

VELUX[®]



EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

powered by



Nord Stream 2

VELUX EHF Champions League 2019/20
Group Phase

Media Guide

TEAMWORK, FAIRNESS & RESPECT



powered by
 Nord Stream 2

Nord Stream 2 is a European project that contributes to a secure energy supply for all European countries. Our excellence is the result of efficient cooperation among a large team of experts from more than 20 countries. Respect for the environment and team spirit are at the core of our values, fuelling our delivery of a sustainable solution to help the EU meet future energy needs and achieve climate goals.

**Proud supporter of the
VELUX EHF Champions League**

Title sponsor



Premium sponsor



Regional premium sponsors



Partners



Charity partner



Table of contents

COMPETITION INFORMATION

Foreword	6
Media contacts	7
Map of participating clubs	8-9
Playing system diagram	10-11
Official informations	13
List of TV stations	15
MOTW - increasing engagement	16
Facts & Figures	17-21

GROUP A

Preview	22-23
Head-to-heads in the EC	24-28
Paris Saint-Germain Handball	30-35
Barça	36-41
SG Flensburg-Handewitt	42-47
Aalborg Handbold	48-53
MOL-Pick Szeged	54-59
HC PPD Zagreb	60-65
Elverum Handball	66-71
RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	72-77

GROUP B

Preview	78-79
Head-to-heads in the EC	80-84
HC Vardar	86-91
Telekom Veszprém HC	92-97
PGE VIVE Kielce	98-103
HC Meshkov Brest	104-109
HC Motor Zaporozhye	110-115
Montpellier HB	116-121

FC Porto Sofarma	122-127
THW Kiel	128-133
GROUP C	
Preview	134-135
Head-to-heads in the EC	136
IK Sävehof	138-143
Tatran Presov	144-149
Cocks	150-155
HC Eurofarm Rabotnik	156-161
Bidasoa Irun	162-167
Sporting CP	168-173
GROUP D	
Preview	174-175
Head-to-heads in the EC	176
Dinamo Bucuresti	178-183
Chekhovskie Medvedi	184-189
Kadetten Schaffhausen	190-195
IFK Kristianstad	196-201
Orlen Wisla Plock	202-207
GOG	208-213
HISTORY	
2018/19 Top scorers	214
All-stars team 2018/19	215
Past winners	217
Timeline	218-219
Summary	220-223
All-time stats	224-225
All-time club standings	226
VELUX EHF FINAL4	227-230
FUTURE OF THE EHF CLUB COMPETITIONS	231

Foreword

Dear media representatives,

Welcome to a new season of the VELUX EHF Champions League and to the latest edition of the competition's media guide. With extensive background information, key contacts and historical statistics in addition to team and player profiles, this is your essential guide to the 2019/20 group phase. Further updates and additional media information packs for each 'Match of the Week' will also be published throughout the season and will be available for download via the EHF Media Portal. While we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 last season, in 2019/20 we will witness the last edition before the playing format changes. From 2020/21 onwards, only 16 elite clubs will play in the EHF Champions League, while the second-tier European Handball League will consist of 24 teams.

We finished the 2018/19 season on a real high, with HC Vardar returning to the throne in stunning fashion after two years. Their success underlines the reputation of this competition, with just about any team capable of picking up that coveted trophy regardless of the pre-season odds. Standing in Vardar's way this year in Group B is a formidable line-up of teams including their rivals from the final game of last season, Telekom Veszprém HC, 2016 champions PGE VIVE Kielce, 2003 and 2018 trophy holders Montpellier HB and three-time winners THW Kiel, who are returning to Europe's prime competition after dominating the MEN'S EHF Cup last season. Also, the remaining three teams FC Porto Sofarma, HC Meshkov Brest and HC Motor Zaporozhye can put up a stern fight against any of the group's heavyweights.

The abundance of thrilling encounters is also guaranteed and the challenge is no less daunting in Group A. Three previous winners of the EHF Champions League - SG Flensburg-Handewitt, RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko and record title holders Barça - compete alongside Paris Saint-Germain HB as well as the ever-ambitious Hungarian runners-up MOL-Pick Szeged. In addition, Aalborg Handbold, HC PPD Zagreb and Elverum Handball will be certainly shuffling the cards in the group. Everything is wide open in Groups C/D as all of the 12 teams, including six national champions, have a good chance of reaching the knock-out stages and following Montpellier's example from the 2017/18 season, when the French team went all the way from the C/D branch to the title. While Kadetten Schaffhausen from Switzerland return to the VELUX EHF Champions League following a one-year absence, it has been a much longer drought for GOG and Bidasoa Irun. It has been more than 10 years since the former played amongst the continent's best and even more for the latter, who are making a comeback exactly 25 years after they won the second edition in 1995.

Ahead of teams, players, officials, fans, media and other stakeholders there is a long and demanding road to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 on 30/31 May 2020 and on behalf of the European Handball Federation we wish all the teams the best of luck. We pride ourselves at the EHF and EHF Marketing on our positive and cooperative relationship with our colleagues from the press and media and we are sure that this will continue to develop in the future. Should you require any information, help or assistance during the course of the season, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us at the EHF Office in Vienna, and we will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you might have.

We look forward to working with you during the 2019/20 season!

EHF/M media contacts

Media matters

Vlado Brindzak

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

TV and Radio

Miguel Mateo Marcellan

Head of TV & Media
EHF Marketing GmbH
+43 1 80 151 224
mateo@ehfmarketing.com

Clubs media contacts

Group A

PSG Handball (FRA) Matthieu Brelle-Andrade +336 52 537 413 mbrelleandrade@psg.fr	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN) Levente Juhasz +36 70 543 0979 levente.juhasz@pickhandball.hu	HC Vardar (MKD) Ana Stojkov +389 76 487 779 ana@zrkvardar.com	HC Motor Zaporozhye (UKR) Yuriy Chorny +380 50 5946878 2207024sport@gmail.com
Barça (ESP) Pau Campana +346 83 567 251 pau.campana@fcbarcelona.cat	HC PPD Zagreb (CRO) Jelena Matesic +385 911 99 93 51 jelena.matesic@rk-zagreb.hr	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN) István Deres +36 30 557 9865 istvan.deres@handballVeszprém.hu	Montpellier HB (FRA) Suzy De Monte +33 (0)6 87 73 58 42 s.demonte@montpellierhandball.com
SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER) Isabel Hofmann +494 611 609 625 i.hofmann@sg-flensburg-handewitt.de	Elverum Handball (NOR) Kalle Björkman +47 904 77 605 kalle@ehh.no	PGE VIVE Kielce (POL) Magda Pluszewska +48 604 692 276 m.pluszewska@kielcehandball.pl	FC Porto Sofarma (POR) Joana Moreira +351 918 976 756 joana.moreira@fcporto.pt
Aalborg Handbold (DEN) Sebastian Rosenberg +467 68 506 651 jf@aalborghandbold.dk	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko (SLO) Miha Pantelic +386 51 427 590 miha.pantelic@rk-celje.si	HC Meshkov Brest (BLR) Artur Zhol +375 293 74 08 43 media@bkg-meshkova.com	THW Kiel (GER) Christian Robohm +49 1635306300 christian.robohm@thw-handball.de

Group B

Group C

IK Sävehof (SWE) Frederik Sahlin +46 (0) 701 477 370 cl@savehof.se	HC Eurofarm Rabotnik (MKD) Dimitar Mitrevski +389 71 231461 rkeurofarmrabotnik@yahoo.com	Dinamo Bucuresti (ROU) Alexandru Enciu +40 754 929 106 sanenciu@yahoo.com	IFK Kristianstad (SWE) Sebastian Rosenberg +46 768 506651 sebastian.rosenberg@ifkristianstad.se
Tatran Presov (SVK) Ivan Krissak +421 905 478 115 ivan.krissak@gmail.com	Bidasoa Irun (ESP) Garikoitz Garagarza +34605765533 ggaragarza@hotmail.com	Chekhovskie Medvedi (RUS) Olga Belysheva +7 909 6391 839 victi@bk.ru	Orlen Wisla Plock (POL) Tomasz Bauman +48 882 975 087 t.bauman@sprwislaplock.pl
Cocks (FIN) Sanna Myllärinen +358 415 463 046 sanna.myllarinen@outlook.com	Sporting CP (ESP) Andre Leitao +351 914665 572 arleitao@sporting.pt	Kadetten Schaffhausen (SUI) Barbara Imobersteg +41787203247 ima.schule@gmx.ch	GOG (DEN) Torsten Laen +4523238464 torsten@gog.dk

Group D

SEASON 2019/20

 Groups A+B teams

 Groups C+D teams





IFK Kristianstad
SWE



Riihimäen
Cocks, FIN



Orlen Wisła
Płock, POL



HC Meshkov
Brest, BLR



PGE Vive
Kielce, POL



Chekhovskie
Medvedi, RUS



Tatran
Presov, SVK



HC Motor
Zaporozhye, UKR



Telekom
Veszprém HC, HUN



MOL-Pick
Szeged, HUN



Dinamo
Bucuresti, ROU



HC Eurofarm
Rabotnik, MKD



HC Vardar
MKD



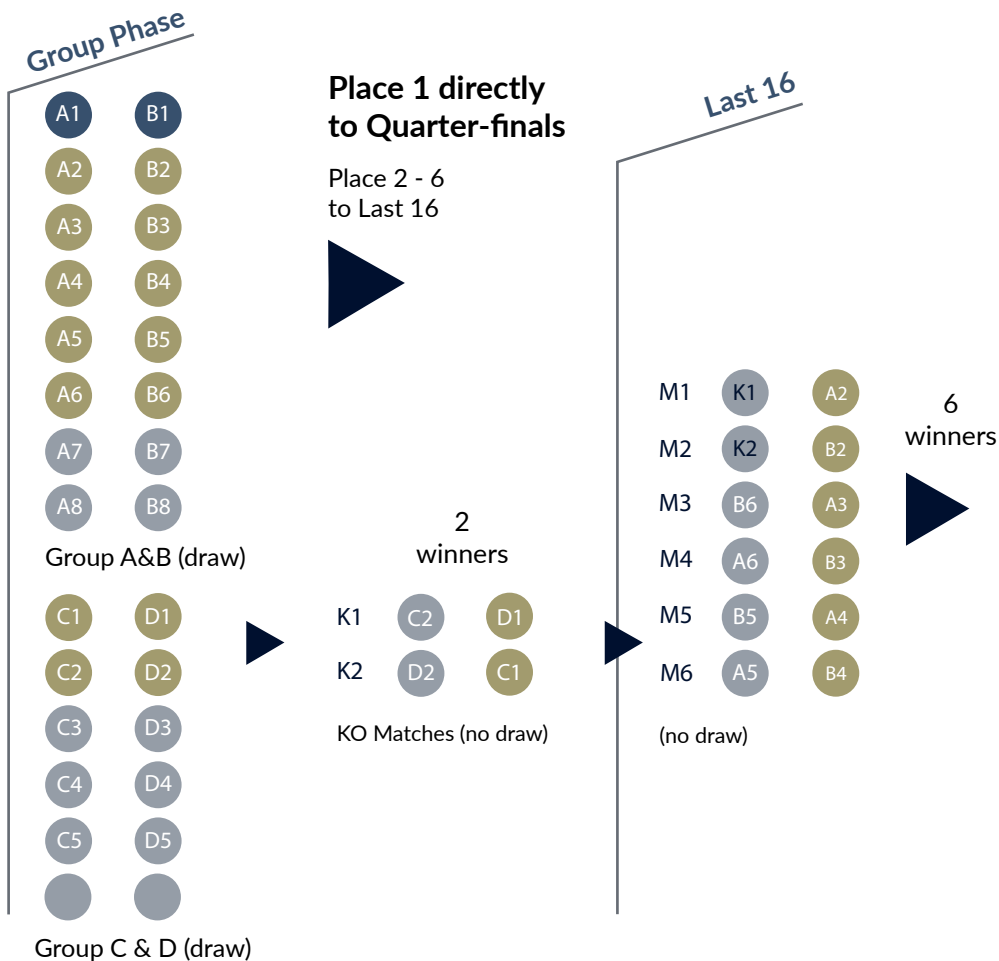
HC PPD
Zagreb, CRO

VELUX®



EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

powered by Nord Stream 2



Season 2019/20

Qualification tournaments

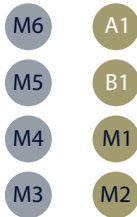
30.08.-01.09.2019

Group phase

R1	11.-15.09.2019	R9	20.-24.11.2019
R2	18.-22.09.2019	R10	27.11.-01.12.2019
R3	25.-29.09.2019	R11	05.-09.02.2020
R4	09.-13.10.2019	R12	12.-16.02.2020
R5	16.-20.10.2019	R13	19.-23.02.2020
R6	30.10.-03.11.2019	R14	26.02.-01.03.2020
R7	06.-10.11.2019		
R8	13.-17.11.2019		

Group A&B only
 Group A&B only
 Group A&B and
 KO Group C&D
 Group A&B and
 KO Group C&D

Quarter-finals



(no draw)

4 winners



EHF FINAL4



Semi-finals
(draw)



FINAL



3rd place
match



WINNER

Last 16

1st leg
18.-22.03.2020

2nd leg
25.-29.03.2020

Quarter-finals

1st leg
25.-26.04.2020

2nd leg
02.-03.05.2020

EHF FINAL4

30.-31.05.2020

VELUX EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2019/20



powered by Nord Stream 2

EHF		Qualification Tournament	Group Phase	Last 16	Quarter-finals	FINAL4
		no qualification tournaments	11.-15.09.2019 (1); 18.-22.09.2019 (2); 25.-29.09.2019 (3); 09.-13.10.2019 (4) 16.-20.10.2019 (5); 30.10.-3.11.2019 (6) 06.-10.11.2019 (7); 13.-17.11.2019 (8) 20.-24.11.2019 (9); 27.11.-1.12.2019 (10) 05.-09.02.20 (11-A/B); 12.-16.02.20 (12-A/B) 19.-23.2.20 (13/KO); 26.2.-1.3.20 (14/KO)	18.-22.03.2020 first leg	25.-26.04.2020 first leg	30./31.05.2020 tournament
				25.-29.03.2020 second leg	02.-03.05.2020 second leg	played in semi-finals and finals
DRAWS:			27 June 2019 in Vienna/AUT	no draw	no draw	05 May 2020
			Group A and B (16 teams) 2 groups with 8 teams	12 teams	8 teams	4 teams
1	MKD 1	no matches	HC Vardar	1st placed team of Group A and B qualify directly for the quarter-finals; 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th placed team of Group A and B as well as winners of KO matches from Group C and D qualify for the Last 16	6 Winners of VELUX EHF Champions League Last 16	4 Winners of VELUX EHF Champions League Quarter-finals
2	FRA 1		Paris Saint-Germain HB			
3	HUN 1		Telekom Veszprém HC			
4	ESP 1		Barça			
5	POL 1		PGE VIVE Kielce			
6	GER 1		SG Flensburg-Handewitt			
7	DEN 1		Aalborg Handbold			
8	BLR 1		HC Meshkov Brest			
9	UKR 1		HC Motor Zaporozhye			
10	HUN 2		MOL-Pick Szeged			
11	CRO 1		HC PPD Zagreb			
12	FRA 2		Montpellier Handball			
13	POR 1		FC Porto Sofarma			
14	NOR 1		Elverum Handball			
15	SLO 1		RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko			
16	GER 2		THW Kiel			
			Group C and D (12 teams) 2 groups with 6 teams			
1	SWE 1	no matches	IK Sävehof			
2	ROU 1		C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti			
3	RUS 1		Chekhovskie medvedi			
4	SVK 1		Tatran Presov			
5	SUI 1		Kadetten Schaffhausen			
6	FIN 1		Cocks			
7	MKD 2		HC Eurofarm Rabotnik			
8	SWE 2		IFK Kristianstad			
9	ESP 2		Bidasoa Irun			
10	POL 2		Orlen Wisla Plock			
11	DEN 2		GOG			
12	POR 2		Sporting CP			

↓

1st and 2nd placed teams of CL Group Phase Group C and D play Group KO matches. Winners of these matches qualify for L16

MEDIA INFORMATION

Accreditation for Group Phase

The written media and photographer's accreditation procedure in the group phase is entirely within the responsibility of the participating clubs. TV and Radio accreditations are subject to approval by EHF Marketing GmbH - please contact mediaTV@ehfmarketing.com

Media portal

All media representatives are invited to register for the EHF media portal on <http://members.ehf.eu>. The European Handball Federation's media portal is a one-stop-shop for media representatives offering all the EHF's media news such as press releases, event flash quotes directly after matches, press conference highlights, draw reactions and downloads of all relevant information including, but not limited to, media guides and event logos. Furthermore photographs that are free for editorial use will be available for download.

For further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the EHF Media and Communications Department and we will be happy to help you with any information you may require.

All matches of the season live on ehfTV

Handball fans across Europe will not miss a single match in the new season of both elite European club competitions. All matches starting from the VELUX EHF Champions League Qualification and the Women's EHF Champions League Qualification are to be broadcast live on ehfTV.com and the videos of all matches will be also on demand. Furthermore, like in the past season fully produced highlights magazine - "Rewind - the handball show" will feature stories and highlights from all men's top matches will be played out on Monday 07:00 / 08:00 GMT after each playing round. Apart from selected matches of other European Cup competitions in the new season there will also be a renewed focus on coverage of top league competitions, with all matches from both the SEHA League and Spain's Asobal.

Live ticker

The EHF Live Ticker will track the scores of all matches. Every goal, missed shot and yellow card will be documented and live statistics made available online.

In addition an extended version will be used adding also the goalkeepers' stats.

EHF live on social media

The EHF's social media channels will provide a very different view of the chase for the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne. The social media feed with the behind the scenes look will be provided on four channels - EHF Champions League Facebook page, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube account.

Online match reports

From the opening matches of the season, the complete team line-up is available online at eurohandball.com and available to download as a PDF document. The online solution introduced already in the 2015/16 season sees the EHF match delegate complete the final team line-up immediately after the technical meeting. This development means that team line-ups are available for commentators and reporters hours before each match throws-off. A short time after each match, a completed match report will also be available online with details such as goal scorers and number of spectators.

Online information

www.ehfCL.com

www.ehfTV.com

www.ehfFINAL4.com

[Regulations of the VELUX EHF Champions League](#)

 @ehfcl

 ehf.champions.league

 @ehfcl

 /ehfTV

#veluxehfcl #motw

COLOUR
BY YOU!

VELUX®

velux.com

Blinds as unique
as you



NEW

Customise your blinds
with more than 1800 colours

Broadcasting TV partners

The matches of the upcoming season will be shown live or delayed almost all over the world. Over 40 TV stations will broadcast matches live or delayed. Only in Europe fans will be able to watch matches in 30 countries, but also the handball TV audience in America (USA, Canada, Argentina), Asia and Africa (countries of Middle East and North Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Macau) can look forward to a television coverage. See the list of TV stations and countries below.

TV Partners broadcasting the VELUX EHF Champions League 2019/20

- **ARG** – DeporTV
- **AUT** – Sky Sport
- **BIH** – Arenasport
- **BLR** – Belarus TV
- **CAN** – beIN Sports
- **CRO** – HRT, Arenasport
- **CZE** – SportTV
- **DEN** – DR, TV3 Denmark
- **ESP** – RTVE, TV3 Catalunya, EITB
- **FIN** – YLE
- **FRA** – beIN Sports (including Monaco, Andorra, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Madagascar and French overseas territories)
- **GER** – Sky Sport
- **GEO** – Silknet
- **GRE** – OTE Sports
- **HUN** – Sport TV
- **ISL** – Sport TV
- **ISR** – Sport1
- **ITA** – Eleven Sports
- **KOS** – RTV21, Arenasport
- **LAT** – Best4Sport
- **LUX** – ApartTV *
- **MAC** (Macau) – TDM *
- **MENA Region** – beIN Sport
(23 territories in total)
- **MKD** – MRTV, Arenasport
- **MNE** – Arenasport
- **NOR** – NENT Group
- **POL** – Canal+
- **POR** – Porto Canal, Sporting TV, Sport TV (Including Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde)
- **ROU** – Digi Sport, Telekom Sports , LookTV
- **RUS** – Match TV
- **SLO** – Sport TV
- **SRB** – Arenasport
- **SUI** – MySports
- **SVK** – Sport TV
- **SWE** - NENT Group
- **TUR** – Dsmart
- **UKR** – Xsport
- **USA** – beIN Sports (Including US territories and possessions)
- **Worldwide** - ehfTV.com
(geo-restrictions could apply)

* from Last 16 onwards

MOTW goes to five countries in opening five rounds

Five venues, five countries, eight clubs and one big premiere. That is, in a nutshell, the plan of the Match of the Week series in the first five rounds of the VELUX EHF Champions League 2019/20. The MOTW visits Germany, Hungary, Norway, Denmark and France before the national team break in late October.

Round 1:

THW Kiel vs PGE VIVE Kielce

Sunday 15 September at 19:00 CET

Three-time champions THW Kiel return to the European top flight with a bang as they used their rare last season's absence to conquer the MEN'S EHF Cup crown. Kiel staged the final tournament last May in front of the sold-out Sparkassen-Arena and a capacity crowd of over 10,000 spectators is also expected at their season opener with PGE VIVE Kielce.

Round 2:

Telekom Veszprém HC vs THW Kiel

Saturday 21 September at 17:30 CET

The 'Zebras', who are starting a new era after their now retired legend Filip Jicha took over the coaching position from the charismatic Alfred Gislason in the summer, will stay under the spotlight also in the second round. Kiel will not only be tested by last season's runners-up Telekom Veszprém HC but also by their frenetic fans.

Round 3:

Elverum Handball vs Paris Saint-Germain HB

Saturday 28 September at 17:30 CET

Tickets are being sold like hot cakes for the Round 3 game of Elverum. Not only do the Norwegian champions play their first season in the Group A/B section, but also they host the star-studded team of Paris Saint-Germain HB, including Norwegian back court ace Sander Sagosen. All this convinced the hosts to stage the game in the iconic Hakons Hall in Lillehammer with around 12,000 seats to accommodate an enormous interest for this match.

Round 4:

Aalborg Handbold vs MOL-Pick Szeged

Sunday 13 October at 16:50 CET

And we stay up in the north for the fourth MOTW of the season as Aalborg, the Danish champions and another returnee to the VELUX EHF Champions League, take on the Hungarian runners-up from Szeged. This constellation guarantees an intriguing clash which is bound to be a great fun to follow.

Round 5:

Montpellier HB vs THW Kiel

Saturday 19 October at 17:15 CET

Before the stars leave the clubs for the national team week

the MOTW series will pamper the handball fans with another classic in an extraordinary setting. The two-time trophy holders (2003, 2018) from Montpellier will receive the three-time winners (2007, 2010, 2012) from Kiel in their larger home – Sud De France Arena. With English commentary on ehfTV.com from Tom O'Brannagain and Chris O'Reilly, live social media reporting and an enhanced fan experience, the 'Match of the Week' is a real highlight for fans of top class club handball across the globe.

Faces of Champions League

The #MOTW does not only bring high-class handball to spectators all over the world, it gives the fans the opportunity to get a very exclusive look behind the scenes.

Since the beginning of the season 2018/19, Markus Floth and Hannah Jackson have featured regularly on the EHF Champions League's social media platforms, working on-site together with Mobile Reporters at every Match of the Week to give fans a fresh look at Europe's elite club competition.

Markus and Hannah are presented as the faces of the coverage as they bring the audience courtside for exclusive chats with players, commentators and fans as well as for unique coverage from behind the scenes during the whole day of each round's highlight match.



A 24-year-long wait, eight former champions, 200 matches

FACTS AND FIGURES: Before the start of the 27th edition of the VELUX EHF Champions League, here are the most important stats and numbers ahead of the 2019/20 season

While Macedonian side HC Eurofarm Rabotnik have their maiden voyage in the VELUX EHF Champions League in the 2019/20 season, HC PPD Zagreb have their 26th anniversary in the competition. The 28 group phase participants, which include eight former winners, represent 19 different countries.

Here are the most important facts and figures before the group phase throws off:

0

teams have won the trophy two years in a row since the implementation of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in 2010.

1 club is a debutant in the group phase in 2019/20: Macedonian runners-up HC Eurofarm Rabotnik from Bitola.

1 club has a team in both the men's and the women's editions of the CL in 2019/20 - IK Sävehof.

1 coach steered the same team to two CL titles with a gap of 15 years between them: Patrice Canayer won with Montpellier HB in 2003 and 2018, and became the first French coach to win the VELUX EHF FINAL4.

1 player has won the title two years in a row: Ivan Cupic. The Croatian wing won with Kielce in 2016 and with Vardar in 2017. He won again with Vardar in 2019, making him the only player with three titles at the VELUX EHF FINAL4.

2 former or current CL top scorers are part of the competition in 2019/20 as players: Alex Dujšhebaev (Kielce, 2018/19) and Mikkel Hansen (PSG, 2011/12 and 2015/16). Filip Jicha (2008/09 and 2009/10) is part of the competition as a coach, of THW Kiel.

2

teams have won the trophy two years in a row since the implementation of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in 2010.

2 coaches led two different teams to the title: Alfred Gislason (Magdeburg in 2002, Kiel in 2010 and 2012) and Talant Dujšhebaev (Ciudad Real in 2006, 2008 and 2009, and Kielce in 2016).

3 clubs won the title on their VELUX EHF FINAL4 debut: Flensburg (2014), Vardar (2017) and Montpellier (2018).

4 former or current IHF World Handball Players of the Year will play in the CL 2019/20: Arpad Sterbik (Veszprém/2005), Nikola Karabatic (PSG/2007, 2014, 2016), Mikkel Hansen (PSG/2011, 2015, 2018) and Domagoj Duvnjak (Kiel/2013).

4 cross-matches between the two best ranked teams of groups C and D in March will decide the two Last 16 spots from those groups.

4 of the 28 coaches of group phase teams have won the CL as a coach: Talant Dujšhebaev (now Kielce - with Ciudad Real and Kielce), Xavi Pascual (Barça - with Barcelona), Patrice Canayer (Montpellier - with Montpellier) and Raul Gonzalez (PSG - with Vardar).

4 times Arpad Sterbik has won the Champions League (with Ciudad Real in 2006, 2008 and 2009, and with Vardar in 2017), making him the most successful player on court this season. Andrej Xepkin leads the all-time individual ranking with seven titles (six with Barcelona, one with Kiel).

6 countries are represented by the 26 CL winners so far: ESP (14 titles), GER (6), FRA (2), MKD (2), SLO and POL (1 each).

7 different teams won the title in the last eight seasons, with Vardar winning twice (in 2017 and 2019). Other winners were Kiel, Hamburg, Flensburg, Barcelona, Kielce and Montpellier.

8 former or current CL winners, with a total of 19 trophies, are part of the group phase: Irun, Barça, Montpellier, Celje, Kiel, Flensburg, Kielce and Vardar.

8 times Barça have won the CL (1995-2000, 2011, 2015), a record. They also won the previous competition, the Champions Cup, once.

9 of the last 10 CL winners are part of the group phase in 2019/20, as only Hamburg are missing.

19 different nations (one less than in 2018/19) are represented by the 28 group phase participants:

DEN, ESP, FRA, GER, MKD, HUN, POL, POR, SWE all have two teams in the competition.

26 appearances in 27 seasons (since 1993/94) make Zagreb the all-time record participants in the CL

20 teams in the 2018/19 group phase are back this season. The other teams are: Aalborg, GOG, Irun, Kiel, Eurofarm, Porto, Kadetten and Sävehof.

24 years in a row since 1995/96, Bidasoa Irun failed to qualify for the CL again but the 1995 champions are back.

56.98 goals were scored on average per match in the 2018/19 season, compared to 56.40 in 2017/18.

200 matches will be played in the 2019/20 season: 172 in the group phase, 4 in the group phase knockout, 12 in the Last 16, 8 in the quarter-finals, and 4 at the VELUX EHF FINAL4.

11,396 goals were scored in total in 2018/19

Teams by age average		Teams by height average		Teams by weight average	
IK Sävehof	21,16	MOL-Pick Szeged	196,1	Telekom Veszprém HC	100,6
RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	21,98	Telekom Veszprém HC	195,1	HC Vardar	98,1
GOG	22,96	HC PPD Zagreb	193,8	THW Kiel	97,5
Elverum Handball	23,17	PGE VIVE Kielce	193,8	MOL-Pick Szeged	97
Aalborg Handbold	24,11	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	193,7	Elverum Handball	96,8
FC Porto Sofarma	24,11	THW Kiel	193,7	PGE VIVE Kielce	95,3
Chekhovskie medvedi	24,20	HC Vardar	193,2	HC PPD Zagreb	94,8
TATRAN Presov	24,20	FC Porto Sofarma	192,8	Montpellier HB	94,6
Kadetten Schaffhausen	24,23	TATRAN Presov	192,8	IFK Kristianstad	94,5
IFK Kristianstad	24,69	IFK Kristianstad	192,4	GOG	94,3
Montpellier HB	24,82	HC Meshkov Brest	192,3	Sporting CP	94,1
HC Meshkov Brest	25,16	GOG	192	FC Porto Sofarma	94
Barça	25,34	Montpellier HB	192	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	93,7
HC PPD Zagreb	25,39	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	191,8	Aalborg Handbold	93
CL average	25,56	CL average	191,8	CL average	92,66
HC Motor Zaporozhye	25,59	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	191,7	Orlen Wisla Plock	92,4
SG Flensburg-Handewitt	25,84	HC Motor Zaporozhye	191,7	HC Meshkov Brest	92,3
Paris Saint-Germain HB	25,98	Elverum Handball	191,6	Cocks	91,9
HC Vardar	26,02	Orlen Wisla Plock	191,5	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	91,8
MOL-Pick Szeged	26,20	Cocks	191,4	Kadetten Schaffhausen	91,8
Telekom Veszprém HC	26,92	Kadetten Schaffhausen	191,4	HC Eurofarm Rabotnik	90,6
PGE VIVE Kielce	27,05	Paris Saint-Germain HB	191,3	TATRAN Presov	90,2
Orlen Wisla Plock	27,12	Aalborg Handbold	190,9	Paris Saint-Germain HB	89,6
Bidasoa Irun	27,59	Chekhovskie medvedi	190,4	HC Motor Zaporozhye	89,5
THW Kiel	27,95	Sporting CP	189,9	Barça	89,3
HC Eurofarm Rabotnik	28,23	Barça	189,5	IK Sävehof	88,9
C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	28,32	IK Sävehof	189,5	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	88,6
Sporting CP	28,34	HC Eurofarm Rabotnik	189,3	Chekhovskie medvedi	86,95
Cocks	28,92	Bidasoa Irun	186,1	Bidasoa Irun	82,3

Facts and figures - max and min

Youngest



16y 0m

Bernardo Pegas

FC Porto Sofarma

Bernardo Pegas	FC Porto Sofarma	POR	16
Jakub Kravcak	TATRAN Presov	SVK	16,8
Gautier Loredon	Paris Saint-Germain HB	FRA	16,9
Felix Möller	IK Sävehof	SWE	17
Victor Klove	Aalborg Handbold	DEN	17,2
Mykhailo Budko	HC Motor Zaporozhye	UKR	17,2
Oscar Sävinger	IK Sävehof	SWE	17,2
Mattias Wighall	IK Sävehof	SWE	17,3
Kirill Klimasev	Chekhovskie medvedi	RUS	17,3
Mikkel Lang Rasmussen	Aalborg Handbold	DEN	17,4
Kristof Laszlo Palasics	Telekom Veszprém HC	HUN	17,4
Goncalo Oliveira	FC Porto Sofarma	POR	17,4
Nik Cirovic	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	SLO	17,5
Francisco Oliveira	FC Porto Sofarma	POR	17,5
Andre Sousa	FC Porto Sofarma	POR	17,5

Shortest



174 cm

Mikkel Lang Rasmussen

Aalborg Handbold

Mikkel Lang Rasmussen	Aalborg Handbold	DEN	174
Kirill Klimasev	Chekhovskie medvedi	RUS	174
Alex Pascual Garcia	Barça	ESP	175
Sebastian Spante	IK Sävehof	SWE	175
Filip Curlevski	HC Eurofarm Rabotnik	MKD	176
Victor Tomas Gonzalez	Barça	ESP	178
Martin Karapalevski	HC Vardar	MKD	178
Mateusz Goralski	Orlen Wisla Plock	POL	178
Sebastian Karlsson	IK Sävehof	SWE	178
Magnus Moland Sönnichsen	Aalborg Handbold	DEN	178
Miha Zarabec	THW Kiel	SLO	178
Ivan Cupic	HC Vardar	CRO	178
Maximilian Gerbl	Kadetten Schaffhausen	SUI	178
Zlatko Horvat	HC PPD Zagreb	CRO	179
Stas Skube	HC Vardar	SLO	179

Lightest



68 kg

Artem Kozakevych

HC Motor Zaporozhye

Artem Kozakevych	HC Motor Zaporozhye	UKR	68
Artsem Karalek	PGE VIVE Kielce	BLR	70
Mark Strandgaard	Aalborg Handbold	DEN	70
Josef Hozman	TATRAN Presov	CZE	70
Albert Gumarov	Chekhovskie medvedi	RUS	71
Aleix Gomez	Barça	ESP	71
Mamadou Lamine	Barça	ESP	71
Kauldi Odriozola	Bidasoa Irun	ESP	71
Mikkel Lang Rasmussen	Aalborg Handbold	DEN	71
Bence Hornyak	Telekom Veszprém HC	HUN	72
Erik Aronsson	IFK Kristianstad	SWE	73
Igor Soroka	HC Motor Zaporozhye	RUS	73
Maximilian Gerbl	Kadetten Schaffhausen	SUI	73
Filip Rakita	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	SLO	74
Timur Dibirov	HC Vardar	RUS	74

Oldest



46y 1m

Jesper Larsson

IFK Kristianstad

Jesper Larsson	IFK Kristianstad	SWE	46,1
Soren Haagen	GOG	DEN	45,5
Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson	Paris Saint-Germain HB	ISL	40,1
Renato Sulic	Orlen Wisla Plock	CRO	39,9
Arpad Sterbik	Telekom Veszprém HC	ESP	39,8
Ivan Nikcevic	Sporting CP	SRB	38,6
Raul Entrerrios	Barça	ESP	38,6
Makrem Missaoui	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	TUN	38,6
Laszlo Nagy	Telekom Veszprém HC	HUN	38,5
Jonas Källman	MOL-Pick Szeged	SWE	38,2
Mariusz Jurkiewicz	PGE VIVE Kielce	POL	37,6
Carlos Carneiro	Sporting CP	POR	37,5
Ivan Stevanovic	Orlen Wisla Plock	CRO	37,3
Jonas Larholm	IK Sävehof	SWE	37,3
Pavel Horak	THW Kiel	CZE	36,8

Tallest



215 cm

Dainis Kristopans

HC Vardar

Dainis Kristopans	HC Vardar	LAT	215
Angel Montoro Cabello	Kadetten Schaffhausen	ESP	213
Tomasz Gebala	PGE VIVE Kielce	POL	212
Kristian Krag Ørsted	Elverum Handball	DEN	210
Mateusz Piechowski	Orlen Wisla Plock	POL	210
Josip Vekic	HC PPD Zagreb	CRO	210
Laszlo Nagy	Telekom Veszprém HC	HUN	208
Stefan Atanasovski	HC Vardar	MKD	207
Romeric Guillo	PGE VIVE Kielce	FRA	207
Bence Szücs	Telekom Veszprém HC	HUN	206
Kamil Syprzak	Paris Saint-Germain HB	POL	206
Knud Ronau Larsen	Aalborg Handbold	DEN	206
Matej Asanin	HC PPD Zagreb	CRO	206
Pavlo Lysobei	HC Motor Zaporozhye	UKR	206
Daniel Andrejew	HC Meshkov Brest	GER	205

Heaviest



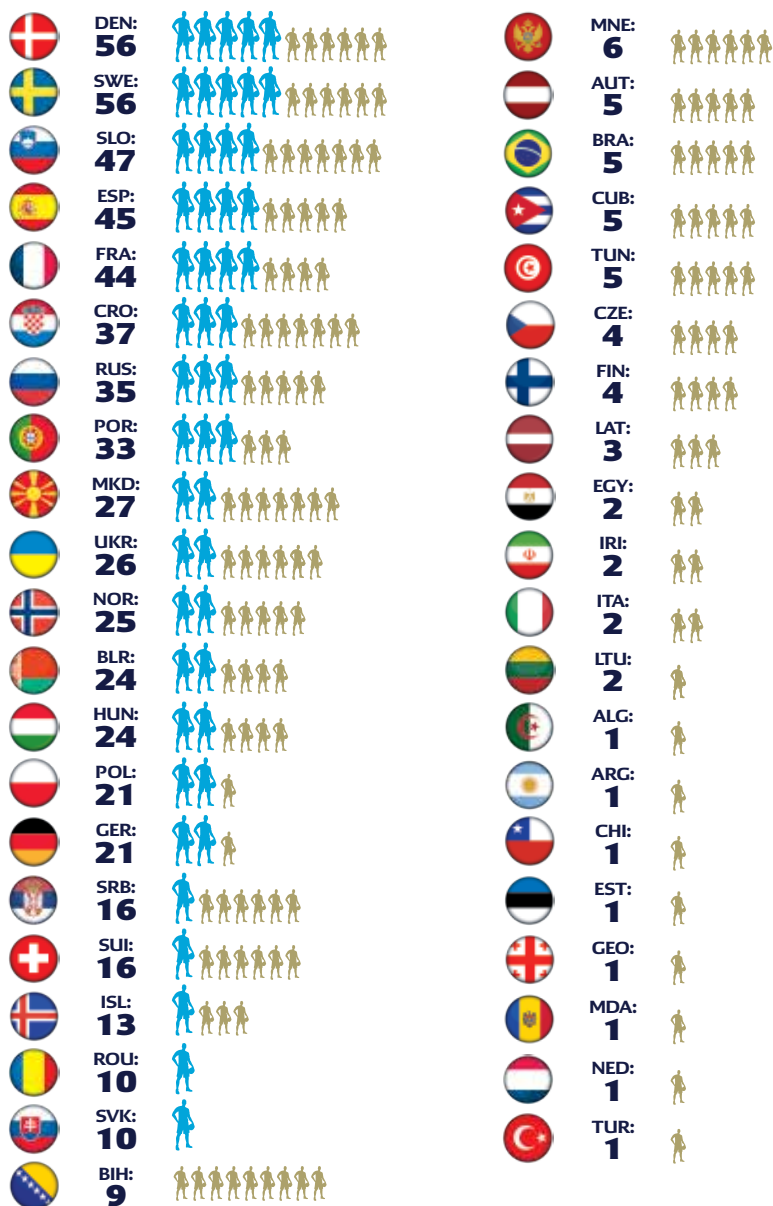
138 kg

Bence Szücs

Telekom Veszprém HC

Bence Szücs	Telekom Veszprém HC	HUN	138
Dainis Kristopans	HC Vardar	LAT	135
Kristian Krag Ørsted	Elverum Handball	DEN	132
Rogério Moraes	Telekom Veszprém HC	BRA	129
Bence Banhidi	MOL-Pick Szeged	HUN	127
David Gashoski	HC Vardar	MKD	127
Tomasz Gebala	PGE VIVE Kielce	POL	124
Blaz Blagočinsek	Telekom Veszprém HC	SLO	123
Kamil Syprzak	Paris Saint-Germain HB	POL	120
Domen Sikosek Pelko	HC Vardar	SLO	120
Kristian Beciri	HC PPD Zagreb	CRO	120
Miklos Rosta	MOL-Pick Szeged	HUN	120
Arpad Sterbik	Telekom Veszprém HC	ESP	120
Andreas Nilsson	Telekom Veszprém HC	SWE	120
Vlachaslav Shumak	HC Meshkov Brest	BLR	118

PLAYERS LIST by countries



Group A preview



PARIS HAVE ANOTHER TRY AT WINNING VELUX EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

After three straight seasons qualifying for the VELUX EHF FINAL4, French side Paris Saint-Germain missed out on a ticket to Cologne last year.



Following an almost-perfect group phase, where they set the new record for points won along the 14 games, Paris lost by 10 goals in Kielce and failed to turn things around at home.

Since winning the Champions League is the main goal for the Paris club, they will have another go this season. After a season during which he underwent two surgeries, Nikola Karabatic should be back in full form while Vincent Gérard will face the tough task of succeeding recently retired Thierry Omeyer. With only three new players, coach Raul Gonzalez will not need much time to integrate the new signings, and such a gain of time could be decisive in top-notch competition.



PARIS AND BARÇA, FAVOURITES FOR THE TOP SPOT

This year Paris, maybe even more than the previous seasons, will be challenged in their bid to finish first in the group.

Barça are the other big favourites in Group A. Both teams will have one goal: to finish first in order to qualify directly for the quarter-finals. Both teams finished top of their respective groups last season. The Spanish club then qualified for the FINAL4, where they finished third.



Barça coach Xavi Pascual also picked up only a handful of new players over the summer, although the club did make the headlines by signing Luka Cindric from Kielce. The Croatian centre-back is the last star to join Barcelona's backcourt, where he will play along Aron Palmársson, Lasse Andersson and Dika Mem.



On paper, this Barça team looks incredible, perhaps one of the strongest sides the Champions League has ever seen, and the battles ahead in the competition are tantalising.

STRONG OUTSIDERS: SZEGED AND FLENSBURG

Barça did not play against MOL-Pick Szeged and SG Flensburg-Handewitt last season, but Paris know exactly how hard to beat they are. In fact, Szeged were the only team to defeat Paris in the group phase last season.

On home court, both Szeged and Flensburg are very hard to beat. Flensburg may have lost Rasmus Lauge Schmidt to Telekom Veszprém HC this summer, but they drafted in Michal Jurecki, a former Champions League winner with Kielce instead, giving them some more experience.

RUKOMETNI KLUB
PRVO PLINARSKO DRUŠTVO
Z A G R E B



ELVERUM
HÅNDBALL



Szeged, on the other hand, look reinforced by the arrivals of Luka Stepancic and Bogdan Radivojevic. And if youngsters like Richard Bodo and Bence Banhidi can play as well as they did last season, Juan Carlos Pastor and his men could actually have an eye on the first two spots of the group.

TOUGH BATTLE FOR SIX TICKETS

If the battle will be tough for the top places in Group A, so will be the fight for a Last 16 place. Elverum Handball, Aalborg Handbold, RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko and HC PPD Zagreb might not be in a position to fight for the first place with Paris or Barcelona, but all four definitely have the potential to qualify for the Last 16.

This season will be the fifth straight year in the Champions League for Norwegian champions Elverum, but they have not made it out of the group phase yet. For their first opportunity in playing the A and B groups, the Scandinavian champions will have to adapt to stronger opposition.

However Elverum have showed in previous seasons, that they could cause trouble to higher-ranked teams, and they will count on strong home support as well.

Aalborg are back in the Champions League after last season's absence. The young Danish club will face tough opposition in the battle for a Last 16 ticket, but they made a clever move in signing right back Mads Christiansen. The former SC Magdeburg player will bring some experience to the roster and meet again with fellow Danish national player Henrik Mollgaard.

Zagreb and Celje will meet again, after battling last season for a spot among the 16 best teams of the Champions League. In the end, Zagreb won, as they finished sixth of Group B, while Celje did not make the cut. Could things be any different this time around? One thing is certain, both sides will probably be very close to each other again.

There was a lot of movement in Zagreb this summer, with nine players leaving the club and eight others joining. Stalwarts Urh Kastelic, Senjamin Buric and Tin Kontrec will have to be replaced, and that will not be an easy mission. But in Croatian national representatives Kristian Beciri and Marin Sipic, Zagreb holds two quality line players.

The history is more or less the same for Celje, as some important players left to join other clubs, the best example being Rok Ovnicsek signing to HBC Nantes.

But as always, the fishpond is full of talent in Slovenia, and the national champions will surely be a team to count on this season. Last year, they proved they were hard to beat, especially at home, where they took points against the likes of Flensburg, Zagreb and Nantes.

Group A head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group A opponents in the EC

Paris Saint-Germain HB vs Barça 1-0-3 (122:132) 2:6

20.10.2013	PSG Handball vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	29:33 (17:17)
15.02.2014	FC Barcelona vs PSG Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	38:28 (19:9)
12.11.2016	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	33:26 (15:12)
03.12.2016	FC Barcelona Lassa vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	35:32 (14:14)

Paris Saint-Germain HB vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt 7-0-3 (299:296) 14:6

15.10.2005	SG Flensburg Handewitt vs Paris Handball, EHF Champions League – Group H	37:24 (17:13)
13.11.2005	Paris Handball vs SG Flensburg Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Group H	33:31 (16:16)
19.09.2015	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A39:32	(21:16)
06.03.2016	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A35:32	(16:16)
16.10.2016	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A27:22	(13:11)
18.02.2017	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A33:34	(18:15)
30.09.2017	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B33:29	(13:14)
17.02.2018	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B29:21	(19:10)
10.11.2018	Paris Saint-Germain HB vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	29:28 (12:15)
14.11.2018	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Paris Saint-Germain HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	20:27 (9:12)

Paris Saint-Germain HB vs Aalborg Handbold 2-0-0 (64:54) 4:0

01.10.2016	HC Vardar vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:27 (13:13)
04.03.2017	HC Meshkov Brest vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:26 (15:13)

HC Vardar vs Telekom Veszprém HC 0-1-5 (149:169) 1:11

15.10.2017	Aalborg Handbold vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:33 (11:18)
02.12.2017	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs Aalborg Handbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:28 (16:14)

HC Vardar vs Montpellier HB 3-1-1 (155:139) 7:3

Paris Saint-Germain HB vs MOL-Pick Szeged 3-1-2 (168:166) 7:5		
08.11.1997	Paris St. Germain vs SC Pick Szeged, City Cup – Last 16	24:19 (11:10)
16.11.1997	SC Pick Szeged vs Paris St. Germain, City Cup – Last 16	26:19 (12:9)
23.04.2017	MOL-Pick Szeged vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	27:30 (14:16)
29.04.2017	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	30:30 (16:17)
04.11.2018	Paris Saint-Germain HB vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:31 (15:14)
24.11.2018	MOL-Pick Szeged vs Paris Saint-Germain HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:32 (16:14)

Paris Saint-Germain HB vs HC PPD Zagreb 6-1-1 (235:194) 13:3

05.10.2014	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:22 (11:9)
09.12.2014	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:24 (14:13)
11.10.2015	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	34:23 ((18:8)
10.02.2016	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	23:25 (10:15)
23.04.2016	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	20:28 (13:16)
01.05.2016	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	32:32 (16:13)
29.09.2018	HC PPD Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	21:32 (9:15)
17.02.2019	Paris Saint-Germain HB vs HC PPD Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:28 (19:13)

Paris Saint-Germain HB vs Elverum Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

Paris Saint-Germain HB vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko 6-0-2 (238:220) 12:4

09.11.1996	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs PSG Asnières Hand-Ball, EHF Champions League – Group D	31:22 (11:10)
11.01.1997	PSG Asnières Hand-Ball vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Group D	20:26 (11:13)
18.10.2015	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:32 (15:16)
06.12.2015	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	32:27 (17:12)
08.10.2017	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:27 (18:14)
11.02.2018	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:31 (13:17)
23.09.2018	Paris Saint-Germain HB vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:21 (17:12)
24.02.2019	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Paris Saint-Germain HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:36 (17:17)

Barça vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt 6-0-2 (253:240) 12:4

18.12.1999	FC Barcelona vs SG Flensburg Handewitt, European Championship for Club Teams – Semi-Final	32:29 (16:14)
23.02.2007	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs FC Barcelona-Cifec, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	31:21 (13:10)
03.03.2007	FC Barcelona-Cifec vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	34:29 (14:12)
31.05.2014	FC Barcelona vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 - Semi-final	39:41 (17:18, 32:32, 36:36)
15.11.2014	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:37 (16:16)
23.11.2014	FC Barcelona vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	36:27 (14:16)
05.10.2016	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:28 (11:13)
26.02.2017	FC Barcelona Lassa vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:23 (14:12)

Barça vs Aalborg Handbold 4-0-0 (120:75) 8:031:22 (1 11:10)

23.03.2014	Aalborg Handball vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	22:29 (13:15)
29.03.2014	FC Barcelona vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	31:20 (16:11)
15.03.2015	Aalborg Handball vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	11:31 (5:16)
22.03.2015	FC Barcelona vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	29:22 (14:9)

Barça vs MOL-Pick Szeged 14-0-4 (500:435) 28:8

1977/1978	Szegedi SC vs FC Barcelona, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	27:22 (0:0)
1977/1978	FC Barcelona vs Szegedi SC, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	15:13 (0:0)
23.03.1994	Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona, Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final	22:24 (8:13)
06.04.1994	FC Barcelona vs Pick Szeged, Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final	19:14 (10:8)
08.02.1997	SC Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	25:26 (12:12)
15.02.1997	FC Barcelona vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	40:17 (19:5)
23.10.2004	SC Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Group A	22:21 (11:13)
13.11.2004	FC Barcelona vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group A	35:26 (19:11)
08.10.2005	FC Barcelona-Cifec vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group D	27:20 (13:13)
22.10.2005	SC Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona-Cifec, EHF Champions League – Group D	26:28 (12:17)
23.02.2008	Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	28:33 (15:14)
15.03.2008	FC Barcelona vs Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	28:32 (13:16)
18.11.2012	Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona Intersport, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	28:33 (15:18)
24.11.2012	FC Barcelona Intersport vs Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	33:24 (16:13)
04.10.2015	MOL-Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:30 (12:13)
21.02.2016	FC Barcelona Lassa vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:25 (19:14)
19.11.2017	MOL-Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	31:28 (16:13)
04.03.2018	FC Barcelona Lassa vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:27 (16:14)

Barça vs HC PPD Zagreb 19-1-1 (628:479) 39:3

08.02.1996	FC Barcelona vs Croatia Banka Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group B	26:16 (14:6)
26.03.1996	Croatia Banka Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Group B	21:23 (7:11)
12.04.1997	FC Barcelona vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Final	31:22 (17:6)
19.04.1997	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Final	23:30 (9:14)
18.04.1998	FC Barcelona vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Final	28:18 (10:10)
25.04.1998	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Final	22:28 (9:10)
01.11.1998	FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb, European Championship for Club Teams – Final	28:22 (11:9)
10.04.1999	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Final	22:22 (14:13)
17.04.1999	FC Barcelona vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Final	29:18 (14:7)

24.02.2001	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	17:29 (9:12)
03.03.2001	FC Barcelona vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	26:23 (12:10)
27.03.2010	HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb vs FC Barcelona Borges, EHF Champions League – Last 16	26:33 (12:17)
03.04.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Last 16	36:33 (17:18)
22.10.2011	Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb vs FC Barcelona Intersport, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:31 (14:13)
18.02.2012	FC Barcelona Intersport vs Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:30 (14:15)
20.10.2012	HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb vs FC Barcelona Intersport, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	21:32 (12:13)
16.02.2013	FC Barcelona Intersport vs HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	35:25 (19:10)
09.04.2015	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	23:25 (10:14)
18.04.2015	FC Barcelona vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	43:21 (23:10)
04.11.2017	FC Barcelona Lassa vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	32:22 (17:8)
23.11.2017	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	24:32 (11:16)

Barça vs Elverum Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

Barça vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko 8-0-4 (379:338) 16:8

16.03.1997	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	24:29 (11:14)
23.03.1997	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	22:26 (14:10)
27.02.1999	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	35:32 (18:18)
06.03.1999	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	30:26 (19:11)
18.03.2000	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	39:25 (14:14)
25.03.2000	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	27:20 (13:12)
02.04.2005	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	34:31 (16:15)
09.04.2005	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	31:26 (16:16)
16.02.2008	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	39:28 (20:11)
01.03.2008	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	27:32 (12:15)
09.10.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	44:33 (22:15)
05.03.2011	HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:30 (15:16)

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Aalborg Handbold 4-0-0 (119:104) 8:0

22.09.2013	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	31:27 (15:12)
01.12.2013	Aalborg Handball vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	26:27 (13:14)
16.09.2017	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Aalborg Handbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:27 (13:15)
04.03.2018	Aalborg Handbold vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	24:31 (11:15)

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs MOL-Pick Szeged 3-0-1 (115:101) 6:2t

26.03.2011	Pick Szeged vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	26:27 (12:9)
03.04.2011	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	33:20 (18:8)
14.10.2018	MOL-Pick Szeged vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:28 (15:14)
28.11.2018	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:25 (14:14)

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs HC PPD Zagreb 10-0-4 (395:371) 20:8

15.02.2004	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs RK Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	30:27 (17:15)
22.02.2004	RK Zagreb vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	26:28 (13:12)
04.12.2005	RK Zagreb vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Last 16	25:23 (11:8)
10.12.2005	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs RK Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Last 16	28:24 (14:12)
28.09.2006	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs RK Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group D	35:28 (14:12)
05.11.2006	RK Zagreb vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Group D	21:23 (11:13)
24.02.2008	HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group	329:25 (12:15)
16.03.2008	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group	336:29 (16:15)
21.11.2010	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs HC Croatia Osiguranje ZAGREB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	32:29 (19:15)
28.11.2010	HC Croatia Osiguranje ZAGREB vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	31:26 (14:12)
11.11.2015	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:27 (12:13)
21.11.2015	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	23:30 (10:15)
19.09.2018	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs HC PPD Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	29:31 (16:16)
24.02.2019	HC PPD Zagreb vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	21:22 (11:9)

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Elverum Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko 10-1-5 (475:451) 21:11

08.11.2003	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Group F	29:29 (14:14)
30.11.2003	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Group F	29:28 (12:17)
18.04.2004	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Final	34:28 (17:13)
24.04.2004	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Final	30:28 (15:15)
02.12.2006	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Last 16	41:31 (21:14)
08.12.2006	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Last 16	36:26 (20:12)
27.03.2010	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	33:29 (15:12)
03.04.2010	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	32:35 (16:15)
23.03.2014	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	26:25 (13:12)
29.03.2014	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	30:27 (15:14)
11.10.2015	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:20 (13:10)
20.02.2016	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:30 (15:12)
01.11.2017	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:28 (16:15)
26.11.2017	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:30 (14:16)
30.09.2018	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	23:20 (10:11)
13.02.2019	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:26 (16:12)

Aalborg Handbold vs MOL-Pick Szeged 1-1-2 (110:118) 3:5

10.10.2010	Pick Szeged vs AaB Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	37:28 (18:13)
06.03.2011	AaB Handball vs Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	34:30 (17:19)
12.10.2014	Aalborg Handball vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	25:28 (11:15)
22.02.2015	MOL-Pick Szeged vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	23:23 (10:10)

Aalborg Handbold vs HC PPD Zagreb

No previous encounters in European competitions

Aalborg Handbold vs Elverum Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

Aalborg Handbold vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko 1-0-1 (60:62) 2:2

24.09.2017	Aalborg Handbold vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:30 (15:13)
24.02.2018	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Aalborg Handbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:28 (15:12)

MOL-Pick Szeged vs HC PPD Zagreb 7-3-4 (371:367) 17:11

23.11.1996	SC Pick Szeged vs Badel Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group B	22:22 (12:13)
18.01.1997	Badel Zagreb vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group B	29:29 (17:13)
08.11.2003	SC Pick Szeged vs RK Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group E	27:26 (15:12)
30.11.2003	RK Zagreb vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group E	26:25 (15:13)
18.10.2008	Pick Szeged vs HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group H	30:36 (14:15)
22.11.2008	HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb vs Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group H	29:25 (14:14)
29.09.2012	HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb vs Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	30:27 (15:8)
01.12.2012	Pick Szeged vs HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	26:24 (16:10)
11.10.2016	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	24:26 (12:12)
04.03.2017	MOL-Pick Szeged vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:21 (14:12)
23.09.2017	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	23:28 (12:17)
24.02.2018	MOL-Pick Szeged vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:28 (11:15)
16.09.2018	HC PPD Zagreb vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	23:24 (12:9)
03.03.2019	MOL-Pick Szeged vs HC PPD Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:26 (14:14)

MOL-Pick Szeged vs Elverum Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

MOL-Pick Szeged vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko 5-1-2 (213:197) 11:5

04.12.2004	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Last 16	23:23 (11:10)
12.12.2004	SC Pick Szeged vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Last 16	20:21 (12:9)
10.02.2008	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Main Round-Group 4	35:30 (18:13)
08.03.2008	Pick Szeged vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Main Round-Group 4	20:19 (8:7)
12.11.2016	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	25:31 (15:16)
03.12.2016	MOL-Pick Szeged vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:22 (15:10)
06.10.2018	MOL-Pick Szeged vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:24 (18:8)
10.02.2019	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:29 (16:18)

HC PPD Zagreb vs Elverum Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC PPD Zagreb vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko 11-1-8 (476:457) 23:17

27.09.1992	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs RK Zagreb, Champions Cup – Qualification Round 2	18:17 (6:9)
03.10.1992	RK Zagreb vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, Champions Cup – Qualification Round 2	26:17 (13:7)
11.11.1995	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Croatia Banka Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round 3	25:21 (11:9)
18.11.1995	Croatia Banka Zagreb vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round 3	25:20 (14:11)
04.01.1998	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group A	26:21 (13:8)
31.01.1998	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Group A	26:22 (14:10)
22.03.1998	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	27:20 (14:10)
28.03.1998	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	25:24 (10:10)
26.11.2000	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group A	29:26 (12:12)
16.12.2000	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Group A	22:22 (12:11)
21.02.2009	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group	222:25 (11:16)
07.03.2009	HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group	231:18 (14:6)
21.09.2013	HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	24:21 (13:10)
30.11.2013	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:20 (14:11)
26.09.2015	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	20:21 (10:9)
27.02.2016	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	24:23 (8:9)
24.09.2016	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:28 (14:13)
09.03.2017	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	23:21 (14:10)
10.11.2018	HC PPD Zagreb vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	24:22 (11:9)
18.11.2018	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs HC PPD Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:21 (10:9)

Elverum Handball vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko

No previous encounters in European competitions

OFFICIAL PARTNER OF THE EHF AND THE EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

WHO ARE YOU?

DISCOVER THE NEW SALMING HANDBALL COLLECTION AT SALMINGHANDBALL.COM



KOBRA

MAX STABILITY



HAWK

MAX CUSHONING



VIPER

MAX AGILITY



SALMING.
no nonsense.

GROUP A

**Club Address**

53 avenue Emile Zola,
92100 Boulogne-Billancourt
France

Media contact

Matthieu Brelle-Andrade
+33 6 52 53 74 13
mbrelleandrade@psg.fr



www.psg.fr



PSGHand



@psghand



@psghandofficiel

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green

Paris Saint-Germain Handball



For the first time since 2015, Paris Saint-Germain HB failed to book their ticket to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 last season. A 10-goal defeat in Kielce in the first leg of the quarter-final proved just too much to make up in the return in Paris. It was probably the only game PSG faltered last season, but it came at the worst possible moment. No wonder the French champions are eager to bounce back in 2019/20.

PSG are always among the teams expected to make it to Cologne but, to begin with, they are drawn into a tough Group A, which also includes Barça and SG Flensburg-Handewitt among other high-profile opponents. "We are going to face the big favourite of the competition, Barça, which will be very hard for us. And the other opponents have tremendous qualities," team manager Bruno Martini says.

Obviously, the VELUX EHF Champions League is a crucial part of Paris' project. "It makes the fans dream, which is essential in what we do," says Martini. His club has been winning every title in the domestic league since 2014 and aims to reach the VELUX EHF FINAL4 again.

One of the surprises of the summer signings was that PSG, despite losing Luka Stepancic to MOL-Pick Szeged, did not opt for another proper right back. They have signed Vardar's Dainis Kristopans for 2020, but this season they will try something new, using a winger on the back-court position. Luc Abalo and Benoit Kounkoud will take this role, while Edouard Kempf, who just signed his first pro contract, will be able to help on the wing.

Once again, many eyes will be on Nikola Karabatic. The iconic French back-court player had one of the worst seasons in his career. After undergoing foot surgery in October, he returned in January but then had to cut his season short again to undergo surgery again. Will he be back 100 percent fit? It's one of the biggest questions for PSG ahead of the new season. With Kim Ekdahl du Rietz searching for his best level and Karabatic out injured, the French side sometimes felt short-handed on the back court.

**Playing hall**

Stade Pierre de Coubertin
82, Avenue Georges Lafont
75016 Paris
France
Capacity: 3,500

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 9
Runners-up (1): 2016/17
Semi-final (2): 2015/16, 2017/18 (3rd)
Quarter-final (3): 2013/14, 2014/15, 2018/19
Last 16 (1): 2005/06
Group Phase (1): 1996/97

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2006/07, Last 16 2003/04
Trophée des Champions: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019
French league: 6 titles (2013, 2015-19)
French cup: 4 titles (2007, 2014, 2015, 2018)
League Cup: 3 titles (2017-19)



9 MATCHES
Longest winning run

42 GOALS
Most goals

72 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	42:24 (22:10) v THW Kiel GER (h), 12.03.2017
Biggest defeat	44:28 (22:12) v THW Kiel GER (a), 10.12.2005
Longest winning run	9 matches (08.10.2017 – 17.02.2018) 9 matches (27.05.2018 – 14.11.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	10 matches (11.02.2017 – 03.06.2017)
Longest losing run	4 matches (23.11.1996 – 18.01.1997)
Longest run without win	4 matches (23.11.1996 – 18.01.1997)
Most goals	42 v THW Kiel GER 42:24W (h), 12.03.2017
Most goals opponent	44 v THW Kiel GER 44:28L (a), 10.12.2005
Most goals both teams	72 v THW Kiel GER 44:28L (a), 10.12.2005
Fewest goals	20 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 20:26L (h), 11.01.1997 20 v Caja Cantabria Santander ESP 26:20L (a), 18.01.1997 20 v MVM Veszprém HUN 28:20L (a), 28.11.2015
Fewest goals opponent	18 v HC Banik Karvina CZE 21:18W (h), 09.10.2005
Fewest goals both teams	39 v HC Banik Karvina CZE 21:18W (h), 09.10.2005

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 PSG Asnières FRA	6	1	0	5	131:161	-30	2:10		4th Gr. D
2005/06 Paris Handball FRA	8	4	1	3	212:229	-17	9:7		Last 16
2013/14 PSG Handball FRA	14	7	1	6	429:402	+27	15:13		1/4-finals
2014/15 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	14	8	1	5	395:367	+28	17:11		1/4-finals
2015/16 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	18	14	1	3	557:496	+61	29:7		Third Place
2016/17 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	20	15	2	3	622:543	+79	32:8		Runner-up
2017/18 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	18	14	1	3	550:498	+52	29:7		Third Place
2018/19 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	16	14	0	2	514:445	+69	28:4		1/4-finals
Total:	114	77	7	30	3410:3141	+269	161:67		



Raul Gonzalez Gutierrez

coach

- former stalwart of BM Valladolid and a member of the Spanish national team
- started his coaching career at Atletico Madrid and Ciudad Real, working in a team with Talant Dujšebaev
- moved to Vardar in 2013/14, won the CL in 2017, and joined PSG in the summer of 2018
- successor of Lino Cervar at the helm of the Macedonian national team
- voted best coach in the CL 2016/17 All-star Team

EC trophies: CL 2017

Newcomers:

Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson (Rhein-Neckar Löwen/GER)

Kamil Syprzak (Barça/ESP)

Vincent Gerard (Montpellier HB/FRA)

Left the club:

Uwe Gensheimer (Rhein-Neckar Löwen/GER)

Luka Stepancic (MOL-Pick Szeged/HUN)

Thierry Omeyer (retired)

Robin Dourte (Valladolid/ESP, on loan)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
21	Kamil	Syprzak	POL	Line Player	23/07/1991	Plock, POL	206	120
15	Toft Henrik	Hansen	DEN	Line Player	18/12/1986	Skive, DEN	200	108
44	Nikola	Karabatic	FRA	Left Back	11/04/1984	Nis, SRB	196	102
26	Gauthier	Ivah	FRA	Goalkeeper	06/01/1999	Saint-Denis, FRA	191	101
60	Kim	Ekdahl du Rietz	SWE	Back	23/07/1989	Lund, SWE	194	100
42	Adrien	Chaudanson	FRA	Line Player	01/12/1998	Lyon, FRA	192	100
12	Rodrigo	Corrales Rodal	ESP	Goalkeeper	24/01/1991	Cangas, ESP	201	99
18	Nedim	Remili	FRA	Right Back	18/07/1995	Creteil, FRA	195	94
99	Dylan	Nahi	FRA	Left Wing	30/11/1999	Paris, FRA	192	94
24	Mikkel	Hansen	DEN	Centre Back	22/10/1987	Helsingor, DEN	192	93
23	Viran	Morros de Argila	ESP	Back	15/12/1983	Barcelona, ESP	197	92
C 22	Luka	Karabatic	FRA	Line Player	19/04/1988	Strasbourg, FRA	202	90
10	Sander	Sagosen	NOR	Left Back	14/09/1995	Stavanger, NOR	192	88
77	Gautier	Loredon	FRA	Line Player	15/10/2002	Le Lamentin, FRA	197	87
1	Vincent	Gerard	FRA	Goalkeeper	16/12/1986	Woippy, FRA	188	86
17	Adrien	Charlette	FRA	Centre Back	10/03/1999	Saint-Pierre, FRA	183	84
9	Gudjon Valur	Sigurdsson	ISL	Left Wing	08/08/1979	Reykjavik, ISL	187	82
9	Adama	Keita	FRA	Left Wing	05/06/1997	PARIS, FRA	185	81
97	Andry	Goujon Bellevue	FRA	Right Back	02/09/1999	Courtry, FRA	193	80
7	Sadou	Ntanzi	FRA	Centre Back	07/01/2000	Longjumeau, FRA	183	80
19	Luc	Abalo	FRA	Right Wing	06/09/1984	Ivry, FRA	182	80
6	Adrien	Schaff	FRA	Left Wing	01/05/1999	Sarrebourg, FRA	180	80
20	Edouard	Kempf	FRA	Right Wing	20/03/1998	Mulhouse, FRA	179	80
11	Benoit	Kounkoud	FRA	Right Wing	19/02/1997	Versailles, FRA	188	78
88	Loick	Spady	FRA	Goalkeeper	24/03/2000	Pointe à Pitre, FRA	187	77
13	Louis	Despreaux	FRA	Left Back	22/02/1999	Mt St Aignan, FRA	194	76



Vincent Gérard

@gerardvin

goalkeeper

- former player of Dunkerque, Istres and Montpellier, signed for PSG in summer of 2019
- replaces Thierry Omeyer once again, after also doing so in the national team
- his exuberant celebrations have instantly made of him a fan favourite
- was elected best goalkeeper at the WCh 2017; is French No. 1 since Omeyer's retirement

EC trophies: CL: 2018
OG: S 2016; Wch: G 2017, B 2019; EURO: B 2018



Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson

@gudjonvalur9

left wing

- Paris is next stop on Sigurdsson's never-ending European tour
- played for German sides Löwen, Essen, Gummersbach, and Kiel, and for AG København in Denmark
- all-time top scorer of the Icelandic national team; reached 500 CL goals in 2015/16
- his fifth trip to VELUX EHF FINAL4 brought him the CL title, with Barcelona in 2015

EC trophies: CL 2015; EHF Cup 2005
OG: S 2008; EURO B 2010



Mikkel Hansen

@mikkelhansen24

left back

- IHF Player of the Year in 2011, 2015 and 2018; also MVP and best scorer at WCh 2019
- played VELUX EHF FINAL4 four times (Barça, København and PSG twice) but has yet to lift the trophy
- son of former Danish international Flemming, having grown into a top player at GOG
- his headbands have become a collectors' item among PSG fans
- holds record for most CL goals in one season: 141 in 2015/16

OG: G 2016; EURO: G 2012, S 2014; WCh: G 2019, S 2011, 2013



Sander Sagosen

@sandersagosen

left back

- part of All-star Team at last four major competitions: best centre back of EHF EURO 2016 and 2018, and best left back of WCh 2017 and 2019
- flag bearer of new generation of Norwegian players
- arrived in Paris in 2017 but will leave for THW Kiel in 2020

WCh: S 2017, 2019



Nikola Karabatic

nikolakarabatic44

left back/centre back

- World Handball Player of the Year in 2007, 2014 and 2016
- won all major prizes in the sport: three CL titles and Olympics, WCh and EHF EURO with French national team
- underwent surgery twice last season but expected to be fully for 2019/20 season
- won CL with all his previous clubs but not yet with PSG, despite two trips to Cologne

EC trophies: CL: 2003, 2007, 2015

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



Luka Karabatic

@lukakarabatic

line player

- was a national-level tennis player until the age of 19, before choosing handball
- began in Montpellier, moved to Aix, then joined PSG in 2015
- PSG is the third club where he plays alongside his brother, Nikola
- took over the captaincy following Thierry Omeyer's retirement

OG: S 2016; EURO: G 2014; WCh: G 2015, 2017, B 2019



Nedim Remili

@nedim_remili

right back

- signed with PSG in the summer of 2016 from his only previous club, Créteil
- Kamel, his father, was a professional handball player
- very regular scorer of PSG in the CL, finished on 81, 80 and 80 goals in the past three seasons
- made national team debut in 2016, won first prize the following year.

WCh: G 2017, B 2019



Luc Abalo

@lucabalo19

right wing

- formed in Ivry, he moved to Atletico Madrid before becoming one of the first stars to join PSG in 2012
- played at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 five times but has yet to win the event
- did win the CL with Ciudad Real in 2009
- veteran winger keeps impressing with his lightning speed and extraordinary jumping skills

EC trophies: CL: 2009

OG: G 2008, 2012, S 2016; EURO: G 2006, 2010, 2014, B 2018; WCh: 2009, 2011, 2017, B 2019

GROUP A

**Club Address**

FC Barcelona Lassa
Avda. Aristides Maillol, s/n
08028 Barcelona
Spain

Media contact

Pau Campana
+34 683 567251
pau.campana@fcbarcelona.cat

 www.fcbarcelona.cat

 FCBHandbol

 @FCBHandbol

 @FCBHandbol

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: light green
Player short: light green
GK shirt: blue or yellow

Dark

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

Barça



Last season, Barça wanted to bounce back from their early Last 16 elimination in 2017/18. This season, the Spanish champions feel they have to make up for a mishap again. Barça played a flawless 2018/19 season - until the second half of their semi-final against HC Vardar at the VELUX EHF FINAL4. Barça were leading by seven goals (16:9), but the nightmare started after the break and Vardar came away the winners, 29:27. The hurtful experience has made Barça hungrier for the title than ever before.

But the team hopes to have learned from it. Barça missed someone who stepped up and acted as the leader on the court. This season, Luka Cindric could take up that role. His transfer was arranged way before Cologne as the club thought that the team could need a player to lead. The VELUX EHF FINAL4 proved them right.

Otherwise, Barça had an outstanding season, winning all other trophies they could win: the Super Globe in October and all domestic titles. In the VELUX EHF Champions League they lost their opener against Rhein-Neckar Löwen and the first game after the World Championship, against Veszprém, but were otherwise dominant, also in the quarter-final against the finalists from the previous season, HBC Nantes.

Barça are always among the teams fighting for the top prizes in Europe. This season, the club has invested a lot in top players for all of their sports sections, including handball. The pressure to bring home the VELUX EHF Champions League trophy again is building. The quality of the team has further increased and expectations to win the trophy again, for the first time since 2015, are mounting having attracted world-class players like Aron Palmársson and Luka Cindric in the meantime. Cindric will be in the limelight as one of the big transfers of the summer. Barça expect the Croat to be a leader, to be the one who makes the difference and contributes with his impressive skills in attack. Question remains how quickly he will adapt to his new environment. A line including Luka Cindric, Dika Mem and Aron Palmársson looks very promising, to say the least.

**Playing hall**

Palau Blaugrana
Av. Aristides Maillol, s/n
08028 Barcelona
Spain
Capacity: 7,250

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 23
Winner (8): 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2004/05, 2010/11, 2014/15
Final (3): 2000/01, 2009/10, 2012/13
Semi-final (4): 2007/08, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2018/19
Quarter-final (4): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2011/12, 2015/16
Last 16 (2): 2003/04, 2017/18
Main Round (1): 2008/09

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2002/03, Runners-up 2001/02
Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 1993/94, 1994/95
(IHF) European Champions Cup: 1990/91
IHF Super Globe: 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018
Spanish league: 26 titles (1969, 1973, 1980, 1982, 1986, 1988-92, 1996-2000, 2003, 2006, 2011-19)
Spanish Cup winner: 23 titles



12 MATCHES
Longest winning run

46 GOALS
Most goals

11 GOALS
Fewest goals opponent

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	17:43 (9:21) v HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH (a), 19.11.2011
Biggest defeat	31:21 (13:10) v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER (a), 23.02.2007 41:31 (20:15) v THW Kiel GER (a), 06.04.2008
Longest winning run	12 matches (24.04.2011 – 12.02.2012)
Longest unbeaten run	16 matches (24.01.1996 – 16.03.1997)
Longest losing run	2 matches (25.03.2000 – 22.04.2000) 2 matches (16.10.2004 – 23.10.2004) 2 matches (11.12.2004 – 05.03.2005) 2 matches (15.03.2008 – 06.04.2008) 2 matches (23.11.2008 – 14.02.2009) 2 matches (30.05.2010 – 25.09.2010) 2 matches (03.06.2017 – 04.06.2017) 2 matches (31.03.2018 – 12.09.2018)
Longest run without win	3 matches (30.05.2010 – 03.10.2010) 3 matches (03.06.2017 – 17.09.2017)
Most goals	46 v KIF Kolding DEN 46:36W (h), 17.10.2009
Most goals opponent	41 v THW Kiel GER 41:31L (a), 06.04.2008 41 v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 39:41L (a), 31.05.2014
Most goals both teams	82 v KIF Kolding DEN 46:36W (h), 17.10.2009
Fewest goals	21 v ABC Braga POR 21:21D (a), 09.11.1997 21 v SC Pick Szeged HUN 22:21L (a), 23.10.2004 21 v Portland San Antonio ESP 25:21L (a), 25.02.2006 21 v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 31:21L (a), 23.02.2007 21 v Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 22:21L (a), 20.09.2015
Fewest goals opponent	11 v Aalborg Handball DEN 11:31W (a), 15.03.2015
Fewest goals both teams	38 v Elgorriaga Bidasoa ESP 23:15W (h), 20.04.1996 38 v Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD 12:26W (a), 06.11.2004

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1995/96 FC Barcelona ESP	8	5	2	1	213:173	+40	12:4	Winner	
1996/97 FC Barcelona ESP	12	10	1	1	358:264	+94	21:3	Winner	
1997/98 FC Barcelona ESP	12	9	1	2	358:284	+74	19:5	Winner	
1998/99 FC Barcelona ESP	12	8	3	1	357:289	+68	19:5	Winner	
1999/00 FC Barcelona ESP	12	10	0	2	345:271	+74	20:4	Winner	
2000/01 FC Barcelona ESP	12	8	2	2	316:281	+35	18:6	Runner-up	
2003/04 FC Barcelona ESP	8	5	1	2	262:212	+50	11:5	Last 16	
2004/05 FC Barcelona Cifec ESP	14	8	0	6	400:360	+40	16:12	Winner	
2005/06 FC Barcelona-Cifec ESP	10	9	0	1	293:244	+49	18:2	1/4-finals	
2006/07 FC Barcelona-Cifec ESP	10	8	0	2	314:263	+51	16:4	1/4-finals	
2007/08 FC Barcelona ESP	14	11	0	3	475:407	+68	22:6	1/2-finals	
2008/09 FC Barcelona Borges ESP	10	6	0	4	307:275	+32	12:8	3rd MR Gr. 4	
2009/10 FC Barcelona Borges ESP	16	13	1	2	545:461	+84	27:5	Runner-up	
2010/11 FC Barcelona Borges ESP	16	10	3	3	501:451	+50	23:9	Winner	
2011/12 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP	14	11	0	3	459:357	+102	22:6	1/4-finals	
2012/13 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP	16	13	0	3	488:404	+84	26:6	Runner-up	
2013/14 FC Barcelona ESP	16	12	1	3	535:426	+109	25:7	Third Place	
2014/15 FC Barcelona ESP	16	14	1	1	527:408	+119	29:3	Winner	
2015/16 FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	16	12	1	3	480:431	+49	25:7	1/4-finals	
2016/17 FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	18	13	1	4	517:460	+57	27:9	Fourth Place	
2017/18 FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	16	10	2	4	463:433	+30	22:10	Last 16	
2018/19 Barça Lassa	18	15	0	3	614:506	+108	30:6	Third Place	
Total	296	220	20	56	9127:7660	+1467	460:132		



Xavi Pascual

coach

- played for Barça and other Spanish clubs, before becoming goalkeeper coach at the record CL winners in 2005
- in February 2019 he celebrated his 10-year anniversary on the Barça bench, having succeeded Manolo Cadenas in 2009
- has won 49 titles in those 10 years, including the CL twice
- in a historic 2014/15 season won all the titles with Barça, emulating Valero Rivera's (7 out of 7) success in 1999/00
- also coached Romanian national team from 2016-18

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2015

Newcomers:

Luka Cindric (PGE VIVE Kielce/POL)
Abel Serdio (Recoletas Atl. Valladolid/ESP)

Left the club:

Gilberto Duarte (Montpellier HB/FRA)
Kamil Syprzak (PSG/FRA)
Nemanja Ilic (Toulouse/FRA)
Yanis Lenne (Montpellier HB/FRA)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
11	Lasse	Andersson	DEN	Left Back	11/03/1994	København, DEN	195	96
13	Aitor	Arino	ESP	Left Wing	05/10/1992	Penarth, GBR	184	81
	Alejandro	Barbeito	ESP	Centre Back	08/08/2001			
90	Oriol	Blanco Canet	ESP	Right Wing	09/03/1999	Barcelona, ESP	188	78
	Diego	Cadelo Zaton	ESP	Left Back	24/10/2000			
25	Luka	Cindric	CRO	Centre Back	05/07/1993	Ogulin, CRO	182	90
18	Mamadou	Diocou Soumare	ESP	Right Wing	10/03/2000	Fassada, SEN	180	71
23	Jure	Dolenec	SLO	Right Back	06/12/1988	Kranj, SLO	190	90
9	Raul	Entrerrios	ESP	Centre Back	12/02/1981	Gijon, ESP	195	89
72	Ludovic	Fabregas	FRA	Line Player	01/07/1996	Perpignan, FRA	198	98
	Daniel	Fernandez	ESP	Goalkeeper	28/03/2001			
20	Aleix	Gomez Abello	ESP	Right Wing	07/05/1997	Sabadell, ESP	182	71
22	Thiagus	Petrus	BRA	Line Player	25/01/1989	Juiz de Fora, BRA	199	100
89	Adria	Leon Morales	ESP	Line Player	30/12/1993	Barcelona, ESP	190	95
24	Dika	Mem	FRA	Right Back	31/08/1997	Paris, FRA	194	90
36	Kevin	Møller	DEN	Goalkeeper	20/06/1989	Tondern, DEN	200	103
6	Casper Ulrich	Mortensen	DEN	Left Wing	14/12/1989	København, DEN	190	88
19	Timothey	N'guessan	FRA	Left Back	18/09/1992	Massy, FRA	192	96
84	Pau	Oliveras	ESP	Right Wing	11/12/1998	Barcelona, ESP	183	80
	Nil	Orts Bosch	ESP	Right Back	21/08/2001			
34	Aron	Palmarsson	ISL	Line Player	19/07/1990	Reykjavik, ISL	193	100
28	Alex	Pascual	ESP	Right Wing	13/02/2000	Vigo , ESP	175	83
1	Gonzalo	Perez de Vargas	ESP	Goalkeeper	10/01/1991	Toledo, ESP	189	93
	Joan Pau	Puget	ESP	Goalkeeper	25/01/1991			
15	Albert	Pujol	ESP	Left Back	15/04/1991	St Quirze d. Vallès, ESP	195	90
38	Francisco	Revuelta	ESP	Goalkeeper	13/04/1995	Barcelona, ESP	191	84
97	David	Roca	ESP	Right Wing	09/01/2000	Barcelona, ESP	188	77
	Robert	Rosell	ESP	Line Player	06/05/2001			
17	Abel	Serdio	ESP	Line Player	16/04/1994	Avilés, ESP	195	100
10	Cedric	Sorhaindo	FRA	Line Player	07/06/1984	La Trinite, FRA	192	105
C 8	Victor	Tomas	ESP	Right Wing	15/02/1985	Barcelona, ESP	178	85



Gonzalo Perez de Vargas

 @perezdvargas

goalkeeper

- returned to Barça in 2014 after stints with Granollers and Toulouse to gain experience
- voted best goalkeeper in CL in 2016/17 and in ASOBAL league for the past three seasons; in 2016/17 he also was the MVP of the Spanish domestic league
- represented Spain in all age categories; forms duo with PSG's Rodrigo Corrales

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2015
EURO: G 2018, B 2014, S 2016



Luka Cindric

 @luka_cindric25

centre back

- joined Barça for four seasons in the the summer of 2019, coming from Kielce
- won CL with Vardar in 2017, scored last-second winner in semi-final against Kielce
- joined Kielce in 2018/19 but stayed just one season in Poland
- voted EHF Player of the Year in 2017

EC trophies: CL 2017



Raul Entrerrios

 @raulenterrios

centre back

- captain of Spanish national team, will retire after 2019/20 season at age 39 - but will continue working with the club
- played for two Spanish clubs - Leon and Valladolid - before joining Barça in 2010
- EHF EURO 2016 MVP and best centre back of ASOBAL league seven times, including the last five seasons in a row

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2015, Cup Winner's Cup 2005, 2009
OG: B 2008, EURO: G 2018, S 2006, 2016, B 2014, WCh: G 2015, B 2011



Aron Palmarsson

 @aronpalm

centre back

- joined from Veszprém early in 2017/18 season after complicated transfer saga
- before joining Veszprém in 2015, the versatile and tactically as well as technically skilled playmaker from Iceland was with THW Kiel for six years
- together with (retired) Momir Ilic, holds record of eight VELUX EHF FINAL4 participations; in 2014 and 2016 was awarded MVP of the event in Cologne

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012
EURO: B 2010



Ludovic Fabregas

@chiki_lf27

line player

- still only 23, one of the key players of the golden French generation including Timothy N'guessan, Dika Mem and Melvyn Richardson
- joined Barça after winning CL 2017/18 with Montpellier HB, scoring six goals in the final
- CL All-star Team line player in 2016/17, and best young player in 2018/19
- youth world champion in mountain biking before turning to handball at age 15

EC trophies: CL 2018
WCh: G 2017, B 2019; OS: S 2016



Dika Mem

@dikamem

right back

- best CL right back in 2017/18, scored 73 and 74 goals resp. in last two CL seasons
- joined Barcelona from French Tremblay in 2016, soon became key player
- at age 20, has already captured a WCh gold and bronze and EHF EURO bronze with France; also named best right back at Junior WCh 2017
- on a long-term contract with Barça - until June 2024

EURO: B 2018, WCh: G 2017, B 2019



Aleix Gomez

@aleixgomez11

right wing

- young talent coming through club's youth ranks since 2009; has contract until 2021
- sharing right wing position with team captain Victor Tomas
- had first appearance at major event with Spanish national team at WCh 2019
- best right wing of Junior World Championship 2017
- leading scorer for Barça in the group phase with 60 goals



Victor Tomas

@victortomas8

right wing

- team captain, one of the most beloved players for his courage and passion
- best right wing of the CL 2016/17 and the ASOBAL League
- joined Barça's youth team in 1998 and has not played for any other club since; his current contract runs until the end of the 2019/20 season
- has won 50+ trophies with Barça, including 3 CL titles (2005, 2011 and 2015)

EC trophies: CL 2005, 2011, 2015, EHF Cup: 2003
OG: B 2008, EURO: S 2016, B 2014, WCh: G 2013

GROUP A

**Club Address**

SG Flensburg-Handewitt
Schiffbrücke 66
24939 Flensburg
Germany

Media contact

Isabel Hofmann
+49 4611609625
i.hofmann@
sg-flensburg-handewitt.de

 sg-flensburg-handewitt.de

 SGFlHa

 @SGFlHa

 @sgflensburghandewitt

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

SG Flensburg-Handewitt



Despite a year of transition, SG Flensburg-Handewitt again were on the winner's podium of the German Bundesliga at the end of the 2018/19 season. They defended their title for the first time in the club's history - but again missed out on the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne. Now the club hopes to return to the 'cathedral of handball' even though two core players, Tobias Karlsson and Rasmus Lauge, are no longer part of the squad.

In his last season, Tobias Karlsson again was awarded 'best defender' of the Bundesliga, for the fourth time in the last five years. Now Karlsson has finished his career - and the whole defence system of SG Flensburg-Handewitt needs to be readjusted. "The full focus in the preparation for the new season was on the defence," says coach Maik Machulla. "We are trying to find a new hierarchy."

While mastermind Rasmus Lauge has moved to Veszprém, Flensburg have signed Michal Jurecki, a classical shooter. The way both play is completely different, but the decision to sign the experienced Pole was clever. Jurecki is strong in defence, and in combination with young Swede Simon Jeppsson he can form an interesting duo in the left back position.

Crucial will also be Johannes Golla, who went 'from zero to hero' in the 2018/19 season. Coming from MT Melsungen, his star rose much quicker than even he himself had expected. Golla ended up playing in nearly all matches, showing his great skills mainly in attack. He even became a German national team player.

Predictions are always tricky but Flensburg have prepared for a tough season. They are under constant pressure as the hunted team in the Bundesliga. Also, many of their players will feature at the EHF EURO 2020 in January and the Olympic qualification tournaments in April. So how much energy will be left in the players' tanks by the time the VELUX EHF FINAL4 comes around? On paper Flensburg are a candidate for the quarter-finals, or even more. But everything must fit perfectly for their second trip to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 after 2014.

**Playing hall**

Flens Arena
Campusallee 2
24943 Flensburg
Germany
Capacity: 6,300

Past achievements**EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 15
Winners (1): 2013/14
Final (2): 2003/2004, 2006/2007
Semi-final (1): 2005/2006
Quarter-final (8): 2004/2005, 2008/2009,
2010/2011, 2012/2013, 2015/16, 2016/17,
2017/18, 2018/19
Last 16 (1): 2014/15
Main Round (1): 2007/2008

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2001, 2012
EHF Cup: Winners 1996/1997
City Cup: Winners 1998/1999
German league: 3 titles (2004, 2018, 2019)
German cup: 4 titles



9 MATCHES
Longest winning run

44 GOALS
Most goals

80 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	43:24 (23:12) v RK Metalurg Skopje MKD (h), 19.10.2006
Biggest defeat	36:22 (16:10) v Montpellier HB FRA (a), 06.03.2005
	24:38 (08:19) v Renovalia Ciudad Real ESP (h), 21.04.2011
	35:21 (19:13) v KIF Kolding Kobenhavn DEN (a), 28.09.2014
Longest winning run	9 matches (11.10.2015 – 20.02.2016)
Longest unbeaten run	9 matches (11.10.2015 – 20.02.2016)
Longest losing run	3 matches (04.03.2006 - 01.04.2006)
	3 matches (22.02.2015 - 22.03.2015)
Longest run without win	5 matches (10.02.2008 – 08.03.2008)
Most goals	44 v Redbergsliids IK SWE 44:33W (h), 22.11.2003
Most goals opponent	41 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 41:31L (a), 02.12.2006
Most goals both teams	80 v FC Barcelona ESP 39:41W (a), 31.05.2014
Fewest goals	17 v Montpellier HB FRA 29:17L (a), 29.04.2018
Fewest goals opponent	18 v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH 25:18W (h), 02.03.2011
Fewest goals both teams	40 v THW Kiel GER 20:20D (a), 15.10.2017

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2003/04 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	14	10	1	3	450:401	+49	21:7	Runner-up	
2004/05 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	10	7	1	2	319:270	+49	15:5	1/4-finals	
2005/06 SG Flensburg Handewitt GER	12	7	0	5	372:326	+46	14:10	1/2-finals	
2006/07 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	14	8	1	5	437:398	+39	17:11	Runner-up	
2007/08 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	12	4	2	6	355:356	-1	10:14	4th MR Gr. 3	
2008/09 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	12	8	0	4	360:329	+31	16:8	1/4-finals	
2010/11 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	14	11	0	3	394:354	+40	22:6	1/4-finals	
2012/13 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	14	9	3	2	416:384	+32	21:7	1/4-finals	
2013/14 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	16	12	1	3	489:441	+48	25:7	Winner	
2014/15 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	12	6	0	6	337:340	-3	12:12	Last 16	
2015/16 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	18	12	1	5	544:494	+50	25:11	1/4-finals	
2016/17 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	18	9	1	8	487:478	+9	19:17	1/4-finals	
2017/18 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	18	9	5	4	508:494	+14	23:13	1/4-finals	
2018/19 SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	18	9	1	8	485:475	+10	19:17	1/4-finals	
Total	202	121	17	64	5953:5540	+413	259:145		



Maik Machulla

coach

- took over from Ljubomir Vranjes in 2017, who left Flensburg after 11 years, and won German championship in his first season
- was Vranjes' assistant since 2013, after finishing his playing career in Flensburg
- started his professional career for SC Magdeburg (1997-2002), where he won three European Cup trophies
- later played for Nordhorn (already with Vranjes), Hameln and Ahlen-Hamm before arriving at Flensburg in 2012
- his contract with Flensburg runs until 2023

EC trophies: CL 2002, EHF Cup 1999, 2001, 2008

Newcomers:

Michał Jurecki (PGE VIVE Kielce/POL)
Niels Versteijnen (youth team SG/GER)

Left the club:

Tobias Karlsson (retired)
Rasmus Lauge (Telekom Veszprém/HUN)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
30	Torbjoern	Bergerud	NOR	Goalkeeper	16/07/1994	Drammen, NOR	197	90
1	Benjamin	Buric	BIH	Goalkeeper	20/11/1990	Maglaj, BIH	197	97
	Mikkel	Ebeling	DEN		12/10/2000			
9	Holger	Glandorf	GER	Right Back	30/03/1983	Osnabrück, GER	195	92
4	Johannes	Golla	GER	Line Player	05/11/1997	Wiesbaden, GER	195	98
24	Jim	Gottfridsson	SWE	Centre Back	02/09/1992	Ystad, SWE	190	95
5	Simon	Hald Jensen	DEN	Line Player	28/09/1994	Aalborg, DEN	203	112
17	Simon	Jeppsson	SWE	Left Back	15/07/1995	Lund, SWE	203	104
18	Magnus	Joendal	NOR	Left Wing	07/02/1988	Ski, NOR	187	83
23	Goeran	Soegaard	NOR	Centre Back	26/04/1994	Stavanger, NOR	192	92
55	Michal	Jurecki	POL	Left Back	27/10/1984	Koscian, POL	198	110
	Marek	Nissen	GER	Back	28/01/2001			
34	Jörn	Persson	GER		31/10/2000	Flensburg, GER	183	83
77	Magnus	Röd	NOR	Right Back	07/07/1997	Oslo, NOR	202	92
19	Marius	Steinhauser	GER	Right Wing	06/02/1993	Karlsruhe, GER	187	85
C 11	Lasse	Svan	DEN	Right Wing	31/08/1983	Stevns, DEN	184	84
20	Niels	Versteijnen	NED	Right Back	03/02/2000	Groningen, NED	200	94
14	Hampus	Wanne	SWE	Left Wing	10/12/1993	Lundby, SWE	185	84
16	Jonas	Wilde	GER	Goalkeeper	22/01/1998	Ostercappeln, GER	198	96
22	Anders	Zachariassen	DEN	Line Player	04/09/1991	Sonderborg, DEN	192	96



Torbjörn Bergerud
goalkeeper

@tsbergerud

- is the successor of legendary Mattias Andersson, who ended his career in 2018
- had breakthrough at EHF EURO 2016 in Poland, where Norway reached semi-finals
- with Sander Sagosen best Norwegian at WCh 2017
- played in Drammen (NOR), Lund (SWE) and Holstebro (DEN) before joining Flensburg
- forms duo with Bosnia's Benjamin Buric, who arrived from Wetzlar in 2018

WCh: S 2017, 2019



Hampus Wanne
left wing

@hampusw

- scored the last penalty in the CL Semi-final against Barcelona in 2014
- girlfriend Daniela Gustin is a Swedish national team player
- is on a contract with the club until 2022
- replaced legend Anders Eggert (Skjern) on the left wing before the 2017/18 season
- shares position with Norwegian left wing Magnus Jøndal

EC trophies: CL 2014
EURO: S 2018



Michal Jurecki
left back

@michal.jurecki

- successor of Rasmus Lauge Schmidt, who moved to Veszprém in the summer of 2019
- has played in Germany before, for Hamburg (2007/08) and N-Lübbecke (2008-2010)
- joined his home club Kielce again and won national league and cup 8 times each
- brother Bartosz ended his playing career in 2018 and now coaches Azoty Pulawy
- has played almost 200 international matches for Poland

EC trophies: CL 2016
WCh: S 2007, B 2009

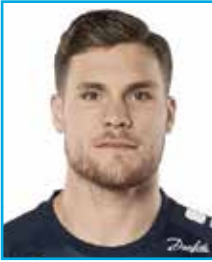


Jim Gottfridsson
centre back

@gotte24

- comes from Ystad, like many other Swedish handball stars
- played for Ystad from the age of 8 until his 2013 transfer to Flensburg at age 21
- was key player for SG in CL semi-final and final when they won the trophy in 2014
- was top scorer of under-19 WCh 2012 and MVP of EHF EURO 2018 in Croatia

EC trophies: CL 2014
EURO: S 2018



Johannes Golla

@johgolla

line player

- one of Germany's biggest talents, set to replace retired defence boss Tobias Karlsson
- arrived in 2018 from MT Melsungen, where he became junior national team player
- his sister, Pauline, was European under-17 champion with Germany in 2017
- had his national team debut in a friendly against Switzerland in March 2018



Magnus Röd

@magnusrod

right back

- at 2.04 metre he is the tallest member of the squad
- playing in his third season with Flensburg, forming a duo with Holger Glandorf
- Flensburg are his first club abroad after the start of his career in Oslo
- one of eight Flensburg players who appeared in the WCh 2019 Final

WCh: S 2017, 2019



Holger Glandorf

@9glanzi

right back

- left-handed shooter, the last remaining world champion from 2007 in SG squad
- going into his last season as a player, will then take up job in club's administration
- has won the full set of three major European Cup competitions titles, with Nordhorn and Flensburg
- in August 2014, he retired from the German national team to fully focus on his club

EC trophies: CL 2014, EHF Cup: 2008, 2010, Cup Winners' Cup: 2012

WCh: G 2007



Lasse Svan

@lassesvan

right wing

- currently the only Flensburg player to have won the WCh, EC, OG and the CL trophy
- playing his 12th season in Flensburg, more than any other member of the squad
- specialist for motivation and relaxing – as his business is mental coaching
- after four seasons at GOG Svendborg he moved to Flensburg in 2008
- was also a billiards champion in his home region Seeland

EC trophies: CL 2014, Cup Winners' Cup 2012

OG: G 2016, WCh: G 2019, S 2011, 2013, EURO: G 2012, S 2014

GROUP A

**Club Address**

Aalborg Handbold
Willy Brandts Vej 31
9220 Aalborg Ost
Denmark

Media contact

Jacob Flintholm
+45 28 893 749
jf@aalborghaandbold.dk



aalborghaandbold.dk



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



-



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

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

Aalborg Handbold



Aalborg Handbold have made it to the knockout stage of the VELUX EHF Champions League twice before – and this is the main objective for the Danish champions in their fourth Champions League campaign. The club reached the Last 16 two years in a row, in 2013/14 and 2014/15. In the 2017/18 season, the team from the north of the Jutland peninsula had to bow out after the group phase. But after winning the Danish championship in a close final series with GOG last season, Aalborg have their minds set on the knockout phase again.

Danish international Mads Christiansen is definitely a reinforcement in the right back position, especially as long as Icelandic talent Omar Ingi Magnusson is sidelined with the aftermaths of a concussion. Apart from his brilliant left-hand shot, Christiansen brings plenty of international experience with him from SC Magdeburg, and having played in Aalborg before, he already knows the club well.

Despite various injuries before the start of the season, Aalborg's chance to reach the Last 16 should be good. Aalborg should be favourites in the Scandinavian derby against Elverum Handbold, while the matches against RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko and HC PPD Zagreb will probably be equal. What will happen after that depends on their possible Group B opponents, but captain René Antonsen puts faith in his team's experience.

"We have a great desire to show off our best and take the next step in this year's Champions League," he says. "Last time, we were close in many matches and played many great away games, but we lacked a little experience to make the big results. Now, we have tried it a number of times, and I feel we are stronger this year."

Aalborg have respect for all opponents in their group but fear no one. "We have joined an exciting and difficult group, where we meet world class opponents," says club director Jan Larsen. "With the history of, for example Barça and PSG, they are considered favourites, but we have great confidence that we can surprise and have the opportunity to take points against all teams."

**Playing hall**

Jutlander Bank Arena
Willy Brandts Vej 31
9220 Aalborg Ost
Denmark
Capacity: 4,666

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 5
Last 16 (1): 2013/14
Group Phase (3): 2010/11, 2014/15, 2017/18

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-final 2003/04, Group Phase 2015/16
Challenge Cup: Round 4 2002/03
Danish league: 4 titles (2010, 2013, 2017, 2019)
Danish cup: 1 title (2019)



18 MATCHES
Longest unbeaten run

42 GOALS
Most goals

41 GOALS
Most goals opponent

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	37:23 (17:7) v HK DROTT Halmstad SWE (h), 24.11.2013
Biggest defeat	11:31 (5:16) v FC Barcelona ESP (h), 15.03.2015
Longest winning run	3 matches (16.10.2013 – 24.11.2013)
Longest unbeaten run	3 matches (16.10.2013 – 24.11.2013)
Longest losing run	6 matches (01.12.2013 – 29.03.2014)
	6 matches (27.09.2017 – 18.11.2017)
Longest run without win	9 matches (16.11.2014 – 16.09.2017)
Most goals	37 v HK DROTT Halmstad SWE 37:23 (h), 24.11.2013
Most goals opponent	39 v Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS 39:29L (a), 23.09.2010
Most goals both teams	68 v Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS 39:29L (a), 23.09.2010
Fewest goals	68 v Cuatro Rayas BM Valladolid ESP 32:36L (h), 21.11.2010
	68 v Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS 30:38L (h), 20.02.2011
Fewest goals opponent	11 v FC Barcelona ESP 11:31L (h), 15.03.2015
Fewest goals both teams	21 v Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral FRA 21:26W (a), 28.09.2014
	42 v FC Barcelona ESP 11:31L (h), 15.03.2015

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2010/11 AaB Handball DEN	10	2	2	6	311:339	-28	6:14	6th Gr. C	
2013/14 Aalborg Handball DEN	12	4	0	8	317:325	-8	8:16	Last 16	
2014/15 Aalborg Handball DEN	12	2	3	7	289:329	-40	7:17	Last 16	
2017/18 Aalborg Handbold DEN	14	2	1	11	364:405	-41	5:23	8th Gr. B	
Total	48	10	6	32	1281:1398	-117	26:70		



Stefan Madsen

coach

- promoted from assistant to head coach in the summer of 2018
- is in charge of Denmark's male U-21 team besides his job in Aalborg
- is a generally calm, analytic and communicative coach

Newcomers:

Benjamin Jakobsen (Skjern Handbold/DEN)
Mads Christiansen (SC Magdeburg/GER)
Mishels Liaba (Alingsås HK/SWE)

Left the club:

Jesper Meinby (Drammen HK/NOR)
Aleksander Selmar (Haslum HK/NOR)

Team roster

	No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
C	22	René	Antonsen	DEN	Line Player	04/03/1992	Vesthimmerland, DEN	195	93
	6	Sebastian	Barthold	NOR	Left Wing	27/08/1991	Oslo, NOR	184	88
	35	Benjamin	Batsberg	DEN	Centre Back	24/08/1993	Aalborg, DEN	184	95
	1	Sören Hansen	Brunsborg	DEN	Goalkeeper	10/03/2001	Vesthimmerland, DEN	192	105
	25	Jonas Neve	Byrresen	DEN	Line Player	17/04/2000	Aalborg, DEN	197	97
	9	Andreas	Hussmann	DEN	Right Back	03/02/2000	Rebild, DEN	195	95
	20	Mads	Christiansen	DEN	Right Back	03/05/1986	Næstved, DEN	194	92
	17	Tobias	Hansesgaard	DEN	Left Back	15/05/1992	Morsø, DEN	193	92
	2	Benjamin	Jakobsen	DEN	Line Player	09/09/1991	Hamburg, GER	191	115
	15	Andreas Holst	Jensen	DEN	Left Back	01/12/1994	Lemvig, DEN	201	104
	14	Magnus	Saugstrup	DEN	Line Player	12/07/1996	Aalborg, DEN	195	101
	7	Frederik Bech	Jensen	DEN	Left Wing	25/07/2000	Aarhus, DEN	179	79
	23	Buster	Juul-Lassen	DEN	Left Wing	31/03/1993	Slagelse, DEN	196	95
	28	Victor	Klove	DEN	Left Back	27/06/2002	Brønderslev, DEN	197	93
	18	Knud Ronau	Larsen	DEN	Line Player	07/01/1998	København, DEN	206	116
	8	Mishels	Liaba	NOR	Left Back	13/09/1995	Netanja, NOR	195	100
	11	Ómar Ingi	Magnusson	ISL	Right Back	12/03/1997	Selfoss, ISL	186	88
	19	Mark	Strandgaard	DEN	Right Wing	18/05/1987	Slagelse, DEN	181	70
	21	Henrik	Møllgaard	DEN	Centre Back	02/01/1985	Bramming, DEN	195	102
	4	Oliver	Amnitzboll	DEN	Right Back	19/01/2000	Vesthimmerland, DEN	193	93
	24	Jakob Wolf	Rasmussen	DEN	Centre Back	20/11/2000	Mariagerfjord, DEN	185	78
	27	Mikkel Lang	Rasmussen	DEN	Left Back	03/05/2002	Aalborg, DEN	174	71
	12	Kristian Skinstad	Saeveraas	NOR	Goalkeeper	22/06/1996	Oslo, NOR	197	91
	26	Tobias Mellby	Simonsen	DEN	Left Back	26/09/2000	Aalborg, DEN	199	94
	3	Janus Dadi	Smarason	ISL	Centre Back	01/01/1995	Reykjavik, ISL	183	93
	5	Magnus Moland	Sönnichsen	DEN	Right Wing	27/03/2000	Aalborg, DEN	178	79



Mikael Aggefors

goalkeeper


- joined in the summer of 2016 from Alingsås HK in his Swedish homeland
- succeeded fellow Swede Andreas Palicka, who left for Rhein-Neckar Löwen
- a typically Swedish goalkeeper with an upright style, good reader of the game and fine reactions



Buster Juul

left wing

- joined in 2013 from his childhood club Skanderborg Handbold
- missed most of the 2018/19 season due to a serious knee injury
- a fast and technically skilled wing, good on fast breaks and reliable on penalties

 @busterjuul



Henrik Møllgaard

left back

- joined from PSG in 2018 but had played in Aalborg before - from 2009 to 2012
- has also represented two other Danish top clubs, KIF Kolding and Skjern Handbold
- is a regular in the Danish national team, where he plays entirely in the defence, while he is playing at both ends of the court in Aalborg
- at age 34, he is still a huge asset in defence as well as attack

 @henrikmlgrd

EC trophies: CL: S 2017, B 2016, 2018
OG: G 2016; WCh: S 2013, G 2019; EURO: S 2014



Janus Smarason

centre back

- joined in January 2017 from Haukar in his homeland Iceland
- had contract with Aalborg from the summer of 2017, but his marvelous performance at the 2017 made the club buy him free of his contract immediately
- won the Danish U16 championship with Aarhus Handbold
- fast and flexible playmaker, good reader of the game

 @jannid3



Mads Christiansen

 @madschr20

right back

- joined from SC Magdeburg in 2019, had played in Aalborg before: from 2008 to 2011
- used to be a regular in the Danish national team, but ended his national team career after the 2016 Rio Olympics
- a strong and experienced backcourt player with a great variation of hard shots

OG: G 2016; WCh: S 2011; EURO: G 2012, S 2014



Mark Strandgaard

 @markstrandgaardmarcher

right wing

- joined from GOG in the summer of 2018
- succeeded Patrick Wiesmachm, who left for Bundesliga club Leipzig
- a fast, skillful and reliable wing



Ómar Ingi Magnússon

 @omaringim

right back

- joined from league rivals Aarhus Handbold in 2018, playing in Denmark since 2016
- going into his last season with Aalborg before joining SC Magdeburg in 2020/21
- Is a regular in the Icelandic national team
- a highly talented back with a huge variety of shots, very good in one-on-one



René Antonsen

 @reneantonsen

line player

- switched from Aalborg to league rivals Ribe Esbjerg HH in 2013 but returned in 2015
- first-choice line player since Simon Hald left for SG Flensburg-Handewitt last season
- a strong and uncompromising line player, equally good at both ends of the court

GROUP A

**Club Address**

MOL-Pick Szeged
Deák Ferenc u. 28-30.
6720 Szeged
Hungary

Media contact

Levente Juhasz
+36 70 543 0979
levente.juhasz@pickhandball.hu

 www.pickhandball.hu

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

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

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

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: light blues/
white stripes
Player short: dark blue
GK shirt: white or yellow

Dark

Player shirt: dark blue
with stripes or gold blue
Player short: blue or
gold blue
GK shirt: black

MOL-Pick Szeged



After they broke Veszprém's long-time hold on the Hungarian title in the previous season, every MOL-Pick Szeged fan expected an easy road to Cologne and that their beloved team would repeatedly win the domestic trophy. But only two bad games were enough to ruin everything they built during the 2018/19 season.

The main pillars are the same, however – and one more year together could make the roster even better. With the extra help of Roland Mikler and Luka Stepancic, the VELUX EHF FINAL4 seems a doable quest.

With Juan Carlos Pastor on board, the team will never be underdogs. One more year with a slightly changed roster could mean more understanding and better team chemistry, which automatically brings better results. While the expectations are the same regarding Cologne, do not forget the domestic rivalry with Veszprém, who sit back on the throne after 2018/19.

The former world champion coach is a guarantee that handball fans will see something unique from the Tisza River bank. Moreover, with the arrival of Stepancic and Bogdan Radivojevic, the Spanish mastermind has two more world-class pieces for his puzzle.

Not only a high scorer, but the fans' favourite, Zsolt Balogh, left over the summer to join Tatabánya. Balogh spent eight seasons with Szeged and put his heart on the court every single time. The experience and the connection with the supporters as the voice of the players will be missed, not to mention his role in the locker room.

MOL-Pick Szeged have had only two rough games in the last season, yet they were enough to eliminate them from the VELUX Champions League and place them as runners-up in the domestic championship.

"The objective is always the same. We want to perform 100 per cent and to win all the matches that we play in the season. Our dream is, of course, to step through the door of the EHF FINAL4 and to achieve at least one title in Hungary as well," says team manager Levente Juhász.

**Playing hall**

Városi Sportcsarnok Szeged
Temesvári Krt.33
6726 Szeged
Hungary
Capacity: 3,200

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 18
Quarter-final (5): 1996/1997, 2003/2004,
2014/15, 2016/17, 2018/19
Last 16 (7): 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007,
2010/2011, 2012/13, 2015/16, 2017/18
Main Round (1): 2007/2008
Group Phase (3): 2008/2009, 2009/2010,
2011/2012
Qualification (1): 2013/14
Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2015, Quarter-final 2001
Last 16: 1994/95, 1999/2000
Cup Winners' Cup
Semi-final: 1993/94
Quarter-final: 2002/03, 2008/09
Hungarian league: 3 titles (1996, 2007, 2018)
Hungarian cup: 7 titles



6 MATCHES
Longest winning run

39 GOALS
Most goals

73 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	39:24 (15:10) v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH (h), 07.10.2007
Biggest defeat	40:17 (19:5) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 15.02.1997
Longest winning run	6 matches (03.10.2007 – 24.11.2007) 6 matches (01.04.2018 – 14.10.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	6 matches (03.10.2007 – 24.11.2007) 6 matches (24.10.2015 – 14.02.2016) 6 matches (01.04.2018 – 14.10.2018)
Longest losing run	6 matches (17.10.2009 – 20.02.2010) 6 matches (06.03.2011 – 15.10.2011)
Longest run without win	7 matches (17.10.2009 – 27.02.2010)
Most goals	39 v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH 39:24W (h), 07.10.2007
Most goals opponent	40 v FC Barcelona ESP 40:17L (a), 15.02.1997
Most goals both teams	73 v Montpellier Agglomeration HB FRA 38:35W (h), 19.11.2011
Fewest goals	17 v FC Barcelona ESP 40:17L (a), 15.02.1997
Fewest goals opponent	16 v Wisla Plock SA POL 16:26W (a), 05.10.2008 16 v OrLEN Wisla Plock POL 23:16W (h), 31.03.2019
Fewest goals both teams	39 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 20:19W (h), 08.03.2008 39 v OrLEN Wisla Plock POL 23:16W (h), 31.03.2019

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 1996/97 Pick Szeged HUN	8	3	2	3	205:216	-11	8:8	1/4-finals	
2003/04 SC Pick Szeged HUN	10	4	0	6	269:262	+7	8:12	1/4-finals	
2004/05 SC Pick Szeged HUN	8	4	2	2	190:187	+3	10:6	Last 16	
2005/06 SC Pick Szeged HUN	8	3	0	5	219:218	+1	6:10	Last 16	
2006/07 SC Pick Szeged HUN	8	3	2	3	202:203	-1	8:8	Last 16	
2007/08 Pick Szeged HUN	12	9	0	3	361:310	+51	18:6	3rd MR Gr. 4	
2008/09 Pick Szeged HUN	6	2	0	4	159:161	-2	4:8	3rd Gr. H	
2009/10 Pick Szeged HUN	10	2	2	6	287:307	-20	6:14	5th Gr. A	
2010/11 Pick Szeged HUN	12	5	0	7	336:351	-15	10:14	Last 16	
2011/12 Pick Szeged HUN	10	3	0	7	285:316	-31	6:14	5th Gr. D	
2012/13 Pick Szeged HUN	12	4	0	8	313:350	-37	8:16	Last 16	
2014/15 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	14	9	1	4	395:383	+12	19:9	1/4-finals	
2015/16 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	16	8	1	7	466:455	+11	17:15	Last 16	
2016/17 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	18	10	2	6	492:458	+34	22:14	1/4-finals	
2017/18 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	16	7	1	8	471:467	+4	15:17	Last 16	
2018/19 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	18	12	2	4	508:489	+19	26:10	1/4-finals	
Total	186	88	15	83	5158:5133	+25	191:181		



Juan Carlos Pastor

coach

- one of the masterminds of contemporary handball, winning a lot of silverware during his career
- Szeged wanted him to rebuild their team in order to be able to challenge Veszprém for the Hungarian title, which they finally won again in 2018
- won the EHF Cup in his first year at the helm
- became also the sporting director after Szeged legend Richárd Mezei resigned

EC trophies: CWC 2009, EHF Cup 2014
WCh: G 2005; EURO: S 2006; OG: B 2008

Newcomers:

Roland Mikler (Telekom Veszprém/HUN)
Luka Stepanic (PSG/FRA)
Bogdan Radivojevic (Rhein-Neckar Löwen/GER)
Miklós Rosta (Grundfos Tatabánya KC/HUN)

Left the club:

Marin Sego (Montpellier HB/FRA)
Pedro Rodríguez Alvarez (Balatonfüredi KSE/HUN)
Zsolt Balogh (Grundfos Tatabánya KC/HUN)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
32	Mirko	Alilovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	15/09/1985	Ljubuski, BIH	200	110
39	Bruno	Bajusz	HUN	Left Wing	25/05/2001	Szeged, HUN	193	78
27	Bence	Banhidi	HUN	Line Player	09/02/1995	Győr, HUN	202	127
21	Alen	Blazevic	CRO	Left Back	29/03/1986	Nasice, CRO	200	105
9	Richard	Bodo	HUN	Left Back	13/03/1993	Mateszalka, HUN	203	110
44	Dean	Bombac	SLO	Centre Back	04/04/1989	Koper, SLO	188	92
14	Joan	Cañellas	ESP	Centre Back	30/09/1986	St. Maria de Palau, ESP	198	100
18	Csaba	Csiki	HUN	Left Back	15/03/2001	Makó, HUN	193	90
22	Matej	Gaber	SLO	Line Player	22/07/1991	Kranj, SLO	198	110
15	Nik	Henigman	SLO	Left Back	04/12/1995	Ljubljana, SLO	199	95
C 8	Jonas	Källman	SWE	Left Wing	17/07/1981	Växjö, SWE	200	95
37	Stanislav	Kasperek	CZE	Right Back	11/06/1996	Prerov, CZE	200	85
3	Marcell	Lörincz	HUN	Line Player	18/10/2001	Gyöngyös, HUN	188	86
5	Jorge	Maqueda Pena	ESP	Right Back	06/02/1988	Toledo, ESP	195	102
1	Barnabas	Marczika	HUN	Goalkeeper	09/05/2001	Szeged, HUN	186	84
16	Roland	Mikler	HUN	Goalkeeper	20/09/1984	Dunaujvaros, HUN	190	100
52	Martin	Nagy	HUN	Goalkeeper	09/01/1999	Szeged, HUN	204	92
14	Bogdan	Radivojevic	SRB	Right Wing	02/03/1993	Beograd, SRB	192	80
45	Miklos	Rosta	HUN	Line Player	14/02/1999	Győr, HUN	200	120
34	Balint	Rosta	HUN	Line Player	22/05/2001	Győr, HUN	194	110
10	Stefan Rafn	Sigurmannsson	ISL	Left Wing	19/05/1990	Hafnarfjörður, ISL	197	101
24	Mario	Sostaric	SLO	Right Wing	25/11/1992	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	193	87
7	Luka	Stepancic	CRO	Right Back	20/11/1990	Pula, CRO	203	105
77	Martin Jozsef	Tökes	HUN	Left Back	24/08/2000	Békéscsaba, HUN	189	77
89	Dmitry	Zhitnikov	RUS	Left Back	20/11/1989	Zvolen, SVK	193	90



Mirko Alilovic

 @mirko.alilovic

goalkeeper

- arrived in the summer of 2018 from the biggest national rival, Veszprém
- like his predecessor, Dejan Peric, he is one of the outstanding goalkeepers who can inspire teammates and fans alike
- Croatian national team member, who will be fighting to become first-choice keeper at Szeged with Roland Mikler



Jonas Källman

 @jonas_kallman

left wing

- signed in the winter of 2013/14 and showed his ability to defend in three positions
- vital part of both coach Juan Carlos Pastor's defensive variations and Szeged's attacking edge
- spent more than a decade in Spain with Ciudad Real and Atlético Madrid before returning home (IFK Skövde) and ultimately signing with Szeged
- the Swede is one of the survivors of the many changes in the Szeged locker-room



Luka Stepanic

 @lukastepanic7

right back

- left PSG in the summer of 2019 after three seasons for more playing time
- Szeged is only the third team in his career
- won bronze at the WCh in 2013

WCh: B 2013



Dmitry Zhitnikov

 @zhita89

centre back

- comes from Krasnodar, where his first coach at the local school was his father
- a talented player at age 16, he was invited to Chekhov where he played five seasons in the reserve team before enjoying his breakthrough
- member of the Russian national team, who joined Szeged in the summer of 2017 after two seasons with Plock



Matej Gaber

@matejg22

line player

- signed by Szeged at the start of 2016/17, and has since justified his 'hard-defending' reputation
- is a regular in the Slovenian national team, having represented his country more than 100 times
- previously played for Montpellier, where he gained considerable CL experience

WCh: B 2017



Bence Banhidi

@banhidibence27

line player

- only started playing handball at age 14, as a back-court player at his local club Győr
- named junior handball player of the year in Hungary in 2015, a year after his debut in the national team at age 18
- enjoying a good spell of form since 2016/17, sharing playing time at the line player position with Slovenian defensive specialist Matej Gaber

EC trophies: CL 2017
EURO: S 2016, B 2014, WCh: G 2013, B 2011



Jorge Maqueda

@maqueda15

right back

- arrived in Szeged at the beginning of the 2018/19 season
- previously played for Barça, Alcobendas, Aragon, Nantes, and Vardar, the team he won the CL with in 2017
- world-class defender, who was part of the inaugural EHF Cup Finals 2013 in Nantes, finishing runners-up to the hosting team

EC trophies: CL 2017
EURO: S 2016, B 2014; WCh: G 2013, B 2011



Mario Sostaric

@mario.sostaric24

right wing

- joined Szeged from Velenje in 2017 on personal request by coach Pastor, and scored 23 goals in his first season in Hungary
- sharing time on court with Pedro Rodriguez Alvarez
- facing stiff competition from Gajic and Marguc on his position in the national Slovenian team
- voted to the All-star Teams of EURO 2011 and WCh 2012 on junior level

GROUP A

RUKOMETNI KLUB
PRVO PLINARSKO DRUŠTVO
ZAGREB



Club Address

HC PPD Zagreb
Veprinacka 16
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

Media contact

Jelena Matesic
+385 911 99 93 51
jelena.matesic@rk-zagreb.hr

 www.rk-zagreb.hr

 RKZagreb

 @RKZagreb

 @rkzagreb_official

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: yellow

HC PPD Zagreb



HC PPD Zagreb had a great season. After missing the Last 16 in the VELUX EHF Champions League 2017/18 for the first time in four years, they went back on track last season. Reaching the Last 16 was one of the goals at the start of last season. And after head coach Branko Tamse replaced Lino Cervar halfway through the season, Zagreb finished sixth in Group B. Zagreb also secured second place in the SEHA-Gazprom League, won the Croatian cup and won 10 out of 10 matches in the play-offs of the national championship: with their 28th domestic title came their record 26th participation in the VELUX EHF Champions League.

“Playing the Champions League is a dream come true to every player and every club wants to be a part of this prestigious competition. We are very proud that our club is one of the corner-stones of EHF Champions League and we are honoured to be able to present our country and our city all over Europe,” says Josip Valcic, sports director and a former player of Zagreb.

The objectives for the upcoming season are the same as the year before: getting to the Last 16. “We know this is a difficult task but we are already used to playing against the best teams in Europe and we see our chance to achieve this goal again this season,” Valcic says. “Of course we hope to make a step further and go all the way to the quarter-final but everything beyond the Last 16 would be an amazing achievement.” The last time Zagreb played in the quarter-final was back in 2015/16.

Interesting opponents are waiting for Zagreb in Group B, starting with an highly anticipated home game against Paris SG. Another home game, against Barça, will bring back memories from the mid-90s when Zagreb and Barça contested three EHF Champions League Finals against each other.



Playing hall

Arena Zagreb
Laniste b.,
10000 Zagreb
Croatia
Capacity: 15,200

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 26
Runners-up (4): 1994/95, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99
Semi-final (1): 1999/00
Quarter-final (7): 2000/01, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2008/09, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16
Last 16 (5): 2005/06, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2018/19
Main Round (1): 2007/08
Group Phase (7): 1993/94, 1995/96, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2017/18

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 2004/05, Semi-finals 2006/07
(IHF) European Champions Cup: 2 titles (1991/92, 1992/93)
SEHA League: 1 title (2013)
Croatian league: 28 titles (1992-2019)
Croatian Cup winner: 25 times



11 MATCHES
Longest run without win

38 GOALS
Most goals

69 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	34:15 (16:8) v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH (h), 04.12.2010
Biggest defeat	43:21 (23:10) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 18.04.2015
Longest winning run	6 matches (12.12.1998 – 27.02.1999)
Longest unbeaten run	6 matches (09.11.1996 – 18.01.1997) 6 matches (12.12.1998 – 27.02.1999) 6 matches (30.10.1999 – 05.12.1999) 6 matches (04.10.2008 – 22.11.2008)
Longest losing run	7 matches (11.10.2012 – 16.02.2013)
Longest run without win	11 matches (25.03.2017 – 23.11.2017)
Most goals	38 v Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI 38:30W (h), 23.02.2013
Most goals opponent	43 v FC Barcelona ESP 43:21L (a), 18.04.2015
Most goals both teams	69 v FC Barcelona Borges ESP 36:33L (a), 03.04.2010
Fewest goals	15 v Portland San Antonio ESP 31:15L (a), 22.10.2005
Fewest goals opponent	13 v THW Kiel GER 22:13W (h), 25.03.2000 13 v Pelister Bitola MKD 37:13W (h), 16.10.2005
Fewest goals both teams	36 v ZTR Zaporozhye UKR 18:18D (a), 20.11.1999 36 v HC Metalurg MKD 19:17W (h), 11.10.2014

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1993/94 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	6	0	2	4	135:147	-12	2:10		4th Gr. A
1994/95 Badel Zagreb CRO	8	5	1	2	203:203	0	11:5		Runner-up
1995/96 Croatia Banka Zagreb CRO	6	2	1	3	138:144	-6	5:7		3rd Gr. B
1996/97 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	6	3	3	310:294	+16	15:9		Runner-up
1997/98 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	7	0	5	300:287	+13	14:10		Runner-up
1998/99 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	8	1	3	288:269	+19	17:7		Runner-up
1999/00 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	10	7	1	2	260:230	+30	15:5		1/2-finals
2000/01 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	8	4	1	3	195:192	+3	9:7		1/4-finals
2002/03 RK Zagreb CRO	8	3	2	3	209:216	-7	8:8		1/4-finals
2003/04 RK Zagreb CRO	10	4	0	6	273:258	+15	8:12		1/4-finals
2004/05 RK Zagreb CRO	6	3	0	3	165:170	-5	6:6		3rd Gr. B
2005/06 RK Zagreb CRO	8	5	1	2	212:194	+18	11:5		Last 16
2006/07 RK Zagreb CRO	6	3	0	3	153:148	+5	6:6		3rd Gr. D
2007/08 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	5	1	6	339:344	-5	11:13		3rd MR Gr. 3
2008/09 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	7	3	2	357:313	+44	17:7		1/4-finals
2009/10 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	6	0	6	351:335	+16	12:12		Last 16
2010/11 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	6	3	3	358:319	+39	15:9		Last 16
2011/12 Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	14	9	1	4	391:359	+32	19:9		1/4-finals
2012/13 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	10	2	1	7	266:284	-18	5:15		5th Gr. D
2013/14 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	10	4	0	6	267:282	-15	8:12		5th Gr. A
2014/15 HC PPD Zagreb CRO	14	7	0	7	328:356	-28	14:14		1/4-finals
2015/16 HC PPD Zagreb CRO	18	6	2	10	464:480	-16	14:22		1/4-finals
2016/17 HC PPD Zagreb CRO	16	4	1	11	373:408	-35	9:23		Last 16
2017/18 HC PPD Zagreb CRO	14	2	2	10	349:396	-47	6:22		8th Gr. A
2018/19 HC PPD Zagreb CRO	16	4	3	9	407:447	-40	11:21		6th Gr. B
Total	272	119	30	123	7091:7075	+16	268:276		



Branko Tamse

coach

- came to PPD Zagreb three months after his departure from Celje with a deal until the end of the 2019/20 season
- was a right wing in Gorenje Velenje before a serious knee injury saw him take up coaching at the club, staying there until 2013
- coached Celje Pivovarna Lasko from 2014 to 2018, winning 14 domestic trophies - league, cup and super cup
- known for his coaching qualities and recognising young talents

Newcomers:

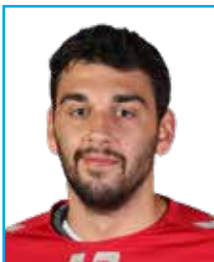
Gaspar Hrastnik (Nexe/CRO)
Marin Sipic (Nexe /CRO)
Darko Stojnic (Gorenje Velenje/SLO)
Aleksander Spende (Metalurg/MKD)
Nenad Kostaske (Struga/MKD)
Ante Gadza (RK Nexe/CRO)
Matej Asanin (TSG Ludwigshafen-Friesenheim/GER)
Kristian Beciri (RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko/SLO)

Left the club:

Urh Kastelic (TPSG Frisch auf Göppingen/GER)
Gregor Potocnik (CSurgoi KK/HUN)
Nikola Potic (HBC Nantes/FRA)
Senjamin Buric (HBC Nantes/FRA)
Leon Susnja (Wisla Plock/POL)
Tin Kontrec (VFL Gummersbach/GER)
Artur Karvatski (Eurofarm Rabotnik/MKD)
Lovro Jotic (Eurofarm Rabotnik/MKD)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
16	Matej	Asanin	CRO	Goalkeeper	04/09/1993	Zagreb, CRO	206	110
80	Kristian	Beciri	CRO	Line Player	14/06/1994	Heppenheim, GER	202	120
77	Damir	Bicanic	CRO	Left Back	29/06/1985	Vukovar, CRO	195	98
8	Josip	Bozic Pavletic	CRO	Right Wing	06/08/1994	Split, CRO	188	85
6	Davor	Cavar	CRO	Left Wing	07/12/1995	Zagreb, CRO	188	84
34	Ante	Gadža	CRO	Centre Back	26/08/1992	Zagreb, CRO	194	96
C 18	Zlatko	Horvat	CRO	Right Wing	25/09/1984	Zagreb, CRO	179	87
9	Gasper	Hrastnik	SLO	Right Back	13/11/1992	Kranj, SLO	194	95
44	Matej	Hrstic	CRO	Left Back	11/08/1996	Ljubuski, BIH	197	102
12	Arian	Jovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	18/06/1996	Zagreb, CRO	184	90
19	Nenad	Kosteski	MKD	Right Wing	04/03/2001	Struga, MKD	189	77
7	David	Mandic	CRO	Left Wing	14/09/1997	Ljubuški, BIH	187	87
5	Luka	Mrakovcic	CRO	Centre Back	22/09/1994	Rijeka, CRO	191	88
33	Valentino	Ravnic	CRO	Left Wing	20/07/1995	Zadar, CRO	190	82
1	Radivoje	Ristanovic	MNE	Goalkeeper	02/12/1982	Belgrad, SRB	200	105
2	Marin	Sipic	CRO	Line Player	29/04/1996	Bad Soden a/T., GER	190	107
24	Aleksander	Spende	SLO	Left Back	24/07/1993	Ljubljana, SLO	200	85
15	Darko	Stojnic	SLO	Line Player	03/04/1997	Ljubljana, SLO	200	113
97	Josip	Vekic	CRO	Right Back	16/03/1998	Metkovic, CRO	210	100
4	Filip	Vistorop	CRO	Centre Back	29/04/1998	Mostar, BIH	194	90
88	Aleks	Vlah	SLO	Centre Back	22/07/1997	Izola, SLO	192	90



Matej Asanin

 @matt16_as

goalkeeper

- returned to Zagreb, from TSG Friesenheim (GER), in the summer of 2019
- also played for Split, Varazdin (CRO), Leon (ESP), Balingen (GER) and Sporting (POR)
- was a member of Croatian youth and junior national teams
- won gold with Croatia at the 2018 Mediterranean Games in Tarragona

WCh: B 2017



David Mandić

 @david.mandic_7

left wing

- came from Izvidac CO (BIH) in the summer of 2018, now into his second CL season
- played for Croatia at WCh 2019, and won gold at the 2018 Mediterranean Games
- besides being efficient in attack, he also possesses great defensive skills



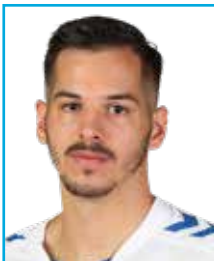
Damir Bicanic

 @bicko77

left back

- returned to Zagreb for 2017/2018 season after 10 years of playing abroad
- born in Vukovar, Croatia, but started his career in Umag
- played for Umag, Osijek, Medvescak, Zagreb, Ademar Leon and Chambéry Savoie
- one of the oldest and most experienced players at the club

OG: B2012, EURO: S 2010, B 2012, WCh B 2013



Ante Gadza

 @antee4

centre back

- coming back to Zagreb after five seasons at another Croatian club, Nexė
- was youth player at PPD Zagreb; also played for Ivanić, Dugo Selo, Medvescak, Umag
- started to play handball at the age of nine
- at 26, made debut for Croatia against Serbia EHF EURO 2020 Qualifier

**Marin Sipic**

@msipic2

line player

- came to PPD Zagreb prior to 2019/2020 from Nexe (CRO)
- will share position with Kristian Beciri (CRO) and Darko Stojnic (SLO) after Senjamin Buric, Leon Susnja and Tin Kontrec all left the club
- member of Croatia team that won gold at 2018 Mediterranean Games in Tarragona
- learned to play handball at the Balic&Metlicic Academy in Split (CRO)
- also played for Split and GRK Varazdin 1930 in Croatia

**Josip Vekic****right back**

- came to PPD Zagreb in 2016/17 season from Metkovic, where he started his career
- won silver with Croatia at Junior WCh 2019 in Spain
- the young left-handed right back is a defensive specialist
- previously played football before switching to handball

**Gasper Hrastnik**

@hrastnik18

right back

- born in Kranj (SLO), but first played handball in Skofja Loka (SLO)
- also played for Koper, Maribor, CSM Bucuresti and Istres Provence Handball
- returning from shoulder injury he sustained early 2019
- was a member of Slovenian youth and junior national teams

**Zlatko Horvat**

@horvat_zlatko

right wing

- captain of the team and most experienced player in the squad
- is a counter-attack specialist, but also an important part of the defence
- made national-team debut in 2006, has won five major championship medals
- with Zagreb from the beginning of his career, played already 16 CL campaigns

OG B 2012, EURO S 2008, B 2012, B 2016, WCh S 2009, B 2013

GROUP A



ELVERUM
HÅNDBALL

Club Address

Elverum Handball
Postboks 295
2403 Elverum
Norway

Media contact

Kalle Bjørkman
+47 904 77 605
kalle@ehh.no

 www.ehh.no

 elverumhandball

 @ElverumHandball

 @elverumhandball

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

Alternative Playing hall

Hakons Hall
Nordsetervegen 45
2601 Lillehammer
Norway
Capacity: 12,400

Elverum Handball



Having won the Norwegian championship for the seventh time in a row and qualifying for their fifth consecutive season in the VELUX EHF Champions League Group Phase, Elverum Handball have finally made the leap to Groups A/B. It will be fascinating to see what the Norwegian champions can do in Group A, where they will be taking on opponents of a different calibre than they have been used to in recent seasons.

They will definitely not be suffering under the burden of being favourites against teams such as Paris Saint-Germain Handball, Barça, SG Flensburg-Handewitt and MOL-Pick Szeged. New team captain, Icelandic right wing Sigvaldi Gudjonsson, realises it will be tough, but also exciting: "This CL season will be a very tough one for Elverum, but we are also very excited about being among the best teams in the world in Group A. Every opponent in the group phase is very strong and with a lot of star players. As a team, we will gain a lot of experience competing against these teams, and especially the away games will be very tough."

Changes in the squad is nothing new to the Norwegian champions who have managed those situations very well in the past. A crucial spot will be the goalkeeper positions, where legendary Morten Nergaard has ended his career. Thorsten Fries, who has been considered a huge goalkeeper talent in Denmark for many years now, really gets the chance to develop and display his potential after his arrival from SønderjyskE.

In the attack, the signing of players like Sebastian Henneberg and Alexander Blonz are interesting, while Rasmus Boysen should guarantee a boost to the team's defensive strength.

When it comes to Elverum's chances of reaching the Last 16, their home games and the support from the enthusiastic fans in the Terningen Arena, and the record crowd against PSG in Lillehammer, will be crucial in this respect. "Our club wants to show that we are good enough for the future of the EHF Champions League – both on and off the court," says managing director Mads Frederiksen.

**Playing hall**

Terningen Arena
Hamarvegen 112
2418 Elverum
Norway
Capacity: 2,400

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League
Participations (including 2019/20 season): 6
Group Phase (4): 2015/16, 2016/2017,
2017/18, 2018/19
Qualification (1): 2013/14

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 2010/11
EHF Cup: Group Phase 2012/13

Norwegian play off: 10 titles (1995, 2008,
2012-19)

Norwegian league: 3 titles (2013, 2017, 2018)
Norwegian Cup: 1 title



3 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

72 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	40:32 (19:15) v Dinamo Bucuresti ROU (h), 08.10.2017
Biggest defeat	23:37 (12:18) v Skjern Handbold DEN (h), 27.09.2015
Longest winning run	4 matches (30.09.2018 – 03.11.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	4 matches (30.09.2018 – 03.11.2018)
Longest losing run	4 matches (18.10.2015 – 22.11.2015)
Longest run without win	7 matches (27.09.2015 – 22.11.2015)
Most goals	40 v Dinamo Bucuresti ROU 40:32W (h), 08.10.2017
Most goals opponent	37 v Skjern Handbold DEN 23:37L (h), 27.09.2015
Most goals both teams	72 v Dinamo Bucuresti ROU 40:32W (h), 08.10.2017
Fewest goals	17 v HC Metalurg MKD 18:17L (a), 24.09.2016
Fewest goals opponent	18 v HC Metalurg MKD 18:17L (a), 24.09.2016
Fewest goals both teams	35 v HC Metalurg MKD 18:17L (a), 24.09.2016

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2015/16 Elverum Handball Herrer NOR	10	3	1	6	274:289	-15	7:13	5th Gr. D	
2016/17 Elverum Handball NOR	10	3	2	5	257:274	-17	8:12	5th Gr. C	
2017/18 Elverum Handball NOR	10	5	0	5	287:304	-17	10:10	4th Gr. C	
2018/19 Elverum Handball NOR	10	6	1	3	278:272	+6	13:7	3rd Gr. D	
Total	40	17	4	19	1096:1139	-43	38:42		



 @Apel84

Michael Apelgren

coach

- joined Elverum as a playing head coach in 2014, has been only coaching since 2016
- had a long playing career as centre back with various top clubs in his Swedish homeland and in Spain
- dynamic coach, always looking for new ways and willing to try new methods
- will move to Swedish side IK Sävehof after 2019/20 season

Newcomers:

Rasmus Boysen (Ribe Esbjerg/DEN)
 Sebastian Henneberg (Aarhus/DEN)
 Thorsten Fries (Sønderjyske/DEN)
 Tobias Grøndahl (Haslum/NOR)
 Thomas Solstad (Halden/NOR)
 Alexander Blonz (Viking/NOR)
 Sander Wennberg Linderud (Halden/NOR, was on loan)

Left the club:

Søren Tau (TTH Holstebro/DEN)
 Morten Nergaard (retired)
 Tine Poklar (HC Alpla Hard/AUT)
 Håkon Ekren (Cherbourg/FRA)
 Audun Breen Rørågen (Sandnes/NOR)
 Alexander Mitrovic (Halden/NOR, on loan)
 Thrainn Orri Jonsson (BSV Silkeborg/DEN)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
71	Alexandre	Blonz	NOR	Left Wing	17/04/2000	Stavanger, NOR	189	84
6	Rasmus Hjarnø	Boysen	DEN	Back	14/10/1992	Tonder, DEN	191	100
18	Jonas	Burud	NOR	Right Back	20/10/1993	Oslo, NOR	195	97
26	Jonas Myreng	Elverhøy	NOR	Left Back	31/12/2000	Elverum, NOR	204	103
23	Magnus	Fredriksen	NOR	Centre Back	24/05/1997	Hokksund, NOR	188	99
16	Thorsten	Fries	DEN	Goalkeeper	22/01/1993	Tønder, DEN	197	94
15	Tobias	Grøndahl	NOR	Centre Back	22/01/2001	Bærum, NOR	182	83
C 48	Sigvaldi Björn	Gudjonsson	ISL	Right Wing	04/07/1994	Reykjavik, ISL	193	90
1	Jesper	Gulliksen	NOR	Goalkeeper	07/09/1999	Skien, NOR	191	110
99	Sebastian	Henneberg	DEN	Back	18/02/1994	Viborg, DEN	197	101
12	Emil Kheri	Imsgard	NOR	Goalkeeper	06/03/1998	Hamar, NOR	196	98
20	Endre	Langaas	NOR	Line Player	05/10/1991	Trondheim, NOR	184	99
4	Sander	Wennberg	NOR	Back	01/07/1999	Oslo, NOR	187	90
2	Didrik	Wennberg	NOR	Right Wing	07/12/1995	Oslo, NOR	183	85
17	Kristian Krag	Ørsted	DEN	Line Player	22/05/1995	Århus, DEN	210	132
9	Simen Holand	Pettersen	NOR	Left Back	08/04/1998	Tønsberg, NOR	188	93
11	Lukas	Sandell	SWE	Right Back	03/02/1997	Reslöv, SWE	192	91
44	Thomas	Solstad	NOR	Line Player	26/02/1997	Ski, NOR	194	109
7	Alexander	Ørjevik Westby	NOR	Left Wing	26/03/1993	Lørenskog, NOR	180	82



Thorsten Fries
goalkeeper

 @thorstenfries22

- joined in the summer of 2019 from SønderjyskE in his homeland, Denmark
- succeeds former Norway international Morten Nergaard, who has ended his career
- started career at KIF Kolding but had breakthrough with SønderjyskE
- tall and upright goalkeeper, at 26 still with many good years ahead of him



Alexander Blonz
left wing

 @alexanderblonz

- still only 19, joined from Viking HK in the summer of 2019
- made debut for Norwegian national team at Gjensidige Cup just before WCh 2019
- made headlines during WCh 2019 with some stellar performances
- very fast and technically highly skilled wing with huge potential

WCh: S 2019



Simen Holand Pettersen
left back

 @simenptrsn

- in his second season with Elverum after joining from Sandefjord IF in 2018
- son of former national team coach Gunnar Pettersen
- made debut for national team against Spain in EHF EURO Cup 2020 on 15 June 2019
- scored 16 goals from 16 attempts in a junior international against Romania in 2017
- one of few back-court players who shoots almost equally well with both hands



Rasmus Boysen
left back

 @boysenrasmus

- joined from Danish side Ribe Esbjerg HH in the summer of 2019
- previously played many seasons for Danish top club Skjern Handbold
- big and physically strong player, whose main qualities are in defence
- well-known for displaying his extensive knowledge of handball on social media



Sebastian Henneberg

 @seboviz

centre back

- joined from Danish side Aarhus Handbold in the summer of 2019
- Aarhus' Danish league rivals Aalborg Handbold also tried to sign him
- capable of playing all three back-court positions
- has a large variety of shots, a fine eye for the game and is good at one-on-one



Thomas Solstad

 @thomasolstad

line player

- joined from BK Halden in the summer of 2019
- has been a regular in Norway's youth and junior national teams
- is forming a reliable line player duo with Endre Langaas
- strong player, at 1.94 metre and with 107 kg, who is good at both ends of the court



Lukas Sandell

 @lukassandell

right back

- in his second season with Elverum after joining from Ystad IF in the summer of 2018
- learned a lot from the legendary Kim Andersson in Ystad
- played a great first season, replacing Danish back Nikolai Mehl well
- in possession of a great variety of shots and plenty of speed



Sigvaldi Gudjonsson

 @sigvaldigudjonsson

right wing

- came to Elverum from Danish side Aarhus Handbold ahead of the 2018/19 season
- advanced to team captain after just one season in Elverum
- was part of the Icelandic team at the WCh 2019 in Denmark and Germany
- very reliable from his wing position, with a rich variety of shots

GROUP A

**Club Address**

Celje Pivovarna Lasko
Opekarniska Cesta 15
3000 Celje
Slovenia

Media contact

Miha Pantelic
+386 51 427 590
miha.pantelic@rk-celje.si

**Kit colours****Light**

Player shirt: yellow-blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: black

Dark

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

RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko



Fans of RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko have been used to huge roster changes over the past years. This time, nine players have left and eight are new at the Slovenian club. However, the ambitions remain the same going into Celje's 25th season in the VELUX EHF Champions League: finally getting back to the Last 16 again, which the former champions have missed for five seasons in a row.

Celje's handball philosophy of the last decade and a half has not changed: youngsters will once again step into the shoes of the experienced players who left. But the Slovenian champions will be much more Slovenian this time with Vid Poteko returning from Belarus, Jan Grebenc returning home from Denmark and Patrik Leban from Croatia. Also, the loan deal with FC Porto Sofarma for talented right back Diogo Silva seems very promising. Coach Tomaz Ocvirk had a chance to form the team for the first time after taking over from Branko Tamse early last season. The style of play might change a bit, with emphasis on high-speed attacking.

Celje are targetting a place in the Last 16 for the first time since 2014, and Group A seems to offer the chance for it. No team will leave the Zlatorog hall without leaving a lot of sweat. Last year an average of 4500 fans per match were like Celje's eighth player. The rivalry with PPD Zagreb will continue and could be a key factor in the fight for a top-six finish. Celje will play Elverum for the first time but have crossed paths with all other opponents before.

Last season Celje secured the Slovenian title with more challenges than they were used to in the past few years. But just being a part of the club that continuously plays on the top European level brings courage to mostly young players. "We believe that this team is capable of big things. Every year we present new players that can play Champions League. And doing that is our goal," team manager Rok Plankelj says. "But of course we always try to achieve whatever is possible to win matches and to proceed to the next round."

**Playing hall**

Dvorana Zlatorog
Opekarniska cesta 15
3000 Celje
Slovenia
Capacity: 5,200

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 24
 Winner (1): 2003/04
 Semi-final (6): 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99,
 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2004/05
 Quarter-final (2): 2001/02, 2005/06
 Last 16 (4): 1995/96, 2006/07, 2012/13, 2013/14
 Main Round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09
 Group Phase (7): 1993/94, 1994/95, 2010/11,
 2014/15, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19
 Qualification (1): 2009/10

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2009/10
Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 2002/03, 2011/12
Slovenian league: 23 titles (1991-2001, 2003-08,
 2010, 2014-19)
Slovenian cup: 21 times



8 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

74 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	37:17 (16:9) v Redberglids IK SWE (h), 18.11.2000
Biggest defeat	43:27 (23:16) v THW Kiel GER (a), 27.02.2011
Longest winning run	6 matches (23.03.1997 – 24.01.1998)
	6 matches (25.03.2000 – 09.12.2000)
Longest unbeaten run	8 matches (31.10.2004 – 02.04.2005)
Longest losing run	7 matches (26.09.2015 – 21.11.2015)
Longest run without win	9 matches (26.09.2015 – 06.12.2015)
	9 matches (28.09.2016 – 11.02.2017)
Most goals	44 v HC 'Granitas-Karys' LTU 44:27W (h), 22.11.2008
Most goals opponent	44 v FC Barcelona Borges ESP 44:33L (a), 09.10.2010
Most goals both teams	77 v FC Barcelona Borges ESP 44:33L (a), 09.10.2010
Fewest goals	17 v UHK West Wien AUT 18:17L (a), 06.04.1994
Fewest goals opponent	16 v SG Wallau-Massenheim GER 23:16W (h), 13.02.1994
	16 v Redberglids Göteborg SWE 31:16W (h), 14.11.1998
Fewest goals both teams	35 v UHK West Wien AUT 18:17L (a), 06.04.1994

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1993/94 Celje 'Pivovarna Lasko' SLO	6	2	0	4	120:116	+4	4:8	4th Gr. A	
1996/97 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	7	1	2	254:213	+41	15:5	1/2-finals	
1997/98 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	8	0	2	268:234	+34	16:4	1/2-finals	
1998/99 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	7	1	2	290:245	+45	15:5	1/2-finals	
1999/00 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	7	0	3	294:250	+44	14:6	1/2-finals	
2000/01 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	6	1	3	292:254	+38	13:7	1/2-finals	
2001/02 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	8	6	0	2	232:217	+15	12:4	1/4-finals	
2003/04 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	10	2	2	447:398	+49	22:6	Winner	
2004/05 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	12	8	1	3	360:327	+33	17:7	1/2-finals	
2005/06 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	7	0	3	311:273	+38	14:6	1/4-finals	
2006/07 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	8	6	0	2	272:237	+35	12:4	Last 16	
2007/08 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	12	4	2	6	342:344	-2	10:14	4th MR Gr. 4	
2008/09 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	4	0	6	296:287	+9	8:12	4th MR Gr. 2	
2010/11 HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	3	0	7	300:332	-32	6:14	5th Gr. A	
2012/13 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	12	5	0	7	305:324	-19	10:14	Last 16	
2013/14 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	12	5	1	6	322:327	-5	11:13	Last 16	
2014/15 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	3	0	7	284:293	-9	6:14	5th Gr. C	
2015/16 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	3	1	10	385:398	-13	7:21	7th Gr. A	
2016/17 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	3	3	8	399:424	-25	9:19	7th Gr. B	
2017/18 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	3	1	10	398:434	-36	7:21	7th Gr. B	
2018/19 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	3	1	10	380:416	-36	7:21	8th Gr. B	
Total	230	110	15	105	6551:6343	+208	235:225		



Tomaz Ocvirk

coach

- took over from Branko Tamse as head coach in September 2018, only a few weeks after the start of the season
- has extended his contract with the club until the end of the 2020/21 season
- former player of Celje who also coached club's youth team

Newcomers:

Miljan Vujovic (Gorenje Velenje/SLO)
Tobias Cvetko (Trimo Trebnje/SLO, return from loan)
Vid Poteko (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
Stefan Zabic (RK Maribor Branik/SLO, return from loan)
Diogo Silva (FC Porto/POR)
Jan Grebenc (Skjern Handbold/DEN)
Patrik Leban (HC Nexe/CRO)
Domen Novak (MRD Dobova/SLO)

Left the club:

Drasko Nenadic (Rennes/FRA)
Jan Jurecic (Rennes/FRA)
Igor Anic (Rennes/FRA)
Jaka Malus (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
William Accambray (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
Aljaz Panjtar (RK Gorenje Velenje/SLO)
Branko Vujovc (Kielce/POL)
Kristian Beciri (HC PPD Zagreb/CRO)
Rok Ovnicek (HBC Nantes/FRA)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
2	Anze	Blagotinsek	SLO	Line Player	07/04/2001	Celje, SLO	192	91
24	Diogo	Borges da Silva	POR	Right Back	02/07/1998	Porto, POR	198	98
20	Nik	Cirovic	SLO	Centre Back	23/03/2002	Postojna, SLO	185	77
8	Tim	Cokan	SLO	Right Wing	07/06/2001	Celje, SLO	191	81
4	Tobias	Cvetko	SLO	Left Back	10/01/1997	Celje, SLO	192	92
22	Klemen	Ferlin	SLO	Goalkeeper	26/06/1989	Ljubljana, SLO	192	95
1	Gal	Gabersek	SLO	Goalkeeper	23/08/2001	Celje, SLO	199	87
28	Jan	Grebenc	SLO	Left Back	18/08/1992	Ljubljana, SLO	194	94
14	Matic	Groselj	SLO	Right Back	22/09/1997	Trbovlje, SLO	192	99
27	Kristjan	Horzen	SLO	Line Player	08/12/1999	Novo mesto, SLO	192	98
33	Tadej	Kljun	SLO	Right Back	18/04/2001	Postojna, SLO	196	79
3	Domen	Knez	SLO	Left Back	05/10/2001	Celje, SLO	199	88
25	Tilen	Kodrin	SLO	Left Wing	14/05/1994	Celje, SLO	192	89
6	Matic	Kosec	SLO	Right Back	22/02/2000	Celje, SLO	193	80
57	Patrik	Leban	SLO	Centre Back	07/09/1989	Ljubljana, SLO	187	94
34	Domen	Makuc	SLO	Centre Back	01/07/2000	Postojna, SLO	188	82
11	Gal	Marguc	SLO	Right Wing	16/11/1996	Celje, SLO	179	75
77	Domen	Novak	SLO	Right Wing	26/04/1998	Ljubljana, SLO	182	80
15	Vid	Poteko	SLO	Line Player	05/04/1991	Celje, SLO	193	94
7	Filip	Rakita	SLO	Left Wing	09/11/2001	Celje, SLO	187	74
C 9	David	Razgor	SLO	Left Wing	13/07/1989	Celje, SLO	180	78
13	Josip	Sarac	CRO	Left Back	24/02/1998	Ljubuški, BIH	201	102
16	Miljan	Vujovic	SLO	Goalkeeper	27/08/2000	Cetinje, MNE	197	101
17	Stefan	Zabic	SLO	Line Player	17/02/1999	Celje, SLO	202	100



Klemen Ferlin

 @ferlo1989

goalkeeper

- joined Celje in 2018 after four seasons with Slovenian rivals Velenje
- several injury problems in the past prevented him from showing his true potential
- in Velenje he worked with Ales Anzic, who then became goalkeeper coach in Celje



Tilen Kodrin

 @tkodrin

left wing

- returned to Celje from loan in Maribor in 2014 as one of the most talented youngsters on his position
- has won five domestic league titles in five seasons with Celje
- injuries kept him away from the courts in 2017/18 and he missed EHF EURO 2018

WCh: B 2017



Josip Sarac

 @saracjosip13

left back

- won silver medal with Croatia at Junior WCh 2019
- going into his second CL season with Celje
- netted 21 times for Celje in the CL last season



Patrik Leban

centre back

- one of the many new faces in Celje, arriving from RK Nexe in Croatia
- moved from RD Riko Ribnica to Nexe in 2017 after his national team debut
- a skilled back with an unpredictable style of play
- is a rally racing addict



Domen Makuc

 @domen.makuc

centre back

- first player born in this millennium to score a goal in the CL
- going into his fourth CL season with Celje
- helped Slovenia win the Men's 20 EHF EURO in 2018
- one of Europe's most promising talents, signed with Celje until 2022



Vid Poteko

 @vpoteko

line player

- returned to Celje in the summer of 2019 after two seasons with Meshkov Brest
- entering the ninth CL season of his career - and seventh with Celje
- represented Slovenia at the 2016 Rio Olympics



Diogo Silva

 @diogosilva_24

right back

- arrived in Celje in the summer of 2019, on loan from FC Porto
- Portuguese international, named MVP of M20 EHF EURO 2017
- played in Portuguese second division in 2017/18, helping AA Avanco to promotion



Gal Marguc

 @galmarguc

right wing

- key player for Celje since his breakthrough season in 2016/17
- younger brother of Veszprém star Gasper Marguc
- highly talented youngster, next in line of world-class Celje right wings including Dragan Gajic, Gasper Marguc and Blaz Janc
- prolific scorer for Celje in all competitions



Group B preview

THE GOOD, THE TITLE HOLDERS AND THE INEXPERIENCED

The VELUX EHF Champions League can always bring drama, surprises and roller-coaster type of games, where fans can feel their heart racing and their adrenaline stocks refilled. It happened in 2018 with Montpellier and history repeated itself in 2019, when HC Vardar defied all odds and powered on in Cologne to lift the trophy after a stupendous VELUX EHF FINAL 4.

This means the Macedonian powerhouse will have a target on its back, yet there is a certainty they will most definitely start the season as underdogs. Last season, it was the last hurrah and maybe this was the X-factor that propelled Vardar to their second VELUX EHF Champions League trophy in the past four seasons. The team did not fold, however their current incarnation will surely be a step down from what we were treated to in the past seasons. They will not have to start from scratch, but they did lose coach Roberto Garcia Parrondo, replaced by fellow Spanish coach David Pisonero, and key players of the likes of Igor Karacic and Dejan Milosavljev. Yet Vardar know how to be reborn from their ashes and this is what they tend to do this year. While the gap between them and other powerhouses seems big on paper, justified by a 34:30 loss in the IHF Super Globe's semi-finals against Kiel, their raucous fans and the team spirit could lift Vardar once again.

When David Davis was brought as a coach, it breathed a fresh air in Veszprém, as the Hungarian stronghold were back at their best. Three defeats in the last four finals would be tough for any team to swallow, but a resilient Hungarian side will try once again for the trophy that got away a many too times. Key cogs like Momir Ilic and Laszlo Nagy have retired, but it is a season with high ambitions, as the current crop of transfers, like Rasmus Lauge Schmidt, Vladimir Cupara or sharpshooter Vuko Borozan should improve the team. As always, Veszprém have their sights up high, yet consistency and mental prowess will be key once again during the season.

PGE Vive Kielce had a nightmare of a season last time, due to an unprecedented injury crisis, but the sheer amount of talent and a sturdy leadership from coach Talant Dujshabaev helped the Polish side back into the VELUX EHF FINAL 4 after a three-year hiatus. A high-octane attack and some of the best young players out there can help Kielce once again this season. Yes, experience is key to a successful season in a demanding competition like the VELUX EHF Champions League, but players like Blaz Janc, Arkadiusz Moryto, Uladislau Kulesh and the Dujshabaev brother, Alex and Daniel, have already several seasons in the elite under their belts. This can only add to the excitement and drama, regardless of Kielce losing stalwarts like Luka Cindric or Vladimir Cupara. Replacements also strengthened the Polish squad, especially goalkeeper Andreas Wolff being a reliable and top goalkeeper.



Four consecutive Last 16 berths are nearly not enough for a club whose ambitions are growing bigger on a season-to-season basis. Seven players were drafted in, while nine left in a busy summer for Meshkov Brest, who also had to replace Spanish coach Manolo Cadenas, who stepped down, with his assistant, Raul Alonso. This means the playing style will not suffer out of the box alterations, yet there is a sense of a fresh start for a team that usually is strong on their home court, but falters in away games. Keeping everything balanced is a must if Brest want their first quarter-final place in their history.



The same can be said about HC Motor Zaporozhye, a team that has been in the Last 16 phase three times in the past five seasons and knows a thing or two about how the European premium competition should be played. Progressing to the quarter-final phase is their objective, yet in a star-studded line-up this season, things are going to be much harder for the Ukrainian champions. Players from seven different countries – including Belarus, Lithuania, Estonia and Montenegro – will try to help Motor fulfil their goals, with the Ukrainian side having to rely once again on playmaker Barys Pukhouski, who has never scored less than 46 goals in the past four seasons in the VELUX EHF Champions League.



Winning the big prize always brings somewhat of a hangover, but few have experienced such a downfall like Montpellier HB did last season. In an dramatic turn of events, the French powerhouse failed to progress to the Last 16 phase and this cannot be down solely to injuries or bad decisions. Rather it took a moment to refocus and reprioritise what was important and the French side was active on the transfer market this time. They have a mastermind in Patrice Canayer and they reshuffled their side, as Vincent Gerard, Vid Kavcicnik or Michael Guigou made way for a plethora of young talents of the likes of Kylian Villedminot or Yannic Lenne. Time will tell if Montpellier was a one-trick pony or the French side can build on their success.



For the first time in the past four seasons, FC Porto Sofarma are back in the big league, but a huge challenge is in front of the Portuguese side. What the Portuguese side lack in experience, they surely will address with team spirit and grit, as they did last season, when they nearly went all the way in the AKQUINET EHF Cup Finals, only to lose the trophy against Füchse Berlin. The stakes are higher, the opponents are tougher and basically Porto will have their work cut out, but if they stay true to their roots, coach Magnus Andersson can build on their success and carry the team into the Last 16 phase.

Last, but not least, THW Kiel should be back with a bang in the VELUX EHF Champions League. The German powerhouse failed to make the cut last season after 14 consecutive years in the European premium competition, but there is a feeling that they could reach the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne with the talent they have. After 11 seasons, Alfred Gislason made way on the bench for former stalwart Filip Jicha and for the first time in many years, Kiel have managed to keep the roster more or less intact. A young core which has flair and attacking prowess will be Kiel's main weapon this season, as the "Zebras" already made waves in the IHF Super Globe, losing the final, 34:32, against Barça.

Group B head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group B opponents in the EC

HC Vardar vs Telekom Veszprém HC 2-1-6 (230:247) 5:13

10.11.2001	Vardar Vatrost. Skopje vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Group D	24:27 (11:10)
08.12.2001	Fotex KC Veszprém vs Vardar Vatrost. Skopje, EHF Champions League – Group D	27:22 (14:10)
15.11.2014	HC Vardar vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	23:24 (11:13)
22.11.2014	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	32:24 (16:10)
23.04.2016	HC Vardar vs MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	26:29 (9:12)
30.04.2016	MVM Veszprém vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	30:30 (12:14)
29.09.2018	Telekom Veszprém HC vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:27 (11:13)
16.02.2019	HC Vardar vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:29 (16:11)
02.06.2019	HC Vardar vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Final	27:24 (16:11)

HC Vardar vs PGE VIVE Kielce 3-0-5 (224:221) 6:10

11.04.2015	HC Vardar vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	20:22 (11:11)
19.04.2015	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	33:31 (16:14)
24.10.2015	HC Vardar vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	34:24 (18:14)
28.11.2015	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	23:20 (10:6)
12.11.2016	HC Vardar vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	40:34 (18:18)
04.12.2016	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:24 (15:12)
14.10.2018	PGE Vive Kielce vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	31:27 (16:15)
01.12.2018	HC Vardar vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:27 (14:11)

HC Vardar vs HC Meshkov Brest 2-1-1 (118:111) 5:3

01.10.2016	HC Vardar vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:27 (13:13)
04.03.2017	HC Meshkov Brest vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:26 (15:13)
03.11.2018	HC Vardar vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:23 (14:14)
24.11.2018	HC Meshkov Brest vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	31:31 (14:13)

HC Vardar vs HC Motor Zaporozhye

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Vardar vs Montpellier HB 5-1-1 (215:90) 11:3

19.10.2014	Montpellier Agglomeration HB vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	34:34 (19:17)
14.02.2015	HC Vardar vs Montpellier Agglomeration HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	30:26 (18:13)
20.09.2015	Montpellier HB vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	25:30 (12:9)
05.03.2016	HC Vardar vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	34:26 (17:17)
26.05.2018	HC Vardar vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Semi-final	27:28 (11:14)
15.09.2018	Montpellier HB vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	24:27 (11:12)
02.03.2019	HC Vardar vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	33:27 (16:13)

HC Vardar vs FC Porto Sofarma

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Vardar vs THW Kiel 2-0-4 (152:188) 4:8

16.11.2002	THW Kiel vs Vardar Vatrost, Skopje, EHF Champions League – Group D	34:23 (15:11)
01.12.2002	Vardar Vatrost, Skopje vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group D	27:26 (14:13)
17.10.2009	HC Vardar PRO – Skopje vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group D	23:33 (12:14)
07.03.2010	THW Kiel vs HC Vardar PRO – Skopje, EHF Champions League – Group D	39:23 (19:13)
22.04.2018	THW Kiel vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	28:29 (12:14)
29.04.2018	HC Vardar vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	27:28 (13:13)

Telekom Veszprém HC vs PGE Vive Kielce 9-1-2 (386:347) 19:5

18.10.2003	Fotex KC Veszprém vs KS 'Vive' Kielce, EHF Champions League – Group G	31:24 (21:12)
15.11.2003	KS 'Vive' Kielce vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Group G	30:41 (19:19)
17.10.2009	MKB Veszprém KC vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, EHF Champions League – Group B	33:26 (16:11)
06.03.2010	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs MKB Veszprém KC, EHF Champions League – Group B	29:32 (14:14)
02.10.2011	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs MKB Veszprém KC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	25:29 (10:17)
11.02.2012	MKB Veszprém KC vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	21:24 (13:12)
29.05.2016	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Final	39:38 (13:17, 29:29, 35:35)
15.10.2017	PGE Vive Kielce vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:32 (16:15)
02.12.2017	Telekom Veszprém HC vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:26 (15:15)
15.09.2018	Telekom Veszprém HC vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:27 (14:13)
02.03.2019	PGE Vive Kielce vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	35:36 (21:18)
01.06.2019	Telekom Veszprém HC vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Semi-final	33:30 (13:13)

Telekom Veszprém HC vs HC Meshkov Brest 4-0-0 (120:96) 8:0

30.09.2017	HC Meshkov Brest vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:29 (12:14)
17.02.2018	Telekom Veszprém HC vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	34:22 (20:11)
06.10.2018	HC Meshkov Brest vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:29 (16:15)
24.02.2019	Telekom Veszprém HC vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:20 (9:10)

Telekom Veszprém HC vs HC Motor Zaporozhye 3-0-1 (136:105) 6:2

10.10.2013	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs HC Motor Zaporozhye, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	44:27 (20:13)
22.02.2014	HC Motor Zaporozhye vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:22 (13:13)
19.03.2016	HC Motor Zaporozhye vs MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	24:29 (12:12)
26.03.2016	MVM Veszprém vs HC Motor Zaporozhye, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	41:28 (23:14)

Telekom Veszprém HC vs Montpellier HB 10-0-4 (369:331) 20:8

08.11.1998	Montpellier HB vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Group A	21:17 (12:10)
03.01.1999	Fotex KC Veszprém vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Group A	26:17 (9:8)
26.02.2006	Montpellier HB vs MKB Veszprém KC, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	23:21 (11:10)
04.03.2006	MKB Veszprém KC vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	27:22 (14:11)
22.02.2009	Montpellier HB vs MKB Veszprém KC, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 3	24:30 (11:14)
07.03.2009	MKB Veszprém KC vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 3	22:23 (11:10)
09.10.2010	MKB Veszprém KC vs Montpellier Agglomeration HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:26 (13:15)
06.03.2011	Montpellier Agglomeration HB vs MKB Veszprém KC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:24 (13:11)
12.10.2014	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs Montpellier Agglomeration HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	30:29 (14:11)
22.02.2015	Montpellier Agglomeration HB vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	20:34 (9:14)
22.04.2017	Telekom Veszprém vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	26:23 (13:10)
30.04.2017	Montpellier HB vs Telekom Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	25:30 (15:11)
13.10.2018	Montpellier HB vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:30 (16:14)
02.12.2018	Telekom Veszprém HC vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:19 (15:11)

Telekom Veszprém HC vs FC Porto Sofarma

No previous encounters in European competitions

Telekom Veszprém HC vs THW Kiel 10-0-8 (496:496) 20:16

24.01.1996	THW Kiel vs Fotex Veszprém SE, EHF Champions League – Group A	28:25 (17:15)
13.02.1996	Fotex Veszprém SE vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group A	23:21 (11:9)
25.10.2002	THW Kiel vs Fotex KC Veszprém, European Championship for Club Teams – Semi-final	23:31 (11:15)
24.02.2007	MKB Veszprém KC vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	39:36 (19:20)
01.03.2007	THW Kiel vs MKB Veszprém KC, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	39:32 (22:15)
18.10.2012	MKB Veszprém KC vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:30 (14:15)
17.02.2013	THW Kiel vs MKB Veszprém KC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:21 (17:13)
21.04.2013	THW Kiel vs MKB Veszprém KC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	32:31 (15:16)
27.04.2013	MKB Veszprém KC vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	28:29 (14:12)
31.05.2014	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Semi-final	26:29 (13:13)
30.05.2015	THW Kiel vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Semi-final	27:31 (13:13)
17.10.2015	MVM Veszprém vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:27 (17:15)
06.12.2015	THW Kiel vs MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:24 (11:12)
28.05.2016	THW Kiel vs MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Semi-final	28:31 (15:12, 25:25)
15.10.2016	Telekom Veszprém vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	21:19 (13:10)
15.02.2017	THW Kiel vs Telekom Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:27 (15:15)
08.10.2017	Telekom Veszprém HC vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:24 (12:15)
07.02.2018	THW Kiel vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	22:20 (14:9)

PGE VIVE Kielce vs HC Meshkov Brest 7-0-1 (256:222) 14:2

19.03.2016	HC Meshkov Brest vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	28:32 (14:12)
26.03.2016	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	33:30 (14:14)
24.09.2016	HC Meshkov Brest vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	24:29 (14:11)
11.03.2017	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	35:27 (15:16)
16.09.2017	HC Meshkov Brest vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:25 (15:11)
03.03.2018	PGE Vive Kielce vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:28 (20:17)
10.11.2018	HC Meshkov Brest vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:35 (13:15)
17.11.2018	PGE Vive Kielce vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	34:31 (17:16)

PGE VIVE Kielce vs HC Motor Zaporozhye 3-1-0 (125:115) 7:1

12.10.2014	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs HC Motor Zaporozhye, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	30:26 (17:14)
18.02.2015	HC Motor Zaporozhye vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	27:28 (19:10)
23.03.2019	HC Motor Zaporozhye vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	33:33 (16:16)
30.03.2019	PGE Vive Kielce vs HC Motor Zaporozhye, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	34:29 (17:12)

PGE VIVE Kielce vs Montpellier HB 4-0-4 (232:223) 8:8

15.03.2015	Montpellier Agglomeration HB vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	25:29 (13:16)
21.03.2015	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs Montpellier Agglomeration HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	31:33 (14:15)
26.09.2015	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:23 (12:11)
28.02.2016	Montpellier HB vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:32 (16:17)
26.03.2017	Montpellier HB vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	33:28 (14:16)
02.04.2017	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	26:28 (15:11)
30.09.2018	Montpellier HB vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:29 (14:16)
16.02.2019	PGE Vive Kielce vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:28 (11:14)

PGE VIVE Kielce vs FC Porto Sofarma 3-0-0 (102:76) 6:0

04.09.2009	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs FC Porto/Vitalis, EHF Champions League – Qualification Tournament 4	32:23 (14:9)
29.09.2013	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs FC Porto Vitalis, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	35:23 (16:13)
07.02.2014	FC Porto Vitalis vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:35 (14:16)
16.02.2019	PGE Vive Kielce vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:28 (11:14)

PGE VIVE Kielce vs THW Kiel 6-1-3 (293:290) 13:7

21.02.1998	Jskra Ceresit Kielce vs THW Kiel, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	28:27 (16:12)
01.03.1998	THW Kiel vs Jskra Ceresit Kielce, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	31:26 (16:11)
10.10.2010	THW Kiel vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	33:29 (16:13)
06.03.2011	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:36 (11:18)
02.06.2013	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Place 3/4	31:30 (19:12)
19.10.2013	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	34:29 (17:11)
16.02.2014	THW Kiel vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:28 (13:16)
31.05.2015	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Place 3/4	28:26 (12:12)
24.09.2017	PGE Vive Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:21 (18:11)
24.02.2018	THW Kiel vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	29:30 (17:16)

HC Meshkov Brest vs HC Motor Zaporozhye

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Meshkov Brest vs Montpellier HB 1-0-1 (49:52) 2:2

22.09.2018	HC Meshkov Brest vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:23 (13:10)
09.02.2019	Montpellier HB vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:23 (15:11)

HC Meshkov Brest vs FC Porto Sofarma 3-0-1 (82:56) 6:2

2004/2005	Brestskiy HC Meshkovo vs FC do Porto, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round	10:0 (0:0)*
2004/2005	Brestskiy HC Meshkovo vs FC do Porto, EHF Champions League – Qualification Round	10:0 (0:0)*
17.10.2015	Futebol Clube do Porto vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	29:28 (16:11)
24.10.2015	HC Meshkov Brest vs Futebol Clube do Porto, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	34:27 (17:12)

HC Meshkov Brest vs THW Kiel 0-0-6 (152:188) 0:12

01.10.2005	THW Kiel vs Brest HC Meshkov, EHF Champions League – Group E	35:28 (19:11)
06.11.2005	Brest HC Meshkov vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group E	31:37 (15:21)
09.10.2014	HC Meshkov Brest vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	24:25 (11:11)
19.02.2015	THW Kiel vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	33:22 (17:11)
04.11.2017	HC Meshkov Brest vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	24:25 (14:12)
25.11.2017	THW Kiel vs HC Meshkov Brest, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:23 (15:10)

HC Motor Zaporozhye vs Montpellier HB 1-1-2 (114:123) 3:5

04.03.2017	HC Motor Zaporozhye vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Elimination Round C+D	34:36 (15:18)
11.03.2017	Montpellier HB vs HC Motor Zaporozhye, VELUX EHF Champions League – Elimination Round C+D	29:29 (14:13)
01.10.2017	Montpellier HB vs HC Motor Zaporozhye, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	28:20 (18:13)
03.12.2017	HC Motor Zaporozhye vs Montpellier HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	31:30 (14:12)

HC Motor Zaporozhye vs THW Kiel 0-0-2 (56:71) 0:4

20.03.2014	HC Motor Zaporozhye vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	28:31 (14:16)
30.03.2014	THW Kiel vs HC Motor Zaporozhye, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	40:28 (20:13)

Montpellier HB vs FC Porto Sofarma

No previous encounters in European competitions

Montpellier HB vs THW Kiel 1-0-5 (148:170) 2:10

31.10.1999	Montpellier HB vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group A	19:23 (8:12)
28.11.1999	THW Kiel vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Group A	24:18 (12:6)
29.09.2007	Montpellier HB vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group B	32:34 (12:20)
15.11.2007	THW Kiel vs Montpellier HB, EHF Champions League – Group B	32:24 (18:14)
09.10.2011	THW Kiel vs Montpellier Agglomeration HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	23:24 (14:10)
04.12.2011	Montpellier Agglomeration HB vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	31:34 (17:16)

FC Porto Sofarma vs THW Kiel 1-0-3 (106:117) 2:6

05.10.1997	THW Kiel vs Futebol Clube do Porto, EHF Cup – Round 2	35:23 (18:12)
12.10.1997	Futebol Clube do Porto vs THW Kiel, EHF Cup – Round 2	31:21 (15:14)
12.10.2013	FC Porto Vitalis vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:31 (17:16)
19.02.2014	THW Kiel vs FC Porto Vitalis, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:25 (17:11)

gorenje

Life Simplified



SIMPLY GIVE by #SIMPLYFANS

Create life-changing moments.
Join our #simplyfans handball family.



@gorenjesimplyfans

Gorenje is one of the leading European home appliance manufacturers and a premium regional sponsor of the VELUX EHF Champions League. This season, we want to become more than just a sponsor, and we are taking a step further with our SIMPLY GIVE movement. It is a movement that empowers people to 'give back' and to make the world a better place, just as Gorenje's solutions make your life better. Follow us on Instagram to learn more.

PROUD REGIONAL PREMIUM SPONSOR



powered by Nord Stream 2

GROUP B



Club Address

HC Vardar
 blvd. ASNOM num.1
 1000 Skopje
 North Macedonia

Media contact

Ana Stojkov
 +389 76 487 779
 ana@zrkvardar.com

 www.rkvardar.com

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

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

HC Vardar



The uncertainty of the club's future ahead of last season's VELUX EHF FINAL4 made it an all-or-nothing situation for HC Vardar. It gave the Macedonian champions extra motivation as they added another incredible story to the club's history, setting off nationwide celebrations as tens of thousands of fans welcomed their heroes back home in Skopje.

Now, with a new head coach and numerous changes to the squad, Vardar are facing a tough challenge in the VELUX EHF Champions League once again.

David Jose Pisonero joined the reigning champions as the third Spanish coach in a row, after Raul Gonzalez and Roberto Garcia Parrondo, who both led the team to the title, in 2017 and 2019, respectively. They have set the bar high for Pisonero.

The real challenge for the former coach of Atlético Valladolid will begin already in the group phase, as Vardar will meet the old acquaintances Veszprém, Kielce and Montpellier.

No less than nine players have left, including Dejan Milosavljev and Igor Karacic. Over the years, Karacic had established himself as one of the backbones of the team, while rookie Milosavljev ended the season as a star between Vardar goalposts. With several new signings, Vardar have replaced these positions, and new head coach Pisonero is confident that the newcomers will quickly adapt to his playing system.

As the defending champions, Vardar have to set it as their goal to keep their position among Europe's elite. "We are defending champions so it will be a very difficult year for us. We were in this position before so we must act like champions in every match and that's not easy," says team captain Stojanche Stoilov. "Our objective is the same like always: the VELUX EHF FINAL4, and if we reach Cologne, then there is always a chance to win the Champions League."

Holding three titles from last season - also the domestic championship and the SEHA League - means that Vardar will concentrate on defending their trophies in all competitions.



Playing hall

Jane Sandanski
 blvd. ASNOM num.1
 1000 Skopje
 FYR Macedonia
Capacity: 6,500

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 14
 Winners (2): 2016/17, 2018/19
 Semi-final (1): 2017/18 (4th at the FINAL4)
 Quarter-final (3): 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16
 Last 32 (1): 1999/2000
 Group Phase (6): 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2007/08, 2009/10

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 1998/99, 2004/05, 2010/11, Quarter-finals 2006/07
SEHA league: 5 titles (2012, 2014, 2017-2019)
Macedonian league: 13 titles
Macedonian cup: 13 titles



8 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

74 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	31:15 (14:8) v IFK Kristianstad SWE (h), 02.12.2017
Biggest defeat	41:19 (19:8) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 18.10.2003
Longest winning run	8 matches (12.03.2017 – 01.10.2017)
Longest unbeaten run	15 matches (12.03.2017 – 02.12.2017)
Longest losing run	7 matches (12.10.2003 – 09.10.2004)
Longest run without win	8 matches (12.10.2003 – 16.10.2004)
	8 matches (03.10.2009 – 20.02.2010)
Most goals	40 v KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL 40:34W (h), 12.11.2016
Most goals opponent	41 v FC Barcelona ESP 41:19L (a), 18.10.2003
Most goals both teams	74 v IFK Kristianstad SWE 38:36W (h), 20.02.2016
	74 v KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL 40:34W (h), 12.11.2016
Fewest goals	12 v FC Barcelona ESP 12:26L (h), 06.11.2004
Fewest goals opponent	15 v IFK Kristianstad SWE 31:15W (h), 02.12.2017
Fewest goals both teams	38 v FC Barcelona ESP 12:26L (h), 06.11.2004

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2001/02 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	1	1	4	152:175	-23	3:9	4th Gr. D	
2002/03 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	2	0	4	152:181	-29	4:8	4th Gr. D	
2003/04 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	0	0	6	157:210	-53	0:12	4th Gr. B	
2004/05 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD	6	1	2	3	124:153	-29	4:8	3rd Gr. A	
2007/08 HC Vardar PRO – Skopje MKD	6	2	1	3	161:180	-19	5:7	4th Gr. C	
2009/10 HC Vardar PRO – Skopje MKD	10	1	1	8	253:316	-63	3:17	5th Gr. D	
2013/14 HC Vardar – Skopje MKD	14	6	3	5	376:369	+7	15:13	1/4-finals	
2014/15 HC Vardar MKD	14	8	1	5	421:396	+25	17:11	1/4-finals	
2015/16 HC Vardar MKD	18	10	2	6	527:486	+41	22:14	1/4-finals	
2016/17 HC Vardar MKD	18	14	0	4	523:477	+46	28:8	Winner	
2017/18 HC Vardar MKD	18	10	3	5	501:454	+47	23:13	Fourth Place	
2018/19 HC Vardar MKD	20	14	1	5	577:541	+36	29:11	Winner	
Total	142	69	15	58	3924:3938	-14	153:131		



David Jose Pisonero Nieto

coach

- third Spanish coach in a row to lead Vardar, after Raul Gonzalez and Roberto Garcia Parrondo
- arrived at the CL winners in 2019 from Valladolid (2017-19)
- played for Valladolid, Cantabria and Leon in his active years, and won Copa ASOBAL in 1996 and 2002 as well as the IHF Super Globe in 1996
- has joined Vardar on a two-year contract

Newcomers:

Dimitar Dimitrioski (HC Metalurg/MKD)
Sergey Gorpishin (HC Erlangen/GER)
Pavel Atman (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER)
Arturs Kugis (TV Grosswallstadt/GER)
Domen Sikosek Pelko (HC Bruck/AUT)
Jose Guilherme De Toledo (Orlen Wisla Plock/POL)

Left the club:

Dejan Milosavljev (Füchse Berlin/GER)
Igor Karacic (PGE VIVE Kielce/POL)
Janja Vojvodic (CS Minaur Baia Mare)
Marko Mishevski (Grenoble)
Dmitrii Kiselev (Chekhovskie Medvedi/RUS)
Rogerio Moraes Ferreira (Telekom Veszprém/HUN)
Gleb Kalarash (Motor Zaporozhye/UKR)
Vlado Nedanovski (retired)
Martin Popovski (HC Tinex Prolet)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
55	Stefan	Atanasovski	MKD	Line Player	08/09/1999	Skopje, MKD	207	113
19	Pavel	Atman	RUS	Centre Back	25/05/1987	Volgograd, RUS	190	94
27	Ivan	Cupic	CRO	Right Wing	27/03/1986	Metkovic, CRO	178	78
29	Jose Guilherme	De Toledo	BRA	Right Back	11/01/1994	Sao Paulo, BRA	193	100
31	Timur	Dibirov	RUS	Left Wing	30/07/1983	Petrozavodsk, RUS	180	74
8	Dimitar	Dimitrioski	MKD	Left Wing	16/02/1998	Prilep, MKD	183	83
15	Christian	Dissingner	GER	Left Back	15/11/1991	Ludwigshafen, GER	202	102
9	David	Gashoski	MKD	Line Player	02/09/1996	Skopje, MKD	197	127
22	Khalifa	Ghedbane	ALG	Goalkeeper	26/11/1996	M'sila, ALG	202	99
99	Vasil	Gogov	MKD	Goalkeeper	03/11/2000	Strumica, MKD	190	100
32	Sergei	Gorbok	RUS	Left Back	04/12/1982	Minsk, RUS	196	98
87	Sergey	Gorpishin	RUS	Line Player	31/08/1997	Erlangen, GER	200	106
21	Gleb	Kalarash	RUS	Line Player	29/11/1990	Moscow, RUS	205	95
11	Martin	Karapalevski	MKD	Centre Back	11/03/2000	Bitola, MKD	178	82
98	Marko	Kizikj	MKD	Goalkeeper	22/01/2001	Skopje, MKD	190	89
77	Alen	Kjosevski	MKD	Right Wing	07/06/2001	Bitola, MKD	187	75
10	Dainis	Kristopans	LAT	Right Back	27/09/1990	Ludza, LAT	215	135
92	Arturs	Kugis	LAT	Goalkeeper	17/07/1992	Saldus, LAT	194	110
7	Dejan	Kukulovski	MKD	Left Back	17/08/1998	Resen, MKD	194	97
33	Daniil	Shishkarev	RUS	Right Wing	06/07/1988	Kazaskaya Obl, KAZ	190	85
14	Domen	Sikosek Pelko	SLO	Line Player	18/08/1997	Brezice, SLO	203	120
20	Stas	Skube	SLO	Centre Back	15/11/1989	Novo Mesto, SLO	179	85
C 5	Stojanche	Stoilov	MKD	Line Player	30/04/1987	Skopje, MKD	191	110



Arturs Kugis

@arturskugis

goalkeeper

- joined Vardar from Grosswallstadt to replace CL All-star Team goalkeeper Dejan Milosavljev
- second player of the Latvian national team in Vardar's roster
- will make his debut in the CL in the 2019/20 season



Timur Dibirov

@imurdibirov31

left wing

- in 2013 he joined Vardar for only the second club in his career, has won the CL twice with them, in 2017 and 2019
- reached VELUX EHF FINAL4 with Chekhovskie Medvedi in 2010
- key player of the Russian national team; voted best left wing of at WCh 2013
- fast-break specialist and also key in defence; married to Irina Poltoratskaya, who steered Vardar's women's team to the CL Final in 2017 as coach

EC trophies: CL 2017, 2019; Cup Winners' Cup: 2006



Christian Dissinger

@christiandissinger

left back

- started career at TSG Friesenheim and played there until June 2011
- before joining Vardar in 2018, he played for Kadetten Schaffhausen, BM Atlético Madrid,
- TuS N-Lübbecke, THW Kiel
- in 2016, won gold at EHF EURO and bronze at Olympics with German national team

EC trophies: CL 2019



Stas Skube

centre back

- made senior debut for Rrimo Trebnje at age 17, playing alongside his older brother, Sebastian
- despite his height of 1.76 metre, he is one of Slovenia's best playmakers
- won bronze with Slovenia at the under-21 WCh in 2009
- played in CL 2013/14 Last 16 with Velenje, topping the club scorers' list with 72 goals that season

EC trophies: CL 2019



Stojanche Stoilov

line player

- first choice on the line player position in the Macedonian national team
- joined Vardar in 2010 from city rivals Metalurg, after a brief spell in with Odorheiu Secuiesc
- excelled at the EHF EURO 2012 where his team finished 5th
- as team captain led Vardar to two trophies in the CL, in 2017 and 2019

EC trophies: CL 2017, 2019



Dainis Kristopans

right back

- born in small Latvian town, Ludza, he started his career at local club Latgols
- moved to Tatran Presov at age 18 and stayed almost six years in Slovakia, winning the national league five times
- also played in Qatar and Brest
- at 2.15 metres, he is the tallest player not only for Vardar but in the entire CL
- won his first CL title in 2019 with Vardar

EC trophies: CL 2019



Jose Toledo

@josetoledo10

right back

- born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, he started his career at Handebol Itapema
- top scorer for Brazil at Youth WCh 2013
- possesses great skills in both offence and defence
- was with Granollers and Plock before joining Vardar in summer of 2019



Ivan Cupic

right wing

- despite losing a finger in an accident in 2008, he has remained an important player for his club teams and the Croatian national side
- his four-year contract with Vardar expires after the 2019/20 season
- still the only player ever to win the VELUX EHF FINAL4 two years in a row: first with Kielce in 2016, then with Vardar in 2017
- second-best scorer of 2012 Olympic handball tournament

EC trophies: CL 2016, 2017, 2019
 OG: B 2012; WCh: S 2009, B 2013; EURO: S 2008, 2010, B 2012, 2016

GROUP B

**Club Address**

Telekom Veszprém HC
5 Külső Kádártai út
8200 Veszprém
Hungary

Media contact

István Deres
+36 30 557 9865
istvan.deres@handballVeszprem.hu

 handballVeszprem.hu
 [Veszpremhandballteam](https://www.facebook.com/Veszpremhandballteam)
 [@telekomVeszprem](https://twitter.com/telekomVeszprem)
 [@handballVeszprem](https://www.instagram.com/handballVeszprem)

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

Telekom Veszprém HC



In the 2018/19 season, Telekom Veszprém HC started with a roller coaster-like performance. After only a few weeks, David Davis arrived on the Hungarian record champions' bench to replace Ljubomir Vranjes. His mentality and game style brought the expected results and, after winning the domestic championship, Veszprém reached the VELUX EHF FINAL4 and finished as runners-up.

Needless to say, expectations at the "Constructors" are still high and handball lovers are keen to see what happens after a whole summer of the squad together with David Davis – but without László Nagy and Momir Ilic, both retired.

The Spanish coach joined Telekom Veszprém HC in the beginning of the previous season. As he was immediately accepted by the players, he could start to form the game style that would go on to bring plenty of success. Veszprém won the Hungarian title and yet again reached the EHF FINAL4. Although they lost in the final of the Hungarian Cup against their old rivals, MOL-Pick Szeged, it was settled – the side is now Davis' unit. With the chance to perfect every little detail during the summer, could the club finally take Europe's crown?

But how much will the retirement of László Nagy and Momir Ilic affect Veszprém's strength? Nagy is one of the best Hungarian handball player ever. Even in the last couple of years, he was the keystone in defence and was still able to score anytime. Ilic helped the club with innumerable goals throughout his seven years with Veszprém. The Serbian left back's knowledge of handball will be used at the club as he joins the coaches from next season.

With a full summer together with David Davis, the help of newcomers and the redesigned positions of the retired players, not to mention the planned new mascot, Veszprém might be able to surprise the opponents in many aspects.

The 2019/20 Champions League season is going to be Veszprém's 25th – and it remains the only cup missing from their collection. A new year brings new hopes, although Veszprém need to prioritise, as they will compete in four different series, also in the Hungarian league and cup as well as in the SEHA League.

**Playing hall**

Veszprém Arena
Külso Kádártai ut
8200 Veszprém
Hungary
Capacity: 5,096

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 25
Final (4): 2001/02, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19
Semi-final (4): 2002/03, 2005/06, 2013/14, 2016/17
Quarter-final (9): 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2012/13
Last 16 (4): 1993/94, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2017/18
Group Phase (3): 1994/95, 1995/96, 2007/08

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2008, Finalists 1997
SEHA-league: 2 titles (2015, 2016)
Hungarian league: 26 titles
Hungarian Cup winner: 27 times



12 MATCHES
Longest winning run

46 GOALS
Most goals

77 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	38:17 (18:9) v HC Granitas Kaunas LTU (h), 06.11.2004
Biggest defeat	30:18 (16:8) v Badel Zagreb CRO (a), 24.01.1995
Longest winning run	12 matches (17.11.2018 – 01.06.2019)
Longest unbeaten run	12 matches (17.11.2018 – 01.06.2019)
Longest losing run	3 matches (16.01.1996 – 08.02.1996)
	3 matches (12.11.2017 – 26.11.2017)
Longest run without win	4 matches (09.01.1999 – 31.10.1999)
Most goals	46 v MSK SIRS Povazska Bystrica SVK 46:26W (h), 07.10.2006
	46 v MSK SIRS Povazska Bystrica SVK 30:46W (a), 21.10.2006
Most goals opponent	39 v THW Kiel GER 39:32L (a), 01.03.2007
	39 v KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL 39:38La7m (a), 29.05.2016
Most goals both teams	77 v KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL 39:38La7m (a), 29.05.2016
Fewest goals	15 v TEKA Santander ESP 25:15L (a), 15.03.1995
Fewest goals opponent	13 v SO Chambéry FRA 29:13W (h), 18.11.2001
	13 v Panellinios AC Athens GRE 19:13W (h), 17.11.2002
Fewest goals both teams	32 v Panellinios AC Athens GRE 19:13W (h),

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 Fotex Veszprém HUN	6	2	2	2	131:147	-16	6:6	6:6	3rd Gr. A
1995/96 Fotex Veszprém HUN	6	3	0	3	147:144	+3	6:6	6:6	3rd Gr. A
1997/98 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	5	1	2	228:204	+24	11:5	11:5	1/4-finals
1998/99 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	3	1	4	200:188	+12	7:9	7:9	1/4-finals
1999/00 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	4	0	4	203:202	+1	8:8	8:8	1/4-finals
2001/02 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	12	9	0	3	310:267	+43	18:6	18:6	Runner-up
2002/03 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	8	0	2	276:238	+38	16:4	16:4	1/2-finals
2003/04 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	7	0	3	306:276	+30	14:6	14:6	1/4-finals
2004/05 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	7	0	3	317:259	+58	14:6	14:6	1/4-finals
2005/06 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	9	0	3	373:318	+55	18:6	18:6	1/2-finals
2006/07 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	10	7	0	3	338:288	+50	14:6	14:6	1/4-finals
2007/08 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	6	2	2	2	184:171	+13	6:6	6:6	3rd Gr. F
2008/09 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	8	0	4	351:320	+31	16:8	16:8	1/4-finals
2009/10 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	14	11	0	3	419:368	+51	22:6	22:6	1/4-finals
2010/11 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	9	0	3	373:338	+35	18:6	18:6	Last 16
2011/12 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	7	0	5	321:322	-1	14:10	14:10	Last 16
2012/13 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	14	11	0	3	410:348	+62	22:6	22:6	1/4-finals
2013/14 MKB-MVM Veszprém HUN	16	11	1	4	477:410	+67	23:9	23:9	Fourth Place
2014/15 MKB-MVM Veszprém HUN	16	13	1	2	480:423	+57	27:5	27:5	Runner-up
2015/16 MVM Veszprém HUN	20	15	2	3	600:539	+61	32:8	32:8	Runner-up
2016/17 Telekom Veszprém HUN	20	13	2	5	549:511	+38	28:12	28:12	Third Place
2017/18 Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	16	9	2	5	466:439	+27	20:12	20:12	Last 16
2018/19 Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	20	15	0	5	589:543	+46	30:10	30:10	Runner-up
Total	278	188	14	76	8048:7263	+785	390:166		



David Davis

coach

- succeeded Ljubomir Vranjes as coach in October 2018
- enjoyed success with the team soon after taking charge and had his contract extended in February
- three-time Champions League winner as a player with Ciudad Real (in 2006, 2008 and 2009)
- began his coaching career in 2014 as Raul Gonzalez's assistant with Vardar's men's side before leading Vardar's women's team to the Women's EHF FINAL4 in 2017
- guided Egypt to eighth place at the World Championship 2019 in Germany/Denmark – their highest ranking since 2001

EC trophies: CL 2006, 2008, 2009 (as player), 2017 (assistant coach); EHF Cup 1995
OG: B 2008; WCh: G 2005; EURO: S 2006

Newcomers:

Rasmus Lauge Schmidt (SG Flensburg-H./GER)
Rogerio Moraes Ferreira (HC Vardar/MKD)
Vuko Borozan (HC Vardar/MKD)
Vladimir Cupara (PGE VIVE Kielce/POL)
Pawel Paczkowski (HC Motor Zaporozhye/UKR)
Márton Székely (Grundfos Tatabánya KC/HUN)
Omar Khaled Yahia (Zamalek SC/EGY)

Left the club:

László Nagy (retired)
Momir Ilic (retired)
Roland Mikler (MOL-Pick Szeged/HUN)
Iman Jamali (Dinamo Bucuresti/ROU)
René Toft Hansen (SL Benfica/POR)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
31	Blaz	Blagotinsek	SLO	Line Player	17/01/1994	Celje, SLO	203	123
47	Mark Daniel	Bodor	ROU	Left Back	23/02/2000	Sighisoara, ROU	201	102
87	Vuko	Borozan	MNE	Left Back	09/04/1994	Cetinje, MNE	202	113
16	Vladimir	Cupara	SRB	Goalkeeper	19/02/1994	Belgrad, SRB	198	115
13	Rogério	Ferreira Moraes	BRA	Line Player	11/01/1994	Abaetetuba, BRA	204	129
17	Dragan	Gajic	SLO	Right Wing	21/07/1984	Celje, SLO	188	83
42	Bence	Hornyak	HUN	Right Wing	23/11/2000	Veszprém, HUN	185	72
43	Zoran	Ilic	HUN	Right Back	02/01/2002	Zenta, SRB	197	86
25	Rasmus	Lauge Schmidt	DEN	Left Back	20/06/1991	Randers, DEN	195	100
C 66	Mate	Lekai	HUN	Centre Back	16/06/1988	Budapest, HUN	190	89
51	Borut	Mackovsek	SLO	Left Back	11/09/1992	Koper, SLO	203	103
35	Kentin	Mahe	FRA	Centre Back	22/05/1991	Paris, FRA	186	90
2	Dejan	Manaskov	MKD	Left Wing	26/08/1992	Veles, MKD	180	83
24	Gaspar	Marguc	SLO	Right Wing	20/08/1990	Celje, SLO	180	84
46	Viktor	Melnicsuk	HUN	Centre Back	30/08/2001	Dobrjani, UKR	188	80
19	Laszlo	Nagy	HUN	Right Back	03/03/1981	Székesfehérvár, HUN	208	113
34	Petar	Nenadic	SRB	Centre Back	28/06/1986	Beograd, SRB	198	95
18	Andreas	Nilsson	SWE	Line Player	12/04/1990	Trelleborg, SWE	197	120
22	Pawel	Paczkowski	POL	Right Back	14/06/1993	Swiecie, POL	195	95
40	Kristof Laszlo	Palasics	HUN	Goalkeeper	19/04/2002	Kistarcsa, HUN	199	105
1	Arpad	Sterbik Capar	ESP	Goalkeeper	20/11/1979	Senta, SRB	200	120
26	Manuel	Strlek	CRO	Left Wing	01/12/1988	Zagreb, CRO	182	87
12	Marton	Szekely	HUN	Goalkeeper	02/01/1990	Budapest, HUN	194	93
53	Bence	Szücs	HUN	Line Player	25/05/1999	Debrecen, HUN	206	138
44	Lev	Szuharev	HUN	Right Back	17/08/2000	Nyíregyháza, HUN	197	97
30	Mirsad	Terzic	BIH	Left Back	12/07/1983	Priboj, BIH	196	108
15	Kent Robin	Tønnesen	NOR	Right Back	05/06/1991	Partille, SWE	194	100
5	Omar	Yahia	EGY	Right Back	09/09/1997	Giza, EGY	197	96



Vladimir Cupara

 @cupara16

goalkeeper

- came to Veszprém in 2019 from Kielce where he spent one season after three-year stint at Abanca Ademar Leon, being one of the best goalkeepers of the Spanish league
- forms strong goalkeeping duo with Arpad Sterbik
- loves to express his emotions on the court and share them with the fans

EC trophy: EHF Cup 2014



Arpad Sterbik

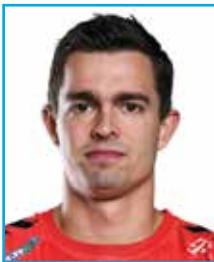
 @Árpád Sterbik

goalkeeper

- one of the world's best goalkeepers, who holds Hungarian, Serbian and Spanish citizenship
- signed his contract with Veszprém after 10 seasons in Barcelona and three with Vardar
- received dozens of international awards, including 2005 IHF World Handball Player of the Year, MVP of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2017, and best goalkeeper of the Spanish league five times

EC trophies: CL 2006, 2008, 2009, 2017

WCh: G 2013, B 1999, B 2001, B 2011; EURO: G 2018, S 2016



Rasmus Lauge Schmidt

 @rasmuslauge25

left back

- joined the Hungarian record champion's squad in the summer of 2019
- after having spent six seasons in Germany, the Danish left back moves to Hungary as an Olympic, world and European champion
- does not only play as a left back but often as a centre back

OG: G 2016; WCh: G 2019, S 2011, 2013; EURO: G 2012



Kentin Mahé

 @kentinmahe35

centre back

- joined Veszprém in 2018 after spells with Flensburg, Hamburg, Gummersbach and Dormagen, where he was coached by his father Pascal
- Men's 20 EURO 2010 MVP and top scorer (49 goals); 2015 EHF Cup Finals MVP
- made debut in French national team in 2010, now one of the key players
- reached the Cup Winners' Cup final with Gummersbach in 2011/12 and EHF Cup final with HSV in 2014/15

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

**Mate Lekai**

@lekaimate

centre back

- member of Hungarian national team, made big impression with his former clubs PLER and Pick Szeged
- returned to Hungary in 2014 from Celje where he spent two seasons
- had a lot of troubles with injuries at Celje; famously played second half of domestic league final with broken finger
- key player for Veszprém, who was named Hungarian player of the year in 2017

**Pawel Paczkowski**

@paczkos84

right back

- joined Veszprém from Kielce, but played last two seasons on loan for Motor Zaporozhye, scoring 56 goals in CL 2018/19 season
- was only the fourth player from outside the former Soviet Union in the history of Ukrainian men's handball
- won Polish league with Kielce in 2016 and 2017, as well as the CL in 2016
- played for the Polish national team at the WCh 2017 in France

EC trophies: CL 2016

**Rogerio Moraes Ferreira**

@rogeriomoraes11

line player

- joined Veszprém in summer of 2019 after three seasons with Vardar; previously played for Kiel
- won the CL two times with Vardar, in 2017 and 2019
- the Brazilian player is known for his great defending; first role will be to take over René Toft Hansen's minutes

EC trophies: CL 2017, 2019

**Gasper Marguc**

@gaspermarguc

right wing

- took part in the WCh 2013, where Slovenia placed fourth, and 2017, where the team took bronze
- came to Veszprém in 2014 from Celje where he was playing since 2009
- had his best CL season for Veszprém in 2015/16, scoring 78
- once scored 18 goals from 18 attempts for Celje in two matches against THW Kiel's legendary goalkeeper Thierry Omeyer

WCh: B 2017

GROUP B

**Club Address**

PGE VIVE Kielce
ul. Robotnicza 5
25-662 Kielce
Poland

Media contact

Magda Pluszewska
+48 604 692 276
m.pluszewska@kielcehandball.pl

 www.kielcehandball.pl

 kielcehandball

 @kielcehandball

 @kielcehandball

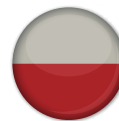
Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: blue
GK shirt: blue

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: green

PGE VIVE Kielce



A real earthquake shook Kielce this summer. As the team was left by six players, including goalkeepers Vladimir Cupara and Filip Ivić, playmaker Luka Cindrić and team captain Michal Jurecki, nine new faces have joined the crew. The Polish champions beefed themselves up with seven players, including goalkeeper Andreas Wolff, Igor Karacić and Branko Vujović, and two staff members: preparation coach Krzysztof Paluch and goalkeeper coach Sławomir Szał. PGE VIVE Kielce, led by Talant Dujšhebaev and Uros Zorman, are still being rebuilt, being a mixture of experienced players and young talents from around the world. They want to use their multinational experience to rock Europe once again.

“The new project that we create together is very interesting. It’s great to be a part of it. Together we can create an amazing team that will reach the VELUX EHF FINAL4 again,” says coach Talant Dujšhebaev.

With two new goalkeepers and five new field players, an obvious goal is to focus on the defence formation first and this is exactly what the team practises during the preparations. “This is how it looks like usually, you always start building the team starting from the goalkeepers, defence and then the attack,” says Krzysztof Lijewski.

A must for Talant Dujšhebaev’s team is the quarter-final. After games like the 2016 final against Veszprém or last season’s quarter-final against PSG every handball fan knows that with Kielce you never know. Kielce will avoid dangerous opponents like PSG or Barça in the group phase, the pressure to win the group will be higher.

“But I would prefer the group with Barça and PSG,” says the club’s president, Bertus Servaas. “The main favourites are in the other group, which is not good for us. In order to avoid playing against them in the next stage we need to finish first or second in our group.”

Kielce’s goals haven’t changed in recent years. The club still wants to defend all the domestic titles and be a part of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournament in Cologne, but first of all the minimum plan is to find a place among the eight best teams in Europe.

**Playing hall**

Hala M.O.S.I.R – Legionów
ul. Leszka Drogosza 2
15-116 Kielce
Poland
Capacity: 4,200

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 17
Winners (1): 2015/16
Semi-final (3): 2012/13, 2014/15, 2018/19
Quarter-final (1): 2017/18
Last 16 (6): 1993/94, 1994/95, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2016/17
Last 32 (2): 1996/97, 1998/99
Group Matches (3): 1999/2000, 2003/04, 2010/11

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 1997/98, 2005/06
Cup Winners’ Cup: Quarter-finals 1995/96
Polish league & cup: 16 titles each



18 MATCHES
Longest unbeaten run

42 GOALS
Most goals

41 GOALS
Most goals opponent

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	41:17 (21:8) v Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER (h), 24.03.2018
Biggest defeat	30:41 (19:19) v Fotex KC Veszprém HUN (h), 15.11.2003
Longest winning run	11 matches (25.09.2014 – 15.03.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	18 matches (15.11.2015 – 15.10.2016)
Longest losing run	5 matches (13.02.2010 – 27.03.2010)
	5 matches (19.02.2011 – 09.10.2011)
Longest run without win	6 matches (26.09.2010 – 27.11.2010)
Most goals	41 v Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 41:17W (h), 24.03.2018
Most goals opponent	42 v Barça Lassa ESP 36:42L (h), 24.11.2018
Most goals both teams	78 v Barça Lassa ESP 36:42L (h), 24.11.2018
Fewest goals	21 v HC Bosna BH Gas BIH 25:21L (a), 27.02.2010
	21 v HC Metalurg MKD 21:20W (h), 24.11.2012
Fewest goals opponent	17 v Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 41:17W (h), 24.03.2018
Fewest goals both teams	41 v HC Metalurg MKD 21:20W (h), 24.11.2012

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1999/00 KS Iskra-Lider Market POL	6	3	0	3	173:186	-13	6:6	6:6	3rd Gr. B
2003/04 KS 'Vive' Kielce POL	6	2	1	3	159:177	-18	5:7	5:7	3rd Gr. G
2009/10 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	5	1	6	345:344	+1	11:13	11:13	Last 16
2010/11 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	10	1	2	7	276:300	-24	4:16	4:16	6th Gr. A
2011/12 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	6	1	5	345:336	+9	13:11	13:11	Last 16
2012/13 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	16	14	0	2	469:400	+69	28:4	28:4	Third Place
2013/14 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	7	1	4	362:331	+31	15:9	15:9	Last 16
2014/15 KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL	16	14	0	2	483:439	+44	28:4	28:4	Third Place
2015/16 KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL	20	14	4	2	614:577	+37	32:8	32:8	Winner
2016/17 KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL	16	9	0	7	469:451	+18	18:14	18:14	Last 16
2017/18 PGE Vive Kielce POL	18	8	3	7	555:524	+31	19:17	19:17	1/4-final
2018/19 PGE Vive Kielce POL	20	9	1	10	631:624	+7	19:21	19:21	Fourth Place
Total	164	92	14	58	4881:4689	+192	198:130		



Talant Dujšebaev

coach

- most awarded person in the club; won many trophies during his playing career with three different national teams: CIS, Russia, Spain
- voted twice as the IHF World Player of the Year, in 1994 and 1996
- has a successful coaching career spanning well over decade, which saw him win the CL four times
- is a father of Alex and Daniel, who both play in Kielce as backs

EC TROPHIES: CL 1994 (as player), 2006, 2008, 2009, 2016 (as coach), EHF Cup 1993, Cup Winners' Cup 2002, 2003
 OG: G 1992, B 1996, 2000, WCh: G 1993, EURO: S 1996, 1998, B 2000

Left the club:

Andreas Wolff (THW Kiel/GER)
 Igor Karacić (HC Vardar/MKD)
 Mateusz Kornecki (NMC Górnik Zabrze/POL)
 Branko Vujovic (RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko/SLO)
 Doruk Pehlivan (Fivers Margaretten/AUT)
 Tomasz Gębala (Orlen Wisła Płock/POL)
 Romaric Guillo (HBC Nantes/FRA)

Newcomers:

Filip Ivić (VfL Gummersbach/GER)
 Vladimir Cupara (Telekom Veszprém/HUN)
 Michał Jurecki (SG Flensburg-Handewitt/GER)
 Marko Mamić (SC DHfK Leipzig/GER)
 Luka Cindrić (Barça/ESP)
 Bartłomiej Bis (NMC Górnik Zabrze/POL)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
13	Julen	Aguinagalde	ESP	Line Player	08/12/1982	Irun, ESP	195	110
44	Daniel	Dujshebaev	ESP	Centre Back	04/07/1997	Santander, ESP	193	93
10	Alex	Dujshebaev	ESP	Right Back	17/12/1992	Santander, ESP	187	84
32	Angel	Fernandez Perez	ESP	Left Wing	16/09/1988	Santander, ESP	192	90
48	Tomasz	Gebala	POL	Left Back	23/11/1995	Gdynia, POL	212	124
5	Romaric	Guillo	FRA	Line Player	01/10/1991	Pontivy, FRA	207	110
15	Mateusz	Jachlewski	POL	Left Wing	27/12/1984	Gdynia, POL	185	88
18	Blaz	Janc	SLO	Right Wing	20/11/1996	Brezice, SLO	185	85
20	Mariusz	Jurkiewicz	POL	Left Back	03/02/1982	Lubin, POL	199	103
18	Igor	Karacic	CRO	Centre Back	02/11/1988	Mostar, CRO	198	87
50	Artsem	Karalek	BLR	Line Player	20/02/1996	GRODNO, BLR	187	70
1	Mateusz	Kornecki	POL	Goalkeeper	05/06/1994	Skarzysko-Kam., POL	194	92
22	Uladzislau	Kulesh	BLR	Left Back	28/05/1996	Gomel, BLR	189	84
19	Krzysztof	Lijewski	POL	Right Back	07/07/1983	Ostrów Wielkop., POL	198	94
23	Arkadiusz	Moryto	POL	Right Wing	31/08/1997	Kraków, POL	181	88
11	Doruk	Pehlivan	TUR	Left Back	10/07/1998	Cankaya, TUR	201	115
2	Branko	Vujovic	MNE	Right Back	20/04/1998	Niksic, MNE	194	99
12	Milosz	Walach	POL	Goalkeeper	23/11/2001	Kielce, POL	188	90
C 33	Andreas	Wolff	GER	Goalkeeper	03/03/1991	Euskirchen, GER	198	105



Andreas Wolff

goalkeeper

- joined Kielce as his first foreign club in the summer 2019 from THW Kiel
- shone during the EHF EURO 2016 in Poland, when he gained a gold with his national team and was chosen best goalkeeper of the tournament
- talkative and friendly, with a strong personality already became the captain of the new team in Kielce
- loves dogs, has got two already and is planning to adopt the third one from a local shelter in Kielce

EC TROPHIES: EHF Cup 2019

OG: B 2016, EURO: G 2016



Angel Fernandez Perez

left wing

- signed for Kielce in the summer of 2018, his first club ever outside of Spain
- the biggest moment of his career was winning the gold medal at the EHF EURO 2018; unfortunately he couldn't play in the last stages of the competition due to injury
- started playing football when he was only six years old in his local team Astillero
- named the best left wing in the Spanish league for three consecutive years 2016, 2017, 2018

EURO: G 2018



Uladzislau Kulesh

left back

- third highest player in the team with his 206 cm and one of the biggest talents of Belarusian handball
- joined Kielce in the summer 2018 but due to injuries played his first match after few months and it took him some time to find himself well in the new team with Talant Dujshabaev's tactics
- his greater asset is a powerful throw from a long distance
- nicknamed "Hercules" by Kielce coach Talant Dujshabaev due to his extraordinary power



Doruk Pehlivan

left back

- joined Kielce for 2019/20 from Austrian Margareten to be the first Turkish player in the team and the Polish league
- very talented young back with powerful throw in the attack, will play an important role in the middle of Kielce defense as well
- son of the former national team players of Turkey, Zeynur and Zeki Pehlivan

EC trophies: CL: 2017

EURO: B 2016



Igor Karačić

centre back

- joined Kielce in the summer 2019 replacing his national team fellow Luka Cindric as an MVP of the past VELUX EHF FINAL4 (exactly like Luka one year before)
- a speedy and tough player, excelling in one-on-one situations but more than scoring himself he prefers to assist his team mates
- born in Mostar, he plays for Croatian national team, while his brother Ivan plays handball for Bosnia and Herzegovina

EC trophies: CL 2017, 2019

EURO: B 2016



Julen Aginagalde

line player

- All-star team line player of WCh 2013 in Spain, EHF EURO 2014 in Denmark and EHF EURO 2016 in Poland
- played for Bidasoa, Ademar Leon and Atletico Madrid until 2013, when he left Spain for the first time to join up with Kielce
- took part in 6 VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournaments; scored the decisive penalty in the shootout against Veszprém in 2016, which won Kielce the trophy

EC Trophies: CL: 2016

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



Alex Dujšhebaev

right back

- son of coach Talant Dujšhebaev, joined Kielce at the beginning of the 2017/18 season
- had a four-year stay in Vardar, winning first CL trophy in club's history in 2017
- best right back at the M20 EURO 2012 and Junior WCh 2013; best young player of the CL in 2014/15, best right back of the VCL in 2016/27 and the top scorer of the CL 2018/19
- usually plays as right back but sometimes used also in the middle, leader of Kielce in the 2018/19 season

@alexdujshebaev

EC Trophies: CL 2017

EURO: G 2018



Blaz Janc

right wing

- one of the biggest talents of Slovenian handball; still only 22 years old and already playing his eighth season in the CL, after debuting at just 15 and scoring over 100 goals in the competition when he was still a teenager
- top scorer for Slovenia at the Rio 2016 Olympics, with 28 goals in six matches; best right back at M20 EHF EURO 2014 (alongside players two years older than him)
- joined Kielce in 2017, replacing Tobias Reichmann, who returned to the Bundesliga

@janc8

WCh: B 2017

GROUP B



Club Address
 HC Meshkov Brest
 Leningradskaya 4
 224028 Brest
 Belarus

Media contact
 Artur Zhol
 +375 293 74 08 43
 media@bgk-meshkova.com

-  meshkovbrest.by
-  meshkovbrest
-  meshkovbrest
-  @meshkovbrest
-  /meshkovbrest

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

HC Meshkov Brest



HC Meshkov Brest have made it to the VELUX EHF Champions League Last 16 for four straight years - and this is the minimal goal for the Belarusian champions again in the new season. However, with a changed squad the club is looking for more, so reaching the quarter-final for the first time is the next step for ambitious Brest.

Brest chairman Alexander Meshkov has regularly declared ambitious goals, yet in reality Brest have stuck at the same level. During the last four seasons, the team progressed to the VELUX EHF Champions League Last 16, but were unable to make any further steps. In summer, the Belarusian champions have made a lot of changes in the squad with the ambition to break the ground and finally reach the quarter-final. However, Brest play in the competitive Group B so their primary concern is to progress at all.

“Our goal for the season is the same as last year. In the Champions League, the Last 16 is our minimum, and reaching the quarter-final is our objective. However, it would be cool to proceed even further than that,” says captain Ivan Pesic.

Raul Alonso arrived in Brest as an assistant coach to Manolo Cadenas in 2018, but after the latter stepped down in April, Alonso took over. As an interim coach, he led the team to the Belarus championship title and was named a permanent head coach in summer. In the past, the 40-year-old has worked as an assistant to Alfred Gislason at THW Kiel and won many titles with the German powerhouse. Besides, he coached Austria’ Handball Tirol, so his international experience should help him succeed at Brest.

Also, he will get help on court from experienced William Accambray. With his titles of European, world and Olympic champion, the 31-year-old Frenchman is a player with the most accolades in Brest’s history. For injuries or other reasons, the former player of Montpellier, PSG, Veszprém and Celje has not shown his best game during the last couple of seasons. Now he wants to relaunch his career in Belarus, while Brest hope that a player of his calibre will help the team to climb up to the next level.



Playing hall

Sportshall Victoria
 Leningradskaya 4
 224028 Brest
 Belarus
 Capacity: 3,500

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 11
 Last 16 (4): 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19
 Group Phase (5): 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2014/15
 Qualification (1): 2008/09

Other

Cup Winners’ Cup: Quarter-final 2011/12
EHF Cup: Last 16 2003/04

Belarusian league: 11 titles (2004-08, 2014-19)
Belarusian cup: 11 titles



10 MATCHES
Longest losing run

36 GOALS
Most goals

72 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	34:22 (15:14) v Vojvodina SRB (h), 19.09.2015
Biggest defeat	36:17 (16:8) v GOG Gudme DEN (a), 09.10.2004
Longest winning run	5 matches (24.10.2015 – 05.12.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	7 matches (24.10.2015 - 05.03.2016)
Longest losing run	10 matches (09.10.2004 – 06.11.2005) 10 matches (30.09.2006 – 10.11.2007)
Longest run without win	10 matches (09.10.2004 – 06.11.2005) 10 matches (30.09.2006 – 10.11.2007)
Most goals	36 v RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 36:36D (a), 27.11.2016
Most goals opponent	41 v Barça Lassa ESP 41:32L (a), 02.12.2018
Most goals both teams	73 v Barça Lassa ESP 41:32L (a), 02.12.2018
Fewest goals	17 v GOG Gudme DEN 36:17L (a), 09.10.2004 17 v RK Gorenje Velenje SLO 27:17L (a), 30.10.2004
Fewest goals opponent	20 v TATRAM Presov SVK 20:30W (a), 26.09.2015 20 v Aalborg Handbold DEN 20:23W (a), 08.10.2017
Fewest goals both teams	42 v HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO 21:21D (h), 18.02.2017

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2004/05 Brestskiy HC Meshkovo BLR	6	1	0	5	143:184	-41	2:10	4th Gr. C	
2005/06 Brest HC Meshkov BLR	6	1	0	5	165:183	-18	2:10	4th Gr. E	
2006/07 Brest HC Meshkov BLR	6	0	0	6	146:189	-43	0:12	4th Gr. B	
2007/08 HC Meshkov Brest BLR	6	1	0	5	154:182	-28	2:10	4th Gr. H	
2014/15 HC Meshkov Brest BLR	10	2	2	6	267:293	-26	6:14	5th Gr. A	
2015/16 HC Meshkov Brest BLR	14	9	1	4	437:383	+54	19:9	Last 16	
2016/17 HC Meshkov Brest BLR	16	5	4	7	434:439	-5	14:18	Last 16	
2017/18 HC Meshkov Brest BLR	16	4	3	9	426:466	-40	11:21	Last 16	
2018/19 HC Meshkov Brest BLR	16	4	1	11	427:479	-52	9:23	Last 16	
Total	96	27	11	58	2599:2798	-199	65:127		



Raul Alonso

coach

- started the 2018/19 season as assistant to Manolo Cadenas, but took charge of the team after Cadenas stepped down in April 2019
- Spaniard who lived in Germany for a long time, moving there at age 16
- was an assistant coach to Alfred Gislason at THW Kiel in 2010-15 and won a number of titles with the team
- worked as head coach at Austria's Tirol from 2015-18

Newcomers:

William Accambray (Telekom Veszprém/HUN)
Nemanja Obradovic (Orlen Wisla Plock/POL)
Jaka Malus (RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko/SLO)
Marko Panic (KS Azoty-Pulawy/POL)
Nikita Vailupov (SKA Minsk/BLR)
Branko Kankaras (Istres Provence Handball/FRA)
Daniel Andrejew (Wilhelmshavener HV/GER)

Left the club:

Vitali Charapenka (retired)
Pavel Horak (THW Kiel/GER)
Petar Dordic (S.L.Benfica/POR)
Sime Ivic (HC Erlangen/GER)
Siarhei Shylovich (SKA Minsk/BLR)
Dzianis Rutenka (SKA Minsk/BLR)
Vid Poteko (RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko/SLO)
Andrei Yashchanka (Billère/FRA)
Pavel Darafeyeu (Saint Petersburg HC/RUS)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
22	William	Accambray	FRA	Left Back	08/04/1988	Cannes, FRA	194	94
11	Daniel	Andrejew	GER	Line Player	26/11/1998	Kamen, GER	205	113
36	Aliaksei	Babko	BLR	Goalkeeper	21/12/2000	Brest, BLR	192	90
10	Aliaksandr	Bachko	BLR	Centre Back	15/08/1989	Grandichi, BLR	189	90
24	Maksim	Baranau	BLR	Right Wing	11/04/1988	Bobruysk, BLR	188	82
4	Yahor	Budzeika	BLR	Right Back	01/05/2000	Baranovich, BLR	195	88
32	Dzmitry	Datchuk	BLR	Line Player	12/04/2000	Brest, BLR	199	90
45	Darko	Djukic	SRB	Right Wing	11/12/1994	Nis, BLR	191	78
5	Branko	Kankaras	MNE	Line Player	28/05/1988	Novi Sad, SRB	188	96
7	Artsiom	Kulak	BLR	Centre Back	23/02/1996	Brest, BLR	190	87
66	Jaka	Malus	SLO	Centre Back	15/06/1996	Celje, SLO	190	87
12	Ivan	Matskevich	BLR	Goalkeeper	08/05/1991	Lepel, BLR	190	107
17	Nemanja	Obradovic	SRB	Left Back	08/01/1991	Krusevac, SRB	200	105
34	Sandro	Obranovic	CRO	Centre Back	18/10/1992	Karlovac, CRO	195	93
8	Marko	Panic	BIH	Right Back	10/03/1991	Jajce, BIH	197	101
C 1	Ivan	Pesic	CRO	Goalkeeper	17/03/1989	Rijeka, CRO	194	112
30	Mihail	Piliuk	BLR	Line Player	04/01/2000	Brest, BLR	196	90
31	Simon	Razgor	SLO	Left Wing	18/09/1985	Celje, SLO	183	86
42	Artsiom	Selvasiuk	BLR	Line Player	08/12/1992	Brest, BLR	192	93
9	Aleksander	Shkurinskiy	RUS	Left Back	11/04/1995	Krasnodar region, RUS	193	92
22	Viachaslau	Shumak	BLR	Line Player	22/12/1988	Brest, BLR	204	118
98	Valiantsin	Silko	BLR	Centre Back	20/01/2000	Brest, BLR	180	80
76	Ilya	Tomashuk	BLR	Left Wing	28/06/2000	Brest, BLR	185	85
21	Ilya	Usik	BLR	Goalkeeper	13/08/1998	Brest, BLR	196	85
55	Mikita	Vailupau	BLR	Right Wing	30/07/1995	Vitebsk, BLR	184	77
25	Danila	Viarheichyk	BLR	Line Player	27/05/2000	Brest, BLR	190	90
14	Andrei	Yurynok	BLR	Left Wing	21/09/1996	Brest, BLR	193	85



Ivan Pesic

 @ivanpesic17

goalkeeper

- was invited to Brest in 2013 by then coach, and fellow Croatian, Zeljko Babic
- also played for RK Maribor Branik, HC Zagreb and Veszprém
- had kidney removed after being stabbed in 2009 in tragic night club incident, in which teammate Marian Cozma was killed
- practiced taekwondo successfully in his childhood, won several medals at junior level before focusing on handball



Andrey Yurynek

 @yurinok96

left wing

- born in Brest, but started career in Minsk (Vityaz, SKA) and joined Meshkov in 2016
- was a line player in his youth, but then coaches successfully put him on the left wing
- best scorer of Belarus at EHF EURO 2018 with 24 goals
- named the best young left wing of the world in 2017/18



Aleksander Shkurinskiy

 @alex_shkurinskiy

left back

- Russian back who joined Brest in 2017 from SKIF Krasnodar, turning down offers from French teams as well as Chekhovskie Medvedi
- quickly became one of the team's key players
- member of Russia's national team since 2015



William Accambay

 @william_accambay

left back

- Olympic, world and EHF EURO champion, making him the most renowned player ever signed by Brest
- moved from Veszprém, but spent much of the last season on loan at Celje
- nine-time French champion with Montpellier and PSG
- son of hammer thrower Jacques Accambay and discus thrower Isabel Accambay

OG: G 2012; WCh: G 2011, 2015; EHF EURO: G 2014



Artsiom Kulak

 @artyomkulak

centre back

- moved to Brest in 2015 from Vityaz Minsk
- talented playmaker who is also a good scorer
- has extended his contract with Brest until 2021
- as son of a musician, he learned playing the guitar at a specialised school



Viachaslau Shumak

 @slavashumak

line player

- born in Brest, he has been playing at Meshkov since 2006
- in the spring of 2019, he extended his contract with the club until 2021
- big and powerful player, who is 2.03 metre tall
- played basketball in his childhood before switching to handball



Marko Panic

 @pana_8

right back

- the Bosnian back is going into his first season with Brest
- moved from Poland's Azoty-Pulawy, where he was one of the leading players
- started his career at Borac Banja Luka in his homeland
- played for Chambéry in France from 2012-17 and made his CL debut in 2012/13



Darko Djukic

 @darko_djukic

right wing

- team's best scorer in CL 2018/19 Group Phase with 51 goals
- plays his second season at Brest after moving from Kielce in 2018
- started his career at Zeleznicar and also had spells at Metalurg Skopje and Besiktas
- member of Serbia national team since 2012, missed WCh 2019 through injury

GROUP B



Club Address

HC Motor Zaporozhye
Ivanova Str. 24
69068 Zaporozhye
Ukraine

Media contact

Yuriy Chorny
+380 50 5946878
2207024sport@gmail.com

 handball.motorsich.com

 Handball Club Motor
Zaporozhye

 #HCMotorZaporozhye

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

HC Motor Zaporozhye



Last season, Motor Zaporozhye were included into the Groups A/B section of the VELUX EHF Champions League for the first time. Still, the Ukrainian champions advanced from their group and reached the Last 16. Having bolstered their squad with a few quality players, they hope to take the next step in the 2019/20 season.

Last season, the Ukrainian team had a poor start in the continental top flight, but after coach Patryk Rombel stepped down in October and Mykola Stepanets took over, the results vastly improved. With Stepanets still at the helm, and with the experience accumulated over the past few years, Motor aim to reach the quarter-final for the first time in history. They have been drawn into a tough group with Vardar, Veszprém, Kielce and Kiel, though Porto or Brest likely will not be out of reach so another Last 16 ticket is possible. And then, Motor will need their share of luck to proceed. “Motor hope to be a hard nut to crack for all the strong rivals. The journey will not be easy, but we have to make it with dignity,” team captain Zakhar Denysov says.

A key player for the team’s success will again be Barys Pukhouski. The 32-year Belarusian, who can perform both as a left back and as a playmaker, proved it again the last season, becoming the joint fourth-best VELUX EHF Champions League scorer with 87 goals. In February 2019, Pukhouski became the first Zaporozhye player ever to be elected EHF Player of the Month. There is hardly any doubt that in the new season, Pukhouski will again lead his team.

In the summer of 2019 Motor have signed quite a number of players who can add depth and international experience to the squad. In particular, Stanislav Zhukov and Dener Jaanima have acquired a lot of experience by playing in the German Bundesliga, and Gleb Kalarash won the VELUX EHF Champions League with Vardar last season. Besides, Montenegro’s Stefan Vujovic has a powerful shot and plays well in defence, so he also may become an important figure in the team.

“Our aim is to reach the VELUX EHF Champions League Quarter-final, and I’m sure that it’s not impossible,” team manager Olimpui Pokatov says.



Playing hall
Palace of Sports Yunost
Pobeda St. 66
69000 Zaporozhye
Ukraine
Capacity: 3,500

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 7
Last 16 (3): 2013/14, 2015/16, 2018/19
Group Phase (3): 2014/15, 2016/17, 2017/18

Other

EHF Cup: Group Phase 2012/13
Cup Winners’ Cup: Quarter-finals 2011/12

Ukrainian league: 7 titles (2013-2019)
Ukrainian cup: 6 titles (2013, 2015-19)



6 MATCHES
Longest winning run

39 GOALS
Most goals

76 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	22:35 (9:18) v ABC/UMinho POR (a), 12.11.2016
Biggest defeat	36:23 (21:16) v Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS (h), 14.09.2017
Longest winning run	44:27 (20:13) v MKB-MVM Veszprém HUN (a), 10.10.2013
Longest unbeaten run	6 matches (22.10.2016 – 12.02.2017)
	8 matches (18.10.2015 – 05.03.2016)
	8 matches (08.10.2017 – 24.02.2018)
Longest losing run	6 matches (20.03.2014 – 18.10.2014)
Longest run without win	6 matches (20.03.2014 – 18.10.2014)
Most goals	39 v Naturhouse La Rioja ESP 39:37W (h), 05.03.2016
Most goals opponent	44 v MKB-MVM Veszprém HUN 44:27L (a), 10.10.2013
Most goals both teams	76 v Naturhouse La Rioja ESP 39:37W (h), 05.03.2016
Fewest goals	20 v Montpellier HB FRA 28:20L (a), 01.10.2017
Fewest goals opponent	18 v St. Petersburg HC RUS 18:24W (a), 21.11.2013
Fewest goals both teams	42 v St. Petersburg HC RUS 18:24W (a), 21.11.2013

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2013/14 HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR	12	4	1	7	333:367	-34	9:15	1/8-finals	
2014/15 HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR	10	3	0	7	283:284	-1	6:14	5th Gr. D	
2015/16 HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR	14	9	1	4	418:414	+4	19:9	1/8-finals	
2016/17 HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR	12	7	2	3	371:337	+34	16:8	Elimination C+D	
2017/18 HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR	12	7	3	2	352:326	+26	17:7	Elimination C+D	
2018/19 HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR	16	5	2	9	475:479	-4	12:20	Elimination C+D	
Total	76	35	9	32	2232:2207	+25	79:73		



МЫ - ЕДИНАЯ КОМАНДА МОТОР



СЕЗОН 2019-2020



Mykola Stepanets

coach

- replaced Patryk Rombel at the team's helm in October 2018
- his third spell in charge of Motor after 2012-13 and 2014-17
- led Zaporozhye to five Ukrainian championship titles as well as two CL Last 16 spots (2015/16 and 2018/19)
- assistant to Sergey Bebashko in Ukrainian national team

Newcomers:

Stanislav Zhukov (Gummersbach/GER)
Pavlo Gurkovsky (Dunarea Calarasi/ROU)
Gleb Kalarash (Vardar/MKD)
Dener Jaanima (TuS N-Lübbecke/GER)
Stevan Vujovic (Dobrogea Sud Constanta/ROU)
Ihor Huryn (Donbas/UKR)
Vladyslav Parovinchak (ZNTU-ZAB Zaporozhye/UKR)
Eduard Kravchenko (ZNTU-ZAB Zaporozhye/UKR)

Left the club:

Sergey Shelmenko (retired)
Anton Terekhov (Pogon Szczecin/POL)
Pawel Paczkowski (Veszprém/HUN)
Aliaksei Shynkel (Balatonfüred/HUN)
Evgeniy Buinenko (unknown)
Dmytro Tiutiunnyk (ZNTU-ZAB Zaporozhye/UKR)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
6	Maxim	Babichev	BLR	Line Player	07/03/1986	Minsk	196	97
	Ihor	Berezhnyi	UKR	Right Back	05/08/1998		194	96
16	Oleksandr	Bilyi	UKR	Goalkeeper	13/08/2000	Khmelnyskyi r., UKR	193	81
6	Illia	Blyzniuk	UKR	Right Wing	19/02/2001	Zaporozhye, UKR	185	80
12	Mykhailo	Budko	UKR	Goalkeeper	15/06/2002			
C 11	Zakhar	Denysov	UKR	Left Wing	01/03/1990	Ilychevsk, UKR	188	82
13	Vladyslav	Dontsov	UKR	Right Back	22/09/1995	Zaporozhye, UKR	197	94
14	Dmytro	Doroshchuk	UKR	Line Player	29/09/1986	Volyn region, UKR	198	115
11	Pavlo	Gurkovsky	UKR	Line Player	09/10/1985	Zaporozhye, UKR	196	96
9	Ihor	Huryn	UKR	Left Back	19/07/1998	Ternopil reg., UKR	198	95
24	Dener	Jaanimaa	EST	Right Back	09/08/1989	Tallinn, EST	185	85
31	Oleksandr	Kasai	UKR	Left Wing	14/01/1997	Zaporozhye, UKR	180	80
87	Victor	Kireev	RUS	Goalkeeper	05/05/1987	Penzenskaya obl.	190	94
55	Gennadiy	Komok	UKR	Goalkeeper	05/07/1987	Zaporozhye, UKR	196	96
20	Artem	Kozakevych	UKR	Right Wing	02/10/1992	Novovolynsk, UKR	182	68
20	Eduard	Kravchenko	UKR	Right Wing	19/05/1996	Zaporozhye, UKR	185	86
5	Iurii	Kubatko	UKR	Right Wing	28/08/1988	Zaporozhye, UKR	184	78
35	Mateusz	Kus	POL	Line Player	14/07/1987	Piekary SL, POL	193	111
15	Yevhen	Lysak	UKR	Line Player	20/10/2001	Luhansk reg., UKR	198	91
55	Pavlo	Lysobei	UKR	Left Back	13/07/1999	Lutsk, UKR	206	84
7	Aidenas	Malasinskas	LTU	Centre Back	29/04/1986	Vilnius, LTU	189	84
13	Taras	Minotskyi	UKR	Centre Back	15/01/2000	Volochysk, UKR	193	92
8	Seyed	Naghavialhosseini	UKR	Right Back	27/01/2000	Zaporozhye reg., UKR	185	80
9	Vladyslav	Parovinchak	UKR	Centre Back	22/01/1998	Lutsk, UKR	190	93
10	Barys	Pukhouski	BLR	Centre Back	03/01/1987	St.Mazorita, BLR	186	100
3	Yaroslav	Ruban	UKR	Line Player	28/04/1996	Zaporozhye, UKR	200	87
19	Volodymyr	Shcherban	UKR	Left Back	07/10/2001	Zaporozhye, UKR	197	92
44	Igor	Soroka	RUS	Left Wing	27/05/1991	Cherkessk, RUS	180	73
22	Dmytro	Tiutiunnyk	UKR	Line Player	07/03/1993	Uman, UKR	200	99
17	Ihor	Turchenko	UKR	Left Back	04/12/2000	Brovary, UKR	193	83
11	Stevan	Vujovic	MNE	Left Back	07/04/1990	Cetinje, MNE	190	90
2	Stanislav	Zhukov	UKR	Left Back	26/03/1992	Novovolynsk, UKR	198	94



Gennadiy Komok

goalkeeper

- plays his fifth season at Motor
- born in Zaporozhye and started his career at local rivals ZTR
- also had a spell at St. Petersburg in, 2011/12
- captain of Ukrainian national team



Igor Soroka

left wing

- Russian wing who arrived at Zaporozhye in 2015
- previously played for Dynamo-Victor Stavropol, RGUFK-Chekhovskie Medvedi as well as Permskie Medvedi
- his father Yuri was his first coach
- returned to Russian national team after a two-year absence in April 2019



Stanislav Zhukov

left back

- returned to Motor in the summer of 2019 after earlier stint in 2012-17
- played last two seasons at Bundesliga side Gummersbach, left after club's relegation
- also had spells at Budyvelnyk and ZNTU-ZAS early in his career
- regular member of Ukraine national team



Barys Pukhouski

left back/centre back

- one of Zaporozhye's leaders heading into his fifth season at the club
- joined fourth-best scorer of the CL 2018/19, with 87 goals
- moved in 2015 from SKA Minsk, also played for Dinamo Minsk and Csurgó (HUN)
- all-time top scorer of the Belarusian national team

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2006



Aidenas Malasinskas

 @aidenas_7_

centre back

- joined Motor in the summer of 2015 and quickly became a key element in the team
- Lithuanian international, who played for Kaunas clubs (Lusis and Granitas-Karys) before stints with Bidasoa Irun, Fraikin BM Granollers and Naturhouse La Rioja
- arrived from BM Puerto Sagunto



Maxim Babichau

line player

- experienced and consistent Belarusian joined Zaporozhye in 2017
- previously only played in his home country for Arkatron Minsk, Dinamo Minsk and HC Meshkov Brest
- nine-time Belarusian and two-time Ukrainian champion
- regular member of the Belarus national team for more than a decade



Dener Jaanimaa

 @denerj

right back

- plays his debut season at Motor after moving from Lubbecke
- born in Tallinn and plays for Estonian national team
- his first foreign club was Sweden's Lindesberg, in 2009-11
- since 2011, played for six different German clubs, including Hamburg and Kiel



Artem Kozakevych

right wing

- moved to Zaporozhye from Portovik Yuzhny in 2014
- fast left-handed winger has already become a four-time national champion with Motor
- in 2012, he won a silver medal with Ukraine at the WCh beach handball

GROUP B

**Club Address**

Montpellier HB
Centre Jean Paul Lacombe
1000 Av Val de Montferrand
34090 Montpellier Cedex
France

Media contact

Suzy De Monte
+33 (0)6 87 73 58 42
s.demonte@

montpellierhandball.com

 montpellierhandball.com

 MHB - Montpellier Handball

 @mhbofficiel

 @mhbofficiel

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: light blue/yellow

Dark

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

Montpellier HB



First the title. Then the elimination in the group phase. Fair to say that the VELUX EHF Champions League has been a rollercoaster experience for Montpellier HB over the past two seasons. The French side is eager to recover from its disappointing showing last season and is targeting a return to the quarter-finals.

Battling with Barça, Veszprém, Kielce and Rhein-Neckar Löwen was a little bit too much for the 2018 champions last season. This time around, Group B will be as tough, with reigning champions Vardar as well as Kielce, Veszprém and Kiel expected to fight for the top spots. "Once again we find ourselves in a very strong group. Three teams took part in the VELUX EHF FINAL4 last season, Kiel are back at the highest level, while Zaporozhye, Porto and Brest are able to win against anyone," captain Valentin Porte says.

"The Champions League is very important for the city of Montpellier but also the whole area since everybody here wishes for an international visibility," says Patrice Canayer, who has been in the club's coaching staff since 1994 and head coach since 1996. "To make it out of Group B will be the first step and that will not be an easy one to achieve. But after that, as we all know, it's hard to predict anything in the Champions League."

An important factor will be the fitness of Diego Simonet. It has been a long time since he played a complete season without an injury. In fact, there hardly has been such season since he arrived in Montpellier in 2013. Last season Simonet struggled with a thigh injury for most of the season. If the MVP of the EHF FINAL4 2018 is back playing on his top level, Montpellier should look different this season.

Talking about this season: it will be Patrice Canayer's 24th as head coach of Montpellier, an all-time record in the EHF Champions League. Along the way, Montpellier won the trophy twice and did not play in the EHF Champions League for only three of those 24 seasons under Canayer.

**Playing hall**

Sud de France Arena Montpellier
Rue de la Foire
34470 Pérols/Montpellier
France
Capacity: 8,000

Alternative Playing hall

Palais des Sports René Bognol
1000 Av. du Val de Montferrand
34090 Montpellier
France
Capacity: 3,000

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 22
Winners (2): 2002/03, 2017/18
Semi-final (1): 2004/05
Quarter-final (5): 2000/01, 2005/06, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2016/17
Last 16 (6): 1995/96, 2003/04, 2006/07, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2016/17
Main Round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09
Group Phase (4): 1998/99, 1999/00, 2012/13, 2018/19
Qualification (1): 2013/14

Other

EHF Cup: Final 2013/14; Quarter-final: 1996/97; Last 16: 1993/94, 1994/95; Last 32: 1997/98
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 2001/02
French league: 14 titles (1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)
French cup: 13 titles
Ligue's cup: 10 titles



8 MATCHES
Longest winning run

46 GOALS
Most goals

78 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	46:20 (26:9) v AC PAOK GRE (h), 04.10.2009
Biggest defeat	37:20 (16:10) v Prosesa Ademar Leon ESP (a), 06.11.1999
Longest winning run	8 matches (15.10.2016 – 04.03.2017) 8 matches (16.09.2017 – 19.11.2017)
Longest unbeaten run	11 matches (15.10.2016 – 02.04.2017)
Longest losing run	6 matches (14.02.2016 – 27.03.2016)
Longest run without win	7 matches (15.09.2018 – 07.11.2018)
Most goals	46 v AC PAOK GRE 46:20W (h), 04.10.2009
Most goals opponent	38 v Kolding KIF DEN 38:29L (a), 05.12.2004 38 v Pick Szeged HUN 38:35L (a), 19.11.2011
Most goals both teams	78 v VfL Gummersbach GER 41:37W (h), 09.02.2008
Fewest goals	17 v Fotex KC Veszprém HUN 26:17L (a), 03.01.1999 17 v FC Barcelona ESP 24:17L (a), 10.12.2000
Fewest goals opponent	16 v HC Portovik Yuzhny UKR 26:16W (h), 07.10.2006
Fewest goals both teams	38 v Fotex KC Veszprém HUN 21:17W (h), 08.11.1998

EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1998/99 Montpellier HB FRA	6	3	0	3	134:134	0	6:6	6:6	3rd Gr. A
1999/00 Montpellier HB FRA	6	3	0	3	139:148	-9	6:6	6:6	3rd Gr. A
2000/01 Montpellier HB FRA	8	4	1	3	193:193	0	9:7	1/4-finals	
2002/03 Montpellier HB FRA	12	8	1	3	334:311	+23	17:7	Winner	
2003/04 Montpellier HB FRA	8	6	0	2	216:199	+17	12:4	Last 16	
2004/05 Montpellier HB FRA	12	9	0	3	375:328	+47	18:6	1/2-finals	
2005/06 Montpellier HB FRA	10	6	0	4	282:272	+10	12:8	1/4-finals	
2006/07 Montpellier HB FRA	8	5	1	2	224:198	+26	11:5	Last 16	
2007/08 Montpellier HB FRA	12	7	0	5	358:348	+10	14:10	3rd MR Gr. 2	
2008/09 Montpellier HB FRA	10	6	1	3	295:275	+20	13:7	4th MR Gr. 3	
2009/10 Montpellier HB FRA	14	10	2	2	447:372	+75	22:6	1/4-finals	
2010/11 Montpellier Agglom. HB FRA	14	10	0	4	442:379	+63	20:8	1/4-finals	
2011/12 Montpellier Agglom. HB FRA	12	6	0	6	357:357	0	12:12	Last 16	
2012/13 Montpellier Agglom. HB FRA	10	2	2	6	301:311	-10	6:14	5th Gr. A	
2014/15 Montpellier Agglom. HB FRA	12	4	2	6	351:377	-26	10:14	Last 16	
2015/16 Montpellier HB FRA	16	3	1	12	429:472	-43	7:25	Last 16	
2016/17 Montpellier HB FRA	16	11	1	4	476:425	+51	23:9	1/4-finals	
2017/18 Montpellier HB FRA	18	14	1	3	530:464	+66	29:7	Winner	
2018/19 Montpellier HB FRA	14	3	1	10	377:414	-37	7:21	7th Gr. A	
Total	218	120	14	84	6260:5977	+283	254:182		



Patrice Canayer

coach

- his 24th season as Montpellier coach, the longest serving coach in the CL
- has won 42 trophies with the club so far
- started coaching career in 1994 and worked with players like Nikola Karabatic, Thierry Omeyer, Jerome Fernandez and Didier Dinart
- played for Bordeaux and Racing Paris in his active years
- elected best coach of the CL in 2017/18 after winning the trophy with Montpellier for a second time

EC trophies: CL 2003, 2018

Newcomers:

Kevin Bonnefoi (Nantes/FRA)
Hugo Descat (Bucuresti/ROU)
Yanis Lenne (Aix-en-Provence/FRA)
Marin Segó (Szeged/HUN)
Gilberto Duarte (Barça/ESP)
Giorgi Tskhovrebadze (HC Pegasi/GEO)

Left the club:

Arnaud Bingo (Sporting/POR)
Baptiste Bonfond (Aix-en-Provence/FRA)
Théophile Causse (Ivry/FRA)
Jean-Loup Faustin (Chambéry/FRA)
Vincent Gerard (PSG/FRA)
Michaël Guigou (Nimes/FRA)
Vid Kavtčnik (Aix-en-Provence/FRA)
Mohamed Mamdouh (Bucuresti/ROU)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
33	Benjamin	Afgour	FRA	Line Player	01/04/1991	Rethel, FRA	196	106
99	Charles	Bolzinger	FRA	Goalkeeper	14/12/2000	Sète, FRA	197	98
12	Kevin	Bonnefoi	FRA	Goalkeeper	03/12/1991	Toulon, FRA	190	113
13	Julien	Bos	FRA	Right Back	18/08/1998	Pessac, FRA	188	83
90	Gilberto	Brito Duarte	POR	Left Back	06/07/1990	Lagoa, POR	196	109
9	Hugo	Descat	FRA	Left Wing	16/08/1992	Paris, FRA	183	91
10	Mathieu	Grebille	FRA	Left Wing	06/10/1991	Paris, FRA	198	99
2	Paul-Louis	Guiraudou	FRA	Line Player	13/05/2000	Montpellier, FRA	192	108
32	Yanis	Lenne	FRA	Right Wing	29/06/1996	Colmar, FRA	188	88
31	Simone	Mengon	ITA	Left Back	03/01/2000	Trento, ITA	190	85
30	Marco	Mengon	ITA	Centre Back	03/01/2000	Trento, ITA	188	83
18	Fredric	Pettersson	SWE	Line Player	11/02/1989	Blidsberg, SWE	202	118
C 28	Valentin	Porte	FRA	Right Back	07/09/1990	Versailles, FRA	190	94
16	Nikola	Portner	SUI	Goalkeeper	19/11/1993	LYON, FRA	194	91
22	Melvyn	Richardson	FRA	Right Back	31/01/1997	Marseille, FRA	190	89
16	Marin	Sego	CRO	Goalkeeper	02/08/1985	Mostar, CRO	194	95
4	Diego	Simonet	ARG	Centre Back	26/12/1989	Buenos Aires, ARG	189	88
39	Mohamed	Soussi	TUN	Left Back	17/01/1993	Tunis, TUN	195	98
7	Jonas	Truchanovicus	LTU	Left Back	24/06/1993	Siauliai, LTU	203	108
11	Giorgi	Tskhovrebadze	GEO	Right Back	19/02/2001	Tbilissi, GEO	194	80
5	Kyllian	Villeminot	FRA	Centre Back	20/05/1998	Lyon, FRA	189	83
3	Elio	Zammit	FRA	Left Wing	28/08/2000	Montpellier, FRA	179	76



Marin Sego

goalkeeper

- Croatian goalkeeper who won the CL with Kielce in 2016
- Montpellier is ninth club in career of Segó, who has arrived from Szeged
- Segó will be one of three goalkeepers of the team, with Kevin Bonnefoi and Nikola Portner
- aged 33, he's one of the stalwarts of the Croatian national team

EC trophies: CL 2016



Mathieu Grébillé

 @mat_grebillé

left wing

- former back court player who turned winger after a shoulder injury in 2017, a year after tearing ligaments in his knee
- found his way back to the national team, won bronze at WCh 2019
- played for Montpellier all his career but will move to PSG in 2020

EURO: G 2014, WCh: G 2015, B 2019; OG: S 2016



Jonas Truchanovicus

left back

- one of very few Lithuanians to feature in CL, and first to win it
- arrived in Montpellier in 2016, adapted quickly to team's demanding style of play
- best at left back position but can also feature as a centre back
- like most of the team, had disappointing 2018/19 season after playing instrumental role in Montpellier winning CL

EC trophies: CL 2018



Diego Simonet

 @chinosimonet

centre back

- born in a handball family, with two brothers - Sebastian and Pablo - also playing professionally
- has suffered from several injuries in recent seasons; missed most of the 2018/19 campaign due to persistent tie problem
- elected MVP of Montpellier's golden VELUX EHF FINAL4 in 2018
- four-time Argentinian handball player of the year

EC trophies: CL 2018



Fredric Pettersson

@Fredric pettersson

line player

- arrived in Montpellier in 2018, after playing for two seasons in Toulouse
- impressive offensive player, who was the second best scorer at Toulouse
- played CL before joining Montpellier - with Swedish side IFK Kristianstad in 2015 and 2016
- part of upcoming strong Swedish generation, alongside Hampus Wanne, Mattias Zachrisson and Jesper Nielsen

EURO: S 2018



Valentin Porte

@valhand28

right back

- arrived in Montpellier in 2016, reached the CL Quarter-finals in his debut season and won the CL in his second year
- played on the right wing until 2014 when then national team coach Claude Onesta placed him on the back court, with great success
- rose to prominence during EHF EURO 2014, scoring 16 goals in semi-final and final
- golf aficionado, having learned a lot from his teammates, like Barça goalkeeper Gonzalo Perez de Vargas

EC trophies: CL 2018

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



Melvyn Richardson

@Melvyn_richardson

right back

- son of Jackson Richardson, who won CL in 2001 with Portland San Antonio, 17 years before Melvyn would repeat the feat with Montpellier
- at his best on the back court but also able to play on the wing
- played for the first time with the French team in June 2017, one of the team's key players at WCh2019
- was fourth-best CL scorer with 87 goals in 2018/19 despite Montpellier being eliminated in the group phase

EC trophies: CL 2018; WCh: B 2019



Yanis Lenne

@lenne_yanis

right wing

- back in France after two seasons with Barça, including a one-year loan to French side Aix
- at 23, seen as one of the brightest prospects on the right wing position in Europe
- part of French squad that won WCh 2017 but did not play

GROUP B

**Club Address**

FC Porto Sofarma
Estadio do Dragao
Via FC Porto,
Portugal

Media contact

Joana Moreira
+351 918 976 756
joana.moreira@fcporto.pt

 www.fcporto.pt

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

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

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

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: blue and white (stripes)

Shorts: blue or white

Goalkeeper shirt: orange

Dark

Player shirt: Yellow

Player shorts: yellow

Goalkeeper shirt: dark

Blue

FC Porto Sofarma



FC Porto are the current national champions and this season, they are dreaming big in the top-flight club competition. In 2019/20, FC Porto bet on continuity and stability – the same coach, the same players, redoubled ambition.

After conquering everything in Portugal in 2018/19, FC Porto want to achieve something historic in the Champions League. But it is going to be a difficult path, as they will take on Kielce, Veszprém, Vardar, Kiel, Motor, Montpellier and Meshkov Brest in Group B.

FC Porto have a very balanced squad, with players full of talent and a great coach in the form of Magnus Andersson. Only one player (Ruben Ribeiro) arrived and just Leandro Semedo left the club. With a strong 2018/19 season behind them, FC Porto have all the conditions to shine in the Champions League.

This year, winning all games at home will be crucial for Porto to access the Last 16. Therefore, the atmosphere that lives inside Dragao Arena will always be important.

Antonio Areia had a very special season in 2018/19. The right wing has collected great performances for FC Porto and scored 56 goals in the last edition of the EHF Cup, culminating in a historic third place in the competition and the first double success in the history of the club (national championship and Portuguese Cup).

The cherry on the top of the cake happened most recently, as one of Areia's goals in 2018/19 was voted best of the EHF Cup season. Areia breathes confidence.

The 'Dragons' will have to be in the first six places in Group B to achieve their goal of a Last 16 berth, in what is an important year for Portuguese handball. For 12 years, until FC Porto made their way back to the Champions League, Portugal had no teams in this competition. Therefore, the fact that both Porto and Sporting will play the top-flight competition is of great significance.

"We are very proud to reach a phase where we can play against the best teams in the world. We want to be in the Last 16," says team captain Hugo Laurentino.

**Playing hall**

Dragao Arena
Via Futebol Clube do Porto
4350419 Porto
Portugal
Capacity: 2,225

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 10
Group phase (2): 2013/14, 2015/16
Qualification (7): 1999/00, 2004/05, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2014/15

Other

EHF Cup: 3rd: 2018/19; Group Phase: 2014/15, 2016/17; Last 16: 1998/99, 2010/11, 2011/12

Cup Winner's Cup: Quarter-final 2000/01, 2001/02; Last 16: 1996/97, 2007/08

Portuguese league: 21 titles (1954, 1957-60, 1963-65, 1968, 1999, 2002-04, 2009-15, 2019)
Portuguese cup: 8 titles



8 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

74 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	37:15 (16:7) v Vojvodina SRB (h), 05.12.2015
Biggest defeat	35:23 (16:13) v KS Vive Targi Kielce POL (a), 29.09.2013
Longest winning run	3 matches (01.10.2015 – 17.10.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	3 matches (01.10.2015 – 17.10.2015)
Longest losing run	3 matches (22.09.2013 – 12.10.2013)
Longest run without win	3 matches (22.09.2013 – 12.10.2013)
Most goals	37 v Vojvodina SRB 37:15W (h), 05.12.2015
Most goals opponent	35 v KS Vive Targi Kielce POL 30:35L (h), 07.02.2014
Most goals both teams	66 v Naturhouse La Rioja ESP 35:31W (h), 21.11.2015
Fewest goals	20 v KIF Kolding Kobenhavn DEN 25:20L (a), 22.09.2013
Fewest goals opponent	15 v Vojvodina SRB 37:15W (h), 05.12.2015
Fewest goals both teams	43 v Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral FRA 22:21W (h), 20.10.2013

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2013/14 FC Porto Vitalis POR	10	2	1	7	241:278	-37	5:15	5th Gr. B	
2015/16 Futebol Clube do Porto POR	10	7	0	3	296:265	+31	14:6	3rd Gr. C	
Total	20	9	1	10	537:543	-6	19:21		



Magnus Andersson

coach

- FC Porto head coach since June 2018
- former center back and was the MVP in the EURO 1994, in Portugal
- As a player was also two-time World Champion and four time European Champion

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2016 and 2017 (as a coach)

OG: S 1992, 1996, 2000, **EURO:** G 1994, 1998, 2000, 2002, **WCh:** G 1990, 1999

Newcomers:

Ruben Ribeiro (A. A. Avanca)

Left the club:

Leandro Semedo (Anaitasuna)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
	Tomas	Abreu	POR		29/01/2002			
29	Miguel	Alves	POR	Right Wing	22/07/1996	Porto, POR	184	82
7	Yoan	Balaszczak	CUB	Left Back	26/12/1995	Havana, CUB	193	96
24	Thomas	Bauer	AUT	Goalkeeper	24/01/1986	Wien, AUT	188	90
22	Alexis	Borges	POR	Line Player	06/10/1991	Havana, CUB	196	116
23	Diogo	Branquinho	POR	Left Wing	25/07/1994	AVEIRO, POR	185	87
21	Leonel	Fernandes	POR	Left Wing	12/03/1998	Porto, POR	186	80
27	Andre	Gomes	POR	Left Back	27/07/1998	Braga, POR	193	96
13	Angel	Hernandez	CUB	Right Back	04/02/1994	Havana, CUB	196	93
4	Victor	Iturriza	CUB	Line Player	22/05/1990	Havana, CUB	200	105
C 16	Hugo	Laurentino	POR	Goalkeeper	22/07/1984	Evora, POR	188	88
88	Fabio	Magalhães	POR	Back	12/03/1988	Lisboa, POR	193	90
11	Djibril	Mbengue	GER	Right Back	13/05/1992	Stuttgart, GER	198	101
	Goncalo	Meireles	POR		18/12/1998			
	Miguel	Novoa	POR		15/08/2000			
90	Francisco	Oliveira	POR	Goalkeeper	15/03/2002	Maderia, POR	194	93
	Goncalo	Oliveira	POR		16/04/2002			
	Gustavo	Oliveira	POR		14/03/2001			
	Bernardo	Pegas	POR		17/09/2003			
1	Alfredo	Quintana	POR	Goalkeeper	20/03/1988	Havana, CUB	202	105
	Ruben	Ribeiro	POR	Back	14/02/1998	Leça, POR	198	85
25	Antonio	Rodrigues Areia	POR	Right Wing	21/06/1990	Lisboa, POR	191	91
15	Daymaro	Salina	POR	Line Player	01/09/1987	Havana, CUB	200	117
	Fabio	Silva	POR		20/01/2001			
10	Miguel	Soares Martins	POR	Centre Back	04/11/1997	Porto, POR	193	92
5	Andre	Sousa	POR		03/03/2002	Porto, POR		
14	Rui Sousa	Martins Silva	POR	Centre Back	28/04/1993	Guimaraes, POR	186	80



Alfredo Quintana

goalkeeper

- From Havana, Quintana arrived at FC Porto in 2010
- Now he is the National Portuguese Goalkeeper
- Won several Portuguese titles, all of them in FC Porto
- He is a decisive player and very confident



Thomas Bauer

goalkeeper

- spent most of his career in Austria and Germany
- from Vienna, Bauer arrived at FC Porto in 2018
- helped the blue and white team win all competitions last season
- shone in the Men's EHF Cup 2018/19 and also won the Fan Award at the EHF Cup Finals in Kiel
- goalkeeper with great reflexes and very elastic



Diogo Branquinho

left wing

- After several years at ABC, he is now highlighting in FC Porto
- With 24 years he already conquered one Challenge Cup, one Portuguese Cup and one Supercup
- Very strong in counterattack
- He is very well prepared physically



Fábio Magalhães

left back

- A very experienced player who adds wisdom
- He can also play at right back with quality
- A complete player with a great attitude
- Won one Portuguese Supercup in Sporting CP

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2010

**Rui Silva****centre back**

- After several years at Sporting CP, he is now a key player in FC Porto
- An intelligent athlete and essential in the team's offensive maneuver
- Very important in the "7x6" of his team
- Assists very well for the pivot and also finishes well

**Daymaro Salina****line player**

- With 32 years, he is one of the team captains
- Won several Portuguese titles, all of them in FC Porto
- He scores a lot of goals and is a defensive machine
- With a great mentality he is a complete pivot

**Djibril M'Bengue****right back**

- Came from Stuttgart and he is now making an excellent season in FC Porto
- Is already a guarantee that he will stay another year in the blue and white team
- This German right back with Senegalese origin has a great mentality
- He is a very strong player and has a great shot

**António Areia****right wing**

- Portuguese player that arrived at FC Porto in 2015
- He is a true expert from seven metres
- Won two Portuguese Supercup in SL Benfica
- This "southpaw" is a portent at a technical level

GROUP B



THW Kiel



Having played in the EHF Champions League year after year, it was hard for THW Kiel to take on the challenge and play in the EHF Cup last season. But in the end, 2018/19 was a perfect international season for THW Kiel with 10 victories from 10 matches. Kiel said farewell to their coach Alfred Gislason with their fourth EHF Cup title and 11th German cup triumph - and qualification for the VELUX EHF Champions League 2019/20.

After a constant transition in the past three seasons, the THW squad has not changed that much this time. The biggest transfer ahead of the 2019/20 season was already announced in October 2017: Kielce's signing of goalkeeper Andreas Wolff. He has been replaced by Dario Quenstedt from SC Magdeburg, who will be back-up for undisputed No. 1 Niklas Landin. The second new arrival has an even clearer job description: Czech international Pavel Horak, who arrived from Meshkov Brest, shall add more concrete to the already solid THW defence. Only in one year's time, Kiel's biggest signing since years will arrive, Norwegian world star Sander Sagosen from PSG.

The last three seasons no German team qualified for the pinnacle event of European club handball. So Kiel remain the last team to make it there, in 2016. Twice they failed in the quarter-final. In their Group B, Veszprém and Kielce seem to be on an equal level with Kiel, maybe Vardar too.

In 2019, there are no bigger shoes to fill than those of Alfred Gislason in Kiel. After 11 years and more than 20 trophies, the Icelandic coach ended his career in Kiel, while his former assistant is the new boss: Filip Jicha. The Czech, who played many years in Kiel, has started in his first head coach position. "I have huge respect for this job and the club, but I am confident that I can manage it," Jicha said. With Christian Sprenger as assistant coach and Mattias Andersson as goalkeeper coach, Jicha has two former THW stars in his staff. In Kiel, it is always about winning trophies. Apart from winning the Bundesliga again for the first time since 2015, the main goal is to make it to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne.

Club Address

THW Kiel
Rehmkamp 1
24161 Altenholz
Germany

Media contact

Christian Robohm
+49 1635306300
christian.robohm@thw-
handball.de

www.thw-handball.de

thwhandball

@thw_handball

@thwhandball

thwhandball

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

**Playing hall**

Sparkassen-Arena-Kiel
Europaplatz 1
24103 Kiel
Germany
Capacity: 10,285

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 22
Winners (3): 2006/07, 2009/10, 2011/12
Runners-up (4): 1999/2000, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2013/14
Semi-final (5): 1996/97, 2000/01, 2012/13, 2014/15, 2015/16
Quarter-final (7): 1998/99, 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2017/18
Group Phase (2): 1994/95, 1995/96

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 1997/98, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2018/19

Champions Trophy: Winners 2006/07;
Runners-up: 2000/01, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2007/08

German league: 20 titles

German cup: 11 titles



EHF Champions League club records

11 MATCHES
Longest winning run

50 GOALS
Most goals

81 GOALS
Most goals both teams

Biggest win	26:50 (13:24) v Banik OKD Karvina CZE (a), 22.10.2006
Biggest defeat	42:24 (22:10) v Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA (a), 12.03.2017
Longest winning run	11 matches (02.10.2014 – 22.03.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	17 matches (22.10.2011 – 11.10.2012)
Longest losing run	3 matches (07.02.1996 – 19.03.1996)
	3 matches (30.05.2015 – 17.09.2015)
	3 matches (30.04.2016 – 29.05.2016)
	3 matches (29.04.2017 – 24.09.2017)
Longest run without win	5 matches (15.02.2017 – 22.03.2017)
Most goals	50 v Banik OKD Karvina CZE 26:50W (a), 22.10.2006
Most goals opponent	44 v FC Barcelona ESP 44:37L (a), 13.04.2008
Most goals both teams	81 v FC Barcelona ESP 44:37L (a), 13.04.2008
Fewest goals	13 v Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO 22:13L (a), 25.03.2000
Fewest goals opponent	15 v SKA Minsk BLR 15:27W (a), 10.11.1996
	15 v SKA Minsk BLR 21:15W (h), 12.01.1997
Fewest goals both teams	35 v Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO 22:13L (a), 25.03.2000

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 THW Kiel GER	6	3	0	3	137:136	+1	6:6	2nd Gr. B	
1995/96 THW Kiel GER	6	3	0	3	151:148	+3	6:6	2nd Gr. A	
1996/97 THW Kiel GER	10	6	1	3	247:211	+36	13:7	Semi-final	
1998/99 THW Kiel GER	8	7	0	1	229:199	+30	14:2	Quarter-final	
1999/00 THW Kiel GER	12	7	1	4	319:283	+36	15:9	Runner-up	
2000/01 THW Kiel GER	10	5	1	4	279:255	+24	11:9	Semi-final	
2002/03 THW Kiel GER	8	4	1	3	234:211	+23	9:7	Quarter-final	
2004/05 THW Kiel GER	10	8	0	2	336:274	+62	16:4	Quarter-final	
2005/06 THW Kiel GER	10	8	0	2	346:293	+53	16:4	Quarter-final	
2006/07 THW Kiel GER	14	11	1	2	517:420	+97	23:5	Winner	
2007/08 THW Kiel GER	16	13	0	3	533:462	+71	26:6	Runner-up	
2008/09 THW Kiel GER	16	12	1	3	548:461	+87	25:7	Runner-up	
2009/10 THW Kiel GER	16	14	1	1	534:444	+90	29:3	Winner	
2010/11 THW Kiel GER	14	9	2	3	456:393	+63	20:8	Quarter-final	
2011/12 THW Kiel GER	16	12	3	1	496:414	+82	27:5	Winner	
2012/13 THW Kiel GER	16	11	0	5	518:457	+61	22:10	Fourth Place	
2013/14 THW Kiel GER	16	13	1	2	491:427	+64	27:5	Runner-up	
2014/15 THW Kiel GER	16	12	0	4	498:421	+77	24:8	Fourth Place	
2015/16 THW Kiel GER	20	10	1	9	579:567	+12	21:19	Fourth Place	
2016/17 THW Kiel GER	18	7	2	9	449:474	-25	16:20	Quarter-final	
2017/18 THW Kiel GER	18	9	2	7	478:467	+11	20:16	Quarter-final	
Total	276	184	18	74	8375:7417	+958	386:166		



Filip Jicha

coach

- took over in the summer of 2019 as the successor of Alfred Gislason
- became only the third THW coach since 1993, after Noka Serdariusic (1993-2008) and Alfred Gislason (2008-2019)
- worked as an assistant under Gislason in the 2018/19 season
- was part of the golden generation of THW as a player from 2007-2015, winning a total of 21 titles with the club
- twice a CL top scorer, he ended his career in Barcelona in 2017
- awarded IHF World Player of the Year in 2010

CL 2010, 2012, EHF Cup 2006 (as a player) 2019 (as assistant coach)

 @filda39

Newcomers:

Dario Quenstedt (SC Magdeburg/GER)
 Pavel Horak (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
 Fynn Malte Schröder (TSV Altenholz/GER)

Left the club:

Sebastian Firnhaber (HC Erlangen/GER)
 Andreas Wolff (PGE VIVE Kielce/POL)
 Marko Vujan (Sporting CP)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
24	Miha	Zarabec	SLO	Centre Back	12/10/1991	Novo Mesto, SLO	178	78
17	Patrick	Wienczek	GER	Line Player	22/03/1989	Duisburg, GER	200	117
13	Steffen	Weinhold	GER	Right Back	19/07/1986	Fuerth, GER	191	100
16	Fynn Malte	Schröder	GER	Goalkeeper	12/02/1997	Bremen, GER	186	79
6	Harald	Reinkind	NOR	Right Back	17/08/1992	Tønsberg, NOR	197	102
22	Ole	Rahmel	GER	Right Wing	19/11/1989	Achim, GER	190	92
21	Dario	Quenstedt	GER	Goalkeeper	22/09/1989	Burg, GER	193	101
61	Hendrik	Pekeler	GER	Line Player	02/07/1991	Itzehohe, GER	203	102
65	Lukas	Nilsson	SWE	Left Back	16/11/1996	Ystad, SWE	192	103
1	Niklas	Landin Jacobsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	19/12/1988	Søborg, DEN	201	102
7	Magnus	Landin Jacobsen	DEN	Left Wing	20/08/1995	Helsingør, DEN	197	92
11	Gisli Thorgeir	Kristjánsson	ISL	Centre Back	30/07/1999	Reykjavik, ISL	191	95
28	Pavel	Horak	CZE	Left Back	28/11/1982	Prerov, CZE	198	113
18	Niclas	Ekberg	SWE	Right Wing	23/12/1988	Ystad, SWE	191	91
C 4	Domagoj	Duvnjak	CRO	Centre Back	01/06/1988	Dakovo, CRO	198	102
23	Rune	Dahmke	GER	Left Wing	10/04/1993	Kiel, GER	189	85
53	Nikola	Bilyk	AUT	Left Back	28/11/1996	Tunis, TUN	198	104



Niklas Landin

@niklaslandin

goalkeeper

- joined Kiel in the summer of 2015 after three seasons with Rhein-Neckar Löwen
- is undisputed No. 1 after the departure of Andreas Wolff to Kielce
- captain of world-title winning Danish national team, successor of legendary Kasper Hvidt after breaking through at WCh 2011
- best goalkeeper of WCh 2013 and 2019, EHF EURO 2014, CL 2013/14, Olympics 2016

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013, 2019

OG: G 2016, WCh: G 2019, S 2011, 2013, EURO: G 2012, S 2014



Magnus Landin

@magnuslandin

left wing

- younger brother of goalkeeper Niklas Landin
- joined THW and his brother at the start of the 2018/19 season
- tall winger (1.97 metre), who had debut in Danish national team at age 20
- previously played for Nordsjaelland and KIF Kolding København

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2019

WCh G2019, U19 WCh G 2013



Domagoj Duvnjak

@domagojduvnjak88

centre back

- With Kiel since the 2014/15 season, arriving from Hamburg (2009-14)
- became IHF World Handball Player of the Year 2013 and best Bundesliga player in 2012/13
- one of three THW team captains alongside Niklas Landin and Patrick Wiencek
- has more than 200 caps for Croatia, more than 1,200 goals in the Bundesliga

EC trophies: CL 2013, EHF Cup 2019

OG: B 2012, WCh: S 2009, B 2013, EURO: S 2010, B 2012 B 2016



Nikola Bilyk

@nikolabylik53

left back

- born in Tunis, where his father Serhij was goalkeeper at Esperance
- later father and son Bilyk played for Fivers in Vienna
- at 18, he was the youngest player at WCh 2015 in Qatar
- was MVP, top scorer and best centre back at M20 EHF EURO 2014 in Austria
- top scorer of the Austrian league in 2015/16, netting 210 times for Fivers
- arrived in Kiel in 2016

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2019



Steffen Weinhold

@steffenweinhold13

right back

- joined Kiel from Flensburg in 2014 as freshly crowned CL winner
- going into 13th Bundesliga season, also played for Nordhorn and Großwallstadt
- forms right-back duo with Norwegian Harald Reinkind
- has just extended his contract until 2022
- likes cycling through Kiel and has a huge collection of caps

EC trophies: CL 2014, EHFC 2008, 2019
EURO: G 2016, U20 EURO: G 2006, WCh U21: S 2007, OG: B 2016



Niclas Ekberg

@ekbergniclas18

right wing

- joined Kiel after 2012 Olympics, where he was silver medallist and top scorer
- previously played for AG Kobenhavn and started his career at Ystad
- MVP of AKQUINET EHF Cup Finals 2019 and Kiel's best scorer EHF Cup 2018/19
- is the penalty and counter attack expert
- has extended his contract until 2021

OG: S2012 (nie 2016)



Patrick Wiencek

@patrickwiencek

line player

- is the boss of the THW defence and one of the three team captains
- missed the victorious EHF EURO 2016 due to a knee injury
- is the current German Player of the Year, played 136 international matches so far
- joined THW in 2012 from Gummersbach, extended his contract until 2023

EC trophies: CWC 2011, EHF Cup 2019
OG: B 2016 U21 WCh G 2009



Miha Zarabec

@mzarabec

centre back

- at 1.78 metre, he is by far the smallest player of the THW squad
- arrived at Kiel from Slovenian record champions RK Celje in 2017
- is a classical playmaker, but also famous for breakthroughs
- is the back-up for Domagoj Duvnjak in attack
- is a core player of the Slovenian national team

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2019
WCh B2017

Group C preview



SPORTING STAND OUT IN AN EVENLY-MATCHED GROUP

Having given eventual finalists Veszprém a run for their money in last season's Last 16, Sporting CP will fancy their chances of emulating that success and progressing from Group C of the VELUX EHF Champions League.



Failing to win the Portuguese league last season may have cost them a place in Groups A/B, but this squad know what they are capable of at this level, particularly with last season's stars Frankis Carol, Carlos Ruesga, Ivan Nikcevic and Tiago Rocha remaining with the club.

The arrival of coach Thierry Anti from HBC Nantes is incredibly exciting for the club and he is no stranger to navigating a team through to the business end of this competition.

BIDASOA BACK IN THE BIG TIME

It will be fascinating to see which of the other five clubs will challenge for a place in the top two. Could it be 1995 champions Bidasoa Irun, who return to the competition for the first time since losing the following final in 1996.

It is the first time the Basque club feature in Europe in 13 years, so they lack that pedigree, but finishing second in the ASOBAL league last season means they have the quality. An unchanged squad will be an added boost and it will be exciting to see their first home match in Round 2.

HC Eurofarm Rabotnik are complete newcomers to this level, having snatched the second Macedonian spot from Metalurg's grasp.

In just their third European season, the Bitola-based outfit have risen to the top flight and it is clear from their summer transfer activity that they are keen to make an instant impact. National team legend Stevche Alushovski took over the club earlier this year and his relative inexperience as a coach will be quickly put to the test as Anti and Sporting come to town in the opening round.

Tatran Presov have been the most consistently present club in the group, having featured in three of the past four group phases, but they have yet to progress any further.

Led by former Olympic and world champion Slavko Goluz, Presov are targeting the Group C/D play-off, which they missed only on goal difference last season.

With Nino Grzentic and Javier Munoz Cabezón arriving from Slovenia and Spain, Presov have added diversity and talent to the squad.





WHO WILL LEAD SÄVEHOF?

Rounding up the group are the Nordic challengers from Sweden and Finland, IK Sävehof and Cocks, who get the season underway with the opening match on 11 September.

After surprising everyone in Sweden's play-offs last season, Sävehof's young team has the chance to prove their worth in Europe.

However, exactly one week before Sävehof were scheduled to open the VELUX EHF Champions League season, player-coach Jonas Larholm suddenly left the club for personal reasons, with a trio of coaches, Kristian Berndtsson, Emil Berggren and Peter Möller, taking over for the 2019/20 season.

The late change of coaches may hinder their preparation and it is reflected in their target-setting. "We want to win as many games as possible, but also to gain as much experience as possible for our young squad," says Emil Berggren, who just finished his active playing career last season.

The opening game of the season will be an extra special one for Cocks as they play their first top flight match at the brand new Cocks Arena.

The Riihimäki-based club surprised many with some impressive performances in their debut season and with a year of experience behind them and a new home, they may allow themselves to dream of bigger things.

"Now the team has only one goal: To play better, faster and tougher than last season. Hopefully, this will pay off in terms of more points - or even a place in the next round," says team captain Teemu Tamminen, who alongside Nico Rönnerberg made a name for himself last year.

Cocks' presence in the group and the danger they possess to any opponent underlines just how open Group C is. With plenty of unknowns and ambition in the air, surprises are bound to occur and no one team will enjoy an easy ride to the top of the table.



Group C head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group C opponents in the EC

IK Sävehof vs TATRAN Presov 1-1-0 (64:63) 3:1

10.10.2010 IK Sävehof vs TATRAN Presov, EHF Champions League – Group B
06.03.2011 TATRAN Presov vs IK Sävehof, EHF Champions League – Group B

33:32 (16:11)
31:31 (15:15)

IK Sävehof vs Cocks

No previous encounters in European competitions

IK Sävehof vs HC Eurofarm Rabotnik

No previous encounters in European competitions

IK Sävehof vs Bidasoa Irun

No previous encounters in European competitions

IK Sävehof vs Sporting CP

No previous encounters in European competitions

TATRAN Presov vs Cocks 1-0-0 (30:27) 2:0

03.09.2017 Cocks vs TATRAN Presov, VELUX EHF Champions League – Qualification Group 1

27:30 (10:15)

TATRAN Presov vs Bidasoa Irun

No previous encounters in European competitions

TATRAN Presov vs Sporting CP 1-0-1 (55:56) 2:2

13.10.2018 TATRAN Presov vs Sporting CP, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C
03.11.2018 Sporting CP vs TATRAN Presov, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C

27:30 (13:15)
26:28 (11:14)

Cocks vs HC Eurofarm Rabotnik

No previous encounters in European competitions

Cocks vs Sporting CP 0-0-1 (27:31) 0:2

02.09.2017 Sporting CP vs Cocks, VELUX EHF Champions League – Qualification Group 1

31:27 (18:14)

HC Eurofarm Rabotnik vs Bidasoa Irun

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Eurofarm Rabotnik vs Sporting CP

No previous encounters in European competitions

Bidasoa Irun vs Sporting CP

No previous encounters in European competitions

A close-up photograph of two young women with long hair, smiling broadly. They are wearing a red and yellow sash. In the background, a crowd of people is visible, some wearing blue clothing with white stars, suggesting a patriotic or celebratory event.

Think one passion
can reach many
countries.

The UNIQA Group is one of the leading insurance groups in its core markets of Austria and Central and Eastern Europe with over 40 companies in 18 countries and around 10 million customers.

www.uniqagroup.com

Think



GROUP C

**Club Address**

IK Sävehof
Partille Arena
Arenatorget 2
43322 Partille, Sweden

Media contact

Frederik Sahlin
+46 (0) 701 477 370
cl@savehof.se

 www.savehof.se

 Savehof

 @IK_Savehof

 @ik_savehof

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

IK Sävehof



IK Sävehof won three straight Swedish championships from 2010 to 2012 and had a few good seasons in the VELUX Champions League. Now, for the first time in seven years, Sävehof is back in Europe's finest club competition. After surprising everyone in Sweden last season this young team has the chance to do something great in Europe.

First-year coach Jonas Larholm returned to Sävehof in 2016 after a 10-year adventure with four different European clubs. Larholm had his breakthrough season in Sävehof at the same time as Kim Andersson and his first contract outside of Sweden was in Barcelona. His player career later took him to Aalborg Håndbold in Denmark, SC Pick Szeged in Hungary and TTH Holstebro. When Larholm returned to Sävehof in 2016 it was as a player, but in a young squad Larholm had a lot to teach and in the 2018/19 season he basically acted as an assistant coach. His experience as a coach is small, but Larholm has played at two of the biggest clubs in Europe and also has over 200 national games for Sweden. "We want to win as many games as possible, but also to gain as much experience as possible for our young squad. Since we have a young and talented team, the experience will be extremely valuable," team manager Emil Berggren says.

After nine seasons with three different German teams (TV Grosswallstadt, VfL Gummersbach and GWD Minden) line player Joakim Larsson returned to Sweden before the 2017/18 season. Since then Larsson played a big role in Sävehof but after the great success last season the club and the 35 year old decided not to continue working together. In this very young team (only two players are over 25 years old) Larsson's experience will be missed. In his absence Sävehof has brought in Adam Blanche, a huge talent and a great player, but only 19 years old and with one season as a senior player.

It is unclear how much player coach Larholm will actually spend on court. Vetle Eck Aga and Christoffer Brännberger had huge roles in last season's success and team captain Jonathan Edvardsson is also key.

**Playing hall**

Partille Arena
Arenatorget 2
43322 Partille
Sweden
Capacity: 4,500

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 6
Last 16 (2): 2004/05, 2011/12
Group Phase (3): 2005/06, 2010/11, 2012/13

Other

EHF Cup: Last 16: 2006/07
Cup Winners' Cup: Last 16: 1993/94, 2006/07
Challenge Cup: Winners 2013/14; Semi-finals 2002/03

Swedish league: 6 titles (2004, 2005, 2010-12, 2019)



8 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

74 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	21:38 (8:19) v HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH (a), 18.02.2012
Biggest defeat	34:19 (15:7) v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO (a), 08.10.2005
Longest winning run	3 matches (04.12.2011 – 18.02.2012)
Longest unbeaten run	5 matches (23.10.2004 – 05.12.2004)
Longest losing run	6 matches (14.10.2010 – 26.02.2011)
	6 matches (18.11.2012 – 21.02.2013)
Longest run without win	10 matches (14.10.2010 – 15.10.2011)
Most goals	38 v Haukar Hafnarfjörður ISL 38:32W (h), 13.11.2004
	38 v HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 21:38W (a), 18.02.2012
Most goals opponent	43 v THW Kiel GER 43:34L (a), 07.10.2012
Most goals both teams	77 v THW Kiel GER 43:34L (a), 07.10.2012
Fewest goals	19 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 34:19L (a), 08.10.2005
Fewest goals opponent	20 v US Creteil Handball FRA 20:20D (a), 06.11.2004
	20 v HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 24:20W (h), 20.10.2011
Fewest goals both teams	40 v US Creteil Handball FRA 20:20D (a), 06.11.2004

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2004/05 IK Sävehof SWE	8	4	2	2	232:232		0	10:6	Last 16
2005/06 IK Sävehof SWE	6	3	0	3	156:180		-24	6:6	3rd Gr. B
2010/11 IK Sävehof SWE	10	1	1	8	283:347		-64	3:17	5th Gr. B
2011/12 IK Sävehof SWE	12	5	0	7	340:360		-20	10:14	Last 16
2012/13 IK Sävehof SWE	10	2	0	8	276:330		-54	4:16	6th Gr. B
Total	46	15	3	28	1287:1449		-162	33:59	



Emil Berggren

coach

- was an integral part of the IK Sävehof team that won three straight domestic league titles 2010, 2011 and 2012
- moved back to IK Sävehof before this season to become the clubs new team manager
- when former coach Jonas Larholm left the team a few days before the league start Berggren had to jump in with Kristian Berndtsson and Peter Möller to form a coaching trio
- had a successful playing career that took him to clubs like Bergischer HC, Aalborg Håndbold and HSG Wetzlar
- finished his active career after the last season

Newcomers:

Adam Blanche (Hammarby IF/SWE)
Stefan Sunajko (MOL-Pick Szeged/HUN, on loan)
Andras Koncz (CYEB Budakalasz/HUN)
Anders Forsell Schefvert (Sävehof youth team)
Henrik Rhåsson (Sävehof youth team)
Emil Berlin (Sävehof youth team)

Left the club:

Henrik Johansson (unknown)
Joakim Larsson (unknown)
Viktor Ottosson (retired)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
9	Vetle	Aga Eck	NOR	Centre Back	04/10/1993	Bodö, NOR	190	98
3	Emil	Berlin	SWE	Right Back	24/02/2001	Göteborg, SWE	184	74
16	Agust Elí	Björgvinsson	ISL	Goalkeeper	11/04/1995	Reykjavik, ISL	190	91
6	Adam	Blanche	SWE	Line Player	18/10/2000	Stockholm, SWE	193	108
15	William	Bogojevic	SWE	Left Back	07/07/1997	Göteborg, SWE	195	103
10	Christoffer	Brännberger	SWE	Line Player	29/12/1990	Farsta, SWE	200	105
18	Pontus	Brolin	SWE	Left Back	25/12/2000	Eskilstuna, SWE	193	89
C 26	Jonathan	Edvardsson	SWE	Centre Back	07/04/1997	Göteborg, SWE	190	92
24	Anders	Forsell Schefvert	SWE	Centre Back	15/03/2001	Uddevalla, SWE	190	92
35	Leonard	Gegaj	SWE	Left Back	10/02/2001	Göteborg, SWE	183	81
36	Kalle	Hellquist	SWE	Centre Back	09/04/2001	Göteborg, SWE	185	88
8	Sebastian	Karlsson	SWE	Right Wing	21/01/1995	Göteborg, SWE	178	80
5	Andras	Koncz	HUN	Centre Back	01/08/1995	Budapest, HUN	193	82
6	Jonas Erik	Larholm	SWE	Centre Back	03/06/1982	Såvedalen, SWE	193	88
12	Simon	Möller	SWE	Goalkeeper	02/07/2000	Lubz, GER	190	93
50	Felix	Möller	SWE	Line Player	04/09/2002	Göteborg, SWE	194	85
14	Henrik	Rhasson	SWE	Centre Back	23/05/2000	Göteborg, SWE	180	78
22	Gzim	Salihi	SWE	Right Back	12/03/1998	Göteborg, SWE	197	94
40	Oscar	Sävinger	SWE	Goalkeeper	13/06/2002	Göteborg, SWE	195	87
17	Sebastian	Spante	SWE	Left Wing	26/07/2000	Göteborg, SWE	175	76
37	Emanuel	Steen	SWE	Right Wing	23/02/2001	Leksand, SWE	182	78
18	Stefan	Sunajko	SRB	Left Wing	10/04/1998	Zombor, SRB	194	83
4	Tobias	Thorbjörnsson	SWE	Line Player	18/02/2000	Göteborg, SWE	192	90
39	Oliver	Todorovic	SWE	Centre Back	09/09/2001	Göteborg, SWE	181	88
8	Gustaf	Wedberg	SWE	Right Wing	18/04/1998	Göteborg, SWE	180	82
11	Eric	Westergren	SWE	Line Player	06/10/1999	Stockholm, SWE	197	97
38	Mattias	Wighall	SWE	Goalkeeper	20/05/2002	Göteborg, SWE	203	100



Agust Eli Björgvinsson

 @agustelii

goalkeeper

- joined the club in 2018 from Icelandic side Fimleikafélag Hafnarfjarðar
- replaced former Swedish international Per Sandström, who retired after 2017/18
- has played over 20 international games for Iceland
- was the standout goalkeeper in the play-offs of the domestic league in 2018/19, one of the main reasons why Sävehof won the title



Stefan Sunajko

 @stefansunajko

left wing

- joined the club in the summer of 2019, coming from MOL-Pick Szeged on loan
- has CL experience from his time in Szeged
- is a tall wing player, who has great speed and finesse
- was born in Serbia but also has a Hungarian passport



William Bogojevic

 @williambogo

left back

- has played for IK Sävehof all his life, making his debut in 1st team in 2014 at age 17
- has played in 34 youth international games for Sweden
- back player who is known for his great physique and incredible shot



Jonathan Edvardsson

 @jonathanedvardsson

centre back

- never played another club than IK Sävehof
- considered a huge talent in Sweden, made his professional debut in 2014 at age 16
- team captain since the start of the 2018/19 season
- a very allround player, who can play at all positions in the back

**Gzim Salihi**
 @gziimsalihi
right back

- moved to IK Sävehof in 2014 from his first club, Nödinge SK
- made his first senior appearance for IK Sävehof in 2015
- has won three domestic titles with the club, including two with the youth team
- plays with lots of pace and flair, making him a threat in every aspect of the game

**Sebastian Karlsson****right wing**

- one of the many home-grown players in IK Sävehof's squad
- played his first competitive game for IK Sävehof's senior team in 2013
- a fast player who has his strengths at the offensive end of the pitch
- IK Sävehof's fifth best scorer last season, with 83 goals in 31 games

**Adam Blanche**
 @adam.blanche
line player

- joined the club in the summer of 2019 from relegated Hammarby
- as a line player he is replacing former Bundesliga player Joakim Larsson
- was sought after by several Swedish clubs after his breakthrough 2018/19 season
- at age 18, has already played almost 20 international games for Sweden

**Christoffer Brännberger**
 @cbrannberger
line player

- joined IK Sävehof in the summer of 2018 from Swiss club Kadetten Schaffhausen
- won three domestic titles in Switzerland with Kadetten Schaffhausen
- with his tough playing style, he became a key player for IK Sävehof in their race to the domestic league title in 2018/19

GROUP C



Club Address
TATRAN Presov
Handball Club
Holleho 3
080 01 Presov
Slovakia

Media contact
Ivan Krissak
+421 905 478 115
ivan.krissak@gmail.com

 www.tatranpresov.sk

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

 #TatranPresov

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Tatran Presov



Tatran Presov have had their difficulties in the VELUX EHF Champions League during the past seasons. They even stranded in qualification six times in the past 10 years. But with a young squad they are eager to show their best in the group phase in 2019/20. Led by former Olympic and world champion Slavko Goluz, Presov are targeting the Groups C/D play-off, which they missed only on goal difference last season.

The Slovak champion are still the benchmark in their domestic championship. They just bagged their 13th straight title, and 15th overall, bringing them their 16th participation in Europe's elite competition. "The VELUX EHF Champions League is the very best that club handball offers. It is a reward for our continuous effort and sporting highlight for the city, region and its people," says the club's sport director Miroslav Benicky.

Presov reached the Last 16 only once, back in 2005. It is something that everyone in the club is dreaming of but they are aware it is not easy to repeat that feat. But the objectives for the season are clear: "Considering our solid performances last season, our ambition is to fight for the top-two places in the group," says Benicky.

The team has one of the most experienced players as their leader: Martin Stranovsky returned to Slovakia last season after 13 years abroad. "Our group is not the hardest but can be very tricky. Each game will be hard and we will have to give over 100 percent to succeed," the team captain says. "I think that the favourites of the group are Sporting. We will fight for the second position with Sävahof and Bidasoa Irun."

Coach Goluz will miss Bruno Butorac, an important part of the offence. He moved to France - as did Jakub Hrstka and Tomas Cip. Tatran continue with diversity in their locker room: newcomers Nino Grzentic, Rares-Marian Fodorean, Javier Munoz Cabezon, Josef Hozman and David Michalka will try to take the next step in the VELUX EHF Champions League as well as the SEHA-League, while they want to retain their dominance in the domestic league.



Tatran Handball Arena Presov
Jana Pavla II 2
080 01 Presov
Slovakia
Capacity: 3,870

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 16
Last 16 (1): 2004/05
Last 32 (1): 1993/94
Group Phase (4): 2010/11, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19
Group Matches (3): 2005/06, 2007/08, 2008/09
Qualification (6): 2009/10, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2017/18

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-final 2011/12
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 2005/06
Slovak league: 15 titles (2004, 2005, 2007-19)
Slovak cup: 14 titles



2 MATCHES
Longest unbeaten run

40 GOALS
Most goals

37 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	37:24 (17:11) v RK Metkovic CRO (h), 30.10.2004
Biggest defeat	42:25 (22:12) v MKB Veszprém KC HUN (a), 05.11.2005
Longest winning run	4 matches (11.02.2017 – 30.09.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	5 matches (04.12.2016 – 30.09.2018)
Longest losing run	7 matches (05.12.2004 – 05.11.2005)
	7 matches (16.11.2008 – 20.11.2010)
Longest run without win	16 matches (16.11.2008 – 10.10.2015)
Most goals	37 v RK Metkovic CRO 37:24W (h), 30.10.2004
Most goals opponent	42 v MKB Veszprém KC HUN 42:25L (a), 05.11.2005
	42 v GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN 42:32L (a), 07.10.2007
Most goals both teams	74 v GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN 42:32L (a), 07.10.2007
Fewest goals	19 v Vojvodina SRB 19:27L (h), 10.10.2015
	19 v Naturhouse La Rioja ESP 19:21L (h), 05.12.2015
Fewest goals opponent	18 v RK Metkovic CRO 18:29W (a), 17.10.2004
Fewest goals both teams	40 v Naturhouse La Rioja ESP 19:21L (h), 05.12.2015

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2004/05 Tatran Presov SVK	8	3	1	4	231:237	-6	7:9	Last 16	
2005/06 Tatran Presov SVK	6	1	0	5	154:201	-47	2:10	3rd Gr. F	
2007/08 Tatran Presov SVK	6	1	1	4	182:211	-29	3:9	3rd Gr. D	
2008/09 Tatran Presov SVK	6	2	0	4	165:183	-18	4:8	3rd Gr. D	
2010/11 TATRAN Presov SVK	10	0	2	8	273:325	-52	2:18	6th Gr. B	
2015/16 TATRAN Presov SVK	10	2	0	8	240:279	-39	4:16	6th Gr. C	
2016/17 TATRAN Presov SVK	10	4	1	5	259:271	-12	9:11	4th Gr. C	
2018/19 TATRAN Presov SVK	10	7	0	3	278:268	+10	14:6	3rd Gr. C	
Total	66	20	5	41	1782:1975	-193	45:87		



Slavko Goluz

coach

- joined club in 2017, former coach of Zagreb and Sisak (CRO)
- won Olympic gold with Croatia as a player in Atlanta and Athens, and bronze as a coach in London
- won two CL titles (1992 and 1993) with Zagreb as a player
- named best Croatian handball coach in 2012, 2013 and 2014

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

 @slavko.goluz_5

Newcomers:

Nino Grzentič (RK Koper/SLO)
Rares-Marian Fodorean (HKM Šaľa/SVK)
Javier Munoz Cabezon (La Rioja/ESP)
Josef Hozman (Agro Topolčany/SVK)
Dávid Michalka (Agro Topolčany/SVK)

Left the club:

Jakub Hrstka (Dessau-Roßlauer HV/GER)
Tomáš Číp (Baia Mare/ROU)
Bruno Butorac (Trembley-en-France/FRA)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
88	Titouan	Afanou Gatine	FRA	Right Back	27/01/1995	Lyon, FRA	193	97
73	Igor	Chupryna	UKR	Goalkeeper	25/04/1990	Illychevsk, UKR	200	96
1	Mario	Cvitkovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	09/08/1994	Sinj, CRO	192	95
5	Ognjen	Djeric	FRA	Line Player	10/01/1994	Fréjus, FRA	200	94
69	Tomas	Fech	SVK	Right Wing	08/10/2001	Presov, SVK		
25	Rares-Marian	Fodorean	ROU	Left Back	05/11/1998	Turda, ROU	195	90
55	Nino	Grzentic	SLO	Left Back	27/11/1992	Koper, SLO	195	90
18	Josef	Hozman	CZE	Right Wing	26/07/1998	Praha, CZE	179	70
27	Jakub	Kravcak	SVK	Left Back	09/12/2002	Presov, SVK		
9	Dominik	Krok	SVK	Left Back	22/01/1991	Bardejov, SVK	189	79
7	Janus	Lapajne	SLO	Centre Back	03/03/1995	Sampeter pri Gorici, SLO	192	93
8	Daniel	Magdolen	SVK	Centre Back	04/04/2001	Presov, SVK		
33	David	Michalka	SVK	Left Wing	28/11/1996	Topolcany, SVK	186	75
14	Javier	Munoz Cabezon	ESP	Right Wing	22/05/1992	Madrid, ESP	191	86
2	Oliver	Rabek	SVK	Left Back	30/09/1987	Nove Zamky, SVK	204	102
10	Tomas	Recicar	SVK	Left Back	30/11/1998	Presov, SVK	189	94
C 24	Martin	Stranovsky	SVK	Left Wing	12/09/1985	Nove Zamky, SVK	187	78
77	Roman	Tsarapkin	RUS	Left Back	09/05/1995	Moscow, RUS	197	95
17	Lukas	Urban	SVK	Left Back	22/06/1995	Presov, SVK	198	85
12	Pavol	Vasil	SVK	Goalkeeper	16/07/2001	Presov, SVK		
23	Leon	Vucko	CRO	Line Player	09/01/1995	Zagreb, CRO	192	115



Igor Chupryna

goalkeeper

- Ukrainian national team goalkeeper, who moved to Presov in the summer of 2015 from Ukrainian club HC Portovik
- forms strong goalkeeping duo with young Croat Mario Cvitkovic
- nicknamed 'The Magician' by teammates and local media
- has extended his contract with the club until 2021



Martin Stranovsky

 @martinstranovsky

left wing

- returned to Slovakia in 2018 after 13 years abroad, at Leon, Barça and Erlangen
- team captain, who scored 23 times for Presov in the CL Group Phase 2018/19
- Slovakian Player of the Year in 2006, played at three EHF EURO events for Slovakia
- reached the VELUX EHF FINAL4 with Barça in 2014



Nino Grzentic

left back

- came to Tatran Presov from Koper (SLO) and signed a two-year deal
- started career in Koper, scored 85 goals in first Slovenian league in 2018/19
- fulfilling his ambitions to play CL and SEHA-League
- occasional Slovenian national team member



Dominik Krok

 @dominikkrok_9

left back

- born in Bardejov, Eastern Slovakia, joined Presov in 2009
- one of few Presov players who was part of all four previous CL Group Phase appearances, in 2010/11, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2018/19
- famous for powerful shots from distance and a fans' favorite
- his last name, Krok, means 'step' in Slovak
- loves to play tennis, which helps him develop his skills and accuracy


Lukas Urban
centre back

- Presov-born player, one of Slovakia's most promising talents
- signed long-term contract with Tatran Presov already in 2014, valid until 2020
- is also a member of the Slovak national handball team


Ognjen Djeric
line player

- arrived from Al Rayyan in Qatar midway through the 2018/19 season
- was a member of the French junior national team
- started career at St. Raphaël, was a member of the senior team since 2014
- was born in France but his father is from Visegrad (BIH)


Titouan Afanou Gatine
right back

- born in Lyon, started his career in St. Raphaël in France
- also played for Paris-Saint Germain, mainly in the youth team
- joined Presov in 2018 for his first season abroad


Javier Munoz Cabezon
right wing

- came to Slovakia after three years at La Rioja (ESP)
- played against Presov with La Rioja in the CL Group Phase 2016/17
- born in Madrid, also played for Villa de Aranda (ESP)
- has experience of several seasons in the CL and the EHF Cup

GROUP C

**Club Address**

Cocks
Teollisuuskatu 16
11120 Riihimäki
Finland

Media contact

Sanna Myllärinen
+358415463046
sanna.myllarinen@outlook.com



www.ocks.fi



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



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



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

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
Player short: red
Goalkeeper shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: red
Player short: red
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

Cocks



Each year since 2013 Cocks have been playing in Europe. Having started their European Cup adventures in the Challenge Cup, they competed in the EHF Cup before celebrating their debut in the top-level VELUX EHF Champions League last season. After achieving six points in Group D in their maiden season, the flagship of Finnish handball aim to improve even further in their new Cocks Arena.

The new arena will enable more spectators to watch the team's home games, and this should obviously result in increased support from the standings, just as improved sponsor facilities will also play a part.

"We want to introduce top handball to the Finnish people in a top arena, our new Cocks Arena," says manager Jari Viitä, who has high expectations in the new venue. "This is only our second year in the Champions League, and the first year in our own arena, so this season will be different and interesting. We hope our arena will give us the home advantage we need."

Six players have left while five have joined, so at first sight the squad appears thinner than last season. However, Cocks are used to dealing with changes in their roster from year to year, and so far, head coach Gintaras Savukynas has done well to handle the challenge.

Getting six points from two wins and two draws in their debut season makes Cocks dare to dream a bit further this time. "Last season was all about showing who we are, and also about getting to know the Champions League system," says team captain Teemu Tamminen. "Now the team has only one goal: To play better, faster and tougher than last season. Hopefully, this will pay off in terms of more points - or even a place in the next round."

While the team has undergone several important changes again this year, the key player is still the same: success for Cocks in the Champions League depends a lot on Nico Rönnerberg. The experienced backcourt player needs to do well in order for Cocks to be successful.

**Playing hall****Cocks Arena**

Hj. Elomaan katu 4
11130 Riihimäki, Finland
Capacity: 2,500

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 4
Group Phase (1): 2018/19
Qualification (2): 2016/17, 2017/18

Other

EHF Cup: Group Phase: 2016/17
Challenge Cup: Quarter-finals: 2013/14, 2014/15

Baltic league: 4 titles (2016-19)

Finnish league: 11 titles (2007-10, 2013-19)

Finnish cup: 10 titles (2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015-19)



N/A MATCHES
Longest winning run

N/A GOALS
Most goals

N/A GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	31:29 (14:18) v Wacker Thun SUI (h), 11.11.2018
Biggest defeat	34:18 (16:10) v Orlen Wisla Plock POL (a), 26.09.2018
Longest winning run	1 match (11.11.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	1 match (28.11.2018)
Longest losing run	1 match (11.11.2018)
	1 match (28.11.2018)
Longest run without win	4 matches (26.09.2018 – 03.11.2018)
	6 matches (12.09.2018 – 03.11.2018)
Most goals	31 v Dinamo Bucuresti ROU 31:32L (h), 03.10.2018
	31 v Wacker Thun SUI 31:29W (h), 11.11.2018
Most goals opponent	34 v Orlen Wisla Plock 34:18L (a), 26.09.2018
Most goals both teams	63 v Dinamo Bucuresti ROU 31:32L (h), 03.10.2018
Fewest goals	18 v Orlen Wisla Plock 34:18L (a), 26.09.2018
Fewest goals opponent	19 v Abanca Ademar Leon ESP 19:19D (h), 12.09.2018
Fewest goals both teams	38 v Abanca Ademar Leon ESP 19:19D (h), 12.09.2018

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2018/19 Riihimäen Cocks FIN	10	2	2	6	246:269	-23	6:14	5th Gr. D	
Total	10	2	2	6	246:269	-23	6:14		



Gintaras Savukynas

coach

- joined Cocks in 2016 from Norwegian club Bergsjø IL
- previously coached the national team of Lithuania (2009-14) and Belarusian side Meshkov Brest (2010-12)
- during his time on court, he played in Iceland, Switzerland and Norway, apart from his native country, Lithuania

Newcomers:

Elis Memic (Nez Tiona/ISR)
 Yury Semenov (Balatonfüred/HUN)
 Evgeny Semenov (HC Spartak/RUS)
 Aleksandar Gugleta (RK Pelister/MKD)
 Aliaksandr Markelau (CS Minaur Baie Mara/ROU)

Left the club:

Andrei Novoselov (unknown)
 Giedrius Morkunas (Caen/FRA)
 Viktor Kovalenko (unknown)
 Kalle Alander (HIFK/FIN)
 Andre Udd (BK-46/FIN)
 Theo Westerlund (unknown)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
44	Davor	Basaric	SRB	Line Player	03/11/1990	Nis, SRB	189	100
77	Aleksandar	Gugleta	SRB	Right Wing	17/07/1991	Knin, SRB	193	88
8	Leevi	Koistinen	FIN	Goalkeeper	17/04/1999	Lahti, FIN	180	77
7	Nils	Kreichbergs	LAT	Left Back	23/05/1996	LAT	192	92
17	Yury	Lukyanchuk	BLR	Line Player	05/01/1990	Brest, BLR	195	102
85	Aliaksandr	Markelau	BLR	Goalkeeper	05/04/1994	Gomel, BLR	193	92
5	Elis	Memic	BIH	Right Back	08/02/1993	Pula, CRO	197	90
23	Vitalie	Nenita	MDA	Right Back	04/06/1987	Chisinau, MDA	192	96
33	Sasa	Puljizovic	BIH	Centre Back	22/12/1989	Derventa, BIH	192	94
22	Nico	Rönnberg	FIN	Left Back	14/04/1992	Karjaa, FIN	191	93
25	Yury	Semenov	RUS	Centre Back	30/07/1990	Chelyabinsk, RUS	194	95
71	Evgeny	Semenov	BLR	Centre Back	16/07/1986	Brest, BLR	196	90
87	Vitalii	Shitsko	RUS	Goalkeeper	09/09/1987	St. Petersburg, RUS	198	92
19	Roni	Syrjälä	FIN	Right Wing	28/03/1995	Riihimäki, FIN	184	84
C 15	Teemu	Tamminen	FIN	Left Wing	27/08/1987	Riihimäki, FIN	191	94
55	Aliaksandr	Tsitou	BLR	Line Player	28/10/1986	Mahilev, BLR	192	100
18	Bojan	Zupanjac	SRB	Left Wing	16/10/1983	Kraljevo, SRB	188	84



Aliaksandr Markelau

goalkeeper

- joined from Romanian side CS Minaur Baia Mare in the summer of 2019
- born in Gomel, Belarus, he also played for Dinamo Minsk, St. Petersburg and Göztepe
- Belarusian international with lots of experience and good eye for shooters



Teemu Tamminen

 @temeartem87

left wing

- born in Riihimäki, Cocks' home town, and has always played for the club
- at age 32, one of the most experienced forces in the squad
- tall (1.91m) and heavy (94kg) wing who benefits from his height and physical strength
- scored 47 goals in the CL 2018/19, Cocks' debut season in the group phase



Nico Rönnerberg

 @nico.ronnberg

left back

- younger brother of now retired playmaker Andreas Rönnerberg
- originally a Cocks player, but had a short stint at ØIF Arendal in 2013/14
- has extended his contract until the end of the 2019/20 season
- led Cocks with 72 goals in the CL Group Phase 2018/19
- movable backcourt player with a great and varied shot



Sasa Puljizovic

 @sasa_puljizovic

centre back

- joined from Swedish club OV Helsingborg in the summer of 2018
- previously played in Austria, Croatia, Israel, Serbia, Turkey and his native Bosnia
- a versatile and fast centre back with a good eye for the game and a strong shot

**Yury Semenov****centre back**

- joined from Hungarian side Balatonfüredi KSE on a one-year contract
- gained CL experience with St. Petersburg in his Russian homeland from 2012-14
- experienced and consistent playmaker, great eye for the game and his teammates

**Davor Basaric**
 @davor_basaric
line player

- will meet his former club, Bidasoa, in the CL Group Phase in 2019/20
- joined Cocks from the Spanish club in the summer of 2017
- contributed 27 goals to Cock's debut season in the CL Group Phase in 2018/19
- previously played EHF Cup with Serbian clubs RK Nis and Spartak Vojput

**Elis Memic**
 @elismemic
right back

- joined from Israeli side Nez Tiona in the summer of 2019
- Bosnian international, who previously played for HC Borac Banja Luka
- signed a one-year contract with an option for another year
- an aggressive and attacking right back with a fine shot

**Aleksandar Gugleta**
 @aleksandar.gugleta
right wing

- joined from Macedonian side RK Pelister on a two-year contract in 2019
- also played for RK Radnicki, RK Vojvodina (SRB) and Metalurg Skopje (MKD)
- brings CL experience from his his two years with Metalurg
- a reliable shooter from his wing position and good on fast breaks

GROUP C



HC EUROFARM

Club Address

HC Eurofarm Rabotnik
7000 Bitola
North Macedonia

Media contact

Dimitar Mitrevski
+389 71 231461
rkeurofarmrabotnik@yahoo.com

 rkeurofarmrabotnik.com

 rkeurofarmrabotnik

 -

 @rkeurofarmrabotnik

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

HC Eurofarm Rabotnik



The success story of HC Eurofarm Rabotnik is reaching new heights in 2019/20. After playing in the Challenge Cup two years ago and in the EHF Cup last season, the Bitola-based club will now make their debut in the VELUX EHF Champions League and also be part of the regional SEHA League. Only eight years after they were founded, the Macedonian club has quickly risen to the top. They finished runners-up to Vardar HC in the domestic league and have appeared in the national cup final. Now the club makes a whole city proud, as EHF Champions League handball is returning to Bitola after 14 years.

In February 2019 head coach Djordje Cirkovic left the club and former winger Stevche Alushovski took over at the helm. His coaching experience so far might be limited to two years, but Alushovski can build on his outstanding playing career as one of the legends of the Macedonian national team with more than 900 goals. He also played in the EHF Champions League.

The two most productive players from last season, Filip Kuzmanovski and Vladislav Ostroushko, have left the club but Eurofarm Rabotnik have been very active on the transfer market and are bringing in eight new players. It will undoubtedly bring many changes to the line-up on court, but the team will gain experience and there is no reason why the newcomers would not integrate smoothly into the new playing system.

After four years abroad, national team goalkeeper Nikola Mitrevski is returning to North Macedonia. He played for Pelister, Vardar and Metalurg before gaining international experience with Benfica in Portugal and HC Dobrogea Sud in Romania since 2015. With his arrival, Eurofarm Rabotnik are gaining a lot of stability between the posts, which will enforce the defence.

“We are a new club in the Champions League, but we have experienced players in the roster. I am sure that Eurofarm Rabotnik will be a difficult opponent for everyone,” says Alushovski. “We should also not forget that this is a historic year for the club and this season’s participation in the VELUX EHF Champions League and SEHA League is like a dream come true for the club and the fans.”



Playing hall

Sportska sala “Mladost” Bitola
Partizanska b.b.
7000 Bitola FYRO
Macedonia
Capacity: 4,100

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League
Participations (including 2019/20 season): 1

Other

EHF Cup: Group Phase: 2018/19
Challenge Cup: Last 16: 2017/18

Macedonian league: -
Macedonian cup: -



8 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

74 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	N/A
Biggest defeat	N/A
Longest winning run	N/A
Longest unbeaten run	N/A
Longest losing run	N/A
Longest run without win	N/A
Most goals	N/A
Most goals opponent	N/A
Most goals both teams	N/A
Fewest goals	N/A
Fewest goals opponent	N/A
Fewest goals both teams	N/A

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
N/A									



Stevce Alushovski

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

coach

- former standout international who scored more than 900 goals for the Macedonian team
- played for Pelister, Prespa, Vardar and Metalurg and won 13 domestic league 11 national cup titles
- started coaching career in 2017 in home town Bitola, at Pelister. Took over at Eurofarm Rabotnik in early 2019
- runs handball academy 'Alusovski' with annual summer camp

Newcomers:

Bojan Madzovski (Metalurg/MKD)
Nikola Mitrevski (Dobrogea Sud/ROU)
Martin Velkovski (Metalurg/MKD)
Anze Ratajac (SC Ferlach/AUT)
Lovro Jotic (PPD Zagreb/CRO)
Marin Vegar (Steaua/ROU)
Oleksandr Shevelev (Motor/UKR)

Left the club:

Filip Kuzmanovski (Magdeburg/GER)
Goran Krstevski (Linz/AUT)
Dejan Pecakovski (Metalurg/MKD)
Vladislav Ostroushko (Dunarea/ROU)
Faruk Memic (retired)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
88	Dimitrij	Blazevski	MKD	Right Back	15/11/2001	Bitola, MKD	184	75
21	Gradimir	Chanovski	MKD	Goalkeeper	04/03/1988	Skopje, MKD		
10	Filip	Curlevski	MKD	Centre back	22/02/1992	Bitola, MKD	176	83
66	Milan	Djukic	SRB	Right Wing	16/08/1985	Kragujevac, SRB	185	95
59	Elmir	Gradjan	BIH	Line player	28/12/1993	Gorazde, BIH	190	97
12	Filip	Ivanovski	MKD	Goalkeeper	02/05/1994	Bitola, MKD	191	85
23	Lovro	Jotic	CRO	Centre back	12/11/1994	Zagreb, CRO	191	86
24	Milorad	Kukoski	MKD	Left back	07/12/1987	Struga, MKD	195	100
77	Goran	Kuzmanoski	MKD	Centre back	30/11/1982	Prilep, MKD	190	101
66	Bojan	Madzovski	MKD	Left Wing	08/05/1994	Skopje, MKD	184	90
27	Andrija	Mandic	MKD	Left back	19/05/2001	Bitola, MKD	195	85
4	Nikola	Markoski	MKD	Line player	22/05/1990	Struga, MKD	195	110
1	Nikola	Mitrevski	MKD	Goalkeeper	03/10/1985	Bitola, MKD	188	84
C 3	Goce	Ojleski	MKD	Left Wing	10/10/1989	Struga, MKD	180	75
83	Mihail	Petrovski	MKD	Right Back	22/12/1983	Bitola, MKD	193	98
7	Dario	Petrovski	MKD	Centre back	16/01/1998	Bitola, MKD		
19	Mirko	Radovic	MNE	Right Wing	15/06/1990	Cetinje, MNE	186	87
6	Olexandr	Shevelev	UKR	Line player	02/12/1987	Zaporozhye, UKR	200	115
11	Neven	Stjepanovic	BIH	Right Back	14/02/1993	Ilijas, BIH	198	91
9	Stefan	Talevski	MKD	Left Wing	09/02/1993	Bitola, MKD	182	79
16	Blagojce	Trajkovski	MKD	Goalkeeper	06/10/1986	Prilep, MKD	184	84
23	Marin	Vegar	BIH	Left Back	22/01/1990	Capljina, BIH	199	99
30	Martin	Velkovski	MKD	Right Back	10/03/1997	Skopje, MKD	190	84



Nikola Mitrevski

 @nikucmi16

goalkeeper

- former football player who switched to handball at age 13
- joining Eurofarm Rabotnik marked his return to home town after 12 years
- played for Macedonian clubs Pelister, Vardar and Metalurg before joining Eurofarm Rabotnik
- also spent two seasons with Benfica (2015-17) and two with HC Dobrogea Sud Constanta (2017-19)



Bojan Madzovski

 @madzovski06

left wing

- first played in Metalurg, where he had his CL debut in 2014/15
- spent two years (2016-18) with RK Pelister before returning to Metalurg in 2018
- made national team debut in 2019
- brother Borjan is also a handball player



Marin Vegar

 @marinvegar

left back

- at 1.99 metre, one of the tallest players of the Bosnian national team
- has not played CL before but has European experience with Izvidac, Nexe and Steaua
- important player in the defence of Eurofarm Rabotnik



Lovro Jotic

 @lovrojotic23

centre back

- occasionally plays for Croatian national team, won gold at Mediterranean Games 2018 in Tarragona
- won silver medal at Youth WCh 2013 in Hungary
- previously played for HC PPD Zagreb and one season for Alborg (2017/2018)



Anze Ratajec

@anz3_rat4jec

centre back

- played for Trimbo Trebnje and Gorenje Velenje in Slovenia
- was with SC Ferlach before joining Eurofarm Rabotnik, the first Slovenian player in the team
- dynamic player with fast moving skills



Olexandr Shevelev

line player

- experienced line player who played for Portovik Yuzhny, Motor Zaporozhye and Donbas in his native Ukraine
- also had stints at Zaria Kaspiya, Ciudad Real and Dinamo Minsk
- is second Ukrainian player at the club, after Vladislav Ostroushko



Neven Stjepanovic

right back

- started career at RK Lokomotiva, also played for RK Vojvodina (Serbia), Lekhwiya (Qatar) and Al Duhail (Qatar)
- joined Sporting CP in 2018 but moved to Eurofarm in February 2019, scoring 12 goals in the EHF Cup
- was member of national youth teams of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Qatar, but plays in senior team of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Milan Djukic

@djukalino

right wing

- Serbian right wing who arrived in 2018 and scored 27 goals in the EHF Cup
- played for Radnicki Kragujevac, Vojvodina, Zeleznicar, Borac Banja Luka and Meshkov Brest, winning several domestic titles in both countries
- will debut in CL in 2019/20 but has broad European Cup experience from EHF Cup, Challenge Cup and former Cup Winners' Cup

GROUP C

**Club Address**

Club Deportivo Bidasoa
Kale Nagusia 30
20304 Irun
Spain

Media contact

Garikoitz Garagarza
+34605765533
ggaragarza@hotmail.com

 www.cdbidasoa.eus
 CDBidasoa.Balonmano
 @CDBidasoairun
 @cdbidasoairun

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

Bidasoa Irun



Bidasoa Irun are returning to the VELUX EHF Champions League in the same season as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of their only win in the competition. The Basque side beat Zagreb in the 1995 final and were runners-up the following year, but it has been 13 years since they last played in Europe. Bidasoa were eliminated by BM Aragon in the EHF Cup Quarter-finals in 2006/07. They have booked their place in the EHF Champions League after a great season that ended when they were runners-up in the ASOBAL League, the highest placing in the last 25 years.

After so many years without playing at the European level there is no real reference for Bidasoa. Their main aim to begin with is to be as competitive as possible in every match. But captain Iker Serrano says there is one, non-negotiable target, to “make fans from Irun and the Basque Country be proud of their team”.

Keeping broadly the same line-up from last year could be a positive as the team know each other well and are also familiar with coach Jacobo Cuetara’s systems. The only change in the roster was the retirement of the left wing Inigo Aldaba, but Bidasoa have signed a Brazilian player Matheus Francisco da Silva just before the season started.

Bidasoa rejoined the ASOBAL League three seasons ago and since then have gained visibility rapidly. Last season’s campaign and the return to the top European competition will help the club to get stability and to grow in the future. Playing in the EHF Champions League is helpful to capture new sponsors but also to gain visibility and presence not just in Irun, but across the wider Basque region.

When the ASOBAL season started last year and Bidasoa started in first place, most thought that it would only be a matter of time before they moved down the rankings. However as the rounds progressed, only Barça could overcome them. Bidasoa were also runners-up in the ASOBAL Cup, also behind Barça. After a season like that, collective and individual self-esteem at the club cannot be better, because the team has come to realise nothing is impossible.



Playing hall
Polideportivo Artaleku s/n
Kale Nagusia 30
20304 Irun
Spain
Capacity: 2,800

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 3
Winners (1): 1994/95
Runners-up (1): 1995/96

Other

EHF Cup: Semi-final: 1993/94, 2000/01;
Quarter-final: 2005/06, 2006/07
Cup Winners' Cup: Winners: 1996/97, 2004/05;
Runners-up: 2000/01, 2006/07

Spanish league: 2 titles (1987, 1995)
Copa del Rey: 2 titles (1991, 1996)
Copa ASOBAL: 1 title (1993)



8 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

74 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	27:16 (13:8) v ABC Braga POR (h), 24.01.1996
Biggest defeat	23:15 (11:8) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 20.04.1996
Longest winning run	4 matches (18.01.1995 – 15.02.1995) 4 matches (16.01.1996 – 14.02.1996)
Longest unbeaten run	4 matches (18.01.1995 – 15.02.1995) 4 matches (16.01.1996 – 14.02.1996)
Longest losing run	3 matches (20.03.1996 – 20.04.1996)
Longest run without win	4 matches (20.03.1996 – 26.04.1996)
Most goals	30 v Badel Zagreb CRO 30:20W (h), 17.04.1995 30 v THW Kiel GER 30:27W (h), 07.02.1996
Most goals opponent	28 v Fotex Veszprém HUN 28:29W (a), 16.01.1996
Most goals both teams	57 v Fotex Veszprém HUN 28:29W (a), 16.01.1996 57 v THW Kiel GER 30:27W (h), 07.02.1996
Fewest goals	19 v Fotex Veszprém HUN 19:23L (h), 20.03.1996
Fewest goals opponent	16 v ABC Braga POR 27:16W (h), 24.01.1996
Fewest goals both teams	39 v OM Vitrolles FRA 19:20W (a), 24.01.1995

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 Elgorriaga Bidasoa ESP	8	5	0	3	193:173	+20	10:6	Winner	
1995/96 Elgorriaga Bidasoa ESP	8	4	1	3	192:182	+10	9:7	Runner-up	
Total	16	9	1	6	385:355	+30	19:13		



Jacobo Cuétara

coach

- joined Bidasoa Irun in 2016 from ASOBAL team Villa de Aranda
- named best coach of the ASOBAL League 2018/19
- worked for more than 10 years at Ademar Leon, mainly with youth teams, and as the first team's assistant coach from 2005-13
- also coaches volleyball and weight lifting

Newcomers:

Matheus Francisco da Silva (Brazil)

Left the club:

Iñigo Aldaba (retired)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
25	Jon	Azkue Saizar	ESP	Centre Back	03/07/1994	Orio, ESP		
20	Paco	Barthe-Spiess	FRA	Left Back	15/09/1992	Stuttgart, GER		
2	Inaki	Cavero Etxepane	ESP	Right Wing	27/04/1996	Irun, ESP	183	76
15	Adrian	Crowley Carrasco	ESP	Left Wing	17/05/1988	San Sebastian, ESP	187	80
21	Sergio	De la Salud	ESP	Centre Back	01/04/1985	Barcelona, ESP		
16	Xoan	Ledo Menendez	ESP	Goalkeeper	06/07/1996	Lalin, ESP	188	82
1	Rangel	Luan da Rosa	BRA	Goalkeeper	11/05/1996	Seara, BRA		
11	Kauldi	Odriozola	ESP	Right Wing	07/01/1997	Zumaia, ESP	179	71
22	Leo	Renaud-David	FRA	Left Back	11/06/1987	Amiens, FRA		
17	Esteban	Salinas Munoz	ESP	Line Player	18/01/1992	Vina del Mar, CHI		
23	Rodrigo Alonso	Salinas Munoz	CHI	Right Back	25/02/1989	Vina del Mar	188	94
51	Rudy	Seri	FRA	Left Back	02/04/1994	Paris, FRA		
C 15	Matias Iker	Serrano	ESP	Line Player	22/06/1984	Urretxu, ESP	192	91
27	Thomas	Tesoriere	FRA	Left Back	21/01/1989	Marsella, FRA		
8	Mikel	Zabala	ESP	Left Wing	23/04/1998	Eibar, ESP		



Xoan Ledo

 @xlm16

goalkeeper

- began playing handball in his home town in Galicia before joining Barça's B team
- made ASOBAL debut with Villa de Aranda in 2016, moved to Bidasoa in 2017
- won M20 EHF EURO 2016 and Junior WCh 2017 with Spain, was named best goalkeeper of latter event
- is studying journalism alongside his handball career



Mikel Zabala

 @mikelzabala1

left wing

- is in his second season with Bidasoa Irun
- made his ASOBAL debut with the club in 2018, has contract until the end of 2020/21
- has represented Spain at junior level, including at their home Junior WCh 2019



Rudy Seri

 @rudy.seri

left back

- joined Bidasoa Irun prior to 2018/19 from French club Selestat Alsace Handball
- won gold at the Junior WCh 2015 with France
- shares the left back position with his compatriot Leo Renaud



Leo Renaud-David

 @leo.renauddavid

left back

- rejoined Irun in 2017 after previous stint from 2011-13
- extended his contract until June 2020 after the team qualified for the CL
- is a key player for the team in both attack and defence

**Jon Azkue**
 @jonazkue25
centre back

- missed last two months of 2018/19 season following shoulder surgery
- has played more than 100 ASOBAL games since joining Irun for the 2011/12 season
- is a leader of the team, on and off the court

**Rodrigo Salinas**
 @r.salinas17
right back

- Chilean national team player who arrived in Spain in 2010
- played for a wide range of clubs, including Badajoz, Huesca, Torrevieja and Granollers in Spain, CSM Bucuresti in Romania, and HBC Nantes and Chartres in France
- was the club's best scorer in the ASOBAL league 2018/19, with 106 goals

**Kauldi Odriozola**
 @kauldi4
right wing

- joined Irun five years ago, when the club was promoted to the ASOBAL League
- best right wing of the Spanish league in the 2018/19 season
- made national team debut for Spain in an EHF EURO 2018 Qualifier in 2017
- takez tomuto: awarded best right wing in the Asobal 2017/18 and 2018/19

**Iker Serrano**
 @ikerserrano1
line player

- he is the team captain, who has extended his contract through June 2021
- returned to Bidasoa Irun in 2016 from Mulhouse in France
- played for 13 years with other clubs in Spain and France before moving back to Spain

GROUP C

**Club Address**

Pavilhao do Ginasio Clube do Sul
Rua de Angola No 23
2805-086 Almada
Portugal


Media contact

Andre Leitao
+351 914665 572
arleitao@sporting.pt

 www.sporting.pt

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

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

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

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: grenn/white
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: black/
white/green

Dark

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

Sporting CP



With a sustained and growing project, Sporting CP aim to do the same or better than last season in the VELUX EHF Champions League, when they reached the Last 16 for the first time. And the pressure is high. Aside from their Champions League goals, Sporting also want to reclaim the domestic trophy, after the national title went to FC Porto last season. After categorical results in the European panorama of handball, the main motivation for the 'Lions' is to overcome their own 2018/19 records. Repeating the brilliant results from last season would be magnificent – overcoming them would be historic.

Claudio Pedroso and Bosko Bjelanovic gave a lot of experience and were quite important to the green and white team. However, the club has hired Goncalo Vieira and Nemanja Mladenovic – two players that will add quality and just before the start of the season they also lured Marko Vujin from THW Kiel.

It will be very complicated, because Sporting CP recorded the best result in their history in the previous edition of the Champions League, reaching the Last 16. Even so, the Sporting squad are capable of a surprise in 2019/20. The team is filled with talent and experience.

Team captain Frankis Carol is eager to raise the bar: "Our goal is always to do the best possible. We had good results last year and we want to do equal or better."

Frankis Carol is the lighthouse that leads the team. The Cuban player, who arrived at Sporting in 2011, is one of the keys for Sporting, both defensive and offensively.

Carol is a very versatile player, with power, technique and great instinct. Last season, he impressed with stand-out performances and 58 goals in the Champions League.

For 12 years, until FC Porto returned to the Champions League, Portugal had no teams in this competition – so the fact that Porto and Sporting are both competing in the same edition is sensational news for Portuguese handball. "We play against the best teams and we want to put the name Sporting Club of Portugal together with the best in Europe," says manager José Guimarães.

**Playing hall**

Pavilhao Joao Rocha
Rua Prof. Fernando da Fonseca
Apartado 4120
1501-806 Lisboa
Portugal
Capacity: 3,000

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 4
Group phase (2): 2017/18, 2018/19
Group matches (1): 2001/02

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals: 2000/01, 2013/14
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals: 2003/04
Challenge Cup: Winners 2009/10, 2016/17;
Semi-finals 2011/12
Portuguese league: 21 titles (1952, 1956,
1961, 1966-67, 1969-73, 1978-81, 1984, 1986,
2001, 2017, 2018)
Portuguese cup: 15 titles



2 MATCHES
Longest winning run

34 GOALS
Most goals

65 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	34:26 (13:13) v HC Metalurg MKD (h), 15.09.2018
Biggest defeat	33:22 (13:9) v Kolding IF DEN (a), 16.12.2001
Longest winning run	3 matches (02.12.2017 – 22.09.2018) 3 matches (08.11.2018 - 24.11.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	3 matches (02.12.2017 – 22.09.2018) 3 matches (08.11.2018 - 24.11.2018)
Longest losing run	2 matches (11.11.2001 – 17.11.2001) 2 matches (08.12.2001 – 16.12.2001) 2 matches (24.09.2017 – 30.09.2017) 2 matches (15.10.2017 – 04.11.2017) 2 matches (18.11.2017 – 25.11.2017) 2 matches (24.03.2019 – 30.03.2019)
Longest run without win	2 matches (11.11.2001 – 17.11.2001) 2 matches (08.12.2001 – 16.12.2001) 2 matches (24.09.2017 – 30.09.2017) 2 matches (15.10.2017 – 04.11.2017) 2 matches (18.11.2017 – 25.11.2017) 2 matches (24.03.2019 – 30.03.2019)
Most goals	34 v Besiktas Mogaz HT TUR 34:27W (h), 11.11.2017 34 v HC Metalurg MKD 34:26W (h), 15.09.2018 34 v Besiktas Mogaz TUR 34:28W (h), 24.11.2018
Most goals opponent	36 v Portland San Antonio ESP 36:26L (a), 11.11.2001
Most goals both teams	67 v Bjerringbro-Silkeborg DEN 32:35L (h), 29.09.2018
Fewest goals	22 v Lovcen Osiguranje Cetinje YUG 26:22L (a), 24.11.2001 22 v Kolding IF DEN 33:22L (a), 16.12.2001
Fewest goals opponent	22 v Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS 22:23W (a), 22.09.2018
Fewest goals both teams	45 v Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS 22:23W (a), 22.09.2018

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2001/02 Sporting CP Lisboa POR	6	2	0	4	132:149	-17	4:8	3rd Gr. A	
2017/18 Sporting CP POR	10	4	0	6	293:297	-4	8:12	4th Gr. D	
2018/19 Sporting CP POR	14	9	0	5	420:399	+21	18:10	Last 16	
Total	30	15	0	15	845:845	0	30:30		



Thierry Anti

coach

- arrived in 2019 after 10 years with HBC Nantes
- the CL Final 2017/18 was the third European final he lost with Nantes, after being defeated in the EHF Cup Finals in 2012/13 and 2015/16
- previously coached Créteil and Paris, and reached the Cup Winners' Cup Final with Créteil in 1989
- known for his quality of developing young players

Newcomers:

Goncalo Vieira (Águas Santas)
Nemanja Mladenovic (HC Dobrogea Sud)
Marko Vujin (THW Kiel)

Left the club:

Matej Asanin (HC PPD Zagreb)
Pedro Solha (Belenenses)
Fabio Chiuffa (HC Dobrogea Sud)
Claudio Pedroso (Madeira SAD)
Bosko Bjelanovic (unknown)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
5	Edmilson	Araujo	POR	Left Back	06/01/1994	Lisboa, POR	187	87
28	Arnaud	Bingo	FRA	Left Wing	12/10/1987	Lyon, FRA	190	83
18	Carlos	Carneiro	POR	Centre Back	03/03/1982	Guimaraes, POR	185	93
C 13	Frankis	Carol Marzo	CUB	Back	07/09/1987	Guantanamo, CUB	192	100
16	Aljosa	Cudic	SLO	Goalkeeper	09/03/1988	Celje, SLO	190	89
82	Luis	Frade	POR	Line Player	11/09/1998	Rio Tinto, POR	194	118
24	Manuel	Gaspar	POR	Goalkeeper	09/12/1998	Setubal, POR	192	98
29	Valentin	Ghionea	ROU	Right Wing	29/04/1984	Baia Mare, ROU	197	90
31	Nemanja	Mladenovic	SRB	Back	04/01/1994	Sombor, SRB	195	98
37	Ivan	Nikcevic	SRB	Left Wing	11/02/1981	Niksic, MNE	181	79
3	Joao	Pinto	POR	Line Player	04/11/2001	Funchal, POR	189	96
17	Tiago	Rocha	POR	Line Player	17/10/1985	S. Paio Oleiros, POR	196	111
11	Carlos	Ruesga Pasarin	ESP	Centre Back	10/03/1985	Gijon, ESP	185	90
86	Matevz	Skok	SLO	Goalkeeper	02/09/1986	Celje, SLO	189	96
22	Francisco	Tavares	POR	Right Wing	14/11/1996	Almada, POR	180	79
19	Tomas	Van-Zeller	POR	Goalkeeper	11/07/1997	Lisboa, POR	198	89
2	Pedro	Veitia Valdez	CUB	Left Back	17/08/1994	Habana, CUB	190	101
10	Goncalo	Vieira	POR	Back	27/04/1999	Porto, POR	189	98



Aljosa Cudic

goalkeeper

- started playing handball at RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko and played in Slovenia until 2009
- won two Slovenia leagues with RK Celje and also reached a quarter-final in the CL
- has also played for HB Paris Handball and Al Duhail in Qatar
- was a decisive player in 2017/2018, helping to secure Sporting's second national title in a row

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017



Ivan Nikcevic

left wing

- has enjoyed successful spells with clubs in Serbia, Spain and Poland
- 2017/18 was his best CL season in terms of goals, scoring 45 for Sporting
- won the silver medal at the Men's EHF EURO 2012
- one of the team's biggest offensive threats, top scorer of Challenge Cup Final in 2017

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017
EURO: S 2012



Frankis Carol

left back

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

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017



Pedro Valdes

left back

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

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017



Carlos Ruesga

 @CRuesga11

centre back

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

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017



Tiago Rocha

line player

- after 12 years at FC Porto, joined Wisla Plock until 2016/17
- won several Portuguese titles, most of them at FC Porto
- first Portuguese player in the Polish league
- one of the top Portuguese handball players in Europe today



Edmilson Araujo

right back

- learned to play handball at Sporting before reaching the main team
- won two Portuguese Leagues, one Super Cup and one Challenge Cup
- began to have a bigger influence on the team last season
- great offensive player, he is a natural shooter

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2017



Valentin Ghionea

right wing

- joined Sporting in the summer of 2018 after six seasons with Orlen Wisla Plock
- experienced Romanian winger brings an abundance of the CL experience
- also played for Dinamo Bucuresti, HCM Constanta and Pick Szeged in the past
- his best season was in 2007/08 when he scored 58 goals



Group D preview

SIX TEAMS IN GROUP D READY TO MAKE HISTORY

This season will be the last in which we see the VELUX EHF Champions League running in its current format.

From next season, the competition will consist of 16 teams, and this will mean a goodbye to Groups C and D. So for one last time, six hopeful teams in Group D will battle for the two tickets for the play-offs and a chance for a place in the Last 16.

Orlen Wisla Plock and IFK Kristianstad both bring recent Last 16 experience to the group. Last year, in an amazing play-off tie against Danish club Bjerringbro-Silkeborg, Plock managed to turn an apparently lost tie into a win through an incredible second half of the second leg.

MOL-Pick Szeged was too much of a handful for the Polish club in the Last 16, but the Groups C and D regulars are still worth watching out for.

Plock finished last seasons as runners-up in Poland behind PGE Vive Kielce. With interesting newcomers such as Konstantin Igpulo and Philip Stenmalm, they will arrive for the 2019/20 Champions League season with plenty of confidence.

Kristianstad have played in Groups A and B for the previous four seasons and reached the Last 16 in 2018. They are now in Group D after losing the Swedish championship, but still hope to reach the knockout rounds once more.

With a coach as experienced as Ljubomir Vranjes, this seems absolutely possible. The ambition could be bolstered by the arrival of MT Melsungen right back Simon Birkefeldt, who has displayed aggressive attacking qualities at his previous clubs.

CHANGES AT DINAMO

Last season, Dinamo made it to the elimination matches, but were knocked out by Portuguese club Sporting CP after two one-goal defeats.

Ahead of this season, the Romanian champions have undergone a considerable amount of changes, but in general, the team appears stronger than last season. Having gained valuable big match experience last season, they may very well once again be a contender for one of the two top spots in the group.

Dinamo is likely to be particularly dangerous at home, and another play-off berth can definitely not be ruled out.

TIME FOR A COMEBACK

The remaining three teams have mixed Champions League history. Russian side Chekhovskie Medvedi made it to the first ever VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne in



2010, but in recent years, the Russian bears have featured in Groups C and D, and have not made the knockout phase since the 2012/13 season.

However, the team has a coach who knows what it is all about. Very few have the experience of Vladimir Maximov, former top player and former national team coach and Maximov will use that experience to try and take his entirely Russian squad to the next phase of the competition.

Swiss club Kadetten Schaffhausen failed to progress past Qualification Round 3 in the EHF Cup last season, but are back in the Champions League this season after regaining their national title.

Kadetten last played in the Champions League in 2017/18. They reached the Last 16 in 2011 and 2012, but the 11-time Swiss champions have been playing in Groups C and D most of the time since then.

Schaffhausen seem to be celebrating their comeback to the Champions League with a reinforced outfit. Welcoming more new players than they have said goodbye to, they at least have a deeper squad than in the previous seasons, and spurred on by the cheers of "Hopp Kadette!" in the BBC Arena, they still have a strong fortress at home.

The final Group D team, GOG, are celebrating their comeback to the European top flight after 10 years, thanks to finishing as runners-up in Denmark last season.

Their chances to proceed from the group will depend much on what their newcomers in essential positions will do.

The duo of 45-year-old Søren Haagen and 19-year old Icelandic talent Viktor Hallgrímsson are new in goal instead of Ole Erevik and Frank Mikkelsen. After Niclas Kirkeløkke left for Rhein-Neckar Löwen, Norwegian right back Stig Tore Moen Nilsen has been brought in from IFK Kristianstad. Another Kristianstad recruit, Iceland's Arnar Freyr Arnarsson, is expected to strengthen the line player position.

Group D head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group D opponents in the EC

CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs Chekhovskie medvedi

No previous encounters in European competitions

CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs Kadetten Schaffhausen 1-0-1 (54:55) 2:2

27.09.2017	Dinamo Bucuresti vs Kadetten Schaffhausen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	29:28 (14:12)
30.11.2017	Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Dinamo Bucuresti, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	27:25 (14:14)

CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs IFK Kristianstad

No previous encounters in European competitions

CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs Orlen Wisla Plock 1-0-1 (52:50) 2:2

14.10.2018	Dinamo Bucuresti vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	24:21 (13:10)
03.11.2018	Orlen Wisla Plock vs Dinamo Bucuresti, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	29:28 (14:12)

CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs GOG

No previous encounters in European competitions

Chekhovskie medvedi vs Kadetten Schaffhausen 1-0-1 (67:67) 2:2

14.10.2010	Chekhovskie Medvedi vs Kadetten Schaffhausen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	38:35 (21:15)
23.02.2011	Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Chekhovskie Medvedi, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	32:29 (15:16)

Chekhovskie medvedi vs IFK Kristianstad

No previous encounters in European competitions

Chekhovskie medvedi vs Orlen Wisla Plock

16.10.2004	Chehovski Medvedi, Chekhov vs GOG Gudme, EHF Champions League – Group C	34:33 (16:15)
30.10.2004	GOG Gudme vs Chehovski Medvedi, Chekhov, EHF Champions League – Group C	32:26 (0:0)

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs IFK Kristianstad

No previous encounters in European competitions

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Orlen Wisla Plock 1-0-1 (53:58) 2:2

17.11.2016	Orlen Wisla Plock vs Kadetten Schaffhausen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	33:26 (15:12)
26.11.2016	Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:25 (12:14)

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs GOG

No previous encounters in European competitions

IFK Kristianstad vs Orlen Wisla Plock 1-1-0 (50:49) 3:1

11.11.2017	IFK Kristianstad vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:24 (15:10)
19.11.2017	Orlen Wisla Plock vs IFK Kristianstad, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:25 (13:13)

Bidasoa Irun vs Sporting CP

No previous encounters in European competitions

Orlen Wisla Plock vs GOG

No previous encounters in European competitions

ULTIMATE

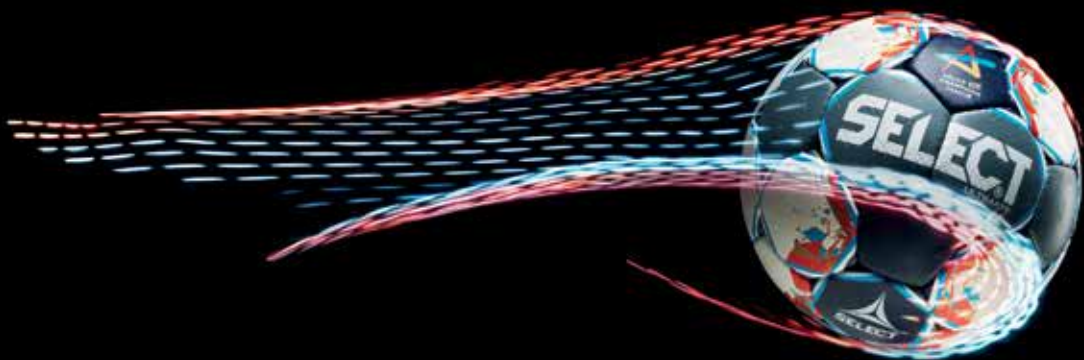
Completely controlled bounce. Extreme durability.

Optimal roundness. Perfect grip and soft feel.

Official match ball of the VELUX EHF Champions League.



powered by  Nord Stream 2



select-sport.com

GROUP D

**Club Address**

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

Media contact

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

 www.csdinamo.eu

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

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

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

Dinamo Bucuresti



There is an obvious sense of ambition and progress in C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti's camp ahead of the new season. The 'Red Dogs' are looking further and further to improve their status as one of the Eastern powerhouses in the VELUX EHF Champions League. Last season, Dinamo suffered an agonising exit from the European premium competition, after dominating Sporting CP on their home court in the first half of the Group C/D elimination play-offs. The Romanian side suffered an inexplicable collapse in the second half, as the Portuguese visitors took advantage and knocked their hosts out of the competition.

A revamped Romanian club is now edging closer to their biggest ever performance in the VELUX EHF Champions League, with their focus solely on reaching the Last 16 phase for the first time in their history. Several key players – the likes of Vitaly Komogorov or Hugo Descat – have left Dinamo and the Romanian side was left scrambling in search for new additions that might have boosted their hopes for the new season. A clever management paired with good scouting helped boost Dinamo's ranks, as the towering right back Jakov Vrankovic made his comeback after a one-year stint in Hungary, while backs Iman Jamali, Raul Nantes Campos and Stefan Vujic are ready to fire on all cylinders when the season starts.

However, with so many fresh faces – eight players in total, several of which might prove key this season – Dinamo will definitely exhibit some growing pains. As the season progresses, there is no indication that the Romanian champion will be weaker than their last outing in the VELUX EHF Champions League.

Last season, Dinamo were the underdogs, but proved to be flawless on their home court until their tie with Sporting CP that was ultimately their undoing. But Dinamo were no pushovers in away games, despite winning only two of their six games last season as guests. This time, if Dinamo are to fulfil their goals, they will need more consistency from players like Kamel Alouini or Amine Bannour, who have the experience and strength to decide games, but can also disappear from the radar in key moments. Consistency is also needed between the goalposts, where Makrem Missaoui and Saïd Heidarirad have been superb, but lost focus at times.

**Playing hall**

Dinamo Bucuresti Arena
 Soseaua Stefan cel Mare 7-9
 Sector 2, 020121 Bucuresti
 Romania
 Capacity: 2,538

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 7
 Group phase (4): 2005/06, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19

Qualification (2): 1995/96, 1997/98

Other

EHF Cup: Semi-finals: 2003/04; Last 16:

2001/02, 2004/05

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals: 2002/03

Challenge Cup: Runners-up: 2000/01,

Semi-finals: 2007/08

City Cup: Semi-finals: 1999/2000

European Champions' Cup: 1 title (1965)

IHF Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up: 1983

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

Romanian cup: 4 titles (1979, 1982, 1988, 2017)



1 MATCHES
Longest winning run

35 GOALS
Most goals

72 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	35:29 (20:15) v ABC/UMinho POR (h), 01.12.2016
Biggest defeat	40:17 (19:9) v BM Ciudad Real ESP (a), 06.11.2005
Longest winning run	3 matches (26.09.2018 – 14.10.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	3 matches (25.09.2016 – 09.10.2016)
	3 matches (26.09.2018 – 14.10.2018)
Longest losing run	7 matches (08.10.2017 – 30.11.2017)
Longest run without win	7 matches (08.10.2017 – 30.11.2017)
Most goals	35 v HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR 35:31W (h), 29.09.2016
	35 v ABC/UMinho POR 35:29W (h), 01.12.2016
	35 v Wacker Thun SUI 35:34W (h), 26.09.2018
	35 v Abanca Ademar Leon ESP 35:30W (h), 08.11.2018
Most goals opponent	40 v BM Ciudad Real 40:17L (a), 06.11.2005
	40 v Elverum Handball NOR 40:32L (a), 08.10.2017
Most goals both teams	72 v Elverum Handball NOR 40:32L (a), 08.10.2017
Fewest goals	17 v BM Ciudad Real 40:17L (a), 06.11.2005
Fewest goals opponent	21 v Orlen Wisla Plock POL 24:21W (h), 14.10.2018
Fewest goals both teams	45 v Orlen Wisla Plock POL 24:21W (h), 14.10.2018

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2005/06 Dinamo Baumi Bucuresti ROU	6	1	0	5	148:198	-50	2:10	4th Gr. F	
2016/17 Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	10	3	2	5	294:294	0	8:12	4th Gr. D	
2017/18 Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	10	1	0	9	278:324	-46	2:18	6th Gr. C	
2018/19 Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	12	7	0	5	350:339	+11	14:10	Elimination C+D	
Total	38	12	2	24	1070:1155	-85	26:50		



Constantin Stefan

coach

- returned to Dinamo for a third term to replace Eliodor Voica
- the 51-year-old coach has worked at many different clubs, varying from men's teams like HC Odorhei and Poli Timisoara to women's teams like HCM Ramnicu Valcea and CSM Roman
- also led Dinamo in the CL in 2005/06
- was a Dinamo player in his active years, hence the loyal support from the fans

Newcomers:

Raul Nantes Campos (Helvetia Anaitasuna/ESP)
Jakov Vrankovic (Tatabanya/HUN)
Mamdouh Shebib (Montpellier/FRA)
Stefan Vujic (Steaua Bucuresti/ROU)
Alexandru Asoltanei (HC Buzău/ROU)
Călin Hossu (U Cluj Napoca/ROU)
Andrei Lazar (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)
Iman Jamali (Veszprém)

Left the club:

Hugo Descat (Montpellier HB/FRA)
Andras Szasz (Tatabanya/HUN)
Vitaly Komogorov (Tatabanya/HUN)
Stefan Grigoras (CSM Făgăraș/ROU)
Ciprian Șandru (Potaissa Turda/ROU)
Florin Acatrinei (CSM Vaslui/ROU)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
10	Kamel	Alouini	TUN	Centre Back	06/07/1988	La Marsa, TUN	187	86
20	Mihai Alexandru	Asoltanei	ROU	Left Wing	14/09/1989	Vaslui, ROU	186	85
9	Amine	Bannour	TUN	Right Back	21/02/1990	Mahdia, TUN	196	95
4	Marius-Mihai	Dima	ROU	Left Wing	25/09/1998	Calinesti, ROU	185	80
29	Razvan	Gavriloaia	ROU	Right Wing	25/07/1983	Iasi, ROU	186	90
23	Saeid	Heidarirad	IRI	Goalkeeper	22/09/1990	Khorramabad, IRI	194	95
22	Calin Demetrios	Hossu	ROU	Left Back	10/02/1999	Nicosia, CYP	188	88
47	Ante	Kuduz	CRO	Left Back	11/04/1995	Osijek, CRO	202	103
81	Dan Andrei	Lazar	ROU	Goalkeeper	11/06/2000	Gaesti, ROU	192	89
89	Mohamed	Ashem Shebib	EGY	Line Player	01/04/1989	Cairo, EGY	193	100
1	Makrem	Missaoui	TUN	Goalkeeper	14/02/1981	Tunis, TUN	188	94
55	Jamali Iman	Moorchegani	HUN	Left Back	11/10/1991	Esfahan, IRI	202	102
88	Seyed Alireza	Mousavi	IRI	Line Player	27/04/1990	Esfahan, IRI	197	100
49	Raul	Nantes Campos	BRA	Left Back	20/03/1990	N. Andradina, BRA	192	90
24	Andrei	Negru	ROU	Left Wing	24/05/1994	Resita, ROU	180	77
C 17	Dan Andrei	Savenco	ROU	Line Player	12/10/1985	Galati, ROU	198	105
77	Jakov	Vrankovic	CRO	Right Back	12/06/1993	Split, CRO	200	97
7	Stefan	Vujic	SRB	Centre Back	06/07/1991	Rijeka, CRO	192	90
44	Muhamed	Zulfic	BIH	Right Wing	13/05/1992	Sarajevo, BIH	188	80



Makrem Missaoui


goalkeeper

- member of Tunisian national team which had its best result ever by finishing 4th at WCh 2005
- three-time African champion with Tunisia, in 2006, 2012 and 2018
- best goalkeeper of African Championship 2018
- always played in Tunisian league, except for two seasons (2005-07) with Tremblay in France



Saeid Heidarirad

goalkeeper

 @hdescat

- Already in his third season with Dinamo, he has been dubbed a local hero thanks to his antics is
- one of the most beloved players in the roster-In 2018, he failed to report to Dinamo for the first two months of the season, as he been summoned up to fulfil his military service in Iran
- Before handball, he took up volleyball, but ultimately made the switch to being a goalkeeper
- He stated he feels like home in Romania and this is his second home for him



Iman Jamali

left back

- Born in Iran, Jamali joined Veszprém in 2012, then received the Hungarian citizenship in 2015, playing in nearly 40 games for the Hungarian national team
- Loaned to Meshkov Brest and IFK Kristianstad between 2015 and 2017, but never got his foot going in Veszprém, scoring only eight goals in the past two seasons in the VELUX EHF Champions League
- Lost two VELUX EHF Champions League finals with Veszprém in 2015 and 2019
- His favourite animal is the wolf, as they live together in a pack, as in a handball team



Raul Nantes Campos

left back

- This will be his second season in the VELUX EHF Champions League, previously playing for Ademar Leon in 2012/13
- A towering 1,95m left back, Nantes Campos first started playing basketball, but switched to handball when he was 15 years old
- He started his own handball school in his local city, Nova Andradina, to encourage kids playinghandball
- Has been of the most constant scorers in the Spanish League in the past six seasons, putting 680 goals past the opposing goalkeepers in 150 games



Kamel Alouini

centre back

- has joined a European club for the second time in his career, after playing for Istres OPH in France from 2008-10
- won African champion twice with Tunisian national team, in 2012 and 2018
- fast and skilful player, who is not just a playmaker but can also move to the left back position



Dan Savenco

line player

- a defensive specialist, he is well-known in Romania for his power and robustness
- gained CL experience well before joining Dinamo, with Steaua MFA Bucuresti in 2008
- the veteran line player played in Spain for Antequera before coming back to Romania in 2014 to join Dinamo



Amine Bannour

right back

- nicknamed the 'Tunisian hammer' for his powerful shots
- played for Chambéry Savoie in 2017/18, scoring 54 goals in the French league and four goals in the Men's EHF Cup
- two-time African champion with Tunisia, in 2012 and 2018
- was top scorer of Super Globe in 2012, scoring 42 goals for Saudi team Mudhar Club



Mohamed Shebib Mamdouh

right wing

- Stated that if he was not a handball player, he would have tried a career in football, particularly as a goalkeeper
- Has played two seasons in the VELUX EHF Champions League for Montpellier, winning the trophy in 2018
- First ever Egyptian player to win the VELUX EHF Champions League
- Best line player in the CAHB African Championship in 2016 and 2018

EC trophies: CL 2018

GROUP D

**Club Address**

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

Media contact

Olga Belysheva
+7 909 6391 839
victi@bk.ru



www.ch-medvedi.ru



chehmedvedi



chehmedvedi



@hc_chekhovskie_medvedi

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

Player shirt: purple
Player short: purple
GK shirt: black

Chekhovskie Medvedi



Despite the strong competition from Spartak Moscow, this year Chekhovskie Medvedi won their 18th Russian championship title in a row. However, the team has not been so brilliant in Europe in recent years, so now 'The Bears' hope for a more successful campaign in the continental top flight.

In the last five seasons, starting from the 2014/15 season, 'The Bears' were unable to progress from their VELUX EHF Champions League group. Their results gradually declined, but while the team finished bottom of Group D in the 2017/18 season, there were signs of improvement in 2018/19 when Medvedi took the fourth place in Group C.

The Russian international Dmitryi Kiselev used to be a captain and a key figure at St.Petersburg, but moved to Vardar in 2018 - and won the VELUX EHF Champions League with the Macedonian side. However, he did not get much playing time at Skopje, so the 24-year-old opted to return to his home country, signing a contract with Medvedi. During his year at Vardar, Kiselev learned a lot and got new experience, so now the right back has a potential to become a key figure in Medvedi's attack.

Kiselev is an important addition to the Russian champions, but overall, the team's squad has remained virtually intact during the last two years. Vladimir Maximov relies on the same players, who have matured and developed good chemistry, yet some more fresh blood could also help 'The Bears' to be more competitive.

At 28, the agile goalkeeper Dmitryi Pavlenko is one of the most experienced players at Medvedi. For a number of years, he had been a second-choice goalkeeper behind Oleg Grams, but came to the fore two years ago after Grams left the team. Born in Ukraine, Pavlenko started his career at ZTR Zaporozhye, but moved to Medvedi at a young age and went on to become a Russian citizen, so now he is a member of the Russia national team.

Starting from 2002, the team from Chekhov have won every season of the Russian Super League, which makes it 18 titles in a row. No other VELUX EHF Champions League participant can boast the same streak in a domestic league.



Playing hall
Sport Hall "Olimpiyskiy"
Chekhov
Poligrafistov Str. 30
142300 Chekhov
Russia
Capacity: 3,000

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 19
Semi-final (1): 2009/10
Quarter-final (2): 2008/09, 2010/11
Last 16 (3): 2004/05, 2006/07, 2012/13
Main Round (1): 2007/08
Group Phase (11): 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2005/06, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners: 2005/06

Russian league: 17 titles (2002-2018)

Russian cup: 8 titles



8 MATCHES
Longest unbeaten run

46 GOALS
Most goals

77 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	22:46 (12:24) v AC PAOK GRE (a), 03.03.2010
Biggest defeat	38:24 (20:15) v HSV Hamburg GER (a), 23.04.2011
Longest winning run	5 games (29.11.2003 – 06.11.2004)
Longest unbeaten run	8 games (18.10.2012 – 14.03.2013)
Longest losing run	8 games (24.11.2016 – 14.10.2017)
Longest run without win	11 games (24.03.2013 – 21.02.2015)
Most goals	46 v AC PAOK GRE 22:46W (a), 03.03.2010
Most goals opponent	45 v TBV Lemgo GER 45:32L (a), 04.12.2004
Most goals both teams	77 v TBV Lemgo GER 45:32L (a), 04.12.2004
Fewest goals	19 v Montpellier HB FRA 27:19L (a), 12.10.2003
	19 v RK Zagreb CRO 26:19L (a), 08.10.2006
Fewest goals opponent	17 v HC Bosna BH Gas BIH 30:17W (h), 31.03.2011
Fewest goals both teams	45 v TBV Lemgo GER 23:22W (h), 11.12.2004
	45 v RK Zagreb CRO 26:19L (a), 08.10.2006
	45 v Sporting CP POR 22:23L (h), 22.09.2018

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2001/02 CSKA Moscow RUS	6	1	0	5	155:181	-26	2:10	4th Gr. C	
2002/03 Chehovski Medvedi Moscow RUS	6	2	0	4	182:170	+12	4:8	3rd Gr. C	
2003/04 Chehovski Medvedi Moscow RUS	6	3	0	3	166:165	+1	6:6	3rd Gr. D	
2004/05 Chehovski Medvedi Chekhov RUS	8	6	0	2	252:246	+6	12:4	1/8-finals	
2005/06 Chehovski Medvedi Chekhov RUS	6	3	0	3	192:184	+8	6:6	3rd Gr. A	
2006/07 Chehovskie Medvedi RUS	8	4	0	4	242:233	+9	8:8	1/8-finals	
2007/08 Chehovskie Medvedi RUS	12	7	1	4	369:331	+38	15:9	2nd MR Gr. 1	
2008/09 Chehovskie Medvedi RUS	12	7	0	5	387:370	+17	14:10	1/4-finals	
2009/10 Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	16	9	2	5	529:476	+53	20:12	Fourth Place	
2010/11 Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	14	8	3	3	437:396	+41	19:9	1/4-finals	
2011/12 Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	10	3	4	3	291:276	+15	10:10	5th Gr. B	
2012/13 Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	12	6	4	2	373:347	+26	16:8	1/8-finals	
2014/15 Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	10	0	1	9	300:349	-49	1:19	6th Gr. C	
2015/16 Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	10	4	0	6	271:292	-21	8:12	4th Gr. C	
2016/17 Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	10	2	2	6	273:291	-18	6:14	6th Gr. C	
2017/18 Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	10	2	1	7	271:306	-35	5:15	6th Gr. D	
2018/19 Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	10	4	0	6	280:279	+1	8:12	4th Gr. C	
Total	166	71	18	77	4970:4892	+78	160:172		



Vladimir Maximov

coach

- legend of the sport, who remains the only person to have won Olympic gold both as player and as coach
- successfully led the Russian national team but resigned from that job in 2012 to focus on his club duties at Medvedi
- joined Medvedi in 2001, and has led the club to the domestic title in Russia every year since

EC trophy: Cup Winner's Cup 2006
OG: G 1976 (as player), 2000, B 2004, WCh: G 1993, 1997, S 1978 (as player), 1999, EURO: G 1996, S 1994, 2000

Newcomers:

Dmitrii Kiselev (Vardar)

Left the club:

Maxim Kuretkov (UOR-4)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
11	Pavel	Andreev	RUS	Line Player	19/07/1992	St Petersburg, RUS	195	85
31	Victor	Furtsev	RUS	Line Player	17/06/1996	Belgorod, RUS	198	95
16	Artem	Grushko	RUS	Goalkeeper	20/06/1993	Odessa, UKR	193	91
2	Albert	Gumarov	RUS	Left Wing	04/02/1998	Astrahan, RUS	185	71
98	Nikita	Kamenev	RUS	Right Back	14/04/1998	Belgorod, RUS	198	98
22	Igor	Karlov	RUS	Centre Back	16/12/1994	Lübeck, GER	192	82
50	Dmitrii	Kiselev	RUS	Right Back	15/11/1994	Voronezh reg., RUS	193	98
	Kirill	Klimasev	RUS	Right Wing	14/05/2002		174	
6	Dmitriy	Kornev	RUS	Right Wing	16/06/1992	Vologda, RUS	186	86
99	Sergei Mark	Kosorotov	RUS	Left Back	16/06/1999	Moscow, RUS	195	80
17	Alexander	Kotov	RUS	Right Back	11/07/1994	Volgograd, RUS	196	92
C 9	Kirill	Kotov	RUS	Centre Back	23/05/1992	Moscow, RUS	185	75
	Maksim	Kudinov	RUS	Right Back	12/01/1999		190	80
14	Maxim	Kuretkov	RUS	Right Back	16/11/1994	Maykop, RUS	191	87
38	Timofei	Maslennikov	RUS	Right Wing	10/03/1997	Chekhov, RUS	185	88
19	Roman	Ostashchenko	RUS	Left Wing	26/09/1992	Moscow, RUS	184	83
12	Dmitry	Pavlenko	RUS	Goalkeeper	01/01/1991	Zaporozhye, UKR	190	76
3	Dmitrii	Santalov	RUS	Left Back	07/04/1996	Blagoveshensk, RUS	196	87
33	Aleksei	Stelmakh	RUS	Goalkeeper	25/04/1998	Volgograd, RUS	192	105
25	Maxsim	Strushinskiy	RUS	Left Wing	24/04/1992	Tollyati, RUS	185	85
27	Denis	Vasilev	RUS	Line Player	31/12/1993	Astrakhan, RUS	196	95



Dmitryi Pavlenko

goalkeeper

- at 28, he is already one of the veterans in the young Medvedi squad
- became first-choice goalkeeper in 2017/18 after Oleg Grams left for Dunkerque HB
- the Ukrainian-born player started his career at ZTR Zaporozhye
- moved to Medvedi at a young age and became a Russian citizen



Roman Ostashchenko

left wing

- born in Moscow and started to play handball at Kuntsevo
- joined reserve team of Medvedi in 2007, promoted to main team in 2013
- played for the Russian national team at the WCh 2019
- loved by fans for his emotional celebrations of goals



Dmitriy Santalov

left back

- born and raised in Blagoveshchensk, a town in the far east of Russia
- at 16, he joined handball academy in Chekhov, some 7,700 kms from his home town
- joined main team of Medvedi in 2014 as the youngest player in the squad
- studies ecology at university in Moscow



Sergei Mark Kosorotov

left back

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



Kirill Kotov

centre back

- started playing handball in Dolgoprudny, a small town near Moscow
- joined Medvedi in 2007 at age 15, and became first-team player in 2013
- six-time Russian champion, who is a member of the national team
- became team captain in 2017 following the departure of several experienced players



Denis Vasilyev

line player

- going into his third season at Medvedi after moving from Dinamo Astrakhan in 2017
- born in Astrakhan and started playing handball at the age of nine
- a powerful line player, who is good in defence
- his main hobby is bicycle riding



Dmitrii Kiselev

right back

- moved to Medvedi from CL winners Vardar in the summer of 2019
- won the CL in his only season spent at Vardar in Skopje
- born in the Voronezh region, played only for St.Petersburg before 2018/19 season
- also a member of the Russia national team

EC trophies: CL 2019



Dmitriy Kornev

right wing

- started playing handball in Moscow
- five-time national champion with Medvedi
- part of Russian under-21 team at Junior WCh 2013 in Bosnia, and member of senior national team since April 2016

GROUP D



Club Address

Kadetten Schaffhausen
Schweizersbildstrasse 10
8207 Schaffhausen
Switzerland

Media contact

Barbara Imobersteg
+41787203247
ima.schule@gmx.ch

 www.kadettensh.ch

 kadettensh

 @kadettensh

 @kadettensh

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Kadetten Schaffhausen



After a one-year absence from the VELUX EHF Champions League, Kadetten Schaffhausen are back in the top flight. After a thrilling final series, they won their eleventh trophy and underlined their ambitions with a 31:20 win in the Swiss Supercup against cup winner and last season's Champions League participant Wacker Thun. The major aim is to make it to the Last 16, but despite some international experienced new arrivals, the road could be tough.

In 2011 and 2012, Kadetten made history, becoming the first and so far only team to represent Switzerland in the Last 16 of the VELUX EHF Champions League. This year the Last 16 is again the major international goal for the new season. But the hurdles to finish among the two best teams of Group D are high, with the group looking potentially harder than Group C. But team captain Dimitrij Küttel is optimistic: "We were drawn against very strong opponents. Against some of them we already played in the Champions League and were able to get an impression with mixed results. Our goal is to reach one of the first two spots, although this is a big challenge." The problem in the previous season had always been the away performances - if Kadetten can manage to snatch some away points, the goal is realistic. BBC Arena is a fortress for all opponents.

Since 1999, Kadetten only once missed being part of the European Cup competitions and this is their 12th appearance in the EHF Champions League. Coach Petr Hrachovec can count on many national team players, led by Serb Zarko Sesum and Hungarian Gabor Csaszar. The two new Spanish arrivals Ignacio Biosca (Abanca Ademar Leon) and Angel Montoro (BM Ciudad Encantada) have played in international competitions too, and thanks to a widened squad, there are many options for Hrachovec, who is in his second stint at Schaffhausen since 2018.

As usual, Schaffhausen are the main contenders in all Swiss competitions, and on international ground they hope to proceed to the play-offs and then the Last 16, as manager David Graubner points out. "Our goal is to qualify for the Last 16 in VELUX EHF Champions League. But we know that we play in a difficult group with top-class opponents," he says.



Playing hall BBC Arena

Schweizersbildstr. 10
8207 Schaffhausen
Switzerland
Capacity: 3,500

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 12
Last 16 (2): 2010/11, 2011/12
Group Phase (8): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08,
2012/13, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19
Qualification (1): 2009/10

Other

EHF Cup: Final: 2009/10
Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals: 2007/08

Swiss league: 11 titles (2005, 2006, 2007,
2010, 2011, 2012, 2014-17, 2019)
Swiss cup: 7 titles



8 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

74 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	43:18 (23:8) v HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH (h), 09.02.2012
Biggest defeat	38:25 (21:12) v FC Barcelona Lassa ESP (a), 12.10.2016
Longest winning run	3 matches (25.10.2015 – 19.11.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	3 matches (25.10.2015 – 19.11.2015)
Longest losing run	7 matches (22.09.2016 – 17.11.2016)
Longest run without win	7 matches (22.09.2016 – 17.11.2016)
Most goals	43 v HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 43:18W (h), 09.02.2012
Most goals opponent	40 v Füchse Berlin GER 35:40L (h), 14.02.2013
Most goals both teams	75 v Füchse Berlin GER 35:40L (h), 14.02.2013
Fewest goals	21 v Rk Gorenje Velenje SLO 27:21L (a), 25.11.2017
Fewest goals opponent	17 v HC Metalurg MKD 27:17W (h), 19.11.2015
Fewest goals both teams	44 v HC Metalurg MKD 27:17W (h), 19.11.2015

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2005/06 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	6	1	1	4	160:181	-21	3:9	3rd Gr. G	
2006/07 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	6	2	1	3	168:169	-1	5:7	3rd Gr. B	
2007/08 Kadetten Schaffhausen GCZ SUI	6	2	1	3	179:174	+5	5:7	3rd Gr. C	
2010/11 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	12	5	1	6	362:376	-14	11:13	Last 16	
2011/12 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	12	5	0	7	366:345	+21	10:14	Last 16	
2012/13 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	10	2	0	8	284:330	-46	4:16	6th Gr. D	
2014/15 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	10	2	2	6	264:297	-33	6:14	6th Gr. D	
2015/16 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	10	5	1	4	270:270	0	11:9	3rd Gr. D	
2016/17 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	14	1	0	13	370:440	-70	2:26	8th Gr. A	
2017/18 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	10	4	0	6	263:274	-11	8:12	5th Gr. C	
Total	96	29	7	60	2686:2856	-170	65:127		



Petr Hrachovec

coach

- returned to Kadetten in 2018, led them to their next Swiss league title
- came over from Alpla Hard, having won the Austrian championship
- already led Kadetten from 2008-13, steering them to several titles, the EHF Cup Finals and five straight CL participations
- former Czech international, who also played for Kadetten

Newcomers:

Ignacio Biosca (Abanca Ademar Leon/ESP)
Angel Montoro (BM Ciudad Encantada/ESP)
Filip Maros (Pfadi Winterthur/SUI)
Nicola Damann (TSV Fortitudo Gossau/SUI)
Philip Novak (Kadetten Espoirs/SUI)
Jonas Schopper (Kadetten Espoirs/SUI)

Left the club:

Lucas Meister (GWD Minden/GER)
Ivan Stevanovic (Orlen Wisla Plock/POL)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
14	Philip	Novak	SUI	Line Player	11/04/1999	Schaffhausen, SUI	198	107
3	Angel	Montoro	ESP	Right Back	10/04/1989	Toledo, ESP	213	105
9	Jonas	Schopper	GER	Line Player	05/02/1999	Singen am Hoh., GER	186	105
26	Lukas	Herburger	AUT	Line Player	19/12/1994	Bregenz, AUT	197	103
19	Zoran	Markovic	SUI	Left Back	06/05/1995	Schaffhausen, SUI	197	103
20	Luka	Maros	SUI	Left Back	20/03/1994	Zürich, SUI	196	101
23	Filip	Maros	SUI	Centre Back	18/05/1991	Zenica, BIH	188	101
11	Bojan	Beljanski	SRB	Line Player	22/06/1986	Backa Palanka, SRB	202	100
15	Zarko	Sesum	SRB	Left Back	16/06/1986	Backa Palanka, SRB	196	96
1	Kristian	Pilipovic	AUT	Goalkeeper	10/12/1994	Dakovo, CRO	192	96
7	Gabor	Csaszar	HUN	Centre Back	16/06/1984	Celldömölk, HUN	188	94
12	Ignacio	Biosca Garcia	ESP	Goalkeeper	17/07/1995	Barcelona, ESP	193	92
C 6	Dimitrij	Küttel	SUI	Right Back	18/02/1994	Aarau, SUI	192	90
10	Noah	Haas	SUI	Left Back	12/11/1998	Solothurn, SUI	203	89
22	Sebastian	Frimmel	AUT	Left Wing	18/12/1995	Perchtoldsdorf, AUT	190	89
24	Nik	Tominec	SUI	Right Wing	26/03/1991	Luzern, SUI	188	88
17	Marian	Teubert	SUI	Centre Back	22/06/2000	Donaueschingen, GER	192	87
21	Jonas	Schelker	SUI	Centre Back	09/04/1999	Ravensburg, GER	182	84
16	Nicola	Damann	SUI	Goalkeeper	05/12/2000	Homburg (TG), SUI	190	83
4	Samuel	Zehnder	SUI	Left Wing	29/02/2000	Einsiedeln, SUI	181	83
2	Medhi	Ben Romdhane	SUI	Left Back	02/12/2001	Yverdon-les-Bains, SUI	190	82
13	On	Langenick	SUI	Left Wing	31/12/2000	Luzern, SUI	183	78
5	Levin	Wanner	SUI	Right Wing	18/08/2000	Schaffhausen, SUI	180	75
18	Maximilian	Gerbl	SUI	Right Wing	25/06/1995	Basel, SUI	178	73



Kristian Pilipovic

@kristianpilipovic56

goalkeeper

- arrived at Schaffhausen as successor of Croatian goalkeeper Ivan Stevanovic in 2018
- is from Dakovo, the same place where Domagoj Duvnjak was born
- got Austrian citizenship, shares position in national team with Porto's Thomas Bauer
- played for Croatian side Nexe in 2017/18



Sebastian Frimmel

@seppo_

left wing

- started professional career at Westwien in Vienna, joined Kadetten in 2018
- was bronze medallist of the school world championship in 2013
- awarded 'best young player' of the Austrian league in the 2014/15 season
- had his debut in the Austrian national team at the age of 18



Zarko Sesum

left back

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

EC trophies: CWC 2008, EHF Cup 2013, 2016, 2017

EURO: S 2012



Gabor Csaszar

centre back

- has played in five countries: Hungary, Denmark, Spain, France and now Switzerland
- won domestic titles in Hungary and Switzerland
- joined Kadetten mid-season in 2014/15 from French powerhouse PSG
- playmaker of Hungarian national team, finished fourth at Olympics twice (2004, '12)
- best scorer of CL 2016/17 Group Phase with 84 goals



Angel Montoro

 @montoro39

right back

- is the top transfer of Kadetten for the 2019/20 season
- at 2.13 metre he is one of the tallest players in the VELUX EHF Champions League
- previously played for Ademar Leon, FC Barcelona, Fenix Toulouse and Wisla Plock
- returned to Spain (first Logrono, then Cuenca) in 2016

WCh: G 2013



Dimitrij Küttel

right back

- Kadetten team captain, successor of David Graubner, who is manager since 2017
- at age 25, has already won the Swiss league five times
- played for Suhr/Aarau before joining Kadetten in 2012
- was part of all Swiss youth and junior national teams, now core player of senior team



Nik Tominec

right wing

- went abroad at age 16, going from Borba (SUI) to Cimos Koper (SLO)
- had first stint at Kadetten from 2011-13, then joined Kriens-Luzern, returned in 2015
- football talent, who got contract at Olympija Ljubljana before choosing handball
- switched from Croatian to Swiss citizenship and plays for national team since 2017



Bojan Beljanski

 @bojan_beljanski

line player

- played in five different leagues before he joined Kadetten in 2018
- went from Serbia (Sintelon) to Spain (Arate), Switzerland (Kries-Luzern), Germany (Göppingen) and Austria (Bregenz), before coming to Schaffhausen
- born in Backa Palanka, like his Serbian national team colleague Marko Vujin
- is one of the defence experts in the Kadetten squad

EURO: S 2012

GROUP D

**Club Address**

IFK Kristianstad
Västra Storgatan 69
29154 Kristianstad
Sweden

Media contact

Sebastian Rosenberg
+46 768 506651
sebastian.rosenberg@ifkkristianstad.se

 www.ifkkristianstad.se

 IFKKristianstad

 @IFKKristianstad

 @ifk1899

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

IFK Kristianstad



After winning the domestic league Handbollsligan four years in a row, IFK Kristianstad's dominance ended last season when IK Sævehof took title. The new season will be very important for the club with the objective of regaining the league title and competing at a high level in the VELUX EHF Champions League. IFK Kristianstad and head coach Ljubomir Vranjes, who replaced Ola Lindgren in March, have a big task ahead of them. Important players like Arnar Freyr Arnarsson and Stig Tore Moen Nilsen have left the club and other players have to step up. Last season ended in tears but can IFK Kristianstad redeem themselves? And can they reach the quarter-final for the first time upon their fifth participation in the VELUX EHF Champions League?

Two seasons ago IFK Kristianstad reached the Last 16 after several impressive performances in the group phase. Last season was way different and IFK missed the chance to advance from the group phase. This season IFK face a different situation playing in Group D. "We had a tough last season with the four VELUX EHF FINAL4 teams in our group. We took five points but still had the chance to go to the Last 16 before our last game in Brest. This year it looks like a very open draw in Group D and we will definitely try to come in the top two," team manager Jesper Larsson says.

Olafur Gudmundsson is the team captain and one of the players who know what the VELUX EHF Champions League means to everyone in and around the club. "IFK want to play among the best teams in Europe and it's really important for our young team and fans to get the opportunity to meet all the best teams and players," he says.

This season marks the fifth time in a row that IFK Kristianstad participate in the VELUX EHF Champions League. The club has only made it past the group phase once, but avoiding Groups A/B they should have a real chance to advance for the second time in the club's history.

No matter the results, the club will be celebrating this season: IFK Kristianstad turns 120 years old in November.

**Playing hall**

Kristianstad Arena
Västra Storgatan 69
S-29154 Kristianstad
Sweden
Capacity: 4,800

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 5
Last 16 (1): 2017/18
Group Phase (3): 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19

Other

EHF Cup: Group Phase: 2013/14

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



1 MATCH
Longest winning run

36 GOALS
Most goals

74 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	21:30 (13:11) v KIF Kolding Kobenhavn DEN (a), 06.03.2016
Biggest defeat	25:44 (14:19) v Barça Lassa ESP (h), 29.09.2018
Longest winning run	1 match (16.09.2015)
	1 match (22.10.2015)
	1 match (06.03.2016)
	1 match (08.10.2016)
	1 match (11.02.2017)
	1 match (04.03.2017)
	1 match (11.11.2017)
	1 match (26.11.2017)
	1 match (04.03.2018)
	1 match (10.11.2018)
	1 match (25.11.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	3 matches (11.11.2017 – 26.11.2017)
Longest losing run	7 matches (24.03.2018 – 10.10.2018)
Longest run without win	8 matches (24.03.2018 – 03.11.2018)
Most goals	36 v HC Vardar MKD 38:36L (a), 20.02.2016
Most goals opponent	44 v Barça Lassa ESP 25:44L (h), 29.09.2018
Most goals both teams	74 v HC Vardar MKD 38:36L (a), 20.02.2016
Fewest goals	15 v HC Vardar MKD 31:15L (a), 07.12.2017
Fewest goals opponent	21 v KIF Kolding Kobenhavn DEN 21:30W (a), 06.03.2016
Fewest goals both teams	46 v HC Vardar MKD 31:15L (a), 07.12.2017

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2015/16 IFK Kristianstad SWE	14	3	1	10	409:437	-28	7:21	7th Gr. B	
2016/17 IFK Kristianstad SWE	14	3	2	9	381:411	-30	8:20	8th Gr. B	
2017/18 IFK Kristianstad SWE	16	3	2	11	401:468	-67	8:24	Last 16	
2018/19 IFK Kristianstad SWE	14	2	1	11	396:475	-79	5:23	8th Gr. A	
Total	58	11	6	41	1587:1791	-204	28:88		



Ljubomir Vranjes

 @LVranjes

coach

- joined Kristianstad in March 2019, five months after leaving Veszprém
- won the CL with SG Flensburg-Handewitt in 2014 and is still the only Swedish coach to achieve the feat
- has also been in charge of the Hungarian national team
- one of Sweden's all-time greats, played 164 games for his country
- as a player won three EHF EURO titles and a world title with Sweden

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

Newcomers:

Simon Birkefeldt (MT Melsungen/GER)
Jihed Jaballah (Eskisehir/TUR)

Left the club:

Arnar Arnarsson (GOG/DEN)
Stig Tore Moen (GOG/DEN)
Johannes Larsson (HK Malmö/ SWE)
Anton Persson (HIF Karlskrona/SWE)
Gustaf Banke (HIF Karlskrona/ SWE) loan

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
25	Ludvig	Jurmala Aström	SWE	Line Player	29/12/1999	Tyreso, SWE	196	118
	Erik	Aronsson	SWE		18/04/2000	Linköping, SWE	180	73
39	William	Bengtsson	SWE	Left Back	20/06/2000	Kristianstad, SWE	195	96
23	Simon	Birkefeldt	DEN	Right Back	22/01/1991	Århus, DEN	198	105
37	Zoran	Bozic	SWE	Centre Back	03/04/2001	Kristianstad, SWE	188	78
10	Marc	Cañellas	ESP	Centre Back	21/07/1995	St Maria de Palaut, ESP	190	85
26	Valter	Chrintz	SWE	Right Wing	26/04/2000	Kristianstad, SWE	184	76
21	Alfred	Ehn	SWE	Left Wing	22/10/1994	Lidköping, SWE		
24	Teitur Örn	Einarsson	ISL	Right Back	23/09/1998	Selfoss, ISL	190	90
17	Helge	Freiman	SWE	Centre Back	26/02/1992	Lidingö, SWE	188	94
C 13	Olafur Andres	Gudmundsson	ISL	Left Back	13/05/1990	Hafnarfjarðar, ISL	194	92
30	Anton	Halen	SWE	Left Wing	28/11/1990	Helgum, SWE	192	90
14	Viktor	Hallen	SWE	Left Wing	01/02/1994	Kungsholmen, SWE	189	86
2	Emil	Hansson	SWE	Centre Back	07/05/1997	Ystad, SWE	198	98
6	Philip	Henningsson	SWE	Left Back	14/06/1995	Hörby, SWE	196	100
	Rene	Ingram	GER	Goalkeeper	05/03/1999	Landshut, GER	195	115
69	Jihed	Jaballah	TUN	Right Wing	29/07/1989	Susah, TUN	204	114
16	Richard	Kappelin	SWE	Goalkeeper	30/09/1983	Irsta, SWE	191	98
36	Jesper	Larsson	SWE	Goalkeeper	27/07/1973	Kristianstad, SWE	190	95
1	Leo	Larsson	SWE	Goalkeeper	16/10/1990	Ystad, SWE	188	92
	Wilmer	Martensson	SWE		06/12/1999	SWE		
35	Evon	Mohlin	SWE	Left Back	30/11/2000	Kristianstad, SWE	199	89
	Albin	Nilsson	SWE		17/11/2001			
4	Adam	Nyfjäll	SWE	Line Player	29/07/1992	Lysekil, SWE	196	101
3	Hugo	Svensson	SWE	Left Back	12/06/2000	Kristianstad, SWE	193	94



Richard Kappelin

 @richardkappelin

goalkeeper

- returned to Sweden in 2017 from Logronos, now going into third season with IFK
- also played CL with another Spanish club, Aragon, as well as Danish side Aalborg
- at 35, he is the oldest player in the IFK Kristianstad squad
- saved 38 percent of all attempts in the domestic league last season

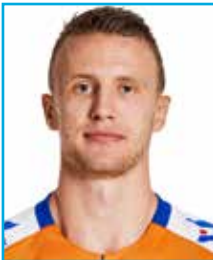


Olafur Gudmundsson

 @oligudmunds

left back

- team captain for the fourth straight season
- has played over 90 games for the Icelandic national team
- left Iceland at age 20, joining AG Kobenhavn in 2010
- joined IFK Kristianstad for first time in 2012, played one season for TSV Hannover-Burgdorf before returning to Kristianstad in 2015
- a good allround player, can be used as a centre back and a left back



Philip Henningson

 @philiphenningson6

left back

- playing fifth season in Kristianstad, joined from second tier club IFK Ystad in 2015
- had his breakthrough in CL Group Phase 2016/17, has great defensive abilities
- missed the WCh 2019 due to a fracture in his right foot
- mainly characterised by his shot and his physical strength

EURO: S 2018



Marc Canellas

 @marccanellas10

centre back

- joined IFK in the summer of 2018 from Spanish Fraikin BM. Granollers
- competes for centre back position with Olafur Gudmundsson, Helge Freiman and Emil Hansson
- a tall and versatile playmaker with plenty of international experience


Simon Birkefeldt

@simonbirkefeldt

right back

- joined IFK in summer of 2019 to replace Stig Tore Moen Nilsen, who moved to GOG
- previously played for MT Melsungen in Bundesliga, where he impressed in defence
- won M20 EHF EURO with Denmark and Danish cup with Aarhus
- has previous CL experience - with TTH Holstebro in 2016/17


Valter Chrintz

@valterchrintz

right wing

- joined IFK Kristianstad in 2017 from local club Åhus Handboll
- made headlines last season, scoring 8 goals against Veszprém's Arpad Sterbik
- scored the CL goal of the season 2018/19, a last-second winner against Montpellier
- played his first international games for Sweden at the end of last season


Viktor Hallén

@viktor hallen

left wing

- joined in 2016 from Drott Halmstad, had to compete with Jerry Tollbring on left wing
- Hallén missed big parts of last season when he recovered from a hip injury
- not only good in attack but also a strong defender who can play on the wing but also at the tip of a 5–1-defence


Jihed Jaballah

@jihed_jaballah_officiel

line player

- joined club in summer of 2019, replacing Arnar Arnarsson who has left for GOG
- has signed a two-year contract, coming from Turkish side Eskisehir
- largest player in the squad at 2.04 metre and with 120 kilos

GROUP D

**Club Address**

Orlen Wisła Płock
Plac Cebelry Papieskiej 1
09-400 Płock
Poland

Media contact

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

 www.sprwislaplock.pl

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

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

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

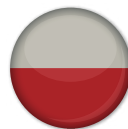
Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

Orlen Wisła Płock



If you like changes, you will love this team. This summer, Orlen Wisła Płock surprised fans with significant changes throughout the squad.

With new faces, the return to handball for a charismatic Russian icon and symbolic confirmation of a long-term evolution in the goal.

A few new faces among the team is totally normal each season, but what Płock did this summer seems to extend even the frames of a personnel revolution. Nine new players and an almost brand new back line does make an impression. After the 2018/19 season, Tomasz Gębala, Ignacio Moya, Nemanja Obradovic, Dan Emil Racotea, Marko Tarabochia and Jose de Toledo were among the important players to depart the club.

'The Oilers' can still count on Ondrej Zdrahala and Ziga Mlakar in addition to reinforcements such as promising names Szita Zoltan, Alvaro Ruiz, Philip Stenmalm, but the biggest name to join is Konstantin Igpupulo. The names were carefully chosen to match the tactics of coach Xavi Sabate and are expected to create a good team ready to make a huge step forward in both domestic and European contests.

"We were looking for players that can play both in attack and defence, understand the tactics of handball and can read the game fluently. All players who joined us have skills that match our system, we will be able to rotate the line-up more often and accelerate our game," explained coach Sabate at the beginning of the preparations to the new season.

Huge changes between the posts of Wisła draw quite a big question mark. Legend and club captain Marcin Wichary has retired, starting a new path of his career and becoming a goalkeeper coach. Adam Borbely also left, moving back to Hungary. However, the Polish runners-up prolonged the contract with one of their best investment of recent years, Adam Morawski, who is going to stay in Płock until 2022.

This season Morawski will be joined by experienced Croatian Ivan Stevanovic, so instead of three goalkeepers, Płock will have only two. The bronze medallist of the EHF EURO 2016 will definitely create an interesting duet with young Polish talent and the form of both of them will be crucial for Płock's performances this season.

**Playing hall**

Orlen Arena
Pl. Cebelry Papieskiej 1
09-400 Płock
Poland
Capacity: 5,467

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 15
Last 16 (5): 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19
Group Phase (7): 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2016/17, 2017/18
Last 32 (1): 1995/96
Qualification (1): 2012/13

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals: 1993/94; Group Phase: 2012/13
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals: 1996/97
Polish league: 7 titles (1995, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2011)
Polish cup: 10 titles



5 MATCHES
Longest winning run

42 GOALS
Most goals

72 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	42:26 (19:11) v Crvena Zvezda Beograd SCG (h), 13.11.2004 34:18 (16:10) v Riihimäen Cocks FIN (h), 26.09.2018
Biggest defeat	35:18 (19:4) v KIF Kolding Elite A/S DEN (a), 07.10.2006 34:17 (15:7) v HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO (a), 12.10.2008
Longest winning run	5 matches (29.11.2014 – 14.03.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	6 matches (23.11.2014 – 14.03.2015)
Longest losing run	6 matches (05.10.2008 – 20.11.2008) 6 matches (25.02.2017 – 01.10.2017)
Longest run without win	13 matches (25.11.2015 – 19.10.2016)
Most goals	42 v Crvena Zvezda Beograd SCG 42:26W (h), 13.11.2004
Most goals opponent	40 v Sportclub Magdeburg GER 40:32L (a), 16.11.2002
Most goals both teams	72 v Sportclub Magdeburg GER 40:32L (a), 16.11.2002
Fewest goals	13 v Chambéry Savoie HB FRA 21:13L (a), 15.10.2006
Fewest goals opponent	18 v Riihimäen Cocks FIN 34:18W (h), 26.09.2018
Fewest goals both teams	34 v Chambéry Savoie HB FRA 21:13L (a), 15.10.2006

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2002/03 Wisła Płock SSA POL	6	1	0	5	167:195	-28	2:10	3rd Gr. A	
2004/05 Wisła Płock SSA POL	6	1	0	5	159:177	-18	2:10	4th Gr. D	
2005/06 Wisła Płock SSA POL	6	2	0	4	155:182	-27	4:8	3rd Gr. E	
2006/07 Wisła Płock SA POL	6	2	0	4	141:170	-29	4:8	3rd Gr. C	
2008/09 Wisła Płock SA POL	6	0	0	6	122:188	-66	0:12	4th Gr. H	
2011/12 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	12	4	1	7	321:332	-11	9:15	Last 16	
2013/14 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	12	5	0	7	335:341	-6	10:14	Last 16	
2014/15 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	12	7	1	4	340:337	+3	15:9	Last 16	
2015/16 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	16	3	3	10	426:452	-26	9:23	Last 16	
2016/17 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	14	3	2	9	367:401	-34	8:20	7th Gr. A	
2017/18 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	14	2	3	9	380:408	-28	7:21	7th Gr. A	
2018/19 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	14	8	0	6	363:341	+22	16:12	Last 16	
Total	124	38	10	76	3276:3524	-248	86:162		



Javier Sabate

coach

- took over the team in July 2018 after Piotr Przybecki left the club few months earlier
- though he is still a young coach, he has gained a lot of experience, he was head coach of Veszprém in 2015-2017 and led the team to the VCL Final in 2016, where he lost in historical penalties against Kielce led by Talant Dujšebaev
- very engaged in every aspect, including training and tactics analysis, emphasising the role of a team spirit
- chosen the best coach of the Champions League in the season 2015/16

Newcomers:

Konstantin Igropulo (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
Jerko Matulić (KS Azaty Puławy/POL)
Niko Mindégia (Chambéry Savoie HB/FRA)
Alvaro Ruiz (Fenix Toulouse/FRA)
Stenmalm Philip (Paix d'Aix UC HB/FRA)
Ivan Stevanović (Kadetten Schaffhausen/SUI)
Zoltan Szita (Telekom Veszprém/HUN)
Leon Šušnja (HC PPD Zagreb/CRO)
Mikołaj Czaplirski (youth team Orlen Wisła Płock/POL)

Left the club:

Adam Borbely (Tatabánya/HUN)
Jose De Toledo (Vardar/MKD)
Tomasz Gębala (PGE VIVE Kielce/POL)
Ignacio Moya (A.E.K. Athens/GRE)
Nemanja Obradović (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
Dan Racotea (Telekom Veszprém/HUN)
Marko Tarabochia (unknown)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
44	Mikolaj	Czaplinski	POL	Left Wing	08/11/2000	Plock, POL	188	77
C 3	Michal	Daszek	POL	Right Wing	27/06/1992	Tczew, POL	182	87
17	Mateusz	Goralski	POL	Right Wing	17/01/1994	Plock, POL	178	82
35	Konstantin	Igropulo	RUS	Right Back	14/04/1985	Stawropol, RUS	190	99
77	Wiktor	Jankowski	POL	Line Player	12/10/2001	Plock, POL	198	105
38	Pawel	Kowalski	POL	Left Back	22/10/2000	Plock, POL	199	104
27	Jakub	Kozlowski	POL	Goalkeeper	18/06/2000	Plock, POL	194	90
26	Przemyslaw	Krajewski	POL	Left Wing	20/01/1987	Ciechanów, POL	184	86
11	Jerko	Matulic	CRO	Right Wing	20/04/1990	Supetar, CRO	187	83
23	Dominik	Mierzwicki	POL	Right Wing	08/07/1999	Plock, POL	182	78
34	Lovro	Mihic	CRO	Left Wing	25/08/1994	Zagreb, CRO	180	74
50	Niko	Mindegia Elizaga	ESP	Centre Back	19/07/1988	Santesteban, ESP	184	87
55	Ziga	Mlakar	SLO	Right Back	16/05/1990	Celje, SLO	192	99
1	Adam	Morawski	POL	Goalkeeper	17/10/1994	Ciechanów, POL	193	91
18	Mateusz	Piechowski	POL	Line Player	01/03/1995	Plock, POL	210	108
13	Alvaro	Ruiz Sanchez	ESP	Centre Back	08/04/1991	Almeria, ESP	192	82
4	Philip	Stenmalm	SWE	Left Back	03/03/1992	Vaxjo, SWE	198	90
12	Ivan	Stevanovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	18/05/1982	Rijeka, CRO	193	101
39	Renato	Sulic	CRO	Line Player	12/10/1979	Rijeka, CRO	192	106
19	Leon	Susnja	CRO	Line Player	05/08/1993	Siroki Brijeg, BIH	204	113
21	Zoltan	Szita	HUN	Left Back	10/02/1998	Veszprém, HUN	198	93
33	Igor	Zabic	SLO	Line Player	15/08/1992	Celje, SLO	201	108
9	Ondrej	Zdrahala	CZE	Centre Back	10/07/1983	Hranice, CZE	187	83



Adam Morawski

 @loczek1994

goalkeeper

- 23-year-old who started to play at a senior level in 2013/14, debuted in Polish national team in 2013 and in the CL two years later
- shone in Płock in 2016/17, resulting in nomination for best goalkeeper of the season in the Polish league
- his nickname 'Loczek' means 'a curl'



Premyslaw Krajewski

left wing

- joined Płock in 2017/18 season from Polish league rivals Azoty Puławy
- debuted in Polish national team in 2012, becoming a regular part of the squad at major championships since 2013
- passed 1,000 goals scored in Polish league in 2017
- replaces Michał Daszek in the role of temporary captain of the team while Daszek is recovering after arm injury

WCh: B 2015



Zoltan Szita

left back

- Telekom Veszprém's alumnus played there until 2017, past two seasons spent on the loan in Balatonfüredi KSE, scoring 170 goals in 47 matches of Hungarian league
- best left back of Hungarian league in the season 2018/19; good league performances won him a place in Hungarian national team
- young talented player useful both in attack and defence, expected to be one of the main distance guns of the Oilers
- knows coach Sabate from his time in Veszprém, what was one of the reasons that made him come to Płock



Ondrej Zdrahala

 @ondrejzdrahala

centre back

- 36-years-old player joined Płock in the Summer of 2018 on a two-year contract
- scored 56 goals for Czech Republic to become top scorer of the EHF EURO 2018
- playing in the Swiss first division, he received several offers after his EURO success, but decided to join Płock, where he plays an important role with his huge experience
- will play his sixth season in the VCL after 4 seasons with Czech side HC Banik Karvina in 2003-2007 and past season with Płock when he reached the Last 16 phase for the first time in his career



Renato Sulić

line player

- joined Płock from Veszprém for in 2019 as the seventh club on his career path
- had two stints and 10 seasons in total with Veszprém, in 2004/05 and from 2009-18
- didn't play in his first season in Veszprém due to a car accident before the first match
- was line player in the CL All-star Team twice, in 2013/14 and 2014/15
- is reunited in Płock with coach Sabate, who he previously worked with in Veszprém

EURO: S 2008, WCh: G 2003



Ziga Mlakar

right back

- Slovenian back who started playing handball at age 12
- Płock is his first foreign club as he spent almost his entire career with Celje – apart from a brief stint with Branik Maribor in 2014/15
- one of the leading players of Slovenia's successful 1990 generation
- had his best CL season in 2015/16 with Celje, scoring 60 goals
- faces former Celje teammates Blaz Janc, Branko Vujović and Daniel Dujšebaev when playing against Kielce in the Polish league



Konstantin Igropulo

right back

- hottest Płock's 2019/20 transfer replaced Jose de Toledo (Vardar)
- coming back on the court after a long break due to knee injury
- Russian international has Greek ancestry and played for Greece's Panellinios between 2001 and 2004 winning the national title in 2004, also became a national champion in his native Russia (4x with Chekhov) and Spain (2x with Barcelona) and won the German Cup with Füchse Berlin
- in 2004 became the European Champion in beach handball

 @igrok35official

EC trophies: CL 2011, EHF Cup 2015, Cup Winners' Cup 2006



Michał Daszek

right wing

- nominal captain of the team, currently replaced by Przemysław Krajewski during his recovery after arm injury, expected to join the team on the court later in the season
- joined the club in 2014 and currently plays his sixth season as the Oiler
- chosen the best winger and MVP of the Polish league in 2018/19

 @michaldaszek

WCh: B 2015

GROUP D

**Club Address**

GOG Sport
 Staerkaervej 1
 5884 Gudme
 Denmark

Media contact

Torsten Laen
 +4523238464
 torsten@gog.dk

 www.gog.dk

 GOGsport

 -

 @gogsport

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow
 Player short: red
 Goalkeeper shirt: green

Dark

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

GOG



Exactly 10 years after their last adventure, GOG are back in the VELUX EHF Champions League. Financial problems in 2010 marked a severe setback for one of Denmark's most successful clubs of the past three decades, but after reaching the final of the Danish championship last season, the talent factory from the south of Funen is back in the top flight, this time in Group D.

Known for being the best club in Denmark of developing talents, GOG have many young players in their squad. They are talented beyond any doubt, but inexperienced at this level. Manager Torsten Laen, who won this competition twice with BM Ciudad Real during his playing days, finds optimism in good performances in the EHF Cup in recent years. "It is an exciting task for our young team to be playing in the Champions League this season. We have had good experiences in the EHF Cup in recent years and now we look forward to trying it on an even bigger scene. It is extremely big for GOG to be back in this distinguished company after so many years of absence, and we will fight to move forward despite the great teams we will be facing," says the former Denmark international.

Not only has former Norwegian national team goalkeeper Ole Erevik ended his career. His substitute, Frank Mikkelsen, who was almost as experienced, has left for relegated TMS Ringsted. To replace this duo, GOG have signed 19-year-old Icelandic goalkeeper Viktor Halgrimsson, while 45-year-old former Denmark international Søren Haagen has returned from league rivals Ribe-Esbjerg HH. Much will depend on their ability to fill out the gap left by Erevik and Mikkelsen. A huge gap was also left in the right back position, as Denmark international Niclas Kirkeløkke joined Rhein-Neckar Löwen.

However, GOG managed to cope without Kirkeløkke for great parts of the last season, when he was injured, and newcomer Stig-Tore Moen Nilsen from IFK Kristianstad should have a good chance to fill out the gap with young and promising Mathias Gidsel as substitute. Reaching one of the two top spots which gives access to the play-offs will demand quite an effort from GOG.



Playing hall
JYSKE Bank Arena
 Lille Tornbjerg Vej
 5220 Odense
 Denmark
 Capacity: 4,000

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League
 Participations (including 2019/20 season): 9
 Main Round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09
 Last 16 (2): 2004/05, 2006/07
 Group Matches (4): 1995/96, 1996/97,
 1998/99, 2000/01

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals: 1999/00, 2001/02,
 2005/06; Group Phase: 2018/19
Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 1995/96;
 Quarter-finals: 1993/94, 1997/98
Danish league: 7 titles (1992, 1995, 1996, 1998,
 2000, 2004, 2007)
Danish cup: 10 titles



8 MATCHES
Longest winning run

40 GOALS
Most goals

74 GOALS
Most goals both teams

EHF Champions League club records

Biggest win	36:17 (16:8) v Brestskiy HC Meshkovo BLR (h), 09.10.2004
Biggest defeat	29:45 (18:24) v BM Ciudad Real ESP (h), 04.12.2004
Longest winning run	4 matches (09.10.2004 – 30.10.2004)
Longest unbeaten run	4 matches (09.10.2004 – 30.10.2004)
	4 matches (10.11.2007 – 10.02.2008)
Longest losing run	6 matches (16.11.2008 – 08.03.2009)
Longest run without win	6 matches (14.02.1996 – 24.11.1996)
	6 matches (16.11.2008 – 08.03.2009)
Most goals	45 v HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE 45:32W (h), 15.10.2006
Most goals opponent	45 v BM Ciudad Real ESP 29:45L (h), 04.12.2004
Most goals both teams	77 v HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE 45:32W (h), 15.10.2006
Fewest goals	18 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 18:22L (h), 24.11.1996
	18 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 29:18L (a), 18.01.1997
Fewest goals opponent	17 v Brestskiy HC Meshkovo BLR 36:17W (h), 09.10.2004
	17 v CS HCM Constanta ROU 33:17W (h), 22.10.2006
Fewest goals both teams	40 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 18:22L (h), 24.11.1996

VELUX EHF Champions League record

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1995/96 GOG Gudme DEN	6	1	2	3	136:159	-23	4:8	4th Gr. B	
1996/97 GOG Gudme DEN	6	1	0	5	133:155	-22	2:10	3rd Gr. D	
1998/99 GOG Gudme DEN	6	2	0	4	160:180	-20	4:8	3rd Gr. C	
2000/01 GOG Gudme DEN	6	3	0	3	165:158	+7	6:6	3rd Gr. C	
2004/05 GOG Gudme DEN	8	4	0	4	238:230	+8	8:8	Last 16	
2006/07 GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN	8	3	0	5	261:244	+17	6:10	Last 16	
2007/08 GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN	12	6	3	3	380:365	+15	15:9	2nd MR Gr. 4	
2008/09 GOG Svendborg TGI DEN	10	3	0	7	292:324	-32	6:14	4th MR Gr. 4	
Total	62	23	5	34	1765:1815	-50	51:73		



Nicolej Møldrup Krickau

coach

- in charge of GOG for the third season after joining from Skanderborg Handbold in 2017
- was youngest head coach ever in the Danish men's league when taking over in Skanderborg Handball at the age of 27
- was a league player in Skanderborg before becoming a coach
- a tactically and psychologically strong coach with a good eye for developing new talents

Newcomers:

Stig Tore Moen (IFK Kristianstad/SWE)
 Arnar Freyr Arnarsson (IFK Kristianstad/SWE)
 Søren Haagen (Ribe-Esbjerg HH/DEN)
 Viktor Hallgrímsson (Fram Reykjavik/ISL)

Left the club:

Jon Andersen (Sønderjyske/DEN)
 Niclas Kirkeløkke (Rhein-Neckar Löwen/GER)
 Lars Hald (retired)
 Ole Erevik (retired)
 Frank Mikkelsen (TMS Ringsted/DEN)

Team roster

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight	
9	Frederik Bo	Andersen	DEN	Right Wing	09/12/1998	Roskilde, DEN	186	89	
74	Soren Haagen	Andreasen	DEN	Goalkeeper	26/03/1974	Esbjerg, DEN	187	96	
5	Arnar Freyr	Arnarsson	ISL	Line Player	14/03/1996	Reykjavik, ISL	201	106	
17	Oscar	Bergendahl	SWE	Line Player	08/03/1995	Kungsbacka, SWE	192	106	
13	Jeppe M.	Cieslak	DEN	Left Wing	01/04/2000	Maribo, DEN	183	85	
77	Frederik Kiehn	Clausen	DEN	Left Back	29/06/1995	Svendborg, DEN	197	107	
	Anton K.	Filtenborg	DEN		22/07/2001				
19	Mathias	Gidsel	DEN	Right Back	08/02/1999	Skjern, DEN	190	85	
	Andreas	Haagen Pytlick	DEN	Goalkeeper	22/07/2001	Bov, DEN			
16	Viktor Gisli	Hallgrímsson	ISL	Goalkeeper	24/07/2000	Reykjavik, ISL	203	118	
39	Frederik	Elmkjaer Hansen	DEN	Centre Back	20/08/1998	Kerteminde, DEN	194	95	
32	Steven Plucnar	Jacobsen	DEN	Line Player	22/10/2000	Solrød, DEN	193	86	
31	Emil M.	Jakobsen	DEN	Left Wing	24/01/1998	Kerteminde, DEN	190	89	
14	Lukas	Jørgensen	DEN	Line Player	31/03/1999	Roskilde, DEN	193	107	
C	20	Lasse	Kronborg	DEN	Centre Back	18/05/1984	Svendborg, DEN	193	95
15	Emil B.	Laerke	DEN	Left Back	04/06/1999	Roskilde, DEN	203	105	
11	Emil Wernsdorf	Madsen	DEN	Right Back	01/01/2001	Svendborg, DEN	190	85	
64	Lasse Kjaer	Møller	DEN	Left Back	11/06/1996	Gudme, DEN	199	100	
9	Stig Tore Moen	Nilsen	NOR	Right Back	09/08/1994	Alta, NOR	194	91	
10	Josef	Pujol	SWE	Centre Back	19/02/1992	Stocholm, SWE	183	78	
22	Simon B.	Pytlick	DEN	Centre Back	11/12/2000	Thurø, DEN	192	92	
2	Odinn Thor	Rikhardsson	ISL	Right Wing	23/10/1997	Reykjavik, ISL	181	82	
16	Svend Bro	Rughave	DEN	Goalkeeper	05/02/2001	Morsø, DEN	196	93	
23	Henrik	Tilsted	DEN	Left Wing	17/05/1994	Thisted, DEN	185	85	



Viktor Hallgrímsson

 @viktor.gisli

goalkeeper

- joined from Fram Reykjavik in the summer of 2019
- together with the 45-year-old Søren Haagen, he will replace retired Ole Erevik
- At 19, he has already had his debut in the Icelandic national team and he made a name for himself at the Junior (U-21) World Championship 2019
- a fast and very talented goalkeeper with fine reactions



Emil Jakobsen

 @manfeldt98

left wing

- came through GOG's talent program, has always played for the club
- made debut for Denmark in the 37:26 home win over Montenegro in a Men's EHF EURO 2020 Qualifier on 13 April 2019
- at 21, been considered one of the best wing talents in Denmark
- tall, strong and technically skilled, with plenty of potential to develop further



Lasse Møller

 @konglasse

left back

- like many other players in the squad, he is a product of GOG's development program
- will leave for SG Flensburg-Handewitt after the 2019/20 season
- a tall and heavy, but also creative back-court player, who can also play in the middle
- injury forced him out of the WCh 2019, where Denmark won gold
- is son of former GOG and national team goalkeeper Bent Møller



Frederik Clausen

left back

- raised by GOG in the club's own talent program
- has played for the national Danish team but faces fierce competition on his left-back position
- a tall and physically strong player with huge qualities in the defence



Josef Pujol

centre back

- joined from VfL Gummersbach in the summer of 2018
- gained CL experience with Elverum before starting his Bundesliga adventure
- started his career in Hammarby, in his Swedish homeland
- after some adjustment problems, he has developed into a reliable playmaker at GOG

 @josefpujol



Stig-Tore Moen Nilsen

right back

- joined from IFK Kristianstad in the summer of 2019
- will replace Denmark international Niclas Kirkeløkke (now Rhein-Neckar Löwen)
- has rich CL experience from three seasons with Kristianstad
- a tall and strong back with a fine shot and a good eye for the breakthrough

 @gitsmoen



Odinn Rikhardsson

right wing

- talented young Icelandic player, joined from Haukar in Iceland in the summer of 2018
- played for Iceland at the WCh 2019 in Denmark and Germany
- a tall and strong wing with plenty of potential

 @odinnrikhards



Arnar Freyr Arnarsson

line player

- joined from IFK Kristianstad in the summer of 2019
- went from Fram Reykjavik to Kristianstad in 2016, has gained lots of CL experience
- played for Iceland at the WCh 2017 and 2019 as well as the EHF EURO 2018
- strong and effective line player, good at making himself available for teammates

 @arnar.freyr

Top Scorers 2018/19

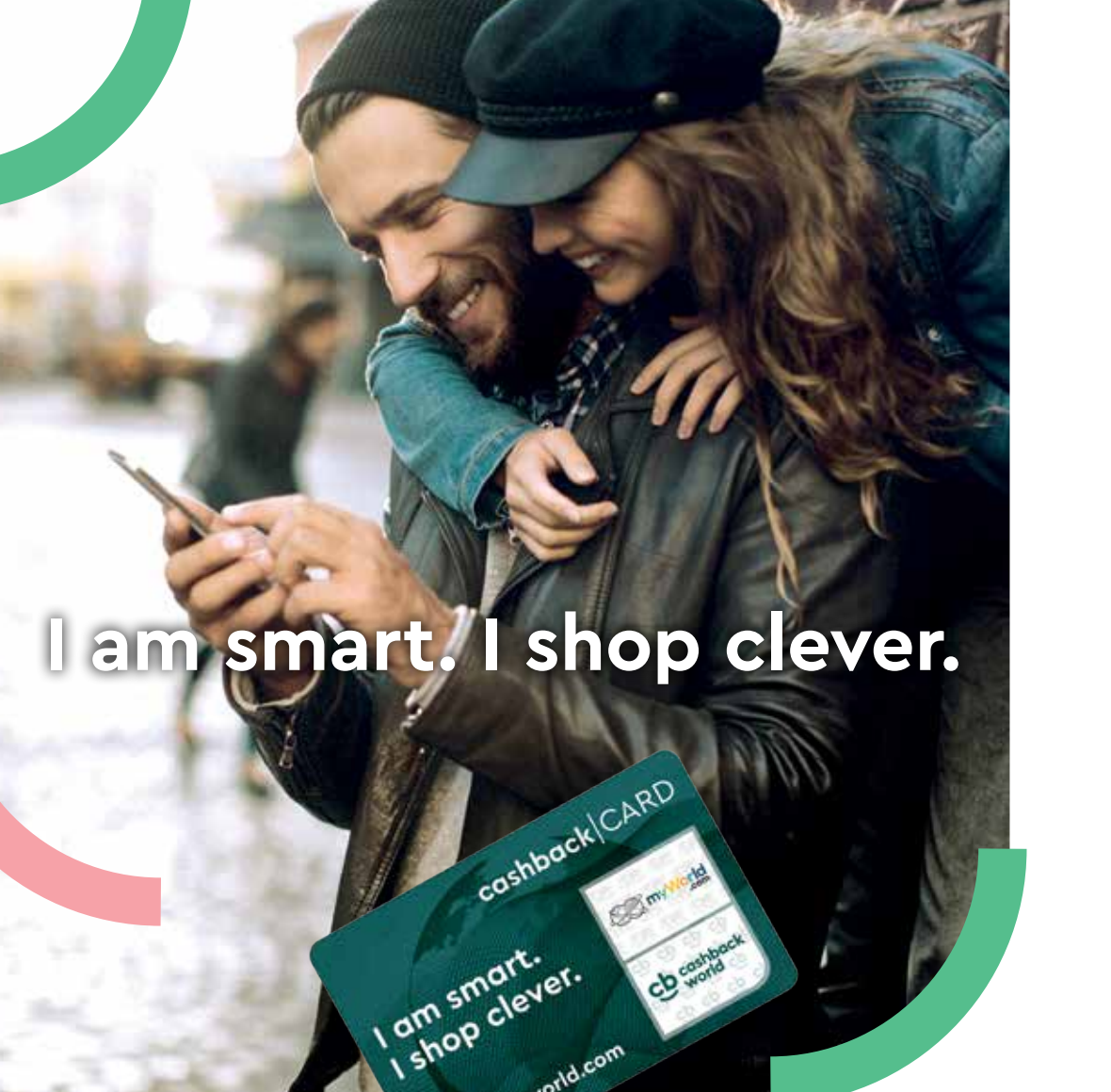
Rank	Player	Club	Goals
1	Alex Dujšhebaev (ESP)	PGE Vive Kielce (POL)	99
2	Dainis Kristopans (LAT)	HC Vardar (MKD)	94
3	Andre Schmid (SUI)	Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)	91
4	Barys Pukhouski (BLR)	HC Motor Zaporozhye (UKR)	87
6	Zlatko Horvat (CRO)	HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)	85
7	Valero Rivera (ESP)	HBC Nantes (FRA)	81
8	Nedim Remili (FRA)	Paris Saint-Germain HB (FRA)	80
9	Uwe Gensheimer (GER)	Paris Saint-Germain HB (FRA)	79
13	Timur Dibirov (RUS)	HC Vardar (MKD)	78
14	Aleix Gomez (ESP)	Barça Lassa (ESP)	77
15	Ivan Cupic (CRO)	HC Vardar (MKD)	76
16	Bence Banhidi (HUN)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	75
16	Dika Mem (FRA)	Barça Lassa (ESP)	74
21	Mikkel Hansen (DEN)	Paris Saint-Germain HB (FRA)	73
22	Nico Rönneberg (FIN)	Riihimäen Cocks (FIN)	72
23	Aidenas Malasinskas (LTU)	HC Motor Zaporozhye (UKR)	71
24	Rasmus Lauge Schmidt (DEN)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	68
25	Johan a Plogv Hansen (DEN)	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)	67
27	Hampus Wanne (SWE)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	66
28	Artsem Karalek (BLR)	PGE Vive Kielce (POL)	65
30	Stefan Rafn Sigurmannsson (ISL)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	63
	Sander Sagosen (NOR)	Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)	69
23	Holger Glandorf (GER)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	68
	Karol Bielecki (POL)	PGE Vive Kielce (POL)	68
25	Valero Rivera (ESP)	FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP)	66
	Niclas Ekberg (SWE)	THW Kiel (GER)	66
	Luka Cindric (CRO)	HC Vardar (MKD)	66
28	Tim Sörensen (DEN)	IFK Kristianstad (SWE)	65
	Rasmus Lauge Schmidt (DEN)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	65
	Anders Eggert (DEN)	Skjern Handbold (DEN)	65

All-star Team 2018/19



All-star Teams overview

S	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
GK	Darko Stanic (Metalurg)	Niklas Landin (RNL)	Roland Mikler (Veszprém)	Niklas Landin (Kiel)	Gonzalo Perez de Vargas (Barcelona)	Arpad Sterbik (Vardar)	Dejan Milosavljev (Vardar)
LW	Anders Eggert (Flensburg)	Timur Dibirov (Vardar)	Uwe Gensheimer (RNL)	Manuel Strlek (Kielce)	Uwe Gensheimer (PSG)	Uwe Gensheimer (PSG)	Timur Dibirov (Vardar)
LB	Filip Jicha (Kiel)	Momir Ilic (Veszprém)	Nikola Karabatic (Barcelona)	Momir Ilic (Veszprém)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)	Sander Sagosen (PSG)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)
CB	Daniel Narcisse (Kiel)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)	Dean Bombac (Szeged)	Nikola Karabatic (PSG)	Nikola Karabatic (PSG)	Kentin Mahe (Veszprém)
LP	Julen Aguinagalde (Atletico)	Renato Sulic (Veszprém)	Renato Sulic (Veszprém)	Rastko Stojkovic (Brest)	Ludovic Fabregas (Montpellier)	Bjarte Myrhol (Skjern)	Julen Aguinagalde (Kielce)
RB	Laszlo Nagy (Veszprém)	Kiril Lazarov (Barcelona)	Kiril Lazarov (Barcelona)	Kiril Lazarov (Barcelona)	Alex Dujšhebaev (Vardar)	Dika Mem (Barcelona)	Dainis Kristopans (Vardar)
RW	Ivan Cupic (Kielce)	Luc Abalo (PSG)	Victor Tomas (Barcelona)	Gasper Marguc (Veszprém)	Victor Tomas (Barcelona)	David Balaguer (Nantes)	Ivan Cupic (Vardar)
< 23	N/A	N/A	Alex Dujšhebaev (Vardar)	Darko Djukic (Besiktas)	Nedim Remili (PSG)	Romain Lagarde (Nantes)	Ludovic Fabregas (Barca)
DEF	Timuzsin Istvan Schuh (Veszprém)	Timuzsin Istvan Schuh (Veszprém)	Rene Toft Hansen (Kiel)	Timuzsin Istvan Schuh (Veszprém)	Luka Karabatic (PSG)	Luka Karabatic (PSG)	Blaz Blagotinsek (Veszprém)
C	N/A	N/A	Talant Dujšhebaev (Kielce)	Xavier Sabate (Veszprém)	Raul Gonzalez (Vardar)	Patrice Canayer (Montpellier)	Roberto Parrondo (Vardar)



I am smart. I shop clever.



Up to **5% Cashback** on all your purchases at
over **130,000 Loyalty Merchants** worldwide.*

*For every purchase made at a Loyalty Merchant listed at cashbackworld.com, based on the relevant total purchase price.

cb cashback
world

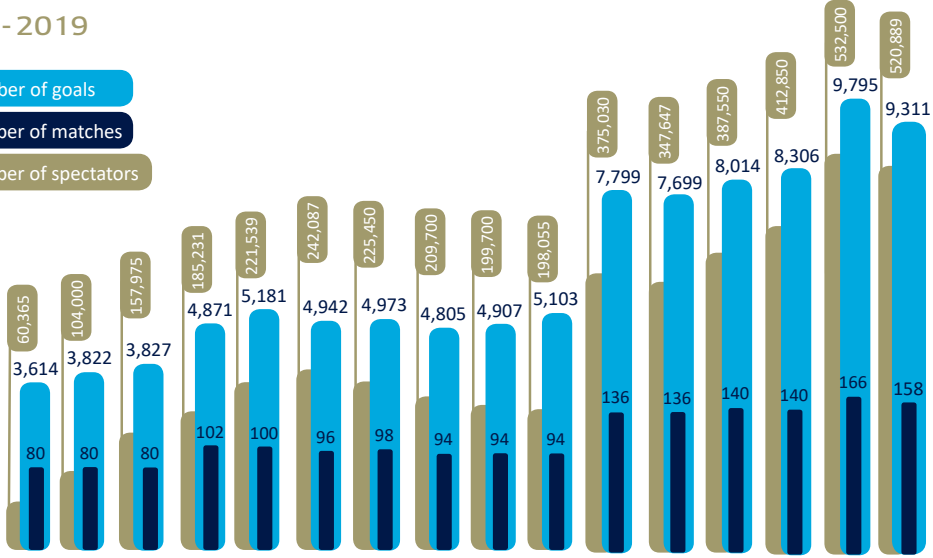
Past winners

2019	HC Vardar	(MKD)
2018	Montpellier HB	(FRA)
2017	HC Vardar	(MKD)
2016	Vive Tauron Kielce	(POL)
2015	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
2014	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	(GER)
2013	HSV Hamburg	(GER)
2012	THW Kiel	(GER)
2011	FC Barcelona Borges	(ESP)
2010	THW Kiel	(GER)
2009	BM Ciudad Real	(ESP)
2008	BM Ciudad Real	(ESP)
2007	THW Kiel	(GER)
2006	BM Ciudad Real	(ESP)
2005	FC Barcelona-Cifec	(ESP)
2004	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	(SLO)
2003	Montpellier HB	(FRA)
2002	SC Magdeburg	(GER)
2001	Portland San Antonio	(ESP)
2000	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1999	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1998	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1997	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1996	FC Barcelona	(ESP)
1995	Elgorriaga Bidasoa	(ESP)
1994	TEKA Santander	(ESP)

Timeline

1993 - 2019

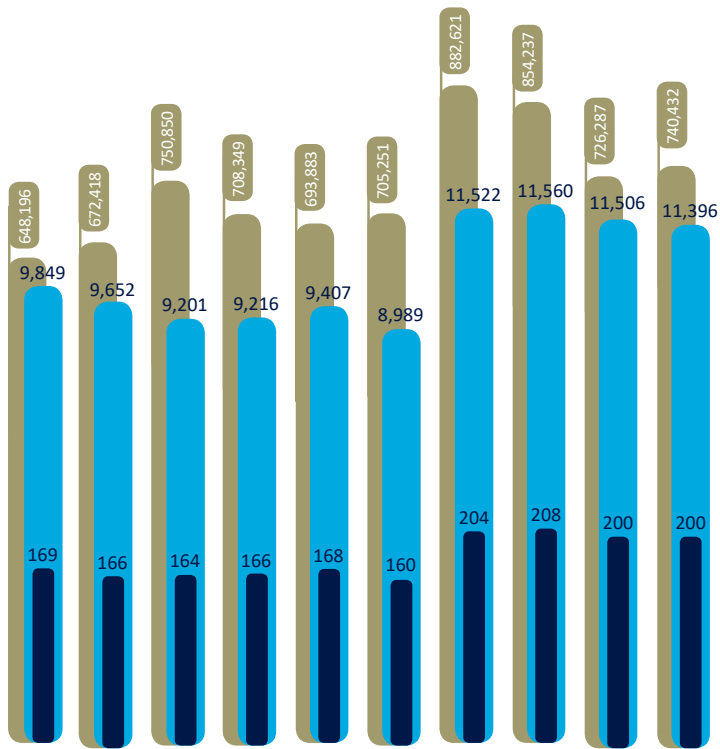
- Number of goals
- Number of matches
- Number of spectators



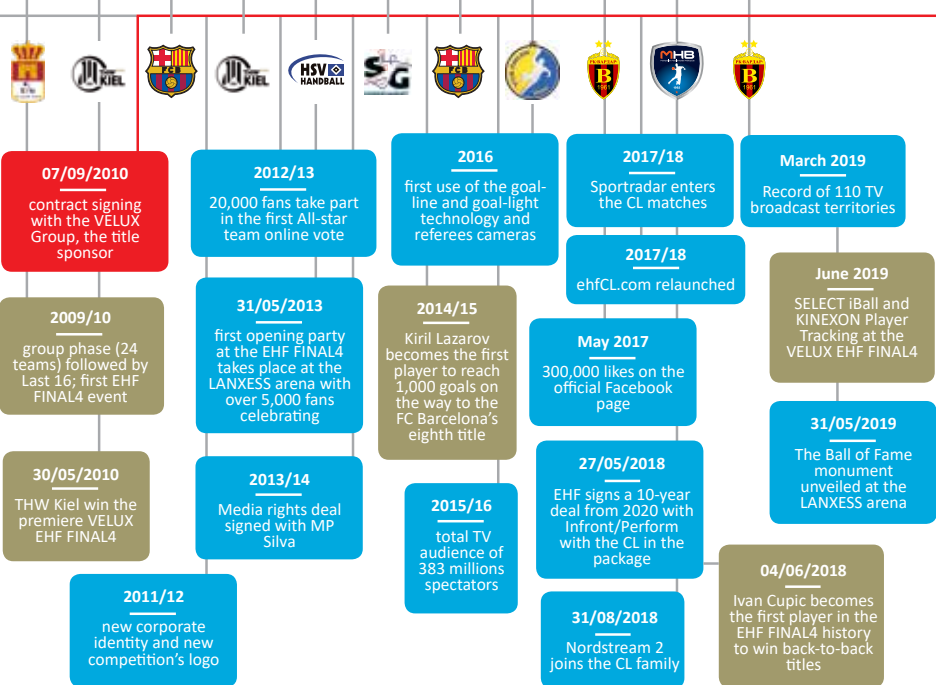
1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008

- 17/11/1991** EHF founded
- 29/08/1993** first EHF CL match (qualification): Pelister Bitola (MKD) vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko (SLO)
- 1993/1994** group phase with eight teams in two groups, followed by a final
- 1993** EHF takes over all the club and national team competitions including the former IHF European Champions Cup renaming it to the EHF Champions League
- 26/04/1996** Thomas Svensson defends the title as the first player after repeating his Elgorriaga Bidasoa 1995 success with FC Barcelona
- 1996/1997** group phase with 16 teams, quarter- and semi-finals added
- 1997** first official website launched
- April 2002** Olafur Stefansson scores 16 goals against Fotex Veszprém in two final legs to lead SC Magdeburg to the title as the first non-Spanish team in history
- 2003/2004** group phase with 32 teams, Last 16 added
- 2003** EHF Marketing founded, the EHF's daughter company dealing with the marketing rights of the CL
- 2006/07** group matches (32 teams) followed by main round (16) and semi-finals
- 2007/08** group matches (32 teams) followed by main round (16) and semi-finals
- 29/04/2007** Andrei Xepkin raises the trophy for the all-time record seventh time
- 2007** first match streamed live on ehfTV.com

- marketing, TV, media, organisation
- competition and players



2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



History: 26 years of EHF Champions League

1993 - 2007

1993/94

Final: ABC Braga vs TEKA Santander 22:22/21:23 (43:45)

The inaugural year of the Men's EHF Champions League saw the classic home and away knockout matches being replaced with a totally new system. 32 teams went into two qualification rounds, eliminating 24 clubs. The remaining eight teams were placed into two groups of four teams each playing in a round-robin system. TEKA Santander and ABC Braga topped their respective groups and faced each other in the final. Santander narrowly kept the upper hand and started what should become an eight-year Spanish club winning streak in the Men's EHF Champions League.

1994/95

Final: Elgorriaga Bidasoa Irun vs Badel Zagreb 30:20 / 26:27 (56:47)

The final of the EHF Champions League's second season became the match of a lifetime for Irun's Nenad Perunicic, nicknamed "the canon" or "El Conquistadore" by the fans. He was his team's key player in the final and, in his first year in Spain, not only he lifted the EHF Champions League but also the national championship trophy with Irun.

1995/96

Final: FC Barcelona vs Elgorriaga Bidasoa Irun 23:15 / 23:23 (46:38)

In the season that was marked by the "Bosman decision", which had substantial effects on transfer regulations and transfer fees in sport, FC Barcelona won their first EHF Champions League title. No other should be capable of dethroning the Catalan side for the next four years.

1996/97

Final: FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb 31:22 / 30:23 (61:45)

In their second consecutive EHF Champions League Final Barcelona dominated both matches

against Badel Zagreb. And while the Spanish side celebrated their second EHF Champions League triumph, the Croatian side had lost their second final. Also in 1996/97 the so called "fast break" was born due to a rule change, making handball more attractive and athletic than ever before.

1997/98

Final: FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb 28:18 / 28:22 (56:40)

Barcelona beat Zagreb once more to win their third consecutive EHF Champions League title. But at least as much news as the repeated triumph made the wedding of Barcelona player Inaki Urdangarin who married Christina, youngest daughter of Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, on 4th October 1997.

1998/99

Final: Badel Zagreb vs FC Barcelona 22:22 / 18:29 (40:51)

Once again there were tears in Zagreb and joy in Barcelona. The Spanish team beat Zagreb in their third consecutive final and lifted the EHF Champions League trophy for the fourth time in a row. Zagreb's coach Velimir Klajic had to admit that Barcelona "at this moment in time, were quite simply the best club team in the world."

1999/00

Final: THW Kiel – FC Barcelona 28:25 / 24:29 (52:54)

THW Kiel became the first German team to make it into the Final but even a 28:25-victory in the final's first leg was not enough to end Barcelona's EHF Champions League winning streak. Backed by half of the Spanish national team and international stars like Christian Schwarzer and Tomas Svensson, Barcelona won their fifth title.

2000/01

Final: Portland San Antonio – FC Barcelona 30:24 / 22:25 (52:49)

For Barcelona it was a whole new feeling to watch another team celebrating at the end of the Champions League Final. Following five consecutive titles an era came to end when Spanish King Juan Carlos handed the huge trophy to Portland San Antonio at the end of all-Spanish Final.

2001/02

Final: Fotex Veszprém vs SC Magdeburg 23:21 / 25:30 (48:51)

One year after Barcelona's dominance had ended in the EHF Champions League, the dominance of Spanish clubs also came to an end, when SC Magdeburg became the first German team to win the competition. And late at night, at the end of a glittering party, Stefan Kretzschmar and coach Alfred Gislason were still up for jokes: "Training is on the agenda. The entire team is going to run through the whole town until 08:00 tomorrow morning," they said.

2002/03

Final: Portland San Antonio – Montpellier HB 27:19 / 19:31 (46:50)

A new star was born during the finals of the 2002/03 EHF Champions League season. Montpellier's Nikola Karabatic scored 11 goals in the first leg in Spain and another six in front of his home fans, enabling his team to turn around the eight goal defeat from the first leg and to become the first French side to win the CL.

2003/04

Final: Celje vs Flensburg- Handewitt 34:28 / 28:30 (62:58)

In March 2003 the EHF had decided on a new structure for the competition. Three teams from Spain and Germany now had a starting slot. Two representatives from Hungary, Slovenia, Denmark and Croatia would start in the Group Phase. Overall 32 teams (8 groups of 4 teams each) made

up the Group Phase. Flensburg had profited from the new system but Slovenian side Celje was too strong in the final.

2004/05

Final: BM Ciudad Real vs FC Barcelona Cifec 28:27 / 27:29 (55:56)

Following four years without being present in the final, Barcelona won their sixth EHF Champions League title. And while the spectator record for one match was 10,000 fans, the whole city celebrated Barcelona's victory. "We did a lap of honour in the Stadion Nou Camp in front of 100,000 spectators and were celebrated by the whole town," remembers Barcelona's Dane Lars Krogh Jeppesen.

2005/06

Final: Portland San Antonio vs BM Ciudad Real 19:25 / 28:37 (47:62)

Spanish businessman and BM Ciudad Real president, Domingo Diaz de Mera, had put together a team that proved to be unbeatable in the 2005/06 Champions League season. Mera bought superstars from all over Europe and the team around Olafur Stefansson, Mirza Dzomba, Didier Dinart et al. paid justified Mera's expenses when they beat Spanish rival San Antonio in the final.

2006/07

Final: SG Flensburg- Handewitt vs THW Kiel 28:28 / 27:29 (55:57)

The EHF Champions League, through the efforts of the 2005 founded EHF Marketing GmbH, became a unified look. Since 2006, TV spectators across Europe know they are watching a men's EHF Champions League match when they see the distinct blue lagoon and black supplied by flooring specialists Gerfloor in addition to the season's individual yellow and blue handball supplied by adidas. On the sport side of things, Kiel won their first EHF Champions League title, beating arch rival Flensburg-Handewitt.

History: 26 years of EHF Champions League

2007 - 2019

2007/08

Final: BM Ciudad Real vs THW Kiel 27:29 / 31:25 (58:54)

In the 2007/08 season a second Group Phase with four groups of four teams each replaced the Last 16-matches and the quarter-finals. The first teams of each group qualified for the semi-finals and in the final 2006 champion Ciudad Real faced 2007 champion THW Kiel. The Spanish side prevailed and could win their second EHF Champions League trophy.

2008/09

Final: THW Kiel vs BM Ciudad Real 39:34 / 27:33 (66:67)

THW Kiel and BM Ciudad Real faced each other in the final for the second year in a row and even though Kiel had won the first leg of the final by five goals, it was Ciudad Real that won the EHF Champions League for a second consecutive time. Kiel were still in the lead by 20:16 after 39 minutes but with a series of 10:3 goals within 11 minutes Ciudad Real turned the match in their favour.

2009/10

Final: FC Barcelona Borges vs HW Kiel 34:36

In the 2009/10 season the number of participating teams in the first Group Phase was reduced from 32 to 24. Four groups of six teams each were formed and the first four teams qualified for the knockout phase which replaced the second group phase. For the first time the VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournament, which combined the Semi-finals and the Final, was held in Cologne, Germany, to decide the champion. THW Kiel won their second title when they beat Barcelona.

2010/11

Final: FC Barcelona vs Renovalia Ciudad Real 27:24

Since 2010 the event is known as the VELUX EHF Champions League. 40,000 fans stormed

to Cologne to attend the VELUX EHF FINAL4 weekend and TV viewing audience figures went to a new height. 310 million viewers from 76 countries worldwide watched 2,800 hours of TV transmissions 2010/11. Barcelona extended their lead as the most successful club in EHF Champions League history when won their seventh title, beating Ciudad Real in the Final.

2011/12

Final: THW Kiel vs BM Atletico Madrid 26:21

The German powerhouse sensationally lost in their first home match of the season against Montpellier, but no other team was able to overcome THW Kiel throughout the remaining of the season. Gíslason led his team to the third trophy in the club's history becoming the first coach who won with two different teams. Defending champions from Barcelona were eliminated in the quarter-finals by AG København, but the Danish side was stopped in the semi-final by Atlético Madrid, who made it to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 for the fourth time in a row.

2012/13

Final: FC Barcelona vs HSV Hamburg 29:30 AET

HSV Hamburg go into the new season as the defending champion. For the first time the extra-time had to decide the winner. In 20 years of EHF Champions League history there have only been two champions, Montpellier in 2003 and Celje in 2004, who neither came from Spain nor from Germany. The All-Stars team of the 20 years were announced: Goalkeeper Tomas Svensson (SWE), Left Wing Stefan Kretzschmar (GER), Left Back Filip Jicha (CZE), Line Player Andrei Xepkin (ESP), Centre Back Jackson Richardson (FRA), Right Back (Ólafur Stefansson), Right Wing Mirza Džomba (CRO), Best defender Didier Dinart (FRA)

2013/14**Final: SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs THW Kiel 30:28**

For the third year in a row a team from Northern Germany prevailed as SG Flensburg-Handewitt took both of their opponents at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 by surprise. In the semi-final the “Vranjes boys” eliminated giants of FC Barcelona after a penalty-shoot-out thriller and made the Cinderella story perfect by beating their neighbours from Kiel 30:28 in the final.

2014/15**Final: FC Barcelona vs MKB-MVM Veszprém 28:23**

The defending champions from SG Flensburg-Handewitt were eliminated already in the Last 16 as well as Rhein-Neckar Löwen.

The end of the three-year-old reign of Bundesliga was sealed only in Cologne as THW Kiel were unable to repeat their 2014 semi-final win against Veszprém. However, the effort of Hungarian champions for their premiere trophy were denied by FC Barcelona who rose to the throne for the eighth time in the EHF history.

2015/16**KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs MVM Veszprém 39:38 after 7m shootout**

This final went down to history books of the Champions League as a breathtaking classic. Deep in the second half Veszprém were leading by nine goals, still Kielce put up a spirited fight to force the extra-time. Even the additional ten minutes could not solve the thriller and in the 7m shootout Kielce were luckier with Julen Aguinagalde’s last effort clinched the maiden title for the Polish champions adding only fifth country to the list of winners.

2016/17**Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Vardar 23:24**

For the first time in history no German team made it to the VELUX EHF FINAL4. The sold-out LANXESS arena still saw yet another edition of some showcase handball and three out of four matches ended in only one goal differences. HC Vardar beat the buzzer for two days in a row as Luka Cindric sank FC Barcelona Lassa in the semi-final and Ivan Cupic clinched the maiden title for the Macedonian team in the final against PSG sending the whole country into a handball frenzy.

2017/18**HBC Nantes vs Montpellier HB 27:32**

In its 25th anniversary the European top flight once again underlined the rule that favourites cannot take anything for granted in this fierce competition. No fewer than three French teams made it to the final tournament in Cologne and after both finalists from the previous edition (Vardar and PSG) failed in the semi-finals it was a showdown between two pre-season underdogs HBC Nantes and Montpellier HB in the final. Mainly courtesy of a brilliant performance of their playmaker Diego Simonet Montpellier returned to the European throne after 15 years and became the first team from Group C or D with this achievement.

2018/19**HC Vardar vs Telekom Veszprém HC 27:24**

The Macedonian champions unexpectedly returned to the throne. Despite losing several key players in the summer and during the season Vardar reached their third VELUX EHF FINAL4 in a row. After having stunned Barcelona in the semi-finals they held the upper hand throughout the whole final over Veszprém, whose losing streak in the Champions League finals was extended to four games. After what many saw as the club’s last shot at glory tens of thousands of people were welcoming the champions in the streets of Skopje.

All-time stats of the EHF Champions League

31

HSV Hamburg GER @ Fyllingen
Handball NOR 17:48 (10:25) 14.11.2009

26

Montpellier HB FRA vs AC PAOK GRE
46:20 (26:9), 04.10.2009

31

HSV Hamburg GER @ Fyllingen Handball
NOR 17:48 (10:25), 14.11.2009

18

RK Zagreb CRO vs Pelister Bitola MKD
37:13 (23:5), 16.10.2005

50

THW Kiel GER @ HC Banik OKD Karvina
CZE 26:50 (13:24), 22.10.2006

82

FC Barcelona Borges ESP vs KIF Kolding
DEN 46:36 (23:19), 17.10.2009

11

Aalborg Handball DEN vs FC Barcelona ESP
11:31 (5:16), 15.03.2015

32

SG Wallau-Massenheim GER vs UHK West
Wien AUT 17:15 (7:6), 20.03.1994

Biggest wins

- 29 ZTR Zaporozhye UKR @ AS Conversano 2003 ITA 12:41 (5:19), 29.11.2003
- 26 Montpellier HB FRA vs AC PAOK GRE 46:20 (26:9), 04.10.2009
- 26 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP @ HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 17:43 (9:21), 19.11.2011

Biggest home wins

- 25 FC Barcelona ESP vs Hapoel Rishon Le Zion ISR 42:17 (18:10), 15.11.1997
- 25 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI vs HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 43:18 (23:8), 09.02.2012

Biggest away wins

- 29 ZTR Zaporozhye UKR @ AS Conversano 2003 ITA 12:41 (5:19), 29.11.2003
- 26 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP @ HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 17:43 (9:21), 19.11.2011

Biggest lead at half-time

- 17 Montpellier HB FRA vs AC PAOK GRE 46:20 (26:9), 04.10.2009
- 15 MKB Veszprém KC HUN vs HC Bosna BH Gas BIH 35:18 (22:7), 14.11.2009
- 15 HSV Hamburg GER @ Fyllingen Handball NOR 17:48 (10:25), 14.11.2009
- 15 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI vs HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 43:18 (23:8), 09.02.2012

Most goals

- 48 HSV Hamburg GER @ Fyllingen Handball NOR 17:48 (10:25), 14.11.2009
- 47 THW Kiel GER vs CS HCM Constanta ROU 47:31 (24:18), 12.11.2006

Most goals both teams

- 81 FC Barcelona ESP vs THW Kiel GER 44:37 (19:20), 13.04.2008
- 80 FC Barcelona ESP vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 39:41 (17:18, 32:32, 36:36), 31.05.2014 (after penalty throws)

Fewest goals

- 12 AS Conversano 2003 ITA vs ZTR Zaporozhye UKR 12:41 (5:19), 29.11.2003
- 12 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD vs FC Barcelona ESP 12:26 (8:15), 06.11.2004

Fewest goals both teams

- 32 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN vs Panellinios AC Athens GRE 19:13 (9:7), 17.11.2002
- 33 Panellinios AC Athens GRE vs Fotex KC Veszprém HUN 16:17 (8:9), 30.11.2002

-9

KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL @ HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR 27:28 (19:10), 18.02.2015

-6

FC Barcelona ESP @ GOG Gudme DEN 22:22 (16:10), 14.02.1996

26

Kolding KIF DEN vs RK Partizan Belgrad SCG – 2nd half 42:26 (16:13), 12.10.

45

PGE Vive Kielce POL vs Barça Lassa ESP – 2nd half 36:42 (15:18), 24.11.2018

4

Kolding IF DEN @ TEKA Santander ESP – 1st half 28:16 (16:4), 25.01.1995

13

SG Wallau-Massenheim vs UHK West Wien AUT – 1st half 17:15 (7:6), 20.03.1994

Biggest deficit overcome after losing first half to win a game

-7 HC Vardar MKD @ Barça Lassa ESP 27:29 (16:9), 01.06.2019

Biggest deficit overcome after losing first half to draw a game

- 6 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO vs HC Vardar PRO – Skopje MKD 28:28 (10:16), 07.10.2007
- 6 Pevafersa Valladolid ESP vs Pick Szeged HUN 35:35 (13:19), 27.02.2010
- 6 Naturhouse La Rioja ESP vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 32:32 (13:19), 19.10.2013
- 6 Orlen Wisla Plock POL @ THW Kiel GER 24:24 (15:9), 03.12.2016
- 6 Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER vs FC Barcelona Lassa ESP 31:31 (12:18), 17.09.2017
- 6 HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR vs HC Metalurg MKD 28:28 (12:18), 08.10.2017

Most goals in one half

- 26 Montpellier HB FRA vs AS Conversano 2003 ITA – 2nd half 44:25 (18:14), 10.10.2004
- 26 MKB Veszprém KC HUN vs MSK SIRS Povazska Bystrica SVK – 2nd half 46:26 (20:14), 07.10.2006
- 26 GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN vs HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE – 2nd half 45:32 (19:15), 15.10.2006
- 26 THW Kiel GER @ HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE – 2nd half 26:50 (13:24), 22.10.2006

Most goals in one half both teams

- 44 Sportclub Magdeburg GER vs Wisla Plock SSA POL – 2nd half 40:32 (17:11), 16.11.2002
- 43 GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN vs HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE – 2nd half 45:32 (19:15), 15.10.2006
- 43 Hammarby IF HB SWE vs THW Kiel GER – 1st half 36:40 (22:21), 08.11.2007

Fewest goals in one half

- 4 Granitas Kaunas LTU vs ABC Braga POR – 1st half 16:22 (4:12), 10.11.1996
- 4 Schachtjor Donetsk UKR @ ABC Braga POR – 1st half 21:15 (11:4), 16.11.1996
- 4 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD vs FC Barcelona ESP – 2nd half 12:26 (8:15), 06.11.2004
- 4 Wisla Plock SA POL @ KIF Kolding Elite A/S DEN – 1st half 35:18 (19:4), 07.10.2006
- 4 RK Gorenje Velenje SLO vs Pick Szeged HUN – 1st half 17:29 (4:14), 03.10.2007

Fewest goals in one half both teams

- 14 Riihimäen Cocks FIN vs Abanca Ademar Leon ESP – 2nd half 19:19 (13:11), 12.09.2018
- 15 ABC Braga POR vs Schachtjor Donetsk UKR – 1st half 21:15 (11:4), 16.11.1996
- 15 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO vs Fotex KC Veszprém HUN – 2nd half 19:18 (14:8), 09.01.1999
- 15 Skjern Handball DEN vs ZTR Zaporozhye UKR – 2nd half 16:20 (9:12), 13.11.1999
- 15 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO vs THW Kiel GER – 1st half 22:13 (8:7), 25.03.2000
- 15 RK Zagreb CRO vs Sandefjord TIF NOR – 1st half 22:15 (10:5), 12.10.2003
- 15 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD vs FC Barcelona ESP – 2nd half 12:26 (8:15), 06.11.2004
- 15 Pick Szeged HUN vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO – 1st half 20:19 (8:7), 08.03.2008
- 15 HC Metalurg MKD vs Elverum Handball NOR – 1st half 18:17 (8:7), 24.09.2016

All-time club standings 1993 - 2019

TR	Name of the club	MP	W	D	L	GF:FA	GD	P	NP	%	
1	Barça ESP	296	220	20	56	9127:7660	+1467	460:132	(22)	77,70%	AB
2	Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	278	188	14	76	8048:7263	+785	390:166	(23)	70,14%	AB
3	THW Kiel GER	276	184	18	74	8375:7417	+958	386:166	(21)	69,93%	AB
4	HC PPD Zagreb CRO	272	119	30	123	7091:7075	+16	268:276	(25)	49,27%	AB
5	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	202	121	17	64	5953:5540	+413	259:145	(14)	64,11%	AB
6	Montpellier HB FRA	218	120	14	84	6260:5977	+283	254:182	(19)	58,26%	AB
7	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	230	110	15	105	6551:6343	+208	235:225	(21)	51,09%	AB
8	BM Atletico Madrid ESP	144	111	5	28	4502:3803	+699	227:61	(10)	78,82%	
9	PGE VIVE Kielce POL	164	92	14	58	4881:4689	+192	198:130	(12)	60,37%	AB
10	MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	186	88	15	83	5158:5133	+25	191:181	(16)	51,34%	AB
11	Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA	114	77	7	30	3410:3141	+269	161:67	(8)	70,61%	AB
12	Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	134	72	17	45	3971:3774	+197	161:107	(9)	60,08%	
13	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	166	71	18	77	4970:4892	+78	160:172	(17)	48,19%	CD
14	HC Vardar MKD	142	69	15	58	3924:3938	-14	153:131	(12)	53,87%	AB
15	HSV Hamburg GER	98	68	9	21	3088:2670	+418	145:51	(7)	73,98%	
16	Portland San Antonio ESP	100	64	6	30	2929:2594	+335	134:66	(9)	67,00%	
17	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP	122	61	8	53	3440:3386	+54	130:114	(12)	53,28%	
18	KIF Kolding Kobenhavn DEN	118	54	9	55	3330:3361	-31	117:119	(12)	49,58%	
19	Orlen Wisla Plock POL	124	38	10	76	3276:3524	-248	86:162	(12)	34,68%	CD
20	HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR	76	35	9	32	2232:2207	+25	79:73	(6)	51,97%	AB
21	HC Metalurg MKD	102	35	6	61	2516:2718	-202	76:128	(10)	37,26%	
22	HBC Nantes FRA	52	28	10	14	1548:1465	+83	66:38	(3)	63,46%	
23	Rk Gorenje Velenje SLO	72	32	1	39	2050:2046	+4	65:79	(7)	45,14%	
24	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	96	29	7	60	2686:2856	-170	65:127	(10)	33,85%	CD
25	HC Meshkov Brest BLR	96	27	11	58	2599:2798	-199	65:127	(9)	33,85%	AB
29	GOG DEN	62	23	5	34	1765:1815	-50	51:73	(8)	41,13%	CD
30	TATRAN Presov SVK	66	20	5	41	1782:1975	-193	45:87	(9)	34,09%	CD
36	Elverum Handball NOR	40	17	4	19	1096:1139	-43	38:42	(4)	47,50%	AB
40	IK Sävehof SWE	46	15	3	28	1287:1449	-162	33:59	(5)	35,87%	CD
45	Sporting CP POR	30	15	0	15	845:845	0	30:30	(3)	50,00%	CD
47	IFK Kristianstad SWE	58	11	6	41	1587:1791	-204	28:88	(4)	24,14%	CD
49	CS Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	38	12	2	24	1070:1155	-85	26:50	(4)	34,21%	CD
50	Aalborg Handbold DEN	48	10	6	32	1281:1398	-117	26:70	(4)	27,08%	AB
55	Bidasoa Irun ESP	16	9	1	6	385:355	+30	19:13	(2)	59,38%	CD
57	FC Porto Sofarma POR	20	9	1	10	537:543	-6	19:21	(2)	47,50%	AB
85	Cocks FIN	10	2	2	6	246:269	-23	6:14	(1)	30,00%	CD
NR	HC Eurofarm Rabotnik MKD	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%	CD

VELUX EHF FINAL4 counts down to its 11th edition

The VELUX EHF FINAL4 is the culmination of the European club handball season. The two-day event sees the best four men's teams in Europe playing to decide the ultimate winner of the VELUX EHF Champions League.

In the previous season, this tournament celebrated already its 10th anniversary. Introduced in the 2009/10 season and to be played until at least 2024 in the LANXESS arena, Cologne, the decision to create a new format for the final phase of the VELUX EHF Champions League was seen as crucial for the growth of handball across Europe. The aim was to create a flagship event, one that could compete on the international sports market and make the Europe's leading club competition even more attractive to fans, partners and sponsors.

The success of all 10 editions of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 up to date showed that this format has been the right strategy. It has set new standards in organisation and entertainment; it is not just four games played over two days but a true entertainment event. To little surprise the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2019 was the season's highlight in European handball as nearly 20,000

spectators in the LANXESS arena and millions of fans at home watched four unforgettable handball games, unique entertainment shows and Vardar's unexpected return to the European throne.

Tickets for the 2020 edition of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 went on sale on the opening day of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2019. In the time of this guide's publication, eight months before the participating teams are known, only a very limited number of tickets remain. The success of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 is also thanks to the commitment of a great number of volunteers who have been active on the weekend of the event. The application procedure for next edition is starting soon and applications are invited also in the area of media.

Full information at: www.ehfFINAL4.com

Media Accreditation

The accreditation procedure of media representatives for the VELUX EHF FINAL4 will start in March 2020.

Numbers from 10 years of magic in Cologne

Fascinating facts and figures from the previous ten editions

13 goals by Juanin Garcia in a single match, 65 overall strikes by Kiril Lazarov, seven participations of Barcelona, seven different winners in the last eight years and three trophies for a Croat with nine fingers – this is what you need to know from the previous ten editions of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in Cologne before the start of the 2019/20 season.

0

clubs managed to defend the title in 10 editions of the VELUX EHF FINAL4

0 players or clubs have been part of all 10 editions from 2010 to 2018

1 player defended the title in the 10 editions of the VELUX EHF FINAL4: Ivan Cupic in 2017 with Vardar after winning the trophy with Kielce in 2016

1 coach only was part of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournaments with two different teams: Talant Dujshebaev - 2010-2012 with Ciudad Real/Atletico Madrid and 2016 with Kielce

1 club, Montpellier in 2018, made it all the way from Groups C/D to the top of the podium - the only club to do so

1 time - in 2018 - three clubs from the same country qualified for a VELUX EHF FINAL4: Montpellier, Nantes and Paris from France

1 non-European player was awarded MVP of a VELUX EHF FINAL4 so far: Montpellier's Diego Simonet from Argentina in 2018

1 goalkeeper was awarded MVP at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 so far: Arpad Serbik (Vardar) in 2017

1 VELUX EHF FINAL4 final needed to be decided by a penalty shootout: The 2016 edition of Kielce vs Veszprém (39:38)

2

players have won the VELUX EHF FINAL4 with two different clubs: besides Ivan Cupic, it is German Tobias Reichmann (THW Kiel 2010, 2012 and Kielce 2016)

2 coaches have won twice: Alfred Gislason (Kiel 2010, 2012) and Xavi Pascual (Barcelona 2011, 2015)

2 VELUX EHF FINAL4 debutants were the 2018 finalists: Montpellier and Nantes

2 sons of CL winning fathers rose to win the trophy in Cologne: Alex Dujšebaev with Vardar in 2017 and Melvyn Richardson with Montpellier in 2018. Jackson Richardson was a champion with Portland San Antonio in 2001

3 times in just 10 years have the defending champions made it to Cologne: Barcelona in 2012, Kiel in 2013 and Vardar in 2018

3 times clubs from the same country duelled in the final: Barcelona vs Ciudad Real in 2011, Flensburg vs Kiel in 2014 and Montpellier vs Nantes in 2018

4 Spanish coaches have won the VELUX EHF FINAL4 so far: besides Pascual, it was Talant Dujšebaev (2016 with Kielce), Raul Gonzalez (2017) and Roberto Parrondo Garcia (2019, both with Vardar)

4 matches so far needed to go beyond 60 minutes to find a winner, two of them even went to a penalty shootout: First Hamburg beat Barcelona in the 2013 final 30:29 after extra-time, followed by the 2014 semi shoot-out of Flensburg vs Barcelona (40:39). In 2016, first Veszprém beat Kiel after extra-time 31:28, before losing to Kielce 39:38 after penalties in the final

4 times a German side won the VELUX EHF FINAL4

4 straight times, from 2014 until 2017 - Veszprém were part of the VELUX EHF FINAL4, as the only team with such a series so far. But the Hungarian record champions never won the trophy

5

years a German team failed to reach the final, 2015 to 2019. In the past three years no German side has even reached Cologne

Most goals in one game

13 goals



Player's name	Goals	Date
Juan Garcia (FC Barcelona Borges)	13	(30.05.2010 vs THW Kiel, 34:36)
Petar Nenadic (Telekom Veszprém)	12	(01.06.2019 vs PGE Vive Kielce, 33:30)
Filip Jicha (THW Kiel)	11	(30.05.2010 vs FC Barcelona Borges, 36:34)
Filip Jicha (THW Kiel)	11	(26.05.2012 vs Füchse Berlin, 25:24)
Kiril Lazarov (BM Atletico Madrid)	11	(26.05.2012 vs AG København, 25:23)
Domagoj Duvnjak (HSV Hamburg)	11	(01.06.2013 vs THW Kiel, 39:33)
Siarhei Rutenka (FC Barcelona)	11	(01.06.2014 vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, 26:25)

Juanin Garcia

FC Barcelona, Borges

Most matches played

16



Momir Ilic
(Kiel, Veszprém)

16



Aron Palmársson
(Kiel, Veszprém)

5 goals is the biggest winning margin in a final: In 2012, Kiel beat Madrid 26:21, in 2015 Barcelona defeated Veszprém 28:23 and in 2018 Montpellier were 32:27 winners against Nantes

5 different nations are represented by the nine winners so far (Germany, Spain, Poland, North Macedonia and France)

5 different German clubs had qualified for VELUX EHF FINAL4 events: Kiel (six times), Hamburg (two), Rhein-Neckar Löwen, Flensburg and Berlin (one each)

6 different countries represent the nine VELUX EHF FINAL4 winners: Germany (4 - Kiel/2, Hamburg and Flensburg), Spain (2/both Barcelona), , North Macedonia (2/both Vardar), Poland (Kielce) and France (2018)

7

times including the 2019 edition, FC Barcelona were part of the VELUX EHF FINAL4. In the all-time ranking they are ahead of Kiel (6), Veszprém (5), Kielce (4), Vardar, Ciudad Real/Atletico Madrid, Kielce, Paris, (all each 3)

7 different clubs won the trophy in the last eight years: Kiel, Flensburg, Hamburg, Barcelona, Kielce, Vardar (twice) and Montpellier

7 different clubs won the trophy at Cologne: THW Kiel (2010 and 2012), FC Barcelona (2011, 2015) and Vardar (2017, 2019) each twice, Hamburg, Flensburg, Kielce and Montpellier each once

8 times Aron Palmársson and Momir Ilic were part of the VELUX EHF FINAL4. Palmársson five times with Kiel (including his only two trophies in 2010 and 2012), twice with Veszprém and once with Barcelona. Twice he was awarded MVP, after losing the final (2014 and 2016). Ilic, who retired after the tournament last season, with Kiel and Veszprém

11

for the 11th straight time the four best clubs of the continent will descend upon the LANXESS arena in Cologne on 30/31 May 2020

11 times, a player scored 10 or more goals in a single match of the VELUX EHF FINAL4. One player managed to score ten goals each at the same tournament: Mikkel Hansen (PSG) in 2016. Besides, Filip Jicha (Kiel) managed to score double-figured twice in the 2010 final and the 2012 semi

12 goals of Petar Nenadic (Veszprém) in the 2019 semi-final against Kielce. Third ranked is new THW Kiel coach Filip Jicha by 11 goals in the 2010 final. The same number were scored by Sjarhei Rutenka (Barcelona) in the 2014 3/4 placement match

15 years after their first triumph in the old system, coach Patrice Canayer and left wing Michael Guigou lifted the trophy again with Montpellier HB in 2018

15 different clubs had been part of the 10 VELUX EHF FINAL 4 events

21 goals at one VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournament is the highest score - again it was Juanin Garcia in 2010, who had netted in eight times in the semi-finals against Checkhov. Second ranked is Mikkel Hansen with 20 in 2016

40

matches have been played at the 10 VELUX EHF FINAL4 editions so far

Most goals scored by one team

41 goals



Date	Match	Final score
31.05.2014	Semi-final: FC Barcelona-SG vs Flensburg-Handewitt	39:41 a7m
01.06.2013	Semi-final: THW Kiel vs HSV Hamburg	33:39
29.05.2016	Final: KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs MVM Veszprém	39:38 a7m

65 goals in total were scored by Kiril Lazarov (Atletico Madrid, Barcelona, Nantes) to be the all-time top scorer of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournaments ahead of Momir Ilic (58) and Filip Jicha (56).

80 goals were scored in the record breaking 2014 semi of Flensburg vs Barcelona (41:39 after extra-time and penalties) to top this ranking)

231,30 goals were scored in average at each of the nine VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournaments, which means an average of 57,83 goals per match.

251 goals were scored at the 2010 edition of the VELUX EHF FINAL4 to top this ranking ahead of 245 goals in the 2016 and 2019 edition each. The lowest overall score of a FINAL4 event were 191 goals in 2012.

2,313

goals in total were scored in the 40 VELUX EHF FINAL4 matches so far

770,000

spectators approximately attended the 40 matches of all editions of the VELUX EHF FINAL4, which had officially all been sold out by almost 20,000 fans each.

All-time topscorers

Player's name	MP	G
Kiril Lazarov (<i>Ciudad Real, Atletico, FC Barcelona, Nantes</i>)	12	65
Momir Ilic (<i>Kiel, Veszprém</i>)	16	58
Filip Jicha (<i>Kiel, Barcelona</i>)	12	56
Laszlo Nagy (<i>Barcelona, Veszprém</i>)	14	55
Aron Palmarsson (<i>Kiel, Veszprém</i>)	16	52
Ivan Cupic (<i>Rhein-Neckar, Kielce, Vardar</i>)	14	49
Mikkel Hansen (<i>Barcelona, Kobenhavn, Paris</i>)	10	48
Siarhei Rutenka (<i>Barcelona</i>)	10	47
Victor Tomas Gonzalez (<i>Barcelona</i>)	14	47
Juan Antonio Garcia Lorenzana (<i>Barcelona</i>)	18	44
Nikola Karabatic (<i>Barcelona, Paris</i>)	10	38
Jesper Brian Nøddesbo (<i>Barcelona</i>)	11	38

65 goals

Kiril Lazarov

*Ciudad Real
Atletico Madrid
FC Barcelona
Nantes*



Club competitions to revamp in 2020/21

European club handball is set for a new look from the start of the 2020/21 season. The EHF Executive Committee has agreed to proposals that will see a revamp of the European club system. The developments follow the signing in May 2018 of a multi-million euro, 10-year deal with two of the leading companies on the international sports market, Infront and DAZN, which set to transform the sport.

A reform of the EHF club competition system follows the expansion of the EHF EURO, the federation's flagship men's national team competition, from 2020 when it will be played with 24 teams in Sweden, Austria and Norway. The changes to the club competition formats have been agreed in close cooperation with the federation's key stakeholders. These include representatives of clubs, leagues and players as well as national teams through their representation in the EHF structure and in line with the EHF's objective to ensure good governance.

EHF Champions League

Europe's top competition is about to get even better. From the start of the 2020/21 season, both the men's and the women's EHF Champions League competitions will be played with two groups of eight teams. No qualification rounds or tournaments will be played in either the men's or the women's competitions. The group phase will be played in a round-robin league format with the top two teams qualifying directly for the quarter-finals. The teams finishing in seventh and eighth place will be eliminated. The four remaining teams from each group (ranked three to six) will qualify for a play-off round, before progressing to the quarter-finals. The season will culminate, as it does under the current system, in an EHF FINAL4, played over one weekend.

This new system will mean a fight not only for the top spots as teams compete for the opportunity to jump straight to the quarter-finals but also at the lower end as teams look to avoid dropping out of the competition. For Europe's elite players, the opportunity to qualify directly for the quarter-finals also means additional rest ahead of the high-point of the season.

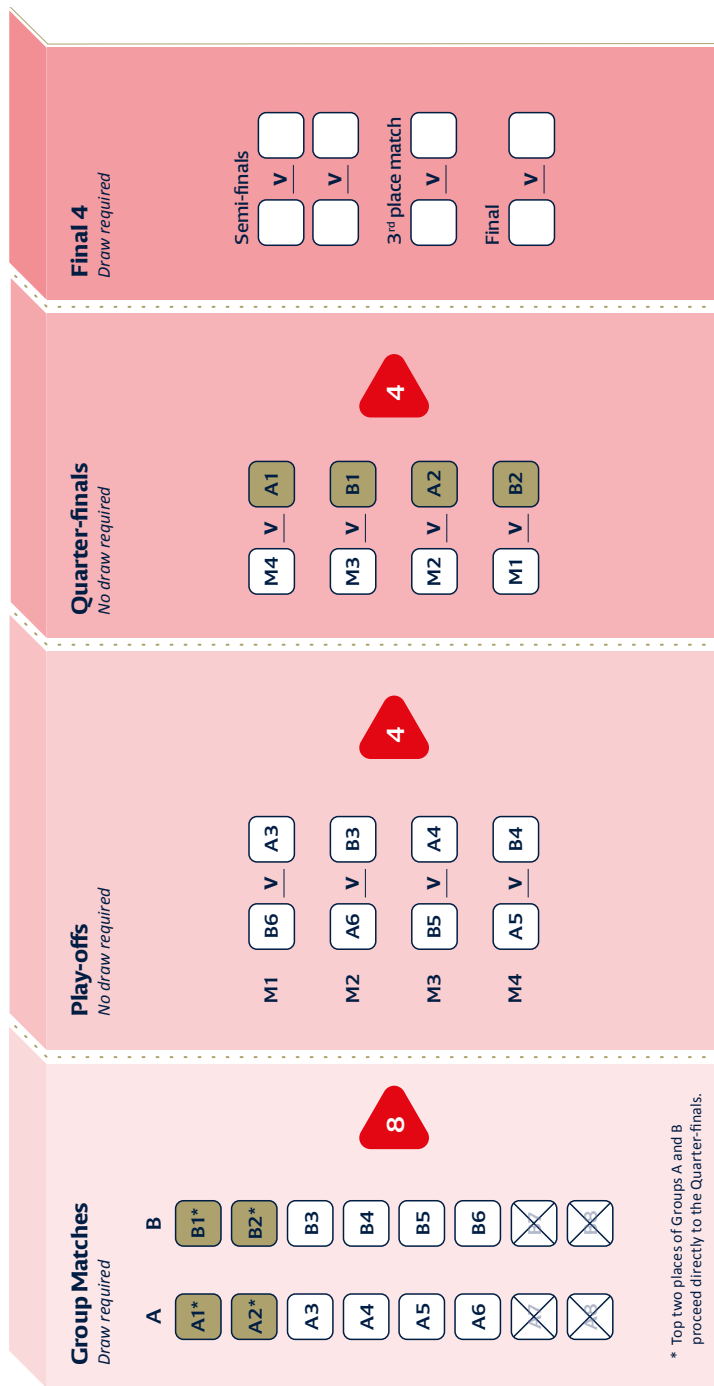
European Handball League

There is a new name and a new format for Europe's second tier of top class competition. The EHF Cup has been completely revamped and will become the European Handball League. Qualification for the competition will, as now in the EHF Cup, be played on a home and away basis with 12 teams qualifying for the group phase. 12 additional teams will then be seeded directly to the group phase, to make up a total of 24 teams competing in four groups of six teams. The top four teams from each group will qualify for the last 16, leading to the quarter-final knock-out stage. The finals will continue to be played in a final-four format.

EHF Cup

The Challenge Cup on the third tier gets an upgrade and becomes the new 'EHF Cup'. Played on a home and away knock-out basis, it is envisaged that 32 teams will compete in both the men's and women's competitions from the third round onwards. The qualifying 16 teams will then play a Last 16 round, quarter-finals and semi-finals. The final itself will continue to be played on a home and away basis as now.

Men's EHF Champions League 2020/21 season playing system

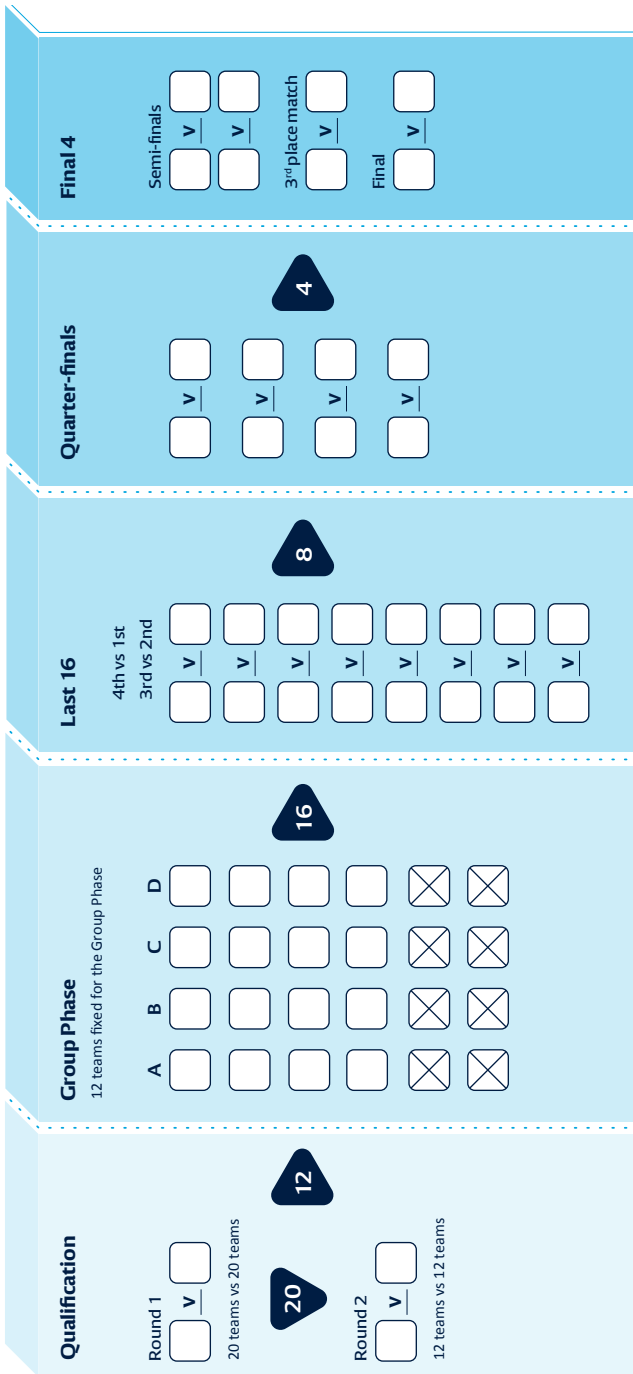


Men's European Handball League

2020/21 season playing system (56 teams)



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION



EUROPEAN CUP 2020/21							
MEN							
Ranking for 2020/21				Number of teams for each Federation in the various competitions			
	Place 2020/21	Nation	Average points	Champions League	European Handball League	EHF Cup	Total
points from Champions League and European Handball League (former EHF Cup)	1	FRA	139,33	1	4	0	5
	2	GER	132,83	1	4	0	5
	3	MKD	115,00	1	3	0	4
	4	HUN	99,83	1	3	0	4
	5	ESP	96,17	1	3	0	4
	6	POL	75,33	1	3	0	4
	7	DEN	73,83	1	3	0	4
	8	CRO	53,33	1	3	0	4
	9	POR	52,33	1	3	0	4
	10	BLR	52,00	0	2	2	4
	11	UKR	39,67	0	2	2	4
	12	SWE	38,50	0	2	2	4
	13	ROU	36,67	0	2	2	4
	14	SLO	35,50	0	2	2	4
	15	SUI	30,33	0	2	2	4
	16	NOR	28,67	0	2	2	4
	17	RUS	25,67	0	2	2	4
	18	SVK	24,67	0	2	2	4
	19	FIN	23,67	0	1	3	4
	20	TUR	21,67	0	1	3	4
	21	ISR	17,80	0	1	3	4
	22	AUT	16,00	0	1	3	4
	23	ISL	11,00	0	1	3	4
	24	BEL	10,17	0	1	3	4
	25	LUX	8,75	0	1	3	4
	26	NED	7,75	0	1	3	4
	27	CZE	7,00	0	1	3	4
	28	GRE	6,60	0	1	3	4
	29	KOS	6,00	0	1	3	4
29	SRB	6,00	0	1	3	4	
points from EHF Cup (former Challenge Cup)	1	BIH	16,67	0	0	3	3
	2	BUL	8,67	0	0	3	3
	3	LTU	8,00	0	0	3	3
	4	MNE	7,00	0	0	3	3
	5	CYP	5,33	0	0	3	3
	5	GBR	5,33	0	0	3	3
	7	MDA	3,33	0	0	3	3
	8	GEO	3,00	0	0	3	3
	8	ITA	3,00	0	0	3	3
	10	LAT	1,00	0	0	3	3
	11	AZE	0,33	0	0	3	3
	11	EST	0,33	0	0	3	3
	11	MLT	0,33	0	0	3	3
	14	ALB	0,00	0	0	3	3
	14	AND	0,00	0	0	3	3
	14	ARM	0,00	0	0	3	3
	14	FAR	0,00	0	0	3	3
	14	IRL	0,00	0	0	3	3
	14	LIE	0,00	0	0	3	3
14	MON	0,00	0	0	3	3	

The ranking for the 2020/21 season is based on the results of the European Cup seasons 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19

COLOUR
BY YOU!

VELUX®

velux.com

Blinds as unique
as you



NEW

Customise your blinds
with more than 1800 colours

COLOUR
BY YOU!

VELUX®

velux.com

Blinds as unique
as you



NEW

Customise your blinds
with more than 1800 colours

