosteski	MKD	Right Wing	03.04.2001	Struga, MKD	185	83
23	Marin	Vegar	BIH	Left Back	22.01.1990	Capljina, BIH		
23	Josip	Peric	BIH	Centre Back	05.06.1992	Ljubuski, CRO	180	76
30	Martin	Velkovski	MKD	Right Back	10.03.1997	Skopje, MKD	190	84
59	Elmir	Gradjan	BIH	Line Player	28.12.1993	Gorazde, BIH	190	97
66	Milan	Djukic	SRB	Right Wing	16.08.1985	Kragujevac, SRB	186	91
	Mateo	Maraš	CRO		17.12.2000			
	Filip	Gucevski	MKD		27.11.2003			
c	Gradimir	Chanevski	MKD		04.03.1988			
	Dejan	Jugovski	MKD		24.05.2002			
	Hristijan	Jovanovski	MKD		28.04.2003			
	Hristijan	Ristevski	MKD		22.10.2003			
	Andrej	Markovski	MKD		23.12.2003			



Gradimir Chanevski

Goalkeeper

- arrived at Pelister in 2016, previously also played for Vardar
- the 32-year-old is a leading player on the court, is now team captain of Pelister
- best goalkeeper at final tournament of Macedonian cup in 2017



Stipe Mandalinac

 @stipemandalinic9

Left back

- Croatian international, who arrived in the summer of 2020 in what was arguably one of the biggest transfers in the club's history
- arrived at Pelister after three seasons with Füchse Berlin in Germany, previously played five seasons for HC PPD Zagreb
- made national team debut for Croatia in 2013 and won bronze at WCh in Spain

WCh: B 2013



Mario Tankoski

 @mario.tankoski

Left back

- joined Pelister from HC Metalurg in the summer of 2020
- made CL debut for Metalurg in the 2017/2018 season
- made it into the M20 EHF EURO 2018 All-star Team, played for Macedonian national team at WCh 2019



Tomislav Kusan

 @tomislavkusan9

Line player

- Croatian line player, arrived at Pelister in 2020 from Spanish side BM Logrono La Rioja
- played in the EHF Cup for the past three seasons with La Rioja
- at 2.00 metre, he is considered a strong asset in both offence and defence
- third Croatian player in the squad, alongside Stipe Mandalinac and Mateo Marac

GROUP D



Club contact


Club Address


Rhein-Neckar Löwen
Franz-Grashof-Strasse 5-7
68199 Mannheim


Media contact

Christopher Monz
+49 174 428 8849
monz@rhein-neckar-loewen.de

 rhein-neckar-loewen.de

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

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

 [rnloewen](https://www.instagram.com/rnloewen)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

SAP Arena
An der Arena 1
68163 Mannheim
Germany
Capacity: 13,200

RHEIN-NECKAR LÖWEN



Anything short of a semi-final would be a failure for one of the hot favourites for the EHF European League title this season. Rhein-Neckar Löwen have a new, charismatic face on the beach and brought in some changes to their squad in their quest for domestic and international silverware. The start of the season won't come without its own issues though with three big names being sidelined and finding themselves into a tough group D.

- **Martin Schwalb took over the hot seat in summer**
- **Three new names and one familiar (Baena) have signed with Löwen**
- **Appelgren, Kohlbacher, Nielsen will sit out start of season with injuries**
- **40-year-old Petersson's last season in handball**

The core (quite literally) of the Löwen will miss the start of the season and maybe up until the new year. Their star goalkeeper Mikael Appelgren injured his left shoulder in training and will be out until at least the beginning of 2021. But luckily, Löwen can still count on yet another world class Swedish goalkeeper in Andreas Palicka. On the line, they have to do without the in-form line player Jannik Kohlbacher. The German international injured his elbow during a game back in September and this absence will be a huge gap to fill in both attack and defense. He will for sure miss the start of the European League. With further issues on the line, i.e. Jesper Nielsen being out until the start of 2021, meant that Martin Schwalb needed to act quickly. The 23-year-old Ymir Gislason will now share the workload on the line with Rafael Baena (37) who has (re)signed with the Mannheim club.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League: Semi-finals 2008/09; FINAL4 2010/11

EHF Cup (1 title): 2012/13

Bundesliga (2 titles): 2015/16, 2016/17

German cup (1 title): 2017/18



Martin Schwalb

Coach

- replaced Kristján Andrésson at Löwen in February 2020 for his first coaching job since suffering a heart attack in 2016
- still the only German coach who has won the EHF Champions League - with HSV in 2013
- coached Wallau and Wetzlar before joining HSV in 2005
- as a player, he competed in 193 matches for Germany
- was voted player of the year in Germany in 1996

EC trophies: CL 2013, CWC 2007 (as coach)
OG: S 1984; EURO: B 1998 (as player)

Newcomers

Mait Patrail (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER)
Albin Lagergren (SC Magdeburg/GER)
Lukas Nilsson (THW Kiel/GER)
Niklas Gierse (Rhein-Neckar Löwen B/GER)
Jannis Schneibel (Rhein-Neckar Löwen B/GER)
Rafael Baena (BM Los Dolmenes/ESP)
Nikolas Katsigiannis (HC Erlangen/GER)

Left the club

Steffen Fäth (HC Erlangen/GER)
Mads Mensah (SG Flensburg-Handewitt/GER)
Gedeon Guardiola (TBV Lemgo-Lippe/GER)
Tim Ganz (SG Pforzheim-Eutingen/GER)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Mikael	Appelgren	SWE	Goalkeeper	06.09.1989	Uddevalla, SWE	191	100
2	Andre	Schmid	SUI	Centre Back	30.08.1983	Horgen, SUI	190	86
C 3	Uwe	Gensheimer	GER	Left Wing	26.10.1986	Mannheim, GER	188	90
5	Kaspar	Veigel	GER	Right Wing	22.09.2001	Germersheim, GER	189	88
6	Niclas Vest	Kirkeløkke	DEN	Right Back	26.03.1994	Ringe, DEN	195	100
7	Maximilian	Trost	GER	Left Back	23.08.1995	Schwetzingen, GER	202	100
8	Romain	Lagarde	FRA	Centre Back	05.03.1997	Lorient, FRA	194	95
9	Mait	Patrail	EST	Left Back	11.04.1988	Pölva, EST	200	102
12	Andreas	Palicka	SWE	Goalkeeper	10.07.1986	N Nöbbelöv, SWE	189	88
15	Leon	Bolius	GER	Left Wing	13.06.1995	Schwetzingen, GER	178	78
16	Niklas	Gierse	GER	Goalkeeper	15.01.2000	Heidelberg, GER	198	106
17	Jerry	Tollbring	SWE	Left Wing	13.09.1995	Norrköping, SWE	182	82
19	Philipp	Ahouansou	GER	Left Back	02.05.2001	Hanau, GER	203	90
20	Ilija	Abutovic	SRB	Left Back	02.08.1988	Vrbas, SRB	202	100
21	Sebastian	Trost	GER	Left Back	02.01.1998	Speyer, GER	192	95
22	Christopher	Roth	GER	Left Back	18.03.2001	Karlsruhe, GER	196	105
23	Albin	Lagergren	SWE	Right Back	11.09.1992	Varberg, SWE	186	94
24	Patrick	Groetzki	GER	Right Wing	04.07.1989	Pforzheim, GER	189	84
27	Jannis	Schneibel	GER	Centre Back	06.07.2000	Ludwigshafen, GER	188	77
28	Rafael	Baena Gonzalez	ESP	Line Player	07.11.1982	Estepa, ESP	191	128
29	David	Späth	GER	Goalkeeper	29.04.2002	Kaiserslautern, GER	197	95
32	Alexander	Petersson	ISL	Right Back	02.07.1980	Riga, LAT	188	89
33	Ýmir	Gíslason	ISL	Line Player	01.07.1997	Reykjavík, ISL	192	90
36	Jesper	Nielsen	SWE	Line Player	30.09.1989	Norrköping, SWE	200	118
55	Nikolas	Katsigiannis	GER	Goalkeeper	17.09.1982	Werne, GER	195	100
65	Lukas	Nilsson	SWE	Left Back	16.11.1996	Ystad, SWE	194	97
72	David	Ganshorn	GER	Line Player	27.05.1989	Mannheim, GER	191	99
80	Jannik	Kohlbacher	GER	Line Player	19.07.1995	Bensheim, GER	193	105
97	Rico	Keller	GER	Centre Back	30.07.1997	Heidelberg, GER	192	87



Uwe Gensheimer

 @uwegensheimer

Left wing

- returned to his home club in summer of 2019 after three seasons with PSG
- three-time CL top scorer: in 2010/11, 2016/17 and 2017/18
- captain of German national team, missed golden EHF EURO 2016 due to injury
- named German player of the year for four straight years: 2011-14

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013
OG: B 2016



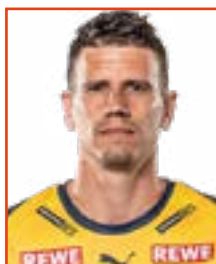
Lukas Nilsson

 @lukasnilsson

Left back

- like many Swedish top players, he comes from Ystad
- joined Löwen in summer of 2020 to replace Mads Mensah Larsen, arriving from Bundesliga rivals THW Kiel, where he spent three seasons
- scored 337 Bundesliga goals for Kiel in three years
- is one of five Swedish players in the Löwen squad for the 2020/21 season

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2019



Andre Schmid

 @andyschmid2

Centre back

- playing in his 11th season with Löwen, his current contract runs until 2022
- previously played for Grasshopper and Amicitia in Zürich and for Bjerringbro
- key player, both as playmaker and shooter
- only member of Swiss national team who played at EHF EURO in both 2006 and 2020

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013



Patrick Groetzki

 @patrickgroetzki24

Right wing

- been part of the Löwen squad for his entire career; has played over 560 games since 2007, more than any other player in the club's history
- made national team debut for Germany at age 19 in 2009
- was part of the team that won bronze at 2016 Rio Olympics

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013
OG: B 2016

GROUP D



Club contact

Club Address

GOG
GOG Sport 2010
Staerkaervej 1
5884 Gudme
Denmark

Media contact

Mads Bruus
+45 51 90 33 75
mads@gog.dk

 gog.dk

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

 [gogsport](https://www.instagram.com/gogsport)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: red
Player short: red
GK shirt: white/red/green



Playing hall

SU 'VI:T Arena
Staerkaervej 1
5884 Gudme
Denmark
Capacity: 1,756

GOG



Here is a team you will want to tune in to EHFTV and see every time they step on the court in the European League group phase. GOG are back in the second tier after their brief but exciting stint in the EHF Champions League and are certain to shake things up with their rising stars mixed with a couple of world champions.

- **finished= third in group D of the EHF Champions League last season**
- **picked up two 2019 world champions, Morten Olsen and Anders Zachariassen, this summer**
- **renowned for producing a consistent flow of bright young talent**
- **defeated Pfadi Winterthur 64:59 in qualification to reach group D**

GOG flew out of the blocks on their return to the EHF Champions League last season, winning four of their first five matches and scoring goals for fun. The fun soon ended, however, as they suffered a collapse in the second half of the group phase and just missed out on the knockout rounds.

The squad will have learned their harsh lesson from last season as they embark on this new adventure at a level which is reminiscent of their group last season but with a wider picture which allows them the opportunity to make a bigger impact. Although the majority of the squad is incredibly young, there are enough experienced heads in the dressing room, most notably the summer signing of world champions Anders Zachariassen from Flensburg and Morten Olsen from Hannover. Their proven excellence and know-how combined with GOG's exciting talent should make them a handful for any opponent and capable of putting together a run of victories.

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

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

Last 16 (2): 2004/05, 2006/07

Group Matches (4): 1995/96, 1996/97, 1998/99, 2000/01, 2019/20

EHF Cup:

Quarter-finals: 1999/00, 2001/02, 2005/06

Group Phase: 2018/19

Cup Winners' Cup:

Runners-up 1995/96

Quarter-finals: 1993/94, 1997/98

Danish league: 7 titles (1992, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2007)



Nicolej Møldrup Krickau

Coach

- leading GOG for fourth season, after joining from Skanderborg Handbold in 2017
- was the youngest ever head coach in the Danish men's league when he took over at Skanderborg at the age of 27
- played for Skanderborg before becoming a coach
- a tactically and psychologically strong coach with a good eye for developing new talents

Newcomers

Kasper Kildelund (TTH Holstebro/DEN)
 Anders Zachariassen (SG Flensburg-Handewitt/GER)
 Morten Olsen (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER)

Left the club

Odinn Thor Rikhardsson (TTH Holstebro/DEN)
 Arnar Freyr Arnarsson (MT Melsungen/GER)
 Josef Pujol (Elverum Handball/NOR)
 Lasse Kronborg (retired)
 Henrik Tilsted (IK Sävehof/SWE)
 Lasse Møller (SG Flensburg-Handewitt/GER)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Andreas	Haagen Pytlick	DEN	Goalkeeper	22.07.2001	Bov, DEN	195	95
2	Simon Bogetoft	Pytlick	DEN	Centre Back	11.12.2000	Thurø, DEN	192	92
3	Kasper Dan	Jorgensen	DEN	Left Back	09.02.1977	Gentofte, DEN	187	98
4	Anders	Beschau	DEN	Line Player	04.03.2001	Odense, DEN	196	102
5	Lasse Mathias	Pedersen	DEN	Left Back	08.03.2002	Glamsbjerg, DEN	195	95
6	Stig Tore Moen	Nilsen	NOR	Right Back	09.08.1994	Alta, NOR	194	91
7	Victor Birch	Nevers	DEN	Right Wing	18.04.2002	Næstved, DEN	188	84
7	Oliver Sonne	Wosniak	DEN	Left Back	07.01.2001	Ejby, DEN	199	102
8	Steven Plucnar	Jacobsen	DEN	Line Player	22.10.2000	Solrød, DEN	193	86
9	Frederik Bo	Andersen	DEN	Right Wing	09.12.1998	Roskilde, DEN	186	89
10	Lucas Lenter	Garsdal	DEN	Centre Back	27.02.2002	Roskilde, DEN	193	94
11	Emil Wernsdorf	Madsen	DEN	Right Back	01.01.2001	Svendborg, DEN	190	85
12	Matthias Rene	Rex Dorgelo	NOR	Goalkeeper	31.10.2002	Odense, NOR	198	102
15	Emil	Lærke	DEN	Left Back	04.06.1999	Roskilde, DEN	203	105
16	Viktor	Hallgrímsson	ISL	Goalkeeper	24.07.2000	Reykjavik, ISL	200	94
17	Oscar	Bergendahl	SWE	Line Player	08.03.1995	Kungsbacka, SWE	192	106
19	Mathias	Gidsel	DEN	Right Back	08.02.1999	Skjern, DEN	190	85
21	Kasper Emil	Kildelund	DEN	Right Wing	11.05.1994	Svendborg, DEN	183	86
22	Anders	Zachariassen	DEN	Line Player	04.09.1991	Sonderborg, DEN	192	96
23	Anton K.	Filténborg	DEN	Right Wing	22.07.2001	Svendborg, DEN	192	94
26	Mathias Hvid	Sunesen	DEN	Left Back	04.09.2001	Svendborg, DEN	186	85
28	Peter	Lund	DEN	Right Wing	01.10.2001	Svendborg, DEN	186	81
31	Emil	Jakobsen	DEN	Left Wing	24.01.1998	Kerteminde, DEN	190	86
34	Morten Toft	Olsen	DEN	Centre Back	11.10.1984	Osted, DEN	184	95
43	Emil La Cour	Andersen	DEN	Left Wing	13.02.2001	Tved, DEN	176	72
74	Søren Haagen	Andreasen	DEN	Goalkeeper	26.03.1974	Esbjerg, DEN	187	96
C 77	Frederik Kiehn	Clausen	DEN	Left Back	29.06.1995	Svendborg, DEN	197	107



Viktor Hallgrímsson

 @viktorhallgrimsson

Goalkeeper

- Icelandic international, who joined from Fram Reykjavik in the summer of 2019
- debuted in national team at 19, and impressed at Junior (U21) WCh 2019
- made a name for himself at EHF EURO 2020, ranking among the top penalty savers with seven stops at 44 per cent
- fast and talented goalkeeper with fine reactions



Emil Jakobsen

 @manfeldt98

Left wing

- came through GOG's talent program, has always played for the club
- debuted for Denmark in 37:26 home win over Montenegro in an EHF EURO 2020 qualifier in April 2019
- considered one of the best upcoming wing talents in Denmark
- tall, strong and technically skilled, with plenty of potential to develop further



Morten Olsen

 @mlsn34

Centre back

- returned to GOG in summer of 2020 for his first club in his native Denmark in 10 years
- spent eight years in Germany with Hannover, also had brief stints in France and Qatar
- earlier in his career, played for Bjerringbro, Viborg, Mors, and GOG (2003-05)
- became part of the Danish national team in 2006, a year after winning Junior WCh in Hungary, and won gold with Denmark at 2016 Olympics and WCh 2019

OG: G 2016; WCh: G 2019



Anders Zachariassen

 @zachariassen22

Line player

- returned to Denmark, joining GOG, in 2020 after six seasons at Flensburg-Handewitt
- was leading an ordinary Danish league life in SønderjyskE, until Flensburg discovered his potential in 2014
- had breakthrough at WCh 2019, playing a large role in Denmark's run to the title

WCh: G 2019

GROUP D



Club contact


Club Address

RK Trimo Trebnje
Priateljjeva cesta 12, p.p. 68
8210 Trebnje
Slovenia

Media contact

Dominik Pekeč
+386 41 524 258
dominik.pekec@rktrimotrebnje.si

 rktrimotrebnje.si

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

 [rktrimotrebnje](https://www.instagram.com/rktrimotrebnje)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Hala Tivoli
Celovska cesta 25
1 000 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Capacity: 4,000

RK TRIMO TREBNJE



10 years on from their last EHF Cup qualification attempt, RK Trimo Trebnje make it the European League 2020/21. With a real winner on the bench as head coach, the young Slovenian side will cherish collecting experience against some of top-drawer sides.

- **Slovenian legend and 4x CL champion Uros Zorman is the head coach**
- **Their biggest signing this season was Darko Cingesar**
- **The club are yet to win a title domestically or internationally**
- **Drawn into the rock-hard group D along with Rhein-Neckar Löwen**

“It’s a big motivation to play against the teams, which we could only watch on TV up until this point.” stated team captain Uros Udovic ahead his club’s first outing in the European League. “We respect all of them but we won’t give up without a fight. Our strategy is that we will be focused on ourselves and try to represent our town and country as best as possible.” Udovic continued.

Each and every game for Trebnje this season in the EHF European League looks like a very tall task. And it will be Zorman’s task to make sure his side around grounded and not like standing in awe of these ‘TV stars’. Bringing in the likes of Potocnik and Cinesar will give the side great experience and confidence. Dino Hamidovic, who strengthened the side the beginning of the 2019/20 season, has played 29 matches for RK Trimo Trebnje so far and recorded 148 goals. The Bosnia and Herzegovina international will make for a strong rotation with Potocnik at left back. Gal Cirar will be looking to keep up the good form he showed in qualification, the right-wing netting 15 over the three games.

Past achievements

Slovenian league: - (third in 2019/20)



Uros Zorman

Coach

- Slovenian four-time CL winner, who arrived at Trimo Trebnje in the summer of 2020 for his first job as head coach
- worked two seasons as an assistant to Talant Dujšebaev at Kielce, after he had ended his playing career there in 2018
- also assists Ljubomir Vranjes at the Slovenian national team
- won CL twice with Ciudad Real and once with Celje and Kielce
- also played for Slovan Ljubljana, Prule 67 and Ademar Leon
- runs his own handball academy in Slovenia

EC trophies: CL 2004, 2008, 2009, 2016
EURO: S 2004

Newcomers

Darko Cingesar (PAUC Handball/FRA)
Gregor Potočnik (KK Csurgoi/HUN)
Ozgur Sarak (Besiktas JK/TUR)
Luka Florjančič (MRD Dobova/SLO)
Žan Grojzdek (RD Urbanscape Loka/SLO)
Gasper Dular (RK Krsko/SLO)
Jan Kamnikar (RD Rudar Trbovlje/SLO)

Left the club

Adam Seferović (MRD Dobova/SLO)
Dean Šešić (MRD Dobova, on loan/SLO)
Klemen Sašek (RK SVIŠ Ivančna Gorica/SLO)
Amadej Jerlah (RK SVIŠ Ivančna G., on loan/SLO)
Jan Redek (RK Mokerc-KIG, on loan/SLO)
Gašper Dular (RK Mokerc-KIG, on loan/SLO)
Jan Horžen (RK Grosuplje, on loan/SLO)
Urban Levicar (loaned)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Urban	Levicar	SLO	Goalkeeper	09.05.2000	Brežice, SLO	193	86
2	Leon	Rašo	SLO	Centre Back	28.06.1996	Novo mesto, SLO	188	88
4	Lovro	Viscek	SLO	Centre Back	06.12.2001	Novo mesto, SLO	186	92
7	David	Didovic	SLO	Line Player	12.08.1992	Novo mesto, SLO	187	93
8	Zan	Grojzdek	SLO	Left Back	11.03.1991	Ljubljana, SLO	194	95
11	Anže	Dobovicnik	SLO	Right Back	29.05.1998	Celje, SLO	192	83
12	Aleksandar	Tomic	SRB	Goalkeeper	25.09.1990	Beograd, SRB	189	90
14	Darko	Cingesar	SLO	Left Wing	25.07.1990	Ljubljana, SLO	188	88
15	Dino	Hamidovic	BIH	Left Back	11.07.1996	Tuzla, BIH	195	95
17	Özgür	Sarak	TUR	Right Back	07.02.1993	Samsun, TUR	193	93
18	Marko	Kotar	SLO	Centre Back	06.03.1999	Novo mesto, SLO	187	85
19	Jan	Kamnikar	SLO	Right Wing	07.09.2001	Trbovlje, SLO	186	82
21	Gregor	Potocnik	SLO	Left Back	22.08.1992	Celje, SLO	196	109
22	Lovro	Kmet	SLO	Line Player	27.06.2001	Novo mesto, SLO	190	93
C 23	Uros	Udovic	SLO	Left Wing	20.06.1994	Novo mesto, SLO	184	86
24	Matija	Pandev	SLO	Left Wing	26.07.2001	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	187	84
31	Urh	Brana	SLO	Goalkeeper	31.07.1994	Novo mesto, SLO	185	86
33	Lan	Grbic	SLO	Line Player	26.05.2000	Ljubljana, SLO	194	95
44	Gal	Cirar	SLO	Right Wing	19.09.1995	Celje, SLO	187	86
55	Miha	Gaberc	SLO	Goalkeeper	24.10.2002	Novo mesto, SLO	190	85
77	Luka	Florjancic	SLO	Left Wing	24.10.1991	Novo mesto, SLO	185	87
88	Gasper	Dular	SLO	Left Back	26.01.2000	Novo mesto, SLO	193	93



Urh Brana

 @urhbrana

Goalkeeper

- Slovenian goalkeeper, who started his career at the club in 2011 and has never played elsewhere since
- at 25, he is in the first European season of his career
- was part of the Slovenian team at the Beach Handball EURO 2019 in Poland



Gregor Potocnik

 @gregorpotocnik21

Left back

- Celje-born international, who started his career at the CL club in his home town
- later played for Trebnje, Velenje, Zagreb (CRO) and Csurgó (HUN)
- returned to Trebnje in summer of 2020, five years after his previous stint there ended
- carries lots of international experience after six CL seasons; also played in EHF Cup



Marko Kotar

 @markokotar18

Centre back

- born in Novo Mesto, has not played for another club in his career than Trimo Trebnje
- his siblings, twin brother Miha and older brother Matic, are also handball players
- twins Marko and Miha Kotar were winners of the the Iztok Puc award, given to handball talents in Slovenia and Croatia
- part of Slovenian junior national team



Gal Cirar

 @galcirar

Right wing

- started playing handball at age 11, in Velenje
- played for Jeruzalem Ormoz before moving to Trimo Trebnje for 2018/19 season
- was Trebnje's best scorer in EL qualification matches, with 15 goals
- also an excellent ski racer, who competed in various FIS events and national junior championships until 2012

I IMPORTANT REGULATIONS

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO OR MORE TEAMS HAVE THE SAME NUMBER OF POINTS

All matches shall be played in accordance with the IHF's current Rules of the Game. Variations on a technical level are possible. All matches of the EHF European League shall be played in 2 x 30 minutes with a half-time break of 15 minutes.

The matches shall be scored as follows:

- a) win = 2 points
- b) draw = 1 point
- c) loss = 0 points

Teams' rankings are obtained by adding up the number of points won.

GROUP PHASE

If two or more teams have scored the same number of points, the ranking will be determined as follows:

During the matches of the group:

- a) higher goal difference in all matches;
- b) greater number of plus goals in all matches;

After completion of the group if two teams have scored the same number of points:

- a) number of points in matches of the two teams directly involved;
- b) goal difference in matches of the two teams directly involved;
- c) higher number of goals scored in the away match of the two teams directly involved;
- d) goal difference in all matches of the group;
- e) higher number of plus goals in all matches of the group;

After completion of the group if three or more teams have scored the same number of points:

- a) number of points in matches of all teams directly involved;
- b) goal difference in matches of all teams directly involved;
- c) higher number of plus goals in matches of all teams directly involved;
- d) goal difference in all matches of the group;
- e) higher number of plus goals in all matches of the group;
- f) higher ranking in the group phase matches
- g) greater number of points in the group phase

* If the ranking of one of these teams is determined, the criteria are consecutively followed until the ranking of all teams is determined.

* If no ranking can be determined, a decision shall be

obtained by drawing lots. Lots shall be drawn by the EHF, if possible in the presence of team managers.

LAST 16 AND QUARTER-FINAL MATCHES

If, after completion of the two matches, both teams have won the same number of points (no extra-time will be played), the teams' standings shall be determined by the following criteria:

- a) goal difference
- b) greater number of plus goals scored in away match
- c) penalty throws

RULES FOR EXECUTION OF PENALTY THROWS

- Prior to penalty throwing, each team shall name five players eligible to play at the end of the match by handing the referees a list of numbers. These players shall then take one throw each until a decision (a winner) is reached, alternating with their opponents. Each team is free to determine the sequence in which throwers will take their throws

- The goalkeepers may be freely selected from the match report and exchanged in accordance with the Rules of the game. Goalkeepers may take throws and throwers may play as goalkeepers.

- The referees shall choose the goal at which throws are taken. The team taking the first penalty throw shall be determined by the referees by drawing lots. The team winning the draw may choose whether it wishes to throw first or last.

- If scores are equal after the first round of penalty throwing, it shall be continued until a decision is reached. In the second round, the other team shall start. Again five players shall be named who are eligible to play (the players named before may be named once again).

- In the second round, a decision (a winner) is reached when a goal difference arises after both teams have taken one throw each.

- Eligible players are players entered in the match report who have not been disqualified or suspended at the time of the final whistle.

- Serious infractions committed during penalty throwing shall be sanctioned by disqualification. If a thrower is disqualified or suffers an injury, an eligible substitute player shall be named supplementary.

- While the throws are being taken, only the player taking the throw, the current goalkeeper and the referees may enter the respective half of the playing area.

- If the number of eligible players falls below five, players may be named to take a second throw in the same round.



HISTORY

I PAST WINNERS OF THE EHF SECOND-TIER COMPETITIONS

Previous Men's EHF Cup winners

2020	no title awarded, the season stopped in the group phase due to Covid-19
2019	THW Kiel (GER)
2018	Füchse Berlin (GER)
2017	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2016	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2015	Füchse Berlin (GER)
2014	Pick Szeged (HUN)

Previous Men's EHF Cup winners

2012	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2011	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2010	TBV Lemgo (GER)
2009	VfL Gummersbach (GER)
2008	HSG Nordhorn (GER)
2007	SC Magdeburg (GER)
2006	TBV Lemgo (GER)
2005	Tusem Essen (GER)
2004	THW Kiel (GER)
2003	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2002	THW Kiel (GER)
2001	Sportclub Magdeburg (GER)
2000	Metkovic Jumbo (CRO)
1999	Sportclub Magdeburg (GER)
1998	THW Kiel (GER)
1997	SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)
1996	BM Granollers (ESP)
1995	BM Granollers (ESP)
1994	Aliza Avides (ESP)

Previous Men's Cup Winners' Cup winners

2012	SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)
2011	VfL Gummersbach (GER)
2010	VfL Gummersbach (GER)
2009	Pevafersa Valladolid (ESP)
2008	MKB Veszprem KC (HUN)
2007	HSV Hamburg
2006	Chekhovski Medvedi (RUS)
2005	C. BM Ademar Leon (ESP)
2004	Portland San Antonio (ESP)
2003	A.D.C. Ciudad Real (ESP)
2002	A.D.C. Ciudad Real (ESP)
2001	SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)
2000	Portland San Antonio (ESP)
1999	Prosesa Ademar Leon (ESP)
1998	Caja Cantabria Santander (ESP)
1997	Elgorriaga Bidasoa (ESP)
1996	TBV Lemgo (GER)
1995	FC Barcelona (ESP)
1994	FC Barcelona (ESP)

I MEN'S EHF CUP 2019/20 TOP SCORERS

Rank	Name & nation	Club	Goals
1.	Hisham Sanad Mohamed (EGY)	USAM Nimes Gard (FRA)	49
2.	Bramming Magnus Grubb (DEN)	TTH Holstebro (DEN)	44
	Djordjic Petar (SRB)	SL Benfica (POR)	44
4.	Hansen Johan a Plogv (DEN)	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)	43
5.	Verdinec Matic (SLO)	RK Gorenje Velenje (SLO)	38
6.	Meklenborg Johan (DEN)	TTH Holstebro (DEN)	36
7.	Mauer Patryk (POL)	KPR Gwardia Opole (POL)	35
8.	Schmid Andre (SUI)	Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)	34
9.	Rivera Folch Valero (ESP)	HBC Nantes (FRA)	33
10.	Kohlbacher Jannik (GER)	Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)	32
11.	Damgaard Nielsen Michael (DEN)	SC Magdeburg (GER)	31
12.	Alves Ponciano Thiago (BRA)	Liberbank Cuenca (ESP)	30
	Dutra Ferreira Leonardo (BRA)	Liberbank Cuenca (ESP)	30
	Suárez Díaz Natán Antonio (ESP)	Liberbank Cuenca (ESP)	30
15.	Lindberg Hans (DEN)	Füchse Berlin (GER)	29
	Markussen Nikolaj Rømer Berg (DEN)	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)	29
17.	Kavcic Aleks (SLO)	RK Gorenje Velenje (SLO)	28
	Lazarov Kiril (MKD)	HBC Nantes (FRA)	28
	Marques Pedro (POR)	SL Benfica (POR)	28
	Nøddesbo Jesper (DEN)	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)	28
	Prandi Elohim (FRA)	USAM Nimes Gard (FRA)	28
	Tobie Luc (FRA)	USAM Nimes Gard (FRA)	28

* the competition was suspended after Round 4 of the group phase due to the Covid-19 pandemic

EHF Media & Communications

Hoffingergasse 18

1120 Vienna, Austria

+43 1 80 151 161

www.eurohandball.com

media@eurohandball.com

EHF Marketing GmbH

Hoffingergasse 18

1120 Vienna, Austria

+43 1 80 151 211

ehf.eurohandball.com

handball@ehfmarketing.com