



# MEDIA GUIDE

EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2022/23  
GROUP PHASE

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# I INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW SEASON

A warm welcome to the EHF European League Men group phase for 2022/23!

Now in its third season since the inauguration in 2020, the EHF European League has firmly established itself as one of the most appealing handball competitions to follow for fans worldwide. Tuesday? EHF European League night!

The 2021/22 season culminated in a spectacular EHF Finals weekend in Lisbon, where hosts SL Benfica defeated SC Magdeburg in one of the most thrilling finals the sport has seen in many years. It is exactly the same excitement that has made the EHF European League an instant fan favourite – in the arenas across the continent, but also at home and online thanks to the extensive TV coverage and livestreaming on EHFTV.

So, finally, the group phase of the new season is here!

In the two qualification rounds, we have already got a sneak preview of what awaits us in the group phase. Again, 10 rounds of matches are coming our way, as the four groups consist of a real eclectic mix of teams going head-to-head in the race to the knockout stage.

The line-up includes 24 teams again; among them, three former EHF Champions League winners – Bidasoa Irun, SG Flensburg-Handewitt, and Montpellier HB – and a string of other teams that played in the top flight in recent seasons.

It underlines the strength of this captivating competition. It also makes sure that not a single team will have an easy path towards the knockout stages, which will open with the Last 16 in March 2023. Before that, handball fans will witness a mouth-watering series of group phase matches, featuring some of the biggest clubs and players in our sport. The race to 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. Should you require any information, help or assistance during the season, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at the EHF Office in Vienna. We will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you might have.

We look forward to working with you during the EHF European League Men 2022/23 season!

*EHF Media & Communications Team*

## I HANDBALLS GET FRESH LOOK FOR THE NEW SEASON

New season, new look! The official SELECT SPORT match balls for the 2022/23 season of the EHF European League appear in a high-class and fresh design.

In line with the competition's brand identity introduced in 2020, the new EHF European League ball showcases a dynamic and powerful design with the official social media hashtag #ehfel prominently printed over it.

The hand-sewn ball is made of extremely hard-wearing synthetic leather material and a patented zero-wing bladder inside the ball ensures optimal roundness. The new balls were first introduced at both EHF Finals 2022 events – for women, on 14/15 May in Viborg; for men, on 28/29 May in Lisbon.



### Only one click away - the Home of Handball Shop

The new official SELECT SPORT match balls as well as more products of the EHF's official supplier can be purchased in the Home of Handball web shop on [shop.eurohandball.com](https://shop.eurohandball.com). Since its launch in autumn of 2020, customers can get their hands on official match balls and replica balls of all EHF Competitions (EHF Champions League, EHF European League, EHF EURO) and also benefit from worldwide shipping.



## I ALL EYES ON THE EHF FINALS

The EHF Finals mark the highlight weekend of the EHF European League season. The 2023 event will be held across the weekend of 27/28 May 2023 and will be the third edition of the final event introduced in 2021.

The first ever EHF Finals Men were played at the SAP Arena in Mannheim, Germany and saw the German team of SC Magdeburg becoming the first-ever winner of the EHF European League Men. Last season, at the EHF Finals 2022, SL Benfica earned their maiden international trophy with a 40:39 win after the extra time against SC Magdeburg.

## I THE WINNERS' TROPHY AWAITS

The Portuguese team not only celebrated a spectacular home win at the Altice Arena in Lisbon but became only the second team in history to lift the coveted EHF European League trophy. The design has been revealed on the fringes of the start of 2020/21 season and will be seen after final battles also in many seasons to come. Aligned with the concept of the EHF Champions League trophy, the core idea of the EHF European League trophy is to represent a goal as the main objective of the sport, to reflect the dynamic movement of a ball hitting the target and to transmit handball as a team sport by forming the net in the shape of a shield. The design is the same for both men's and women's competitions and every element from the font to the logo fits the competition identity.

The concept was developed by a Spanish agency based in Barcelona, which specialises in the design and production of environmentally responsible trophies. The medals are made from the removed material of the net structure, which means that every player gets a piece of the trophy for himself and herself.



## I DIGITAL CHANNELS

### BE PART OF THE #EHFEL COMMUNITY

Social media, app, newsletter – fans have the opportunity to follow the EHF European League and their favourite teams on multiple digital channels!

### FOLLOW, COMMENT, SHARE

Join the conversation and engage with the EHFEL family on social media! The EHF European League accounts give fans a steady stream of sharable and engaging content, keeping them informed on all the latest results and news.

In addition to dedicated EHF European League channels on Facebook ([EHF European League](#)), Twitter ([@ehfel\\_official](#)) and Instagram ([@ehfel\\_official](#)). Fans can also check out the Home of Handball channels on YouTube ([The Home of Handball](#)), Twitch ([HomeofHandball](#)) and TikTok ([@homeofhandball](#)).

### HOME OF HANDBALL APP

Last season the EHF launched its very first dedicated mobile app. The app, available on iOS and Android, follows the EHF's 'Home of Handball' approach and unites all of Europe's major handball competitions – from the club as well as from the national team side – under one roof.

The app allows for each user and all fans of the EHF European League to completely individualise his or her experience by selecting their favourite club and/or favourite competition.

[Click here to download the App](#)



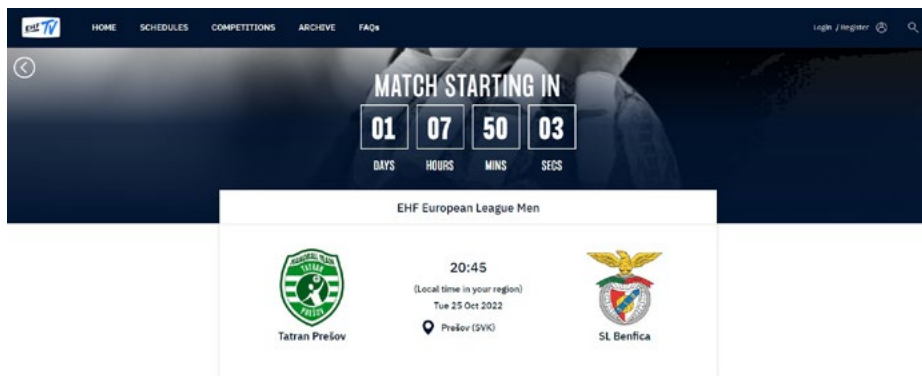
The OTT portal of the EHF and EHF Marketing, EHFTV has established itself over the past seasons as a meeting point for all handball fans. The option to watch EHF games for free, live and on-demand, as well as the opportunity to enjoy additional content created for the EHF European League and other EHF 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. The registration gives 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.

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. Since 2020 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 fans enter their EHFTV account, they find an adapted filter menu, with an improved navigation through the portal and the option to personalise it to their favourite competition and/or club directly on their registered account. These features permit all users to find, select and enjoy the best handball in an easy manner.

Furthermore, the 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. It's time for more handball! Join EHFTV and get ready for a new handball era.







**EHF**  
**EUROPEAN**  
**LEAGUE**



**MORE INTENSITY**  
**MORE HANDBALL**  
**EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE**

Watch on [EHFTV.com](http://EHFTV.com)

## TV STATIONS TO BROADCAST MATCHES ALL OVER THE WORLD

Handball fans will be able to watch every minute of the EHF European League 2022/23 group phase no matter where they are on the continent with 30 broadcasters signed up to tell the story as the competition unfolds. Europe's broadcasters will be transmitting all the excitement and drama from the European League, backed up by streamed coverage on the EHF's on-demand platform, EHFTV, throughout the 10-round group phase. There is especially good news for HC Motor fans. The team will play their home matches in Germany and the matches will be offered live and free in Ukraine and many other regions around.

### TV PARTNERS BROADCASTING THE EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2022/23

# WHERE TO WATCH THE EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN



## Group Phase

	AUT – ORF		KOS – Arena Sport
	AUT – DAZN		MKD – Arena Sport
	BIH – Arena Sport		MNE – Arena Sport
	BUL – B1B		NOR – Viaplay
	CRD – Arena Sport		POL – Eurosport Player
	CZE – Sport TV		POR – SportingTV
	DEN – Viaplay		POR – BenficaTV
	ESP – DAZN		POR – AndebolTV
	ESP – A Punt		ROU – Digi sport
	ESP – TV3 Catalunya		ROU – Prima Sport
	ESP – EITB		ROU – Telekom Sport
	FIN – Viaplay		SLO – Arena Sport
	FRA – Eurosport Player		SRB – Arena Sport
	GEO – Silknet		SVK – Sport TV
	GER – DAZN		SWE – Viaplay
	HUN – Sport TV		TUR – Tivibu/Türk Telekom
	ISL – Stöð 2 Sport		UK – VIAPLAY
	ISR – Sport 1		MENA – ONTIME
			WORLD – EHFTV*
			<small>*Geo-restrictions may apply.</small>

\* as of 24 October 2022



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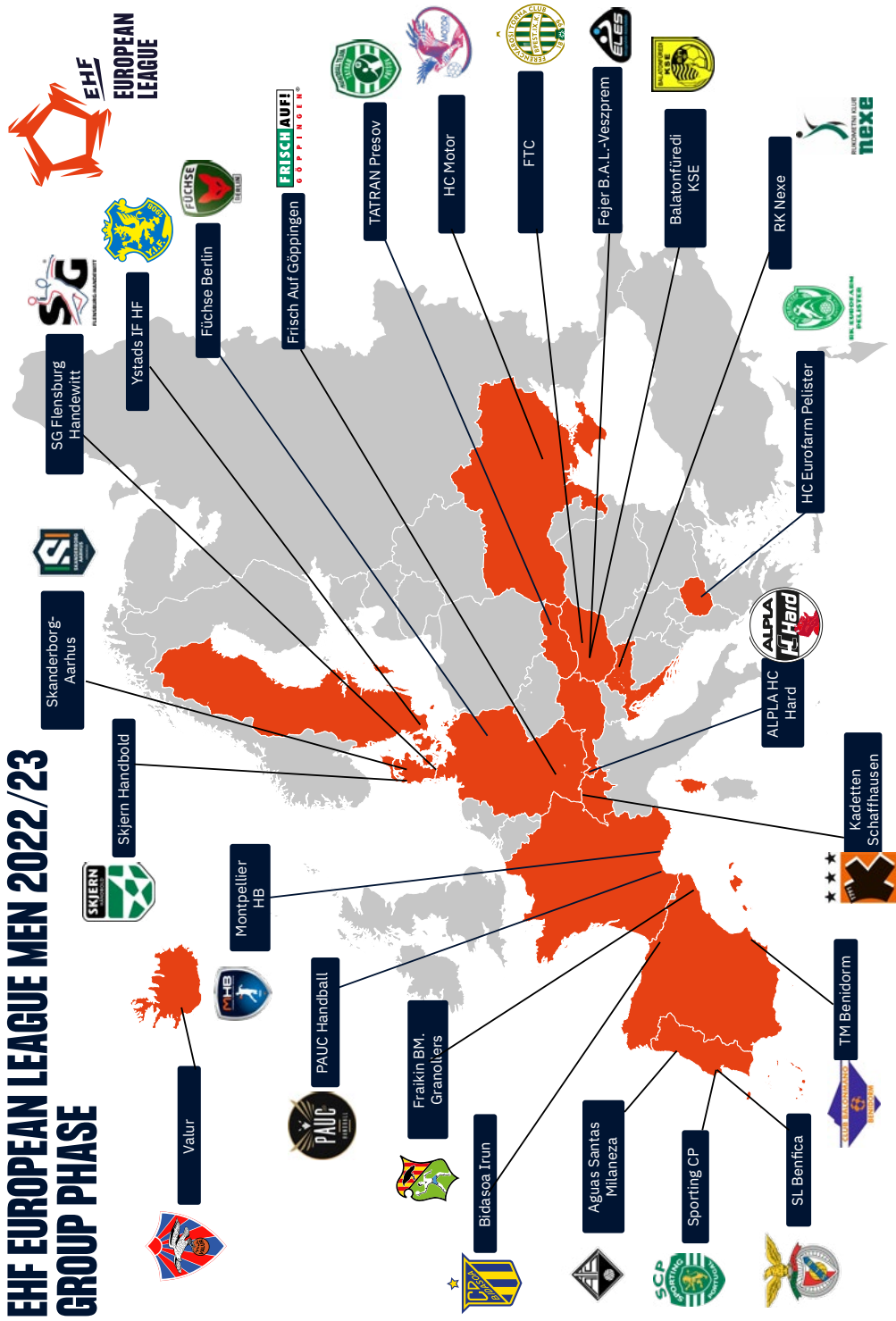
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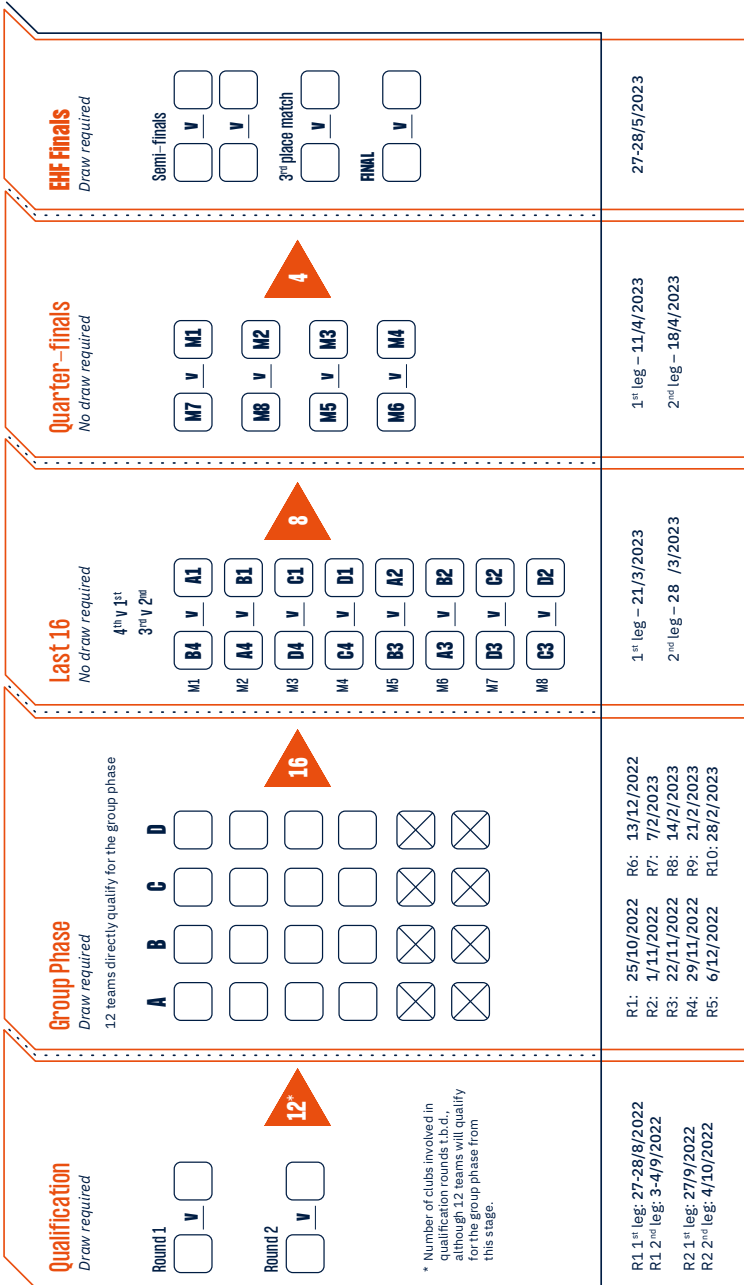
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# EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2022/23 GROUP PHASE



# EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2022/23 SEASON

Playing system and dates



# 1 DEBUTANT, 3 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNERS AND 14 DIFFERENT NATIONS

## FACTS AND FIGURES: THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBER BEFORE THE START OF THE EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2022/23 SEASON

For 24 teams from 14 countries, including the defending champion and three former EHF Champions League winners, the group phase of the 2022/23 EHF European League is ready for throw-off. Here are the most important Facts and Figures.

**0** goals were the lowest difference after 120 minutes in the 12 duels of the final qualification round: Irun and Kolstad each won their home matches by a three goals advance. In the penalty shoot-out, Irun were the aggregate winners.

# 1

European Cup debutant - Danish club Skanderborg-Aarhus founded in 2021 - are part of the group phase.

**1** city - Portuguese capital Lisbon like in 2021/22 already - is represented by two clubs: Benfica and Sporting.

**1** club is part of the CL Women and the EHF European League Men: FTC from Hungary.

**1** former EHF Cup winners failed in qualification round 2: Lemgo (against Göppingen).

**2** teams, which qualified for the EHF Finals 2022 in Lisbon, are part of the group phase: winners Benfica and fourth ranked side Nexø. Finalists Magdeburg and fourth ranked team from Plock are part of the EHF CL this season.

**2** former Cup Winners' Cup winners have qualified for the group phase: Bidasoa Irun (1997) and Flensburg (2011, 2012).

**3** clubs, which had been part of EHF FINAL4 tournaments in Cologne, are part of the group phase: Montpellier (2018), Flensburg (2014) and Berlin (2012).

**3** teams of the 24 group phase participants were part of the EHF Champions League last season: Flensburg, Zaporizhyye and Montpellier.

**3** group phase participants - Presov, Nexø and Pelister Eurofarm - are parallel playing in the multinational SEHA League.

# 3

former EHF Champions League winners - Bidasoa Irun (1995), Montpellier Handball (2003, 2018) and SG Flensburg-Handewitt (2014) have qualified for the group phase.

**3** teams have gone all the way from qualification round 1 to the group phase: Hard, FTC and Aguas Santas. Hard and FTC even won all their four qualification matches.

**4** former EHF Cup winners are part of the group phase: Granollers (1995, 1996), Flensburg (1997), Frisch Auf Göppingen (2011, 2012, 2016, 2017) and Füchse Berlin (2015 and 2018).

**4** countries – Spain, Germany, Hungary and Portugal – are represented by three teams each, two countries – Denmark and France – by each two clubs.

**4** teams won both matches in qualification round 2: Aguas Santas, Flensburg, Skanderborg-Aarhus and Hard.

**5** clubs, which had been part of previous EHF Cup Finals, are part of the group phase: Montpellier (2014), Füchse (2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019), Göppingen (2013, 2016, 2017, 2018), Skjern (2015) and Granollers (2016).

**6** different teams were part of the two EHF finals in Mannheim (2021) and Lisbon (2022): Magdeburg (2), Plock (2), Berlin, Löwen, Benfica and Nexø.

**6** of the 24 participants play their first ever group phase in any EHF club competition: Benidorm, FTC, Fejer BAL-Veszprem, Hard, Aguas Santas and Skanderborg-Aarhus

**9** teams started their mission in qualification round 2: Montpellier, Nexe, Flensburg, Benidorm, Irun, Skanderborg-Aarhus, Göppingen, Sporting and Veszprem.

**9** of 24 teams of last season's group phase are back in the same stage now: Nexe, Berlin, Eurofarm, Sporting, Benfica, Schaffhausen, Irun, PAUC and Presov

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

**12** teams from 12 nations were directly seeded to the group phase: Benfica (POR), Schaffhausen (SUI), Ystad (SWE), PAUC (FRA), Granollers (ESP), Skjern (DEN), Berlin (GER), Motor (UKR), Valur (ISL), Balatonfüred (HUN) and Presov (SVK); Eurofarm (MKD) received a wild card.

**14** different nations are represented by the 24 teams – compared to 16 in the previous season: Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, France, Germany, Hungary, North Macedonia, Portugal, Switzerland, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine.

**17** different clubs had been part of the seven EHF Cup Finals from 2013 until 2019.

**20** games at the most are ahead for those four teams, which qualify for the final tournament, depending from which qualification round they have started.

**27** goals were the biggest margin in the second qualification round, when Flensburg beat Kwidzyn 76:49 in aggregate.

**44** matches of two qualification rounds have already been played before the start of the group phase. 20 in the first round and 24 in round 2.

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

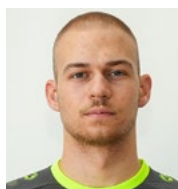
**148** matches are ahead until the winner of the EHF European League Men is decided, including 28 knock-out matches from the Last 16 to the final.

TEAMS BY AGE AVERAGE		TEAMS BY HEIGHT AVERAGE		TEAMS BY WEIGHT AVERAGE	
HC Eurofarm Pelister	<b>27.41</b>	HC Motor	<b>193.68</b>	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	<b>97.20</b>
TM Benidorm	<b>27.13</b>	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	<b>193.52</b>	Kadetten Schaffhausen	<b>96.50</b>
SL Benfica	<b>26.80</b>	RK Nexe	<b>193.33</b>	Skanderborg-Aarhus	<b>95.72</b>
TATTRAN Presov	<b>26.67</b>	Balatonfüredi KSE	<b>192.86</b>	Ystads IF HF	<b>94.71</b>
Kadetten Schaffhausen	<b>26.66</b>	SL Benfica	<b>192.74</b>	RK Nexe	<b>94.10</b>
Frisch Auf Göppingen	<b>26.53</b>	Skanderborg-Aarhus	<b>191.72</b>	HC Motor	<b>93.89</b>
RK Nexe	<b>26.44</b>	Kadetten Schaffhausen	<b>191.60</b>	Frisch Auf Göppingen	<b>93.65</b>
Valur	<b>26.30</b>	Frisch Auf Göppingen	<b>191.57</b>	Skjern Handbold	<b>93.50</b>
Alpla HC Hard	<b>26.21</b>	Montpellier HB	<b>191.50</b>	Balatonfüredi KSE	<b>93.41</b>
FTC	<b>25.75</b>	HC Eurofarm Pelister	<b>191.40</b>	SL Benfica	<b>93.13</b>
Bidasoa Irun	<b>25.65</b>	Füchse Berlin	<b>190.85</b>	Füchse Berlin	<b>93.08</b>
HC Motor	<b>25.55</b>	PAUC Handball	<b>190.39</b>	FTC	<b>92.40</b>
EL average	<b>25.47</b>	EL average	<b>190.31</b>	Bidasoa Irun	<b>91.67</b>
Balatonfüredi KSE	<b>25.43</b>	Ystads IF HF	<b>190.29</b>	EL average	<b>91.59</b>
Ystads IF HF	<b>25.06</b>	TATTRAN Presov	<b>190.09</b>	HC Eurofarm Pelister	<b>91.20</b>
Skanderborg-Aarhus	<b>25.05</b>	Bidasoa Irun	<b>190.05</b>	Montpellier HB	<b>90.79</b>
Sporting CP	<b>25.05</b>	Valur	<b>189.48</b>	Agua Santas Milaneza	<b>90.50</b>
PAUC Handball	<b>24.98</b>	Sporting CP	<b>188.81</b>	Sporting CP	<b>90.33</b>
Füchse Berlin	<b>24.77</b>	FTC	<b>188.65</b>	TATTRAN Presov	<b>90.30</b>
Montpellier HB	<b>24.58</b>	Agua Santas Milaneza	<b>188.55</b>	Valur	<b>89.68</b>
SG Flensburg-Handewitt	<b>24.36</b>	Skjern Handbold	<b>188.50</b>	PAUC Handball	<b>87.86</b>
Skjern Handbold	<b>24.26</b>	Fejer B.A.L.-Veszprem	<b>188.45</b>	Fejer B.A.L.-Veszprem	<b>87.64</b>
Agua Santas Milaneza	<b>23.63</b>	Alpla HC Hard	<b>187.28</b>	Alpla HC Hard	<b>87.39</b>
Fejer B.A.L.-Veszprem	<b>23.54</b>	Fraikin BM. Granollers	<b>186.60</b>	Fraikin BM. Granollers	<b>84.95</b>
Fraikin BM. Granollers	<b>23.47</b>	TM Benidorm	<b>185.56</b>	TM Benidorm	<b>84.56</b>



# I FACTS AND FIGURES – MAX AND MIN

## YOUNGEST



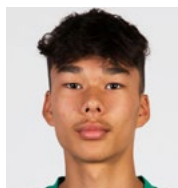
17/02/2006

**Stjepan Javorcek**

*RK Nexe*

<b>Stjepan Javorcek</b>	CRO	RK Nexe	17/02/2006
<b>Ricardo Rocha</b>	POR	SL Benfica	02/09/2005
<b>Valentin Abt</b>	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	28/07/2005
<b>Ádám Juhász</b>	HUN	FTC	29/06/2005
<b>Philipp Maximilian Sekowski</b>	GER	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	19/05/2005
<b>Valentin Mischi</b>	AUT	Alpla HC Hard	24/04/2005
<b>Francisco Costa</b>	POR	Sporting CP	16/02/2005
<b>António Madaleno</b>	POR	Sporting CP	20/01/2005
<b>Afonso Freire Mendes</b>	POR	SL Benfica	11/01/2005
<b>Thilo Knutzen</b>	GER	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	19/12/2004
<b>Ivan Petrovic</b>	CRO	RK Nexe	03/12/2004
<b>Justin Soutoul</b>	FRA	Skjern Handbold	27/11/2004
<b>Dániel Fercsik</b>	HUN	Fejer B.A.L.-Veszprem	17/11/2004
<b>Guilherme Silva</b>	POR	Sporting CP	28/10/2004
<b>Mouhamadou Sidibe</b>	FRA	PAUC Handball	09/10/2004
<b>Marc Perez Padro</b>	ESP	TM Benidorm	05/10/2004

## SHORTEST



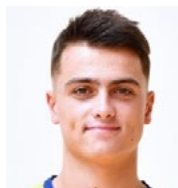
158 cm

**Justin Soutoul**

*Skjern Handbold*

<b>Justin Soutoul</b>	FRA	Skjern Handbold	158
<b>Manuel Maier</b>	AUT	Alpla HC Hard	167
<b>Adrian Sanchez</b>	ESP	TM Benidorm	170
<b>Victor De Sande</b>	ESP	Fraikin BM. Granollers	174
<b>Tim Freihofer</b>	GER	Füchse Berlin	174
<b>Luca Raschle</b>	AUT	Alpla HC Hard	175
<b>Xabier Barreto</b>	ESP	Bidasoa Irun	175
<b>Tao Gey Empanan</b>	FRA	Bidasoa Irun	175
<b>Frederik Nielsen</b>	DEN	Skjern Handbold	175
<b>Jørgen Rasmussen</b>	DEN	Skjern Handbold	176
<b>Nicolas Schley</b>	GER	Füchse Berlin	177
<b>Afonso Freire Mendes</b>	POR	SL Benfica	177
<b>Pedro Costa da Cruz</b>	POR	Aguas Santas Milaneza	178
<b>Afonso Roque Coelho</b>	POR	Aguas Santas Milaneza	178
<b>Jules Lignieres</b>	FRA	TM Benidorm	178
<b>João Vinhas da Silva</b>	POR	Aguas Santas Milaneza	178

## LIGHTEST



64 kg

**Tao Gey Empanan**

*Bidasoa Irun*

<b>Tao Gey Empanan</b>	FRA	Bidasoa Irun	64
<b>Justin Soutoul</b>	FRA	Skjern Handbold	65
<b>Manuel Maier</b>	AUT	Alpla HC Hard	67
<b>Xabier Barreto</b>	ESP	Bidasoa Irun	69
<b>Lennio Sgonc</b>	AUT	Alpla HC Hard	69
<b>Miguel Brochado Guerra</b>	POR	Aguas Santas Milaneza	69
<b>Roland Terjek</b>	HUN	Montpellier HB	69
<b>Adrian Sanchez</b>	ESP	TM Benidorm	70
<b>Afonso Freire Mendes</b>	POR	SL Benfica	70
<b>Erik Fenár</b>	SVK	TATRA Presov	70
<b>Matthieu Ong</b>	FRA	PAUC Handball	70
<b>Linus Weber</b>	AUT	Alpla HC Hard	70
<b>Goran Levavasseur</b>	FRA	PAUC Handball	70
<b>Paul Gourdel</b>	FRA	PAUC Handball	70
<b>Adrien Dubois</b>	FRA	Montpellier HB	71
<b>Milos Vujovic</b>	MNE	Füchse Berlin	72

## OLDEST



05/07/1973

**Alexandr Radcenko***TATRAN Presov*

<b>Alexandr Radcenko</b>	CZE	TATRAN Presov	<b>05/07/1973</b>
<b>Ingimundur Ingimundarson</b>	ISL	Valur	<b>29/01/1980</b>
<b>Hreiðar Leví Guðmundsson</b>	ISL	Valur	<b>29/11/1980</b>
<b>Ivan Nikcevic</b>	SRB	TM Benidorm	<b>11/02/1981</b>
<b>Jonas Källman</b>	SWE	SL Benfica	<b>17/07/1981</b>
<b>Hans Lindberg</b>	DEN	Füchse Berlin	<b>01/08/1981</b>
<b>Golub Doknic</b>	AUT	Alpla HC Hard	<b>16/04/1982</b>
<b>Kim Andersson</b>	SWE	Ystads IF HF	<b>21/08/1982</b>
<b>Julen Aguinagalde Akizu</b>	ESP	Bidasoa Irun	<b>08/12/1982</b>
<b>Martin Ziemer</b>	GER	Kadetten Schaffhausen	<b>14/04/1983</b>
<b>Antonio Garcia</b>	ESP	Fraikin BM. Granollers	<b>06/03/1984</b>
<b>Iker Serrano</b>	ESP	TM Benidorm	<b>22/06/1984</b>
<b>Fahrudin Melic</b>	MNE	RK Nexe	<b>22/07/1984</b>
<b>János Dénes</b>	HUN	Balatonfüredi KSE	<b>15/11/1984</b>
<b>Carlos Ruesga</b>	ESP	Sporting CP	<b>10/03/1985</b>
<b>Björgvin Pall Gustavsson</b>	ISL	Valur	<b>24/05/1985</b>

## TALLEST



214 cm

**Péter Határ***Balatonfüredi KSE*

<b>Péter Határ</b>	HUN	Balatonfüredi KSE	<b>214</b>
<b>Marko Kopljar</b>	CRO	Füchse Berlin	<b>210</b>
<b>Marko Racic</b>	CRO	RK Nexe	<b>209</b>
<b>Borna Mancic Micevic</b>	CRO	RK Nexe	<b>208</b>
<b>Thilo Knutzen</b>	GER	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	<b>208</b>
<b>Knud Ronau Larsen</b>	DEN	Ystads IF HF	<b>206</b>
<b>Bence Szücs</b>	HUN	Balatonfüredi KSE	<b>206</b>
<b>Oleksii Tomashevskiy</b>	UKR	HC Motor	<b>205</b>
<b>Oliver Rábek</b>	SVK	TATRAN Presov	<b>204</b>
<b>Jens Schöngarth</b>	GER	Sporting CP	<b>204</b>
<b>Magnus Rød</b>	NOR	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	<b>204</b>
<b>Veron Nacinovic</b>	CRO	Montpellier HB	<b>204</b>
<b>Julen Urruzola</b>	ESP	Bidasoa Irun	<b>204</b>
<b>Jonas Truchanovicus</b>	LTU	HC Motor	<b>203</b>
<b>Blaz Blagotinsek</b>	SLO	Frisch Auf Göppingen	<b>203</b>
<b>Simon Hald Jensen</b>	DEN	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	<b>203</b>

## HEAVIEST



139 kg

**Bence Szücs***Balatonfüredi KSE*

<b>Bence Szücs</b>	HUN	Balatonfüredi KSE	<b>139</b>
<b>Dejan Milosavljev</b>	SRB	Füchse Berlin	<b>135</b>
<b>Ben Kjell Schmitt</b>	GER	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	<b>128</b>
<b>Marko Racic</b>	CRO	RK Nexe	<b>123</b>
<b>Robin Paulsen Haug</b>	NOR	Skjern Handbold	<b>122</b>
<b>Nils Röllér</b>	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	<b>120</b>
<b>Félix Turák</b>	HUN	FTC	<b>120</b>
<b>Simon Hald</b>	DEN	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	<b>120</b>
<b>Tomas Moreira Rodriguez</b>	ESP	PAUC Handball	<b>118</b>
<b>Knud Ronau Larsen</b>	DEN	Ystads IF HF	<b>118</b>
<b>Blaz Blagotinsek</b>	SLO	Frisch Auf Göppingen	<b>117</b>
<b>Ivan Petrovic</b>	CRO	RK Nexe	<b>115</b>
<b>Gergo Miklós</b>	HUN	Fejér B.A.L.-Veszprem	<b>115</b>
<b>Gennadii Komok</b>	UKR	HC Motor	<b>115</b>
<b>Alexis Borges</b>	POR	SL Benfica	<b>115</b>
<b>Anton Månsson</b>	SWE	Ystads IF HF	<b>114</b>



**CLUBS**



# GROUP A PREVIEW

## BIG NAMES GUARANTEE TOP-CLASS HANDBALL

The six teams in group A combine, between themselves two EHF Champions League titles, as well as 3 EHF Cups and one European League trophy. That is to say how high-profile the group will be.

For Fejer Veszprem, though, these games will be almost the first of the club in Europe. Under their belt, the Hungarian players only have two qualification games, the ones that got them here. Before qualifying against Chambéry in the second qualification round, Veszprem are clearly a team that no one expected to be in the group phase. But they showed in the previous round that they could upset everyone, including the most experienced players. Things are quite different for the other five teams, as they are all used to European confrontations. Portuguese side Benfica won the European League trophy last season and are favourites for their own succession. Their squad has not moved much, only improved by a couple of players while the most important ones decided to extend the adventure for a little bit longer.

Montpellier are first on the list in the group to try and upset the team from Lisbon. Not playing the Champions League for the first time since 2014, the French side has plenty of experience of these continental confrontations. And despite losing quite a few important players over the summer (Karl Wallinius, Gilberto Duarte), Patrice Canayer has put together a team able to go far in the European League. It showed its ambitions in the qualifying round already, defeating the always tricky-to-beat Sävehof. After a four seasons absence, Göppingen are back on the European scene. The club that won four times the EHF Cup between 2011 and 2017 is now relying on a revamped team, led by Hartmut Mayerhoffer. The German coach has chosen to sign many Champions League level players such as Blaz Blagotinsek, Gilberto Duarte and Marin Segó, to give his club the maximum chances to proceed out of the group phase.

It has been exactly ten years since Tatrán Presov have progressed out of a group in any European competitions. Last time was in 2012 in the Champions League. Since then, the Slovakian champions have struggled to impress, only winning two games in the European League group phase last season. The aim, for Presov, will be to take as many points as possible and to hope for a Last 16 ticket. On the contrary, things are really going upwards again these days for Kadetten Schaffhausen. The Swiss team, which played the EHF Cup final in 2010, reached the quarter-finals of the European League last season, led by an amazing Joan Canellas. The Spanish centre-back really made a difference for his team and in his wake, Kadetten can still hope for a good European season again.

*Kevin Domas*

## I GROUP A HEAD-TO-HEADS

### HISTORIC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP A OPPONENTS IN THE EC

#### SL Benfica vs Kadetten Schaffhausen

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No previous encounters in European competitions

#### SL Benfica vs TATRAN Presov

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No previous encounters in European competitions

#### SL Benfica vs Frisch Auf Göppingen

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### SL Benfica vs Montpellier Handball

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### SL Benfica vs Fejér BAL-Veszprem

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### Kadetten Schaffhausen vs TATRAN Presov

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Frisch Auf Göppingen 1-0-1 (57:57) 2:2

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27.03.2010	Frisch Auf Göppingen vs Kadetten SH Handball, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	33:29 (16:13)
03.04.2010	Kadetten SH Handball vs Frisch Auf Göppingen, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	28:24 (13:8)

#### Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Montpellier HB 1-1-2 (110:120) 3:5

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24.03.2011	Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Montpellier Agglomeration HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	31:26 (17:11)
03.04.2011	Montpellier Agglomeration HB vs Kadetten Schaffhausen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	35:27 (21:14)
23.03.2021	Montpellier HB vs Kadetten Schaffhausen, EHF European League – Last 16	27:27 (15:13)
30.03.2021	Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Montpellier HB, EHF European League – Last 16	25:32 (10:16)

#### Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Fejér BAL-Veszprem

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No previous encounters in European competitions

#### TATRAN Presov vs Frisch Auf Göppingen

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### TATRAN Presov vs Montpellier HB 0-0-4 (103:129) 0:8

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16.10.2010	TATRAN Presov vs Montpellier Agglomeration HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:33 (16:17)
27.02.2011	Montpellier Agglomeration HB vs TATRAN Presov, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	40:25 (19:11)
25.09.2016	Montpellier HB vs TATRAN Presov, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	28:23 (14:14)
19.11.2016	TATRAN Presov vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	24:28 (9:14)

### **TATRAN Presov vs Fejér BAL-Veszprem**

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No previous encounters in European competitions

### **Frisch Auf Göppingen vs Montpellier HB**

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

### **Frisch Auf Göppingen vs Fejer BAL-Veszprem**

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

### **Montpellier HB vs Fejer BAL-Veszprem**

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

## GROUP B



## Club contact


## Club Address

SL Benfica  
Av. Eusébio Silva Ferreira,  
1500-313 Lisboa  
Portugal

## Media contact

Rui Manuel Mendes  
+351 925 660 007  
rmendes@slbenfica.pt

 [slbenfica.pt](http://slbenfica.pt)

 [SportLisboaBenfica-MediaCidade](https://www.facebook.com/SportLisboaBenfica-MediaCidade)

 [@modalidadesslb](https://twitter.com/@modalidadesslb)

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

## Kit colours

## Light

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

## Dark

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



## Playing hall

Pav. Luz No. 2  
Av. General Norton Matos  
1500-313 Lisboa  
Portugal  
Capacity: 1,540

## SL BENFICA



Most important question: Can Benfica win the trophy again?

Benfica will be a main target for their opponents, who want to beat the defending champions. But Benfica are playing handball in a very exciting way and are eager to deliver in the EHF European League again.

The new season has already started in the best possible way by winning Portuguese Super Cup. With a nearly unchanged squad, head coach Chema Rodríguez is full of confidence prior the title defence.

- **qualified for the group phase directly as defending champions**
- **in the Portuguese league, Benfica finished third last season and are waiting for 14 years to win the domestic title**
- **the squad includes 12 different nationalities**
- **head coach Chema Rodríguez also works with the Hungarian national team, and will leave Benfica in the summer of 2023 to fully focus on Hungary**
- **the biggest signing this season is Ádám Juhász, an Hungarian centre back joining from Tatabánya**

Most important question: Can Benfica win the trophy again?

Benfica will be a main target for their opponents, who want to beat the defending champions. But Benfica are playing handball in a very exciting way and are eager to deliver in the EHF European League again.

The new season has already started in the best possible way by winning Portuguese Super Cup. With a nearly unchanged squad, head coach Chema Rodríguez is full of confidence prior the title defence.

“It is a European competition which is very important for us. It gives Benfica the stage that the team deserves, a top team level,” Rodríguez says.

Also, team captain Paulo Moreno longs for history. “We had an unblemished run last season, crowned with the European title. We want to strengthen the name of our club throughout Europe,” Moreno says.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF European League:**

Participations (including 2022/23): 3

Winners (1): 2021/22

Qualification: (1): 2020/21

### **Other**

### **EHF Cup:**

Group phase: 2016/17, 2019/20

### **EHF Challenge Cup:**

Final: 2010/11, 2015/16; Semi-final: 2007/08, 2014/15

**Portuguese league:** 7 titles (1962, 1975, 1982, 1983, 1989, 1990, 2008)

**Portuguese cup:** 6 titles (1985-87, 2011, 2016, 2018)







## CHEMA RODRIGUEZ

**Coach**

- led Benfica to their first European club competition trophy in the 2021/22 season
- has transformed Benfica's way of playing since arriving as head coach prior to the 2020/21 season
- also head coach for Hungary's men's national team
- will leave Benfica after the 2022/23 season to fully focus on the Hungary's national team
- as a player, he won two CL titles with Ciudad Real and one WCh title with Spain

EC trophies: CL 2008, 2009 (as player), EL (as coach)  
WCh: G 2005 (as player)

## NEW/COMERS

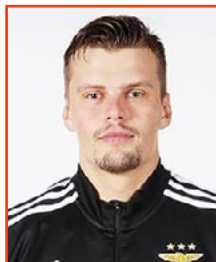
Nikola Zoric (RK Metaloplastika)  
Leandro Semedo (Ademar León)  
Arnaud Bingo (Tremblay)  
Vladimir Vranjes (Meshkov Brest)  
Ádám Juhász (Tatabánya)  
Guilherme Carvalho (Taubaté)  
Ricardo Rocha (Águas Santas)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Rogério Moraes (Melsungen)  
Francisco Pereira (Caen)  
Mahamadou Keita (Ciudad de Logroño)  
Lazar Kucic (Dinamo Bucuresti)  
Pedro Tonicher (Vitoria Futebol Clube)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
5	Martim	Ferraz	POR	Centre Back	30/09/2003	Madeira, POR	184	80
7	Ádám	Juhász	HUN	Centre Back	06/06/1996	Debrecen, HUN	183	75
8	Jonas	Källman	SWE	Left Wing	17/07/1981	Vaxjo, SWE	200	90
9	Arnau	Garcia	ESP	Left Back	12/06/1994	Granollers, ESP	197	95
11	Bélone	Moreira	POR	Centre Back	01/06/1990	Lisboa, POR	180	80
<b>C</b> 13	Paulo	Moreno	CPV	Line Player	08/05/1992	Lisboa, POR	197	113
14	Afonso	Freire	POR	Right Wing	11/01/2005	Almada, POL	177	70
16	Nikola	Zoric	SRB	Goalkeeper	30/09/2004	Novi Sad, SRB	200	95
19	Carlos	Martins	POR	Right Wing	14/06/1994	Vila Nova de Paia, POR	180	80
22	Alexis	Borges	POR	Line Player	06/10/1991	Vila Clara, CUB	197	115
23	Ole	Rahmel	GER	Right Wing	19/11/1989	Achim, GER	190	90
24	Ander	Izquierdo	ESP	Centre Back	01/05/2000	Pamplona, ESP	192	87
25	Sergey	Hernandez	ESP	Goalkeeper	17/06/1995	Kropotkin, RUS	197	95
27	Arnaud	Bingo	FRA	Left Wing	12/10/1987	Lyon, FRA	190	85
28	Leandro	Semedo	CPV	Left Back	24/12/1994	Praia, CPV	195	101
30	Demis	Grigoras	ROU	Right Back	30/06/1993	Vaslui, ROU	195	98
33	Tadej	Kljun	SLO	Right Back	18/04/2001	Postojna, SLO	196	92
34	Jose	Costa da Silva	BRA	Left Back	19/02/2002	Rodrigo Alves, BRA	197	99
41	Gustavo	Capdeville	POR	Goalkeeper	31/08/1997	Lisboa, POR	190	89
44	Petar	Djordjic	SRB	Left Back	17/09/1990	Sabac, SRB	197	95
77	Vladimir	Vranjes	BIH	Line Player	14/12/1988	Banja Luka, BIH	200	112
97	Ricardo	Rocha	POR	Centre Back	02/09/2005	Matosinhos, POR	197	92
99	Guilherme	Carvalho	BRA	Line Player	18/02/2003	Rio Verde, BRA	202	114



## SERGEY HERNANDEZ

 @sergeyhf25

### Goalkeeper

- MVP of the EHF Finals Men 2022 in Lisbon
- Russian-born goalkeeper with Spanish citizenship; became one of the best shotstoppers in the Spanish domestic league after his debut in 2015
- joined Benfica in 2020, after plying his trade in the Spanish league, at Anaitasuna and Logrono
- speaks Russian, Spanish, English and Danish
- also featured in commercials as a model, including in shampoo advertisements

EC trophies: EL 2022

EURO: S 2022, WCh: B 2021



## ADAM JUHASZ

### Centre back

- played for Tatabánya since 2012/13 and became a team captain in the later years with the Hungarian club
- arrived in Benficain the summer of 2022
- since 2016 a member of Hungary's national team; approaching 50 caps and 100 goals
- MVP of the M18 EHF EURO in 2014, where he helped Hungary to reach the final



## PETAR DJORDJIC

 @djordjic17

### Left back

- son of Zoran Djordjic, who represented Yugoslavia in five major tournaments
- known for his impulsive play and shooting power, he is a vital player for Benfica
- joint top scorer of the EL 2021/22 season together with Halil Jaganjac from Nexe (109 goals)
- previously played in Germany for Wetzlar, Flensburg and Hamburg
- won the Belarusian championship with Meshkov Brest



## OLE RAHMEL

### Right wing

- German international who played for THW Kiel for three seasons before joining Benfica in 2020/21
- began his professional handball career in Germany with VfL Gummersbach, also played for Essen and Erlangen
- a true expert from the seven-metre line and renowned for his technical ability
- scored 11 goals in the EHF Finals Men final against SC Magdeburg (40:39)

## GROUP A



### Club contact

#### Club Address


Kadetten Schaffhausen  
Schweizersbildstrasse 10  
8207 Schaffhausen  
Switzerland

#### Media contact

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

 [kadettensh.ch](http://kadettensh.ch)

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

 @kadettensh

 kadettensh

### Kit colours

#### Light

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

#### Dark

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



### Playing hall

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

# KADETTEN SCHAFFHAUSEN



After last year's top transfer Joan Cañellas lifted Kadetten Schaffhausen to new heights in the Swiss league and the EHF European League, now the team will have a kind of re-start, with a newly composed roster, but still the ambition to enter the knock-out stage of the European League.

- after three years without a title in the Swiss league, Kadetten took the trophy again, beating 2021's champions Pfadi Winterthur in the final series 3:0
- Kadetten play their 26th season in EHF European Cup competitions, and have qualified for international competitions every year since 2004
- in the 2021/2022 season, they proceeded to the quarter-finals of the European League, beating Sävehof in the Last 16, but then failed against Wisla Plock
- the team of Icelandic head coach Adalsteinn Eyjólfsson is in a state of transition: eight players left, eight new players arrived from four different countries
- former team captain Dimitriji Küttel is among those who left (to Luzern-Kriens). The new team captain is Austrian international Lukas Herburger

Most important question: Can Kadetten go as far as last season with their new squad?

Two of their best scorers of the last season – Jonas Schelker and Samuel Zehnder – left as well as defence boss Erik Schmidt, goalkeeper Kristian Pilipovic and team captain Dimitriji Küttel. Therefore, coach Adalsteinn Eyjólfsson has a challenge ahead to rebuild the starting seven. But at least two new arrivals have the international experience to bring the team ahead: goalkeeper Martin Ziemer and Croatian back Sandro Obradovic. Mehdi Ben Romdhane, Robin Heinis and Odinn Thor Rikhardsson are young talents, who will have to grow with the team. But thanks to Joan Cañellas, Kadetten still have an extraordinary player in their squad who can decide matches on his own. The wing positions look a bit weaker than in the previous season.

## 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 European League**

Participations (including 2022/23): 3

Quarter-finals (1): 2021/22

Last 16 (1): 2020/21

Qualification (1): 2021/22

### **Other**

#### **EHF Cup:**

Runners-up (1): 2009/10

#### **Cup Winners' Cup:**

Semi-finals (2): 2007/08, 2008/09

Quarter-finals (1): 2005/06

**Swiss league:** 12 titles (2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2021/22)

**Swiss cup:** 9 titles (1998/99, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2010/11, 2013/14, 2015/16, 2020/21)





## ADALSTEINN EYJÓLFSSON

### Coach

- started his mission at Kadetten in the summer of 2020, taking over from Czech coach Petr Hrachovec
- previously 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

## NEW/COMERS

Martin Ziemer (HC Erlangen)  
Jost Brücker (GC Amicitia Zurich)  
Sandro Obranovic (RK Zagreb)  
Mehdi Ben Romdhane (Kadetten junior team)  
Robin Heinis (VLF Potsdam)  
Odinn Thor Rikhardsson (Knattspyrnufélag Akureyrar)  
Igor Zabic (Limoges Handball)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Jonas Schelker (HSG Wetzlar)  
Samuel Zehnder (TBV Lemgo Lippe)  
Maximilian Gerbl (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf)  
Erik Schmidt (HSG Wetzlar)  
Kristian Pilipovic (Orlen Wisla Plock)  
Philip Novak (end of career)  
Dimitrij Küttel (HC Kriens-Luzern)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Ignacio	Biosca	ESP	Goalkeeper	17/07/1995	Barcelona, ESP	193	94
2	Robin Joel	Heinis	SUI	Right Back	28/04/2002	Therwil Basel, SUI	195	95
3	Igor	Zabic	SLO	Line Player	15/08/1992	Celje, SLO	201	113
4	Mehdi	Ben Romdhane	SUI	Centre Back	02/12/2001	Yverdon-les-Bains, SUI	188	94
5	Torben	Matzken	GER	Centre Back	01/02/2000	Mons, GER	188	87
6	Odinn Thor	Rikhardsson	ISL	Right Wing	23/10/1997	Reykjavic, ISL	183	84
7	Joan	Cañellas	ESP	Left Back	30/09/1986	San Vicente de la Barquera, ESP	198	103
8	Nicolas	Waldvogel	SUI	Left Back	07/01/2003	Zürich, SUI	187	90
9	Jonas	Schopper	GER	Line Player	05/02/1999	Siegen am Hohentwiel, GER	185	108
10	Donát	Bartók	HUN	Right Back	13/07/1996	Szeged, HUN	192	102
13	Michael	Kusio	SUI	Right Back	31/07/1998	Meinisberg BE, SUI	195	102
16	Noé	Hottinger	SUI	Goalkeeper	29/10/2001	Meilen ZH, SUI	192	85
17	Jost	Brücker	SUI	Left Wing	17/02/1991	Bürglen UR, SUI	185	84
19	Zoran	Markovic	SUI	Left Back	06/05/1995	Neuhausen RH, SUI	197	100
20	Luka	Maros	SUI	Left Back	20/03/1994	Dübendorf ZH, SUI	196	99
22	Martin	Ziemer	GER	Goalkeeper	14/04/1983	Rostock, GER	188	98
23	Rohat	Sahin	SUI	Line Player	01/04/2002	Arbon TG, SUI	191	110
24	Nik	Tominec	SUI	Right Wing	26/03/1991	Luzern, SUI	187	90
25	Sandro	Obranovic	CRO	Left Back	18/10/1992	Karlovac, CRO	194	95
<b>C</b> 26	Lukas	Herburger	AUT	Line Player	19/12/1994	Bregenz, AUT	197	97



## JOAN CAÑELLAS

 @joancanellas21

### Left back

- joined Kadetten from Pick Szeged in the summer of 2021
- started his career at Granollers before playing for Barça, Ciudad Real and Atletico Madrid in Spain; Hamburg and Kiel in Germany; and Vardar, where he won the CL in 2017
- made his senior national team debut in October 2008
- top scorer at EHF EURO 2014, with 50 goals
- his younger brother Marc is also a professional handball player

EC trophies: CL 2017

EURO: G 2020, G 2018, S 2016, B 2014; WCh: G 2013, B 2011

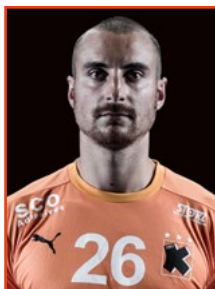
Top scorer EURO 2014



## MARTIN ZIEMER

### Goalkeeper

- at the age of 39, moved to play abroad for the very first time in his long career
- played for eight different German clubs - including SC Magdeburg, Füchse Berlin and at latest HC - Erlangen - before he joined Kadetten
- has 15 international matches for the German national team on his tally, but never played at a major tournament
- supposed to fill the footprints of former Kadetten goalkeeper Kristian Pilipovic, who transferred to Champions League participant Wisla Plock in July 2022



## LUKAS HERBURGER

### Line player

- new Kadetten team captain, succeeding on Dimitrij Küttel, who left to Luzern/Kriens
- has only played for two clubs in his career: Austrian side Alpla Hard and Kadetten since 2018
- moved from Hard to Schaffhausen with former Kadetten coach Petr Hrachovec
- five times Austrian champion, twice Austrian cup winner, twice Swiss champion and once Swiss cup winner by now
- plays for the Austrian national team since 2014, was part of five major tournaments so far (EHF EURO 2018, 2020, 2022 and World Championships 2019 and 2021)



## DONAT BARTOK

### Right back

- arrived at Schaffhausen in January 2021 and was one of the best scorers in the two previous European League seasons for the Swiss champions
- started his career at Tatabanya, in 2015, moved abroad for the first time, joining German side TBV Lemgo for four years
- in 2019 transferred to Spanish former CL winners Bidasoa Irun - and played Champions League for the first time in his career
- former Hungarian national team player and was part of the EHF EURO 2020 squad
- already his father Csaba Bartok was a professional handball player



## GROUP A



## Club contact

## Club Address

TATRAN Presov  
Holleho 3  
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## Media contact

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 [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



Tatran Presov are the undoubted No. 1 in Slovakia, but the club has been struggling in European competitions in the last few years. In 2022/23, Presov hope to advance from the group phase of the EHF European League Men. The Slovakian champions have been going through changes over the past two years. They now face a busy 2022/23 season, as they will appear in both the Slovakian and the Czech national leagues, as well as in the European League group phase.

- former left wing Radoslav Antl took over as head coach in December 2021, replacing Slavko Goluza
- two players left the club and three joined, making a team mix of experience and youth, with a total of nine different nationalities represented
- Presov aim for their first appearance in the European League knockout phase this season
- in order to have more challenging domestic matches, Presov will play in the Czech league alongside their participation in the Slovakian league

Most important question: Can Presov make it a step further?

After significant changes in the squad throughout the last two seasons, Tatran Presov enter the 2022/23 season with almost the same team. Only Nuno Santos and Guilherme Linhares have left the club, so Radoslav Antl can work with a nearly unchanged squad compared to the last few months of 2021/22.

“After playing in the European League last season, we continue to be part of top European handball. This is important for our fans, the city of Presov, and the players as well, who are motivated to deliver the best possible performance against elite handball teams,” new team manager Stanislav Pupik says. Pupik has stepped into the shoes of Miroslav Benicky, who moved to Slovenia to become manager of Celje Pivovarna Laško. Under the new manager, Tatran Presov have set clear goals for the upcoming season: try to pull the maximum out of the experienced players and give as much valuable court time as possible to the young talents.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF Champions League

Last 16 (1): 2004/05

Last 32 (1): 1993/94

Group phase (7): 2005/06, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2010/11, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19, 2019/20

Qualification (6): 2009/10, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2017/18

### EHF European League

Group phase (2): 2020/21, 2021/22

### Other

#### EHF Cup

Quarter-final (1): 2011/12

#### Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-final (1): 2005/06

**Slovakian league:** 17 titles (2004, 2005, 2007-2019, 2021, 2022)

**Slovakian cup:** 16 titles (2002, 2004, 2005, 2007-2018, 2020)





## RADOSLAV ANTL

Coach

- club's legend took over the helm in December 2021
- former left wing played all three tiers of the EHF competitions since his debut in 1997
- won nine Slovak championship with Tatran Presov
- started his career in Kosice, transferred to Tatran Presov and played for two clubs in Zürich before returning to Tatran in 2009
- his son Marco Antl, also a left wing, is in the team's squad for the 2022/23 season

## NEW/COMERS

Lukás Urban (Grundfos Tatabánya KC/HUN)  
Djordje Golubovic (HC Prolet 62/MKD)  
Nikola Ivanovic (Partizan Belehrad/SRB)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Nuno Santos (Cocks Riihimäki/FIN)  
Guilherme Linhares (HBW Balingen-Wellstetten/GER)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
C 2	Oliver	Rábek	SVK	Left Back	30/09/1987	Nové Zámky, SVK	204	102
4	Pedro	Souza	BRA	Centre Back	04/04/1998	Sao Paulo, BRA	188	86
5	Tomáš	Fech	SVK	Right Wing	08/10/2001	Prešov, SVK	192	85
7	Danylo	Khaian	UKR	Left Back	17/03/2003	Smoline, UKR	190	88
9	Dominik	Krok	SVK	Left Back	22/01/1991	Bardejov, SVK	189	79
10	Tomáš	Recicár	SVK	Left Back	30/11/1998	Prešov, SVK	190	100
11	Erik	Fenár	SVK	Right Wing	03/02/2004	Prešov, SVK	178	70
12	Leben	Tilen	SLO	Goalkeeper	07/01/1997	Celje, SLO	187	88
15	Alexandr	Radcenko	CZE	Centre Back	05/07/1973	Krasnodar, UKR	187	90
17	Jakub	Kravcak	SVK	Left Back	09/12/2002	Prešov, SVK	195	90
18	Marco	Antl	SVK	Left Wing	03/06/2003	Prešov, SVK	181	72
21	Nikola	Ivanovic	SRB	Right Back	19/12/1998	Subotica, SRB	195	99
22	Viacheslav	Kasatkin	RUS	Line Player	02/09/1996	Krasnodar, RUS	186	105
28	Sergio	Lopez	ESP	Left Wing	30/09/1997	Cuenca, ESP	181	77
33	Dávid	Michalka	SVK	Left Wing	28/11/1996	Topolcany, SVK	184	84
34	Marko	Davidovic	BIH	Centre Back	27/08/1992	Prijedor, BIH	188	90
44	Djordje	Golubovic	SRB	Right Back	20/05/1992	Beograd, SRB	193	96
47	Lukáš	Urban	SVK	Left Back	22/06/1995	Prešov, SVK	201	101
55	Peter	Kimák Fejko	SVK	Line Player	23/07/2002	Prešov, SVK	185	87
66	Pavel	Hernandez	CUB	Left Back	20/09/1991	Matanzas, CUB	188	93
73	Igor	Chupryna	SVK	Goalkeeper	25/04/1990	Illicivsk, UKR	197	110
77	Roman	Tsarapkin	RUS	Field Player	09/05/1995	Moscow, RUS	200	98
86	Marcos	Colodeti	BRA	Goalkeeper	09/01/1996	Venda Nova do Imigr, 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



## PEDRO SOUZA 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

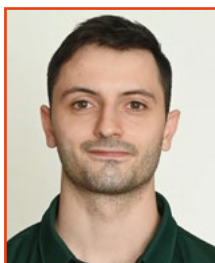


## ROMAN TSARAPKIN

 @romantsarapkin

### Line player

- 2022/23 is the Russian's seventh 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



## SERGIO LOPEZ GARCIA

 @sergiolg\_28

### Left wing

- Spanish left wing joined Tatra Presov in summer of 2021
- Tatra is his first international experience as he played only for Cuenca since he started playing handball
- had his European debut in 2018/19 season playing EHF Cup with Cuenca
- in his maiden EHF European League season with Tatra, scored 20 goals

## GROUP A



### Club contact

#### Club Address

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#### Media contact

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 [frischauf-gp.de](http://frischauf-gp.de)

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

 [@frischaufgp](https://twitter.com/frischaufgp)

 [@frischaufgp](https://www.instagram.com/frischaufgp)

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: green

#### Dark

Player shirt: blue  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: purple



### Playing hall

**EWS Arena Göppingen**  
Nördlichen Ringstrasse 87  
73033 Göppingen  
Germany  
Capacity: 5,600

# FRISCH AUF GÖPPINGEN



Facing defending EHF European League champions SL Benfica, two-time EHF Champions League winners Montpellier HB, last year's quarter-finalists Kadetten Schaffhausen, Tatran Presov, and Fejér B.Á.L.-Veszprém, Frisch Auf Göppingen have been drawn in an extremely competitive group in their international comeback season. But thanks to some big names among the new arrivals, the hopes are to go all the way in the EHF European League, or at least to advance to the knockout stage.

- **Göppingen won the EHF Cup – the predecessor of the European League – four times, most recently in 2018**
- **team captain Tim Kneule is the only current squad member who was part of all four winning campaigns**
- **finished fifth in the German Bundesliga 2021/22**
- **edged fellow Bundesliga side, and last season's European League quarter-finalists, TBV Lemgo Lippe by two goals in the decisive qualification round**
- **team is coached by Hartmut Mayerhoffer since 2018**

The most important factor for Göppingen is to be back on the international stage again: "After some years without international club matches, we are very happy to be back. This is our motivation, as well as facing big clubs and see new locations all around Europe," says team captain Tim Kneule.

Despite some big names in the squad, club manager Gerd Hofele remains humble: "As four-time EHF Cup winners we are looking forward to participate in the new format of the EHF European League for the first time. As we face top teams, we only go from stage to stage, therefore the Last 16 is our main objective currently. Playing EHF European League provides our team with important motivation and experiences."

For Kneule, the German teams are the biggest favourites to win the trophy, alongside Benfica, but: "The European League is full with good teams this season, and we have to look for a good form against them."

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF European League

Participations (including 2022/23): 1

### EHF Cup

Winners (4): 2010/11, 2011/12, 2015/16, 2016/17

Final (1): 2005/06

Semi-finals (2): 2012/13, 2017/18

Quarter-finals (1): 2009/10

### German league

-

### German cup

-





## HARTMUT MAYERHOFFER

head coach

- Romanian-born coach, who joined Göppingen in 2018
- spent a large part of his playing career with clubs in the German second division
- started working as a coach in 2009, took over the men's team of then second division club SG BBM Bietigheim in 2013 and steered them to the 1. Bundesliga right away
- moved from Bietigheim to Göppingen in 2018 to succeed Rolf Brack; now enters his first European season

## ARRIVALS

David Schmidt (Bergischer HC/GER)  
Vid Poteko (RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko/SLO)  
Marin Sego (Montpellier HB/FRA)  
Jaka Malus (BM Sinmfin/ESP)  
Nils Röller (TuS Dansenberg/GER)  
Gilberto Duarte (Montpellier HB/FRA)  
Blaz Blagotinsek (Telekom Veszprém HC/HUN)

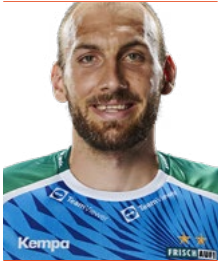
## DEPARTURES

Nemanja Zelenovic (VfL Gummersbach/GER)  
Janus Smarason (Kolstad Håndball/NOR)  
Jacob Bagersted (Sønderjyske Håndbold/DEN)  
Urh Kastelic (TBV Lemgo Lippe/GER)



# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Julian	Buchele	GER	Goalkeeper	30.04.2004	Göppingen	190	87
2	Oskar	Neudeck	GER	Left Back	04.02.2002	Göppingen	192	91
3	Felix	Eisele	GER	Right Wing	07.09.2004	Schwäbisch Gmünd	185	80
<b>C</b> 4	Tim	Kneule	GER	Centre Back	18.08.1986	Reutlingen	190	96
5	Gilberto	Duarte	POR	Left Back	06.07.1990	Portimão	197	100
6	JonLindenchrone	Andersen	DEN	Right Back	02.01.1997	Nørre Snede	195	94
7	Maximilian	Hejny	GER	Right Back	01.03.2001	Balingen	200	106
10	Sebastian	Heymann	GER	Left Back	01.03.1998	Heilbronn	198	91
12	Daniel	Rebmann	GER	Goalkeeper	16.01.1994	Stuttgart	190	94
13	Josip	Sarac	CRO	Left Back	24.02.1998	Ljubuški	201	100
14	Valentin	Abt	GER	Left Wing	28.07.2005	Göppingen	185	80
15	Vid	Poteko	SLO	Line Player	05.04.1991	Celje	194	103
16	Marin	Sego	CRO	Goalkeeper	02.08.2005	Mostar	194	100
17	Tobias	Ellebæk	DEN	Left Back	15.05.1992	Morsø	193	92
21	Blaz	Blagotinsek	SLO	Line Player	17.01.1994	Celje	203	117
24	Marcel	Schiller	GER	Left Wing	15.08.1991	Bad Urach	189	93
29	Nils	Rölller	GER	Line Player	02.09.2001	Ludwigshafen	195	120
30	Axel	Goller	GER	Right Wing	27.03.2000	Reutlingen	180	78
34	KevinMaageroe	Gulliksen	NOR	Right Wing	09.11.1996	Oslo	180	82
41	Till	Hermann	GER	Left Wing	22.12.1996	Gehrden	179	75
44	Kresimir	Kozina	CRO	Line Player	25.06.1990	Derventa	196	99
66	Jaka	Malus	SLO	Centre Back	15.06.1996	Celje	190	90
77	David	Schmidt	GER	Right Back	19.10.1993	Karlsruhe	190	86



## MARCEL SCHILLER

 @marcel24schiller

### Left wing

- joined Göppingen in 2013 from TV Neuhausen, the only other club in his career
- was second-best scorer in the Bundesliga 2020/21 with 270 goals; mainly scored from fast break and penalties
- German international, taking over on the left wing from Uwe Gensheimer, who retired after the Tokyo Olympics in 2021
- the 2021 World Championship was his first major event for Germany; became the team's best scorer with 21 goals right away

EC trophies: EHFC 2016, 2017



## GILBERTO DUARTE


 @gilbs5

### Line back

- Portuguese international, who played CL for four different teams – Porto, Plock, Barça, and Montpellier – before arriving at Göppingen in 2022
- started pro career at Porto, where he became national team player
- was Porto's top scorer in CL 2013/14 season with 56 goals
- won seven domestic championships in Portugal and one in Spain
- has played more than 100 matches for Portugal, including at the 2020 Olympics



## BLAZ BLAGOTINSEK

 @blagi4

### Defender

- experienced Slovenian international, who played for Veszprém from 2016 until 2022
- joined Göppingen for one season; will move to SG Flensburg-Handewitt in 2023
- made CL All-star Team as best defender in 2018/19 and 2019/20
- previously played four seasons at Celje in his native Slovenia
- made national team debut for Slovenia at age 18 in 2012

WCh: B 2017



## KRESIMIR KOZINA

### Line player

- Croatian international, who has been playing for German clubs since 2015
- played for Flensburg and for Füchse Berlin before arriving at Göppingen in 2017
- played, and lost, the EHF Cup final in 2017 with Füchse against Göppingen
- started his career at Zamet and gained first international experience with Nexø
- first moved abroad in 2013 to Alpa Hard, where he won the Austrian league twice

## GROUP A



## Club contact

## Club Address


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34090 Montpellier  
France


## Media contact

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 [@mhbofficial](https://twitter.com/mhbofficial)

 [@mhbofficial](https://www.instagram.com/mhbofficial)

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: red/black

## Dark

Player shirt: blue  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: red/black



## Playing hall

**FDI Stadium**  
1000 Av. du Val de  
Montferrand  
34090 Montpellier  
France  
Capacity: 2,900

## MONTPELLIER HB



Winning the EHF Champions League twice does not make a team a guaranteed contender for another European trophy. Montpellier learnt it the hard way, as the French side have enjoyed mixed results since 2018. While their 2018/19 campaign as titleholders of the EHF Champions League went disastrous, the French side failed to reach the semi-finals of any competition since.

- **2022/23 is only the third season since 2002 that Montpellier do not play in the EHF Champions League**
- **Montpellier had their European campaigns ended in the quarter-finals in each of the last two seasons: in the European League against Füchse in 2020/21; in the Champions League against Kielce in 2021/22**
- **Montpellier reached the EHF Cup final in 2014**
- **key arrivals in the off-season were French national team players Rémi Desbonnet and Karl Konan, while Marin Segó and Gilberto Duarte left the team**
- **Patrice Canayer is in his record 28th straight season as Montpellier coach**

With a team that has changed a lot over the last few years but an ambition that remains the same, Montpellier are among the contenders for this season.

After reaching the quarter-finals of the EHF Champions League in 2021/22, it will be interesting to see how some of the younger players will adapt now they are playing in the second-tier competition – not a guarantee that things will be any easier, though.

“We know we are among the favourites, but we also know that everyone will be extra motivated for a game against us. So, things will not be easy for us just because we are Montpellier,” head coach Patrice Canayer said.

Montpellier have already had the opportunity to experience the opponents’ willpower against them, as IK Sävehof posed a tough challenge in the qualification round. This is what Montpellier should expect for the group phase, too.

## 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, 2021/22

### **EHF European League**

Participations (including 2022/23): 2

Quarter-final (1): 2020/21

### **EHF Cup**

Final (1): 2013/14

Quarter-final (1): 1996/97

### **Cup Winners' Cup**

Quarter-final (1): 2001/02

### **French league**

14 titles (1995, 1998-2000, 2002-06, 2008-12)

### **French cup**

13 titles (1999-2003, 2005-06, 2008-10, 2012-13, 2016)





## PATRICE CANAYER

**Coach**

- in charge of Montpellier since 1994, he is among 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 coach of the CL All-star Team 2017/18 after the club had won their second CL title
- played for Stade Pessacais UC, Bordeaux and Racing Paris in his active years

EC trophies: CL 2003, 2018

## NEW/COMERS

Rémi Desbonnet (USAM Nîmes Gard/FRA)  
Kark Konan (PAUC Handball/FRA)  
Stas Skube (Lomza Industria Kielce/POL)  
Andreas Holst Jensen (Aalborg Handbold/DEN)  
Giorgi Tskhovrebadze (Pfadi Winterthur/SUI)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Marin Sego (Frisch Auf Göppingen/GER)  
Gilberto Duarte (Frisch Auf Göppingen/GER)  
Olafur Gudmunsson (Amicitia Zurich/SUI)  
Benjamin Bataille (Saint-Raphaël Var/FRA)  
Karl Wallinius (THW Kiel/GER)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight	
3	Lucas Dario	Moscariello	ARG	Line Player	19.02.1992	Buenos Aires, ARG	190	103	
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	
7	Alexis	Berthier	FRA	Right Back	12.03.2002	Aubagne, FRA	193	84	
9	Hugo	Descat	FRA	Left Wing	16.08.1992	Paris, FRA	183	92	
10	Lucas	Pelle	SWE	Left Wing	28.08.1995	Farsta, SWE	183	78	
11	Giorgi	Tskhovrebadze	GEO	Right Back	19.02.2001	Tbilisi, GEO	193	85	
12	Charles	Bolzinger	FRA	Goalkeeper	14.12.2000	Sete, FRA	198	100	
13	Julien	Bos	FRA	Right Back	18.08.1998	Pessac, FRA	188	85	
15	Matéo	Caille	FRA	Line Player	27.06.2004	Montpellier, FRA	198	96	
16	Kevin	Bonnefoi	FRA	Goalkeeper	03.12.1991	Toulon, FRA	190	107	
17	Lucas	Guigon	FRA	Right Back	18.07.2003	Montpellier, FRA	197	83	
18	Marco	Panic	BIH	Right Back	10.03.1991	Jajce, BIH	197	101	
19	Arthur	Lenne	FRA	Line Player	02.05.2001	Colmar, FRA	194	95	
20	Stas	Skube	SLO	Centre Back	15.11.1989	Celje, SLO	179	85	
21	Kylian	Prat	FRA	Left Back	20.02.2004	Le Blanc, FRA	191	78	
22	Karl	Konan	FRA	Left Back	03.06.1995	Cocody, FRA	196	95	
23	Mathieu	Cornette	FRA	Centre Back	30.06.2003	Montpellier, FRA	188	80	
24	Adrian	Dubois	FRA	Left Wing	21.03.2001	Beziers, FRA	182	71	
25	Andreas Holst	Jensen	DEN	Left Back	01.12.1994	Lemvig, DEN	201	110	
26	Mathis	Mougin	FRA	Left Back	07.07.2002	Besancon, FRA	200	95	
27	Robin	Puigsegur	FRA	Line Player	18.12.2002	Montpellier, FRA	194	100	
<b>C</b>	28	Valentin	Porte	FRA	Right Back	07.09.1990	Versailles, FRA	190	96
	29	Niels	Martin	FRA	Goalkeeper	20.09.2004	Lyon, FRA	197	100
	31	Roland	Terjek	HUN	Right Wing	14.08.2004	Salgótarján, HUN	189	69
	32	Yanis	Lenne	FRA	Right Wing	29.06.1996	Colmar, FRA	187	88
	92	Remi	Desbonnet	FRA	Goalkeeper	28.02.1992	Montpellier, FRA	182	85
	93	Veron	Nacinovic	CRO	Line Player	07.03.2000	Rijeka, CRO	204	108



## 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
- was second-best goal scorer of (shortened) CL 2019/20 season with 75 goals; netted 71 times in EL 2020/21 and 73 times in CL 2021/22 for Montpellier
- won gold with France at 2020 Tokyo Olympics and made All-star Team as left wing

OG: G 2020



## VALENTIN PORTE

 @valhand28

### Left back

- arrived in Montpellier in 2016, reached CL quarter-finals in his debut season, and won the CL in his second year while scoring a personal best 64 goals
- was right wing until 2014, when France coach Claude Onesta moved him to back court
- rose to prominence during EHF EURO 2014, scoring 16 goals in semi-final and final
- golf aficionado, learned a lot about the game from Barça's Gonzalo Perez de Vargas

EC trophies: CL 2018  
OG: G 2020, S 2016; WCh: G 2015, 2017, B 2019; EURO: G 2014, B 2018



## DIEGO SIMONET

 @chinosimonet

### Centre back

- Argentinian international, born into a handball family, with two brothers – Sebastian and Pablo – also playing the sports professionally
- was key factor in Montpellier's CL title win in 2018; named MVP of the EHF FINAL4
- going into his second EL campaign with Montpellier; also played in the CL for eight seasons and in the EHF Cup for one season with the club

EC trophies: CL 2018



## YANIS LENNE

 @lenne\_yanis

### Right wing

- returned to France in 2019 after two seasons with Barça – though he spent one of those years on loan at PAUC Handball
- has been consistently scoring more than 30 goals in each of Montpellier's last three European seasons: 37 in CL 2019/20, 35 in EL 2020/21, 47 in CL 2021/22
- has become a regular in the French national team since Luc Abalo retired
- his younger brother Arthur, who is a line player, also joined Montpellier in 2019

## GROUP A




### Club contact

#### Club Address


Fejér B.Á.L. Veszprém  
Radnóti tér 1  
8200 Veszprém  
Hungary

#### Media contact

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web.dorci@gmail.com

 [veszpremikse.hu](http://veszpremikse.hu)

 [VKKFT-Veszprem](https://www.facebook.com/VKKFT-Veszprem)

 [vkkft\\_vezsprem](https://www.instagram.com/vkkft_vezsprem)

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt:  
Player short:  
Goalkeeper shirt:

#### Dark

Player shirt:  
Player short:  
Goalkeeper shirt:



### Playing hall

**Veszprém Arena**  
Kúlsó Kadartai ut  
8200 Veszpre  
Hungary  
Capacity: 5,096

# FEJÉR B.Á.L. – VESZPRÉM



Nine years ago the club was founded; two years ago they were promoted to the country's first division; and in 2022, Fejér B.Á.L. Veszprém are making their debut in a European competition.

Things are coming fast for the Hungarian side, who stunned Chambéry in the final qualification round by making up a four-goal defeat from the first leg with an awesome performance on home court, and a 31:25 win, to earn a group phase berth in the EHF European League.

- **this is Veszprém's first international campaign**
- **club manager József Éles is a former international and legend of Hungarian handball**
- **Slovakian line player Šimon Machác, who is one of the new arrivals for the 2022/23 season, is the only non-Hungarian member of the squad**
- **former Győr coach Gábor Danyi, who won the EHF Champions League Women in 2019, is part of the club's management team**

The squad is full of young talent – the average age is under 25 – and the management is stuffed with local legends. “Our goal is to ingrain the name of another team from Veszprém into the public consciousness of the international handball community and to absorb the atmosphere of the European League,” says club manager József Éles.

The players do not have any pressure on their shoulder, nor the management, according to Éles. “For us, it is extremely important to show to the future handball players what they can achieve thanks to the system and approach we represent: the strength of the bond formed between the players – even from childhood – and the hard work makes them capable of anything.”



## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF European League Men

Participations (including 2022/23): 1

### Hungarian league

–

### Hungarian cup

–





## CSABA KONKOLY

### Coach

- arrived at Fejér in summer of 2022, taking over from Csaba Tombor, who moved to Hungarian league rivals Tatabánya
- started coaching career at women's team of Győr (2007-11), leading them to four domestic titles and CL 2007/08 final
- also coached Székesfehérvár and Vác, before joining German side TuS Metzingen and reaching EHF Cup 2015/16 final
- switched to men's handball in 2017, joining Gyöngyös for five seasons and transforming them from a team battling relegation each season into stable league contenders

## ARRIVALS

Gábor Pulay (SBS Eger/HUN)  
Balázs Molnár (SBS Eger/HUN)  
Levente Szrnka (KTE/HUN)  
János Stranigg (NEKA/HUN)  
Bence Vetési (Pick Szeged/HUN)  
Simon Machác (SBS Eger/HUN)

## DEPARTURES

Gergő Fazekas (Telekom Veszprém HC/HUN)  
Ádám Borbély (FTC/HUN)  
Huba Vajda (Balatonfüredi KSE/HUN)  
József Tóth (retired)  
Márton Tóth (HÉP-Cegléd/HUN)  
Bálint Somogyi (Polisportiva Cingoli/ITA)  
Máté Kurucz (QHB-Eger/HUN)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight	
1	Tibor	Balogh	HUN	Goalkeeper	25.09.1993	Nagyatád	188	88	
2	Péter	Tóth	HUN	Right Wing	28.06.2000	Békéscsaba	183	78	
6	Zsombor	Éles	HUN	Left Back	14.07.2002	Veszprém	192	93	
7	Šimon	Machác	SVK	Line Player	30.09.1993	Povazska Bytrica	191	98	
12	János	Podoba	HUN	Goalkeeper	11.07.2000	Budapest	190	89	
14	Péter	Szmetán	HUN	Right Wing	14.03.1999	Veszprém	180	81	
15	Levente	Hári	HUN	Left Wing	20.09.1999	Székefehérvár	180	74	
17	Ákos	Preszter	HUN	Right Wing	12.02.2003	Várpalota	183	79	
19	Benedek	Éles	HUN	Left Back	06.09.1999	Veszprém	190	86	
21	Dániel	Fercsik	HUN	Left Back	17.11.2004	Veszprém	194	81	
22	János	Stranigg	HUN	Left Back	02.02.1995	Budapest	190	95	
25	Gábor	Pulay	HUN	Right Back	13.07.1993	Dunaujvaros	194	96	
<b>C</b>	30	Mátyás	Kristóf	HUN	Centre Back	22.04.1998	Veszprém	187	82
	33	Balázs	Molnár	HUN	Left Wing	25.06.1997	Veszprém	180	75
	42	Mátyás	Seregi	HUN	Left Wing	07.02.2001	Budapest	190	79
	55	Gergo	Miklós	HUN	Goalkeeper	04.11.1994	Szeged	196	115
	56	Levente	Szrnka	HUN	Line Player	10.11.1997	Kecskemét	199	111
	59	Ákos	Széles	HUN	Right Back	19.10.2000	Budapest	191	93
	61	Dávid	Bugyáki	HUN	Line Player	23.05.1998	Baja	187	94
	72	Bence	Vetési	HUN	Centre Back	06.04.2000	Budapest	184	81
	86	Bence	Szatmári	HUN	Centre Back	16.04.2003	Pécs	185	75
	89	Bálint	Kaider	HUN	Goalkeeper	24.08.2003	Veszprém	192	85

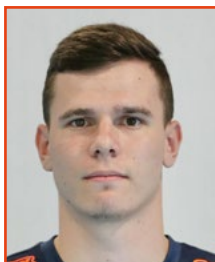


## JÁNOS STRANIGG

 @straniggjani

### Left back

- joined Fejér from domestic league rivals NEKA in summer of 2022
- has spent his entire playing career so far in Hungary, except for one season with Danish side Mors-Thy
- played in Hungary's YAC national teams; has yet to be called up for the senior team
- also works as a strength and conditioning coach



## BENEDEK ÉLES

 @eles.benedek

### Left back

- spent his entire career playing in Veszprém, previously was in the youth ranks of the four-time EHF Champions League finalists before joining Fejér
- son of team manager and former Hungary international József Éles
- his younger brother, Zsombor, also plays for the team, and also as a left back
- missed part of the pre-season due to a fractured bone in his foot

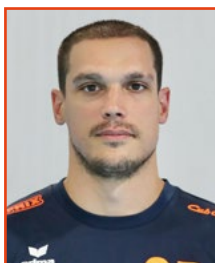


## KRISTÓF MÁTTYÁS

 @kristofmatyi

### Centre back

- team captain, who arrived at Fejér in the summer of 2018
- started playing handball at his elementary school at the age of eight
- later joined the youth ranks of the 'other' club in Veszprém and was part of their squad for the EHF Champions League 2017/18 season
- likes to play other sports as well, including basketball, beach volleyball, and darts



## GÁBOR PULAY

### Right back

- experienced right back, played several years in Germany's second and third divisions
- returned to Hungary in 2020 and signed for Balatonfüred; played in the inaugural EHF European League 2020/21 season with the club
- arrived at Fejér in the summer of 2022
- 1.94m-tall player, known for his huge shots from distance



# GROUP B PREVIEW

## TITLE FAVOURITES FACE INEXPERIENCED SIDES IN GROUP B

Group B brings an interesting mix to the fold, with one of the big title challengers, SG Flensburg-Handewitt, facing inexperienced teams at this level in European handball, like Iceland's Valur or Sweden's Ystads IF, who have mostly featured in the EHF European Cup, or are making their comeback in European competitions after a long wait. After a season in which injuries have ravaged the team, SG Flensburg-Handewitt will drop from the Machineseecker EHF Champions League for the first time since the 2011/12 season, when they secured the trophy in the Cup Winners' Cup. With a plethora of stars at their disposal, like Jim Gottfridsson, the MVP of the EHF EURO 2018 and 2022, or Norwegian stalwarts Magnus Abelvik Rød and Goran Johannessen, Flensburg will definitely be one of the title challengers, having both the experience and the depth to go far in the competition. Yet their start in the Bundesliga has been somewhat erratic, with only four wins in seven games, which makes this European competition even more important for the German powerhouse. They will face a stern challenge, though, in the group phase, with sides that are eager to impress and derail their season.

Hungarian side FTC are trying to get better and better in what was a two-pronged battle in the domestic league between Telekom Veszprem HC and PICK Szeged and have the experience of centre back Mate Lekai to count on. They have reached the group phase by eliminating two Romanian teams, Minaur Baia Mare (74:49 on aggregate) and CSA Steaua Bucuresti (66:64 on aggregate) and will count on their home support to challenge the big guns. TM Benidorm, a rookie in the group phase of an European competition, eliminated GC Amicitia Zurich on their way here, 64:58 on aggregate, and have an interesting squad at their disposal, with a Spanish core, bolstered by three Argentinian players and two Serbian players. Like Icelandic side Valur, their main issue is the lack of experience at the highest level, which can definitely hamper their challenge, due to other sides bringing more to the table in this point of the competition.

Swedish side Ystads IF were the surprise champions in their domestic league and have a legendary player in their roster, Kim Andersson. The former Machineseecker EHF Champions League winner is now 40 years old, but can still be a mentor for younger players. The Swedish side have not featured in a group phase of an European competition since the 2015/16 Men's EHF Cup, but made the final in the EHF European Cup Men in the 2020/21 season, losing the final against AEK Athens HC, 46:54 on aggregate.

Last, but not least, PAUC Handball might be a wildcard in this group, a dark horse that can derail any campaign. It was a busy summer for the French side, who signed six players and lost five, therefore chemistry might be an issue for Thierry Anti's side. But Anti is a very experienced coach, has some experienced players at his disposal, like Romain Lagarde, William Accambray or Nicolas Claire, therefore making PAUC a team everybody needs to take care of.

*Adrian Costeiu*



## I GROUP B HEAD-TO-HEADS

### HISTORIC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP B OPPONENTS IN THE EC

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#### SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Ystads IF HF

No previous encounters in European competitions

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#### SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Valur

No previous encounters in European competitions

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#### SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs PAUC Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

---

#### SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs TM Benidorm

No previous encounters in European competitions

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#### SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs FTC

No previous encounters in European competitions

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#### Ystads IF HF vs Valur 1-0-1 (40:39) 2:2

1984/85 KN Valur Reykjavik vs Ystads, IHF Cup – Last 16  
1984/85 Ystads vs KN Valur Reykjavik, IHF Cup – Last 16

20:17 (10:8)  
23:19 (10:10)

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#### Ystads IF HF vs PAUC Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

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#### Ystads IF HF vs TM Benidorm

No previous encounters in European competitions

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#### Ystads IF HF vs FTC

No previous encounters in European competitions

---

#### Valur vs PAUC Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

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#### Valur vs TM Benidorm

No previous encounters in European competitions

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#### Valur vs FTC

No previous encounters in European competitions

### **PAUC Handball vs TM Benidorm**

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

### **PAUC Handball vs FTC**

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

### **TM Benidorm vs FTC**

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

## GROUP B



## Club contact

## Club Address

SG Flensburg-Handewitt  
Schiffbrücke 66  
24939 Flensburg  
Germany


## Media contact

Isabel Hofmann  
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 [sg-flensburg-handewitt.de](http://sg-flensburg-handewitt.de)

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

 [@SGFlHa](https://twitter.com/SGFlHa)

 [@sgflensburghandewitt](https://www.instagram.com/sgflensburghandewitt)

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: red

## Dark

Player shirt: blue  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow



## Playing hall

**FLENS-Arena**  
Campusallee 2  
24941 Flensburg  
Germany  
Capacity: 6,300

# SG FLENSBURG— HANDEWITT



SG Flensburg-Handewitt play their 28th international season and aim to go all the way to the winners' podium in the EHF European League. In the last 19 years, Flensburg have played almost always in the EHF Champions League. Now the team of head coach Maik Machulla enters new ground, but hope to continue their story of international success.

“Our objective is to play for the title,” says new team captain Johannes Golla. Flensburg are seen as one of the title contenders, alongside defending champions Benfica and domestic rivals Füchse Berlin.

- **Flensburg played in the EHF Champions League every season between 2012 to 2022, and won the trophy in 2014 at their first visit to the EHF FINAL4**
- **Flensburg are still the only club with four different European trophies: Champions League, EHF Cup, Cup Winners' Cup, and City Cup**
- **easily qualified for the group phase by beating Polish side MKS Gwidzyn 76:49 on aggregate**
- **two star wings have left the club: Lasse Svan (retired) and Hampus Wanne (Barça)**

In 2021/22, mainly the a huge amount of injuries throughout the season stopped Flensburg's ambitions to qualify for the EHF FINAL4 for a second time – after their winning debut in 2013/14. It also led to Flensburg finishing 'just' fourth in the Bundesliga, still widely regarded as the strongest league in the world.

Everybody at Flensburg believe in their strength and share the optimism for their first season in the EHF European League. “We have had a good start into the season and we are really looking forward to play in the EHF European League. We want to reach the final tournament, because it will be a very exciting tournament for us with new and exciting opponents,” former player and new team manager Holger Glandorf said.



## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF Champions League

Winners (1): 2013/14

Final (2): 2003/2004, 2006/2007

Semi-finals (1): 2005/2006

Quarter-finals (9): 2004/2005, 2008/2009, 2010/2011, 2012/2013, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2020/21

### EHF European League

Participations (including 2022/23): 1

### Cup Winners' Cup

Winners (2): 2000/01, 2011/12

### EHF Cup

Winners (19): 1996/97

### City Cup

Winners (1): 1998/1999

### German league

3 titles (2004, 2018, 2019)

### German cup

4 titles (2003-05, 2015)

**Saison 2022/2023**





## MAIK MACHULLA

### Coach

- took over from long-term coach Ljubomir Vranjes in 2017, and won the German league in his first and second season
- had been Vranjes' assistant since 2013, after finishing his playing career in Flensburg
- started his professional career with SC Magdeburg (1997-2002), where he won three European trophies
- later played for Nordhorn (already with Vranjes), Hameln and Ahlen-Hamm, before arriving at Flensburg in 2012

EC trophies: CL 2002; EHF Cup 1999, 2001, 2008 (as player)

## ARRIVALS

Johan Hansen (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER)  
August Pedersen (Drammen HK/NOR)

## DEPARTURES

Lasse Svan (retired)  
Hampus Wanne (Barça/ESP)  
Marius Steinhauser (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Benjamin	Buric	BIH	Goalkeeper	20.11.1990	Doboj	196	102
<b>C</b> 4	Johannes	Golla	GER	Line Player	05.11.1997	Rüdesheim am Rhein	195	112
5	Simon Hald	Jensen	DEN	Line Player	28.09.1994	Aalborg	203	120
6	Frederik	Adam	GER	Left Wing	31.07.2003	Langenfeld	186	81
13	Leon	Kirschberger	GER	Right Wing	16.11.2000	Berlin	189	95
14	Teitur Örn	Einarsson	ISL	Right Back	23.09.1998	Selfoss	190	90
17	Ben Kjell	Schmitt	GER	Goalkeeper	31.01.2004	Buxtehude	197	128
20	Kevin	Møller	DEN	Goalkeeper	20.06.1989	Tøndern	200	103
22	Mads Mensah	Larsen	DEN	Centre Back	12.08.1991	Holbæk	188	105
23	Gøran Søgård	Johannessen	NOR	Left Back	26.04.1994	Stavanger	193	96
24	Jim	Gottfridsson	SWE	Centre Back	02.09.1992	Ystad	192	93
25	Philipp Maximilian	Sekowski	GER	Right Back	19.05.2005	Husum	198	100
26	Johan a Plogv	Hansen	DEN	Right Wing	01.05.1994	Tórshavn	190	80
29	August Baskar	Pedersen	NOR	Left Wing	24.06.1994	Notodden	180	85
31	Emil	Jakobsen	DEN	Left Wing	24.01.1998	Kerteminde	190	86
32	Franz	Semper	GER	Right Back	05.07.1997	Leipzig	191	102
33	Hans Aaron	Mensing	DEN	Left Back	11.11.1997	Sonderborg	198	100
34	Thilo	Knutzen	GER	Centre Back	19.12.2004	Flensburg	208	92
64	Lasse Kjær	Møller	DEN	Left Back	11.06.1996	Gudme	199	104
66	Anton	Lindskog	SWE	Line Player	07.12.1993	Kristianstad	198	110
77	Magnus Abelvik	Rød	NOR	Right Back	07.07.1997	Oslo	204	108
89	Meno	Carstensen	GER	Line Player	19.08.2004	Flensburg	200	100
	Mats Johan	Wehden	GER	Left Wing	09.04.2004	Schleswig	190	82
	Daniel	Wuzella	AUT	Centre Back	25.05.2004	Klagenfurt	184	83
	Stefan	Wuzella	AUT	Right Wing	25.05.2004	Klagenfurt	179	73



## BENJAMIN BURIC

 @benjaminburic12

### Goalkeeper

- joined Flensburg in 2018 arriving from Wetzlar; won Bundesliga in his first season
- played for four clubs alongside his twin brother Senjamin: Maglaj, Izvidjac, Borac, and Velenje; both are Bosnian national team players
- made his name domestically with Borac, before joining Velenje in Slovenia in 2013
- played at EHF Cup Finals 2015 in Berlin, where Velenje finished fourth



## JIM GOTTFRIDSSON

 @gotte24

### Centre back

- comes from Ystad, like many other Swedish handball stars; played for local club Ystads IF from age eight 21, before moving to Flensburg in 2013
- key player for Flensburg in CL semi-final and final in 2014, when they won the trophy
- was leading player for Sweden on their way to gold at the Men's EHF EURO 2022
- MVP of EHF EURO 2018 and 2022, All- star centre back of 2021 WCh

EC trophies: CL 2014  
EURO: G 2022, S 2018; WCh: S 2021



## JOHANNES GOLLA


 @johgolla

### Line player

- German international, who arrived in Flensburg in 2018 from MT Melsungen
- key defender for Flensburg and national team since his first major event, the 2021 WCh; was named in the EHF EURO 2022 All-star Team
- played first match for national team in same year that he joined Flensburg: 2018
- his sister, Pauline, was European under-17 champion with Germany in 2017



## MAGNUS RØD

 @magnusrod

### Right back

- Norwegian international, who started his career at Oslo-based club Bækkelaget SK
- joined Flensburg before the 2017/18 season for his first club abroad
- scored 40 times in CL 2020/21 but missed most of the following season due to injuries
- at 204 cm, he was the tallest member of Flensburg's squad for several seasons, but has lost that 'title' to 208-cm tall centre back Thilo Knutzen for 2022/23

WCh: S 2017, 2019; EURO: B 2020

## GROUP B



## Club contact

## Club Address

Ystads IF HF  
Box 21  
27121 Ystad  
Sweden

## Media contact

Paulina Strandberg  
+46733161353  
paulina.strandberg@yif.se

 [yif.se](http://yif.se)

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

 [@yifhandboll](https://twitter.com/yifhandboll)

 [yifhandboll/?hl=sv](https://www.instagram.com/yifhandboll/?hl=sv)

## Kit colours

## Light

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

## Dark

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



## Playing hall

Ystad Arena  
Industrigatan 10  
27180 Ystad  
Sweden  
Capacity: 2,369

## YSTADS IF HF



Ystads IF are new to the EHF European League Men, after finishing fourth in the regular season of the Swedish league last season but delivering a masterclass in the play-offs. It helped them secure their first title in 30 years and, consequently, earn a place in the group phase of the EHF European League Men – a year after they made it all the way to the final of the EHF European Cup. The Swedish side can be a dark horse against teams that might look stronger on paper.

- Ystad are in the group phase of a European competition for the second time, after the EHF Cup 2015/16
- the Swedish side sealed their place in the group phase by winning their first domestic title in 30 years; however, they have started the domestic 2022/23 season with three wins from three matches
- Ystads IF have an interesting mix of youth and experience – from Kasper Palmar, who starred for Sweden at the M20 EHF EURO, to Kim Andersson, who won the EHF Champions League Men with THW Kiel in 2007
- Ystads IF's best European performance was reaching the EHF European Cup 2020/21 final, which they lost 54:46 on aggregate against AEK Athens

Most important question: Can they make the cut in the EHF European League?

Sure, it is a question everybody asks, but can a side with little to no European experience at this level perform against more seasoned opponents? Ystads IF truly surprised everybody in Sweden when they took the title last season, with a strong performance in the play-offs. Beating both IK Sävehof and IFK Skövde 3-1, including a 47:46 win after a shoot-out in the last match of the final was a huge achievement for Ystad, who have not made serious changes to the squad. But adding at least 10 more European games to the load will surely be difficult to cope during the season, especially as the reigning champions have started the Swedish league with three consecutive losses. The team is already stretched thin and they will surely face difficult opponents, but if there is one thing Ystads IF have plenty of is motivation.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF Cup

Group phase (1): 2015/16

### EHF European Cup

Final (1): 2020/21

### EHF Challenge Cup

Last 16 (1): 2003/04

**Swedish league:** 3 titles (1976, 1992, 2022)

**Swedish cup:** 4 titles (1978, 1981, 1984, 1992)





## OSCAR CARLEN

Coach

- has only featured in three clubs as a player, Ystads IF, SG Flensburg-Handewitt and HSV Hamburg
- named the MVP of the Swedish league in the 2006/07 season
- stopped his playing career in 2013, was named as an assistant coach at Ystads in 2017 and the head coach in 2020
- a former teammate with Kim Andersson, Carlen was forced to retire as a player very early (25), due to multiple knee injuries
- his father, Per, was also a handball player and a coach, having previously led teams like HSV Hamburg and SG Flensburg-Handewitt, and was in the team that won the first-ever EHF EURO in 1994

### NEW/COMERS (INCLUDING FORMER CLUB)

Ebbe Stankiewicz (FyllingenBergen/NOR)  
Mikael Helmersson (SG Flensburg-Handewitt/GER)  
Linus Fernebrand (IFK Ystad/SWE)

### LEFT THE CLUB (INCLUDING NEW CLUB)

Dalibor Doder (IFK Ystad/SWE)  
Filip Pettersson (IFK Ystad/SWE)  
Pontus Encrantz (IFK Ystad/SWE)  
Hampus Andersson (unknown)  
Jim Andersson (retired)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Niklas	Kraft	SWE	Goalkeeper	22/03/1994	Ystad, SWE	192	98
2	Anton	Månsson	SWE	Line Player	09/01/1989	Kävlinge, SWE	196	114
3	Christoffer	Svensson	SWE	Line Player	24/05/1993	Ystad, SWE	188	98
4	Philip	Stenmalm	SWE	Left Back	03/03/1992	Vaxjo, SWE	200	102
5	Kim	Andersson	SWE	Right Back	21/08/1982	Malmø, SWE	200	104
<b>C</b> 6	Jakob	Nygren	SWE	Right Back	14/01/1992	Simrishamn, SWE	188	98
7	Oskar	Svensson	SWE	Centre Back	01/06/2003	Ystad, SWE	180	77
9	Linus	Fernebrand	SWE	Left Wing	16/09/1994	Söndrum, SWE	191	88
10	Albin	Fingal	SWE	Left Back	27/04/2003	Linköping, SWE	185	87
16	Erik	Hvenfelt	SWE	Goalkeeper	16/09/1999	Nödinge, SWE	197	94
17	Johan	Dahlin	SWE	Left Wing	11/03/1996	Ystad, SWE	180	88
18	Knud Ronau	Larsen	DEN	Line Player	07/01/1998	København, DEN	206	118
19	Jonathan	Andersson	SWE	Right Wing	18/01/2004	Ystad, SWE	188	86
22	Ebbe	Stankiewicz	NOR	Right Wing	08/04/2002	Gümmersbach, GER	180	83
23	Hampus	Karlsson	SWE	Right Wing	23/10/2001	Kävlinge, SWE	182	89
28	Jonathan	Svensson	SWE	Left Back	27/01/1998	Ystad, SWE	194	103
30	Marcus	Gustavsson	SWE	Goalkeeper	14/07/2003	Landeryd, SWE	184	90
32	Julius	Lindskog	SWE	Centre Back	21/07/1994	Ystad, SWE	183	86
34	Jonathan	Engström	SWE	Left Back	03/04/2002	Lysekil, SWE	187	95
63	Mikael	Helmersson	SWE	Left Back	29/09/2003	Bressanone, ITA	198	90
91	Kasper	Palmar	SWE	Right Back	27/10/2003	Ystad, SWE	197	101





## KIM ANDERSSON

### Right back

- one of the all-time best right backs in the history of Swedish handball, was in the team that secured the silver medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games
- All-Star right back at the EHF EURO 2008, also won the CL with Kiel in 2007
- spent seven years at Kiel, then moved for three years to KIF Kolding, but returned to Sweden in 2015, signing for Ystads, the team he started handball at and won his third domestic title, after a 17-year long wait
- named the Swedish Player of the Year in 2007 and 2008 and is the eighth best scorer in the history of Sweden's national team, with 824 goals



## NIKLAS KRAFT

### Goalkeeper

- born and bred in Ystad, also played for IK Savehof, HK Malmö, OV Helsingborg and Alingsås HK, before returning to Ystads IF in the summer of 2020
- represented Sweden at the 2015 IHF Men's Junior World Championship, is in the same generation like Tobias Thulin or Jerry Tollbring, who secured the gold at the EHF EURO 2022
- has co-founded a local real estate agency in 2021, which is active in Helsingborg
- has a bachelor in real estate, which was obtained from the Malmö University in 2018, his family also has a wellness centre in Ystad



## PHILIP STENMALM

### Left back

- was considered one of the top prospects in Sweden, after being named the MVP of the 2013 IHF Junior WCh, where he won the gold medal with Sweden
- represented Sweden at the EHF EURO 2016, the Rio 2016 Olympic Games and the 2017 World Championship, scoring 61 goals in 45 matches for the team
- returned to Ystads in 2021, after playing in Spain for Logrono, in Denmark for KIF Kolding, in France for Pays d'Aix and in Poland for Orlen Wisla Plock
- his brother, Elliot, is considered to be the next best thing in Swedish handball, having signed for Kielce, and selected the All-Star left back at the M19 EHF EURO 2021



## JONATHAN SVENSSON

### Left back

- represented Sweden at the youth and junior level, having always been considered a top prospect on the back line
- has been constantly one of the best scorers in the Swedish league, where he has been playing for Ystads for the last seven years, but did not make it to the senior national team
- studied economics and has both a bachelor and a master of science degree in business and economics

GROUP B



**Club contact**

**Club Address**

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Iceland

**Media contact**

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 [valur.is](http://valur.is)

 [valur.handbolti](https://www.facebook.com/valurhandbolti)

 [@valurhandbolti](https://twitter.com/valurhandbolti)

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

**Kit colours**

**Light**

Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

**Dark**

Player shirt: red  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: grey



**Playing hall**

Origo Höllin  
Laufasveg  
Hlíðarendi Reykjavík  
Iceland  
Capacity: 1,800

# VALUR



Valur have reached the group phase of a European competition for the first time since the 2007/08 season. The Icelandic side consider themselves as the perfect underdogs, who will give all in their games to try and hamper their opponents. But can a young and inexperienced squad succeed in the second-tier European competition?

- **Valur made it to the group phase of an international competition for the first time since the 2007/08 season, when they qualified for the group phase of the Machineseecker EHF Champions League**
- **the Icelandic club has a mixture of experience and youth, with an average age of 25.1 years old in the squad, driven up by players like goalkeeper Björgvin Pall Gustavsson**
- **Valur became only the third Icelandic side in history to reach the semi-finals of a European competition, in the 2016/17 season of the Men's EHF Challenge Cup**
- **Valur secured the domestic league last season after finishing level on points with Hakur but with a better head-to-head record of one win; the second game between the two sides ended in a draw**
- **the most decorated team in Iceland has produced talents like Ólafur Stefánsson, Dagur Sigurðsson and Ómar Ingi Magnússon**

Most important question: Are they ready for such a challenge?

To understand how important this qualification in the group phase of the EHF European League Men for Valur, it is worth mentioning only that the previous Icelandic team to feature at this stage of a European competition was Haukar Hafnarfjörður in the 2008/09 season of the EHF Champions League. Of course Iceland have been a constant presence at the major international tournaments like the EHF EURO or the IHF Men's World Championship, but a large number of their players feature in the best leagues in the world, with many talented youngsters leaving Iceland early to fulfil their potential. From the 20-man squad called up by Guðmundur Guðmundsson for the EHF EURO 2022, only a single player, Björgvin Pall Gustavsson, played in the Icelandic league, coincidentally for Valur. Therefore, the Icelandic champions are more of a team that uncovers gems and feeds European powerhouses. Last season, Valur failed to make the cut in the qualification rounds of the EHF European League Men. A 44:39 aggregate win against Croatian side RK Porec in the first round was followed by a 47:54 aggregate loss against TBV Lemgo Lippe, which helped Valur gain important experience.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF Champions League**

Group phase (1): 2007/08

1/8 finals (2): 1993/94, 1995/96

### **Other**

### **Challenge Cup**

Semi-finals (1): 2016/17

**Icelandic league (24):** 1940-1942, 1944, 1947-1948, 1951, 1955, 1973, 1977-1979, 1988-1989, 1991, 1993-1996, 1998, 2007, 2017, 2021-2022

**Icelandic Cup (12):** 1974, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1998, 2008-2009, 2011, 2016-2017, 2021-2022





## SNORRI STEIN GUDJONSSON

### Coach

- Spanish coach, who returned to Benidorm prior to the 2019/20 season after two seasons at Agustinos Alicante
- led Benidorm to the final of the Copa del Rey in his first season back in charge, earning them qualification for their first ever European season
- has completely rebuilt the team since arriving in 2019
- away from handball, he works as a firefighter

## NEW/COMERS

Aron Dagur Pálsson (Elverum Handball)  
Bergur Elí Rúnarsson (FH)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Einar Þorsteinn Ólafsson (Fredericia)  
Þorgeir Bjarki Davíðsson (Gróttu)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Björgvin Pall	Gustavsson	ISL	Goalkeeper	24/05/1985	Hvammstangi, ISL	193	90
3	Tjörvi Týr	Gíslason	ISL	Line Player	12/05/2000	Reykjavík, ISL	190	90
4	Finnur Ingi	Stefánsson	ISL	Right Wing	18/06/1987	Reykjavík, ISL	186	83
5	Agnar	Jónsson	ISL	Right Back	11/10/1993	Reykjavík, ISL	187	97
6	Arnór Snær	Óskarsson	ISL	Right Back	22/02/2000	Reykjavík, ISL	182	81
7	Tryggvi Garðar	Jónsson	ISL	Left Back	13/04/2003	Reykjavík, ISL	199	102
8	Aron	Pálsson	ISL	Centre Back	18/10/1996	Reykjavík, ISL	199	99
9	Benedikt	Óskarsson	ISL	Centre Back	12/09/2002	Reykjavík, ISL	180	75
10	Vignir	Stefánsson	ISL	Left Wing	21/06/1990	Vestmannaeyjar, ISL	188	84
11	Stiven	Valencia	ISL	Left Wing	27/10/2000	Cali, COL	184	84
12	Stefán	Pétursson	ISL	Goalkeeper	21/08/2002	New York, USA	180	78
<b>C</b> 15	Alexander	Júliússon	ISL	Line Player	17/10/1994	Gummersbach, GER	190	95
16	Motoki	Sakai	JPN	Goalkeeper	10/11/1995	Kanagawa, JPN	192	89
17	Breki Hrafn	Valdimarsson	ISL	Left Back	03/01/2003	Reykjavík, ISL	195	93
19	Ísak Logi	Einarsson	ISL	Centre Back	05/09/2003	Reykjavík, ISL	195	75
20	Bergur Elí	Rúnarsson	ISL	Right Wing	20/12/1995	Reykjavík, ISL	183	86
23	Róbert	Hostert	ISL	Left Back	19/01/1991	Reykjavík, ISL	191	95
24	Magnús Óli	Magnússon	ISL	Left Back	08/05/1992	Reykjavík, ISL	184	97
25	Borgils	Svölu Baldursson	ISL	Line Player	31/05/1997	Reykjavík, ISL	186	94
26	Tómas	Sigurðsson	ISL	Left Wing	31/07/2002	Reykjavík, ISL	193	81
27	Áki Hlynur	Andrason	ISL	Left Back	27/03/2002	Reykjavík, ISL	190	95
28	Ingimundur	Ingimundarson	ISL	Left Back	29/01/1980	Reykjavík, ISL	198	99
29	Jóel	Bernburg	ISL	Line Player	28/10/2001	Reykjavík, ISL	190	93
30	Hreiðar Leví	Guðmundsson	ISL	Goalkeeper	29/11/1980	Reykjavík, ISL	198	103
88	Andri	Finsson	ISL	Line Player	26/11/2002	Reykjavík, ISL	184	84
10	Vignir	Stefánsson	ISL	Left Wing	21/06/1990	Vestmannaeyjar, ISL	188	84



## BJÖRGVIN PALL GUSTAVSSON

### Goalkeeper

- saved 26% of shots at EHF EURO 2020, and 34% at WCh 2021 and made his national team debut in 2006 as part of the Iceland “golden generation
- has two brothers and two sisters, stated that one of his sisters inspired him to be the man he is today
- played for clubs in Germany (Magdeburg, Bergischer), Switzerland (Kadetten) and Denmark (Skjern), before he moved back to Iceland in 2020 to feature for Valur
- famous for his tattoos and his eccentric style, acts as a great motivator in the lockerroom



## ARON PALSSON

### Left back

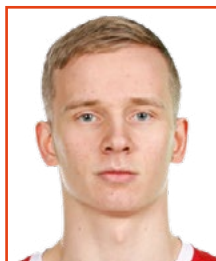
- played for Grotta in Iceland, before moving to Alingsås, Sweden
- also played in Norway, where he became champion with Elverum, before coming back to Iceland to play for Valur in the summer of 2022
- a strong and towering left back, also a very good defender
- a mainstay in Iceland’s youth and junior teams, but has never made his debut for the national team



## ROBERT HOSTERT

### Centre back

- played only for Fram, ÍBV Vestmannaeyjar and Valur, where he signed from 2019 and has been an integrant part of the team ever since
- won three national champion titles, one with Fram and two others with Valur
- stated that his childhood idol was Kurt Cobain, loves rock music
- nicknamed “Robbi Cronic”, Hostert played three games for the Iceland national senior team



## BENEDIKT ÓSKARSSON

### Centre back

- the son of Valur’s assistant coach, Oskar Bjarni Oskarsson
- considered one of the most talented players from the new generation of Iceland, has featured at the M20 EHF EURO 2022
- his brother, Arnor Snaer, is also playing for Valur, both have tried different sports, but stuck to handball, following in their dad’s footsteps

## GROUP B



## Club contact

## Club Address

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## Media contact

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

 [@pauchandball](https://twitter.com/pauchandball)

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

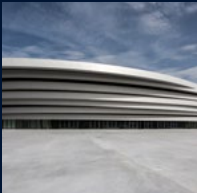
## Kit colours

## Light

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

## Dark

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



## Playing hall

Arena Du Pays D' Aix  
1955 Rue Claude Nicolas  
Ledoux  
13290 Aix en Provence  
France  
Capacity: 6,003

## PAUC HANDBALL



If PAUC Handball enjoyed a historic season in domestic competitions, with a third-place finish in the French league in June, it was a disappointing one in Europe. After qualifying for the group phase of the EHF European League Men 2021/22, the club based in Aix-en-Provence only won one game and finished last in group C with three points. With a deeper squad and with more experience under their belt, PAUC are aiming to perform better in the group phase. Progressing to the Last 16 would create history for a young club playing only their fifth European season.

- in the 2022/23 season, PAUC will be playing their fifth European season, but they have never made it past the EHF European League group phase
- last season, they eliminated Norwegian side ØIF Arendal in qualification round 2 before finishing last in group C with three points
- PAUC will start their EHF European League campaign in the group phase, after finishing third in the French Starligue
- while important players such as Karl Konan (Montpellier) and Iñaki Peciña (Chambery) left the club in the summer, Aix replaced them with young and talented additions
- major signings for 2022/23 include EHF Champions League winner Youssef Ben Ali, defence specialist Gerdas Babarskas and right back Diogo Silva

Most important question: What happened to PAUC in the EHF European League Men last season?

Looking back a few months after the end of last season, it still looks surprising that PAUC did not perform better in the EHF European League Men. How could a team featuring French national team players Nicolas Claire and Wesley Pardin, as well as talented centre back Ian Tarrafeta, only take three points in the group phase?

“We were really frustrated about our results last season,” summarised coach Thierry Anti – and we can definitely understand his feelings. A couple of bad results at the start of the group phase put the team on the wrong track, and while every game was seen as a potential turning point, PAUC went out of the race for the Last 16 pretty quickly. “We will now progress with humility,” said captain Nicolas Claire, who is fully aware that the names in a team do not create success easily.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF European League**

Group phase (1): 2021/22

Qualification round 1 (1): 2020/21

### **EHF Cup**

Group phase (1): 2019/20

Qualification round 3 (1): 2018/19

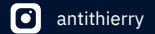






## THIERRY ANTI

### Coach



- PAUC is his sixth club since he began his coaching career at Créteil in 1988
- most famous for leading HBC Nantes to the EHF FINAL4 in 2018
- moved to Portugal in 2019, his first international experience, before returning to France the following year
- one of the most experienced French coaches, alongside Montpellier's Patrice Canayer

## NEW/COMERS

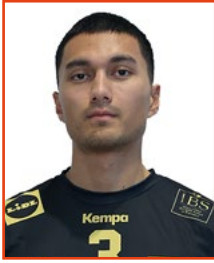
Tomas Moreira (BM Logroño La Rioja)  
Diogo Silva (FC Porto)  
Jordan Camarero (Tremblay)  
Xavier Labigang (Besançon)  
Adrien Vergely (Valence)  
Youssef Ben Ali (Barça)  
Gerdas Babarskas (Chambery Savoie Mont Blanc HB)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Theo Jacques Clarac (Bordeaux)  
Iñaki Peciña (Chambery Savoie Mont Blanc HB)  
Karl Konan (Montpellier HB)  
Micke Brasseleur (CSM Constanta)  
Marko Racic (RK Nexe)  
Ivan Filipovic (no club)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Alejandro	Romero	CUB	Goalkeeper	17/09/1994	Havana, CUB	198	95
2	Hugo	Cabanes	FRA	Right Wing	02/10/2000	Aix, FRA	184	72
3	Kristján Örn	Kristjánsson	ISL	Right Back	25/12/1997	Reykjavik, ISL	190	94
4	Matthieu	Ong	FRA	Left Wing	12/07/1992	Clichy, FRA	180	70
5	Romain	Lagarde	FRA	Left Back	05/03/1997	Lorient, FRA	194	95
6	Titouan	Michel	FRA	Right Wing	13/05/2004	Ajaccio, FRA	186	73
7	Adrien	Vergely	FRA	Line Player	14/09/1996	Saint-Affrique, FRA	191	105
8	Gabriel	Loesch	FRA	Right Wing	12/12/1995	Marignane, FRA	182	73
10	Baptiste	Barthelemy	FRA	Left Back	25/12/2000	Aix, FRA	193	80
11	Paul	Gourdel	FRA	Right Back	14/04/2004	Saint Malo, FRA	185	70
12	Wesley	Pardin	FRA	Goalkeeper	01/01/1990	Le Lamentin, FRA	195	100
14	Gerdas	Babarskas	LTU	Left Back	14/02/1994	GER	197	94
15	Tomas	Moreira	ESP	Line Player	22/08/1992	Vigo, ESP	190	118
18	Xavier	Labigang	FRA	Left Wing	14/10/1996	Thann, FRA	190	84
20	Predrag	Mijatovic	SRB	Goalkeeper	15/02/2002	Prokuplje, SRB	198	95
21	William	Accambray	FRA	Left Back	08/04/1988	Cannes, FRA	194	94
23	Mouhamadou	Sidibe	FRA	Line Player	09/10/2004	Nice, FRA	200	95
24	Diogo	Silva da Borges	POR	Right Back	02/07/1998	Porto, POR	198	99
25	Goran	Levavasseur	FRA	Left Wing	03/12/2003	Paris, FRA	184	70
28	Ian	Tarrafeta	ESP	Centre Back	04/01/1999		188	88
30	Noah	Teffah	FRA	Centre Back	16/06/2003	Paris, FRA	190	90
31	Lorenzo	Gustave	FRA	Goalkeeper	04/10/2003	Morne à l'Eau, FRA	190	102
41	Youssef	Ben Ali	TUN	Line Player	28/05/1987	Tunis, TUN	195	100
64	Jordan	Camarero	FRA	Right Wing	10/03/1992	Pau, FRA	184	87
67	Maxime	Duclay	FRA	Left Back	06/07/2002	Orsey, FRA	195	85
<b>C</b> 77	Nicolas	Claire	FRA	Centre Back	10/07/1987	St Denis (Reu.), FRA	186	86
84	Kilian	Lepetit	FRA	Right Back	04/10/1999	Marseille, FRA	190	74
88	Eliott	Desblancs	FRA	Centre Back	18/08/2004	Cagnes sur mer, FRA	184	72



## KRISTJAN KRISTJANSSON

### Right back

- Icelandic right back, moved to France in 2020, aged 22
- PAUC spotted him during a double-header against Vestmannaeyjar, his former club, in which he scored 12
- made his international debut in a major competition at the 2021 World Championship
- regularly features among his team's best scorers, thanks to his supersonic long-distance shots



## NICOLAS CLAIRE

 @nicolasclaire

### Centre back

- only played for three clubs in his professional career: Paris, Nantes and PAUC (since 2019)
- has been coached by Thierry Anti at all three clubs, as the pair have a special relationship
- was named PAUC captain in the summer of 2021
- one of two PAUC players who played for Nantes at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in 2018

EURO: B 2018; WCh: B 2019

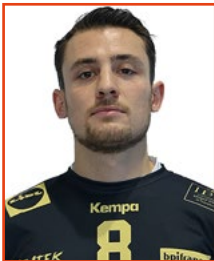


## MATTHIEU ONG

 @matthieu\_ong

### Left wing

- the longest-serving player in the PAUC squad, and the 2021/22 season is his 10th season at the club
- the only player left at PAUC who played for the club when they were still in the French second division
- son of Bhakti Ong, famous for being Nikola and Luka Karabatic's agent
- his sister Laura is a volleyball player for France



## GABRIEL LOESCH

### Right wing

- born in Marignane, just a couple of kilometers from Aix en Provence, he is the local player of the team
- while having to face with prestigious right-wingers such as Vid Kavtincnik over the years, he still managed to remain number one on the position
- does not hide his ambition to play for only one club in his professional career : PAUC

## GROUP B




## Club contact

## Club Address


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## Media contact

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

 [@bmbenidorm](https://twitter.com/bmbenidorm)

 [@bmbenidorm](https://www.instagram.com/bmbenidorm)

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: orange  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: green

## Dark

Player shirt: blue  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow



## Playing hall

Palau d'Esports L'Illa de Benidorm

Partida Salto del Agua, s/n  
03502 Benidorm  
Spain  
Capacity: 3,000

## TM BENIDORM



TM Benidorm do not have the word continuity as the basis for this season. They signed several players from different nationalities, let others go and now they will count on the experience of the head coach Fernando Latorre (in the club since 2019/20) to align everything. So far, it is going well and they have achieved their goal of reaching the group phase of the EHF European League. With goalkeeper Roberto Rodríguez in great shape and line player Iker Serrano showing that age is just a number, the Spanish team want to fly high in this competition on the wings of talented players like Ivan Nikcevic and Ramiro Martinez.

- qualified for the group phase by beating Swiss side Zürich in qualification, 64:58 on aggregate
- Benidorm kept their head coach, Fernando Latorre, but there were many changes in the squad
- the biggest signing for Benidorm is Ramiro Martinez, Sinfin's right wing last season
- the city has a great handball tradition with other teams that also played in Europe, such as Calpisa from Alicante and BM Altea

Group B features great teams, but TM Benidorm can fight for a place in the top four and reach the Last 16. Fernando Latorre, Benidorm's head coach, is "happy with the draw, although there is still a lot to analyse to know all the rivals."

SG Flensburg (EHF Champions League winners in 2013/14 and three-time German champions) are the big headliner in this Group.

"Receiving a team like Flensburg will be something historic and we will be able to enjoy some very high-level and demanding European matches," Latorre said.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF European League Men

Participations (including 2022/23): 2  
Qualification round 2 (1): 2020/21

### Spanish league

—

### Spanish cup

—





## FERNANDO LATORRE GOMIS

### Coach

- Spanish coach, who returned to Benidorm prior to the 2019/20 season after two seasons at Agustinos Alicante
- led Benidorm to the final of the Copa del Rey in his first season back in charge, earning them qualification for their first ever European season
- has completely rebuilt the team since arriving in 2019
- away from handball, he works as a firefighter

## ARRIVALS

Rolandas Bernatonis (SBS-Eger/HUN)  
Mladen Sotic (HC Vojvodina/SRB)  
Marc Perez Padro (La Roca/ESP)  
Samuel Ibañez (Cuenca/ESP)  
Ramiro Martinez (Sinfin/ESP)  
Rúben Santos (Vitória FC/POR)  
Adrian Cortina (Mislata/ESP)  
Dragan Soljic (Ademar León/ESP)

## DEPARTURES

Alvaro Ruiz Sanchez (retired)  
Jose Mario Gutierrez (retired)  
Pedro Antonio Ayres (Valladolid/ESP)  
Roney Franzini (C.B. Cisne/ESP)  
Ignacio Becerra (Azoty-Pulawy/POL)  
Luis Felipe Reina (Puente Genil/ESP)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Roberto	Rodríguez Lario	ESP	Goalkeeper	19.07.2000	Sevilla	186	84
3	Santiago	Barcelo	ARG	Centre Back	05.09.2002	Buenos Aires	190	85
4	Rolandas	Bernatonis	LTU	Left Back	22.01.1987	Kaunas	190	89
5	Pablo	Vainstein	ITA	Right Wing	18.07.1989	Buenos Aires	185	89
6	Iker	Serrano Matias	ESP	Line Player	22.06.1984	Urretxu	190	86
7	Mladen	Sotic	SRB	Left Wing	05.02.1995	Belgrade	185	75
10	Jules Jose	Lignieres	FRA	Centre Back	15.08.1998	Saint Herblain	178	80
12	Marc	Perez Padro	ESP	Goalkeeper	05.10.2004	Barcelona	190	72
<b>C</b> 15	Carlos	Grau Cussac	ESP	Left Back	27.11.1986	Alicante	190	92
16	Juan Samuel	Ibañez	ESP	Goalkeeper	12.06.1993	Castello	187	90
19	Juan Carlos	Sempere Perez	ESP	Right Wing	21.06.2003	Eldaa	180	78
20	Ramiro	Martínez	ARG	Right Wing	22.07.1995	Buenos Aires	180	81
24	Iván	Rodríguez Martínez	ESP	Right Wing	03.12.1998	Benidorm	182	84
27	Ruben Filipe	Matos dos Santos	POR	Centre Back	02.04.1999	Porto	186	90
31	Eduardo	Calle Redondo	ESP	Left Back	03.05.2000	Barcelona	191	94
37	Ivan	Nikcevic	SRB	Left Wing	11.02.1981	Niksic	181	81
64	Adrian	Sanchez Cortina	ESP	Left Wing	23.02.2003	Valencia	170	70
77	Dragan	Soljic	BIH	Line Player	29.06.1996	Mostar	199	102



## ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ

@rober1rl

### Goalkeeper

- talented goalkeeper, who arrived at Benidorm in the summer of 2019
- important backbone for Benidorm; his numerous saves were crucial on the team's road to the EHF European League 2022/23 group phase
- turned only 22 in the summer of 2022; has matured a lot as a player in recent years
- has been a regular choice in Spain's various YAC national teams



## IVAN NIKČEVIĆ

@nikac37

### Left wing

- former Serbian international, who will turn 42 in February 2023
- had four-year spells both in Poland (Plock) and Portugal (Sporting) before returning to Spain and joining Benidorm in 2020
- played for five different clubs in his first period in Spain, from 2005 to 2012
- was top scorer in the final when Sporting won the Challenge Cup in 2017

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017  
EURO: S 2012

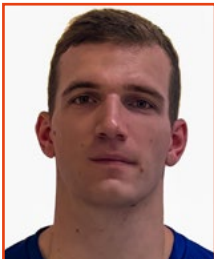


## IKER SERRANO

@ikerserrano1

### Line player

- highly experienced line player, who first played in a European competition with J.D. Arrate in the EHF Cup 2008/09 season
- joined Benidorm at age 37 in 2021 as the second-oldest player of the squad
- was his team's top scorer with seven goals in the first leg of qualification round 3 against Zürich (32:24), when Benidorm made a giant step towards the group phase



## RAMIRO MARTÍNEZ

@ramimartinez20

### Right wing

- Argentinian international, who is playing the first European cup season of his career
- arrived at Benidorm in the summer of 2022 after two seasons with BM Sinfin
- contributed 14 goals in total to Benidorm's two wins over Amicitia Zürich in the final qualification round of the EHF European League 2022/23
- played at the 2019 WCh and 2020 Tokyo Olympics with Argentina



## GROUP B




## Club contact

## Club Address

FTC  
Kőbányai út 47/A  
1101 Budapest  
Hungary

## Media contact

Adam Schleinig  
+36704454902  
adam.schleinig@fradi.hu

 [fradi.hu/kezilabda](http://fradi.hu/kezilabda)

 [fradi.hu](https://www.facebook.com/fradi.hu)

 [@Fradi\\_HU](https://twitter.com/Fradi_HU)

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

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: green

## Dark

Player shirt: green  
Player short: green  
Goalkeeper shirt: black



## Playing hall

**Elek Gyula Arena**  
Kőbányai út 47/A  
1101 Budapest  
Hungary  
Capacity: 1,300

# FTC



FTC are ready for their debut in the EHF European League 2022/23 group phase. The Hungarian side successfully navigated their way through two rounds of qualification. When hearing FTC, many fans will think of women's handball first. However, the men's team has now returned to the European scene, too. FTC easily defeated CS Minaur Baia Mare – 74:49 on aggregate – in qualification round 1 of the EHF European League but had to come back from behind in round 2 to see off another Romanian side, CSA Steaua Bucuresti: 66:64 on aggregate.

- **István Pásztor took over the team in the summer as the new head coach**
- **with the exception of Slovakian left back Jakub Mikita, FTC have an all-Hungarian squad**
- **FTC are the only club with a men's and a women's team in the top-two European club competitions this season**
- **left wing Péter Kovacsics is brother of EHF Champions League winner Anikó Kovacsics, who plays for FTC's women's team**

In the group phase, FTC have to prepare themselves for opponents like SG Flensburg-Handewitt and PAUC Handball, but can do so with a reinforced squad, including Zsolt Balogh and Máté Lékai as most notable newcomers.

“The players have been waiting for this opportunity for a long time. It is a great chance to prove their skills, we want to show who we are,” new head coach István Pásztor says.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF European League Men

Participations (including 2022/23): 1

### Cup Winners' Cup

Round 3 (1): 2009/10

### Hungarian league

–

### Hungarian cup

1 title (1963)





## ISTVÁN PÁSZTOR

### Coach

- former Hungarian international, who played 15 seasons for Veszprém and six for Balatonfüred before retiring in 2014
- lost four European finals with Veszprém, but did win the Cup Winners' Cup in 2007/08
- as a left wing, he played 215 times for the national team, appearing at three World Championships, four EHF EURO events, and the 2004 Olympics, where Hungary placed fourth
- joined FTC in summer of 2022 for his first job as head coach

EC trophies: CWC 2008 (as player)

## ARRIVALS

Máté Lékai (Telekom Veszprém HC/HUN)  
 Zsolt Balogh (MOL Tatabánya KC/HUN)  
 Ádám Borbély (Fejér-B.Á.L. Veszprém/HUN)  
 Ádám Török (Dabas KC/HUN)  
 Kristóf Csörgő (Mezőkövesd KC/HUN)

## DEPARTURES


Marian Zernovic (TSV St. Otmar St. Gallen/SUI)  
 Bozo Andjelic (HC Vardar 1961/MKD)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
2	Félix	Turák	HUN	Line Player	29.12.2001	Kistarcsa	196	120
7	Alex	Bognár	HUN	Centre Back	25.09.2000	Budapest	188	88
9	Dániel	Füzi	HUN	Line Player	09.08.1996	Veszprém	183	99
11	Bence	Nagy	HUN	Left Back	05.07.1995	Budapest	190	111
17	Máté	Ónodi Jánoskúti	HUN	Right Back	17.06.2002	Budapest	193	92
18	Bence	Imre	HUN	Right Wing	15.10.2002	Budapest	185	72
19	Zsolt	Balogh	HUN	Right Back	29.03.1989	Orosháza	189	96
<b>C</b> 22	Bálint	Pordán	HUN	Line Player	12.10.1988	Budapest	181	97
23	Dávid	Debreczeni	HUN	Line Player	23.09.1992	Budapest	195	104
24	Ádám	Borbély	HUN	Goalkeeper	22.06.1995	Debrecen	197	114
29	Ádám	Juhász	HUN	Left Wing	29.06.2005	Budapest	190	77
30	Ádám	Török	HUN	Centre Back	26.05.1997	Nyíregyháza	183	93
39	Sándor	Bohács	HUN	Left Wing	05.09.1994	Budapest	181	83
44	Viktor	Prainer	HUN	Left Back	25.04.2001	Budapest	194	94
66	Máté	Lékai	HUN	Centre Back	16.06.1988	Budapest	190	89
67	Kristóf	Gyori	HUN	Goalkeeper	25.06.2000	Debrecen	185	90
77	Kristóf	Csörgö	HUN	Centre Back	17.03.2004	Eger	187	77
81	Jakub	Mikita	SVK	Left Back	07.05.1993	Kosice	195	103
94	Bendegúz	Bujdosó	HUN	Right Wing	10.12.1994	Székesfehérvár	181	71
99	Péter	Kovacsics	HUN	Left Wing	13.06.1994	Nagyatád	190	75



## BENCE NAGY

 @nbence11

### Left back

- Hungarian international, who joined FTC in 2019 for his fifth club – all in Hungary
- previously played for Tatabánya, which finished third in the Hungarian league in the season before he left the club
- one of few FTC players with European cup experience, from his time at Tatabánya
- important player for Hungary at Men's EHF EURO 2020, with 16 goals



## MÁTÉ LÉKAI


 @lekaimate

### Centre back

- Hungarian international, arriving at FTC in 2022 after eight seasons with Veszprém
- previously played for Celje, where his time was marred by several injuries; he once famously played the second half of a domestic league final with a broken finger
- also had stints at Hungarian sides Pler and Szeged in the past
- key player for FTC, who was named Hungarian player of the year in 2017



## ZSOLT BALOGH

 @baloghzs19

### Right back

- Hungarian international, who joined FTC in the summer of 2022 after two years in Tatabánya and, earlier, seven seasons at Pick 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 until Benfica won the EL in 2022
- had national team debut in 2008, was key to Hungary's attack at EHF EURO 2020

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2014



## BENDEGÚZ BUJDOSÓ

 @bujdosobendeguz

### Right wing

- one of the long-term FTC players, playing in his seventh season at the club
- joint FTC in 2016 from Pler; previously played one season at Dabasi KC
- made national team debut for Hungary against Spain in 2020
- a 1.85m-tall, quick wing, who has a crucial role in the team's counter-attacks



# GROUP C PREVIEW

## A WELL-BALANCED GROUP WITH EXPERIENCE AND FRESH BLOOD

Group C of the EHF European League starts with two well-known clubs, two returnees to the second-tier competition and two debutants. Croatian runners-up enter their 14th consecutive season in Europe's second-tier competition after they wrote the club's history by reaching EHF FINALS in the previous season. Nexe did not have many changes in the squad but the departure of Halil Jaganjac will be the main difference in the team. Once again, 'Thunders' could not get away without drama. For the second year in a row, they have overcome a six-goal deficit in qualification round 2 to secure a spot in the group phase.

Sporting are one of three Portuguese representatives in this season and with individual quality, they aim high. Ending in the Last 16 phase for two consecutive years, Sporting is ready to take another step further. Being eliminated from the later runner-up Magdeburg by only one goal in two matches in last season proves a lot. Well-balanced team with a young stalwarts like 17-year-old Francisco Costa, and his older brother Martim, both progressing under the eye of the head coach and their father Ricardo Costa. Skjern have not reached the group phase of Europe's competition in four years and with a new head coach Henrik Kronborg they want to leave their mark this season. Almost all Scandinavian team, with the exception of line player Senjamin Buric from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Danish club want to continue with the good work they began last season, finishing third in the domestic championship. Their best finish since 2018.

Balatonfüred secured the group phase of the competition by finishing third in the domestic championship. It marks their return to the competition after three years when they played the same stage of the EHF Cup enrolling only one victory and finishing last in the group. Even though they did not have major changes in the team, Pedro Rodríguez and Petar Topic, two Hungarian national team players, will be the team's main absence this season. Granollers are a team with ambition and have a good mixture of experience and youth. Coming second behind Barca in the Spanish championship after a long time secured them their debutant season in the EHF European League. Adding to the team Yusuf Farak, who joined from Kielce, even though they are debutants, they will be a hard nut to crack for the opponents in the group.

The second debutants of the group are ALPLA Hard, an Austrian team coming into the European competition group phase after 20 years. The team from Hard qualified for the group phase knocking-out two North Macedonian teams in the qualification rounds 1 and 2 - Eurofarm Pelister II and Butel Skopje. An inexperienced team led by Icelandic-born coach Hannes Jón Jónsson will have a tough job but there is no doubt they will want to make the most out of their historic return to the second-tier competition.

*Daniijela Vekić*

# I GROUP C HEAD-TO-HEADS

## HISTORIC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP C OPPONENTS IN THE EC

### Fraikin BM. Granollers vs Skjern Handbold

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No previous encounters in European competitions

### Fraikin BM. Granollers vs Balatonfüredi KSE 2-0-0 (55:46) 4:0

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19.11.2017	Fraikin BM. Granollers vs Balatonfüredi KSE, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	28:21 (13:11)
25.11.2017	Balatonfüredi KSE vs Fraikin BM. Granollers, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	25:27 (12:13)

### Fraikin BM. Granollers vs Sporting CP 2-0-2 (92:86) 4:4

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1967/68	BM Granollers vs SC Lissabon, Champions Cup – Last 16	26:16 (0:0)
1967/68	SC Lissabon vs BM Granollers, Champions Cup – Last 16	20:16 (0:0)
23.11.2014	Sporting Clube de Portugal vs Fraikin BM. Granollers, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	27:25 (13:14)
30.11.2014	Fraikin BM. Granollers vs Sporting Clube de Portugal, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	25:23 (12:9)

### Fraikin BM. Granollers vs RK Nexe

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No previous encounters in European competitions

### Fraikin BM. Granollers vs Alpla HC Hard

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No previous encounters in European competitions

### Skjern Handbold vs Balatonfüredi KSE

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No previous encounters in European competitions

### Skjern Handbold vs Sporting CP 0-0-2 (53:62) 0:4

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08.02.2014	Skjern Handbold vs Sporting CP, EHF Cup – Group B	25:32 (12:15)
23.03.2014	Sporting CP vs Skjern Handbold, EHF Cup – Group B	30:28 (10:16)

### Skjern Handbold vs RK Nexe

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No previous encounters in European competitions

### Skjern Handbold vs Alpla HC Hard 2-0-2 (108:109) 4:4

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07.12.2002	Skjern Handball vs Alpla HC Hard, Challenge Cup – Last 16	25:21 (12:11)
15.12.2002	Alpla HC Hard vs Skjern Handball, Challenge Cup – Last 16	28:24 (13:11)
05.10.2019	ALPLA HC Hard vs Skjern Handbold, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 2	25:26 (10:13)
12.10.2019	Skjern Handbold vs ALPLA HC Hard, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 2	33:35 (14:14, 25:26)

### Balatonfüredi KSE vs Sporting CP

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No previous encounters in European competitions

### Balatonfüredi KSE vs RK Nexe 1-0-1 (46:57) 2:2

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13.02.2015	Balatonfüredi KSE vs RK Nexe, EHF Cup – Group D	19:31 (8:13)
14.03.2015	RK Nexe vs Balatonfüredi KSE, EHF Cup – Group D	26:27 (13:16)

### Balatonfüredi KSE vs Alpla HC Hard 1-0-1 (52:49) 2:2

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22.11.2014	Alpla HC Hard vs Balatonfüredi KSE, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	31:26 (13:13)
29.11.2014	Balatonfüredi KSE vs Alpla HC Hard, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	26:18 (12:8)

## **Sporting CP vs RK Nexe**

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No previous encounters in European competitions

## **Sporting CP vs Alpla HC Hard 1-0-0 (35:34) 2:0**

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03.09.2017 Sporting CP vs Alpla HC Hard, VELUX EHF Champions League – Qualification Tournament Group 1 35:34 (17:17)

## **RK Nexe vs Alpla HC Hard**

---

No previous encounters in European competitions



## GROUP C



## Club contact

## Club Address

Fraikin BM. Granollers  
C/Voluntaris 1  
08402 Granollers  
Spain

## Media contact

Marti Ruiz  
+34 658 29 51 36  
martiruiz@bmgranollers.cat

 [bmgranollers.cat](http://bmgranollers.cat)

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

 [@BMGranollers](https://twitter.com/BMGranollers)

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

## Kit colours

## Light

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

## Dark

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



## Playing hall

Palau d'Esports de Granollers  
Adva. Francesc Macià s/num.  
08400 Granollers  
Spain  
Capacity: 5,260

# FRAIKIN BM GRANOLLERS



Fraikin BM. Granollers have directly qualified for the EHF European League group phase for the first time after finishing second in the domestic championship last season - something that has not happened for many years. They come into the European competition having begun the current domestic season strongly, with three wins in the first four rounds of the Spanish championship. Granollers bring a lot of ambition and youth to this competition, and have stuck to their main pillars, including centre back Pol Valera, right wing Sergi Franco, and Chilean line player Estebán Salinas, as well as bringing on new talent.

- **directly qualified for the EHF European League group phase after finishing second in the Spanish Championship last season**
- **the Spanish club has 10 players aged 23 years old or younger**
- **Antonio Rama has led Granollers since 2016/17**
- **the biggest signing this season is Faruk Yusuf, a Nigerian right back joining from Kielce**
- **BM Granollers has a new President since January 2022, Alfred Serra Parera**

Most important question: What is the real importance of playing in this European competition for the club and for the city?

Granollers are one of the oldest clubs in Spain, and as they make their European League debut are determined to always feature in European competitions.

“It is very important for us and for our fans to bring the best European handball to Granollers,” said head coach Antonio Rama, adding that he wants to make handball a key part of the city’s sporting life.

“We will be able to offer our fans great games and a great spectacle of a special and essential sport in the city,” Rama said.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF Cup**

Winners (2): 1994/95, 1995/96

Third place (1): 2015/16

Semi-finals (1): 1996/97

Quarter-final (2): 2004/05, 2017/18

Last 16 (1): 2011/12

1/8 final (1): 2007/08

Group phase (3): 2014/15, 2016/17, 2018/19

### **Champions' Trophy**

Runner-up (1): 1995/96

### **Cup Winners' Cup**

Winners (1): 1975/76, 2009/10

Quarter-final: 2005/06

**Spanish league (10):** 1959-1961, 1966-1968, 1970-1972, 1974

**Spanish cup (3):** 1958, 1970, 1974





## ANTONIO RAMA GARCIA

**Coach**

- Granollers head coach since 2016/17 and was assistant coach during three years before that
- also played many years for the Catalan club making his debut in 1994
- has already been widely considered the best coach of the Spanish championship
- completely changed the way of playing for BM Granollers

## NEW/COMERS

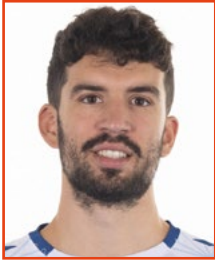
David Roca (Sinfin)  
Faruk Yusuf (KS Kielce)  
Guillermo Torriani (Handebol Taubaté)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Alex Marquez (Istres)  
Chema Marquez (Saint-Raphael)  
Edgar Perez retired

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Marc	Guàrdia	ESP	Goalkeeper	13/11/1995	Barcelona, ESP	187	83
2	Faruk	Yusuf	NGR	Right Back	19/02/2004	Sokoto, NGR	185	82
5	Guilherme	Torriani	BRA	Left Wing	06/02/1999	Arujá, BRA	180	80
6	Jan	Gurri	ESP	Left Back	10/06/2002	La Roca del Vallès, ESP	189	85
7	Victor	Romero	ESP	Line Player	09/03/2004	Mataró, ESP	192	95
9	Pol	Valera	ESP	Centre Back	19/08/1998		187	80
10	Oriol	Rey Morales	ESP	Line Player	31/03/1994	St Maria de Pal., ESP	190	95
11	Esteban	Salinas	ESP	Line Player	18/01/1992	Vina del Mar, CHI	180	85
12	Pol	Amores	ESP	Goalkeeper	11/02/2004	Granollers, ESP	188	90
16	Rangel	Luan da Rosa	BRA	Goalkeeper	11/05/1996	Seara, BRA	191	95
17	Adrià	Martínez	ESP	Left Wing	25/05/1998	Les Franqueses d.V., ESP	185	78
18	Josep	Armengol	ESP	Line Player	18/03/2003	Granollers, ESP		
19	Victor	De Sande	ESP	Right Wing	01/01/2001	Granollers, ESP	174	74
21	Gerard	Domingo	ESP	Centre Back	19/06/2003	Les Franqueses d.V., ESP	188	78
31	Joan	Amigo	ESP	Left Back	17/07/1993	Molins de Rei, ESP	190	92
33	Ferran	Castillo	ESP	Back	03/03/2004	La Roca del Vallès, ESP	188	82
34	Sergi	Franco i Miro	ESP	Right Wing	10/05/1999	Barcelona, ESP	189	81
51	Pau	Panitti	ESP	Goalkeeper	18/07/2004	Mataró, ESP	192	95
55	David	Roca	ESP	Right Back	09/01/2000	Terrassa, ESP	188	81
66	Biel	Valera	ESP	Centre Back	28/11/2002	La Garriga, ESP	178	75
<b>C</b> 99	Antonio	Garcia	ESP	Left Back	06/03/1984	La Llagosta, ESP	191	93



## POL VALERA

### Centre back

- one of the key players in BM Granollers despite his still young age
- made himself a name in the Spanish league through impressive performances last season
- penalty trows specialist
- one of his strong weapons is the cooperation with the line player combined with an effecient shooting



## FARUK YUSUF

### Right back

- started playing handball in Nigeria
- had his playing and scoring debut in the CL last season with Kielce
- arrived in Granollers in the summer of 2022 on loan from the Polish champions
- already in his teenage collected two Polish Championships and one Polish Cup



## ESTEBAN SALINAS

### Line player

- South American reinforcement of the club as he was born in Vina del Mar, Chile
- his brother Rodrigo Salinas also play in the EL 2022/23 with Bidasoa
- has already been present in five editions of the WCh and has several medals from the Panamerican national team tournaments with Chile
- most recently won the bronze medal at the 2022 South and Central American Championship in Brazil



## RANGEL DA ROSA

### Goalkeeper

- Brazilian joined BM Granollers from their domestic rivals Logrono La Rioja
- his first European club was Villa de Aranda, spent two seasons with the Romanian club Odorheiu before he returned to Spain and signed for Bidasoa in 2018
- member of Brazil's national team
- has several medals from the international events including gold from the Panamerican Championship in 2016 and another gold from South and Central American Championship in 2022

## GROUP C



## Club contact


**Club Address**  
 Skjern Håndbold  
 Ranunkelvej 9  
 6900 Skjern  
 Denmark

**Media contact**  
 Nicklas Thygesen  
 +45 3048 3938  
[nicklas@skjernhaandbold.dk](mailto:nicklas@skjernhaandbold.dk)

 [skjernhaandbold.dk](http://skjernhaandbold.dk)

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

 [@SkjernHaandbold](https://twitter.com/SkjernHaandbold)

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

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: green  
 Player short: black  
 Goalkeeper shirt: blue

## Dark

Player shirt: white  
 Player short: green  
 Goalkeeper shirt: red



## Playing hall

**Skjern Bank Arena, Skjern**  
 Ranunkelvej 1  
 6900 Skjern  
 Denmark  
 Capacity: 3,200

# SKJERN HÅNBOLD



Skjern Håndbold are back in the group phase of a European competition for the first time in four years, after failing to progress from qualification phase 2 of the second-tier European competition in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 seasons. With a core that has been established over the past years and surprised in the domestic league over the past years, Skjern want to celebrate a big milestone for the club, their 30th season with strong outings in Europe.

- **Skjern are one of the most decorated clubs in Denmark, winning the domestic title twice, the Danish Cup three times, while also adding European silverware, the Men's EHF Challenge Cup twice in 2001 and 2002**
- **the Danish side changed their coach this summer, with Henrik Kronborg, the assistant coach for Denmark men's national team, replacing Mathias Madsen**
- **Skjern qualified for the group phase of the EHF European League Men after finishing third in the Danish league last season**
- **their most important transfer this summer was Norwegian left back Simen Holand Pettersen, who scored 111 goals in the past four seasons of the EHF Champions League for Elverum**
- **Skjern's roster is based on Scandinavian players – with Bosnian line player Senjamin Buric the only exception**

Most important question: Can Skjern deliver in a milestone season?

With handball being so popular in Denmark, it can be surprising to find out that one of the most decorated teams in the history of the Scandinavian country celebrates only 30 years of existence, but Skjern Håndbold are still young. They might have only two titles in the domestic league, but have also won the EHF Challenge Cup Men twice in their history, therefore European handball is well written into the club's DNA. The past season was surprisingly good for Skjern, who registered third place in the Danish league, their best finish since 2018, therefore progressing to the group phase of the EHF European League Men, after being eliminated from contention in the previous season in qualification phase 2 by Montpellier HB, after a hard-fought double-header, which the French side took with a 63:60 aggregate win. Skjern did change their coach, with Henrik Kronborg replacing Mathias Madsen this summer, therefore some patience is needed for the chemistry to be back on track for the Danish side, but this is still more or less the same team from last season, with only two players leaving and only two coming in.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF Champions League

Round of 16 (2): 1999/2000, 2003/04

Group Phase (2): 2015/16, 2018/19

### EHF Cup

Third place (1): 2014/15

Semi-finals (1): 2006/07

### Challenge Cup

Winners (2): 2001/02, 2002/03

**Danish champions (2):** 1998/99, 2017/18

**Danish Cup (3):** 1999, 2014, 2016

**Danish Super cup (1):** 2017





## HENRIK KRONBORG

Coach

- returned to Skjern in the summer of 2022, this is his second stint as the head coach, after having previously featured between 2015 and 2019
- a former player, has been called up to the senior national team once, after being a part of the Denmark junior and youth men's teams
- Nicolaj Jacobsen's assistant for the Denmark men's national team, winning two gold medals at the WCh at the gold at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games
- worked as a head coach for KIF Kolding Copenhagen and as an assistant for Nordsjælland before joining

## NEW/COMERS

Simen Pettersen (Elverum Handball)  
Sveinn Johansson (Sønderjyske)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Jesper Konradsson (USAM Nimes Gard)  
Anton Hagvall (Alingsås HK)



# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Christoffer	Bonde	DEN	Goalkeeper	05/01/1999	Randers, DEN	193	107
4	Tobias	Mygind	DEN	Left Back	24/01/2002	Greve, DEN	198	100
5	Oliver	Norlyk	DEN	Right Back	19/01/2000	Vesthimmerland, DEN	193	93
7	Senjamin	Buric	BIH	Line Player	20/11/1990	Doboj, BIH	198	100
9	Simen	Pettersen	NOR	Left Back	08/04/1998	tønsberg, NOR	188	96
10	Sveinn	Jóhannsson	ISL	Line Player	16/06/1999	København, DEN	195	110
12	Robin	Haug	NOR	Goalkeeper	01/09/1998	Drammen, NOR	194	122
<b>C</b> 14	Emil	Bergholt	DEN	Line Player	25/08/1997	Ringkøbing-Skjern, DEN	190	97
15	Lasse	Mikkelsen	DEN	Centre Back	19/05/1988	Brønderslev, DEN	197	97
17	Mikkel	Rasmussen	DEN	Left Wing	03/05/2002	Aalborg, DEN	185	78
18	Alfred	Jönsson	SWE	Centre Back	21/02/1998	Cary, USA	193	95
19	Lasse	Uth	DEN	Left Wing	10/09/1990	slagelse, DEN	193	88
21	René	Rasmussen	DEN	Right Wing	29/08/1989	Ringkøbing-Skjern, DEN	179	82
22	Jakob	Rasmussen	DEN	Field Player	04/12/2002	Fredensborg, DEN	184	80
23	Jørgen	Rasmussen	DEN	Left Wing	29/08/1989	Ringkøbing-Skjern, DEN	176	82
25	Eivind	Tangen	NOR	Right Back	04/05/1993	Bergen, NOR	193	100
36	Justin	Soutoul	FRA	Right Wing	27/11/2004	Montpellier, FRA	158	65
52	Harald	Pedersen	DEN	Line Player	15/04/2004	varde, DEN	193	90
53	Frederik	Nielsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	27/04/2004	Vejle, DEN	175	100
55	Hans	Larsen	DEN	Right Back	12/07/2004	Nyborg, DEN	195	95
63	Mads	Bjergfelt	DEN	Left Back	06/02/2004	Frederiksberg, DEN	196	95
70	Emil	Jensen	DEN	Left Back	05/03/2003	Ringkøbing-Skjern, DEN	181	85



## LASSE MIKKELSEN

### Centre back

- came back to Skjern in 2021, after spending four years in the Bundesliga, at Melsungen, has been the top scorer of the team in the Danish league last season
- spent more than half of his career in the Danish team, having already served for a stint between 2011 and 2017
- featured prominently for the Denmark national team in the younger age categories, but has only 4 caps for the senior team
- has three children and returned to Denmark for their education, bought a house in walking distance to the arena



## EIVIND TANGEN

### Right back

- announced himself as a huge talent, being selected in 2011 for the WCh, when he was only 18
- played for only three teams in his career - FyllingenBergen in Norway, HC Midtjylland and Skjern, signing for the latter in 2018
- has featured in over 100 games in the Norway national team, making his debut in 2010, won two silver medals at the WCh and one bronze at the EHF EURO
- in a relationship with fellow Norwegian player Stine Skogrand, they have two sons together



## SIMEN PETERSEN

### Left back

- moved outside of Norway for the first time at French side Ivry in 2021, then signed for Skjern in the summer of 2022, after playing for Sandefjord and Elverum in Norway
- son of former national team coach Gunnar Pettersen, started playing handball with his father as his hero
- made debut for national team against Spain in EHF EURO Cup 2020 in June 2019, has already featured for Norway at the EHF EURO 2020, 2021 WCh and the Tokyo 2020 OG
- scored 16 goals from 16 attempts in a junior international against Romania in 2017, outlining his huge potential
- ambidextrous, a huge advantage in modern handball, shooting very good with both hands



## CHRISTOFFER BONDE

### Goalkeeper

- has featured for the younger age categories Denmark teams in the past, considered to be one of the top goalkeeping talents in the country
- the 2022/23 season is his second at Skjern, having been playing for Aarhus Handbold in another two seasons at senior level
- his average save rate over the past four years in the Danish league was 33%, making him one of the most consistent goalkeepers
- had an outstanding first half in a match for Skjern where he saved 72% of the shots he faced, he is ranked second in the top goalkeepers in the Danish league after the first seven rounds of the season

## GROUP C



### Club contact


#### Club Address

Balatonfüredi KSE  
Horvath Mihály u. 08/2  
hrsz.  
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Hungary

#### Media contact

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+36302653879  
benjamin.szente@bfakademia.hu

 [balatonfuredikc.hu](http://balatonfuredikc.hu)

 [Füredi-KSE](#)

 [balatonfuredikse](#)

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: black

#### Dark

Player shirt: black  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: red



### Playing hall

**Veszprem Arena**  
Külso Kadartai ut  
8200 Veszprem  
Hungary  
Capacity: 5,019

# BALATONFÜREDI KSE



Balatonfüredi KSE return to the international competition on the back of last season's great performance and a bronze medal in the Hungarian championship, booking a direct spot in the EHF European League Group Phase.

However, the changes in the squad during the summer may not favour the club's plans to reach the knockout stages.

- **Balatonfüred qualified for the group phase directly as bronze medallists of the Hungarian league**
- **this was the third time that they reached the podium in the domestic championship**
- **two Hungarian national team players left the squad, Pedro Rodríguez and Petar Topic both left for rivals MOL Tatabánya KC move to Paris Saint-Germain in 2022**
- **as European League winners, SC Magdeburg will compete at the IHF Super Globe in Saudi Arabia in October**

Most important question: Is Balatonfüred's squad deep enough?

While only two players left the club and six arrived, the squad will have to deal with competing on three fronts this season with the Hungarian league, cup and EHF European League.

In the domestic tournaments, many of their competitors seem to be strengthened and recent seasons have shown just how tough Europe's second flight is as well. Tamás Bene, Executive Director of the club, understands the challenge that awaits.

"Because of our bronze medal in last year's championship, we can participate in the group phase, which is also a recognition of our success. This year is the 11th time we are participating in international competition, which also means that this year our players can develop.

"Difficult matches await us in the group phase as the European League has become much stronger. We want to play good matches and prepare fairly for each match," says Bene.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### European League

Participations (including 2022/23): 3

Qualification Round 2 (1): 2020/21

Qualification Round 1 (1): 2021/22

### Other

#### EHF Cup:

Group Phase (1): 2014/15

#### Cup Winners' Cup:

Last 16 (1): 2010/11

Hungarian league: -

Hungarian cup: -





## LÁSZLÓ GYÖRGY

Coach

- returned to Balatonfüred in 2020
- during his first tenure, he put down the foundation of Balatonfüred's well-known handball academy
- many youngsters used to play under his guidance: Bence Bánhidi, Péter Hornyák, Mátyás Györi or Bendegúz Bóka

## NEWCOMERS

Stevan Sretenovic (HC Meshkov Brest)

Péter Hornyák (Grundfos Tatabánya)

Huba Vajda (Fejér-B.Á.L. Veszprém)

Márk Vári (FTC)

Máté Klucsik (Balaton-felvidéki Kézilabda Akadémia)

László Lovistyek (Balaton-felvidéki Kézilabda Akadémia)

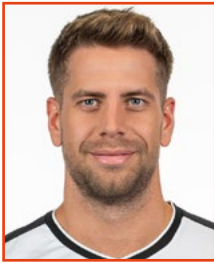
## LEFT THE CLUB

Pedro Rodríguez (Grundfos Tatabánya)

Petar Topic (Grundfos Tatabánya)

# I TEAM ROSTER

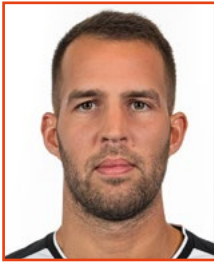
No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Dániel	Bösz	HUN	Goalkeeper	21/01/1991	Budapest, HUN	196	96
<b>C</b> 3	László	Kemény	HUN	Line Player	23/02/1993	Budapest, HUN	192	100
5	Stevan	Sretenovic	SRB	Left Back	25/09/1995	Arandelovac, SRB	201	98
6	Márton	Varga	HUN	Left Back	01/01/1999	Debrecen, HUN	193	86
7	Bendegúz	Bóka	HUN	Left Wing	02/10/1993		190	75
8	Tamás	Jánosi	HUN	Left Back	08/03/2002	Budapest, HUN	190	90
9	Máté	Szmetán	HUN	Centre Back	05/08/2001	Veszprém, HUN	183	85
10	Balázs	Németh	HUN	Centre Back	27/12/1993	Veszprém, HUN		
13	Milan	Gostovic	SRB	Right Back	12/02/2001	Vrbas, SRB	190	80
14	Balázs	Szöllosi	HUN	Centre Back	24/10/1992	Veszprem, HUN	193	93
16	Mihály	Tóth	SVK	Goalkeeper	03/09/1992	Nove Zamky, SVK	200	112
17	Márk Attila	Vári	HUN	Right Back	12/08/2003	Budapest, HUN	200	95
21	Arián	Andó	HUN	Goalkeeper	29/01/1999		189	83
22	Máté	Klucsik	HUN	Line Player	07/04/2003	Budapest, HUN	188	91
24	János	Dénes	HUN	Field Player	15/11/1984	Dunaujvaros, HUN	195	97
30	Bálint	Ág	HUN	Left Wing	26/03/1999	Székesfehérvár, HUN	187	84
32	László	Lovistyek	HUN	Goalkeeper	22/01/2004	Budapest, HUN	190	100
44	Dejan	Malinovic	BIH	Right Back	12/04/1992	Banja Luka, BIH	191	90
47	Péter	Hornyák	HUN	Right Wing	04/10/1995	Debrecen, HUN	180	78
48	Bence	Szücs	HUN	Line Player	25/05/1999	Debrecen, HUN	206	139
78	Huba	Vajda	HUN	Line Player	05/03/2000	Gyor, HUN	193	105
89	Balazs	Brandt	HUN	Right Wing	29/04/2000	Budapest, HUN	182	77
91	Péter	Határ	HUN	Left Back	11/01/2001	Pásztó, HUN	214	101



## BALÁZS SZÖLLÖSI

### Centre back

- started his career in Balatonfüred and after four seasons he joined Tatabánya then returned in 2019
- one of the most experienced players in the line
- had his debut in the Hungarian national team in 2011



## BENDEK BÓKA

### Left wing

- team captain of Magdeburg and key player for Norwegian national team
- arrived from Swedish side IFK Kristianstad in 2016 at SCM, has meanwhile extended his contract until 2024
- his motto for handball is: I want to make my teammates better
- son of a British handball international, he was asked to become captain of the GB team for 2012 London Olympics but he did not want to change citizenship



## PÉTER HORNYÁK

### Right wing

- debuted among the seniors in 2011 with Balatonfüred
- after two seasons, he played for TUSEM Essen then returned to Hungary (Csongrád, Balatonfüred, Tatabánya and from 2022 again Balatonfüred)
- wore the national jersey for the first time in 2015



## DEJAN MALINOVIC

### Right back

- already played for seven different clubs, in six different countries
- debuted in the Bosnian national team in 2011 against Serbia
- at the world junior championship, he finished third in goals in the tournament with 29

## GROUP C



## Club contact

## Club Address

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

## Media contact

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socavaleiro@sporting.pt

 [sporting.pt](http://sporting.pt)

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

 [@SCPModalidades](https://twitter.com/SCPModalidades)

 [@sportingmodalidades](https://www.instagram.com/sportingmodalidades)

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: green/white  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: black/  
orange/grey

## Dark

Player shirt: green  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: black/  
orange/grey



## Playing hall

**Pavilhao Joao Rocha**  
Rua Prof. Fernando da  
Fonseca Ap  
1501-806 Lisbon  
Portugal  
Capacity: 2800

## SPORTING CP



Last season, Sporting CP reached the Last 16 of the EHF European League, where they ended up being eliminated by SC Magdeburg (runner-up) by just one goal over two legs, just like in 2020/21 against Wisla Plock. The Portuguese team will do everything to reverse this trend.

One thing is guaranteed, the Lions do not lack individual quality in their team. Players such as Francisco Costa, Martim Costa, Natán Suárez and Salvador Salvador promise to give opponents a lot of headaches.

- **qualified for the group phase by beating Danish side Bjerringbro-Silkeborg 61:55 on aggregate**
- **Sporting CP are led by coach Ricardo Costa; both his sons Martim and Francisco play in the team**
- **the team has a mixture of experience and youth, with an average age of 25.8 years, book-ended by Francisco Costa (17) and Carlos Ruesga (37)**
- **Sporting CP secured the Portuguese cup last season by beating FC Porto in extra time**
- **their biggest signing this season is goalkeeper Leonel Maciel, part of the Barça squad last season**

The Lions have proved they can go a long way in this European competition. After two seasons losing in the Last 16 by one goal, ambition and motivation are high. Sporting CP are in Group C with CB Granollers, Skjern, Balatonfüredi, RK Nexe and the Austrian team Alpla HC.

“We have good opponents, but we are confident in our capacities,” coach Ricardo Costa said, then added that “going to the next phase is the main objective.”

Costa is ambitious. “We want to go as far as possible and as far as possible is to play the final tournament,” he said.



## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF Champions League

Last 16 (1) : 2018/19

Group matches/phase (2): 2001/02, 2017/18, 2019/20

### European League

Participations (including 2022/23): 3

Last 16 (2): 2020/21, 2021/22

### EHF Cup

Quarter-finals: 2000/01, 2013/14

### Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals: 2003/04

### Challenge Cup

Winners (2): 2009/10, 2016/17

Semi-finals (1): 2011/12

### Portuguese league

21 titles (1952, 1956; 1961; 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1986, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2017, 2018)

### Portuguese cup

16 titles (1972, 1973, 1975, 1981, 1983, 1988, 1989, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2022)





## RICARDO COSTA

### Coach

- former Portuguese international, who joined Sporting CP as a coach in the summer of 2021
- led Sporting to the Portuguese cup title in his first season
- previously worked as head coach of domestic rivals FC Porto
- had two stints as a player at FC Porto and ended his playing career at that club in 2012
- also played for León in Spain and Águas Santas in Portugal; the latter club is also part of the EL 2022/23 season
- his two sons – Martim and Francisco – are important players in Sporting's squad

## ARRIVALS

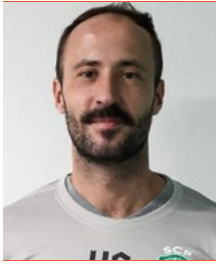
Patryk Walczak (RK Vardar/MKD)  
Etienne Mocquais (Tremblay/FRA)  
Leonel Maciel (Barça/ESP)  
Edney Silva (EC Pinheiros/BRA)

## DEPARTURES

Matevz Skok (Gorenje Velenje/SLO)  
Yassine Belkaied (RK Celje/SLO)  
Erekle Arsenashvili (Puente Genil/ESP)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
2	Edney	Silva Oliveira	BRA	Line Player	19.06.1998	Mineiros	192	98
5	Edmilson	Araujo	CPV	Left Back	06.01.1994	Lisbon	187	93
6	Francisco	Costa	POR	Right Back	16.02.2005	Porto	183	79
7	Natán Antonio	Suárez Diaz	ESP	Centre Back	20.01.1998	Girona	181	83
8	Jonas Bruus	Tidemand	DEN	Line Player	28.09.1994	Ballerup	199	107
9	André	José	POR	Centre Back	19.04.2001	Tavira	185	87
10	Patryk	Walczak	POL	Line Player	29.07.1992	Szczecin	199	113
11	Carlos	Ruesga Pasarin	ESP	Centre Back	10.03.1985	Gijon	185	90
<b>C</b> 13	Salvador	Salvador	POR	Left Back	29.07.2001	Samora Correia	196	94
16	Tiago	Alves	POR	Goalkeeper	30.12.2001	Lisbon	185	91
19	Mamadou	Gassama Cissokho	ESP	Right Wing	28.10.1993	Barcelona	191	92
21	Alexandre	Santos	POR	Left Wing	25.02.2004	Lagoa	182	77
22	Francisco	Tavares	POR	Right Wing	14.11.1996	Lisbon	180	80
23	António	Madaleno	POR	Centre Back	20.01.2005	Samora Correia	182	74
24	Manuel	Gaspar	POR	Goalkeeper	09.12.1998	Lisbon	193	103
33	Jens	Schöngarth	GER	Right Back	07.12.1988	Emmendingen	204	110
34	Étienne	Mocquais	FRA	Left Wing	29.02.1996	Lagny-sur-Marne	184	83
40	Leonel Carlos	Maciel	ARG	Goalkeeper	04.01.1989	Buenos Aires	193	86
77	Josep	Folques	ESP	Left Wing	08.04.1996	Valencia	198	99
79	Martim	Costa	POR	Left Back	27.09.2002	Aveiro	188	84
93	Guilherme	Silva	POR	Right Wing	28.10.2004	Lisbon	178	74



## LEONEL MACIEL

 @40leomaciel

### Goalkeeper

- Argentinian international; joined club in 2022 after one season with CL winners Barça
- previously played for three other Spanish sides: Cuenca, Zamora, and Octavio; gained his first European cup experience with Cuenca in 2018/19
- won South and Central American Championship with Argentina in January 2020
- likes to read about philosophy and Buddhism

EC trophies: CL 2022



## MARTIM COSTA

 @martimcosta\_79

### Left back

- one of the biggest talents of Portuguese handball, alongside his younger brother Francisco; they both play at Sporting, where their father is the head coach
- known for stepping up in a match when his team needs him the most, bringing in his vision of the game and offensive power
- turned just 20 a month before the start of the EL 2022/23 group phase
- starred at the M20 EHF EURO 2022 with his brother, leading Portugal to silver



## NATÁN SUÁREZ

 @suareznatan

### Centre back

- arrived at Sporting before the 2021/22 season from Leon in his native Spain; scored a personal best 31 goals in his first European League season with Sporting
- 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 Spain's national A team



## FRANCISCO COSTA

 @kikocosta\_6

### Right back

- extremely talented youngster, generally regarded a future star of European handball
- arrived at Sporting in 2021 from league rivals Porto at age 16, and scored a stunning total of 61 goals in his first EL season for the club
- plays alongside his older brother Martim, who is a left back at Sporting; their father and former international Ricardo Costa is the team's head coach
- had huge contribution to Portugal's run to silver at their home M20 EHF EURO 2022

## GROUP C



## Club contact

## Club Address

RK Nexe  
Matice Hrvatske 1  
31500 Nasice  
Croatia

## Media contact

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danko.justic@rknexe.hr

 [rknexe.hr](http://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  
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

## Dark

Player shirt: green  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: gray



## Playing hall

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

# RK NEXE



RK Nexe are 13-time Croatian vice-champions and have featured for a long time in Europe's second-tier competition.

After years of playing in the group phase of the EHF Cup, the European League's predecessor, and progressing as far as the quarter-finals once, the 2021/22 season in the EHF European League Men was an exceptional one for Nexe. Led by new head coach Branko Tamse, Nexe went all the way to the EHF Finals, finishing fourth in Portugal. Boosted by experience and success, Nexe now seek to continue on the trailblazed path.

- **2022/23 is Nexe's 14th consecutive season in a European competition**
- **Nexe made up a six-goal deficit in qualification against Azoty-Pulawy for their group phase spot**
- **after Sasa Barisic-Jaman's retirement, Janko Kevic has taken over the captain's band**
- **the biggest departure from the club is Halil Jaganjac, who joined Rhein-Neckar Löwen**
- **two players have arrived: line player Marko Racic from PAUC and Ivan Srsen from Wetzlar**

The team from the small city of Nasice made it to the EHF Finals 2022 against all odds to record the best result in the history of the club. Nexe have a well-structured team with clear goals, both in terms of results and club development.

"We managed to qualify for the group stage of the EHF European League again, which is a great thing for the reputation of our club, given that this is a very strong European handball competition," says club president Josip Ergovic.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF European League**

Participations (including 2022/23): 3

Semi-finals (1): 2021/22

Last 16 (1): 2020/21

### **EHF Cup**

Quarter-final (1): 2017/18

Last 16 (1): 2011/12

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

### **Croatian league:**

—

### **Croatian cup:**

—





## BRANKO TAMŠE

### Coach

- Slovenian coach, taking over in January 2021 from Hrvoje Horvat, who became head coach of the Croatian national team
- led Nexe to the EHF Finals in his first full season at the club
- previously worked with Velenje and Celje in his native Slovenia, as well as with Zagreb in Croatia
- played as a right wing at Velenje but saw his career come to an end after a serious knee injury
- started coaching career at Velenje and returned to Europe after a brief stint at Qatari side Al-Rayyan

## ARRIVALS

Marko Racic (PAUC Handball/FRA)  
Ivan Srsen (HSG Wetzlar/GER)

## DEPARTURES

Halil Jaganjac (Rhein Neckar Löwen/GER)  
Miha Kavcic (HSC Kreuzlingen/SUI)  
Ivan Vida (Sélestat Alsace Handball/FRA)  
Mateo Rodin (RK Metkovic/CRO)  
Marin Greganic (RK Slatina/CRO)  
Sasa Barisic Jaman (retired)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Dominik	Kuzmanovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	15.08.2002	Zagreb	191	88
3	Marko	Racic	CRO	Line Player	04.03.1998	Vienna	109	123
4	Aleksandar	Bakic	MNE	Left Wing	03.09.2000	Andrijevica	194	88
7	Fran	Mileta	CRO	Right Wing	14.08.2000	Rijeka	181	72
10	Pedrag	Vejin	SRB	Right Back	17.12.1992	Apatin	196	95
12	Car	Moreno	CRO	Goalkeeper	22.04.1996	Rijeka	184	79
13	Ivan	Srsen	CRO	Right Back	19.09.1992	Metkovic	196	97
16	Mihailo	Radovanovic	SRB	Goalkeeper	18.12.1992	Cacak	194	86
18	Marin	Jelinic	CRO	Left Wing	14.01.1999	Metkovic	194	94
20	Borna	Manci Micevic	CRO	Right Back	20.11.1997	Osijek	208	110
21	Alen	Blažević	CRO	Left Back	29.03.1986	Našice	200	105
22	Andraž	Velkavrh	SLO	Centre Back	31.05.1006	Koper	190	95
23	Tomislav	Severec	CRO	Left Back	29.06.1997	Zagreb	192	95
24	Karlo	Godec	CRO	Left Wing	14.01.1999	Zagreb	194	87
27	Luka	Moslavac	CRO	Left Back	08.03.1998	Virovitica	195	93
<b>C</b> 28	Janko	Kevic	CRO	Centre Back	21.04.1986	Zagreb	188	88
33	Mario	Tomic	CRO	Line Player	22.06.1988	Zagreb	191	93
35	Stjepan	Javorcek	CRO	Left Back	17.02.2006	Našice	196	98
44	Fahrudin	Melic	MNE	Right Wing	22.07.1984	Prijepolje	183	90
77	Dorian	Markušić	CRO	Centre Back	17.03.1997	Zagreb	188	84
87	Gianfranco	Pribetic	CRO	Line Player	28.04.2000	Rijeka	195	96
99	Ivan	Petrovic	CRO	Line Player	03.12.2004	Osijek	193	115





## MARIN JELINIĆ

 @marin\_jelinic

### Left wing

- Croatian international, who joined Nexe in 2017 for only the third club in his career
- in the EL 2021/22 season, he contributed 68 goals to Nexe's run to the EHF Finals, by far his personal best European season so far
- born in Metkovic, started at age seven at the local club, later played for Ribola Kastela
- EHF EURO 2020 was his first major event for the Croatian national team



## LUKA MOSLAVAC

 @mocco98

### Left back

- arrived at Nexe in 2021, joining after two years with Porec
- scored eight times as Nexe beat Azoty-Pulawy 35:27 in the decisive qualification match for the group phase, making up for a six-goal defeat in the first leg in Poland
- stems from a sport-minded family: mother played handball as well, father football; his brothers Karlo and Matko are also handball players
- has bachelor's degree from Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering



## MARIO TOMIĆ

 @mriotmic33

### Line player

- was already 15 when he first started to play handball, initially as a goalkeeper
- switched to the line player position while playing at Siscia; later had stints at Al Sadd and Lekhwija before arriving at Nexe in 2017
- has announced his retirement for 2026, when his current contract with Nexe expires
- has dual citizenship – Croatian and Qatari; won Asian Championship twice with Qatar



## FAHRUDIN MELIĆ

 @melsson\_44

### Right wing

- experienced Montenegrin wing, who played his first European season 20 years ago
- joined Nexe in November 2021 on a career journey that saw him earlier play for clubs like Velenje in Slovenia, and PSG, Chambéry, and Saint-Raphaël in France
- was Nexe's second-best scorer in the EL 2021/22 season, with 79 goals
- former member of the Montenegrin national team

## GROUP C



## Club contact

## Club Address

Alpla HC Hard  
Seestraße 60  
6971 Hard  
Austria

## Media contact

Nina Amann  
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[nina.amann@hchard.at](mailto:nina.amann@hchard.at)

 [hchard.at](http://hchard.at)

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

 [@hc\\_hard](https://www.instagram.com/hc_hard)

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: black/  
grey/blue

## Dark

Player shirt: red  
Player short: red  
Goalkeeper shirt: black/  
grey/blue



## Playing hall

**Sporthalle am See**  
See Straße 60  
6971 Hard  
Austria  
Capacity: 2,400

## ALPLA HC HARD



They know how to go about things the hard way. Thanks to four victories against Macedonian teams in the two qualification rounds, Austrian side Alpla HC Hard have made their dream come true and qualified for the first time in nearly 20 years for a group phase of an EHF competition.

In the EHF European League, the team of Icelandic coach Hannes Jón Jónsson will face Skjern Handbold, Fraikin BM. Granollers, Balatonfüredi KSE, Sporting CP and 2022 EHF Finals participants RK Nexø.

- **Hard are playing their 17th European cup season, but have reached a group phase only once before – in the EHF Champions League 2003/04 season**
- **Hard's biggest international success is reaching the EHF Challenge Cup final in the 2007/08 season**
- **they are seven-time Austrian champions, most recently in 2021**
- **the biggest name among Hard's new arrivals is Austrian international Nikola Stevanovic; the squad has remained more or less the same otherwise**

HC Hard are on a highflyer after their qualification. But they were drawn in probably the toughest group. However, Hard have the surprise factor on their side, as they are the underdogs and nobody knows their true strength.

"This is outstanding and an absolute milestone in the club's history. The players rewarded themselves and deservedly made it through to the group stage. We are unbelievably proud," Hard Managing Director Markus Köberle said after the team's successful qualifying campaign.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF Champions League**

Group Matches (1): 2003/04

### **EHF European League**

Participations (including 2022/23): 2

Qualification round 1 (1): 2021/22

### **EHF Cup**

Round 3 (2): 2009/10, 2012/13

### **EHF Challenge Cup**

Final (1): 2007/08

Semi-finals (1): 2004/05

### **Austrian league**

7 titles (2003, 2012-15, 2017, 2021)

### **Austrian cup**

4 titles (2005, 2008, 2014, 2018)





## HANNES JÓN JÓNSSON

### Coach

- former Iceland international, who played for nine different club teams in six countries – including Iceland, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Germany, and Austria
- worked as a playing coach at Austrian side Westwien in Vienna in 2015/16 before fully focusing on coaching
- arrived at Hard in 2021 after two seasons with the men's team of Bietigheim in the German Bundesliga
- led Hard to second place in the Austrian league in his first season in charge, earning a ticket to the EHF European League

## ARRIVALS

Frédéric Wüstner (Bregenz Handball/AUT)  
Nikola Stevanovic (AEK Athens HC/GRE)

## DEPARTURES

Thomas Hurich (retired)  
Manuel Schmid (HC Arbon/SUI)  
Robin Kritzingner (Bregenz Handball/AUT)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
3	Karolis	Antanavicius	LTU	Left Back	06.01.1998	Utena	194	88
5	Manuel	Maier	AUT	Left Wing	17.05.1998	Bregenz	167	67
<b>C</b> 6	Dominik	Schmid	AUT	Left Back	07.09.1989	Bregenz	192	89
7	Luca	Raschle	AUT	Left Wing	06.11.1990	St. Gallen	175	75
8	Nikola	Stevanovic	AUT	Right Back	17.04.1998	Vienna	188	92
13	Frédéric	Wüstner	AUT	Left Back	07.09.1992	Bregenz	191	96
15	Valentin	Mischi	AUT	Centre Back	24.04.2005	Bregenz	183	80
16	Emanuel	Baldauf	AUT	Goalkeeper	04.05.2000	Bregenz	186	72
18	Paul	Schwärzler	AUT	Right Wing	07.05.2000	Hohenems	185	90
19	Nico	Schnabl	GER	Centre Back	17.04.1996	München	190	91
20	Benjamin	Edionwe	AUT	Goalkeeper	28.05.2002	Bregenz	192	86
24	Linus	Weber	AUT	Centre Back	27.02.2004	Bregenz	182	70
28	Srdjan	Predragovic	BIH	Right Back	04.07.1995	Banja Luka	197	97
29	Lukas	Schweighofer	AUT	Line Player	29.12.1992	Graz	191	102
32	Golub	Doknic	AUT	Goalkeeper	16.04.1982	Vrbas	195	109
37	Ivan	Horvat	CRO	Left Back	17.02.1993	Balzano	192	99
38	Lennio	Sgonc	AUT	Right Wing	16.05.2004	Bregenz	180	69
92	Jadranko	Stojanovic	CRO	Line Player	16.12.1992	Rijeka	191	101



## GOLUB DOKNIC

### Goalkeeper

- Austrian international, who was born in former Yugoslavia (now Montenegro)
- joined Hard in 2011 and received Austrian citizenship in November 2020
- made debut in the Austrian national team in February 2021; was the oldest player (39) in Austria's squad for the Men's EHF EURO 2022
- before 2011, he played for Vardar (MKD), Conversano (ITA), and Kolubara (SRB)



## LUCA RASCHLE

### Left wing

- born in St. Gallen in Switzerland; holds dual Swiss-Austrian citizenship but has opted to play for the Austrian national team
- has been with Hard since his youth, wearing the club colours since 2009
- was the team's best scorer in the qualification rounds for the EL 2022/23 group phase, netting 26 times in four matches
- was part of six of the seven Austrian league titles in Hard's club history



## IVAN HORVAT

 @ivanh7

### Left/Centre back

- former Croatian international; a key player for Hard since arriving at the club in 2018
- previously played for Bjelovar – gaining his first European cup experience in the 2011/12 season – and Varazdin in Croatia, and for Flensburg in Germany
- spent two seasons in the German Bundesliga (2016-18) before moving to Austria
- won silver at M20 EHF EURO 2012 with Croatia; later played 50 games in senior team



## NIKOLA STEVANOVIC

### Right back

- Austrian international, who joined Hard in 2022 after stints in Germany and Greece
- previously played EL with Fivers Vienna and AEK Athens HC
- moved from Fivers to German side Balingen in the summer of 2021, but made a mid-season switch to Athens
- made debut in Austrian national team in 2020



HC EUROFARM  
PELISTER



# GROUP D PREVIEW

## MANY CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR FAVOURITES FROM BERLIN

Füchse Berlin carry the favourite role in group D, but there are definitely some challenges ahead for the 2014 and 2018 EHF Cup winners, who had failed in the Last 16 of the previous season against HBC Nantes. Berlin have set high hopes in the MVP of the Tokyo Olympic Games, Dane Mathias Gisdal - but the Dane is ruled out with a hand injury until the end of the year. But still they can count on a wide squad with experienced stars such as Hans Lindberg, the Serbian duo Dejan Milosavljevic and Mjhailo Marsenic or the German internationals Paul Druux and Fabian Wiede. But which team can endanger the Foxes most? From their international experience, Pelister Eurofarm from handball-crazy city of Bitola could be the main contender. But the Macedonian side underwent some major changes - starting on the bench, were Dane Lars Walther took over from Croat Zeljko Babic. Due to this change of coaches, many Croats left Bitola, topped by their top scorer Stipe Mandalinic (AEK Athens) and Croatian talent Mateo Maras (now in Tatabanya). Eurofarm signed many players from the French league, including Ousamma Hosni, a powerful Tunisian right back, and Rudy Serj, who fits perfectly as the counterpart on the left back position. But their biggest transfer was Slovenian goalkeeper Urban Lesjak, who arrived from German side Hanover.

The only former Champions League winners in group D, Bidasoa Irun had a tough road already. The Spanish side was the lucky penalty shoot-out winners in the second qualification round at risings stars from Kolstad (Norway) - and now hope to make it at least to the Last 16. Irun's best known player is still legendary Julen Aguinagalde, world and EHF EURO champion with Spain, but in the qualification, right wing Ineko Cavero was their top scorer by 18 goals in the two matches against Kolstad. Knowing that the Danish league has improved a lot in the previous years, you can expect a lot from European Cup debutant Skanderborg Aarhus, a club, founded in 2021. The fifth ranked side of the previous Danish league season underlined their strength by eliminating Swedish powerhouse IFK Kristianstad in the qualification, their unpolished diamond in the young team is Faroese shooter Hakun West Av Teigum. Another mostly unknown side is Aquas Santas Milaneza, which eliminated their domestic rivals Belinenses in the qualification - and is the third Portuguese side beside defending champions Benfica and Sporting CP in the group phase. In contrast to the international star-studded sides from Lisbon, Milaneza only count on Portuguese players.

The dark horse in group D can be Motor from Ukrainian city of Zaporizhye. Due to the war in their country, they are based in German city Düsseldorf since June - and play in the second German Bundesliga. As almost all international stars have left Motor - and many Ukrainian national players arrived at the team of coach Gintaras Savukynas, the side will not be as strong as in the previous EHF Champions League seasons, when they made it to the Last 16 four times. But as Motor have created a huge fan base at Düsseldorf, they definitely hope for winning their home matches to have a chance to proceed to the knock-out stage. Right their first match will bring Füchse to their Castello Hall.

## I GROUP D HEAD-TO-HEADS

### HISTORIC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP D OPPONENTS IN THE EC

#### Füchse Berlin vs HC Eurofarm Pelister

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No previous encounters in European competitions

#### Füchse Berlin vs HC Motor

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No previous encounters in European competitions

#### Füchse Berlin vs Bidasoa Irun 2-0-0 (70:55) 4:0

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22.02.2022	Füchse Berlin vs Bidasoa Irun, EHF Cup – Group A	35:23 (16:10)
01.03.2022	Bidasoa Irun vs Füchse Berlin, EHF Cup – Group A	32:35 (16:20)

#### Füchse Berlin vs Skanderborg-Aarhus

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No previous encounters in European competitions

#### Füchse Berlin vs Aguas Santas Milaneza

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### HC Eurofarm Pelister vs HC Motor

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### HC Eurofarm Pelister vs Bidasoa Irun

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### HC Eurofarm Pelister vs Skanderborg-Aarhus

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### HC Eurofarm Pelister vs Aguas Santas Milaneza

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### HC Motor vs Bidasoa Irun

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### HC Motor vs Skanderborg-Aarhus

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### HC Motor vs Aguas Santas Milaneza

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

#### Bidasoa Irun vs Skanderborg-Aarhus

---

No previous encounters in European competitions



### **Bidasoa Irun vs Aguas Santas Milaneza**

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

### **Skanderborg-Aarhus vs Aguas Santas Milaneza**

---

No previous encounters in European competitions

## GROUP D



## Club contact

## Club Address

Füchse Berlin  
Markgrafenstraße 34  
10117 Berlin  
Germany

## Media contact

Kim Martin Heefß  
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heess@fuechse.berlin

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

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

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

## Kit colours

## Light

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

## Dark

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



## Playing hall

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

# FÜCHSE BERLIN



Füchse Berlin had their annual goal to qualify for the EHF Finals ended by HBC Nantes in the Last 16 last season. With strong reinforcements, the German side hope to get further in the EHF European League 2022/23 season. The goal is making it to the EHF Finals Men 2023. But the dream is to lift another trophy. Füchse Berlin are expected to be main contenders in the EHF European League Men 2022/23. One new key arrival boosts their hopes of reaching at least the EHF Finals.

- was seeded for the group phase of the EHF European League for the first time
- finished third in the German Bundesliga last season
- won Europe's second-tier competition in 2015 and 2018 and were runners-up in 2017, 2019, and 2021; but lost in the Last 16 against Nantes last season
- Danish international Mathias Gidsel is the top signing for this season, alongside Russian goalkeeper Victor Kireev and Swedish EHF EURO 2022 champion Max Darj
- defence specialist Viran Morros has left, to Pfadi Winterthur in Switzerland
- coach Jaron Siewert (28) has extended his contract until the end of the 2023/24 season

Most important question: Will Füchse make it again?

In recent years, no team has participated in more final tournaments of Europe's second-tier club competition than Füchse. However, the German side last lifted the trophy in 2018. This season, the time might have come – as Füchse have bolstered their squad. Alongside Dejan Milosavljev, the No. 1 between the posts, Victor Kireev is an experienced goalkeeper, who can support the Serb to get some time to recover.

Swede Max Darj has proved his strength during the EHF EURO 2022 and knows how it feels to play in the Bundesliga, and right back Mathias Gidsel can become the outstanding star of a team with many top players. Last season's rivals like SC Magdeburg and Orlen Wisla Plock are now competing in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League, and titleholders Benfica have lost some key players; still, some big name clubs are eager to win the trophy in 2022/23, including SG Flensburg-Handewitt and Montpellier HB.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF Champions League**

Fourth place (1): 2011/12

### **EHF European League**

Participations (including 2022/23): 3

Runners-up (1): 2020/21

Last 16 (1): 2021/22

### **Other:**

### **EHF Cup:**

Winners (2): 2014/15, 2017/18; Runners-up (2): 2016/17, 2018/19

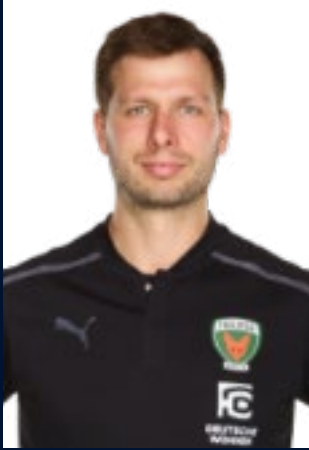
### **IHF Super Globe:**

Winners (2): 2015, 2016

### **German league: -**

**German cup:** 1 title (2013/14)





## JARON SIEWERT

Coach

- has extended his contract as Füchse Berlin head coach until 2023
- played for Füchse since he was a kid, but ended his playing career at 21 to become a coach
- started coaching career as youth coach at Füchse and assistant coach of Germany's national U18 team
- joined Essen in 2017 and 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

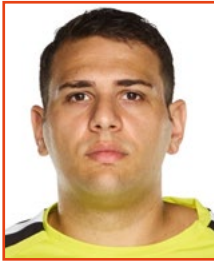
Mathias Gidsel (GOG)  
Max Darj (Bergischer HC)  
Viktor Kireev (CSKA Moskau)  
Tim Freihöfer (1. VfL Potsdam)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Tim Matthes (SC DHfK Leipzig)  
Johan Koch (Kriens-Luzern)  
Viran Morros (Pfadi Winterthur)  
Marian Michalczik (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf)  
Fredrik Genz (SG BBM Bietigheim)

# 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	95
3	Fabian	Wiede	GER	Right Back	08/02/1994	Belzig, GER	194	100
5	Max	Darj	SWE	Line Player	27/09/1991	Masthuggs, SWE	191	96
6	Jacob	Holm	DEN	Centre Back	05/09/1995	Esbjerg, DEN	194	94
11	Lasse	Andersson	DEN	Left Back	11/03/1994	Kopenhagen, DEN	196	102
17	Nils	Lichtlein	GER	Centre Back	31/07/2002	Regensburg, GER	183	76
18	Hans	Lindberg	DEN	Right Wing	01/08/1981	Hoje-Taastrup, DEN	188	88
19	Mathias	Gidsel	DEN	Right Back	08/02/1999	Herning, DEN	190	89
20	Tim	Freihöfer	GER	Left Wing	21/08/2002	Reutlingen, GER	174	79
22	Maxim	Orlov	GER	Centre Back	01/03/2002	Kreuztal, GER	194	95
25	Matthes	Langhoff	GER	Left Back	30/03/2002	Neubrandenburg, GER	192	90
26	Valter	Chrintz	SWE	Right Wing	26/04/2000	Ahus, SWE	184	84
28	Marvin	Siemer	GER	Left Wing	22/09/2004	Esslingen am Neckar, GER	191	86
30	Marc	Walter	GER	Line Player	05/01/2002	Potsdam, GER	203	112
31	Felix	Mart	GER	Centre Back	12/07/2004	Brandenburg/Havel, GER	185	80
32	Marvin	Kix	GER	Centre Back	27/07/2002	Hamburg, GER	186	88
35	Marko	Kopljar	CRO	Right Back	12/02/1986	Pozega, CRO	210	108
37	Max	Günther	GER	Right Wing	28/08/2004	Aschaffenburg, GER	182	82
38	Nicolas	Schley	GER	Line Player	05/02/2004	Ludwigsfelde, GER	177	88
43	Sören	Fuhrmann	GER	Right Back	09/06/2002	Bremen, GER	199	90
47	Michl	Reichardt	GER	Left Back	17/03/2004	Rostock, GER	194	93
66	Milos	Vujovic	MNE	Left Wing	05/09/1993	Cetinje, MNE	181	72
87	Victor	Kireev	RUS	Goalkeeper	05/05/1987	Oblast Pensa, RUS	190	98
93	Mijajlo	Marsenic	SRB	Line Player	09/03/1993	Berane, SCG	202	108
<b>C</b> 95	Paul	Drux	GER	Left Back	07/02/1995	Gummersbach, GER	192	92
96	Dejan	Milosavljev	SRB	Goalkeeper	16/03/1996	Pancevo, SRB	196	135



## DEJAN MILOSAVLJEVIC

@dejanmilosavljev

### Goalkeeper

- Serbian international who arrived at Füchse in the summer of 2019 from Vardar, shortly after winning CL with the Macedonian side
- was CL 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 since Heinevetter's move to MT Melsungen

EC trophies: CL 2019

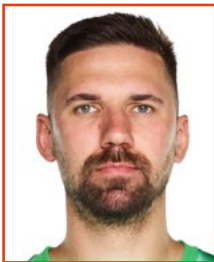


## MATHIAS GIDSEL

### Right back

- signed his first professional contract at the age of 18 at his home club GOG
- left GOG in summer 2022 to Berlin, where he signed a three-year contract
- played his first major tournament with Denmark at the age of 21 at the 2021 WCh in Egypt, where he won gold and was part of the All-star Team
- tore his ACT in the bronze medal match of the EHF EURO 2022, but was back on track after only four months
- one of the biggest signings in the history of Füchse - and one of the three Danish players at Berlin

OG S 2021, WCh G 2021, EHF EURO B 2022



## FABIAN WIEDE

@fabian\_w3

### Right back

- has won numerous junior and senior titles with Berlin since joining their youth team from Potsdam, aged 15
- 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



## HANS LINDBERG

@hanslinberg18

### Right wing

- joined Füchse in 2016 after nine seasons at HSV
- top scorer of the CL in 2012/13 with HSV and the EHF Cup in 2016/17 and 2017/18 with Füchse
- started career in Viborg in his native Denmark; his nickname in those days was 'Majestæt'
- played more than 240 games for Danish national team, won WCh in 2019 and was part of WCh 2013 All-star Team

EC trophies: CL 2013; EHF Cup 2018  
EURO: G 2008, G 2012, S 2014; WCh: G 2019, S 2011, S 2013, B 2007  
World Championship 2013 All-star Team

## GROUP D



## Club contact

## Club Address

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

## Media contact

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 [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  
FYRO Macedonia  
Capacity: 1,500

# HC EUROFARM PELISTER



Eurofarm Pelister enter the new EHF European League Men season with a widely changed squad and a new head coach. The Bitola-based team has clear goals and would like to progress further than the Last 16, a phase they were stopped two years in a row. Taking the Macedonian Super Cup trophy at the start of the season is a signal of their intent.

- **Danish expert Lars Walther took over the team, replacing Zeljko Babic who had been at the helm since the beginning of 2020**
- **the team have a number of changes in the squad list: players like Marton Szekely, Stipe Mandalinic, Reinier Taboada and Josip Peric left**
- **in a thriller match, they defeated Vardar by one goal (23:22) in the domestic Super Cup**
- **their 2021/22 season in the EHF European League ended in the Last 16, losing to Nexe 51:47 on aggregate**
- **this is the third season under the name Eurofarm Pelister after the unification of two clubs**

Most important question: How will changes affect the team?

It was a summer of change in Bitola and the team had a good start to the season, performing well in preparation matches and winning the Super Cup. It is their second season in a row to start the season this way. The team was taken over by Lars Walther, who already has experience in working with Gorenje Velenje, Orlen Wisla Plock, Porto, Ribe-Esbjerg and Azoty-Pulawy among others. The Danish coach will have the task of remaining on the path set by Zeljko Babic and that is to progress further than the group phase, with eyes on the quarter-finals. There is no doubt Pelister will have to take time to get the squad in order with many of the players never playing together before. Pelister's top scorers Stipe Mandalinic, Filip Peric and Reinier Taboada Maras have left the club so it will be interesting to see how the newcomers will deal with their important roles, with many of them coming from the French league. The experience of players like Zarko Peshevski and Wilsson Davyes can help Oussama Hosni and Mohamed Soussi to finally get in the spotlight, while the rest of the squad have their sights set on making an impact in the second-tier competition. The departure of Marton Székely was compensated with the signing of Slovenian national team goalkeeper Urban Lejsak, who will help talented Marko Kizic between the posts.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF European League**

Last 16 (2): 2020/21, 2021/22

### **EHF Champions League**

Group phase (1): 2019/20

### **EHF Cup**

Group Phase (1): 2018/19

### **Challenge Cup**

Last 16 (1): 2017/18

Runner-up (1): 2001/02

**Macedonian league (6):** 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2005

**Macedonian cup (6):** 1990, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 20005







## LARS WALTHER

### Coach

- Danish coach took over the helm in the summer of 2022 from Zeljko Babic, now head coach of women's club Podravka Vegeta
- former player started his coaching career in 2001, his last club was KS Azoty Pulawy
- Eurofarm Pelister will be Walther's 14th club in his coaching career, among others were Flensburg-Handewitt, Wisla Plock and Kadetten Schafhausen
- this will be his fifth season in total in the European club competitions

## NEW/COMERS

Mohamed Soussi (Tremblay)  
Oussama Hosni (Istres)  
Urban Lesjak (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf)  
Wilson Daviyes (US Ivry)  
Denis Vasillev (Motor Zaporozhye)  
Zarko Peshevski (TVB Stuttgart)  
Pavle Atanasijevic  
Emilijan Gjorgovski  
Cvetan Kuzmanoski (all Eurofarm Pelister 2)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Mateo Maras  
Marton Székely  
Josip Peric  
Nemanja Obradovic (all MOL Tatabánya)  
Stipe Mandalinic (AEK Athens)  
Elmir Gradjan (Olympiacos HC)  
Nikola Markoski (Alkaloid)  
Josip Bozic Pavletic (Tremblay)  
Reinier Taboada Dranquet (Fredericia HK)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
3	Goce	Ojleski	MKD	Left Wing	10/10/1989	Struga, MKD	180	80
6	Bojan	Madzovski	MKD	Left Wing	08/05/1994	Skopje, MKD	184	90
8	Cvetan	Kuzmanovski	MKD	Left Wing	05/12/1999	Struga, MKD	190	78
9	Nikola	Stoilevski	MKD	Right Wing	16/11/1999	Skopje, MKD	194	80
12	Boban	Risteovski	MKD	Goalkeeper	23/06/1996	Bitola, MKD	190	90
<b>C</b> 13	Mirko	Radovic	MNE	Right Wing	15/06/1990	Cetinje, MNE	186	93
14	Mario	Tankoski	MKD	Centre Back	28/08/1998	Struga, MKD	190	90
17	Oussama	Hosni	TUN	Right Back	17/09/1992	Tunis, TUN	192	89
19	Nenad	Kosteski	MKD	Right Wing	03/04/2001	Struga, MKD	189	76
23	Wilson	Davyes	POR	Left Back	07/09/1988	Lisbon, POR	192	93
24	Milorad	Kukoski	MKD	Left Back	12/07/1987	Struga, MKD	195	100
30	Martin	Velkovski	MKD	Right Back	10/03/1997	Skopje, MKD	190	85
34	Emilijan	Gjorgovski	MKD	Left Back	09/06/2002	Skopje, MKD	195	90
37	Denis	Vasilev	RUS	Line Player	31/12/1993	Astrakhan, RUS	196	95
39	Mohamed	Soussi	TUN	Left Back	17/01/1993	Tunis, TUN	195	98
43	Zharko	Peshevski	MKD	Line Player	11/04/1991	Skopje, MKD	195	110
51	Rudy	Seri	FRA	Left Back	02/04/1994	Paris, FRA	194	105
88	Pavle	Atanasijevikj	MKD	Centre Back	09/07/2003	Skopje, MKD	195	79
90	Urban	Lesjak	SLO	Goalkeeper	24/08/1990	Celje, SLO	188	103
98	Marko	Kizikj	MKD	Goalkeeper	22/01/2001	Skopje, MKD	198	100

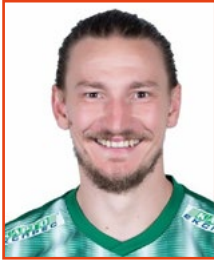


## URBAN LESJAK

 @u\_lesjak1

### Goalkeeper

- joined Eurofarm Pelister in the summer of 2021 from Hannover-Burgdorf to replace Marton Szekely
- part of the Slovenia national team at OG 2016 and won bronze at WCh 2017
- joined Celje in 2010; left in 2018 to join Bundesliga team TSV Hannover-Burgdorf
- before the 2022/23 season he had 59 national team appearances and played 109 matches in Bundesliga



## MIRKO RADOVIC

 @mirkoradovic13

### Left wing

- new team captain, enters his 5th season with Eurofarm Pelister
- started his career in his hometown Podgorica
- previously played for Buducnost, Lovcen, Valance Handball and Cegledi KKSE
- member of the Montenegro national team
- his first European season was in 2008, scoring eight times for Buducnost in then third-tier competition



## ZARKO PESHEVSKI

 @zarkopesevski

### Line player

- one of the most experienced players in the team, joined in the summer of 2022
- previously played in Bundesliga for TVB Stuttgart 1988, Motor Zaporozhye and Metalurg
- started playing handball in Skopje in the youth academy of Metalurg
- part of the North Macedonia national team
- played EHF Champions League with Zaporozhye



## OUSSAMA HOSNI

 @ousamahosni

### Centre back

- Tunisian international, started his career in Club Africain
- joined Eurofarm Pelister in the summer of 2022 from Istres
- spent most of his career playing in France: US Ivry Handball, Pontault-Combault and Istres Provence
- part of Tunisia's national team, participating at three World Championships, won one gold and two silver medals at the African Championship

## GROUP D




## Club contact

## Club Address

HC Motor  
Ivanova Str. 24  
69068 Zaporozhye  
Ukraine

## Media contact

Karina Shepetkovska  
+380982563777  
+4915236874073  
shepetkovskaya@gmail.com

 [handball.club.motor](#)

 [handball.club.motor](#)

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: white/red  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow/  
black

## Dark

Player shirt: blue/red  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: red or  
yellow and green/black



## Playing hall

Castello Düsseldorf  
Karl-Hohman-Strasse 1  
40599 Düsseldorf  
Germany  
Capacity: 3,077

## HC MOTOR



Despite the war in their homeland, HC Motor have managed to keep on playing handball on professional level. The Ukrainian champions found a new home in the German city of Düsseldorf over the summer, and are competing in the second Bundesliga division. With a very special season ahead, the club's goals in the European League are different to other competitors.

- **Motor play their first ever season in the European League, after participating in the EHF Champions League between 2013/14 and 2021/22**
- **they reached the Champions League knock-out stage – the Last 16 or play-offs – four times**
- **due to the war in Ukraine, most of Motor's foreign players left, meaning the club strongly resembles the Ukrainian national team**
- **Lithuanian-born coach Gintaras Savukynas, in charge since 2020, has remained with the team together with compatriot Jonas Truchanovicus, who won the Champions League in 2018 with Montpellier**
- **Motor were Ukrainian champions 10 straight times from 2013 until 2022 and won the national cup eight times**

Most important question: How competitive are Motor under these special circumstances?

Many of their former top players such as Aidenas Malasinskas, Viachaslau Bokhan, Barys Pukhouski and Artem Kozakevych have left the club, but some young Ukrainian players arrived. Coach Gintaras Savukynas has the huge task to form a new team, far away from home and during the war. To compete in the second German league provides Motor with a constant playing experience; after several defeats at the start of the season, Motor took their first victory and gained confidence. "Our sporting goal is to do well in the European League. And of course the season in the second division will help us a lot for that. This experience will help the young players in the team in particular, because it's a strong league in which we can learn a lot and improve," says Savukynas.

In Motor's case, it is not only about results, says manager Dmytro Karpushchenko. "Our team has changed a lot – we have many young players and only three foreigners. The main aim for us this season is that our club and our players survive and to show to all Europe that Ukrainian handball is alive and fighting for Ukraine," Karpushchenko says.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF European League**

Participations (including 2022/23): 1

### **EHF Champions League**

Participations: 9

Play-offs (1): 2020/21

Last 16 (3): 2013/14, 2015/16, 2018/19

Group phase (4): 2014/15, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2019/20

### **Other**

#### **EHF Cup**

group phase 2012/13

#### **Cup Winners' Cup**

quarter-finals 2011/12

**Ukrainian league:** 10 titles (2013-22)


**Ukrainian cup:** 8 titles (2013, 2015-21)





## GINTARAS SAVUKYNAS

Coach

 @gintarassavukynas

- Motor head coach since February 2020, when he replaced Rostislav Lanevich
- earlier coached Riihimaki Cocks for more than three years, after spells at national team of Lithuania (2009-13) and Belarusian side HC Meshkov Brest (2010-12)
- spent his playing career in Iceland, Switzerland and Norway, apart from his native country, Lithuania

## NEW/COMERS

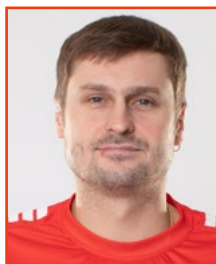
Nazar Chudinov  
Blyzniul Illia  
Mykhaylo Budko  
Andrii Kasai  
Oleksandr Onifriienko  
Vladyslav Shcherbina  
Oleksii Tomashevskiy (all ZNTU-ZAB)  
Bozo Andjelic (Ferencvarosi TC)  
Danylo Osadchii (Donbass)

## LEFT THE CLUB

Aidenas Malasinskas (Melsungen)  
Ivan Maroz (Bnei Herzliya)  
Barys Pukhouski (Vojvodina)  
Viachaslau Bokhan (Dinamo Bucharest)  
Denis Vasilev (Eurofarm Pelister)  
Vladyslav Dontsov (Creteil Chartres)  
Ivan Burzak (Azoty Pulawy)  
Oleksandr Tilte (Chrobry Glogow)  
Maksym Vyunyk (Pogon Szczecin)  
Artem Kozakevych (Minaur Baia Mare)  
Luka Sebetic (Minden)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Nazar	Chudinov	UKR	Goalkeeper	22/04/2003	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	196	84
5	Iurii	Kubatko	UKR	Right Wing	28/08/1988	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	183	83
7	Illia	Blyzniuk	UKR	Right Back	19/02/2001	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	185	84
9	Vladyslav	Shcherbina	UKR	Left Back	08/01/2004	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	198	93
10	Andrii	Kasai	UKR	Centre Back	10/02/2004	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	197	87
<b>C</b> 11	Zakhar	Denysov	UKR	Left Wing	01/03/1990	Kyiv, UKR	187	94
14	Danylo	Osadchyi	UKR	Line Player	10/04/2000	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	197	106
16	Mykhailo	Budko	UKR	Goalkeeper	15/06/2002	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	200	84
17	Ihor	Turchenko	UKR	Left Back	04/12/2000	Kyiv, UKR	193	90
18	Carlos	Molina Cosano	ESP	Line Player	31/05/1991	Barcelona, ESP	200	105
19	Eduard	Kravchenko	UKR	Right Wing	19/05/1996	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	185	82
20	Oleksii	Tomashevskiy	UKR	Line Player	10/10/2002	Vinnytsia, UKR	205	107
23	Oleksandr	Onufriienko	UKR	Left Wing	28/04/2001	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	194	86
24	Dmytro	Horiha	UKR	Left Back	08/10/1997	Kyiv, UKR	196	98
31	Oleksandr	Kasai	UKR	Left Wing	14/01/1997	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	180	80
32	Bozo	Andjelic	MNE	Centre Back	16/03/1992	Cetinje, MNE	186	92
33	Jonas	Truchanovicus	LTU	Left Back	24/06/1993	Siauliai, LTU	203	110
55	Gennadii	Komok	UKR	Goalkeeper	05/07/1987	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	197	115
77	Dmytro	Tiutiunnyk	UKR	Line Player	17/03/1993	Cherkasy, UKR	198	104



## GENNADI KOMOK

### Goalkeeper

- born in Zaporozhye and started his career at Motor's local rivals ZTR
- after a one season stint at Newa St. Petersburg in 2011/12 returned to ZTR, where he played until 2015
- Motor goalkeeper since seven years and became Ukrainian champion seven times (after already five trophies with ZTR)
- played three months for German club HSG Wetzlar in spring 2022, before he re-joined Motor again
- belongs to the Ukrainian national team since more than a decade and played his third EHF EURO final tournament in 2022 (after 2010 and 2020)

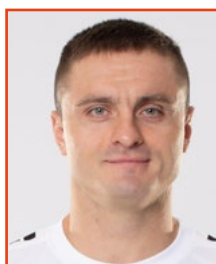


## JONAS TRUCHANOVICIUS

### Left back

- moved to Motor from Montpellier in 2021, hoping to get more playing time
- became first Lithuanian player to win the CL, with Montpellier in 2018
- at his best at left back position but can also feature as centre back
- help Lithuania to qualify for the EHF EURO 2022 but missed the final tournament to to a knee injury

EC trophies: CL 2018

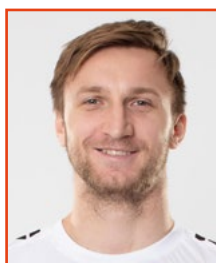


## ZACHAR DENISOV

@zakhar\_denysov

### Left wing

- all-rounder with experience of playing in many different positions
- Ukrainian international, named Player of the Year in Ukraine in 2019
- raised in Yuzhny and played for local team Portovik before moving to Motor in 2014
- was also a talented football player as a teenager, but focused on handball



## DMYTRO HORIHA

### Left back

- started his career at ZNTU Zaporizhye, moved to Motor in 2018, at the age of 21
- played on loan for one season at for Polish side Szczecin in 2019/20, before returning to Motor
- in spring 2022 went to Spanish side Viveros Herol Nava, before Motor was guaranteed a place in German second division
- plays for the Ukraine national team since five years - and was part of two EHF EURO final tournaments by now (2020, 2022)
- was Ukraine's best scorer at the EHF EURO 2022 with 17 goals in three matches



## GROUP D



## Club contact


## Club Address

Bidasoa Irun  
Polideportivo Artaleku s/n  
Kale Nagusia 30  
20304 Irun  
Spain


## Media contact

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+34 617 580 862  
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 [cdbidasoa.eus](http://cdbidasoa.eus)

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

 [@CDBidasoaIrun](https://twitter.com/CDBidasoaIrun)

 [@cdbidasoairun](https://www.instagram.com/cdbidasoairun)

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: yellow  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: green/  
purple

## Dark

Player shirt: blue  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: green/  
purple



## Playing hall

Polideportivo Municipal  
"Artaleku"  
C/Artaleku s/n  
20304 Irun  
Spain  
Capacity: 2,800

## BIDASOA IRUN



Bidasoa Irun were involved in the most dramatic game of the qualification rounds for the EHF European League, as the Spanish side had won the first leg by three goals but eliminated the up-and-coming Norwegian team only after a shootout in the return leg.

The next challenge awaits in the group phase, as Bidasoa share a group with the likes of Fühse Berlin, HC Eurofarm Pelister, and HC Motor. But with a mix of talent and experience, the Spanish side is ready for the task.

- **reached the group phase following the tightest qualification tie, beating Kolstad in a shootout**
- **Bidasoa Irun are two-time Spanish champions and won the EHF Champions League in 1994/95**
- **the squad includes eight players under 24**
- **Jacobo Cuétara is the head coach since 2016/17**
- **Julen Aguinagalde has announced his retirement after the current season; he will then remain at the club as sports director**

"It's very important to be back in this competition to continue growing in the future," said head coach Jacobo Cuétara, adding that "playing in front of our fans against some of the best teams in the world" made his team proud.

The team captain, Jon Azkue, acknowledged that the biggest motivation of this season is to enjoy every match: "Let Irun and Artaleku enjoy great European handball nights again."

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF Champions League**

Winners (1): 1994/95

Runners-up (1): 1995/96

Playoffs (1): 2019/20

### **EHF European League**

Participations (including 2022/23): 3

Last 16 (1): 2021/22

Qualification (1): 2020/21

### **EHF Cup**

Semi-final (1): 2000/01;

Quarter-final (2): 2005/06, 2006/07

### **Cup Winners' Cup**

Winners (1): 1996/97

Last 16 (1): 1997/98

### **Spanish league**

2 titles (1987, 1994)

### **Spanish cup**

2 titles (1991, 1996)





## JACOBO CUÉTARA

Coach

- Bidasoa's head coach since 2016/17, leading the club in their fourth straight European season
- previously worked as head coach of Villa de Aranda
- also a prolific (beach) volleyball player, but has always been in love with handball
- has license to coach handball and volleyball, is also a physical trainer, in which role he worked at Ademar Leon early in his career

## ARRIVALS

Mehdi Harbaoui (Selestat Alsace/FRA)  
Jakub Skrzyniarz (Gornik Zabrze/POL)  
Mihajlo Mitic (Puente Genil/ESP)  
Asier Nieto (Bada Huesca/ESP)

## DEPARTURES

Jose Manuel Sierra (retired)  
Xoan Ledo (Istres Provence Handball/FRA)  
Adrian Fernandez (BM Torrelavega/ESP)  
Kauldi Odriozola (HBC Nantes)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight	
2	Iñaki	Cavero Echepare	ESP	Right Wing	27.04.1996	Irun	183	80	
3	Ander	Ugarte Cortés	ESP	Line Player	06.02.1990	Irun	192	101	
8	Mikel	Zabala Ugarteburu	ESP	Left Wing	23.04.1998	Eibar	180	80	
9	Tao	Gey Emparan	FRA	Right Wing	25.11.2003	Urrugne	175	64	
10	Eneko	Furundarena Maiz	ESP	Left Back	30.04.2003	Usurbil	195	90	
13	Julen	Aguinagalde Akizu	ESP	Line Player	08.12.1982	Irun	195	113	
16	Medhi	Harbaoui	FRA	Goalkeeper	11.09.1996	Cannes	196	98	
17	Rodrigo Alonso	Salinas Muñoz	CHI	Right Back	25.02.1989	Vina del Mar	185	95	
19	Julen	Música Santiago	ESP	Right Back	03.09.2003	Renteria	190	87	
20	Julen Urruzola	Pagazartundua	ESP	Line Player	05.03.2002	Elgoibar	204	92	
21	Xabier	Barreto Usabarrena	ESP	Left Wing	22.09.2003	Irun	175	69	
23	Asier	Iribar Carcellar	ESP	Centre Back	02.04.2003	Zumaia	191	88	
24	Mihajlo	Mitic	SRB	Right Back	03.02.1997	Novi Sad	195	106	
<b>C</b>	25	Jon	Azkue Saizar	ESP	Centre Back	03.07.1994	Orio	184	87
	27	Thomas	Tesoriere	FRA	Back	21.01.1989	Marseille	199	100
	28	Francisco	Da Silva Matheus	ESP	Line Player	07.02.1998	Nova Iguaçu	199	105
	31	Gorka	Nieto Marcos	ESP	Centre Back	31.01.2002	Etxebarri	185	80
	32	Dariel	García Rivera	CUB	Left Wing	31.12.1996	Havana	196	101
	33	Jakub	Skrzyniarz	POL	Goalkeeper	06.06.1996	Lubin	189	100
	39	Asier	Nieto Marcos	ESP	Left Back	21.11.1997	Etxebarri	190	91
	88	Víctor	Rodríguez Costas	ESP	Left Back	15.03.1993	Vigo	193	98



## JAKUB SKRZYNIARZ

@kuba.skrzyniarz

### Goalkeeper

- Polish goalkeeper, arriving at Bidasoa Irun in the summer of 2022
- replaces legendary goalkeeper José Manuel Sierra, who has retired at age 44
- started career at SMS Gdansk, played four seasons for Zagłębie Lubin, before joining Górnik Zabrze, his last Polish club before moving to Spain
- Polish international since 2020



## JON AZKUE

@jonazkue25

### Left back

- team captain and one of the most experienced players in the squad
- is in his 12th season with the club after joining Bidasoa Irun in 2011/12
- scored 33 times in the EL 2021/22 season, matching his personal best tally for a single European season after also scoring 33 in the CL 2019/20
- missed two months of the 2018/19 season following shoulder injury



## JULEN AGUINAGALDE

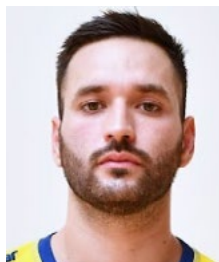
@julenaginalde

### Line player

- Spanish great, who turns 40 in December and has announced his retirement after the 2022/23 season; he will stay with Bidasoa Irun as their sports director
- returned to Bidasoa Irun in 2020 after seven seasons at Kielce; won the CL in 2016 after scoring the decisive penalty in the shootout of the final against Vezprém
- All-star line player of WCh 2013 in Spain, EHF EUROs 2014 and 2016, and Champions League 2013 and 2019; won three gold medals with Spain

EC trophies: CL 2016

WCh: G 2013, B 2011; EURO: G 2020, G 2018, S 2016, B 2014



## IÑAKI CAVERO

@cavero2

### Right wing

- crucial player for Bidasoa Irun on the right wing
- contributed 18 goals (10 in the first leg, eight in the second) to his team's all important win over Kolstad in qualification round 3, to reach the 2022/23 group phase
- netted 38 times in the EL 2021/22, when Bidasoa Irun lost in the Last 16 to GOG
- made European debut in the CL 2019/20, scoring 23 goals for Bidasoa Irun

## GROUP D




## Club contact

## Club Address

Skanderborg-Aarhus  
Birgit Kjestrup  
Dalsvinget 8  
8660 Skanderborg  
Denmark

## Media contact

Anne Skovrider  
+45 2999 2844  
[media@skanderborg-aarhus.dk](mailto:media@skanderborg-aarhus.dk)

 [skanderborg-aarhus.dk](http://skanderborg-aarhus.dk)

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

 [@skanderborgaarhushandbold](https://www.instagram.com/skanderborgaarhushandbold)

## Kit colours

## Light

Player shirt: green  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: grey

## Dark

Player shirt:  
Player short:  
Goalkeeper shirt:



## Playing hall

**Ceres Park & Arena**  
Stadion Alle 70  
8000 Aarhus  
Denmark  
Capacity: 5,000

# SKANDERBORG— AARHUS



Skanderborg-Aarhus Håndbold are a newcomer to the European stage, but with plenty of excitement, a lot of young talent and the exuberance that comes out of it, they will certainly be a team to watch in the EHF European League Men 2022/23. Their 67:64 aggregate win against recent EHF Champions League contenders IFK Kristianstad in qualification round 2 has already raised eyebrows, therefore opponents will surely be prepared for the challenge when the Danish side founded in 2021 gets going.

- **formed in 2021 with the merger of Skanderborg Håndbold and Aarhus Håndbold, the club now takes part in their first European group phase**
- **the Danish side finished fifth last season in the domestic league, missing out on the play-offs**
- **they sealed their group phase berth with a narrow 67:64 aggregate win against IFK Kristianstad**
- **with an average age of 24, Skanderborg-Aarhus are one of the youngest teams in the competition**
- **right back Jonathan Mollerup and right wing Hákun West av Teigum were their top scorers in qualification round 2, scoring 14 and 12 goals**

The draw of qualification round 2 was not particularly kind to Skanderborg-Aarhus, as their first two European games saw them facing an experienced and tested side in European competitions, IFK Kristianstad. However, with the attractive, fast-paced, high-octane style that has been acknowledged by the team since its first day, the Danish team clinched a 67:64 aggregate win to make it to the group phase.

They will face once again experienced teams in the next phase, such as Füchse Berlin, Eurofarm Pelister, HC Motor, and Bidasoa Irun, but they are in with a chance, despite their lack of experience in a group phase.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF European League

Participations (including 2022/23): 1

### Cup Winners' Cup

Last 16 (1): 1996/97

### Danish league

—

### Danish cup

—





## NICK RASMUSSEN

Coach

- has been working at Skanderborg since 2017, having overseen the development of plenty of young players over the past seasons
- is also working part-time, 30 hours per week, as a teacher, at a local school in Fredericia
- is a former player, featuring for Fredericia, the only club he ever took the court for – 390 times

## ARRIVALS

Jonatan Mollerup (Ribe-Esbjerg/DEN)  
Lars Mousing (Chambéry Savoie/FRA)  
Torben Petersen (Ribe-Esbjerg/DEN)  
Anton Bramming (TMS Ringsted/DEN)  
Magnus Vejsgaard (own academy)  
Nicolai Skytte (own academy)

## DEPARTURES

Mathias Bitsch (GWD Minden/GER)  
Lasse Nygaard (Team Sydhavsørne/DEN)  
Mathias Smed (TTH Holstebro/DEN)  
Jon Katballe (Lemvig-Thyborøn/DEN)  
Allan Toft (retired)  
Mike Haack (retired)



# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight	
1	Kristoffer	Lund Laursen	DEN	Goalkeeper	08.05.1989	Aarhus	196	105	
3	Lars	Mousing Nielsen	DEN	Line Player	04.03.1992	Aarhus	195	95	
4	Lars Christian	Gade Skaarup	DEN	Left Wing	18.04.1992	Aarhus	186	86	
5	Frederik	Sommer Arnoldsen	DEN	Line Player	11.01.2002	Aarhus	201	95	
6	Kristian	Bonefeld	DEN	Centre Back	16.07.1994	Aarhus	195	101	
7	Jonatan	Mollerup	DEN	Right Back	23.08.1993	Aarhus	196	100	
8	Torben	Petersen	DEN	Left Back	15.05.1993	Aarhus	191	93	
11	Thomas	Sommer Arnoldsen	DEN	Centre Back	11.01.2002	Aarhus	195	96	
12	Salah	Boutaf	DEN	Goalkeeper	22.03.1999	Aarhus	192	110	
13	Lukas	Goller	DEN	Left Back	20.05.2002	Aarhus	200	100	
17	Hákun	West av Teigum	FAR	Right Wing	19.02.2002	Tórshavn	188	96	
19	Thor	Christensen	DEN	Line Player	27.03.2001	Aarhus	198	109	
<b>C</b>	20	Morten	Balling Christensen	DEN	Centre Back	12.08.1987	Aarhus	186	92
	23	Morten Hempel	Jensen	DEN	Left Back	01.11.1997	Aarhus	192	90
	24	Anton	Bramming	DEN	Left Wing	07.06.2000	Aarhus	180	78
	25	Magnus	Vejsgaard Bugtrup	DEN	Right Wing	07.01.2002	Aarhus	181	90
	26	Joachim	Pedersen	DEN	Centre Back	02.06.2004	Aarhus	189	93
	27	Nicolai	Skytte Sørensen	DEN	Centre Back	03.03.2003	Aarhus	190	94




## KRISTOFFER LAURSEN

### Goalkeeper

- experienced goalkeeper, who played for Skive, Viborg, and Skanderborg – until the latter club merged with Aarhus in 2021
- has recently extended his contract with the club until 2025
- gained first European cup experience with Viborg in the CL 2007/08 season
- one of the most consistent goalkeepers in the Danish league



## HÁKUN WEST AV TEIGUM

 @av\_teigum

### Left Wing

- part of a superb Faroe generation, including Oli Mittun and Elias Ellefsen a Skipagotu
- progressed from club's academy in 2020 to join Skanderborg-Aarhus' senior team
- All-star left wing at M17 European Open 2019, where Faroe Islands won the trophy
- scored seven goals in Faroe's 32:31 win against Denmark at M20 EHF EURO 2022, reportedly the first-ever win for the country against Denmark in a team sport



## THOMAS ARNOLDSEN

 @thomasarnoldsen

### Centre Back

- one of Denmark's biggest talents, playing his last season at Skanderborg-Aarhus before joining CL side Aalborg for the 2023/24 season
- had 144 goals and 143 assists for Skanderborg-Aarhus in the Danish league 2021/22
- made the M20 EHF EURO 2022 All-star Team with some superb performances
- twin brother Frederik also plays for the team, as line player



## MORTEN BALLING

 @mortenballing87

### Centre back

- played for Mors-Thy and Skjern, also in the CL, before signing for Skanderborg in 2017
- most experienced player and captain of the 2022/23 squad
- holds degree in marketing; works in sales and marketing for a local company
- his younger brother, Peter, is also a handball player, who made the Danish national team and is currently playing for KIF Kolding

## GROUP D



### Club contact

#### Club Address

Aguas Santas Milaneza  
Rua Ferreira de Castro 84  
4425-083 Águas Santas  
Portugal

#### Media contact

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 [aguassantas.net](http://aguassantas.net)

 [atletica.aguas.santas](https://www.facebook.com/atletica.aguas.santas)

 [@atleticaaguas\\_santas](https://www.instagram.com/atleticaaguas_santas)

### Kit colours

#### Light

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

#### Dark

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



### Playing hall

**Associação Atlética**  
Rua Ferreira de Castro 84  
4425-083 Águas Santas  
Portugal  
Capacity: 1,500

# AGUAS SANTAS MILANEZA



After an impressive qualification phase, where they former EHF Champions League contenders Riihimaen Cocks and fellow Portuguese side Belenenses, Aguas Santas Milaneza will make their debut in the group phase of the EHF European League. This club full of tradition in Portuguese handball will surely have an arena full of fans to lend support in these tough European matches.

- **the team qualified for the group phase by coming through two qualification rounds – against Cocks and Belenenses**
- **Aguas Santas placed fifth in the Portuguese league last season, but have since made many changes to their squad**
- **however, experienced head coach Ricardo Moreira remained in charge of the team**
- **Aguas Santas have only Portuguese players in their squad; the average age is below 23**
- **their biggest signing for the 2022/23 season is centre back Afonso Lima, who joined from ADA Maia**

This season, Aguas Santas have signed several players from other Portuguese teams, let others go and will trust head coach Ricardo Moreira's strategy to shine even more.

Aguas Santas are in group D, awaiting the powerful opposition of Füchse Berlin, Bidasoa Irun, Skanderborg-Aarhus, HC Eurofarm Pelister, and HC Motor. Even when they might come up short in international experience, the team led by Ricardo Moreira also has strengths and is full of ambition.

## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### **EHF European League**

Participations (including 2022/23): 2

Qualification round 1 (1): 2021/22

### **EHF Challenge Cup**

Semi-finals (1): 2013/14

### **Portuguese league**

–

### **Portuguese cup**

1 title (2002)





## RICARDO MOREIRO

Coach

- became Águas Santas' head coach in 2021, arriving from fellow Portuguese side Ada Maia
- previously worked as youth and B team coach at Porto
- in his playing days as a wing, he spent almost his entire career at Porto, winning seven domestic titles

## ARRIVALS

Afonso Lima (ADA Maia/POR)  
João Furtado (ADA Maia/POR)  
Diogo Ribeiro (ADA Maia/POR)  
Pedro Cruz (Póvoa Andebol Clube/POR)  
Gustavo Oliveira (FC Gaia/POR)  
Rui Baptista (ABC de Braga/POR)

## DEPARTURES

Rúben Ribeiro (Marítimo Madeira/POR)  
André Sousa (FC Porto/POR)  
Miguel Neves (Bergen Håndball/NOR)  
Tiago Sousa (Ademar Leon/ESP)  
António Campos (Póvoa Andebol Clube/POR)  
Rafael Azevedo (Ginásio Clube de Santo Tirso/POR)  
Vasco Santos (Póvoa Andebol Clube/POR)  
Ricardo Rocha (SL Benfica/POR)  
Pedro Seabra (retired)  
Ricardo Mourão (retired)

# I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight		
3	Fábio Patricio	Lopes Teixeira	POR	Left Wing	02.02.2000	São Mamede	188	87		
4	Afonso Vilhena	Roque Couelho Lima	POR	Centre Back	04.02.1997	Guimarães	178	83		
5	Miguel Lucas	Calado Raposo	POR	Right Back	26.10.1995	Santarém	196	114		
7	João Pedro	Morais Furtado	POR	Left Back	29.10.1998	Coimbra	194	99		
8	José Pedro	Martins Barbosa	POR	Right Back	23.02.1997	Águas Santas	190	94		
10	Gustavo Maria da Silva	Oliveira	POR	Left Back	14.03.2001	Santa Maria da Feira	195	92		
11	Nuno Ricardo	Marinho Queirós	POR	Line Player	21.04.2003	Celorico de Basto	190	111		
12	Diogo Alexandre	Coutinho Ribeiro	POR	Goalkeeper	27.10.1999	Porto	185	88		
13	Mário Diogo de Vasconcelos		POR	Right Wing	21.05.1991	Gondomar	181	87		
16	Alexandre Carvalho	Magalhães	POR	Goalkeeper	20.05.2000	Maia	190	77		
17	Carlos Eduardo	Reis dos Santos	POR	Line Player	07.05.1992	Escapães	200	104		
<b>C</b>	19	Francisco	Magalhães	Fontes	POR	Line Player	14.10.1992	Gondomar	190	104
	20	Miguel	Brochado	Guerra	POR	Left Wing	17.06.2004	Felgueiras	180	69
	22	Francisco	Fontes	Neves de	POR	Right Back	11.03.2004	Porto	194	80
	23	João Pedro	Vinhas da Silva	Gomes	POR	Left Back	06.09.2002	Águas Santas	178	87
	26	Miguel	Costa da Cruz	Pedro	POR	Left Wing	10.08.1992	Porto	178	82
	27	Rui Miguel	Pereira	Baptista	POR	Centre Back	15.10.2001	Guimarães	180	75
	36	Miguel de Sousa	Loureiro		POR	Goalkeeper	14.05.2003	Porto	197	82
	77	Miguel António	Aires Moreira	Pinto	POR	Right Wing	26.04.1999	Espinho	194	92
	95	Nuno David	Santos	Gonçalves	POR	Line Player	23.03.2003	Matosinhos	193	103



## DIOGO RIBEIRO

### Goalkeeper

- previously played for FC Porto B, FC Gaia, and ADA Maia before joining Aguas Santas
- became champions in the Portuguese second division with Gaia in 2018/19
- excellent shot stopper, but also an expert in setting up quick counter-attacks
- also a prolific beach handball player, who competed with the Portuguese national team at the Beach Handball EURO 2021 in Bulgaria



## AFONSO LIMA

### Centre back

- creative centre back, who arrived at Aguas Santas in the summer of 2022
- playing his first ever European season, he contributed nine goals in total to the team's successful path through two qualification rounds
- previously played for domestic rivals ADA Maia
- player with a good eye for setting up his teammates, but also a strong finisher



## JOÃO GOMES

### Right back

- one of the up-and-coming talents of Portuguese handball; turned only 20 in September 2022 but is already in his third European club season
- scored 13 goals to help Aguas Santas come through the two qualification rounds and reach the EHF European League 2022/23 group phase
- played for Portugal's YAC national teams – also at their home M20 EHF EURO in July 2022 – and was part of the senior team's squad for the EHF EURO 2022



## MIGUEL PINTO

### Right wing

- former Portuguese youth international, who previously played for FC Porto
- his stunning 15-goal outing helped Aguas Santas beat Cocks 30:20 and make up for a defeat in Finland the week before in qualification round 1 of the EL 2022/23
- Pinto has added 15 more goals in qualification, making him by far the best scorer for Aguas Santas coming into the group phase

# 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 group phase:

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

After completion of the group phase 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) goal difference in all matches of the group;
- d) higher number of plus goals in all matches of the group;

After completion of the group phase 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;

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 a responsible of each club.

### LAST 16 AND QUARTER-FINAL MATCHES

If, after completion of the two matches, both clubs 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) penalty throws

### RULES FOR EXECUTION OF PENALTY THROWS

- Only players (incl. goalkeepers) who are listed on the match report and are not suspended or disqualified at the end of the playing time are entitled to participate at the penalty throws.

- Prior to the penalty throws, each team shall name five players 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 perform 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 the scores are equal after the first round of penalty throws, 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.

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

- 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 court.

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





# HISTORY

# PAST WINNERS OF THE EHF SECOND-TIER COMPETITIONS

## EHF European League Men winners

2022	SL Benfica (POR)
2021	SC Magdeburg (GER)

## 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 Avidesa (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)

# TOP SCORERS 2021/22

109 goals



**Petar Djordjic**  
SL Benfica



**Halil Jaganjac**  
RK Nexe

	Player	Club	Goals
<b>1</b>	<b>Halil Jaganjac (CRO)</b>	<b>RK Nexe</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Petar Djordjic (SRB)</b>	<b>SL Benfica</b>	<b>109</b>
3	Mohamed Sanad (EGY)	USAM Nimes Gard	99
4	Jerry Tollbring (SWE)	GOG	94
5	Bjarki Mar Elisson (ISL)	TBV Lemgo Lippe	89
<b>6</b>	<b>Ole Rahmel (GER)</b>	<b>SL Benfica</b>	<b>85</b>
7	Samuel Zehnder (SUI)	Kadetten Schaffhausen	82
<b>8</b>	<b>Fahrudin Melic (MNE)</b>	<b>RK Nexe</b>	<b>79</b>
9	Simon Pytlick (DEN)	GOG	75
<b>10</b>	<b>Ómar Ingi Magnusson (ISL)</b>	<b>SC Magdeburg</b>	<b>71</b>
11	Elias Ellefsen á Skipagøtu (FAR)	IK Sävehof	70
<b>11</b>	<b>Lazar Kukic (SRB)</b>	<b>SL Benfica</b>	<b>70</b>
13	Valero Rivera (ESP)	HBC Nantes	69
<b>14</b>	<b>Sergei Mark Kosorotov (RUS)</b>	<b>Orlen Wisla Plock</b>	<b>66</b>
14	Agustín Casado (ESP)	BM Logroño La Rioja	66
14	Emil Madsen (DEN)	GOG	66
17	Stipe Mandalinic (CRO)	HC Eurofarm Pelister	64

\* starting from the group phase only

# I QUALIFICATION TOP SCORERS



**Miguel Pinto**

*Aguas Santas Milaneza*

**30 goals**

	<b>Player</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Miguel Pinto (POR)</b>	<b>Aguas Santas Milaneza</b>	<b>30</b>
2	Sigvaldi Gudjonsson (ISL)	Kolstad Handball	29
3	Markus Olsson (SWE)	IFK Kristianstad	29
4	Sebastian Karlsson (SWE)	IK Sävehof	28
5	Mads Kjeldgaard Andersen (DEN)	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg	27
<b>6</b>	<b>Luca Raschle (AUT)</b>	<b>Alpla HC Hard</b>	<b>26</b>
6	Andreas Cederholm (SWE)	IFK Kristianstad	26
8	Benjamin Richert (FRA)	Chambery Savoie MB Handball	25
9	Samuel Zehnder (SUI)	TBV Lemgo Lippe	23
<b>10</b>	<b>Bendegúz Bujdosó (HUN)</b>	<b>FTC</b>	<b>21</b>
11	Magnus Langeland (NOR)	Kolstad Handball	20
11	Emil Frennd-Öfors (SWE)	IFK Kristianstad	20
<b>13</b>	<b>Zsolt Balogh (HUN)</b>	<b>FTC</b>	<b>19</b>
13	Ludvig Jurmala Åström (SWE)	IFK Kristianstad	19
<b>15</b>	<b>Iñaki Caverro Echepeare (ESP)</b>	<b>Bidasoa Irun</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Bence Nagy (HUN)</b>	<b>FTC</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Jon Azkue Saizar (ESP)</b>	<b>Bidasoa Irun</b>	<b>17</b>

# EUROPEAN LEAGUE ALL-TIME STATS

## ALL TIME LIST MEN BEFORE 2022–23 SEASON

1	SC Magdeburg GER	32	28	2	2	1032:844	+188	58:6	(2)	90,63%
2	Orlen Wisla Plock POL	32	23	1	8	949:828	+121	47:17	(2)	73,44%
3	<b>Füchse Berlin GER</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>780:692</b>	<b>+88</b>	<b>38:18</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>67,86%</b>
4	GOG DEN	28	18	2	8	897:849	+48	38:18	(2)	67,86%
5	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	26	11	6	9	708:715	-7	28:24	(3)	53,85%
6	RK Nexe CRO	28	13	2	13	787:810	-23	28:28	(3)	50,00%
7	USAM Nimes Gard FRA	24	11	5	8	675:650	+25	27:21	(2)	56,25%
8	Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	16	11	2	3	483:430	+53	24:8	(1)	75,00%
9	<b>SL Benfica POR</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>535:493</b>	<b>+42</b>	<b>24:8</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>75,00%</b>
10	<b>Sporting CP POR</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>651:639</b>	<b>+12</b>	<b>24:24</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>50,00%</b>
11	<b>HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>610:603</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>23:25</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>47,92%</b>
12	Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA	22	9	3	10	587:585	+2	21:23	(2)	47,73%
13	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	24	10	1	13	654:660	-6	21:27	(2)	43,75%
14	HBC Nantes FRA	14	7	3	4	415:378	+37	17:11	(1)	60,71%
15	<b>Montpellier HB FRA</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>345:309</b>	<b>+36</b>	<b>17:11</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>60,71%</b>
16	IFK Kristianstad SWE	14	7	1	6	400:407	-7	15:13	(1)	53,57%
17	HC CSKA RUS	12	7	0	5	324:287	+37	14:10	(1)	58,33%
18	IK Sävehof SWE	12	7	0	5	373:357	+16	14:10	(1)	58,33%
19	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP	12	5	4	3	365:364	+1	14:10	(1)	58,33%
20	TBV Lemgo Lippe GER	12	5	3	4	375:371	+4	13:11	(1)	54,17%
21	RK Gorenje Velenje SLO	14	5	2	7	399:426	-27	12:16	(1)	42,86%
22	<b>TATRAN Presov SVK</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>473:562</b>	<b>-89</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>25,00%</b>
23	AEK Athens HC GRE	10	4	0	6	274:283	-9	8:12	(1)	40,00%
24	BM Logroño La Rioja ESP	10	3	1	6	307:317	-10	7:13	(1)	35,00%
25	CS Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	10	3	1	6	279:298	-19	7:13	(1)	35,00%
26	<b>Bidasoa Irun ESP</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>345:349</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>7:17</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>29,17%</b>
32	<b>PAUC Handball FRA</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>290:319</b>	<b>-29</b>	<b>3:17</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>15,00%</b>
NR	Alpa HC Hard AUT	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Skanderborg-Aarhus DEN	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Skjern Handbold DEN	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	TM Benidorm ESP	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Fraikin BM. Granollers ESP	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Frisch Auf Göppingen GER	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Balatonfüredi KSE HUN	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	FC HUN	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
BR	Valur ISL	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Aguas Santas Milaneza POR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Ystads IF HF SWE	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	HC Motor UKR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A

^ = Excluding Qualifying matches

The club name is the last used name in EHF European League Men competition

% = winning percentage

# EUROPEAN LEAGUE ALL-TIME STATS

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN BIGGEST WINS TOP 10

24	Montpellier HB FRA vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
19	SC Magdeburg GER vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	41:22 (21:11), 09.02.2021
19	Orlen Wisla Plock POL @ HC Metalurg MKD	19:38 (9:16), 14.02.2021
18	SC Magdeburg GER @ Besiktas Aygaz TUR	23:41 (8:20), 20.10.2020
16	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN	46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
15	Orlen Wisla Plock POL vs HC Metalurg MKD	35:20 (16:10), 16.02.2021
15	Fivers AUT vs HC Metalurg MKD	45:30 (22:13), 23.02.2021
15	SC Magdeburg GER vs Alingsas HK SWE	36:21 (18:15), 23.02.2021
14	Sporting CP POR @ Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN	23:37 (13:18), 26.10.2021
14	Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA vs TATRAN Presov SVK	34:20 (18:9), 30.11.2021
14	SL Benfica POR vs Cocks FIN	37:23 (17:12), 30.11.2021
14	Bidasoa Irun ESP @ Pfadi Winterthur SUI	23:37 (12:17), 14.12.2021
14	Orlen Wisla Plock POL @ TATRAN Presov SVK	15:29 (8:13), 22.02.2022

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN BIGGEST LEAD AT HALF-TIME TOP TEN

16	Montpellier HB FRA vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
12	SC Magdeburg GER @ Besiktas Aygaz TUR	23:41 (8:20), 20.10.2020
12	HC CSKA RUS vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	32:24 (21:9), 01.12.2020
11	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS vs HC Metalurg MKD	40:27 (22:11), 06.02.2021
11	HC CSKA RUS @ Alingsas HK SWE	23:31 (5:16), 16.02.2021
11	SC Magdeburg GER vs IFK Kristianstad SWE	39:31 (23:12), 20.04.2021
11	Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER vs Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	37:27 (19:8), 20.04.2021
10	SC Magdeburg GER vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	41:22 (21:11), 09.02.2021
10	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN	46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
10	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS @ Cocks FIN	27:33 (10:20), 07.12.2021

# EUROPEAN LEAGUE ALL-TIME STATS

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN MOST GOALS TOP 10

46	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN	46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
45	Fivers AUT vs HC Metalurg MKD	45:30 (22:13), 23.02.2021
43	IK Sävehof SWE vs BM Logroño	43:31 (23:16), 19.10.2021
41	SC Magdeburg GER @ Besiktas Aygaz TUR	23:41 (8:20), 20.10.2020
41	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP vs HC Metalurg MKD	41:32 (20:13), 17.11.2020
41	SC Magdeburg GER vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	41:22 (21:11), 09.02.2021
40	Montpellier HB FRA vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
40	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS vs HC Metalurg MKD	40:27 (22:11), 06.02.2021
40	HBC Nantes FRA @ Cocks FIN	28:40 (14:18), 19.10.2021
40	SL Benfica POR vs SC Magdeburg GER	40:39 (15:14, 32:32), 29.05.2022

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN MOST GOALS BOTH TEAMS TOP TEN

79	SL Benfica POR vs SC Magdeburg GER	40:39 (15:14, 32:32), 29.05.2022
77	GOG DEN vs SL Benfica POR	39:38 (20:18), 01.03.2022
76	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN	46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
75	Fivers AUT vs HC Metalurg MKD	45:30 (22:13), 23.02.2021
74	IK Sävehof SWE vs BM Logroño	43:31 (23:16), 19.10.2021
74	TBV Lemgo Lippe GER vs HBC Nantes FRA	37:37 (17:20), 22.02.2022
74	TBV Lemgo Lippe GER vs GOG DEN	39:35 (19:17), 08.03.2022
74	GOG DEN vs RK Nexø CRO	37:37 (22:20), 03.05.2022
73	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP vs HC Metalurg MKD	41:32 (20:13), 17.11.2020
73	SL Benfica POR vs Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	38:35 (21:15), 26.10.2021
72	Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA vs SL Benfica POR	38:34 (17:20), 29.03.2022

# EUROPEAN LEAGUE ALL-TIME STATS

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN FEWEST GOALS TOP 10

15	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL 15:29 (8:13), 22.02.2022
16	Besiktas Aygaz TUR @ Montpellier HB FRA 40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
18	RK Nexe CRO @ HC CSKA RUS 29:18 (15:8), 24.11.2020
19	Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN @ HC Eurofarm Pelister 21:19 (11:10), 10.02.2021
19	HC Metalurg MKD vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL 19:38 (9:16), 14.02.2021
19	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA 19:31 (12:16), 07.12.2021
19	AEK Athens HC GRE @ HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD 30:19 (10:8), 08.03.2022
19	Orlen Wisla Plock POL vs SL Benfica POR 19:26 (8:10), 28.05.2022
20	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD @ Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 28:20 (14:11), 24.11.2020
20	TATRAN Presov SVK @ USAM Nimes Gard FRA 25:20 (12:11), 09.02.2021
20	HC Metalurg MKD @ Orlen Wisla Plock POL 35:20 (16:10), 16.02.2021
20	Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN @ HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD 33:20 (17:9), 23.11.2021
20	TATRAN Presov SVK @ Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA 34:20 (18:9), 30.11.2021

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN FEWEST GOALS BOTH TEAMS TOP 10

40	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN 21:19 (11:10), 10.02.2021
43	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs RK Nexe CRO 21:22 (11:11), 05.04.2022
44	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL 15:29 (8:13), 22.02.2022
45	RK Nexe CRO vs Montpellier HB FRA 22:23 (8:10), 17.11.2020
45	USAM Nimes Gard FRA vs TATRAN Presov SVK 25:20 (12:11), 09.02.2021
45	Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN vs HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD 21:24 (11:9), 11.02.2021
45	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Sporting CPO POR 24:21 (12:13), 16.02.2021
45	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI vs RK Trimo Trebnje SLO 24:21 (10:12), 16.02.2021
45	Orlen Wisla Plock POL vs SL Benfica POR 19:26 (8:10), 28.05.2022
46	USAM Nimes Gard FRA vs Füchse Berlin GER 22:24 (13:12), 24.02.2021
46	USAM Nimes Gard FRA vs Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN 24:22 (11:9), 30.11.2021
46	Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN vs HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD 25:21 (11:11), 01.03.2022



# EUROPEAN LEAGUE ALL-TIME STATS

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN BIGGEST DEFICIT OVERCOME AFTER LOSING FIRST HALF TO WIN A GAME

- 4 Chekhovskie medvedi RUS vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 33:32 (15:19), 13.04.2021
- 4 Pfadi Winterthur SUI @ TATRAN Presov SVK 29:33 (16:12), 16.11.2021
- 3 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI @ Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN 30:32 (18:15), 23.02.2021
- 3 Abanca Ademar Leon ESP @ Chekhovskie medvedi RUS 34:35 (20:17), 27.02.2021
- 3 Alingsas HK SWE vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR 30:29 (14:17), 02.03.2021
- 3 Sporting CP POR vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI 29:28 (9:12), 19.10.2021
- 3 SL Benfica POR @ Cocks FIN 32:37 (18:15), 16.11.2021
- 3 RK Gorenje Velenje SLO @ IK Sävehof SWE 27:28 (14:11), 08.03.2022
- 3 Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA vs SL Benfica POR 38:34 (17:20), 29.03.2022

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN DEFICIT OVERCOME AFTER LOSING FIRST HALF TO DRAW A GAME

- 6 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI @ HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD 25:25 (16:10), 17.11.2020
- 5 HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD @ Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI 28:28 (16:11), 26.10.2021
- 4 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI @ Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 30:30 (17:13), 02.02.2021
- 4 RK Gorenje Velenje SLO vs SL Benfica POR 27:27 (11:15), 03.05.2022
- 3 Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA vs Abanca Ademar Leon ESP 28:28 (14:17), 24.11.2020
- 3 HC Metalurg MKD vs Fivers AUT 33:33 (16:19), 22.12.2020
- 3 BM Logroño La Rioja ESP vs SC Magdeburg GER 29:29 (13:16), 16.11.2021
- 3 RK Gorenje Velenje SLO @ PAUC Handball FRA 26:26 (17:14), 23.11.2021
- 3 TBV Lemgo Lippe GER vs HBC Nantes FRA 37:37 (17:20), 22.02.2022
- 3 Cocks FIN vs TBV Lemgo Lippe GER 29:29 (12:15), 01.03.2022
- 3 Abanca Ademar Leon ESP @ HC Metalurg MKD 27:27 (16:13), 02.03.2021
- 3 SC Magdeburg GER @ Sporting CP POR 29:29 (16:13), 29.03.2022

# EUROPEAN LEAGUE ALL-TIME STATS

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN MOST GOALS IN ONE HALF TOP 10

24	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN – 1st half 46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
23	Montpellier HB FRA vs Besiktas Aygaz - 1st half 40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
23	Fivers AUT vs HC Metalurg MKD – 2nd half 45:30 (22:13), 23.02.2021
23	SC Magdeburg GER vs IFK Kristianstad SWE – 1st half 39:31 (23:12), 20.04.2021
23	IK Sävehof SWE vs BM Logroño La Rioja ESP – 1st half 43:31 (23:16), 19.10.2021
22	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS vs HC Metalurg MKD – 1st half 40:27 (22:11), 06.02.2021
22	Orlen Wisla Plock POL @ HC Metalurg MKD – 2nd half 19:38 (9:16), 14.02.2021
22	Fivers AUT vs HC Metalurg MKD – 1st half 45:30 (22:13), 23.02.2021
22	GOG DEN @ Chekhovskie medvedi RUS – 1st half 32:39 (15:22), 19.10.2021
22	HBC Nantes FRA @ Cocks FIN – 2nd half 28:40 (14:18), 19.10.2021
22	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN – 2nd half 46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
22	SL Benfica POR @ Cocks FIN – 2nd half 32:37 (18:15), 16.11.2021
22	USAM Nimes Gard FRA @ Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN – 2nd half 30:38 (17:16), 07.12.2021
22	GOG DEN @ Cocks FIN – 1st half 23:34 (13:22), 22.02.2022
22	GOG DEN vs RK Nexe CRO – 1st half 37:37 (22:20), 03.05.2022

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN MOST GOALS IN ONE HALF BOTH TEAMS TOP 10

42	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN – 2nd half 46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
42	GOG DEN vs RK Nexe CRO – 1st half 37:37 (22:20), 03.05.2022
40	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP vs HC Metalurg MKD – 2nd half 41:32 (20:13), 17.11.2020
40	Fivers AUT vs HC Metalurg MKD – 2nd half 45:30 (22:13), 23.02.2021
40	SC Magdeburg GER vs Sporting CP POR – 1st half 36:35 (21:19), 05.04.2022
39	SC Magdeburg GER vs HC CSKA RUS – 2nd half 37:30 (17:11), 17.11.2020
39	Fivers AUT vs Abanca Ademar Leon ESP – 1st half 33:33 (19:20), 01.12.2020
39	IK Sävehof SWE vs BM Logroño La Rioja ESP – 1st half 43:31 (23:16), 19.10.2021
38	GOG DEN vs SL Benfica POR – 2nd half 39:38 (20:18), 01.03.2022
38	HC Metalurg MKD vs Chekhovskie medvedi RUS – 1st half 32:37 (17:21), 20.02.2021
38	GOG DEN vs SL Benfica POR – 1st half 39:38 (20:18), 01.03.2022
38	TBV Lemgo Lippe GER vs GOG DEN – 2nd half 39:35 (19:17), 08.03.2022

# EUROPEAN LEAGUE ALL-TIME STATS

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN FEI/WEST GOALS IN ONE HALF TOP 10

5	Alingsas HK SWE vs HC CSKA RUS – 1st half 23:31 (5:16), 16.02.2021
6	Alingsas HK SWE @ SC Magdeburg GER – 2nd half 36:21 (18:15), 23.02.2021
6	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs USAM Nimes Gard FRA – 1st half 21:26 (6:15), 19.10.2021
7	Besiktas Aygaz TUR @ Montpellier HB FRA – 1st half 40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
7	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Fenix Toulouse Handball – 2nd half 19:31 (12:16), 07.12.2021
7	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL – 2nd half 15:29 (8:13), 22.02.2022
8	Fivers AUT @ Orlen Wisla Plock POL – 2nd half 32:23 (17:15), 20.10.2020
8	Besiktas Aygaz TUR vs SC Magdeburg GER – 1st half 23:41 (8:20), 20.10.2020
8	RK Nexe CRO vs Montpellier HB FRA – 1st half 22:23 (8:10), 17.11.2020
8	RK Nexe CRO @ HC CSKA RUS – 1st half 29:18 (15:8), 24.11.2020
8	Alingsas HK SWE @ Montpellier HB FRA – 2nd half 32:21 (16:13), 01.12.2020
8	RK Nexe CRO vs SC Magdeburg GER – 1st half 24:32 (8:15), 01.12.2020
8	Sporting CP POR @ TATRAN Presov SVK – 2nd half 24:21 (12:13), 16.02.2021
8	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS @ Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER – 1st half 37:27 (19:8), 20.04.2021
8	Füchse Berlin GER @ SC Magdeburg GER – 1st half 28:25 (15:8), 23.05.2021
8	GOG DEN @ HBC Nantes FRA – 1st half 27:24 (11:8), 16.11.2021
8	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL – 1st half 15:29 (8:13), 22.02.2022
8	AEK Athens HC GRE @ HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD – 1st half 30:19 (10:8), 08.03.2022
8	Orlen Wisla Plock POL vs SL Benfica PORF – 1st half 19:26 (8:10), 28.05.2022

## EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN FEI/WEST GOALS IN ONE HALF BOTH TEAM TOP 10

18	RK Nexe CRO vs Montpellier HB FRA – 1st half 22:23 (8:10), 17.11.2020
18	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs AEK Athens HC GRE – 1st half 30:19 (10:8), 08.03.2022
18	Orlen Wisla Plock POL vs SL Benfica PORF – 1st half 19:26 (8:10), 28.05.2022
19	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN – 2nd half 21:19 (11:10), 10.02.2021
20	Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN vs HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD – 1st half 21:24 (11:9), 11.02.2021
20	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Sporting CP POR – 2nd half 24:21 (12:13), 16.02.2021
20	USAM Nimes Gard FRA vs Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN – 1st half 24:22 (11:9), 30.11.2021
21	CS Dinamo Bucuresti ROU vs Sporting CP POR – 2nd half 25:27 (15:16), 20.10.2020
21	Orlen Wisla Plock POL vs Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA – 1st half 27:25 (12:9), 08.12.2020
21	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN – 1st half 21:19 (11:10), 10.02.2021
21	Alingsas HK SWE vs HC CSKA RUS – 1st half 23:31 (5:16), 16.02.2021
21	USAM Nimes Gard FRA vs Füchse Berlin GER – 2nd half 22:24 (13:12), 24.02.2021
21	Sporting CP POR vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI – 1st half 29:28 (9:12), 19.10.2021
21	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs USAM Nimes Gard FRA – 1st half 21:26 (6:15), 19.10.2021
21	PAUC Handball FRA vs RK Gorenje Velenje SLO – 2nd half 26:26 (17:14), 23.11.2021
21	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI vs Sporting CP POR – 1st half 26:24 (10:11), 15.02.2022
21	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs RK Nexe CRO – 2nd half 21:22 (11:11), 05.04.2022

# EUROPEAN LEAGUE ALL-TIME STATS

## LONGEST WINNING RUN

SC Magdeburg GER	14 matches (01.12.2020 – 26.10.2021)
Orlen Wisła Płock POL	8 matches (20.10.2020 – 20.02.2021)
Orlen Wisła Płock POL	8 matches (23.11.2021 – 29.03.2022)
Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	6 matches (03.02.2021 – 23.03.2021)
Füchse Berlin GER	6 matches (19.10.2021 – 08.02.2022)

## LONGEST UNBEATEN RUN

SC Magdeburg GER	27 matches (01.12.2020 – 28.05.2022)
Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	11 matches (17.11.2020 – 30.03.2021)
Orlen Wisła Płock POL	11 matches (23.11.2021 – 03.05.2022)
Füchse Berlin GER	9 matches (20.10.2020 – 23.03.2021)
Orlen Wisła Płock POL	8 matches (20.10.2020 – 20.02.2021)

## LONGEST LOSING RUN

Grundfos Tatabánya KC HUN	12 matches (17.11.2020 – 26.10.2021)
Besiktas Aygaz TUR	10 matches (20.10.2020 – 02.03.2021)
Cocks FIN	8 matches (19.10.2021 – 22.02.2022)
TATRAN Presov SVK	8 matches (26.10.2021 – 01.03.2022)
Pfadi Winterthur SUI	7 matches (30.11.2021 – 08.03.2022)
TATRAN Presov SVK	6 matches (20.10.2020 – 09.02.2021)
Alingsås HK SWE	6 matches (01.12.2020 – 23.02.2021)
RK Trimo Trebnje SLO	6 matches (08.12.2020 – 24.02.2021)
Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	6 matches (20.04.2021 – 30.11.2021)

## LONGEST RUN WITHOUT WIN

Grundfos Tatabánya KC HUN	12 matches (17.11.2020 – 26.10.2021)
Besiktas Aygaz TUR	10 matches (20.10.2020 – 02.03.2021)
HC Metalurg MKD	9 matches (20.10.2020 – 02.03.2021)
Cocks FIN	9 matches (19.10.2021 – 01.03.2022)
PAUC Handball FRA	9 matches (19.10.2021 – 01.03.2022)

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