



MEDIA GUIDE

EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2024/25
GROUP MATCHES

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I INTRODUCTION TO THE EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2024/25

32 TEAMS EMBARK ON THE LONG ROAD TO THE EHF FINALS 2025

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

The 2023/24 season culminated in SG Flensburg-Handewitt lifting the trophy at a spectacular EHF Finals weekend in Hamburg, which befitted another remarkable season. The EHF European League is a must-see competition for handball fans – in the arenas across the continent, but also online thanks to the extensive TV coverage and livestreaming on EHFTV.

Like in 2023/24, when a new playing format was introduced to raise the number of participants with eight more clubs, a total of 32 teams embarks on the long road to glory. Out of those 32 teams, only 16 will advance to the main round starting in February 2025, followed by the play-offs, the quarter-finals, and ultimately the EHF Finals Men 2024 at Barclays Arena in Hamburg on 25/26 May.

EIGHT FOUR– TEAM GROUPS PROMISE EXCITING GROUP MATCHES

After an intense qualification round that concluded at the beginning of September, 10 teams filled in the remaining spots in the groups and are now ready to fight among the best. Some of the notable teams that take the start in the 2024/25 season are titleholders SG Flensburg-Handewitt and other former EHF Champions League winners THW Kiel, Montpellier Handball, and Bidasoa Irun.

It will also be exciting to see the return of VfL Gummersbach, one of the dominating teams in Europe from the pre-EHF era, and the entree on the continental stage of debutants Limoges Handball of France and Bathco Bm. Torrelavega of Spain.

With a string of top teams taking the main stage in the EHF European League Men, hard work and dedication will make a difference on the path to success, and the continued seasonal campaign of the competition illustrates this: 'ALL IN – GREATNESS IS EARED'.

We look forward to working with you during the EHF European League Men 2024/25 season!

EHF Media & Communications Team

EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN
2024/25



EHF
EUROPEAN
LEAGUE

eurohandball.com | ehftv.com

ALL IN
GREATNESS IS EARNED

I ALL IN – GREATNESS IS EARNED

'ALL IN' CAMPAIGN CONTINUES IN 2024/25

A new claim for the EHF European League's seasonal campaign was launched for the season 2023/24. The campaign's slogan 'ALL IN – GREATNESS IS EARNED' underlined that success in the EHF European League can only come through hard work, dedication, and relentless effort. The campaign will continue with new key visuals developed for the season 2024/25.

The central idea behind the campaign is that there are no givens in the EHF European League. Only the players and teams who are willing to go all in will be able to earn greatness. 'ALL IN – GREATNESS IS EARNED' highlights the work ethic of the players, who are pushing themselves to the limit each week in pursuit of glory. It inspires players and fans alike to embrace the journey that comes with striving for greatness.

It also showcases the league as one of Europe's top-level competitions. This is implemented in a promo video produced by Infront and the media team of EHF Marketing GmbH. It features the dynamic brush stroke element emphasising the energy and intensity of the EHF European League and the hard work players have to deliver – on and off the court – in order to succeed.

The campaign includes new key visuals also accentuating the brush stroke as well as the revamped 'ALL IN' design elements. The official hashtag of the campaign is #Allin.



I STAY UP TO DATE WITH THE EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE

BE PART OF THE #EHFEL COMMUNITY

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

FOLLOW, COMMENT, SHARE

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

In addition to dedicated EHF European League channels on Facebook ([EHF European League](#)), X ([@ehfel_official](#)) and Instagram ([@ehfel_official](#)), fans can also check out the Home of Handball channels on YouTube ([The Home of Handball](#)), and TikTok ([@homeofhandball](#)).

DOWNLOAD THE HOME OF HANDBALL APP

In 2021, the EHF launched its very first dedicated mobile app. The app, available on iOS and Android, follows the EHF's 'Home of Handball' approach and unites all of Europe's major handball competitions – from clubs as well as national teams – under one roof.

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

[Click here to download the Home of Handball app.](#)

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Make sure all the latest EHF European League news and more comes right to you by signing up for the Home of Handball newsletter!

The weekly round-up of everything that is happening in Europe's major club and national team competitions will land right in your inbox and will be ready for you at your convenience.

[Click here to subscribe to the Home of Handball newsletter.](#)

WATCH ALL THE GAMES ON EHFTV

The OTT portal of the EHF and EHF Marketing, EHFTV has established itself over the past seasons as the meeting point for all handball fans. Since the relaunch in September 2024, EHFTV subscribers have access to full games, extended highlights, condensed game highlights and top action from the EHF European League and other competitions.

Live viewing is based on geo-locations, and fans have the flexibility of choosing from several subscription types based on their preferences: yearly, monthly or pay-per-view. Game highlights and the 'EHF Originals' are available worldwide and free of charge.

TUNE IN TO YOUR TV BROADCASTER

Handball fans across the globe will be able to watch every minute of the EHF European League Men 2024/25 group matches – no matter where they are. Broadcasters in over 30 territories across the continent have signed up to tell the fascinating story as the competition unfolds.

AUT – DAZN / DYN / DAZN Handball x Pluto TV

BIH – Arena Sport

CRO – Arena Sport

CAN – DAZN

CZE – AMC

DEN – EveryPlay

ESP – DAZN

ESP – TV3 Catalunya

ESP – EitB

ESP – RTVCYL

FAR – EveryPlay

FIN – EveryPlay

FRA – Eurosport

GEO – Silknet

GER – DAZN / DYN / DAZN Handball x Pluto TV

HUN – AMC

ISL – Livey

ISR – Charlton

ITA – PallamanoTV

JPN – DAZN **KOS** – Arena Sport

MKD – Arena Sport

MNE – Arena Sport

NED – Ziggo

NOR – EveryPlay

POL – Eurosport

POR – BenficaTV

POR – Porto Canal

ROU – Prima Sport

ROU – Digi Sport

SRB – Arena Sport

SLO – Arena Sport

SUI – DAZN / DYN / DAZN Handball x Pluto TV

SVK – AMC

SWE – EveryPlay

TUR – TRT (*EHF Finals*)

World – EHFTV (*geo-restrictions may apply*)



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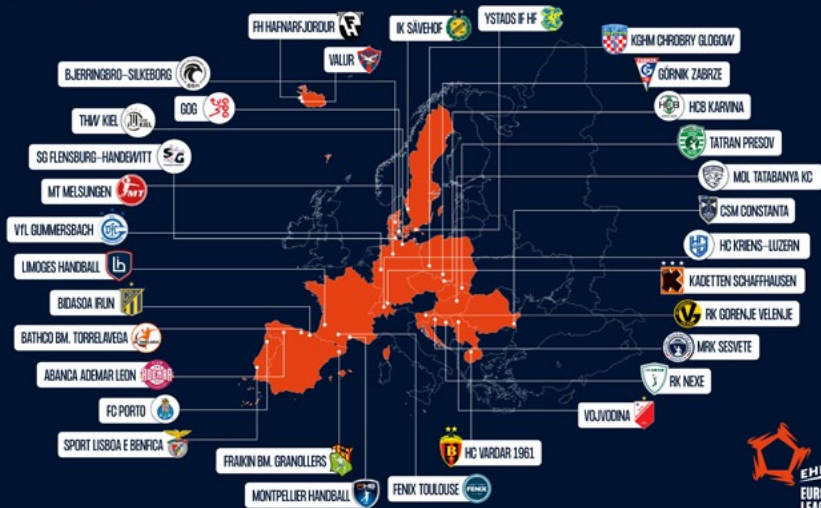
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EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2024/25



EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2024/25 SEASON

Playing system and dates



Qualification	Group Matches	Main Round	Play-offs	Quarter-finals	EHF EL Finals
<p>□ v □</p>	<p>8 groups with 4 teams each</p> <p>A B C D E F G H</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>The first and second ranked teams proceed to the Main Round carrying their results from the Group Matches with them.</p>	<p>4 groups with 4 teams each</p> <p>I II III IV</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p> <p>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</p>	<p>3rd v 2nd</p> <p>3rd v 2nd</p> <p>3rd v 2nd</p> <p>3rd v 2nd</p>	<p>WPO v 1st MR</p> <p>WPO v 1st MR</p> <p>WPO v 1st MR</p> <p>WPO v 1st MR</p>	<p>Semi-finals</p> <p>□ v □</p> <p>□ v □</p> <p>3rd place match</p> <p>□ v □</p> <p>FINAL</p> <p>□ v □</p>
<p>1st leg: 31/8-1/9/24</p> <p>2nd leg: 7-8/9/24</p>	<p>R1: 8/10/2024 R2: 15/10/2024 R3: 22/10/2024 R4: 29/10/2024 R5: 19/11/2024 R6: 26/11/2024</p>	<p>R1: 11/2/2025 R2: 18/2/2025 R3: 25/2/2025 R4: 4/3/2025</p>	<p>1st leg: 25/3/2025</p> <p>2nd leg: 1/4/2025</p>	<p>1st leg: 22/4/2025</p> <p>2nd leg: 29/4/2025</p>	<p>24-25/5/2025</p>

1 2 DEBUTANTS, 4 EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WINNERS, 17 NATIONS

FACTS & FIGURES: IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND STATS BEFORE THE START OF THE GROUP MATCHES

For the second time, 32 teams compose the group matches of the EHF European League Men, playing for the 16 main round places. The starting grid shines brighter than ever before, with four former Champions League winners and 25 European Cup trophies in five competitions won by the participants.

Here are interesting facts and figures before the group matches throw off:

1 team only from the EHF Finals 2024 is again part of the competition this season: defending champions SG Flensburg-Handewitt; Füchse Berlin and Dinamo Bucuresti play in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League, Rhein-Neckar Löwen did not qualify for Europe.

1 goal was the smallest margin in qualification: Valur beat Bjelin Spacva Vinkovci 58:57.

2

winners of the EHF European League are of the group matches: Benfica (2022) and Flensburg (2024).

2 teams in the group matches make their European debut: Limoges Handball from France and Bathco Bm. Torrelavega from Spain.

2 teams turned defeats in the first leg of the qualification into tickets to the group matches: Abanca Ademar Leon and Limoges.

2 clubs have a team in both the men's and the women's edition of the EHF European League: IK Sävehof and Benfica.

3 teams have won the EHF European Cup (or the Challenge Cup) in the past: Sävehof (2014), Vojvodina (2023) and Valur (2024).

4 teams played in the EHF Champions League last season: FC Porto, GOG, Montpellier Handball, and THW Kiel.

4 former EHF Champions League winners – more than ever before – are part of the group matches: Montpellier (2003, 2018), Kiel (2007, 2010, 2012, 2020), Flensburg (2014), and HC Vardar 1961 (2017, 2019).

4 teams each make Germany and Spain the best represented nations in the group matches.

5

teams in the 2024/25 group matches have played at EHF Finals in the past: Benfica, Flensburg, RK Nexe, Montpellier, and Fraikin BM. Granollers

13 of the 32 teams in the group matches were part of the same stage of the competition last season.

16 teams – the winners and runners-up of the eight groups – proceed to the main round, which starts in February 2025.

17 nations are represented by the 32 clubs, two fewer than last season: Spain, Germany (four teams each), France (three), Denmark, Portugal, Iceland, Poland, Switzerland, Sweden, Croatia (two), Romania, North Macedonia, Czechia, Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Serbia (one).

18 matches is the maximum a team at the EHF Finals 2025 will have played, depending on whether they played qualification and play-offs.

22

goals was the biggest aggregate margin in qualification, when VfL Gummersbach defeated Mors-Thy Håndbold 74:52.

23 teams were seeded for the group matches, nine others came through the qualification round.

22 goals made Bjerringbro-Silkeborg's Nikolaj Læsø the top scorer of the qualification round; he netted **11** times in both the home and the away leg against FTC-Green Collect.

45

was the highest number of goals scored by one team in a qualification match: Bjerringbro-Silkeborg beat FTC 45:27.

95 was the total number of goals scored by Dinamo Bucuresti's Andrii Akimenko in the EHF European League 2023/24 to become the top scorer of the season.

96 group matches – six rounds with 16 matches each – will be played on Tuesday nights between 8 October until 26 November to determine the 16 teams advancing to the main round.

140 was the highest number of goals scored in a qualification tie, when HC Kriens-Luzern beat fellow Swiss side GC Amicitia Zürich 71:69 on aggregate; Bjerringbro-Silkeborg vs FTC (77:61) and Ystads IF HF vs Marítimo da Madeira Andebol/SAD (72:66) both featured 138 goals.

148 matches are coming up to determine the EHF European League 2024/25 champions.

1,115 goals were scored in the 18 matches in the qualification round, nearly 62 goals per match.

MIN & MAX

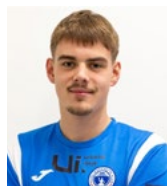
AGE AVERAGE

THW Kiel	27.8
CSM Constanta	27.5
MOL Tatabanya KC	27.2
KGHM Chrobry Glogow	27.1
MT Melsungen	27.0
FH Hafnarfjordur	26.5
Vojvodina	25.9
FC Porto	25.9
SG Flensburg-Handewitt	25.9
HC Vardar 1961	25.7
Valur	25.7
RK Nexø	25.5
Bathco Bm. Torrelavega	25.4
Ystads IF HF	25.3
VfL Gummersbach	25.2
HC B Karvina	25.1
Bjerringbro-Silkeborg	25.1
Górník Zabrze	25.1
<i>EHF European League</i>	24.8
HC Kriens-Luzern	24.7
Fenix Toulouse	24.7
RK Gorenje Velenje	24.6
Kadetten Schaffhausen	24.5
Fraikin BM. Granollers	24.2
TATRAM Presov	24.2
Sport Lisboa e Benfica	24.1
Bidasoa Irun	24.1
Montpellier Handball	24.1
Limoges Handball	23.1
Abanca Ademar Leon	22.8
GOG	22.6
MRK Sesvete	21.5
IK Sävehof	21.2

HEIGHT AVERAGE

THW Kiel	194.8
FC Porto	193.8
SG Flensburg-Handewitt	193.2
VfL Gummersbach	193.2
RK Nexø	193.0
Ystads IF HF	193.0
MT Melsungen	192.8
GOG	192.1
MRK Sesvete	191.8
Bjerringbro-Silkeborg	191.4
Sport Lisboa e Benfica	191.3
Fraikin BM. Granollers	191.3
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TATRAM Presov	191.1
Vojvodina	191.0
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IK Sävehof	189.0
HC B Karvina	188.5
Valur	188.1
HC Kriens-Luzern	188.0
Fenix Toulouse	187.7
KGHM Chrobry Glogow	187.6
Abanca Ademar Leon	187.6

YOUNGEST



22/06/2008

Luka Horvat
MRK Sesvete

Luka Horvat	CRO	MRK Sesvete	22/06/2008
Gunnar Róbertsson	ISL	Valur	22/06/2008
Miguel Mendes	POR	Sport Lisboa e Benfica	03/03/2008
Moritz Detlefsen	GER	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	25/01/2008
Ómar Darri Sigurgeirsson	ISL	FH Hafnarfjörður	21/01/2008
Bartosz Szczepanik	POL	Górnik Zabrze	04/12/2007
Antonio Cristea	ROU	CSM Constanta	26/11/2007
Noa Luka Lujic	CRO	MRK Sesvete	19/10/2007
Márkó Eklemovic	HUN	MOL Tatabánya KC	04/10/2007
Zan Pajk	SLO	RK Gorenje Velenje	02/09/2007

OLDEST

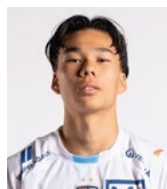


11/07/1977

Gorazd Škof
HC Kriens-Luzern

Gorazd Škof	SLO	HC Kriens-Luzern	11/07/1977
Martin Galia	CZE	HC B Karvina	12/04/1979
Alexander Petersson	ISL	Valur	02/07/1980
Carsten Lichtlein	GER	MT Melsungen	04/11/1980
Kim Andersson	SWE	Ystads IF HF	21/08/1982
Antonio Robledo	ESP	Fraikin BM. Granollers	06/03/1984
Morten Toft Olsen	DEN	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg	11/10/1984
Rene Toft Hansen	DEN	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg	01/11/1984
Björgvin Pall Gustavsson	ISL	Valur	24/05/1985
Rafal Stachera	POL	KGHM Chrobry Glogow	28/04/1986

SHORTEST



158 cm

Justin Soutoul
Montpellier Handball

Justin Soutoul	FRA	Montpellier Handball	158
Eric Balenciaga	ESP	MT Melsungen	169
Romain Giraudeau	FRA	Fenix Toulouse	170
Samuel Lanza	ESP	Bathco Bm. Torrelavega	172
Laly Ralambofiringa	FRA	Fenix Toulouse	172
Jakub Bogacz	POL	Górnik Zabrze	173
Baptiste Dubois	FRA	Montpellier Handball	173
Alexandre Birkner	FRA	Limoges Handball	174
Dimitri Ignatow	GER	MT Melsungen	174
<i>eight players</i>			175

TALLEST



215 cm

Dainis Kristopans
MT Melsungen

Dainis Kristopans	LAT	MT Melsungen	215
Viggo Håkansson	SWE	Ystads IF HF	211
Thilo Knutzen	GER	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	208
Þorsteinn Leó	ISL	FC Porto	208
Borna Mancic Micevic	CRO	RK Nexe	208
Jokin Aja Garate	ESP	Bathco Bm. Torrelavega	207
David Štrkovic	CRO	MRK Sesvete	205
Ante Lasan	CRO	MRK Sesvete	205
Carl Lindström	SWE	Ystads IF HF	205
<i>five players</i>			204

I IMPORTANT REGULATIONS

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN BOTH TEAMS HAVE THE SAME NUMBER OF POINTS?

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

The matches shall be scored as follows:

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

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

GROUP MATCHES AND MAIN ROUND

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

During the group matches:

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

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

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

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

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

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

If no ranking can be determined, a decision shall be obtained by drawing lots. Lots shall be drawn by the EHF, if possible, in the presence of a responsible of each club.

PLAY-OFFS AND QUARTER-FINALS

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

- a) goal difference
- b) penalty throws

RULES FOR EXECUTION OF PENALTY THROWS

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

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

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

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

- If the scores are equal after the first round of penalty throws, it shall be continued until a decision is reached.

In the second round, the other team shall start. Again, five players shall be named who are eligible to play (the players named before may be named once again).

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

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

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

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



CLUBS

GROUP A PREVIEW



GOG HEADLINE GROUP WITH INTERESTING BLEND OF TEAMS

A clash of different playing style characterises group A as GOG have dropped from the EHF's top-tier club competition to mix up with RK Gorenje Velenje, Abanca Ademar Leon and HC Kriens-Luzern in the EHF European League. Needless to say, the Danish club is the favourite to top the group, but the Slovenian champions, the Spanish returners and the Swiss runners-up will surely cause problems and make group A extremely interesting to follow.



GOG have to be considered as one of the favourites. Last season, they were eliminated in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League in the play-offs by Industria Kielce. Now, GOG are back in the EHF's second-tier club competition for the first time since 2021/22, when they reached the quarter-finals. Once again, they boast a top-class squad. Talented back line players Tobias Grøndahl and Frederik Tilsted joined over the summer to further strengthen the ranks.

RK Gorenje Velenje are strong contenders in group A, too. The Slovenian champions reached the main round of the EHF European League last season. They have developed an impressive playing style with mostly domestic young players and only three of their players are over the age of 30. Legendary goalkeeper Matevz Skok is still going strong and helping his young teammates, proving that Velenje do not need star names to outscore their opponents. Once again, they are expected to battle for the top two spots in the group and for a place in the main round.



Abanca Ademar Leon are back in the EHF European League group phase after a three-year absence and the Spanish club did not have an easy path in qualification. The former two-time Cup Winners' Cup champions defeated ABC de Braga in the return leg on home soil to ensure progression to the group matches, with their experience and quality being displayed. Ademar Leon's squad is full of young and talented players like Carlos Álvarez Dominguez and his more experienced compatriot, Rodrigo Perez Arce.



HC Kriens-Luzern secured a return to the EHF European League group matches after eliminating their domestic rivals GC Amicitia Zurich in qualification. The Lucerne-based club surprised TSV Hannover-Burgdorf in Germany last year and defeated the likes of AEK Athens HC. Now, Kriens' squad is stronger in terms of experience and the young and talented duo of Luca Sigrist and Gino Steenaerts already showed in qualification that they will be the squad's main offensive protagonists.

Filip Mishov

I GROUP A HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS DUELS BETWEEN THE TEAMS OF GROUP A

HC Kriens-Luzern vs RK Gorenje Velenje

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Kriens-Luzern vs Abanca Ademar Leon

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Kriens-Luzern vs GOG

No previous encounters in European competitions

RK Gorenje Velenje vs Abanca Ademar Leon 3-0-2 (124:125) 6:4

04.09.2010	RK Gorenje Velenje vs Reale Ademar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Qualification Tournament	21:27 (12:15)
17.09.2017	Rk Gorenje Velenje vs Abanca Ademar Leon, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	23:22 (12:10)
11.11.2017	Abanca Ademar Leon vs Rk Gorenje Velenje, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	28:24 (15:13)
22.02.2020	Abanca Ademar Leon vs RK Gorenje Velenje, EHF Cup – Group C	23:26 (14:13)
29.02.2020	RK Gorenje Velenje vs Abanca Ademar Leon, EHF Cup – Group C	30:25 (13:14)

RK Gorenje Velenje vs GOG 1-0-1 (51:52) 2:2

23.10.2004	GOG Gudme vs RK Gorenje Velenje, EHF Champions League – Group C	28:22 (13:10)
14.11.2004	RK Gorenje Velenje vs GOG Gudme, EHF Champions League – Group C	29:24 (16:12)

Abanca Ademar Leon vs GOG

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP A




Club contact

Club address

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Switzerland


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 hckriens-luzern.ch

 HCKriensLuzern

 –

 @hckriensluzern

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: navy blue
Player short: navy blue
GK shirt: orange-bordeaux



Playing hall

Stadthalle Sursee
St. Urban Straße 5
6210 Sursee
Switzerland
Capacity: 1,800

HC KRIENS–LUZERN



The 2023/24 season was a key one for HC Kriens-Luzern. They qualified for the EHF European League for the first time ever, making only their second appearance in a European club competition after the Challenge Cup in 2011/12, where they reached the quarter-finals.

After a series of close matches, Kriens-Luzern did not progress beyond the group matches last year, but will have ambitions of going further in 2024/25. But they will be doing so without star player Andre Schmid, who has retired after two seasons with the club.

- **qualified for the EHF European League Men group phase for the second time in a row after beating fellow Swiss side GC Amicitia Zürich 71:69 on aggregate**
- **squad consists mainly of players from Switzerland and the Balkans, with Kevin Bonnefoi from France**
- **biggest success in European club competitions was the EHF Challenge Cup quarter-finals in 2011/12**
- **lost a lot of experience with Andy Schmid, Zeljko Musa, and Fabian Böhm ending their careers**

Nevertheless, the excitement for handball in Lucerne is tangible. Attendance records and the new PILATUS ARENA, set to open in October 2025 with a capacity of 4,500 spectators, are a key part of the story.

HC Kriens-Luzern is deeply rooted in the region and nine of the 17 squad players are home-grown. But once again, first-time head coach Zeljko Musa, who ended his playing career this summer after playing for the club last season, and his team have a tough draw on their hands.

Chief of Sport Nik Tominec: “We are pleased that HC Kriens-Luzern are in the group matches for the second year in a row. Of course, we hope to benefit from the experiences of last year.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4
Group Matches (1): 2023/24
Qualification (2): 2020/21; 2021/22

Other

EHF Cup

Qualification (2): 2014/15, 2017/18

Challenge Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2011/12

Swiss league: –

Swiss cup: 1 title (2023)





ZELJKO MUSA

Coach

- former Croatian international, who is in his first season as head coach
- ended his playing career after one season at HC Kriens-Luzern in 2023/24; previously played for clubs like Velenje, Kielce, Magdeburg, and Zagreb
- left Kielce a year before they won the CL in 2016, but he did win the EL with Magdeburg in 2021
- played more than 150 matches for Croatia and won four medals with them, most recently EHF EURO silver in 2020
- loves to explore Switzerland on his bicycle

EL: 2021 (as player)

WCh: B 2013; EURO: S 2010, B 2012, S 2020 (as player)

ARRIVALS

Sven Näf (Pilatus/SUI)
Finley Röttges (Pilatus/SUI)
Sandro Obranovic (Al-Fahaheel/KWT)

DEPARTURES

Fabian Pellegrini (Emmen/SUI)
Yassine Belkaid (Toulouse/FRA)
Fabian Böhm (retired)
Zeljko Musa (retired)
Andre Schmid (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Sven	Näf	SUI	Goalkeeper	01/01/2007	Wolhusen, SUI	185
6	Dimitrij	Küttel	SUI	Right back	18/02/1994	Aarau, SUI	191
8	Luca	Sigrist	SUI	Centre back	04/10/2005	Luzern, SUI	186
9	Valentin	Wolfisberg	SUI	Centre back	07/12/2004	Luzern, SUI	195
10	Milos	Orbovic	SRB	Right back	02/11/1993	Vrbas, SRB	193
11	Radojica	Cepic	MNE	Left back	29/07/2002	Pljevlja, MNE	194
13	Finley	Röttges	SUI	Line player	23/02/2004	St. Niklausen, SUI	195
14	Gino	Steenarts	SUI	Right wing	05/05/2005	Luzern, SUI	184
15	Moritz	Oertli	SUI	Centre back	29/01/2001	Luzern, SUI	188
16	Kevin	Bonnefoi	FRA	Goalkeeper	03/12/1991	Toulon, FRA	190
C 21	Ramon	Schlumpf	SUI	Left wing	02/11/1998	Zürich, SUI	187
22	Marin	Šipic	CRO	Line player	29/04/1996	Bad Soden, GER	190
23	Gino	Delchiappo	SUI	Line player	07/08/1998	Luzern, SUI	192
25	Jonas	Schelker	SUI	Centre back	09/04/1999	Ravensburg, GER	182
27	On	Langenick	SUI	Right wing	17/09/2001	Luzern, SUI	183
39	Sandro	Obranovic	CRO	Centre back	18/10/1992	CRO	195
43	Nils	Epp	SUI	Right wing	11/07/2007	SUI	175
44	Wyatt	Aellen	SUI	Right wing	17/07/2005	Lucerne, SUI	187
57	Ammar	Idrizi	SUI	Right wing	17/09/2001	Sursee, SUI	183
72	Nils	Flückiger	SUI	Line player	16/10/2005	Luzern, SUI	185
99	Gorazd	Škof	SLO	Goalkeeper	11/07/1977	Novo mesto, SLO	188



RADOJICA CEPIC

 @cepic_11

Centre back

- Montenegrin international, competed at EHF EURO 2022 and 2024 and WCh 2023
- international breakout at EHF EURO 2022, scoring 19 goals and adding 11 assists
- previously played for RK Celje from 2020 to 2022
- joined Kriens-Luzern in 2023 after short spells at HSG Wetzlar and AEK Athens



JONAS SCHELKER

 @jonasschelker

Centre back

- Swiss international, who won the domestic league and cup several times with his youth club Kadetten Schaffhausen before joining German club Wetzlar in 2022
- returned to Switzerland after just one year and joined Kriens-Luzern where he shared the playmaker position with Swiss legend Andre Schmid, who has now retired
- has been a regular in the Swiss national team since 2018, but missed the EHF EURO 2024 after tearing ligaments in his knee



MARIN ŠIPIĆ

 @mspic2

Line player

- Croatian international, took part in two WChs, won silver at EHF EURO 2022
- Kriens-Luzern are his first club outside of Croatia, joined the Swiss side in 2022
- played three seasons in CL with HC Zagreb
- former teammate Andy Schmid described him as “a stroke of luck for us”

EURO: S 2022



DIMITRIJ KÜTTEL

 @dkuttel

Line player

- Swiss international, who has competed at EHF EURO 2020 after making his debut for the national team in 2014
- missed EHF EURO 2024 due to a knee injury
- played for Kadetten Schaffhausen before joining Kriens-Luzern in 2022
- was diagnosed with lymphoma in December 2020; has been in remission since end of April 2021 and returned to the courts in September that year

GROUP A




Club contact


Club address
RK Gorenje Velenje
Saleska Cesta 3
3320 Velenje
Slovenia

Media contact
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pr@rk-gorenje.com
+386 31 44 00 76

 rk-gorenje.com

 rkgorenjevelenje

 @gorenjevelenje

 @gorenjevelenje

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Rdeča dvorana
Saleska cesta 3
3320 Velenje
Slovenia
Capacity: 2,500

RK GORENJE VELENJE



RK Gorenje Velenje returned to the throne in Slovenia after three years and are entering their second straight European group phase with a good boost. The continuity of impressive results in European competitions is a big part of Velenje's play, having reached the quarter-finals of the EHF European League and EHF European Cup in recent seasons.

A club with a reputation, they are playing their 32nd European season since debuting in the semi-finals of the former EHF Cup in 1994/95 and are looking to take one step at a time.

- **2024/25 is their 32nd European season and their second straight EHF European League group matches**
- **their best result in European competitions was reaching the final of the former EHF Cup in 2008/09**
- **head coach Zoran Jovicic is in his seventh season**
- **seven players joined the squad after the departure of six names, including Peter Šiško and Ibrahim Haseljic, while Matic Verdinek finished his career**
- **the club has predominantly Slovenian players in the roster**
- **won their fifth Slovenian league title after a three-year hiatus, with one point more (47) than RK Trimo Trebnje**

Velenje's first goal for the season is to reach the main round as the team went through changes in their roster.

Team captain Emir Taletovic: "Our biggest motivation this season is definitely to try and retain the title in our national championship. Of course, we want to do well in Europe, too. Our primary goal is to try and reach the main round which, looking at the draw, is very much possible. We will give it our all on the court to try and achieve this goal. After that, anything is possible."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 3

Quarter-finals (1): 2021/22

Main round (1): 2023/24

Other

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (4): 2005/06, 2009/10, 2012/13, 2013/14

EHF Cup

Runners-up (1): 2008/09

Semi-finals (2): 1994/95, 2014/15

Quarter-finals (3): 1996/97, 2010/11, 2011/12

EHF European Cup

Semi-finals (1): 2020/21

Quarter-finals (1): 2022/23

Slovenian league: 5 titles (2009, 2012, 2013, 2021, 2024)

Slovenian cup: 3 titles (2003, 2019, 2021)





ZORAN JOVIČIĆ

Coach

- former Slovenian international, who arrived as head coach at Velenje in 2018 after five seasons with RD Koper
- played as left wing until his retirement at Koper after the 2011/12 season, having spent his entire career in Slovenia, playing for clubs like Gradec, Prule, and Kozina
- was born in Tuzla and has dual Bosnian-Slovenian citizenship, but opted to play for Slovenia
- competed in seven major events with the national team, including the EHF EURO 2004, where he scored 25 times in six matches to help Slovenia win the silver medal

EURO: S 2004 (as player)

ARRIVALS

Vlado Matanović (Vinkovci/CRO)
Luka Sandić (Kočevje/SLO)
Tine Poklar (Koper/SLO)
Nande Starman (Loka/SLO)
Anže Blagotinšek (Ormož/SLO)
Aljoša Yankovskyy (Gradec/SLO)
Fran Lončarić (Eppan/ITA)

DEPARTURES

Matic Verdinek (retired)
Peter Šiško (Plock/POL)
Ibrahim Haseljić (Nexe/CRO)
Aljaž Verboten (unknown)
Jan Tajnik (Dijon/FRA)
Branko Predović (Vojvodina/SRB)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Matevz	Skok	SLO	Goalkeeper	02/09/1986	Celje, SLO	189
9	Tarik	Velic	SLO	Right back	08/01/2003	Zenica, BIH	198
10	Urban	Pipp	SLO	Right wing	28/03/2000	Kranj, SLO	186
11	Vlado	Matanovic	CRO	Right wing	25/04/2001	Rijeka, CRO	182
12	Luka	Sandic	SLO	Goalkeeper	19/01/2006	Ljubljana, SLO	200
13	Teo	Jezernik	SLO	Right wing	29/08/2000	Celje, SLO	183
14	Goti	Maricic	CRO	Left wing	05/06/2001	Zadar, CRO	193
19	Zan	Pajk	SLO	Line player	02/09/2007	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	191
20	Jernej	Drobež	SLO	Line player	06/01/2000	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	195
21	Tine	Poklar	SLO	Centre back	05/10/1990	Koper, SLO	188
22	Nande	Starman	SLO	Right back	04/05/2005	Ljubljana, SLO	196
23	Malik	Tatar	SLO	Left back	30/05/2005	Celje, SLO	192
24	Tilen	Sokolic	SLO	Left wing	05/09/1996	Koper, SLO	179
28	Anze	Blagotinsek	SLO	Line player	07/04/2001	Celje, SLO	192
C 32	Emir	Taletovic	SLO	Goalkeeper	09/01/1990	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	188
33	Enej	Slatinek Jovicic	SLO	Left back	06/12/2000	Koper, SLO	185
55	Aljosa	Yankovskyy	SLO	Left wing	15/11/1998	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	185
77	Fran	Loncaric	CRO	Left back	25/04/2001	Zagreb, CRO	188



MATEVZ SKOK

 @matevzskok

Goalkeeper

- experienced Slovenian international, who returned to Velenje in 2022
- started professional career at Velenje in 2001 and played 10 seasons for the club
- joined arch rivals Celje for four years in 2011, later played in Germany (Lübbecke), Croatia (Zagreb), and Portugal (Sporting)
- played at the 2016 Olympics and won bronze at the 2017 WCh five months later

WCh: B 2017

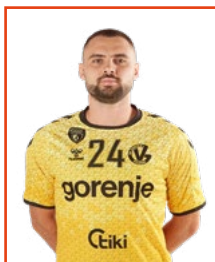


ENEJ SLATINEK JOVICIC

 @enej_jovicic

Left back

- son of Velenje coach Zoran Jovicic, started his handball journey in Koper and later played for Slovan before joining Velenje in 2021
- his twin brother Stas is also a Slovenian international
- was the team's second-best scorer in the EL 2023/24, netting 41 times in 10 games
- made his European debut in 2017/18, with Koper in the former EHF Cup



TILLEN SOKOLIC

 @tilensokolic

Centre back

- Slovenian international who was born and bred in Koper and started playing handball at the local club; had his first senior year there in 2012 at the age of just 16
- joined Velenje from RK Koper in the summer of 2020
- started his career as a left wing, but has transitioned to the centre back position
- voted best player of the 2023/24 season in the Slovenian league; was the club's top scorer in the EL last season with 59 goals



VLADO MATANOVIC

 @vladomatanovic

Right wing

- Croatian right wing, who joined Velenje for the second time in the summer of 2024
- previously played for the club from 2018 to 2020; has also been part of Zagreb, Umag, Buzet, Kozala and most recently Spacva Vinkovci
- won silver at 2013 Junior WCh and at the Men's EHF EURO 2020
- efficient player from his wing position, but also strong on fast breaks

EURO: S 2020

GROUP A



Club contact

Club address

Abanca Ademar León
Av. Ingeniero Saénz de Miera s/n
24009 León, Spain

Media contact

Javier Buján
javier.bujan@ademar.com
+34 64 61 88 134

ademar.com

Ademar-León

@ademarleón

@leonademar

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: fuchsia

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

ABANCA ADEMAR LEÓN



The León-based club is back in the second-tier club competition after a three-year absence and they had to work hard for the return ticket to the group phase.

The talented squad led by experienced head coach Daniel Gordo Ríos eliminated ABC de BRAGA in the qualification round with a comeback in the return leg on home soil, after suffering a defeat in the first leg. The Blancos displayed strong character to overturn the tie in their favour, despite the lack of experience in their ranks.

- **two-time Cup Winners' Cup champions in 1998/99 and 2004/05, respectively**
- **finished in fifth place in Liga ASOBAL's standings last season**
- **young and talented squad, with only three players in the roster over the age of 30**
- **start in their third EHF European League season, and first since being eliminated in the qualification round of the 2021/22 season, losing to fellow Spanish side La Rioja**

Last season's Liga ASOBAL MVP Carlos Álvarez Dominguez played an instrumental role in qualification and the electric Spanish wing will be one of Ademar León's main protagonists this season.

The young and talented side features mostly domestic players, who will definitely battle for the top two spots in group A alongside GOG, RK Gorenje Velenje and HC Kriens-Luzern. They enter the competition as the only side in their group with not one, but a couple of European trophies.

Team captain Rodrigo Pérez Arce says: "The biggest motivation will be to return to play European competition matches with Ademar after a few years. We look forward to the three home games, because we want to relive the atmosphere of the European nights in León."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 3

Last 16 (1): 2020/21

Qualification (1): 2021/22

Other

EHF Champions League

Quarter-finals (4): 1997/98, 1999/00, 2001/02, 2011/12

Last 16 (4): 2003/04, 2005/06, 2009/10, 2012/13

Cup Winners' Cup

Winners (2): 1998/99, 2004/05

Runners-up (2): 2000/01, 2006/07

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2010/11

Spanish league: 1 title (2001)

Spanish cup: 1 title (2002)





DANIEL GORDO RÍOS

Coach

- former goalkeeper, who is now an experienced coach with a rich international career at various clubs across the globe, from Al-Ahly in Egypt to Meshkov Brest in Belarus
- started coaching career at León, later led Brest in the EHF Champions League in 2021/22
- returned to León in 2023, eight years after leaving the club
- is also the head coach of the Türkiye men's national team; previously coached Faroe Islands and Brazil

ARRIVALS

Oscar Daniel Lindqvist (Aranas/SWE)
Adrián Fernández Clemente (Torrelavega/ESP)
Marwan Hatem (Al-Ahly/EGY)
Alejandro Díaz Montero (Antequera/ESP)
Eduardo Fernández González (Anaitasuna/ESP)
Rubén Rozada Doval (Oviedo/ESP)
Marcos García Peñacoba (Oviedo/ESP)
Rodrigo Benites Quost (Bada Huesca/ESP)

DEPARTURES

Adrián Casquerio López (PAUC/FRA)
Juan Castro Álvarez (Kadetten/SUI)
Guilherme Borges Moraes Silva (Istres/FRA)
Miguel Moreira de Oliveira (Porto/POR)
Aldo Pagliotta de Andrés (Benfica/POR)
Samuel Saiz Rodríguez (Aranda/ESP)
Kilian Garajonay Ramírez Santana (Triana/ESP)
Adelino Anderson Pestana (Al Sadd/QAT)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Saeid	Barkhordari	IRI	Goalkeeper	07/05/1989	Isfahan, IRI	190
2	Oscar Daniel	Lindqvist	SWE	Left back	09/02/2002	Onsala, SWE	195
3	Javier Miñambres	Calvo	ESP	Centre back	15/10/2004	León, ESP	185
4	Carlos Álvarez	Dominguez	ESP	Right wing	04/06/2003	Pontevedra, ESP	183
7	Patryk	Wasiak	POL	Right back	31/10/2004	Lodz, POL	194
8	Dario	Sanz De Nicolas	ESP	Left wing	28/12/2003	León, ESP	185
9	Adrián	Fernández	ESP	Centre back	15/06/1994	Avilés, ESP	188
C 10	Rodrigo	Perez Arce	ESP	Centre back	04/10/1995	Leon, ESP	180
13	Rubén	Rozada Doval	ESP	Line player	04/03/2002	Gijón, ESP	192
14	Sergio	Sánchez Vidán	ESP	Left wing	14/05/2007	León, ESP	190
16	Alvaro	Pérez Méndez	ESP	Goalkeeper	09/03/2005	Valladolid, ESP	195
17	Alvaro	Duarte Zapico	ESP	Right wing	29/01/2002	Oviedo, ESP	180
21	Raúl García	Llamazares	ESP	Left wing	17/03/2007	León, ESP	175
23	Alex	Lodos García	ESP	Left back	26/06/2002	León, ESP	190
24	Marwan	Hatem	EGY	Left back	20/01/2002	Cairo, EGY	190
30	Alejandro	Díaz Montero	ESP	Left wing	02/08/2005	Antequera, ESP	175
33	Alberto	Martin Botet	ESP	Line player	15/12/2001	Madrid, ESP	193
34	Ivan	Popovic	SRB	Line player	21/03/1994	Novi Sad, SRB	195
66	Eduardo	Fernández	ESP	Right back	06/03/1997	La Bañeza, ESP	186
98	Marcos	García Peñacoba	ESP	Goalkeeper	12/07/2007	Oviedo, ESP	190



ALEX LODOS GARCÍA

 @alexlodos

Left back

- established himself as one of the key players in the squad, despite his young age
- played with Leon in the EHF Cup and the EHF European League in the previous seasons; has spent most of his club career here
- represented the Spanish national team at youth level, but is yet to make his debut for the senior national team



RODRIGO PEREZ ARCE

 @roodri10_pa

Centre back

- one of the key players in the squad, as the Spaniard was Ademar Leon's second-best scorer in the qualification round with 15 goals
- in his second spell with Leon, spent six years at the club between 2013 and 2019
- represented the Spanish national team at youth level
- his younger brother, Gonzalo, is a right wing for Orlen Wisła Płock in Poland



PATRYK WASIAK

 @patrykwasiak7

Right back

- represented the Polish national team at various youth championships and received a senior call-up before the Men's EHF EURO 2024
- joined Ademar Leon from Industria Kielce in 2023
- scored 36 goals for the Spanish club in his debut season in Liga ASOBAL
- young and talented athlete, widely expected to develop into a top-quality player



CARLOS ÁLVAREZ DOMÍNGUEZ

 @carloalvarezzzz

Right wing

- represented the Spanish national team at various youth championships
- played a key role in helping Ademar Leon secure a place in the group phase, as he scored 17 goals in the qualification round
- was chosen as Liga ASOBAL's MVP in 2023/24, becoming only the third-ever player in Ademar Leon's history to win the prestigious award

GROUP A



Club contact

Club address

GOG Sport
 Staerkaervej 1
 5884 Gudme
 Denmark

Media contact

Louise Jensen
 louise@gog.dk
 +45 22 45 57 93

 gog.dk

 GOGsport

 –

 @gogsport

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Phønix Tag Arena
 Staerkaervej 1
 5884 Gudme
 Denmark
 Capacity: 1,756

GOG



GOG had a mixed season in 2023/24. Domestically, they went into last season as two-time defending champions in the Danish league but failed to reach the play-off semi-finals. In the Machineseecker EHF Champions League, they were knocked out in the play-offs by Industria Kielce. They did, however, win the Danish cup, defeating eventual Machineseecker EHF Champions League finalists Aalborg Håndbold.

GOG have a promising history in the EHF European League, reaching the quarter-finals in their previous two seasons, 2020/21 and 2021/22.

- **Kasper Christensen joined as new head coach after leading Ikast Håndbold to an EHF European League title and the EHF Champions League play-offs**
- **GOG lost in the EHF Champions League play-offs against Industria Kielce 66:53 on aggregate last season**
- **all players in the squad are from Scandinavia**
- **goalkeeper Peter Johannesson replaces fellow Swede Tobias Thulin, who joined OTP Bank - PICK Szeged in Hungary**

New coach Kasper Christensen says progressing from the group matches is the primary ambition: “GOG have great traditions in Europe and we look forward to once again having the possibility to show ourselves in Europe. In addition, the European matches give us important experience for our young talents, and give us as a team many matches on a high level.”

Among the new arrivals is centre back Tobias Grøndahl, who says: “I spoke to both Gøran Johannesen and Torbjørn Bergerud about their time at GOG, and they both said that it had been some of the best years of their careers, with lots of talented young players and a great atmosphere. Alexandre Blonz also said that when the yellow corner is in place in the hall, it’s awesome to play for GOG, so I look forward to experiencing that, too.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 3

Quarter-finals (2): 2020/21, 2021/22

Other

EHF Champions League

Quarter-finals (1): 2022/23

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

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

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (3): 1999/00, 2001/02, 2005/06

Cup Winners' Cup

Runners-up (1): 1994/95

Quarter-finals (2): 1993/94, 1997/98

Danish league: 9 titles (1992, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2022, 2023)

Danish cup: 12 titles (1990-92, 1995-97, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2019, 2022, 2023)





KASPER CHRISTENSEN

Coach

- Danish coach, who joined GOG before the start of the 2024/25 season
- previously led the women's team of Ikast Håndbold, from 2020 to 2024
- led Ikast to the EHF European League title in 2022/23, and to the EHF Champions League play-offs the next season
- started coaching career as an assistant at TM Tønder while still playing for that club in 2013
- was in charge of SønderjyskE in the Danish men's first division from 2017 to 2020

ARRIVALS

Salah Boutaf (Skanderborg/DEN)
 Peter Johannesson (Bergischer HC/GER)
 Andreas Nielsen (Önnered/SWE)
 Frederik Tilsted (Mors-Thy/DEN)
 Tobias Grøndahl (Elverum/NOR)
 Frederik Møller (GOG youth)
 Lasse Vilhelmsen (GOG youth)
 Frederik Emil Pedersen (GOG youth)
 Emil Tonnesen (GOG youth)

DEPARTURES

Emil Madsen (Kiel/GER)
 Matthias Rex (SønderjyskE/DEN)
 Lauritz Legér (Kolding/DEN)
 Tobias Thulin (Szeged/HUN)
 Anders Zachariassen (BSH/DEN)
 Aaron Mensing (Melsungen/GER)
 Morten Olsen (BSH/DEN)
 Tobias Tomtak (Ringsted/DEN)
 Frederik Clausen (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Frederik	Møller	DEN	Goalkeeper	25/04/2006	Svendborg, DEN	196
2	William	Dalby Enoch	DEN	Left wing	01/10/2005	Copenhagen, DEN	186
C 3	Nicolai Nygaard	Pedersen	DEN	Left back	15/02/1994	Hillerød, DEN	198
4	Kasper Teglgaard	Pedersen	DEN	Line player	16/06/2005	Ringsted, DEN	197
5	Jacob	Dalager	DEN	Left back	27/11/2006	Aalborg, DEN	201
7	Lasse Sunesen	Vilhelmsen	DEN	Right back	26/04/2005	Svendborg, DEN	192
8	Frederik	Tilsted	DEN	Centre back	05/07/1999	Thisted, DEN	192
C 9	Henrik	Jakobsen	NOR	Line player	16/12/1992	Lørenskog, NOR	196
10	Frederik Emil	Pedersen	DEN	Centre back	25/08/2005	Rødovre , DEN	185
11	Kasper Dahl	Jacobsen	DEN	Left wing	25/01/2006	Slagelse, DEN	176
12	Peter	Johannesson	SWE	Goalkeeper	12/05/1992	Gunnared, SWE	191
13	Andreas Johann	Nielsen	DEN	Line player	04/11/1997	Frederiksberg, DEN	199
14	Simon	Humlegaard	DEN	Line player	22/05/2005	Svendborg, DEN	198
C 15	Tobias	Grøndahl	NOR	Centre back	22/01/2001	Bærum, NOR	183
16	Oliver	Briese	DEN	Goalkeeper	18/03/2006	Svendborg, DEN	202
19	Oskar Vind	Rasmussen	DEN	Right wing	08/08/2000	Roskilde , DEN	196
21	Kasper Emil	Kildelund	DEN	Right wing	11/05/1994	Svendborg, DEN	184
22	Hjalte	Langmack	DEN	Centre back	01/03/2006	Vøjens, DEN	190
23	Joachim	Lyng Als	DEN	Left wing	07/04/2003	Copenhagen , DEN	198
27	Oskar Møller	Jakobsen	DEN	Right back	07/06/2007	Aarhus, DEN	197
28	Emil Oxenvad	Tonnesen	DEN	Centre back	25/01/2005	Esbjerg , DEN	189
29	Hjalte	Lykke	DEN	Right back	05/10/2004	Aarhus, DEN	178
37	Linus Niclas	Persson	SWE	Right back	16/04/1993	Fleninge , SWE	191
64	Salah	Boutaf	DEN	Goalkeeper	22/03/1999	Copenhagen, DEN	192
66	Anton	Lindskog	SWE	Line player	07/12/1993	Kristianstad, SWE	198
71	Alexander	Blonz	NOR	Left wing	17/04/2000	Clamart, FRA	189
77	Magnus	Árason	FAR	Right wing	21/08/2007	Torshavn, FAR	187
78	Aksel Kaj	Larsen	DEN	Centre back	21/12/2005	Svendborg, DEN	199



PETER JOHANNESSON

@petjoh16

Goalkeeper

- joined GOG before the 2024/25 season from Bergischer HC in Germany
- started career at IK Sävehof before moving to Germany and playing in the Bundesliga for nine years
- sensationally won the German cup with TBV Lemgo Lippe in 2020
- Swedish international, who has won two medals with the national team, including the EHF EURO title in 2022

EC: 2014

WCh: S 2021; EURO: G 2022



ALEXANDRE BLONZ

@alexandreblonz

Left wing

- Norwegian international, who left Szeged and returned to Scandinavia in 2023 to join GOG; previously played two seasons for Elverum
- very fast and technically skilled wing, who made national team debut in January 2019 and became the first handball player born in the 2000s to play a WCh final
- his first name is Alexandre, due to his French heritage, but the spelling 'Alexander' has been used in previous years

WCh: S 2019; EURO: B 2020



TOBIAS GRØNDAHL

@tobias_grondahl

Centre back

- Norwegian international, who joined GOG for 2024/25 from Elverum
- was one of the revelations of the EHF Champions League 2021/2022 season, scoring 81 goals for Elverum
- Norway's second-best scorer at the 2024 Olympics with 24 goals
- his father, mother and younger brother all play handball – and all have jersey No. 15



LINUS PERSSON

@perssonlinne

Right back

- Swedish international, who has competed in four events and won two medals with the national team; had made his debut in 2014
- spent the first seven years of his senior club career with HK Malmö before moving to France in 2018
- first played for Ivry, then joined HBC Nantes in 2021, playing the EHF European League quarter-finals and winning the French cup with them

WCh: S 2021; EURO: G 2022

GROUP B PREVIEW



MONTPELLIER AND GRANOLLERS FACE STRONG COMPETITION

With former EHF Champions League winners in Montpellier Handball and former EHF Cup winners in Fraikin BM. Granollers, group B is full of experienced sides aiming to go far in the EHF European League this season. But the addition of Bjerringbro-Silkeborg and Górnik Zabrze makes group B one of the most exciting in the group matches this season.



Montpellier have consistently performed in EHF club competitions in recent years, notably winning the EHF Champions League in 2018. However, the main architect of Montpellier's successes, Patrice Canayer, left after 30 years at the club and a new era is upon MHB with Érick Mathé at the helm. Montpellier are the group's headliners as they boast a quality squad with experienced veterans like Valentin Porte and young stars like Djordje Cikusa, who joined on a one-year loan from Barça.

The two-time EHF Cup winners Fraikin BM. Granollers are back in the European League group matches after missing out last season. The Spanish club was made to work hard for their group phase ticket this time too, as IFK Kristianstad proved to be a demanding opponent in the qualification round. Although veteran Antonio Jesus Garcia was instrumental in helping his side qualify, they are a talented side with only three players over the age of 30. Granollers, the 2023 finalists, will be a difficult nut to crack again.



Bjerringbro-Silkeborg are on a mission to reach the EHF Finals after being narrowly eliminated by Dinamo Bucuresti in the play-offs last season. The Danish club qualified for this season's group matches by brushing aside FTC-Green Collect in qualification. Their new signing from FC Porto, Nikolaj Læsø, played a key role after joining his compatriots including Rasmus Lauge and Rene Toft Hansen to enhance Silkeborg's chances this season. Fast, robust and aggressive are only three of the attributes describing the squad which certainly has an eye on one of the top two spots in group B.



Górnik Zabrze may be the least familiar name in group B, but the Polish club defied the odds last season by progressing to the EHF European League main round, where they even surprised Rhein-Neckar Löwen on home court. Their journey ended there, but the Polish club gained valuable experience from playing against top clubs. Additionally, the experienced Romanian sharpshooter Dan Emil Racotea made the move from Dinamo Bucuresti to Zabrze. Although the third-placed team from the Polish Superliga will be the underdogs in group B, they can hurt any of their opponents, especially on home court in Poland, where their supporters are always like their eighth player.

Filip Mishov

I GROUP B HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS DUELS BETWEEN THE TEAMS OF GROUP B

Montpellier Handball vs Górnik Zabrze

No previous encounters in European competitions

Montpellier Handball vs Bjerringbro-Silkeborg

No previous encounters in European competitions

Montpellier Handball vs Fraikin BM. Granollers 1-0-1 (45:46) 2:2

09.02.1997	Montpellier HB vs BM Granollers, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	21:20 (10:12)
16.02.1997	BM Granollers vs Montpellier HB, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	26:24 (13:13)

Górnik Zabrze vs Bjerringbro-Silkeborg

No previous encounters in European competitions

Górnik Zabrze vs Fraikin BM. Granollers

No previous encounters in European competitions

Bjerringbro-Silkeborg vs Fraikin BM. Granollers 1-0-1 (56:56) 2:2

24.04.2016	Fraikin BM. Granollers vs Bjerringbro-Silkeborg, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	30:24 (12:11)
30.04.2016	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg vs Fraikin BM. Granollers, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	32:26 (18:15)

GROUP B



Club contact

Club address


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- 1000
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Media contact

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 montpellierhandball.com

 MHB-Montpellier-Handball

 @mhbofficiel

 @mhbofficiel

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

FDI Stadium
1000 Av. du Val de Mont-
ferriand
34090 Montpellier
France
Capacity: 4,134

MONTPELLIER HANDBALL



Alternating between the EHF Champions League and the EHF European League has become a tradition for Montpellier in the past decade, and the pattern continues in 2024/25. After being eliminated from the Machineseecker EHF Champions League in the quarter-finals last season, the club from the south of France is back in the EHF European League.

The last time they appeared in the competition, the team reached the EHF Finals but finished fourth. Montpellier are yet to win the second-tier competition, with the runners-up finish in 2014 their best result so far.

- last season, MHB finished third in the French league, behind champions Paris Saint-Germain and HBC Nantes
- they also reached the quarter-finals of the Machineseecker EHF Champions League in 2023/24, being edged out by THW Kiel 61:60 on aggregate
- their best European results are winning the EHF Champions League twice, in 2003 and 2018
- made it to the EHF Finals when they last played the EHF European League, in 2022/23
- they also reached the EHF Cup final in 2014, where they were defeated by Szeged

Only one thing has changed since Montpellier's last season, but it could be an important aspect — Patrice Canayer waved goodbye after 30 years on the bench and has been replaced by former France national team assistant coach Érick Mathé, who arrived from Chambéry. Otherwise, the roster remains the same as last season, except for Djordje Cikusa, who is on loan from Barça for a season, replacing Marko Panic.

Team captain Valentin Porte says: "It's always a joy to play in a European cup. Discovering new teams and new arenas is always exciting. The European League is especially enjoyable, and it's becoming more competitive with top-level teams. Two years ago, we reached the EHF Finals and finished in fourth place. This year, our goal is to make it to the Finals again and do much better, giving ourselves every chance to win the title."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 3

Semi-finals (1): 2022/23

Quarter-finals (1): 2020/21

Other

EHF Champions League

Winners (2): 2002/03, 2017/18

Semi-finals (1): 2004/05

Quarter-finals (7): 2000/01, 2005/06, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2021/22, 2023/24

EHF Cup

Runners-up (1): 2013/14

Quarter-finals (1): 1996/97

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

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





ÉRICK MATHÉ
Coach

- joined Montpellier in July 2024 to replace Patrice Canayer, who had been in charge for the past 30 years
- was previously an assistant in Montpellier from 2015 to 2018, when the club won the EHF Champions League
- also coached Bordeaux (2011-14) and Chambéry (2018-24)
- was part of the coaching staff for the French national team from 2020 to 2024, winning gold at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and the EHF EURO 2024

ARRIVALS

Djordje Cikuša (Barça/ESP, on loan)

DEPARTURES

Marko Panic (Plock/POL)

Mathieu Cornette (Cournon-d'Auvergne/FRA)

Adrien Dubois (Nancy/FRA)

Alexis Berthier (Dijon/FRA, on loan)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
2	Sebastian	Karlsson	SWE	Right wing	21/01/1995	Savedalen, SWE	178
4	Diego	Simonet	ARG	Centre back	26/12/1989	Buenos Aires, ARG	189
5	Kyllian	Villeminot	FRA	Centre back	20/05/1998	Lyon, FRA	189
10	Lucas	Pellas	SWE	Left wing	28/08/1995	Farsta, SWE	183
11	Djordje	Cikusa i Jelacic	ESP	Right back	08/12/2005	Bordils, ESP	191
12	Charles	Bolzinger	FRA	Goalkeeper	14/12/2000	Sète, FRA	198
15	Ahmed	Hesham	EGY	Left back	15/05/2000	Le Caire, FRA	194
17	Jaime	Fernandez	ESP	Left wing	27/01/1997	Leon, ESP	176
19	Arthur	Lenne	FRA	Line player	02/05/2001	Colmar, FRA	194
20	Stas	Skube	SLO	Centre back	15/11/1989	Celje, SLO	179
21	Kylian	Prat	FRA	Left back	20/02/2004	Mesnil, FRA	193
22	Karl	Konan	FRA	Left back	03/06/1995	Cocody, CIV	196
25	Lucas	Guigon	FRA	Right back	18/07/2003	Montpellier, FRA	197
26	Hugo	Bryan	BRA	Left back	06/04/2003	Sao Joao, BRA	193
27	Léo	Fournié	FRA	Line player	10/04/2004	Rodez, FRA	188
C 28	Valentin	Porte	FRA	Right back	07/09/1990	Versailles, FRA	190
29	Niels	Martin	FRA	Goalkeeper	20/09/2004	Lyon, FRA	196
32	Yanis	Lenne	FRA	Right wing	29/06/1996	Colmar, FRA	187
51	Roland	Terjek	HUN	Right wing	14/08/2004	Salgótarján, HUN	184
52	Justin	Soutoul	FRA	Right wing	27/11/2004	Montpellier, FRA	158
53	Matéo	Caille	FRA	Line player	27/06/2004	Montpellier, FRA	198
54	Baptiste	Dubois	FRA	Left wing	24/06/2005	Montpellier, FRA	173
55	Pierre	Carbillet	FRA	Right back	13/02/2006	Dijon, FRA	192
56	Mathis	Becker Fischer	FRA	Left back	08/03/2005	Sarreguemines, FRA	199
57	Thibault	Dambacher	FRA	Right back	04/03/2005	Saverne, FRA	193
59	Soren	Billy-Légrand	FRA	Goalkeeper	01/02/2005	Montpellier, FRA	198
92	Remi	Desbonnet	FRA	Goalkeeper	28/02/1992	Montpellier, FRA	182
93	Veron	Nacinovic	CRO	Line player	07/03/2000	Rijeka, CRO	204



REMI DESBONNET

 @remi_desbonnet92

Goalkeeper

- French international, who started his professional career at Montpellier before joining Nîmes in 2013 at age 21; he moved back to Montpellier in 2022
- played all major events with France since EHF EURO 2022
- used to play beach handball, where he was a left wing; his brother, Nicolas, is still playing beach handball and is part of the France national team

WCh: S 2023; EURO: G 2024



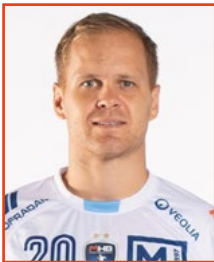
LUCAS PELLAS

 @pellaslucas

Left wing

- arrived at Montpellier in 2020 for the first club outside his native Sweden
- started career at Söder, also played for Hammarby and Lugi before moving to France
- made his national team debut in June 2019; missed most of Sweden's golden EHF EURO 2022 having tested positive for coronavirus
- contributed 25 goals to Sweden's run to bronze at EHF EURO 2024

EURO: G 2022, B 2024; WCh: S 2021



STAS SKUBE

 @stas.skube

Centre back

- joined Montpellier in the summer of 2022 from Meshkov Brest, three years after winning the CL with Vardar
- made his senior debut for Trebnje in his native Slovenia at age 17, alongside older brother Sebastian; later played for Velenje and Szeged
- scored a personal best 72 goals in CL 2013/14 when Velenje reached the Last 16
- scored 29 goals during his first CL season with Montpellier in 2023/24

CL: 2019



VALENTIN PORTE

 @valhand28

Right back

- arrived in Montpellier from French league rivals Toulouse in 2016; won the CL in his second year with the club, also played CL quarter-finals twice, in 2017 and 2023
- initially played on the right wing, but former France national team coach Claude Onesta moved him to right back
- scored 16 goals in EHF EURO 2014 semi-final and final to help France win gold; retired from the national team after the Paris 2024 Olympics

CL: 2018
OG: G 2020, S 2016; WCh: G 2015, 2017, S 2023,
B 2019; EURO: G 2014, 2024, B 2018

GROUP B




Club contact


Club address

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Wolności 406
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Media contact

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 @handball_zabrze

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: turquoise

Dark

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



Playing hall

Hala "Centrum" Dąbrowa
Górnicza
Aleja Róż 3
41-303 Dąbrowa Górnicza,
Poland
Capacity: 3,044

GÓRNIK ZABRZE



The 2023/24 season was one to remember for Górnik Zabrze, as it marked their debut in the group matches of the EHF European League. The Polish side was ready to prove that they belong in Europe's second-tier competition – and they did. Under new leadership, Zabrze made their way to the main round, but had to stop there as they faced bigger teams such as Rhein-Neckar Löwen and HBC Nantes.

Now, with more experience under their belt and new names in their squad, can Górnik Zabrze exceed expectations?

- were eliminated twice in the EHF European League qualification before they finally managed to secure a place in the group matches last year
- Tomasz Strzabala came as head coach at Zabrze in 2023 and reached the EHF European League main round in his first season with the team
- former Wisła Płock player and Romanian champion with Dinamo, Dan Racotea, returned to Poland to join Górnik Zabrze on a two-year contract
- they have won the bronze medal in the Polish league for two consecutive seasons (2022/23 and 2023/24)

Over the summer break, Górnik Zabrze have lost some of their biggest talents – Patryk Mauer, Rennosuke Tokuda and Damian Przytuła left the club. Luckily, Tomasz Strzabala has built a strong defence line, with experienced goalkeeper Piotr Wyszomirski still on the team, and Dan Racotea as a valuable new addition at Zabrze.

Team captain Adam Wasowski: "After our first season in the group phase of the EHF European League in the club's history, everyone fell in love with these competitions. We want to play and win as much as possible. It is a beautiful adventure. Every match in the group phase will be incredibly hard."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4

Main round (1): 2023/24

Qualification (2): 2021/22; 2022/23

Other

EHF Cup

Qualification (4): 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2019/20

Challenge Cup

Last 16 (1): 2013/14

Polish league: 2 titles (1989, 1990)

Polish cup: 3 titles (1984, 1988, 1990)





TOMASZ STRZABALA

Coach

- took over at Zabrze for the 2023/24 season and led the team into the EHF European League main round
- started coaching career as an assistant at Kielce in 2008
- worked 10 seasons with the Polish powerhouse and saw the club win the EHF Champions League in 2016
- got his first head coach position in 2018, at Kwidzyn
- later coached Ostrowiec, Kalisz and Tarnów before arriving at Zabrze in the summer of 2023

ARRIVALS

Krzysztof Komarzewski (Kalisz/POL)
Bogdan Cherkashchenko (Kwidzyn/POL)
Dan Emil Racotea (Dinamo Bucuresti/ROU)

DEPARTURES


Casper Liljestrand (Legionowo/POL)
Aliaksandr Bachko (unknown)
Pawel Dudkowski (Wroclaw, then Lubin/POL)
Sebastian Kaczor (Nîmes/FRA)
Patrik Mauer (unknown)
Damian Przytula (Tatabánya/HUN)
Rennosuke Tokuda (Osaka/JAP)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Kacper	Ligarzewski	POL	Goalkeeper	14/06/2001	Stade, GER	189
3	Jakub	Szyszek	POL	Right wing	18/02/2001	Bielsk Podlaski, POL	179
5	Jakub	Pinda	POL	Left back	31/05/2005	Kielce, POL	195
7	Dan Emil	Racotea	ROU	Left back	21/07/1995	Ramnicu Sarat, ROU	203
9	Daniel	Wisinski	POL	Right back	22/09/2006	Zabrze, POL	191
10	Lukáš	Morkovský	CZE	Left back	04/01/2002	Vašašské Mezirící, CZE	189
14	Piotr	Krepa	POL	Line player	21/06/1994	Mielec, POL	185
15	Dmytro	Artemenko	UKR	Left wing	18/01/1996	Melytopol, UKR	180
16	Piotr	Wyszomirski	POL	Goalkeeper	06/01/1988	Warszawa, POL	194
17	Bogdan	Cherkashchenko	UKR	Right back	10/09/1996	Orikhiw, UKR	202
19	Pawel	Krawczyk	POL	Centre back	10/07/2003	Mikolów, POL	194
22	Nikola	Ivanovic	SRB	Right back	19/12/1998	Subotica, SCG	195
23	Jakub	Bogacz	POL	Left wing	30/07/1998	Chrzanów, POL	173
35	Taras	Minotskyi	UKR	Left back	15/01/2000	Volochysk, UKR	193
50	Bartosz	Szczepanik	POL	Goalkeeper	04/12/2007	Tarnowskie Góry, POL	191
58	Krzysztof	Komarzewski	POL	Right wing	18/09/1998	Gdansk, POL	188
77	Dmytro	Ilchenko	UKR	Line player	09/07/1996	Kyiv, UKR	198
C 89	Adam	Wasowski	POL	Line player	04/11/1997	Szczecin, POL	197



PIOTR WYSZOMIRSKI

 @piotrwyszomirski

Goalkeeper

- former Polish international, who returned to Poland to join Zabrze in 2022
- started career at Azoty Pulawy before moving abroad in 2012, first to Hungary
- played for Csurgó (2012-14) and freshly crowned EHF Cup winners Szeged (2014-16), then joined Lemgo in Germany for four years, and played for Tatabánya in Hungary
- part of Poland national team that won bronze at 2015 WCh in Qatar

WCh: B 2015



DMYTRO ARTEMENKO

 @sw1p13

Left wing

- part of Zabrze's Ukrainian duo in attack with Taras Minotskyi
- was one of the leading scorers for the team in the 2023/24 season with 44 goals, and scored 120 goals in the Polish league
- spent seven years at ZTR Zaporozhye before moving to Zabrze in 2022
- big football fan, who also likes to play table tennis in his free time



DAN EMIL RACOTEA

 @racoteadan7

Left back

- moved to Zabrze in the summer of 2024 after a three-year stint at Romanian champions Dinamo București
- speaks Polish, after spending the first five years of his career at Wisła Płock
- has extensive international experience, is also an important player for Romania's national team
- key player who can play in both attack and defence



TARAS MINOTSKYI

 @minotskyi

Left back

- played in his native Ukraine for four seasons before moving to Poland in 2021
- joined Tarnów for his first two years in Poland, then made the move to Zabrze; was named Player of the Year in Polish league for 2023/24
- a magician in attack, who was Zabrze's top scorer in the EL 2023/24 with 63 goals
- part of the Ukrainian national team, has also played in beach handball competitions

GROUP B



Club contact

Club address

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Denmark

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+45 22 75 91 74

 bjerringbro-silkeborg.dk

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

 –

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

JYSK Arena
Ansvej 114
8600 Silkeborg
Denmark
Capacity: 2,000

BJERRINGBRO— SILKEBORG



Simon Sørensen switched his temporary job to a permanent one since he signed a three-year contract with Bjerringbro-Silkeborg. As an assistant coach, Sørensen had good opportunities to improve his coaching skills. From this season, he will have more responsibility as head coach and is aiming for top results with his club.

“Undoubtedly, we are dreaming of the EHF Finals and I am sure we can only achieve that by ourselves. I am looking forward to a joint effort to fight for medals,” says the coach.

- **the leader of the team is Olympic and world champion centre back, Rasmus Lauge**
- **other notable members of the strong squad include Anders Zachariassen and Rene Toft Hansen**
- **Simon Sørensen was appointed as head coach in April 2024**
- **the last time the Danish side played in the EHF European League, in the 2023/24 season, they reached the knockout stage**
- **their main objective this year is to advance as far as the quarter-finals**

Last year, Bjerringbro-Silkeborg finished the EHF European League in the knockout stage, but now Sørensen’s side would like to go much further.

The Danish club has changed its roster — four players left while five new players joined the team. The bronze medallists of the Danish championship have only a few players coming from abroad and they mostly count on Danish players, including the brilliant centre back, Rasmus Lauge. His experience could be crucial once more in the 2024/25 season.

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 5

Play-offs (1): 2023/24

Qualification (3): 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23

Other

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (2): 2012/13, 2016/17

Group phase (2): 2011/12, 2018/19

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (3): 2002/03, 2008/09, 2015/16

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2006/07

Danish league: 1 title (2016)

Danish cup: –





SIMON SØRENSEN

Coach

- became head coach during the 2023/24 season when he took over from Patrick Westerholm in April 2024, having previously served as assistant coach
- this is his first stint as head coach of a senior team
- worked as a coach of Denmark's youth national team since 2021, but stepped down from that job to focus on his role as head coach of Bjerringbro-Silkeborg in 2024

ARRIVALS

Nikolaj Læsø (Porto/POR)
Anders Zachariassen (GOG/DEN)
Guðmundur Braji Ástþórsson (Haukar/ISL)
Lasse Sunde Lid (Haslum/NOR)
Kasper Larsen (SønderjyskE/DEN)

DEPARTURES

William Bogojevic (Szeged/HUN)
Ludvig Hallbäck (Göppingen/GER)
Thomas Solstad (Hannover/GER)
Johan Sjöstrand (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Mikkel Møller	Løvkvist	DEN	Goalkeeper	31/07/2002	Roskilde , DEN	201
3	Victor Beenfeldt	Ilsøe	DEN	Right wing	10/07/2004	Aarhus, DEN	180
4	Patrick	Boldsen	DEN	Right wing	09/04/2003	Silkeborg, DEN	188
C 7	Nikolaj Øris	Nielsen	DEN	Right back	26/09/1986	Bjerringbro, DEN	194
9	Guðmundur Bragi Ástþórsson		ISL	Centre back	17/07/2002	Thorshavn	190
C 11	Rasmus	Lauge Schmidt	DEN	Left back	20/06/1991	Randers, DEN	195
12	Kasper Kock	Larsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	18/03/1989	Brabrand, DEN	193
13	Lasse Sunde	Lid	NOR	Right back	07/06/2004	Oslo, NOR	201
14	Alexander	Lynggaard	DEN	Line player	27/03/1990	KOGE, DEN	198
17	August	Fridén	DEN	Left wing	17/12/2003	Odense, DEN	194
19	Rene	Toft Hansen	DEN	Line player	01/11/1984	Skive, DEN	200
21	Gustav Bundgaard	Petersen	DEN	Right back	20/02/2006	Aarhus, DEN	191
22	Anders	Zachariassen	DEN	Line player	04/09/1991	Sønderborg, DEN	192
23	Mads Bayer	Lenbroch	DEN	Left wing	05/03/2000	Riyadh, KSA	191
26	Peter Balling	Christensen	DEN	Right back	05/04/1990	Skive, DEN	189
31	Julius Dyhr	Topp	DEN	Goalkeeper	30/03/2006	Silkeborg, DEN	189
32	Nikolaj	Læsø	DEN	Left back	15/11/1996	Aarhus, DEN	198
33	Rasmus Dahl	Lyngsø	DEN	Left wing	13/01/2005	Silkeborg, DEN	189
34	Morten Toft	Olsen	DEN	Centre back	11/10/1984	Lejre , DEN	187
35	Rúnar	Hammer	FAR	Left back	09/03/2006	Reykjavik, ISL	178
36	Noah	Hyltdgaard	DEN	Centre back	06/06/2005	Silkeborg, DEN	183
37	Oskar	Knappe	DEN	Line player	08/06/2005	Silkeborg, DEN	189
38	Kasper	Kjærgaard	DEN	Left wing	20/06/2006	Silkeborg, DEN	184
40	Jonas Capion	Jørgensen	DEN	Goalkeeper	05/05/2003	Silkeborg, DEN	189
51	Hjalte Schmøkel	Sinding	DEN	Left back	30/04/2006	Silkeborg, DEN	198
97	Magnus Rahbek	Sand	DEN	Left back	16/07/2004	Herning, DEN	195



MIKKEL LØKVIST

 @mikkellovk

Goalkeeper

- regarded by many as the biggest goalkeeper talent of a new Danish generation
- joined Bjerringbro-Silkeborg from Fredericia in 2021; has announced that 2024/25 will be his last season with the club
- was named Talent of the Year in the Danish league in the 2022/23 season
- made his debut in the Danish national team in May 2024



RASMUS LAUGE

 @rasmuslaug25

Left back

- returned to his youth club Bjerringbro-Silkeborg after 10 years in the summer of 2023, after four seasons with Veszprém in Hungary
- previously spent six seasons in Germany, at Kiel (2013-15) and Flensburg (2015-19)
- Olympic and world champion with Denmark, who can also play centre back

OG: G 2024; WCh: G 2019, 2023, S 2011, 2013;
EURO: G 2012, S 2024, B 2022



NIKOLAJ LÆSØ CHRISTENSEN

 @nikolajlaeso

Left back

- Danish international, who joined the club from Porto before the 2024/25 season
- had his international breakthrough during his two-year stint with Aalborg Håndbold in Denmark, where he played between 2020 and 2022
- reached the CL final with Aalborg in 2021, which they lost against Barça
- made his national team debut in January 2021, and won the world title with Denmark that same month

WCh: G 2021



MORTEN OLSEN

 @mlsn34

Centre back

- highly experienced former international, who turns 40 a few days after the start of the EL 2024/25 group matches
- returned to Bjerringbro-Silkeborg in December 2023, after a previous stint in 2007-10
- in the meantime, mainly played in Germany (Hannover) and France (St.-Raphaël) before returning to Denmark in 2020 and joining GOG
- retired from the Danish national team after winning silver at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

OG: G 2016, S 2021; WCh: G 2019, 2021

GROUP B



Club contact

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
GK shirt: pink



Playing hall

Palau d'Esports de Granollers

Adva. Francesc Macia s/num.
08400 Granollers
Spain
Capacity: 5,260

FRAIKIN BM. GRANOLLERS



After last season's surprising elimination in the qualification round, only a few months after they had played the final at the EHF Finals 2023 in Flensburg, Fraikin BM. Granollers are back in the EHF European League group matches with a point to prove.

The Spanish club needed to get through the qualification round once again, and the Antonio Rama Garcia-led squad had to put on strong performances to defeat recent EHF Champions League contenders IFK Kristianstad over both legs.

- **two-time EHF Cup winners, in 1994/95 and 1995/96**
- **made it all the way to the EHF European League final in 2022/23, but missed out on the group matches the following season**
- **defeated IFK Kristianstad in qualification for the 2024/25 group matches, winning 62:57 on aggregate**
- **finished only behind Barça and Bidasoa Irun in the Spanish Liga ASOBAL standings last season**
- **have a young and talented squad with only three players over the age of 30**

Granollers' squad is full of young and exciting players, such as Ferran Castillo Oliveras, Víctor Romero, Pablo Guijarro and Pau Panitt, who all starred at the Men's 20 EHF EURO 2024 where Spain won gold.

Fraikin BM. Granollers find themselves in a very challenging group with Montpellier Handball, Bjerringbro-Silkeborg and Górnik Zabrze, but they are expected to fight for the top two spots in group B.

Team captain Antonio Garcia Robledo: "Our main goal is to enjoy every game competing against all the big clubs that we have in our group. It is a big challenge for us to show everything we can improve across the season, trying to make our supporters enjoy the matches, especially the games in Palau d'Esports de Granollers."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4

Runners-up (1): 2022/23

Qualification (2): 2021/22, 2023/24

Other

EHF Cup

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

Semi-finals (2): 1996/97, 2015/16

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

Champions Trophy

Runners-up (1): 1995/96

Cup Winners' Cup

Runners-up (1): 2009/10

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

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





ANTONIO RAMA GARCIA

Coach

- a true club icon at Granollers, who has never played or coached elsewhere
- made his debut in the senior team in 1994; got his first coaching license at age 17
- became assistant to then head coach Carlos Viver in 2013; took over as head coach five years later
- led Granollers to the EHF Finals 2023, where they lost to Füchse Berlin in Granollers' first European final in 13 years
- was chosen best coach of the Spanish league three times — in 2017/2018, 2022/2023, and 2023/2024, when Granollers finished in third position

ARRIVALS

Jordi Deumal (Saran/FRA)
Tarcisio Freitas (Valladolid/ESP)
Andrés Moyano (Nava/ESP)
Leo Abrahao (Mudhar/SAU)

DEPARTURES

Bruno Reguart (Stuttgart/GER)
Joan Amigó (Besiktas/TUR)
Pere Arnau (unknown)
Andrei Buzle (Constanta/ROU)
Faruk Yusuf (Kielce/POL)
Adrià Martínez (unknown)
Guilherme Torriani (Taubaté/BRA)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Roberto	Rodríguez Lario	ESP	Goalkeeper	19/07/2000	Sevilla, ESP	186
2	Ivan	Montoya	ESP	Line player	31/10/1998	Alicante, ESP	184
3	Andrés Gabriel	Moyano	ARG	Right back	28/07/1996	Mendoza, ARG	95
4	Marc	Vega Velilla	ESP	Left wing	10/07/2001	Barcelona, ESP	179
6	Biel	Valera Rovira	ESP	Centre back	28/11/2002	La Garriga, ESP	178
7	Victor	Romero Holguin	ESP	Line player	09/03/2004	Mataró, ESP	192
8	Tarcisio	Freitas Oliveira	BRA	Left back	25/01/2000	Cariacia, BRA	193
9	Jordi	Deumal Torroella	ESP	Left wing	14/01/1994	Sant Pere, ESP	190
10	Oriol	Rey Morales	ESP	Line player	31/03/1994	Santa Maria, ESP	190
12	Lluc	Borrell Nadal	ESP	Goalkeeper	04/08/2004	Granollers, ESP	194
14	Leonardo	Abrahão	BRA	Centre back	09/09/1996	Sao Paulo, BRA	180
21	Gerard	Domingo Calzada	ESP	Centre back	19/06/2003	Les Franqueses, ESP	188
32	Pablo	Guijarro Moreno	ESP	Left wing	03/11/2004	La Roca del Vallès, ESP	198
33	Ferran	Castillo Oliveras	ESP	Centre back	03/03/2004	La Roca del Vallès, ESP	188
34	Sergi	Franco i Miro	ESP	Right wing	10/05/1999	Barcelona, ESP	189
39	Pol	Chaves Valera	ESP	Right wing	13/02/2006	La Roca del Vallès, ESP	188
51	Pau	Panitti Martinez	ESP	Goalkeeper	18/07/2004	Mataró, ESP	194
71	Guillem	Vega Velilla	ESP	Right wing	26/11/2003	Canovelles, ESP	75
77	Pablo Urdangarin de Borbón		ESP	Right back	06/12/2000	Barcelona, ESP	190
C 99	Antonio Jesus	Garcia Robledo	ESP	Left back	06/03/1984	La Llagosta, ESP	191



ANTONIO GARCÍA

 @agrobledo9

Left back

- team captain and most experienced player in the squad
- decorated Spanish international who has won multiple titles with the national team
- in his third spell with Granollers, spent eight years with the team between 2003 and 2011, then came back in 2018 for a single season and returned again in 2020
- played for PSG, Nantes, Szeged and Barça among other clubs in his illustrious career

EURO: B 2014, S 2016, 2022; WCh: G 2013; OG: B 2020



FERRAN CASTILLO

 @fcastillo_33

Centre back

- represented the Spanish national team at various younger age categories
- already played with Granollers in EHF club competitions in previous years
- was Granollers' second-best scorer in 2024/25 qualification with 11 goals
- scored 11 goals from 11 attempts in M20 EHF EURO 2024 final against Portugal to lift the trophy with Spain



IVAN MONTOYA

 @ivanmontoyamartinez

Line player

- joined Granollers in the summer of 2023 after four seasons with fellow Spanish side Bada Huesca
- started career Puerto Sagunto before moving to Bada Huesca in 2019
- helped Granollers beat Kristianstad in qualification for the EL 2024/25, scoring nine times over the two legs
- represented the Spanish national team at youth level



PABLO URDANGARIN DE BORBÓN

Right back

- born in Barcelona and developed at Barça as a youth player before joining TSV Hannover-Burgdorf in Germany as a 17-year-old in 2018
- spent the next season with HBC Nantes in France before returning to Barça in 2022, and ultimately joining Granollers in 2023
- played one CL match for Barça in 2021/22 when they eventually won the title
- son of former Spanish international Iñaki Urdangarin, who also played for Barça

CL: 2022

GROUP C PREVIEW



THREE AMBITIOUS SIDES CHALLENGE 2022 CHAMPIONS BENFICA

Group C is a mixed bag as it contains a bit of everything: former EHF European League winners Sport Lisboa e Benfica; competition regulars Kadetten Schaffhausen; returners TATRAN Presov; and debutants Limoges Handball. All have very different styles of play, promising a set of interesting and exciting matches.



Kadetten Schaffhausen are one of the mainstays in the EHF European League, playing the group matches for the fifth consecutive year. Last season, Kadetten were stopped by Füchse Berlin in the play-offs and the Schaffhausen-based club is determined to go at least one step further this season. Hrvoje Horvat's squad will miss retired playmaker Joan Cañellas, but Kadetten have more than enough quality and experience to be considered as one of the favourites to progress from group C.

Just like Kadetten, Sport Lisboa e Benfica are one of the teams with a rich history in EHF's club competitions and additionally, they are the only ones with a European trophy in group C. The Lisbon-based club lifted the EHF European League title in 2021/22. Benfica failed to progress from the group matches last season and also finished third in the Portuguese league. However, they have the history and the roster to make it further this year.



TATRAN Presov are back in the EHF's second-tier club competition after one season in the EHF European Cup, where they finished their journey in the quarter-finals. The Slovakian champions are back with a younger squad than in previous years and with the intent and motivation to surprise their opponents in group C. Ratko Djurkovic is at the helm of the Slovakian club and has developed a high-scoring playing style, ideally suited to a squad that is a blend of experience and youth. Even though Presov are the underdogs on paper, they are not to be underestimated.



Limoges Handball, who finished fifth in the French Starligue last year, are debutants in the EHF's club competitions, having eliminated RK Trimo Trebnje thanks to an impressive comeback in the return leg of qualification. Limoges' young squad is full of exciting players like Faruk Yusuf, Maxime Ogando and Ihor Turchenko, who all played a key role in the qualifying round. Only three players in their roster are over the age of 30, which speaks a lot about their potential. Despite their lack of experience, Limoges, led by coach Alberto Entrerrios, will be tricky opponents for their far more experienced rivals in group C.

Filip Mishov

I GROUP C HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS DUELS BETWEEN THE TEAMS OF GROUP C

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Limoges Handball

No previous encounters in European competitions

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs Sport Lisboa e Benfica 2-0-0 (54:52) 4:0

29.11.2022	Kadetten Schaffhausen vs SL Benfica, EHF European League – Group A	26:25 (13:12)
21.02.2023	SL Benfica vs Kadetten Schaffhausen, EHF European League – Group A	27:28 (13:13)

Kadetten Schaffhausen vs TATRAN Presov 2-0-0 (75:61) 4:0

22.11.2022	TATRAN Presov vs Kadetten Schaffhausen, EHF European League – Group A	31:37 (14:18)
28.02.2023	Kadetten Schaffhausen vs TATRAN Presov, EHF European League – Group A	38:30 (20:15)

Limoges Handball vs Sport Lisboa e Benfica

No previous encounters in European competitions

Limoges Handball vs TATRAN Presov

No previous encounters in European competitions

Sport Lisboa e Benfica vs TATRAN Presov 2-0-0 (64:53) 4:0

25.10.2022	TATRAN Presov vs SL Benfica, EHF European League – Group A	25:29 (9:15)
07.02.2023	SL Benfica vs TATRAN Presov, EHF European League – Group A	35:28 (21:11)

GROUP C



Club contact

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Schweizersbildstrasse 10
8207 Schaffhausen
Switzerland


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 kadettens.ch

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

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

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: orange
Player short: black
GK shirt: gray

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: orange
GK shirt: turquoise



Playing hall

BBC Arena
Schweizersbildstrasse 10
8207 Schaffhausen
Switzerland
Capacity: 3,500

KADETTEN SCHAFFHAUSEN



Kadetten Schaffhausen lost to Füchse Berlin in the 2023/24 play-offs and in the 2022/23 quarter-finals. So the Swiss team will be relieved their German rivals are not part of the EHF European League this season.

Head coach Hrvoje Horvat led his team to the Swiss triple last season, but experienced a rollercoaster ride in the EHF European League, where their campaign included wins over eventual champions SG Flensburg-Handewitt and Elverum. But they ultimately suffered five defeats which ended their international journey.

- **Kadetten play their 29th European season; their best result has been reaching the EHF Cup final in 2010**
- **Odinn Thor Rikhardsson was the ninth-best scorer last season with 71 goals; he became the EHF European League top scorer, with 110 goals, in 2022/23**
- **they had to bid farewell to the team's best assist provider in the EHF European League last season, Joan Cañellas, who ended his illustrious career**
- **were crowned Swiss champions for the third straight season, winning their fifth national triple**

The club is setting its ambitions for the 2024/25 season high. Team manager David Graubner says: "Kadetten Schaffhausen's primary goal is to get through the group stage and make it to the main round with the best possible starting position. In the next three to five years we want to make it to the finals of the EHF European League. We are doing everything we can to ensure that this happens in the 2024/25 season in the best-case scenario."

After returning to Kadetten after five years in Germany, Lucas Meister has high ambitions: "I will say it openly: I want to take Kadetten to the finals of the European League. We have got what it takes. Thanks to their good performances in recent years, Kadetten have played their way into pot one. We now have to capitalise on this and take the next step."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (including 2024/25): 5
Quarter-finals (2): 2021/22, 2022/23
Play-offs (1): 2023/24
Last 16 (1): 2020/21

Other

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (2): 2010/11, 2011/12

EHF Cup

Runners-up (1): 2009/10

Cup Winners' Cup

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

Swiss league: 14 titles (2005-07, 2010-12, 2014-17, 2019, 2022-24)

Swiss cup: 10 titles (1999, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2021, 2024)





HRVOJE HORVAT

Coach

- Croatian coach, arrived at Kadetten from German side Wetzlar in the summer of 2023 to replace Adalsteinn Eyolfsson
- head coach of Croatian national team from 2021-23; left a coaching job at Nexe to focus on the national team
- earlier, was assistant under Lino Cervar for three years
- former successful beach handball player, with seven medals from major competitions, including WCh gold
- son of legendary Croatian playmaker Hrvoje Horvat Cveba

ARRIVALS

Lucas Meister (Magdeburg/GER)
Juan Castro Álvarez (Leon/ESP)
Kassem Awad (Elverum/NOR)

DEPARTURES

Lukas Herburger (Füchse/GER)
Joan Canellas (retired)
Jonas Schopper (retired)
Jost Brücker (unknown)
Sadok Ben Romdhane (Ludwigshafen/GER)

TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Kristian	Pilipovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	10/12/1994	Dakovo, CRO	191
2	Lucas Julien	Meister	SUI	Line player	16/08/1996	MuttENZ, SUI	197
3	Yari	Prince	SUI	Left wing	23/01/2006	Schaffhausen, SUI	190
4	Mehdi	Ben Romdhane	SUI	Centre back	02/12/2001	Yverdon-les-Bains, SUI	188
5	Torben	Matzken	GER	Centre back	01/02/2000	Mons, GER	188
6	Odinn Thor	Rikhardsson	ISL	Right wing	23/10/1997	Reykjavic, ISL	183
7	Manoy	Ugياجbe	SUI	Left back	10/01/2006	Winterthur, SUI	185
8	David	Hrachovec	CZE	Right wing	01/08/2003	Valasske Mezirici, CZE	187
9	Julian	Kemmerling	GER	Left wing	12/01/2007	Stühlingen, GER	183
10	Donát	Bartók	HUN	Right back	13/07/1996	Szeged, HUN	192
11	Kassem	Awad	SWE	Line player	19/03/1995	Nyköping, SWE	196
12	André	Strauss	GER	Goalkeeper	01/11/2005	Schaffhausen, SUI	188
13	Juan	Castro Alvarez	ESP	Centre back	31/10/1990	Leon, ESP	190
14	Lukas	Hedinger	SUI	Right back	10/01/2003	Schlieren, SUI	196
15	Marvin	Lier	SUI	Left wing	08/09/1992	Zürich, SUI	186
16	Julien	Meyer	FRA	Goalkeeper	04/12/1996	Selestat, FRA	196
17	Adam	Petric	CRO	Line player	25/05/2005	Schaffhausen, SUI	204
18	Ariel	Pietrasik	POL	Left back	21/10/1999	Lodz, POL	202
19	Zoran	Markovic	SUI	Left back	06/05/1995	Neuhausen, SUI	197
C 20	Luka	Maros	SUI	Left back	20/03/1994	Dübendorf, SUI	196
21	Manuel	Speicher	GER	Centre back	24/02/2006	Singen, GER	183
22	Patrik	Martinovic	CRO	Right back	29/08/2000	Rijeka, CRO	188
23	Rohat	Sahin	SUI	Line player	01/04/2002	Arbon, SUI	191



KRISTIAN PILIPOVIC

Goalkeeper

- Croatian-Austrian goalkeeper, who first joined Kadetten from Nexe in 2018
- moved to Wisla Plock for the 2022/23 season but returned to Kadetten in December 2022, swapping places with Ignacio Biosca who went to the Polish club
- started his professional career at Fivers in Austria
- initially played for the YAC and senior national teams of Austria, before opting to represent Croatia; had debut for Croatia at the EHF EURO 2022



LUCAS MEISTER

 @meister_lucas


Line player

- joined Kadetten for the 2024/25 season after two years at SC Magdeburg
- won the German Bundesliga and cup in 2023/24, the season after they had lifted the CL trophy
- Swiss international, who started his professional career at Kadetten before joining GWD Minden in 2019

CL: 2023



DONÁT BARTÓK

 @donatbartok

Right back

- Hungarian international, who started his senior career at Tatabánya; later joined Vác before moving to Germany, where he played four seasons at Lemgo
- arrived at Kadetten in January 2021 from Bidasoa Irun in Spain
- one of the team's best goal scorers, has netted 106 times in total in his first three EL seasons with Kadetten; missed the 2023/24 campaign due to a knee injury
- his father, Csaba Bartók, was also an Hungarian international



ODINN THOR RIKHARDSSON

 @odinnrikhards

Right wing

- Icelandic international, who arrived in Schaffhausen in 2022 from KA Akureyri
- became EL top scorer, with 110 goals, in 2022/23 – his first season with Kadetten
- previously played three years in Denmark, for Team Tvis Holstebro and GOG, and had a brief stint at VfL Gummersbach in 2021 before returning to Iceland
- had national team debut in 2017; played for Iceland at 2023 WCh in Poland-Sweden and EHF EURO 2024 in Germany

GROUP C




Club contact


Club address


Limoges handball
4 Rue Malherbe
87000 Limoges
France


Media contact

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 lh-handball.fr

 LimogesHandball

 @LimogesHandball

 @limogeshandball

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: dark
Player short: dark
GK shirt: gold



Playing hall

Palais des Sport de Beaublanc
Boulevard de Beaublanc
87100 Limoges
France
Capacity: 4,798

LIMOGES HANDBALL



Limoges are coming in hot after eliminating Trimo Trebnje in qualification in their first-ever European competition. Since joining the French first division in 2020, Limoges made big progress and built a strong squad led by Spanish coach Alberto Entrerrios. Having a great fan base, their packed hall will not be an easy court to conquer.

Limoges finished the 2023/24 season in fifth place in France and the historic result was just a cornerstone for what was coming. As the third French side in the EHF European League Men 2024/25 season, Limoges

- **Limoges are debutants in the competition and the third French team in the EHF European League group matches**
- **head coach Alberto Entrerrios took over in 2022 and led the team to historic success in the French competition; as a player, he won three EHF Champions League titles**
- **Limoges went through minor changes after Jure Dolenc, Ángel Fernández and David Iglesias left the club, while Dragan Gajic ended his career**
- **they have seven nationalities in the squad: French, Croatian, Egyptian, Spanish, Nigerian, Ukrainian and Portuguese**

will have a good test of strength while playing in both the European competition and the domestic championship. With a good mixture of French players and experienced foreigners, they eye the main round.

Team captain Matej Hrstic: “Playing this season in the EHF European League is something special for me and the club. This group phase is very interesting for us, with games against great teams accustomed to playing in this competition, which motivates us. The last season was good and this new one more is even more exciting with the upcoming games. We want to live a better season than the past one, with more victories and emotions.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 1

Other

French league: –

French cup: –





ALBERTO ENTRERRIOS

Coach

- former Spanish international, who took over as head coach in Limoges in 2022
- previously worked at HBC Nantes, where he started his coaching career after retiring as a player in 2016
- played as centre and left back for Asturias, Naranco Oviedo, Ademar León, Barça, Ciudad Real, Atlético Madrid and Nantes
- won three EHF Champions League titles with Ciudad Real, in 2005/06, 2007/08 and 2008/09
- he is the older brother of former Spanish centre back Raul Entrerrios

CL: 2006, 2008, 2009 (as a player)

WCh: G 2005, 2013, B 2011; EURO: B 2000, S 2006; OG: B 2008

ARRIVALS

Faruk Yusuf (Kielce/POL, on loan)
Jenilson Montiero Varela (Cangas/ESP)
Berislav Antonio Tokic (Trogir/CRO)
Noé Thuillier (Villeurbanne/FRA)

DEPARTURES

Angel Hernandez Perez (Torrelavega/ESP)
Jure Dolenc (Nexe/CRO)
David Iglesias (Tremblay/FRA)
Dragan Gajic (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Mattis	Rey	FRA	Goalkeeper	23/02/2003	Voiron, FRA	198
2	Faruk	Yusuf	NGR	Right back	19/02/2004	Sokoto, NGR	185
3	Andréa	Guillaume	FRA	Right wing	03/05/1998	Chartres, FRA	186
4	Ronan	Hassler	FRA	Right wing	14/05/2004	Mulhouse, FRA	185
5	Ewan	Kervadec	FRA	Right back	15/07/1998	Magdeburg, GER	194
8	Maxime	Ogando	FRA	Left Wwing	02/04/1999	Metz, FRA	183
9	Tomislav	Kusan	CRO	Line player	16/12/1994	Zagreb, CRO	200
10	Romain	Hernandez	FRA	Right wing	09/01/2003	Bordeaux, FRA	180
12	Dino	Slavic	CRO	Goalkeeper	04/12/1992	Rijeka, CRO	185
13	Berislav Antonio	Tokic	CRO	Centre back	05/01/2006	Split, CRO	195
15	Yaël Delalcon-	Longeaux	FRA	Line player	26/06/2006	Nantes, FRA	200
17	Ihor	Turchenko	UKR	Left back	04/12/2000	Kyiv, UKR	193
19	Alexandre	Birkner	FRA	Left wing	19/02/2004	Limoges, FRA	174
24	Léni	Serre	FRA	Right back	08/09/2005	Guilherand, FRA	185
25	Jon	Azkue Saizar	ESP	Centre back	03/07/1994	Orio, ESP	184
26	Gauthier	Ivah	FRA	Goalkeeper	06/01/1999	St.-Denis, FRA	191
28	Nicolas	Nieto	FRA	Line player	06/04/1994	Vernon, FRA	195
30	Mathias	Comte	FRA	Left back	19/06/2005	Besançon, FRA	197
42	Noé	Thuillier	FRA	Left wing	18/05/2006	Roanne, FRA	188
C 44	Matej	Hrstic	CRO	Left back	11/08/1996	Ljubuški, BIH	198
45	Seif	Yehia el Deraa	EGY	Centre back	19/09/1998	Cairo, EGY	187
51	Jenilson	Varela Monteiro	POR	Right wing	05/01/1998	Assomada, CPV	183
55	Axel	Boiste	FRA	Line player	09/08/2003	La Rochelle, FRA	190
65	Théo	Vellenoweth	FRA	Centre back	27/03/2005	Pembury-Kent, GBR	188
72	Noé	Simon	FRA	Goalkeeper	17/09/2006	Niort, FRA	184
91	Lucien	Roulet	FRA	Centre back	14/05/2004	Corbeille-Essonne, FRA	193
97	Timmy	Petit	FRA	Line player	16/10/2000	Baie Mahault, FRA	195



DINO SLAVIC

 @dinoslavic

Goalkeeper

- Croatian international, joined Limoges Handball from Zagreb for the 2023/24 season
- started playing handball in Zamet, also played for Umag and Ademar León
- played at the Men's IHF World Handball Championship 2023 with Croatia
- had his European debut in the 2012/13 season playing the EHF Cup with Zamet
- was named the best goalkeeper of the Spanish cup in 2021



IHOR TURCHENKO

 @turchenko_17

Left back

- Ukrainian international, joined Limoges in 2023 from Motor Zaporozhye
- started his handball career in Motor's academy; had a short stint in Wybrzeże Gdańsk on loan
- scored 97 goals for Motor in the EL 2022/23 season
- had his CL debut in the 2019/20 season at the age of 19



SEIF ELDERAA

 @seifelderaa

Centre back

- born in Cairo, played for Heliopolis SC and Zamalek SC
- came to France for his first European challenge in the summer of 2022
- part of the Egyptian national team, also competed in several major competitions of the younger age categories
- he is the younger brother of Yehia El Deraa, Veszprém HC's centre back



FARUK YUSUF

 @yusuffaruk17

Right back

- started playing handball in Nigeria before coming to Europe and joining Kielce
- after two seasons in Poland, he joined Granollers on loan, with whom he reached the EHF Finals in 2023; ended that EL season on 69 goals
- arrived at Limoges Handball in the summer of 2024
- generally regarded as one of the biggest talents of African handball

GROUP C



Club contact

Club address


Sport Lisboa e Benfica
Av. Eusébio Silva Ferreira
1500-313 Lisbon
Portugal


Media contact

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rmendes@slbenfica.pt
+351 92 56 60 007

 slbenfica.pt

 SLBenfica

 @slbenfica

 @slbenfica

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

SPORT LISBOA E BENFICA



Since winning the EHF European League in 2021/22, Benfica have struggled to get back to their top form. In 2022/23, the Portuguese side was eliminated in the Last 16 by SG Flensburg-Handewitt, while the following year they finished third in their group and failed to qualify to the next round.

In his second season with Benfica, head coach Jesús Javier González relies on a young team, which also includes experienced key players such as double Olympic bronze medallist Miguel Sanchez.

- **finished third in the Portuguese league last season, behind Sporting CP and FC Porto**
- **star goalkeeper and 2023 EHF Champions League winner with SC Magdeburg, Mike Jensen, left the club in the middle of last season to join Veszprém**
- **three of Benfica's players have been part of Portugal's team at the Men's 20 EHF EURO 2024, which won the silver medal**
- **the roster also includes four players who participated at the Men's 18 EHF EURO 2024**

Sport Lisboa e Benfica have a difficult challenge ahead, both in the domestic league and on the European stage. The last time Benfica won the Portuguese league was in 2008, as the recent years have been under Sporting and Porto's domination. On the other hand, the aim is to improve from their last year's EHF European League performance and secure a qualification from the group matches.

Team captain Béloné Moreira: "We have historic and high-quality opponents. We know that there will be six difficult games and each one of them will be a real battle that we want to win. We don't have games that we prefer, all of them will be taken with the same seriousness and despite the preparation of the opponents, we will focus above all on what we can do."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 5

Winners (1): 2021/22

Last 16 (1): 2022/23

Group matches (1) 2023/24

Qualification (1): 2020/21

Other

EHF Champions League

Qualification (1): 2008/09

EHF Cup

Group phase (2): 2016/17, 2019/20 (*season cancelled due to pandemic*)

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2011/12

Challenge Cup

Runners-up (2): 2010/11, 2015/16

Semi-finals (2): 2007/08, 2014/15

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

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





JESÚS JAVIER GONZÁLEZ

Coach

- arrived at Benfica in summer of 2023 after five seasons with PSG in France as assistant coach under Raul Gonzalez
- reached EHF FINAL4 three times with PSG but never won it
- started coaching career at La Rioja in his native Spain and led that club for 11 years (2007-18)
- finished runners-up in the Spanish league three times and reached the final of the Spanish cup, the league cup, as well as the Super Cup, but failed to win a title with La Rioja
- named best coach of the ASOBAL league in 2011 and 2013

ARRIVALS

Fábio Silva (Artística de Avanca/POR)
Aldo Pagliotta (León/ESP)
Egon Hanusz (Stuttgart/GER)

DEPARTURES

Petar Djordjic (Vojvodina/SRB)
Yoav Lumbroso (Dinamo Bucuresti/ROU)
Mike Jensen (Veszprém/HUN)
Paulo Moreno (Chartres/FRA)
Gustavo Oliveira (Valladolid/ESP)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
2	Miguel	Sanchez-Migallon	ESP	Left wing	08/02/1995	Ciudad Real, ESP	200
4	Christopher	Hedberg	SWE	Right wing	08/08/1992	Karlstad, SWE	193
5	Gabriel	Cavalcanti	POR	Left back	30/05/2004	Lisboa, POR	197
7	Stiven Tobar	Valencia	ISL	Left wing	27/10/2000	Cali, COL	184
C 11	Bélone	Moreira	POR	Centre back	01/06/1990	Lisboa, POR	180
12	Bernardo	Almeida	POR	Goalkeeper	14/06/2005	VilaFrancadeXira, POR	188
17	Gabriel da Costa	Sequeira	POR	Centre back	12/07/2006	Leiria, POR	188
20	Fábio	França Silva	POR	Field player	29/01/2001	Rio Meão, POR	189
21	Aldo Pagliotta	de Andrés	ESP	Field player	02/09/2006	Barcelona, ESP	191
22	Alexis	Borges	POR	Field player	06/10/1991	Cuba, CUB	198
23	Ole	Rahmel	GER	Right wing	19/11/1989	Achim, GER	193
24	Ander	Izquierdo	ESP	Centre back	01/05/2000	Pamplona, ESP	193
27	Rui Miguel	Pereira Baptista	POR	Centre back	15/10/2001	Guimarães, POR	180
28	Filip	Taleski	MKD	Left back	28/03/1996	Krusevo, MKD	200
30	Demis Cosmin	Grigoras	ROU	Right back	30/06/1993	Vaslui, ROU	196
32	Kristóf Laszlo	Palasics	HUN	Goalkeeper	19/04/2002	Kistarcsa, HUN	199
41	Gustavo	Capdeville	POR	Goalkeeper	31/08/1997	Lisboa, POR	190
53	João Bandeira	Lourenço	POR	Left back	10/05/2006	Lisboa, POR	195
77	Egon	Hanusz	HUN	Centre back	25/09/1997	Nagyatád, HUN	177
99	Guilherme	de Carvalho	BRA	Field player	18/02/2003	Rio Verde, BRA	201
	Antonio	Ivo Liques	POR	Right wing	03/07/2002		186
	Edijeso	Freitas Quaresma	POR		26/05/2006		
	Gustavo	De Almeida e Sousa	POR		02/02/2006		
	Miguel	Freire Mendes	POR		03/03/2008		
	Tiago	Ribeiro Alves	POR		30/12/2001		



MIGUEL SANCHEZ-MIGALLON

 @miguelsanchesbm

Left wing

- arrived at Benfica in 2023; quickly became one of the main assets in the roster
- played for three clubs in his native Spain before moving to Kielce for two seasons
- came close to winning the CL trophy with Kielce twice, but lost both finals
- part of the Spanish national team, won bronze at 2020 and 2024 Olympics

OG: B 2020, B 2024; WCh: B 2023; EURO: S 2022



ALEXIS BORGES

 @alexisborges22

Line player

- Cuban-born Portuguese international, who joined Benfica from Montpellier HB in 2021 and won the EL in his first season with the club
- previously played six seasons for Benfica's domestic rivals FC Porto, interrupted by one year on loan with Barça in 2017/18
- with his mentality, he is one of the most important players in both attack and defence

EL: 2022



DEMIS GRIGORAS

 @demisgrigoras


Right back

- Romanian international, who joined Benfica in 2021
- has vast experience, played for Politehnica Timisoara in his home country, Tatabánya in Hungary, and Chambéry in France before moving to Portugal
- was part of Benfica's roster when they won the EL in 2022, having scored 52 times
- has been a key player for the Romanian national team since 2014

EL: 2022



OLE RAHMEL

 @rahmelole

Right wing

- German international, who arrived at Benfica from THW Kiel for the 2020/21 season
- decisive player in Benfica's run to the EL 2021/22 trophy, scoring 11 goals in the final against a club from his native Germany, SC Magdeburg
- earlier won the EHF Cup with Gummersbach in 2009 and again 10 years later with Kiel, and the Cup Winners' Cup twice with Gummersbach

EL: 2022; EHF Cup: 2009, 2019; CWC: 2010, 2011

GROUP C




Club contact

Club address

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Holleho 3
080 01 Presov
Slovakia

Media contact

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ivan.krissak@gmail.com
+421 905 478 115

 tatranpresov.sk

 TATRANPresovHandball

 –

 @_tatranpresov_

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

TATRAN Handball Arena

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

TATRAN PRESOV



After a one-year hiatus, TATRAN Presov return to the EHF European League as Slovakian champions and cup winners. Last year, Presov failed to make an appearance in the second-tier competition, as their 15-year dominance in the domestic league was ended by MŠK Považská Bystrica.

With their 18th Slovakian title conquered in 2024, Presov are now up for their fourth participation in the EHF European League. Led by new coach Ratko Djurkovic and with a mixture of experienced players and young talents in their roster, Presov hope to regain their glory.

- **return to the competition after one year in the EHF European Cup, where they reached the quarter-finals**
- **coach Pavel Jano has been replaced after one year in charge by Ratko Djurkovic of Montenegro**
- **newcomers this season include Russian centre back Igor Karlov, Croatian pivot Domagoj Potnar, Portuguese right back Jorge Silva, and Slovakian goalkeeper Matúš Mitošinka**
- **young players Dávid Turek, Daniel Polanský and Maroš Varga are recovering from injuries**

The Slovakian side will meet two well-known opponents – Kadetten Schaffhausen and Sport Lisboa e Benfica – who they also both faced in the 2022/23 season. At that time, Presov failed to grab a win against their rivals, which prevented them from advancing to the next round. The question now is – how far can Presov go this year?

Team captain Lukáš Urban: “The biggest motivation will be to play matches at the highest possible level and try to maintain the quality. We will try to surprise the favourites and collect some points. And also fight for progress from the group stage.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4

Group phase (3): 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23

Other

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (1): 2004/05

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2011/12

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2005/06

EHF European Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2023/24

Slovakian league: 18 titles (2004, 2005, 2007-2019, 2021, 2022, 2024)

Slovakian cup: 18 titles (2002, 2004, 2005, 2007-2018, 2020, 2023, 2024)





RATKO DJURKOVIC

Coach

- former Montenegrin international, who arrived at Presov in the summer of 2024 to replace Slovakian coach Pavol Jano
- started his coaching career at Lovcen, where he also spent his last year as a professional player
- as a line player, he competed in the EHF Champions League for seven seasons in total, most notably with Szeged
- helped Yugoslavia win bronze at the 2001 World Championship in France

WCh: B 2001 (as player)

ARRIVALS

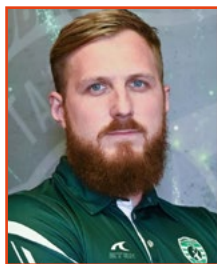
Igor Karlov (Málaga/ESP)
Jorge Silva (Al Adalah/SAU)
Domađoj Potnar (Differdange/LUX)
Matúš Mitošinka (Bratislava/SVK)
Dávid Turek (Presov youth)

DEPARTURES

Marko Davidovič (Steaua Bucuresti/ROU)
Viacheslav Kasatkin (CSKA/RUS)
Mario Cvitkovič (Szigetszentmiklós/HUN)
Márk Kovac (Szigetszentmiklós/HUN)
Danylo Khaian (Lovosice/CZE)
Márk Kovacs (no club)
Tomáš Rečičár (no club)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
2	Maroš	Varga	SVK	Line player	02/01/2004	Trebišov, SVK	200
3	Damián	Mitaľ	SVK	Left wing	01/10/2005	Svidník, SVK	180
4	Igor	KarloV	RUS	Centre back	16/12/1994	Lubeck, RUS	193
5	Tomáš	Fech	SVK	Right wing	08/10/2001	Prešov, SVK	192
7	Michal	Križ	SVK	Right back	29/04/2006	Prešov, SVK	190
8	Adama	Sako	FRA	Left back	02/01/1995	Bondy, FRA	196
9	Domagoj	Potnar	CRO	Line player	26/06/1996	Platernica, CRO	202
10	Šimon	Šebro	SVK	Left back	01/06/2006	Prešov, SVK	190
11	Erik	Fenár	SVK	Right wing	03/02/2004	Prešov, SVK	178
14	Daniil	Radčenko	CZE	Centre back	01/06/2003	Karvina, RUS	178
17	Jakub	Kravčák	SVK	Left back	09/12/2002	Prešov, SVK	195
18	Josef	Hozman	CZE	Right wing	26/07/1998	Vansdorf, CZE	180
19	Daniel	Polanský	SVK	Right back	03/01/2004	Prešov, SVK	197
24	Dávid	Turek	SVK	Left back	26/05/2004	Košice - Šaca, SVK	193
28	Marco	Antl	SVK	Left wing	03/06/2003	Prešov, SVK	181
44	Lucas Adriano	Barros	BRA	Field player	19/07/1988	Araxa, BRA	196
C 47	Lukáš	Urban	SVK	Left back	22/06/1995	Prešov, SVK	201
55	Peter	Kimák Fejko	SVK	Line player	23/07/2002	Prešov, SVK	189
66	Pavel	Hernandez	CUB	Left back	20/09/1991	Matanzas, CUB	188
69	Ján	Krok	SVK	Centre back	31/01/2006	Bardejov, SVK	181
71	Adam	Zubrický	SVK	Goalkeeper	24/10/2006	Prešov, SVK	190
73	Igor	Chupryna	SVK	Goalkeeper	25/04/1990	Illicivsk, UKR	197
82	Jorge	Silva	POR	Right back	23/05/1989	Motosinhos, POR	202
95	Matúš	Mitošinka	SVK	Goalkeeper	10/01/2004	Bratislava, SVK	197

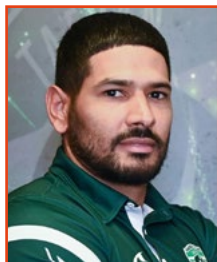


IGOR CHUPRYNA

 @igor_chupryna_73

Goalkeeper

- spent the first years in his professional career at Ukrainian club HC Portovik and moved to Presov in 2015; now one of the oldest players in the team
- will pair with 20-year-old Matúš Mitošinka between the posts of Presov
- born in Odessa, has Slovakian citizenship since 2019
- was also a prolific beach handball player in the past, competing for Ukraine at three Beach Handball EURO events and winning a WCh silver medal



PAVEL HERNANDEZ CABALLERO

 @pavelhandball

Left wing

- joined Presov in 2020 from Portuguese side SC Horta
- will stay with the team for another two years, after renewing his contract in the summer of 2024
- the only Cuban player in the roster, has become indispensable in Presov's attack
- netted 39 goals in the EC 2023/24 season



LUKÁŠ URBAN

 @lukasurban47

Left back

- part of the Slovakian national team, in his 11th season in Presov
- has spent most of his career with the club, except for his short stints at Tatabánya in Hungary and at Chartres in France
- scored a personal best 45 goals for Presov in the EC 2023/24 season
- was out for a long time due to a severe knee injury in 2020 but has fully recovered



LUCAS ADRIANO BARROS

 @lucasbaraxa

Line player

- Brazilian line player, who joined Presov in 2023 on a two-year contract
- gained experience at clubs in Brazil, Portugal, and Spain before moving to Slovakia, but the EC 2023/24 was his first season in a European club competition
- skilled pivot at 1.96m tall and great asset in defence

GROUP D PREVIEW



BIDASOA IRUN AND YSTAD SET TO MEET CONSTANTA AND GLOGOW

Group D consists of EHF club competition regulars Bidasoa Irun and Ystads IF HF, going head-to-head with less experienced sides CSM Constanta and KGHM Chrobry Glogow. While Bidasoa and Ystad might be seen by many as favourites for the main round, Constanta and Glogow showed last season that they are not to be underestimated.



Bidasoa Irun, one of four Spanish clubs in the EHF European League group matches this season, were the most successful of this quartet in 2023/24, when they came runners-up in the Liga ASOBAL behind Machineseecker EHF Champions League winners Barça. The Basque club is back in the EHF's second-tier club competition after a one-year absence, having reached the Last 16 in 2022/23. Alex Mozas' squad is a mixture of quality and youth, and the veteran goalkeeper Leo Maciel joined the ranks over the summer from Sporting CP to enhance the squad's experience. Bidasoa hope to lift a European trophy for the first time since the EHF Champions League in 1995 and the Cup Winners' Cup in 1997.



CSM Constanta were one of the pleasant surprises in the EHF's second-tier club competition last season, eliminating the finalists from the season before – Fraikin BM. Granollers – in the qualifying round, before reaching the main round. Now, the Romanian runners-up are back as a more experienced side, ready to repeat last season's success. And they share a group again with Glogow, after they beat the Polish side at home (29:18) and got a draw in the away game (29:29) in the 2023/24 group matches.



Ystad are back in the EHF European League group stage after a one-year absence and the Swedish club looks as determined as ever. The EHF European Cup runners-up from 2020/21 overcame the challenge set by Marítimo da Madeira Andebol/SAD in the qualification round. Averaging 36 goals in the tie over both legs, their offensive strength was on evidence with their new signing from THW Kiel, Niclas Ekberg, playing a key role. The Swedish club boasts quality all over the court.

Glogow return to the group matches a year after their debut in the EHF European League last season. The Polish club is now looking to secure their first-ever win in the competition. Last season, they finished in last place in the group, and picked up their only point on home court against CSM Constanta. Now, they are up against strong opponents again, but will be richer for the experience gained from last season. Glogow are the underdogs in group D, but they finished fourth in the Polish Superliga last year and could cause problems for their opponents, especially on home soil in Poland backed by their legion of fans.

Filip Mishov

I GROUP D HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS DUELS BETWEEN THE TEAMS OF GROUP D

Bidasoa Irun vs CSM Constanta

No previous encounters in European competitions

Bidasoa Irun vs KGHM Chrobry Glogow

No previous encounters in European competitions

Bidasoa Irun vs Ystads IF HF

No previous encounters in European competitions

CSM Constanta vs KGHM Chrobry Glogow 1-1-0 (58:47) 3:1

14.11.2023	CSM Constanta vs KGHM Chrobry Glogow, EHF European League – Group H	29:18 (15:8)
21.11.2023	KGHM Chrobry Glogow vs CSM Constanta, EHF European League – Group H	29:29 (14:19)

CSM Constanta vs Ystads IF HF

No previous encounters in European competitions

KGHM Chrobry Glogow vs Ystads IF HF

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP D



Club contact

Club address


Bidasoa Irun
Polideportivo Artaleku s/n
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 CDBidasoaIrun

 @CDBidasoaIrun

 @cdbidasoirun

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

BIDASOA IRUN



After a one-year hiatus, Bidasoa Irun are back in the EHF European League. They lost in the Last 16 in both 2021/22 and 2022/23.

The Spanish side has big ambitions, fueled by a core providing an interesting mix of youth and experience. Players like goalkeeper Leonel Maciel and the Salinas brothers – Esteban and Rodrigo – bring experience to the table. But then there is a plethora of young players, aged between 19 and 23, which are starting to deliver better and better performances for Bidasoa Irun.

- **the Spanish side return to the EHF European League after one year; they were eliminated two seasons ago in the Last 16 by Sporting CP**
- **Bidasoa Irun finished second in the Spanish league last season behind champions Barça**
- **this is the 14th European season in Bidasoa's history; they won the EHF Cup Winners' Cup in 1997**
- **Bidasoa have a new coach, Alejandro Mozas, who joins from another Spanish club participating in the EHF European League, Bathco Bm. Torrelavega**

Bidasoa also have a new coach, with Alejandro Mozas taking over from Jacobo Cuetara. The young coach will make his debut in an European competition with the Spanish side.

Team captain Gorka Nieto says: "Having the opportunity to play European competition again is a luxury. Even more so after last year we suffered from being left out of it. Trying to go as far as possible and being able to enjoy our fans against great foreign teams is a great motivation for the entire team."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4

Last 16 (2): 2021/22, 2022/23

Qualification (1): 2020/21

Other

EHF Champions League

Winners (1): 1994/95

Runners-up (1): 1995/96

Group phase (1): 2019/20

Champions Trophy

Runners-up: 1996/97

EHF Cup

Semi-finals (2): 1993/94, 2000/01

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

Cup Winners' Cup

Winners (1): 1996/97

Spanish league: 2 titles (1987, 1994)

Spanish cup: 2 titles (1991, 1996)





ALEJANDRO MOZAS

Coach

- named as Bidasoa's coach last December, but actually started work at the club at the beginning of the 2024/25 season
- has coached at Alcobendas and at Bathco BM Torrelavega, who he took charge of in 2018, helping them promote in 2021
- named the best coach in the Spanish league in the 2021/22 season
- he also worked for the Spanish federation as the assistant coach of the Spain junior national team

ARRIVALS

Leo Maciel (Sporting/POR)
Theodoros Boskos (Puente Genil/ESP)

DEPARTURES


Mehdi Harbaoui (Dunkerque/FRA)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	David	Failde Fuentes	ESP	Goalkeeper	07/09/2006	Lalín, ESP	196
2	Iñaki	Cavero Echepeare	ESP	Right wing	27/04/1996	Irun, ESP	183
4	Marko	Jevtic	SRB	Line player	17/10/2001	Banja Luka, BIH	196
6	Endika	Wamba	ESP	Left wing	30/04/2005	Irun, ESP	190
7	Javier	Gastaminza	ESP	Right wing	07/09/2005	Irun, SP	182
8	Mikel	Zabala Ugarteburu	ESP	Left wing	23/04/1998	Eibar, ESP	180
9	Tao	Gey Empanan	FRA	Right wing	25/11/2003	Urrugne, FRA	175
10	Eneko	Furundarena Maiz	ESP	Left back	30/04/2003	Usurbil, ESP	195
11	Esteban Joaquin Salinas		ESP	Line player	18/01/1992	Vina del Mar, CHI	180
17	Rodrigo Alonso	Salinas Muñoz	CHI	Right back	25/02/1989	Vina del Mar, CHI	185
18	Andoni	Beraza Figueroa	ESP	Left back	08/05/2005	Orio, ESP	190
19	Julen	Múgica Santiago	ESP	Right back	03/09/2003	Renteria, ESP	190
20	Theodoros	Boskos	GRE	Left back	07/04/2001	Panorama, GRE	191
22	Alexandre Mihai Raix		FRA	Left back	03/02/2007	Bayonne, FRA	199
23	Asier	Iribar Carceller	ESP	Centre back	02/04/2003	Zumaia, ESP	191
28	Matheus Francisco Da Silva		BRA	Line player	07/02/1998	Nova Iguacu, BRA	199
C 31	Gorka	Nieto Marcos	ESP	Centre back	31/01/2002	Etxebarri, ESP	185
32	Dariel	García Rivera	CUB	Left wing	31/12/1996	La Habana, CUB	196
33	Jakub	Skrzyniarz	POL	Goalkeeper	06/06/1996	Lubin, POL	189
35	Pedro	Souza Pacheco	BRA	Centre back	04/04/1998	Sao Paulo, BRA	188
37	Jon Ander	Iribar Carceller	ESP	Left back	09/08/2005	Zumaia, ESP	197
39	Asier	Nieto Marcos	ESP	Left back	21/11/1997	Etxebarri, ESP	190
40	Leonel Carlos	Maciel	ARG	Goalkeeper	04/01/1989	Buenos Aires, ARG	193
97	Alberto	Díaz Hernández	ESP	Left back	06/09/2000	Alcalá de Henares, ESP	195



LEONEL MACIEL

 @40leomaciel

Goalkeeper

- Argentinian international; joined the club in 2024 after two seasons with Sporting CP, also played for CL winners Barça in the 2021/22 season
- previously played for three other Spanish sides: Cuenca, Zamora and Octavio; gained his first European cup experience with Cuenca in 2018/19
- won the South and Central American Championship with Argentina in January 2020, has also represented his national team at the Olympics

CL: 2022



THEODOROS BOSKOS

 @boskos_thodoris

Left back

- Greek international, came to Spain before in 2021 and first played for Ademar Leon and Puente Genil before signing with Bidasoa Irun in the summer of 2024
- scored 130 goals for Puente Genil in the Spanish league in 2023/24
- is a classic left back with a strong shot
- part of Greece national team that made EHF EURO debut in January 2024



GORKA NIETO

 @nietogorka31

Centre back

- born in Etxebarri, he made his debut for Bidasoa Irun in the 2019/20 season and has not played for another club since
- M20 EHF EURO 2022 champion with Spain, yet to make his debut for the senior side
- his brother, Asier, is Gorka's teammate at Bidasoa Irun
- named captain of Bidasoa in August 2023 before the start of the 2023/24 season, when he was the team's top scorer in the Spanish league



RODRIGO SALINAS MUNOZ

 @r.salinas17

Right back

- Chile national team player who arrived in Spain in 2010, and at Bidasoa Irun in 2017
- previously played for a wide range of clubs, including Badajoz, Huesca, Torrevieja and Granollers in Spain, CSM Bucuresti in Romania, and Nantes and Chartres in France
- was Granollers' top scorer with 128 goals when the club finished third in the ASOBAL league in 2013/14
- his brother, Esteban, also plays for Bidasoa as a line player

GROUP D



Club contact


Club address

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 csmconstanta.ro

 constantacsm

 –

 @csmconstanta

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

**Simona Amanar Sports
Hall Constanta**
B.dul Tomis Nr. 102-104
900178 Constanta,
Romania
Capacity: 2,994

CSM CONSTANTA



Last season, CSM Constanta qualified for the group matches for the first time through a dramatic penalty shootout win in the qualification round against Fraikin BM. Granollers. They progressed through to the main round, where their campaign ended.

The Romanian side reached second place in the domestic league last season, their best result since 2018/19. They are currently coached by George Buricea, who is also the Romania men's national team coach, and rely on a Romanian core, with players he knows best.

- **this is the eighth season in European competitions for Constanta, but only the third in the group phase of the second-tier European competition**
- **finished second in the Romanian league last season, their best performance in the last five years**
- **Constanta's coach, George Buricea, enters his fourth consecutive season on the team's bench, having been a former player for the Romanian side**
- **in the past season, Constanta made it to the main round and won four of the 10 matches they played**

Constanta's ambitions for 2024/25 are high. They have retained most of their core, with only three players leaving and three players joining, meaning the team's chemistry and depth are unaffected.

Team captain Ionut Nistor: "The previous season was our best one. Although we obtained much more than we had hoped for, the feeling we had in the end was that we could have done better in several occasions, especially against the super teams, like Fuchse Berlin. When you shock the competition eliminating a former finalist like Granollers on their home ground and make a competitive round against the winners Fuchse, this can boost your motivation to want more."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 5

Main round (1): 2023/24

Qualification (3): 2020/21, 2021/22; 2022/23

Other

EHF Cup

Semi-finals (1): 2013/14

EHF Cup Winners' Cup

Semi-finals (1): 2005/06

Quarter-finals (2): 2006/07, 2008/09

EHF Challenge Cup

Semi-finals (1): 2003/04

Romanian league: 9 titles (2004, 2006, 2007, 2009-2014)

Romanian cup: 7 titles (2006, 2011-14, 2018, 2023)





GEORGE BURICEA

Coach

- started playing handball when he was 15 years old but he also dabbled in athletics
- played for Constanta and Steaua București as a left wing
- reached the EHF Cup Finals with CSM Constanta in 2014, won 10 Romanian league titles as a player
- took over the head coach position in 2022, having been an assistant for two seasons for Constanta
- since 2024, he is also the head coach of the Romania men's national team

ARRIVALS

Andrei Buzle (Granollers/ESP)
Nicolae Cristian Ungureanu (Steaua/ROU)
András Szász (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)

DEPARTURES

Daniel Andrei Susanu (Buzău/ROU, on loan)
Liviu Caba (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)
Marin Vegar (Nexe/CRO)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Dumitru	Vladut Rusu	ROU	Goalkeeper	27/04/1998	Bacau, ROU	187
3	Rares Andrei	Stefan	ROU	Right wing	04/08/2004	Constanta, ROU	192
C 5	Ionut	Nistor Ionita	ROU	Right wing	24/05/1994	Buftea, ROU	187
7	Alexandru	George Andrei	ROU	Left wing	17/07/1998	Braila, ROU	175
8	Irakli	Chikovani	GEO	Left back	28/07/1989	Tbilisi, GEO	197
10	Gabriel Cristian	Ilie	ROU	Left back	11/03/1999	Galati, ROU	193
12	Alexandru	Gabriel Chilianu	ROU	Goalkeeper	24/04/2000	Constanta, ROU	195
13	Mikalai	Aliokhin	BLR	Right back	09/04/1998	Novopolotsk, BLR	190
14	Calin Mihai	Cabut	ROU	Centre back	06/10/1998	Reghin, ROU	192
16	Dan Lucian	Vasile	ROU	Goalkeeper	09/07/1997	Bistrita, ROU	190
17	Iosif Andrei	Buzle	ROU	Left back	03/05/1999	Timisoara, ROU	198
20	Andrei Valeriu	Dragan	ROU	Centre back	06/07/1999	Calinesti, ROU	185
22	Gastón Alberto	Mouriño	ARG	Line player	12/10/1994	Buenos Aires, ITA	190
23	Zoran	Nikolic	SRB	Line player	23/02/1991	Belgrade, SRB	188
24	András	Szász	ROU	Line player	24/01/1994	Odorheiu, ROU	198
27	Nicolae Cristian	Ungureanu	ROU	Right back	24/12/1994	Ploiesti, ROU	192
31	Strahinja	Stankovic	SRB	Right wing	12/06/1991	Vrbas, SRB	185
33	Valentino	Ravnic	CRO	Left wing	20/07/1995	Zadar, CRO	185
34	Vitaly	Komogorov	RUS	Left back	28/08/1991	Volgograd, RUS	196
88	Antonio	Cristea	ROU	Goalkeeper	26/11/2007	Medgidia, ROU	192



DAN VASILE

 @dannivasile_

Goalkeeper

- arrived at Constanta in 2017 as a Romanian youth international; has always played for the club except for half a year on loan at CSM Fagaras
- won the Romanian cup in his first season with Constanta, and again in 2022/23
- has played in Europe's second-tier club competition each season since 2017/18
- was part of the Romanian squad for the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in Germany



VALENTINO RAVNIC

 @valentinoravnic33

Left wing

- Croatian international, who started his senior career at Zagreb in 2017 after emerging from their youth academy
- played five seasons with Zagreb before moving abroad and joining Constanta in 2022
- scored a personal best 36 goals for Constanta in the EL 2023/24 season
- played for Croatia at the EHF EURO in 2020 and 2022



VITALY KOMOGOROV

 @vitaly34komogorov

Left back

- experienced Russian international, who arrived at Constanta from Tatabánya in 2020
- best left back of the season in Romania in 2018 and 2019, when he played for Dinamo
- started professional career in Volgograd; left Russia for the first time in 2015 to play for Nantes in France; played the EHF Cup final with Nantes in 2016
- his height and power turn him into a key player for Constanta both sides of the court



VALERIU ANDREI DRAGAN

 @andrei.dragan20

Centre back

- considered one of the most talented players in Romania
- signed for Constanta in 2021 when he was 22
- started playing handball at his local club, in Sfântu Gheorghe, then spent five years at CSM Bacău before signing for Constanta
- played for Romania at EHF EURO 2024, his debut at a major tournament

GROUP D




Club contact


Club address

KGHM Chrobry Glogow
ul. Wita Stwosza 1
67-200 Glogow, Poland


Media contact

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 chrobryhandball.pl

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

 –

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Sportowi Hala Ryszarda
Matuszaka
Wita Stwosza 1
67-200 Glogow, Poland
Capacity: 1,300

KGHM CHROBRY GLOGOW



KGHM Chrobry Glogow are still looking to gain more experience on the international stage. Their debut in the second-tier competition last season was a challenging one, as the team led by Vitaliy Nat only managed to gain one point – from a tie with CSM Constanta – and finished fourth in the group.

Before the 2023/24 season, their last previous experience in European competitions dated back to 2007/08, when Glogow reached the quarter-finals of the Challenge Cup, only to be eliminated by Pfadi Winterthur.

- secured their place in the EHF European League group matches by finishing fourth in the Polish league
- are one of two Polish teams taking part – the other one is Górnik Zabrze
- this is coach Vitaliy Nat's sixth season with the team, after he previously coached ZTR Zaporozhye
- the squad has not had many changes compared to last season – goalkeeper Maksym Lobchuk, line player Jakub Adamski and left back Kamil Mosiołek joined the team

Keeping the transfers to a minimum over the summer might be an asset for Glogow – especially now that they face a rival from last season: CSM Constanta. Sharing the group with bigger names is less than ideal for the Polish underdogs, but it is also a chance for them to measure their strength.

Team captain Rafal Stachera: “My biggest motivation for the new season in the EHF European League will be the desire to prove that I can play at a high level and help the team achieve the best result. The match I am looking forward to the most is probably the one against the Irun team. My friend from Głogów, Jakub Skrzyniarz, plays there.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 2

Group matches (1): 2023/24

Other

EHF Cup

Round 3 (1): 2006/07

Challenge Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2007/08

Polish league: –

Polish cup: –





VITALIY NAT

Coach

- former Ukrainian international, who arrived at Glogow as head coach prior to the 2019/20 season
- spent the last seven seasons before retiring as a player in 2014 in Poland and played for several clubs, including Plock and Kielce; however, he did not play for Glogow
- started coaching career with ZTR in his hometown Zaporozhye in 2015 before joining Glogow four years later
- played as a centre back, and scored 263 goals in 75 matches for the Ukraine national team between 1998 and 2014

ARRIVALS

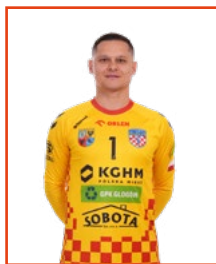
Kamil Mosiołek (Piotrków/POL)
Maksym Lobchukiem (Klaipeda/LTU)
Jakub Adamski (Tarnów/POL)

DEPARTURES

Aleksandr Tilte (Besiktas/TUR)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
C 1	Rafal	Stachera	POL	Goalkeeper	28/04/1986	Wroclaw, POL	185
3	Kacper	Grabowski	POL	Left wing	17/11/1998	Lublin, POL	179
4	Maxym	Strelnikov	UKR	Left back	08/01/1997	Zaporizhzhia, UKR	204
6	Filip	Wrona	POL	Centre back	30/11/2004	Sucha Beskidzka, POL	188
9	Jedrzej	Zieniewicz	POL	Left back	02/04/1997	Zielona Góra, POL	187
12	Maksim	Lobchuk	UKR	Goalkeeper	28/05/2000	Wroclaw, POL	195
13	Tomasz	Kosznik	POL	Right wing	12/04/2002	Gdynia, POL	181
17	Jakub	Orpik	POL	Line player	12/06/1998	Sokółka, POL	191
18	Rafal	Jamiol	POL	Right back	02/01/1995	Kielce, POL	192
20	Wojciech	Dadej	POL	Centre back	16/02/2000	Szczecin, POL	185
22	Anton	Dereviankin	UKR	Goalkeeper	21/06/1991	Khartsyzsk, UKR	191
23	Jakub	Adamski	POL	Line player	08/03/2000	Wroclaw, POL	193
24	Wojciech	Matuszak	POL	Right back	27/01/1995	Zielona Góra, POL	190
26	Anton	Otrezov	RUS	Left back	24/08/1988	Aima-Ata, RUS	191
27	Wojciech	Styrcz	POL	Left wing	30/01/2001	Legnica, POL	175
33	Kamil	Mosiolek	POL	Centre back	02/02/1996	Legnica, POL	183
35	Pawel	Paterek	POL	Centre back	17/12/2000	Lubin, POL	186
77	Wojciech	Hajnos	POL	Right wing	22/04/1998	Rabka Zdrój, POL	180
78	Bartosz	Skiba	POL	Line player	26/07/1996	Chrzanów, POL	189



RAFAL STACHERA

 @rstachera

Goalkeeper

- experienced goalkeeper and team captain, who has not played for another club since joining Glogow in 2010 from Wroclaw
- at age 38, he has entered the second European cup season of his career
- was nominated for goalkeeper of the Polish league last season, but lost against Plock's Marcel Jastrzębski
- runs a chalet rental agency in Poland



JĘDRZEJ ZIENIEWICZ

 @jedruksss

Left back

- strong long-distance shooter, who arrived at Glogow from Polish league rivals Kalisz in the summer of 2023
- previously played for Gwardia Opole and gained two seasons of European cup experience, playing the EHF Cup in 2018/19 and 2019/20
- started playing handball at age eight in primary school



PAWEŁ PATEREK

 @pawel_paterekk

Centre back

- joined Glogow in 2021 and has scored over 100 goals each season in the Polish league
- part of the Polish national team, the EHF EURO 2024 was his first major tournament
- managed 192 assists in the domestic championship in the 2023/24 season
- intelligent playmaker and goalscorer, who can also assist his teammates



JAKUB ORPIK

 @j_orpik

Line player

- former Polish youth international, who has been with Glogow since 2018
- had his first European cup experience last season, when he scored 16 goals for Glogow in the EHF European League
- had his best season so far with Glogow in 2023/24, when he scored 75 goals in the Polish league and helped his team qualify for the EHF European League again

GROUP D



Club contact


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 yif.se

 YIFhandboll

 @YIFhandboll

 @yifhandboll

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

YSTADS IF HF



Ystads IF HF have now reached the group phase of the EHF European League for the second time in the club's history, after obtaining a hard-fought aggregate win against Maritimo da Madeira Andebol/SAD in qualification (72:66).

In 2022/23 — the first time they featured in the group matches — Ystad went all the way to the Last 16, but were denied a quarter-final ticket by Kadetten Schaffhausen. This year, they hope to replicate that success, but it's going to be a challenging task in group D.

- **their best European success was finishing the EHF European Cup 2020/21 as runners-up, after losing against AEK Athens HC in the final**
- **Denmark's Kristian Olsen and Norway's Carl Colin Tønnesen are their only non-Swedish players**
- **EHF Champions League winner Niclas Ekberg left THW Kiel after 12 years to return to his hometown and join Ystads' roster for 2024/25**
- **Ystad are one of the two Swedish teams in the competition this season, alongside domestic champions IK Sävehof**

The team's roster offers a unique mix of youth and experience and the addition of star player Niclas Ekberg will definitely bring leverage to Ystad's play.

The element of stability comes from coach Oscar Carlén, who has been at the helm for the past four years. But the question is — can Ystad go one step further on the European stage?

Team captain Jakob Nygren: "It will be a big motivation for the team to be back in the EHF European League again. It will also be a big motivation to fight for the gold in the Swedish league after the defeat in the final last season. We are looking forward to all the matches and it will be a new experience to face them all."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4

Last 16 (1): 2022/23

Qualification (2): 2021/22, 2023/24

Other

EHF Cup

Group phase (1): 2015/16

EHF European Cup

Runners-up (1): 2020/21

EHF Challenge Cup

Last 16 (1): 2003/04

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

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





OSCAR CARLÉN

Coach

- former Swedish international, who retired at age 25 after suffering from multiple knee injuries
- has only played for three clubs in his career — Ystads IF, and SG Flensburg-Handewitt and HSV Hamburg in Germany
- was also part of the Swedish national team and played at the EHF EURO 2008 and 2009 WCh
- came back to Ystad as an assistant coach in 2017 and became head coach in 2020
- one of his former teammates is currently playing for Ystad: 42-year-old right back Kim Andersson

ARRIVALS

Kristian Olsen (Nordsjælland/DEN)
Niclas Ekberg (Kiel/GER)
Alfred Landin (Ystad youth/SWE)

DEPARTURES

Jonathan Svensson (Fredericia/DEN)
Hampus Karlsson (AMO/SWE)
Ebbe Stankiewicz (SønderjyskE/DEN)
Elliot Stenmalm (Kristianstad/SWE)
Jonathan Andersson (IFK Ystad/SWE)

TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Alexander	Lindén	SWE	Goalkeeper	29/07/2003	Kungsbacka, SWE	195
2	Anton	Månsson	SWE	Line player	09/01/1989	Kävlinge, SWE	196
3	Oskar	Joelsson	SWE	Left back	12/02/2000	Helsingborg, SWE	197
4	Philip	Stenmalm	SWE	Left back	03/03/1992	Vaxjo, SWE	200
5	Kim	Andersson	SWE	Right back	21/08/1982	Malmø, SWE	200
C 6	Jakob	Nygren	SWE	Right back	14/01/1992	Simrishamn, SWE	188
7	Carl Colin	Tönnesen	NOR	Right back	26/10/2006	Lübecke, GER	190
9	Linus	Fernebrand	SWE	Left wing	16/09/1994	Söndrum, SWE	191
10	Kristian	Olsen	DEN	Right back	21/03/2000	Faaborg-Midtfyn, DEN	198
11	Lowe	Nilsson	SWE	Line player	28/05/2006	Ystad, SWE	189
12	Viggo	Håkansson	SWE	Goalkeeper	04/04/2006	Ljunghusen, SWE	211
14	Jonathan	Wilthorn	SWE	Line player	14/03/1994	Lund, SWE	196
16	Erik	Hvenfelt	SWE	Goalkeeper	16/09/1999	Nödinge, SWE	197
17	Holger	Mårtensson	SWE	Centre back	01/04/2006	Ystad, SWE	183
18	Niclas	Ekberg	SWE	Right wing	23/12/1988	Ystad, SWE	191
19	Alfred	Landin	SWE	Right wing	23/03/2005	Ystad, SWE	185
20	Nils	Persson	SWE	Left wing	20/02/2002	Ystad, SWE	177
22	Carl	Lindström	SWE	Line player	22/07/2005	Linköping, SWE	205
29	Liam	Hultberg	SWE	Left back	04/04/2006	Ystad, SWE	191
32	Julius	Lindskog Andersson	SWE	Centre back	21/07/1994	Ystad, SWE	183
51	Melvin	Seifert	SWE	Centre back	07/03/2006	Ystad, SWE	191



PHILIP STENMALM

 @stenmalm

Left back

- returned to Ystad in 2021, after playing for Logroño, Kolding, PAUC, and Plock
- named best defender of the Swedish league in 2023/24
- represented Sweden at EHF EURO 2016, Rio 2016 Olympics, and 2017 WCh
- his brother Elliot is also a professional handball player, who has joined IFK Kristianstad this season



JULIUS LINDSKOG ANDERSSON

 @juliuslindskogandersson

Centre back

- joined Ystad in 2021, has extended his contract until 2027
- scored the winning penalty which brought Ystad the Swedish domestic championship in 2022, ending a 30-year title drought for the club
- was named MVP of the second German division in 2019/20 when playing for Ferndorf
- son of former Swedish international Robert Andersson



KIM ANDERSSON

Centre back

- three-time CL winner with Kiel in 2007, 2010 and 2012 and at 42 by far the most experienced player in Ystad's squad
- after his stint in Kiel, he moved for three years to KIF Kolding, but returned to Sweden in 2015, signing for Ystad
- All-star right back at EHF EURO 2008; also won silver at London 2012 Olympics
- was named the Swedish Player of the Year in 2007, 2008, and 2012

CL: 2007, 2010, 2012
OG: S 2012



NICLAS EKBERG

 @ekbergniclas18

Right wing

- Ystad-born player, who returned to his home team in 2024 after 12 years in Kiel; had immediate impact for the club with 19 goals in their EL 2024/25 qualification
- became Kiel's all-time top scorer during the 2021/22 season, passing Filip Jicha
- CL top scorer with 85 goals and All-star right wing in Kiel's golden 2019/20 season
- Swedish international, scored winning penalty in final of EHF EURO 2022

CL: 2020; EC: 2019
OG: S 2012; EURO: G 2022

GROUP E PREVIEW

FAVOURITES KIEL CHALLENGED BY THREE FIRST-TIME OPPONENTS



Who can challenge THW Kiel? This is the main question before the start of group E. The four-time EHF Champions League winners are playing in the EHF European League for the first time – and for the first time in the second-tier European club competition since winning the EHF Cup in 2018/19. THW have won the second-tier competition all four times they have played in it. By signing goalkeeper and 2024 Olympic silver medallist Andreas Wolff, Kiel have made a huge transfer coup. Thanks to their experienced squad, the German side is supposedly the favourites in this group, in which they only face teams they have never duelled against before. In June 2024, Kiel finished third at the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 in Cologne, but missed out on EHF Champions League qualification by only finishing fourth in the German Bundesliga.



Kiel's major challengers are RK Nexe. The biggest international success of the Croatian league runners-up to date was qualification for the EHF Finals 2022 in Lisbon, where they finished fourth. In the 2023/24 season, Nexe were eliminated in the play-offs of the EHF European League by German side Rhein-Neckar Löwen and soon after parted ways with head coach Veselin Vujovic, who was succeeded by Kresimir Ivankovic. Two of Nexe's top stars transferred to Germany ahead of the new season; goalkeeper Dominik Kuzmanovic (VfL Gummersbach) and playmaker Marko Bezjak (HC Erlangen).



Compared to the international experience of Kiel and Nexe, Bathco Bm. Torrelavega are newbies, as the Spaniards make their debut in the EHF club competitions. In 2022, they were promoted to the Spanish ASOBAL league and after only one season, the team of head coach Alex Mozas Garcia have qualified for the EHF European League.



Serbian champions Vojvodina from Novi Sad made history by winning the EHF European Cup in 2023 – and now play their second consecutive season in the EHF European League. Last year, they qualified for the main round, but then only won one of four matches – against Kadetten Schaffhausen, in a group that also included eventual champions SG Flensburg-Handewitt. In 2024, Vojvodina took their fourth straight trophy in the Serbian league, their 11th title in all in the competition – but failed to defend their trophy in the Serbian cup after a thrilling final against RK Partizan.

Björn Pazen

I GROUP E HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS DUELS BETWEEN THE TEAMS OF GROUP E

THW Kiel vs RK Nexe

No previous encounters in European competitions

THW Kiel vs Bathco Bm. Torrelavega

No previous encounters in European competitions

THW Kiel vs Vojvodina

No previous encounters in European competitions

RK Nexe vs Bathco Bm. Torrelavega

No previous encounters in European competitions

RK Nexe vs Vojvodina

No previous encounters in European competitions

Bathco Bm. Torrelavega vs Vojvodina

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP E




Club contact


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 thwhandball

 @thw_handball

 @thwhandball

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: peppermint

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

THW KIEL



THW Kiel are the most successful club in German handball – and rarely finish a season without a trophy. It almost happened in 2023/24. They lost the semi-final at the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2024 to eventual champions Barça, and had to settle domestically for only the super cup.

For the first time since the 2018/19 season, the four-time champions missed the qualification to the EHF Champions League. But each season they did not qualify for the top-flight competition since 1995, they won the second-tier competition.

- **new arrival Emil Madsen was the Machineseeker EHF Champions League 2022/23 top scorer and of the two previous seasons in the Danish league**
- **Andreas Wolff was named best goalkeeper of the Men's EHF EURO 2024; he will be joined by Gonzalo Pérez de Vargas from Barça in 2025**
- **Kiel won both the EHF Champions League and the EHF Cup four times, and are German record champions (23 times) and record cup winners (12)**
- **coach Filip Jicha won the EHF Champions League as a player and a coach and he is the only person to win the trophy at the EHF FINAL4 in Cologne in both functions**

Kiel's squad has been bolstered by returnee Andreas Wolff, who came back after five years in Kielce. Besides him, only left-handed players arrived at Kiel: right wings Lukas Zerbe (from TBV Lemgo) and Bence Imre (FTC) and right back Emil Madsen (GOG).

On the other hand, two club legends have left: all-time club top scorer Niclas Ekberg, who returned to Sweden (Ystads IF HF) and EHF EURO 2016 champion Steffen Weinhold. Also, key right back Harald Reinkind is out injured until February 2025 and will miss the group matches.

THW Kiel have never played before against any of their group phase opponents. "We are the favourites in this group and we want to live up to that. The clubs and the cities definitely sound like adventures," said sports director Viktor Szilagyi.

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 1

Other

EHF Champions League

Winners (4): 2006/07, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2019/20

Runners-up (4): 1999/2000, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2013/14

Semi-finals (7): 1996/97, 2000/01, 2012/13, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2021/22, 2023/24

EHF Cup

Winners (4): 1997/98, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2018/19

Champions Trophy

Winners (1): 2006/07

German league: 23 titles (1957, 1962-63, 1994-96, 1998-2000, 2002, 2005-10, 2012-15, 2020-21, 2023)

German cup: 12 titles (1998-2000, 2007-09, 2011-13, 2017, 2019, 2022)





FILIP JICHA

Coach

- former Czech international, took over as head coach at THW Kiel in 2019 after one season as an assistant
- became only the third THW head coach since 1993 – after Noka Serdarusic (1993-2008) and Alfred Gislason (2008-19)
- led Kiel to domestic and CL titles in his first season in charge and was awarded best Bundesliga coach of 2019/20
- twice the CL top scorer, he ended his career in Barcelona in 2017
- first in handball to win the EHF FINAL4 in Cologne as a player (2010, 2012) and as a coach (2020)

CL: 2010, 2012 (as player), 2020 (as coach); EC: 2006 (as player)

ARRIVALS

Andreas Wolff (Kielce/POL)
Bence Imre (FTC/HUN)
Emil Wernsdorf Madsen (GOG/DEN)
Lukas Zerbe (Lemgo Lippe/GER)
Leon Nowotny (Kiel youth/GER)
Linus Kutz (Kiel youth)

DEPARTURES

Niclas Ekberg (Ystad/SWE)
Steffen Weinhold (unknown)
Sven Ehrig (Holstebro/DEN)
Eduardo Gurbindo (Besiktas/TUR)
Jarnes Faust (Lemgo Lippe/GER)
Magnus Bierfreund (Balingen-Weilstetten/GER)
Luca Schwormstede (Konstanz/GER)

TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
C 4	Domagoj	Duvnjak	CRO	Centre back	01/06/1988	Dakovo, CRO	198
6	Harald	Reinkind	NOR	Right back	17/08/1992	Tonsberg, NOR	197
7	Magnus	Landin	DEN	Left wing	20/08/1995	Helsingor, DEN	197
11	Petter	Øverby	NOR	Line player	26/03/1992	Kongsvinger, NOR	200
12	Leon	Nowotny	GER	Goalkeeper	09/08/2005	Hamburg, GER	200
16	Tomas	Mrkva	CZE	Goalkeeper	20/01/1989	Havirov, CZE	201
C 17	Patrick	Wiencek	GER	Line player	22/03/1989	Duisburg, GER	200
19	Henri	Pabst	GER	Right back	09/02/2004	Hamburg, GER	190
21	Eric	Johansson	SWE	Left back	28/06/2000	Eskilstuna, SWE	197
23	Rune	Dahmke	GER	Left wing	10/04/1993	Kiel, GER	189
24	Lukas	Zerbe	GER	Right wing	17/01/1996	Lemgo, GER	184
25	Linus	Kutz	GER	Centre back	28/02/2005	Hamburg, GER	187
33	Andreas	Wolff	GER	Goalkeeper	03/03/1991	Euskirchen, GER	198
34	Samir	Bellahcene	FRA	Goalkeeper	20/02/1995	Montpellier, FRA	191
45	Emil	Madsen	DEN	Right back	01/01/2001	Svendborg, DEN	194
49	Karl	Wallinius	SWE	Left back	14/01/1999	Lund, SWE	199
C 53	Mykola	Bilyk	AUT	Left back	28/11/1996	Tunis, TUN	198
61	Hendrik	Pekeler	GER	Line player	02/07/1991	Itzehoe, GER	203
71	Elias Ellefsen á Skipagøtu		FAR	Centre back	19/05/2002	Torshavn, FAR	187
91	Bence	Imre	HUN	Right wing	15/10/2002	Budapest, HUN	185



ANDREAS WOLFF

 @andi_jo_wo

Goalkeeper

- German international, who after five years in Kielce, including two CL finals, has returned Kiel, where he already played until 2019
- Kielce were his first and only foreign club; also played for Wetzlar until 2016
- named German Handball Player of the Year in 2015 and 2016
- All-star goalkeeper of EHF EURO in 2016, when he led Germany to gold, and in 2024

EC: 2019
EURO: G 2016; OG: S 2024, B 2016



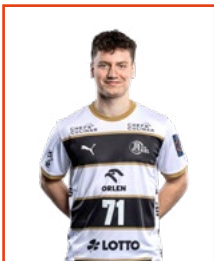
ERIC JOHANSSON

 @johanssooneric

Left back

- Swedish international who joined Kiel in 2022, the same year he won the EHF EURO with Sweden
- grew up at hometown club Eskilstuna Guif, signed for Elverum in the summer of 2021
- became a key attacking player at Kiel, being the top back court scorer in all competitions in the 2023/24 season, but he is also a refined assist giver

EURO: G 2022, B 2024

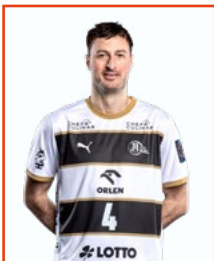


ELIAS ELLEFSEN Á SKIPAGØTU

 @skipagotu

Centre back

- leader of a strong Faroese generation, arrived at Kiel in 2023 from Sävehof
- had international breakthrough in 2019, scoring 69 goals and becoming MVP when the Faroese youth national team won the European Open in Sweden
- was named into the All-star Team at the 2023 Junior WCh; scored 23 goals in three matches during the Faroe Islands' impressive EHF EURO debut in January 2024
- was the 2023 IHF Young Male Player of the Year



DOMAGOJ DUVNJAK

 @domagojduvnjak88

Centre back

- Croatian international, who has been playing for Kiel since 2014/15, after five seasons at Hamburg; one of three team captains, alongside Patrick Wiencek and Mykola Bilyk
- IHF World Player of the Year 2013 and MVP of EHF EURO 2020, All-star Team member at EHF EURO 2014 and 2013 and 2017 WCh
- holds record for most matches played (250+) and most goals scored (760+) for the Croatian national team

CL: 2013, 2020; EC 2019
OG: B 2012; WCh: S 2009, B 2013; EURO: S 2008, 2010, 2020, B 2012, 2016





GROUP E



Club contact

Club address
 RK Nexe
 Matice Hrvatske 1
 31500 Nasice
 Croatia

Media contact
 Danko Justić
 djustic@gmail.com
 +385 91 16 15 123

 rknexe.hr
 rknexenasice
 –
 @rknexe

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

RK NEXE



RK Nexe, runners-up in the Croatian league in 2023/24, enter their 17th consecutive season in a European competition with a fresh start. Following the departure of Veselin Vujovic in April 2024, assistant coach Kresimir Ivankovic took over. He will have a perfect balance of youth and experience among his squad.

While players like Dominik Kuzmanovic, Fahrudin Melic, and Marko Bezjak are among the players who left, Jure Dolenc, Kresimir Kozina, and Tin Lucin are well-known reinforcements to the squad.

- Nexe have played in the EHF European League every season since the competition's inauguration in 2020
- head coach Kresimir Ivankovic is entering his first full season with the club after taking over in April 2024, following the departure of Veselin Vujovic
- Croatian international Kresimir Kozina is coming back to Nexe after 11 years abroad and is the new team captain following the departure of Ivan Srsen
- Nexe hope to go deep once again; their biggest success so far has been reaching the EHF Finals 2022 in Lisbon, where they finished fourth

With two hands full of new arrivals, Nexe hope to do well once again in the European League, as they have been to the quarter-finals two seasons ago, and even made it to the EHF Finals the year before – in 2022 in Lisbon, where they finished fourth.

Team captain Kresimir Kozina: “I think that all the matches in the group stage will be very difficult and demanding, and we will have to prepare separately for each one. However, for me, the game against Kiel in Germany will be very special and I am very happy to play there again.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (including 2024/25): 5

Semi-finals (1): 2021/22

Quarter-finals (1): 2022/23

Play-offs (1): 2023/24

Last 16 (1): 2020/21

Other

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2017/18

Last 16 (1): 2011/12

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

Croatian league: –

Croatian cup: –





KRESIMIR IVANKOVIC

Coach

- Croatian coach, who took over at RK Nexe in April 2024 from Veselin Vujovic; previously served as an assistant to Vujovic
- led Dubrava and the Croatia junior national team in the past, winning silver at the M19 EHF EURO in 2021
- was a centre back in his playing years, competing for his hometown club Zagreb as well as Celje, Wetzlar, Constanta, and Cuenca among others
- he played 15 games for the Croatian national team, but never featured at a major event

ARRIVALS

Krešimir Kozina (Göppingen/GER)
Tin Lucin (Plock/POL)
Mislav Grgić (Linz/AUT)
Ibrahim Haseljić (Velenje/SLO)
Janek Klimkow (Gwardia Opole/POL)
Aleksandar Cenić (Dinamo Bucuresti/ROU)
Leon Vučko (Pontault-Combault/FRA)
Lucian Krajcar (Poreč/CRO)
Antun Šarić (Rudar/CRO)
Jure Dolenc (Limoges/FRA)

DEPARTURES

Dominik Kuzmanović (Gummersbach/GER)
Gianfranco Pribetić (Stuttgart/GER)
Fahrudin Melić (Vogošća, BIH)
Marko Račić (retired)
Ivan Sršen (Varaždin/CRO)
Ante Gadža (Thun/SUI)
Mario Tomić (Al-Arabi, QAT)
Adir Cohen (Ramhat Hashron/ISR)
Predrag Vejin (Olympiacos/GRE)
Andraž Velkavrh (retired)
Lovro Jotić (Ohrid/MKD)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Antun	Šarić	CRO	Goalkeeper	04/06/2006	Zagreb, CRO	189
4	Aleksandar	Bakić	MNE	Left wing	03/09/2000	Andrijevića, MNE	194
5	Loris	Hromin	CRO	Right wing	13/04/2006	Zadar, CRO	181
7	Mislav	Grgić	BIH	Centre back	23/07/1998	Split, CRO	193
8	Ibrahim	Haseljić	BIH	Right wing	14/01/1998	Tuzla, BIH	192
9	Lucian	Krajcar	CRO	Left back	21/08/2001	Rijeka, CRO	196
10	Jan	Klimkow	POL	Line player	21/12/1998	Grodzów, POL	204
11	Gal	Marguč	SLO	Right wing	16/11/1996	Celje, SLO	187
12	Moreno	Čar	CRO	Goalkeeper	22/04/1996	Rijeka, CRO	184
16	Mihailo	Radovanović	SRB	Goalkeeper	18/12/1992	Čačak, SRB	194
17	Matko	Moslavac	CRO	Left back	15/02/2007	Virovitica, CRO	190
20	Borna	Manci Micević	CRO	Right back	20/11/1997	Osijek, CRO	208
23	Jure	Dolenec	SLO	Right back	06/12/1988	Kranj, SLO	191
26	Manuel	Štrlek	CRO	Left wing	01/12/1988	Zagreb, CRO	185
27	Luka	Moslavac	CRO	Left back	08/03/1998	Virovitica, CRO	195
33	Aleksandar	Čenić	ESP	Right back	11/01/2003	Leskovac, SRB	200
34	Ognjen	Čenić	SRB	Centre back	30/07/2006	Leskovac, SRB	190
35	Stjepan	Javorček	CRO	Left back	17/02/2006	Našice, CRO	197
39	Leon	Vučko	CRO	Line player	09/01/1995	Zagreb, CRO	192
41	Tin	Lucin	CRO	Left back	16/08/1999	Rijeka, CRO	196
C 44	Krešimir	Kožina	CRO	Line player	25/06/1990	Derвента, CRO	196



MANUEL ŠTRLEK

 @strlekmanuel26

Left wing

- joined RK Nexe in the summer of 2023 for a return to Croatia after 11 years
- Croatian wing, who made his CL debut with Zagreb at age 18 in 2010; played for Kielce for six seasons and won CL in 2016; moved to Veszprém in summer of 2018
- named CL All-star left wing several times
- Croatian international since his debut at the EHF EURO 2010 in Austria

EC trophies: CL 2016
OG: B 2012; WCh: B 2013; EURO: S 2010, B 2012, 2016



TIN LUCIN

 @tin_lucin

Left back

- born in the Croatian city of Rijeka, he started his career at Kozala
- also played for Zamet and Zagreb in Croatia, later for Ademar Leon in Spain and Wisła Płock in Poland before joining Nexe in the summer of 2024
- was part of the Croatia YAC national teams, now plays for the senior team
- his younger brother, Fran, plays as a goalkeeper in Vojvodina



KRESIMIR KOZINA

 @kkozina44

Line player

- Croatian international, who returned to Nexe in 2024 after 11 years abroad and who has been named the team captain for 2024/25
- spent nine years in Germany with Füchse Berlin, Göppingen and Flensburg-Handewitt; also played for Hard in Austria and Zamet in Croatia
- won the title with Croatia at 2009 Youth WCh, and was part of the senior national team that took bronze at the EHF EURO 2016

EURO: B 2016



JURE DOLENEC

 @juredolenc11

Right back

- CL winner who joined Nexe in the summer of 2024 after three years with fellow EL contenders Limoges; helped them finish fifth in the French league in 2023/24
- previous clubs were Velenje in his native Slovenia, Montpellier, and Barça; won the CL with Barça in 2021
- the most-capped player in the current Slovenian national team squad, with more than 205 matches

CL: 2021
WCh: B 2017

GROUP E



Club contact

Club address

Bathco Bm. Torrelavega
 Pab. Vicente Trueba
 Av. de la Constitución, 9
 39300 Torrelavega, Spain

Media contact

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 +34 655 72 86 52

balonmanotorrelavega.com

BalonmanoTorrelavega

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@bmtorrelavega

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Pabellon Vicente Trueba
 Avda Constitución, 9
 39300 Torrelavega
 Spain
 Capacity: 3,000

BATHCO BM. TORRELAVEGA



Three years ago, Bathco Bm. Torrelavega were promoted from the second Spanish league into the ASOBAL, the maiden appearance in the top domestic league for the team based in the north of Spain.

Now, Torrelavega are ready and hungry for more, as they will make their debut in an European competition. They finished the domestic league in 11th place, but still qualified for the EHF European League group matches as runners-up of the Spanish Cup, having lost the final against Barça (36:23) – who also won the Spanish league.

- **Torrelavega make their debut in an European competition, three years after joining the Spanish league for the first time**
- **the side finished 11th in the Spanish league in 2023/24, but qualified for the group matches after reaching the Spanish cup final against Barça**
- **they brought in seven new players, most notably left wing Angel Fernandez, an EHF Champions League and EHF EURO winner**
- **Jacobo Cuetara, former coach of fellow EHF European League contenders Bidasoa Irun, has arrived as new head coach; he replaces Alejandro Mozas, who is now in charge of Bidasoa Irun**

Torrelavega had a busy summer, bringing seven players into their squad, including experienced players like Angel Fernandez and goalkeeper Leo Tercariol. There has also been a coaching change, as Alex Mozas left for Bidasoa Irun. He was replaced by former Bidasoa coach, Jacobo Cuetara.

“This competition is the second best in the world, so the first word that comes to mind is ‘dream’. For the team, the players, the fans, it is a dream for everyone,” head coach Jacobo Cuetara says.

“I believe it to be a ‘shortcut’ as well to learn bigger and better things, as it is a unique experience both from the players’ perspective and the club itself.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 1

Other

Spanish league: –

Spanish cup: –





JACOBO CUÉTARA

Coach

- had been Bidasoa Irún's head coach from 2016/17, but swapped places with Alejandro Mozas in the summer of 2024
- previously worked as head coach of Villa de Aranda
- is also a prolific beach volleyball player
- has a licence to coach handball and volleyball; is also a physical trainer, in which role he worked at Ademar León early in his career

ARRIVALS

Ángel Fernández (Limoges/FRA)
Nicolai Colunga (Ringsted/DEN)
Juanjo Fernández (Cuenca/ESP)
Marcio Silva (Puente Genil/ESP)
Jakub Prokop (Nava/ESP)
Leo Tercariol (Huesca/ESP)
Asier Pedroarena (Burgos/ESP)

DEPARTURES

Adrián Fernández (León/ESP)
Mikolaj Czaplinski (Gdansk/POL)
Alonso Moreno (Anaitasuna/ESP)
Matheus de Novais (Puerto Sagunto/ESP)
Héctor González (Genève/SUI)
Fabrizio Casanova (Burgos/ESP)
Dani Ramos (Puente Genil/ESP)
Mile Mijuskovic (unknown)
Pablo Paredes (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
3	Antonio	Torres Quinonero	ESP	Right wing	03/02/2006	Aguilas, ESP	176
4	Alan Marcio	Da Silva Maildo	BRA	Line player	18/04/1996	Russas, BRA	192
6	Miguel	De Cos	ESP	Left wing	29/03/2004	San Miguel, ESP	187
7	Guilherme	Linhares de Souza	BRA	Right back	17/12/1998	Rio de Janeiro, BRA	190
10	Alex	Rubino Fernandez	ESP	Left wing	06/11/2000	San Sebastian, ESP	181
11	Carlos	Gomez	ESP	Left back	15/02/2004	Santander, ESP	194
12	Carlos	Calle Lobo	ESP	Goalkeeper	22/12/1994	Alcobendas, ESP	192
13	Borja	Nieto Marabini	ESP	Line player	12/07/2007	Santander, ESP	195
14	Javier	Muñoz Cabezon	ESP	Right wing	22/05/1992	Madrid, ESP	192
15	Juan Jose	Fernandez Sanchez	ESP	Left back	18/02/1993	Ciudad Real, ESP	194
18	Jakub	Prokop	SVK	Left back	21/08/1998	Bratislava, SVK	192
C 19	Borja	Lombilla del Río	ESP	Line player	24/12/1991	Reocin, ESP	188
21	Isidoro	Martinez Llamazares	ESP	Centre back	30/06/2000	Leon, ESP	185
24	Jokin	Aja Garate	ESP	Line player	12/09/2004	Gipuzkoa, ESP	207
25	Facundo	Cangiani	ESP	Right wing	23/04/1991	Buenos Aires, ARG	182
26	Marko	Jurkovic	SVK	Centre back	26/06/2004	Bratislava, SVK	190
28	Oswaldo	Maestro	ESP	Right back	23/10/1989	San Pablo, BRA	185
30	Pedro	Berrio	ESP	Centre back	11/03/2001	Santander, ESP	193
32	Angel	Fernandez Perez	ESP	Left wing	16/09/1988	Santander, ESP	197
48	Mateo	García	ESP	Left back	10/04/2006	Aviles, ESP	190
52	Samuel	Lanza	ESP	Left wing	08/04/2005	Polanco, ESP	172
62	Leonardo	Vial Tercariol	BRA	Goalkeeper	14/04/1987	San Bernado, BRA	194
71	Abraham	Gonzalez	ESP	Goalkeeper	15/04/2005	Santillana, ESP	190
77	Nicolai	Colunga Lyksbo	ESP	Centre back	01/10/1997	Nava, ESP	188
88	Diego	Gandara	ESP	Line player	13/12/2004	Villaescusa, ESP	187



LEONARDO TERCARIOL

 @leonardotercariol

Goalkeeper

- experienced Brazilian international, who came to Europe in 2014
- had stints in Norway (Follo) and France (Cherbourg) but has spent most of his time in Europe in Spain: Torrelavega are his fifth club there
- previously played in the EL with Bendidorm (2020/21) and La Rioja (2021/22)
- played three WCh's and the 2020 Olympics with Brazil



ANGEL FERNANDEZ

 @angel_f32

Left wing

- returned to Spain in the summer of 2024, after playing for Limoges in France
- previously played three seasons for Kielce and one for Barça, winning the CL in 2022
- named best left wing in Spain three times (2016-18)
- part of Spanish national team that won EHF EURO gold in 2018 and 2020 and bronze at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

CL: 2022
OG: B 2020; EURO: G 2018, 2020, S 2022



JAKUB PROKOP

 @jakubprokop_

Left back

- Slovakian international, who arrived at Torrelavega from Nava in 2024
- changed clubs twice in 2021/22: left Sala in his native Slovakia to play at Budakalász in Hungary, then moved to Nava before signing for Torrelavega
- labels himself as brave, bold and fast, never backing down from contact
- started playing both football and handball, but chose handball because he felt "more entertained"



JAVI MUÑOZ

 @javi_munoz14

Right wing

- one of the most experienced players on the team, has played mostly in Spain
- also had stints at TATRAN Presov, Füchse Berlin, PAUC, and Saran Loiret
- returned to Spain in 2022 to play for Puente Genil, and signed for Torrelavega in the summer of 2023
- was the team's top scorer in the Liga ASOBAL in 2023/24, with 130 goals

GROUP E



Club contact

Club address

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Serbia


Media contact

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+381 63 83 09 702

 rkv.rs

 rukometniklubvojvodina

 @rkvojvodina

 @rkvojvodina_novisad

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Sportska hala Slana Bara
Sentandrejski put 106
Novi Sad
Serbia
Capacity: 1,950

VOJVODINA



The Serbian champions are back with high ambitions following their rise in recent years. Since winning the EHF European Cup 2022/23, Vojvodina had a successful first outing in the EHF European League, progressing to the main round. This season they are aiming to repeat the same while dreaming of another step forward.

To keep their European dream alive, Vojvodina went through squad changes in the summer of 2024, having nine players leaving the club and six joining.

- **Boris Rojevic is in his seventh season with the team as head coach**
- **with nine players left and six arrived, the team looks differently compared to the one that reached the main round of the EHF European League in 2023/24**
- **Vojvodina won the EHF European Cup in 2023, only the second club from Serbia to win a European trophy**
- **the club from Novi Sad won their 12th national title in 2023/24, but lost the cup final against Partizan**
- **enter their 15th European season after making their debut in the Challenge Cup 20 years ago**

The new faces in town will try to keep the momentum going, while also trying to bring to life head coach Boris Rojevic's visions.

Team captain Miljan Vukovljak says: "We expect at least six European games, each game will be on its own. Every opponent is of European quality. That is a challenge for us. We have changed the team a lot and I think we have better quality than last year. We can't wait for the European season to start."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2023/24): 3

Main round (1): 2023/24

Qualification (1): 2021/22

Other

EHF Champions League

Group phase (1): 2015/16

EHF Cup

Group phase (1): 2014/15

EHF European Cup

Winners (1): 2022/23

Serbian league: 12 titles (2005, 2013-19, 2021-24)

Serbian cup: 8 titles (2005, 2006, 2011, 2015, 2019-21, 2023)





BORIS ROJEVIĆ

Coach

- former player and long-term head coach of Vojvodina, who previously worked with the club's youth teams
- also became national team coach of Serbia in February 2024, taking over from Toni Gerona, after he had been part of Gerona's staff as an assistant coach
- led Vojvodina to their first European trophy in 2022/23 by winning the EHF European Cup Men
- as a player, Rojević spent time in Vrbas, Kolubara, Vojvodina, Proleter, and Spartak; gained his first European cup experience with Proleter in the Challenge Cup 2008/09

ARRIVALS

Milan Jovanović
Ahmed Huseis
Joa Pedro
Branko Predović
Fran Mileta
Miha Kavčić

DEPARTURES

Darko Milenković
Luka Ročan
Aidi Aziz
Nemanja Ratković
Živan Pešić
Branko Tomić
Bojan Rađenović
Milan Golubović
Gregor Ocvirka

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Fran	Lucin	CRO	Goalkeeper	16/11/2000	Rijeka, CRO	190
2	Simo	Sijan	SRB	Centre back	31/08/2004	Novi Sad, SRB	186
3	Vukasin	Vorkapic	SRB	Right wing	01/10/1997	Beograd, SRB	188
6	Milan	Milic	SRB	Right back	14/05/1998	Aleksandrovac, SCG	197
7	Fran	Mileta	CRO	Right wing	14/08/2000	Rijeka, CRO	182
C 10	Miljan	Vukovljak	SRB	Left back	18/04/1990	Beograd, SRB	196
12	Marko	Drasko	SRB	Goalkeeper	21/03/2004	Novi Sad, SRB	189
13	Andrija	Stankov	SRB	Line player	16/05/2007	Beograd, SRB	193
14	Joao	Da Silva	BRA	Centre back	29/01/1994	Nova Iguacu, BRA	190
16	Andrej	Trnavac	SRB	Goalkeeper	13/12/1998	Beograd, SRB	187
17	Djordje	Drasko	SRB	Centre back	05/05/2007	Novi Sad, SRB	187
18	Stefan	Sunajko	HUN	Left wing	10/04/1998	Sombor, SCG	193
19	Miljan	Pušica	SRB	Left back	30/06/1991	Prijepolje, SRB	202
24	Bojan	Radjenovic	SRB	Left wing	04/09/1994	Knin, CRO	193
33	Jovica	Nikolic	SRB	Right back	18/11/2001	Novi Sad, SRB	192
34	Stefan	Dodic	SRB	Centre back	13/03/2003	Vranje, SRB	194
35	Branko	Predovic	SRB	Line player	28/08/2002	Novi Sad, SRB	191
44	Petar	Djordjic	SRB	Left back	17/09/1990	Sabac, SRB	196
45	Miha	Kavcic	SLO	Line player	19/06/1998	Ptuj, SLO	192
79	Ahmed	Hesham	EGY	Left wing	01/09/1997	Giza, EGY	182
87	Barys	Pukhouski	BLR	Centre back	03/01/1987	Malorita, BLR	187
98	Milan	Jovanovic	SRB	Left back	24/01/1998	Vrbas, SRB	195



PETAR DJORDJIC

Left back

- Serbian international, who grew up in Germany and played the first nine seasons of his senior career there for Wetzlar, Flensburg, and Hamburg; won CL with Flensburg
- joined Vojvodina in December 2023 from Benfica; had also played for Meshkov Brest
- was joined top scorer (109 goals) of EL in 2021/22, when Benfica lifted the trophy
- son of Zoran Djordjic, who represented Yugoslavia in five major tournaments

CL: 2014; EL: 2022

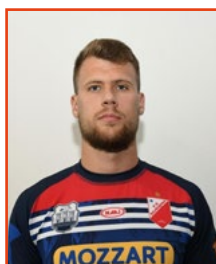


BARYS PUKHOUSKI

Centre back

- all-time top scorer of Belarusian national team; has played in European competitions for more than two decades, including 10 seasons in the EHF Champions League
- joined Vojvodina in 2022 and added 64 goals to club's run to European Cup title
- previously played for SKA Minsk, Motor, Csurgó, and Dinamo Minsk; helped SKA win Challenge Cup in 2013 by scoring 20 times in two-legged final against Esch

EC: 2023; CC 2013

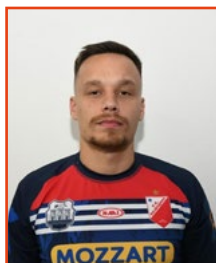


MIHA KAVCIC

 @mihakavcic4

Line player

- joined Vojvodina at the start of the 2024/25 season from Olympiakos SFP
- Slovenian international, started playing handball in Jeruzalem Ormoz
- also played for Velenje and Nexe, and had his first EHF European League group phase experience with the Croatian side
- won gold at the M18 EHF EURO in 2018 with Slovenia's youth national team



VUKASIN VORKAPIC

 @vuleeee3

Right wing

- Serbian international, who started his senior career in Šabac; returned to Serbia and joined Vojvodina in 2023 after playing two years for Ivry in France
- contributed 28 goals to Vojvodina's run to the main round in EL 2023/24
- played at three EHF EURO events and two WCh's, but 2024/25 marks only his second season in a European club competition

GROUP F PREVIEW



EUROPEAN TROPHY WINNERS FACE TIGHT RACE TO MAIN ROUND

A former EHF Champions League winner, a long-term EHF Champions League participant, the current EHF European Cup holders, and a star-studded German side are aiming for the main round in group F. After five consecutive years in the EHF Champions League, FC Porto were overtaken in the Portuguese competitions by Sporting CP, the new league and cup champions. The 24-time Portuguese champions are now making their first EHF European League appearance – with their former head coach Magnus Andersson returning to his position for the 2024/25 season. However, long-term key players such as Nikola Mitrevski (Eurofarm Pelister) and Diogo Braquinho (Sporting CP) have left.



HC Vardar are back on track after a two-year international absence. In 2023/24, they were knocked out in qualification for the EHF European League against the eventual EHF Finals participants Rhein-Neckar Löwen from Germany. Vardar won the EHF Champions League in 2017 and 2019 and now also have their first EHF European League group phase ahead. Most of the big names of the golden era have left the team of head coach Vlado Nenadovski, but some players such as team captain Goce Georgievski still wear the Vardar jersey.



The two remaining teams of group F arrived from qualification – with very different results: German side MT Melsungen beat Norwegian runners-up Elverum Håndball twice clearly, while Valur from Reykjavik had a much more nervy tie against RK Bjelin Spacva Vinkovci from Croatia, as their 34:25 win from the first leg on home soil was only just enough after losing 32:24 in Croatia. Valur made history in 2024, as they became the first ever Icelandic team to win an EHF club competition. After a penalty shootout, they got the better of Greek side Olympiacos SFP in the final of the EHF European Cup. Valur count on two of the oldest players in the competition; Icelandic legends Björgvin Pall Gustavsson and Alexander Petersson. In the 2022/23 season, the team of Óskar Bjarni Óskarsson qualified for the Last 16 of the EHF European League.



This will be MT Melsungen's fifth international appearance and their debut in the EHF European League after making it to the German cup final and finishing fifth in the German league. The team counts on several international top stars such as the EHF Champions League winners Rogerio Moraes and Dainis Kristopans, who will face their former club HC Vardar, as will Melsungen's Spanish coach Roberto Parrondo Garcia, who steered the Skopje-based side to the EHF Champions League trophy in 2019. In 2015 and 2017, Melsungen qualified for the EHF Cup quarter-finals.

Björn Pazen

I GROUP F HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS DUELS BETWEEN THE TEAMS OF GROUP F

FC Porto vs HC Vardar 1961 2-1-1 (109:103) 5:3

22.09.2019	HC Vardar vs FC Porto Sofarma, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:27 (14:16)
22.02.2020	FC Porto Sofarma vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:22 (11:10)
22.10.2020	HC Vardar 1961 vs FC Porto, EHF Champions League – Group A	25:25 (13:12)
04.02.2021	FC Porto vs HC Vardar 1961, EHF Champions League – Group A	27:24 (13:13)

FC Porto vs MT Melsungen

No previous encounters in European competitions

FC Porto vs Valur

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Vardar 1961 vs MT Melsungen

No previous encounters in European competitions

HC Vardar 1961 vs Valur

No previous encounters in European competitions

MT Melsungen vs Valur

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP F




Club contact


Club address


FC Porto
Estádio do Dragao Via FC
Porto,
Porto, Portugal

Media contact

Eduardo Duarte
eduardo.duarte@fcporto.pt
+351 969 573 485

 fcporto.pt

 fcportosports

 @FCPorto

 @fcportosports

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: orange
Player short: orange
GK shirt: grey



Playing hall

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

FC PORTO



After five straight seasons in the EHF Champions League, FC Porto come to Europe's second-tier competition with big ambitions. Magnus Andersson, who had already coached the team between 2018 and 2023, is back at the helm, replacing Carlos Resende. During his previous stint in Porto, Andersson reached the EHF Champions League play-offs twice.

The Portuguese club begin their EHF European League journey after a disappointing national season, in which they lost both the championship and cup title to Sporting CP. It is now time to bounce back and impress.

- **Porto had their series of domestic championships ended in 2023/24, finishing runners-up to Sporting CP**
- **as a result, Porto are making their debut in the EHF European League in 2024/25**
- **their best result in Europe so far has been the third place in the EHF Cup 2018/19**
- **they failed to advance from the Machineseeker EHF Champions League group stage in the last two seasons**
- **Porto share the group with HC Vardar 1961, who were also their opponents in the EHF Champions League group phase four years ago**

The search for European glory, however, will be difficult for Porto, as the team has lost some of its key players. Macedonian goalkeeper Nikola Mitrevski left Portugal to join his former team Eurofarm Pelister, while some of Porto's best scorers in previous years have also chosen to continue their careers elsewhere – Nikolaj Læsø, Antonio Areia, Ignacio Jimenez, and Diogo Branquinho left the club during the summer.

Team captain Daymaro Salina: "My biggest motivation for this new season, nationally speaking, is to win back all the trophies. And internationally, to go as far as possible in the EHF European League."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 1

Other

EHF Champions League

Play-offs (2): 2020/21, 2021/22

EHF Cup

Semi-finals (1): 2018/19

Group Phase (2): 2014/15, 2016/17

Last 16 (3): 1998/99, 2010/11, 2011/12

Cup Winner's Cup

Quarter-finals (2): 2000/01, 2001/02

Portuguese league: 24 titles (1954, 1957-60, 1963-65, 1968, 1999, 2002-04, 2009-15, 2019, 2021-23)

Portuguese cup: 9 titles (1976-77, 1979-80, 1994, 2006-07, 2019, 2021)





MAGNUS ANDERSSON

Coach

- Swedish coach, who returned to FC Porto for 2024/25, having previously led the team between 2018 and 2023
- former centre back, who won three Olympic silver medals as part of the legendary Swedish 'Bengan Boys'
- his achievements as player also include four EHF EURO trophies and two gold medals at the World Championship
- coached German side Göppingen for three years and won the EHF Cup twice in that spell

EC: 2016, 2017 (as coach)

WCh: G 1990, 1999, S 1997, 2001, B 1993, 1995; EURO: G 1994, 1998, 2000, 2002; OG: S 1992, 1996, 2000 (as player)

ARRIVALS

Thorsteinn Leó Gunnarsson (Afturelding/ISL)
Sebastian Abrahamsson (Önnered/SWE)

DEPARTURES

Miguel Alves (Águas Santas/POR)
António Areia (Tremblay/FRA)
Diogo Branquinho (Sporting/POR)
Ignacio Plaza (Tatabánya/HUN)
Nikola Mitrevski (Pelister/MKD)
Nikolaj Læsø (Bjerringbro-Silkeborg/DEN)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
2	Pedro	Veitia Valdés	CUB	Left back	07/08/1994	Villa Clara, CUB	190
4	Victor Manuel	Iturriza Alvarez	POR	Line player	22/05/1990	Havana, CUB	193
5	Porsteinn Leó	Gunnarsson	ISL	Left back	13/11/2002	Iceland, ISL	208
7	Jakob	Mikkelsen	DEN	Right back	05/02/1997	Horsens, DEN	200
8	David	Fernández Alonso	ESP	Right back	14/04/1996	Valladolid, ESP	196
9	Miguel	Oliveira	POR	Left back	13/01/2004	Valongo, POR	200
10	Diogo	Oliveira	POR	Centre back	07/05/1997	Matosinhos, POR	193
14	Rui	Silva	POR	Centre back	28/04/1993	Guimarães, POR	185
C 15	Daymaro	Salina	POR	Line player	01/09/1987	Artemisa, CUB	200
17	Sebastian	Abrahamsson	SWE	Goalkeeper	13/05/1990	Säve, SWE	195
18	Vasco	Costa	POR	Left back	02/12/2005	Matosinhos, POR	196
19	Mamadou	Diocou	ESP	Right wing	10/02/2000	Fassada, SEN	182
21	Leonel	Fernandes	POR	Left wing	12/03/1998	Vila Real, POR	191
23	Bernardo	Sousa	POR	Goalkeeper	23/02/2006	Valongo, POR	201
24	Antonio	Martínez Llamazares	ESP	Right wing	17/05/2003	León, ESP	180
33	Diogo	Rêma Marques	POR	Goalkeeper	17/03/2004	Espinho, POR	189
40	Dairon Daniel	Giron Suarez	CUB	Goalkeeper	12/05/2002	Granma, CUB	200
71	Pedro	Oliveira	POR	Left wing	04/07/2002	Porto, POR	188
86	Ricardo	Brandão	POR	Line player	28/04/2004	Aveiro, POR	195
88	Fábio	Magalhães	POR	Left back	12/03/1988	Lisbon, POR	194



DIOGO RÉMA MARQUES

 @diogorema16

Goalkeeper

- young and talented goalkeeper, who is already an asset to Portugal's national team; played at the EHF EURO 2024 in Germany
- has been a part of Porto's squad since the start of his professional career in 2020
- was part of the All-star Team at the M18 EHF EURO 2022
- known for his strong reflexes and ability to save penalties



FÁBIO MAGALHÃES

 @magalhaes80

Left back

- at 36, one of the most experienced players in Porto's squad
- scored 30 goals in CL 2023/24, even though Porto did not advance from their group
- played for three other Portuguese teams – Braga, Sporting, and Madeira – before moving to Chartres in France for one year, then joined Porto in 2018
- has played over 130 games for Portugal's national team

CC: 2010



RUI SILVA

 @ruiisilva14

Centre back

- Portuguese international, who has spent his entire career so far with domestic clubs
- previously played for Xico and five years for Porto's rivals Sporting, before ultimately joining Porto in 2015
- intelligent athlete and excellent playmaker, valuable asset for club and national team
- scored one of the the most important goals for Portugal, when he helped to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics



VICTOR ITURRIZA

 @victoriturrisa04

Line player

- Cuban-born defender, a crucial player for both Porto and the Portugal national team
- was nominated as CL All-star line player in the 2020/21 season
- wears an Alfredo Quintana shirt under his own during games, in tribute to his lost friend and former teammate, who passed away in 2021
- arrived in Portugal in 2014, made his debut in the national team in 2020 and has since played at the Olympics, the WCh, and twice the EHF EURO (2022 and 2024)

GROUP F



Club contact

Club address

HC Vardar 1961
Ul. Maksim Gorki No. 3A
Skopje
North Macedonia

Media contact

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+389 70 936 601

 rkvardar.com.mk

 rkvardar

 –

 @rkvardar1961

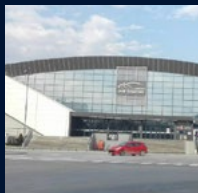
Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Sport Center Jane Sandanski
Bul. Asnom No. 1
1000 Skopje
North Macedonia
Capacity: 5,000

HC VARDAR 1961



HC Vardar 1961, the two-time EHF Champions League winners, are back in the group phase of an EHF club competition after a two-year absence and are oozing with youth and passion. After missing out on a place in the group matches last year, Vardar had a positive season but still finished only runners-up to Eurofarm Pelister in the domestic league.

The talented roster led by Vlado Nedanovski is eager to compete. Unlike recent squads, the current one features no proven winners and the players are hungry to write their own chapter in Vardar's history books.

- **the most successful Macedonian club with 15 national league titles, most recently in 2021/22**
- **have a young and talented squad led by Vlado Nedanovski with only three players over age 30**
- **the lightning-quick playmaker Kosuke Yasuhira was HC Vardar 1961's clutch player last season, but he has left with Matija Nikolic, Mladen Krsmancic and Mario Tankoski now tasked with filling his shoes**
- **this season marks the 30th anniversary of Vardar's first appearance in an European cup competition in 1994/95, reaching the Last 32 of the EHF Cup**

The club's passionate supporters are also eager to watch European handball as it has been a couple of years since the Jane Sandanski arena bounced as one with its fans. The visitors will have a hard time taking the points home.

Captain Goce Georgievski says: "For each game, we prepare in the same way, focusing and believing in ourselves regardless of the opponent. We respect all clubs, and the most important game for us is the next one. Our main goal is to enjoy each game, especially at home with our great supporters, and hopefully celebrate with them after each match."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 2

Qualification (1): 2023/24

Other

EHF Champions League

Winners (2): 2016/17, 2018/19

Semi-finals (1): 2017/18

Quarter-finals (3): 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16

Cup Winners' Cup

Semi-finals (3): 1998/99, 2004/05, 2010/11

Macedonian league: 15 titles (1999, 2001-04, 2007, 2009, 2013, 2015-19, 2021, 2022)

Macedonian cup: 15 titles (1997, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2014-18, 2021, 2022)





VLADO NEDANOVSKI

Coach

- former left wing, who spent most of his playing career with Vardar, but also spent time at Metalurg and Pelister
- succeeded David Davis at the helm in 2022, after working alongside the Spaniard as an assistant coach; also worked as an assistant to Veselin Vujovic
- former Vardar line player Stojance Stoilov is Nedanovski's assistant coach; they played together for both Vardar and the Macedonian national team

ARRIVALS

Miguel Espinha Ferreira (Cuenca/ESP)
Dmytro Horiha (Al-Arabi/QAT)
Mladen Krsmancic (Csurgó/HUN)
Mario Tankovski (Pelister/MKD)
Achref Margheli (Espérance/TUN)
Miguel Pinto (Aguas Santas/POR)
Lars Kooij (Emsdetten/GER)
Tomche Stojanovski (Butel/MKD)
Vuko Borozan (Al-Hada/SAU)

DEPARTURES


Martin Tomovski (Potsdam/GER)
Kosuke Yasuhira (Burgan/KWT)
Martin Karapalevski (Valladolid/ESP)
Darko Djukic (Dinamo Bucuresti/ROU)
Nemanja Gojkovic (unknown)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Marko	Bogdanovski	MKD	Goalkeeper	30/03/2001	Skopje, MKD	183
2	Mario	Stojanovski	MKD	Left wing	08/09/2004	Skopje, MKD	182
4	Tomislav	Jagurinovski	MKD	Right back	19/08/1998	Skopje, MKD	188
7	Mihail	Alarov	MKD	Line player	21/11/1997	Skopje, MKD	197
8	Tomche	Stojanovski	MKD	Left back	30/09/1998	Skopje, MKD	191
C 9	Goce	Georgievski	MKD	Right wing	12/02/1987	Skopje, MKD	185
10	Hanser	Rodriguez	CUB	Left wing	05/05/2000	Habana, CUB	191
11	Mladen	Krsmancic	SRB	Centre back	30/07/1992	Zajecar, SRB	184
12	Miguel	Espinha Ferreira	POR	Goalkeeper	20/07/1993	Lisboa, POR	190
14	Mario	Tankoski	MKD	Centre back	28/08/1998	Struga, MKD	190
15	Lars	Kooij	NED	Line player	11/08/2000	Amstelveen, NED	199
17	Kristijan	Stamenkovic	MKD	Right back	22/03/2005	Skopje, MKD	188
18	Milan	Lazarevski	MKD	Line player	09/02/1997	Skopje, MKD	193
24	Dmytro	Horiha	UKR	Left back	08/10/1997	Kyiv, UKR	196
27	Marko	Srdanovic	SRB	Left wing	27/03/1998	Loznica, SRB	183
29	Matija	Nikolic	SRB	Left back	29/08/2001	Belgrade, SRB	188
33	Stefan	Petric	SRB	Left back	14/01/2001	Porto, SRB	197
66	Achraf	Margheli	TUN	Right back	12/05/1997	Cheba, TUN	193
70	Miguel	Pinto	POR	Right wing	26/04/1999	Feira, POR	194
77	Alen	Kjosevski	MKD	Right wing	07/06/2001	Skopje, MKD	183
87	Vuko	Borozan	MNE	Left back	09/04/1994	Cetinje, MNE	202
96	Nilton Danilo	Cordeiro Melo	POR	Left back	22/09/2003	Setubal, POR	96
99	Vasil	Gogov	MKD	Goalkeeper	11/03/2000	Strumica, MKD	190



HANSER RODRIGUEZ

 @hanser_rodriguez_10

Left wing

- Cuban international, who joined Vardar from Sporting CP in 2023
- energetic left wing, who is capable of playing as a left back and playmaker, too
- became an immediate fan favourite with his athleticism and passionate celebrations
- expected to share playing time with Marko Srdanovic



MATIJA NIKOLIC

 @matijaaan

Left back

- Serbian international, who arrived at Vardar from RD Urbanscape Loka in 2023
- he quickly settled in and established himself as one of the key players in the squad
- versatile player, who can also be used as centre back
- likes one-on-one play in attack and can score from tight angles



MILAN LAZAREVSKI

 @lazarevskimilan_

Line player

- established himself as one of the key players in the squad over the course of last season, both in defence and attack
- learning and improving under the guidance of retired line player and former legendary team captain, 'Stole' Stoilov
- nicknamed 'Bear' because of his strength and passionate style of play
- part of the Macedonian national team, expected to become a key asset for the team



GOCE GEORGIEVSKI

Right wing

- former international, the oldest and most experienced player in Vardar's squad; became team captain after line player and club icon Stojanche Stoilov retired in 2023
- expected to begin the season as first-choice right wing, since new signing Miguel Pinto has suffered a knee injury and will be out for an indefinite time
- product of the renowned HC Metalurg academy; played CL before joining Toulouse and Bucharest before returning to North Macedonia and joining Vardar in 2020

GROUP F



Club contact


Club address
 MT Melsungen
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 34212 Melsungen
 Germany

Media contact
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 +49 151 123 207 40

 mt-melsungen.de

 MTMelsungen

 –

 @mtmelsungen

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Rothenbach-Halle
 Damaschkestrasse 55
 34121 Kassel
 Germany
 Capacity: 4,300

MT MELSUNGEN



For the first time, MT Melsungen have qualified for the group matches of the EHF European League. In 2020/21, they failed in the qualification round against Bjerringbro-Silkeborg, but this time they have beat Norwegian runners-up Elverum twice.

Melsungen's biggest international successes were two quarter-finals in the EHF Cup, in 2015 and 2017. The squad includes players from 13 countries – including two EHF Champions League winners with Vardar: Latvian Dainis Kristopans and Brazilian Rogerio Moraes.

- **Melsungen qualified for the EHF European League as the runners-up of the domestic cup competition**
- **They are yet to win a title domestically, though they played the German cup final twice, in 2021 and 2024**
- **eight new players arrived, most notably Aaron Mensing and Alexandre Cavalcanti, but German international Julius Kühn was among the players who have left**
- **coach Roberto Garcia Parrondo was also in charge of the Egyptian national team until 2023, and steered them to their first-ever Olympic semi-final, in Tokyo**
- **team captain is international Timo Kastening, who rose to prominence at EHF EURO 2020**

The team is coached by Roberto Garcia Parrondo, who won the EHF Champions League twice as a player for Ciudad Real and once as coach with Vardar.

Among the new arrivals for the 2024/25 season, a big name stands out: Ian Barrufet, who is on loan from reigning Machineseecker EHF Champions League winners Barça and whose father David – now sports director at Dinamo Bucuresti – won the EHF Champions League six times with Barcelona.

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 2
Qualification (1): 2020/21

Other

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (2): 2014/15, 2016/17

German league: –

German cup: –





ROBERTO GARCIA PARRONDO

Coach

- Spanish coach, who won the EHF Champions League 2018/19 with Vardar – one of Melsungen's opponents in group F
- started his coaching career as an assistant at Vardar's women's team and at the men's national team in 2017
- took over Vardar's men's team in 2018 and won the CL in his first season; arrived at Melsungen in 2021
- coached Egypt in 2019-23, leading them to two African championships and the Olympic semi-finals
- always played for Spanish clubs and was part of the golden generation at Ciudad Real, before his move to Szeged in 2013

CL: 2008, 2009 (player), 2019 (coach);
CWC: 2005; EHF Cup: 2014 (player)
WCh: B 2011 (as a player)

ARRIVALS

Nikolaj Enderleit (Holstebro/DEN)
Aaron Mensing (GOG/DEN)
Alexandre Cavalcanti (Nantes/FRA)
Ian Barrufet (Barça/ESP)
Mohammed Amine Darmoul (Minden/GER)

DEPARTURES

Domagoj Pavlovic (unknown)
Ivan Martinovic (Löwen/GER)
Julius Kühn (Bietigheim/GER)
Sindre Aho (Esbjerg/DEN)
Julian Fuchs (Bergischer HC/GER)

TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Adam	Morawski	POL	Goalkeeper	17/10/1994	Ciechanow, POL	190
2	Leon	Stehl	GER	Right wing	29/08/2006	Kassel, GER	185
4	Nikolaj	Enderleit	DEN	Right back	21/06/1997	Kolding, DEN	197
6	Eric	Azcue	ESP	Centre back	10/05/1993	Zarautz, ESP	169
7	David	Mandic	CRO	Left wing	14/09/1997	Ljubuski, BIH	187
8	Adrián	Sipos	HUN	Line player	08/03/1990	Szombathely, HUN	198
10	Dainis	Kristopans	LAT	Right back	27/09/1990	Ludza, LAT	215
11	Dimitri	Ignatow	GER	Right wing	30/11/1998	Kijewka, KAZ	174
12	Carsten	Lichtlein	GER	Goalkeeper	04/11/1980	Würzburg, GER	202
13	Rogério	Moraes	BRA	Line player	11/01/1994	Abaetetuba, BRA	204
16	Nebojsa	Simic	MNE	Goalkeeper	19/01/1993	Bar, MNE	192
18	Florian	Drosten	GER	Left wing	18/06/2004	Wermelskirchen, GER	187
19	Elvar	Jónsson	ISL	Left back	31/08/1997	Selfoss, ISL	185
21	Arnar Freyr	Arnarsson	ISL	Line player	14/03/1996	Rykjavic, ISL	201
24	Alexandre	Cavalcanti	POR	Left back	27/12/1996	Almada, POR	201
26	Tom	Wolf	GER	Left back	02/06/2006	Marburg, GER	196
33	Hans Aaron	Mensing	DEN	Left back	11/11/1997	Gråsten, DEN	201
44	Jonas	Riecke	GER	Right back	11/01/2005	Groß-Umstadt, GER	196
53	Bruno	Eickhoff	GER	Line player	30/12/2003	Hamburg, GER	200
71	Mohamed	Darmoul	TUN	Centre back	04/02/1998	Sousse, TUN	183
C 73	Timo	Kastening	GER	Right wing	25/06/1995	Stadthagen, GER	180
83	Ian	Barrufet	ESP	Left wing	19/05/2004	Barcelona, ESP	198



NEBOJSA SIMIC

 @simica16

Goalkeeper

- Montenegrin international, joined Melsungen in 2017
- left his home country at age 19 and played for Swedish clubs Lund, Malmö, and Kristianstad before moving to Germany
- has played five EHF EURO tournaments, was among the top three goalkeepers at the 2022 edition
- his brother Bozidar is also a Montenegrin national team member



ROGERIO MORAES

 @rogeriomoraes11

Line player

- Brazilian international and two-time CL winner, who joined Melsungen in 2022
- arrived in Europe in 2015, first played for Kiel before joining Vardar the next year
- later joined Veszprém and Benfica, respectively, and won the EL with the Portuguese side in 2022
- in the past, he also competed in wrestling and did modelling work

CL: 2017, 2019; EL: 2022



DAINIS KRISTOPANS

 @dainiskristopans

Right back

- Latvian international; at 2.15m, the tallest player in the EL 2024/25
- played for seven clubs in six different countries since 2009; arrived at Melsungen in 2023 from Paris Saint-Germain HB
- had his international breakthrough at Meshkov Brest, then joined CL winners Vardar in 2017 and helped them win the CL title again two years later
- has won 13 domestic championships in total in four different countries

CL: 2019



TIMO KASTENING

 @timokastening

Right wing

- German international, who was M18 and M20 EHF EURO champion in 2012 and 2014
- made his Bundesliga debut with Hannover at age 18; moved to Melsungen in 2020 after playing a successful EHF EURO 2020, when he was Germany's best scorer
- was awarded German Handball Player of the Year in 2019
- international since 2019, but was not nominated for the Paris 2024 Olympics

GROUP F



Club contact

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102 Reykjavík
Iceland


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

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

N1 höllin
Laufasveg
Hlíðarendi Reykjavík
Iceland
Capacity: 1,800

VALUR



Valur are back in the group phase of the EHF European League after one year – in which they won the EHF European Cup. They got back in the spotlight in recent years and are determined to leave their mark in Europe’s second-tier competition now.

Since their debut in the EHF Champions League in the 1993/94 season, Valur have fought hard to keep Iceland on the European club handball map, despite missing out on the international competitions for a fairly long stretch between 2008 and 2016.

- **this is Valur’s third time in the group stage of an international competition since 2007/08**
- **in 2024, Valur became the first club in Icelandic history to win a European trophy, after beating Olympiacos SFP in a penalty shootout in the final of the EHF European Cup 2023/24**
- **head coach Óskar Bjarni Óskarsson took over the team in 2023 for the third time**
- **Valur’s top scorer in the 2023/24 season and the head coach’s son, Benedikt Gunnar Óskarsson, has left the club to join Kolstad Håndball**

But winning the EHF European Cup in 2024 has given an additional boost to the club, whose young and inexperienced squad gained valuable experience with the help of the legendary players Björgvin Pall Gustavsson and Alexander Petersson.

Team captain Róbert Hostert: “I’m excited and looking forward to participating in the competition with my team this year. We love to meet teams from other countries and enjoy the excitement, which is a big part of the EHF European League. To get the opportunity to travel with the team abroad and to play in different arenas is always fun and exiting.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4

Last 16 (1): 2022/23

Qualification (2): 2020/21, 2021/22

Other

EHF Champions League

Group matches (1): 2007/08

Last 16 (2): 1993/94, 1995/96

European Cup

Winners (1): 2023/24

Challenge Cup

Semi-finals (1): 2016/17

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

Icelandic Cup: 13 titles (1974, 1988, 1990, 1993, 1998, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2016, 2017, 2021, 2022, 2024)





ÓSKAR BJARNI ÓSKARSSON

Coach

- Icelandic coach, who took over at Valur for the third time in June 2023; previously had been in charge from 2003 to 2010 and again from 2014 to 2017
- won the EHF European Cup with Valur in 2024, bringing the first European trophy to Iceland
- also used to play for Valur, where he had picked up the game at the age of eight
- nicknamed 'Mr. Valur' for his longstanding tenure at the club
- has two sons and two daughters, who all play handball as well

EC: 2024 (coach)

ARRIVALS

Kristofer Máni Jónasson (Haukar/ISL)
Miodrag Corsovic (Trebnje/SLO)
Bjarni í Selvindi (Kristiansand, NOR)
Dagur Léo Fannarsson (Valur youth/ISL)
Daníel Montoro (Valur youth/ISL)
Gunnar Róbertsson (Valur youth/ISL)
Jens Sigurðarson (Valur youth/ISL)
Þorvaldur Örn Þorvaldsson (Valur youth/ISL)

DEPARTURES


Benedikt Gunnar Óskarsson (Kolstad/NOR)
Tjörvi Týr Gíslason (Bergischer HC/GER)
Vignir Stefánsson (retired)
Aron Dagur Pálsson (unknown)
Alexander Örn Júlíusson (retired)
Bergur Elí Rúnarsson (retired)

TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Björgvin Pall	Gustavsson	ISL	Goalkeeper	24/05/1985	Hvammstangi, ISL	193
4	Bjarni	í Selvindi	FAR	Left back	27/08/2002	Thorshofn, FAR	189
5	Agnar	Jónsson	ISL	Right back	11/10/1993	Reykjavik, ISL	187
6	Viktor	Sigurðsson	ISL	Centre back	19/07/2001	Reykjavik, ISL	188
7	Ulfar	Monsi	ISL	Left wing	24/01/2000	Reykjavik, ISL	184
10	Daníel	Montoro	ISL	Right wing	16/03/2007	Reykjavik, ISL	185
11	Daníel Örn	Guðmundsson	ISL	Left wing	28/06/2004	Reykjavik, ISL	182
12	Stefán	Pétursson	ISL	Goalkeeper	21/08/2002	New York, USA	183
14	Ísak	Gústafsson	ISL	Right back	14/02/2003	Selfoss, ISL	185
15	Alexander	Júlíusson	ISL	Left back	17/10/1994	Gummersbach, GER	190
18	Gunnar	Róbertsson	ISL	Centre back	22/06/2008	Reykjavik, ISL	190
19	Dagur Leó	Fannarsson	ISL	Centre back	30/07/2007	Reykjavik, ISL	190
20	Jens	Sigurðarson	ISL	Goalkeeper	25/06/2006	Reykjavik, ISL	191
22	Miodrag	Corsovic	MNE	Line player	22/02/2000	Pljevlja, MNE	197
C 23	Róbert	Hostert	ISL	Left back	19/01/1991	Reykjavik, ISL	191
24	Magnús Óli	Magnússon	ISL	Left back	08/05/1992	Reykjavik, ISL	185
25	Allan	Nordberg	FAR	Right wing	25/03/1995	Thorshavn, FAR	187
31	Arnar Þór	Fylkisson	ISL	Goalkeeper	15/02/1996	Akureyri, ISL	182
34	Anton	Rúnarsson	ISL	Centre back	20/07/1988	Reykjavik, ISL	188
40	Þorvaldur Örn	Þorvaldsson	ISL	Line player	30/03/2004	Reykjavik, ISL	199
43	Alexander	Petersson	ISL	Right back	02/07/1980	Riga, LAT	186
44	Kristofer Máni	Jónasson	ISL	Right wing	08/05/2002	Reykjavik, ISL	184
88	Andri	Finnsson	ISL	Line player	26/11/2002	Reykjavik, ISL	190



BJÖRGVIN PALL GUSTAVSSON

 @bjoggi

Goalkeeper

- legendary, experienced Icelandic international, who joined Valur in 2022
- previously played for clubs in Germany (Magdeburg, Bergischer HC), Switzerland (Kadetten), and Denmark (Skjern)
- won two medals at major competitions with the national team
- wrote a children's book and released it just before the Men's EHF EURO 2024

EC: 2024
EURO: B 2010; OG: S 2008



BJARNI ÍSELVINDI

 @bjarniselvindi

Left back

- Faroese talent, who joined Valur in the summer of 2024 from Kristiansand in Norway
- started his career at StÍF in the Faroe Islands
- was Valur's top scorer in qualification for the EL 2024/25, with 14 goals in two games
- has been a regular in Faroe Island YAC national teams; expected to make a breakthrough in the senior team anytime soon



ÍSAK GÚSTAFSSON

Right back

- Icelandic international, who joined Valur at the start of the 2023/24 season
- was instrumental to Valur's title win in the EHF European Cup 2023/24, scoring eight times in the second leg of the final against Olympiacos
- previously played for Selfoss; made his European debut there in the EHF Cup 2019/20
- went through the YAC teams of Iceland, meanwhile a member of the senior team

EC: 2024



ALEXANDER PETERSSON

 @alexanderpetersson32

Right back

- one of the most experienced players, alongside goalkeeper Björgvin Pall Gustavsson
- joined Valur in 2023 from Melsungen, one of their opponents in the EL 2024/25
- also played for SG Flensburg-Handewitt, Rhein-Neckar Löwen, Füchse Berlin, TV Großwallstadt, HSG Düsseldorf and Grotta/KR
- All-star right back of the 2011 WCh; voted Icelandic sportsperson of the year 2010

EC: 2024
EURO: B 2010; OG: S 2008

GROUP G PREVIEW



TITLE HOLDERS FLENSBURG FACE OPPOSITION FROM SOUTHEAST

The defending EHF European League champions, SG Flensburg-Handewitt, will be travelling southeast in group G, facing teams from Hungary, Croatia and Czechia. Backed by four newly-crowned Olympic champions (Simon Pytlík, Emil Jakobsen, Lukas Jørgensen and new arrival Niclas Kirkeløkke), Flensburg aim to defend the trophy in May 2025 after they missed out on a place in the Machineseeker EHF Champions League following their third-place finish in the German Bundesliga. The squad has remained almost the same as last season, when they beat Fühse Berlin in the all-German final in Hamburg. Flensburg have won five different EHF trophies, highlighted by the EHF Champions League title in 2014, and are now eager to add a second-straight EHF European League title.



Like Flensburg, MOL Tatabánya KC are a well-known face in European club competitions. The 2024/25 campaign marks Tatabánya's 16th international season, having been a constant participant of the EHF Cup from 2004 to 2019. The team of Spanish head coach Cristian Ugalde are playing in their fourth EHF European League season – though they failed to go beyond the group phase in any of their previous appearances in 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2023/24. For the new season, Tatabánya made some big signings, such as EHF Champions-League-experienced Spaniard Ignacio Plaza Jimenez from FC Porto.



Perhaps the biggest name at MRK Sestvete is their coach – Olympic and world champion Igor Vori, who won the EHF Champions League with Hamburg in 2013. He took over at Sestvete in October 2023 and steered them to the EHF European League. In the previous season, the Croatian side played in the EHF European Cup, but lost out against Besiktas Safi Cimento from Türkiye in round 3. MRK's squad is composed only of Croatian players.



HCB Karvina arrived from qualification in group G – the 33:22 home win in the first leg was a comfortable cushion against Izvidac, so the 32:26 defeat in the away leg against the Bosnian club did not hurt and they advanced 59:54 on aggregate. The team coached by Michal Bruna and Radek Godal played in the EHF European Cup in the last four seasons, but the club with a long international history also spent eight years in the EHF Champions League until 2008. Karvina's squad is almost all-Czech, led by their top scorer in qualification: Jonas Patzel, who netted 14 times in total.

Björn Pazen

GROUP G HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS DUELS BETWEEN THE TEAMS OF GROUP G

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs MOL Tatabanya KC

No previous encounters in European competitions

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs MRK Sesvete

No previous encounters in European competitions

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs HCB Karvina 7-1-0 (255:181) 15:1

10.11.1996	Banik Karvina vs SG Flensburg Handewitt, EHF Cup – Last 16	21:21 (13:11)
16.11.1996	SG Flensburg Handewitt vs Banik Karvina, EHF Cup – Last 16	26:18 (13:7)
16.10.2004	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs HC Banik Karvina, EHF Champions League – Group H	32:24 (16:13)
31.10.2004	HC Banik Karvina vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Group H	27:39 (12:21)
02.10.2005	HC Banik Karvina vs SG Flensburg Handewitt, EHF Champions League – Group H	22:28 (13:14)
05.11.2005	SG Flensburg Handewitt vs HC Banik Karvina, EHF Champions League – Group H	35:28 (16:12)
26.11.2011	HCB OKD Karvina vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt, Cup Winners' Cup – Round 3	23:37 (11:20)
03.12.2011	SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs HCB OKD Karvina, Cup Winners' Cup – Round 3	37:18 (19:9)

MOL Tatabanya KC vs MRK Sesvete

No previous encounters in European competitions

MOL Tatabanya KC vs HCB Karvina

No previous encounters in European competitions

MRK Sesvete vs HCB Karvina

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP G




Club contact

Club address

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 SGFlHa

 @SGFlHa

 @sgflensburghandewitt

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Campushalle
Campusallee 2
24941 Flensburg
Germany
Capacity: 4,600

SG FLENSBURG— HANDEWITT



By winning the EHF Finals 2024, SG Flensburg–Handewitt made history: they became the first club to win five different EHF club competitions. As defending EHF European League champions, they hope for another title in the new season.

Five players became Olympic champions with Denmark in Paris/Lille, including the All-star Team member Simon Pylick, Lukas Jørgensen and new arrival Niclas Kirkeløkke. In general, the squad has almost remained the same – ready to rumble both in the Bundesliga in Europe.

- after losing in the quarter-finals and missing the EHF Finals in their own arena in 2023, Flensburg had an almost perfect season last year, beating Füchse Berlin 36:31 in the final of the EHF Finals 2024 in Hamburg
- the only changes in the squad were the arrival of Niclas Kirkeløkke (from Rhein-Neckar Löwen) and the departure of Teitur Örn Einarsson (VfL Gummersbach)
- Flensburg play their 30th consecutive European cup season since 1995, including 17 years in the EHF Champions League
- in the German Bundesliga, Flensburg finished the 2023/24 season in third behind SC Magdeburg and Füchse Berlin, respectively

Talking about the group matches opponents, coach Nicolej Krickau says: “We are certainly the favourites and have to prepare ourselves for a type of handball that is typical for the Balkans. The group is not easy, but we have to win. Tatabanya are strong and it will be interesting to face opponents who we don’t play against very often.”

One new arrival on the bench is a well-known face at Flensburg: assistant coach Anders Eggert. The 42-year-old Dane is one of the eight official club legends of SG Flensburg–Handewitt, having played for the club from 2006 to 2017 and becoming the second-most successful scorer in the club’s history. “We want to win all the trophies, this is why I came back to Flensburg,” Eggert says.

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 3

Winners (1): 2023/24

Quarter-finals (1): 2022/23

Other

EHF Champions League

Winners (1): 2013/14

Runners-up (2): 2003/04, 2006/07

Semi-finals (1): 2005/06

Quarter-finals (9): 2004/05, 2008/09, 2010/11, 2012/13, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2020/21

EHF Cup

Winners (1): 1996/97

Cup Winners' Cup

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

City Cup

Winners (1): 1998/99

German league: 3 titles (2004, 2018, 2019)

German cup: 4 titles (2003-05, 2015)





NICOLE J KRICKAU

Coach

- Danish coach, who arrived in Flensburg in the summer of 2023 from GOG
- he took with him Simon Pytlick – the MVP of the EHF Excellence Awards 2022/23 – and Lukas Jørgensen, both part of the Paris 2024 Olympics All-star Team
- former centre back, who ended his playing career in 2007 due to injury after just three seasons with Skanderborg Håndbold
- started working as a youth coach at Skanderborg, took over the senior team in 2013, before joining GOG four years later
- known for his ability to develop young players

EL: 2024 (coach)

ARRIVALS

Niclas Kirkeløkke (Löwen/GER)

DEPARTURES

Teitur Einarsson (Gummersbach/GER)

Mark Bult (Nordhorn-Lingen/GER)

Boris Zivkovic (Al-Qurain/KWT)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Benjamin	Buric	BIH	Goalkeeper	20/11/1990	Doboј, BIH	196
2	Simon	Pytlick	DEN	Left back	11/12/2000	Svendborg, DEN	193
C 4	Johannes	Golla	GER	Line player	05/11/1997	Wiesbaden, GER	195
5	Niclas	Kirkeløkke	DEN	Right back	26/03/1994	Ringe, DEN	195
17	Ben Kjell	Schmitt	GER	Goalkeeper	31/01/2004	Buxtehude, GER	197
18	Moritz Frederik	Detlefsen	GER	Line player	25/01/2008	Flensburg, GER	202
19	Oskar	Czertowicz	POL	Centre back	09/02/2006	Kwidzyn, POL	191
20	Kevin	Møller	DEN	Goalkeeper	20/06/1989	Tøndern, DEN	200
21	Jonas	Rithaphorn	DEN	Left wing	18/09/2006	Haderslev, DEN	182
22	Mads	Mensah Larsen	DEN	Centre back	12/08/1991	Holbaek, DEN	188
24	Jim	Gottfridsson	SWE	Centre back	02/09/1992	Ystad, SWE	192
25	Lukas Lindhard	Jørgensen	DEN	Line player	31/03/1999	Lejre, DEN	194
26	Johan a Plogv	Hansen	DEN	Right wing	01/05/1994	Tórshavn,, FAR	190
27	Aksel	Horgen	NOR	Right wing	29/05/1996	Lørenskog, NOR	185
28	Arv Jendre	Kinsky	GER	Right wing	13/11/2005	Husum, GER	186
29	August Baskar	Pedersen	NOR	Left wing	24/06/1994	Notodden, NOR	180
31	Emil	Jakobsen	DEN	Left wing	24/01/1998	Kerteminde, DEN	190
33	Kay	Smits	NED	Right back	31/03/1997	Geleen, NED	186
34	Thilo	Knutzen	GER	Centre back	19/12/2004	Flensburg, GER	208
43	Blaz	Blagotinsek	SLO	Line player	17/01/1994	Celje, SLO	203
52	Philipp Maximilian	Sekowski	GER	Right back	19/05/2005	Husum, GER	199
64	Lasse Kjær	Møller	DEN	Left back	11/06/1996	Gudme, DEN	199



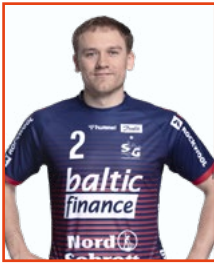
BENJAMIN BURIC

 @benjaminburic12

Goalkeeper

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

EL: 2024



SIMON PYTLICK

 @simonpytlickk

Left back

- Danish international since 2021, who arrived at Flensburg in 2023 from his only previous club, GOG; missed the first months of the 2023/24 season due to injury
- son of former handball coach Jan Pytlick; both are Olympic champions with Denmark
- MVP of 2022/23 at EHF Excellence Awards; All-star left back at 2024 Olympics
- at 23, already a Olympic and world champion

EL: 2024

OG: G 2024; WCh: G 2023; EURO: S 2024



BLAZ BLAGOTINSEK

 @blagi4

Line player

- experienced Slovenian international, who played for Veszprém from 2016 until 2022
- joined Flensburg in 2023, after one year at Göppingen and playing EHF Finals 2023
- made CL All-star Team as best defender in 2018/19 and 2019/20
- previously played four seasons at Celje in his native Slovenia
- made national team debut for Slovenia at age 18 in 2012

EL: 2024

WCh: B 2017



JOHANNES GOLLA

 @johgolla

Line player

- German international, who arrived in Flensburg in 2018 from MT Melsungen
- key defender for Flensburg and national team since his first major event, the 2021 WCh; was named in the EHF EURO 2022 All-star Team
- played first match for national team in same year that he joined Flensburg: 2018
- is team captain in Flensburg and the German national team

EL: 2024

GROUP G




Club contact

Club address

MOL Tatabánya KC
Köztársaság út 1/A
2800 Tatabánya
Hungary


Media contact

Kata Székely-Marosi
kata.marosi@tatabanyahandball.com
+36 70 63 36 733

 tatabanyahandball.com

 tatabanyahandball

 –

 @tatabanyahandball

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Tatabányai Multifunkciós
Csarnok
Olimpicon u.
2800 Tatabánya, Hungary
Capacity: 6,200

MOL TATABÁNYA KC



MOL Tatabánya KC have changed a significant part of their roster — nine players arrived, nine left, while Cristian Ugalde retired at the end of the 2023/24 season. From this season, Ugalde has a new role, leading the team as head coach. The Spaniard is well aware of the tough competition, but he has faith in his team.

“My players get in better physical condition each week, so we can put more and more effort into practicing offensive and defensive tactics,” said the coach, satisfied with his team’s pre-season progress.

- played in the EHF European League group phase for the past three seasons, but failed to reach the last 16
- best European results in recent years were two EHF Cup quarter-finals, in 2017 and 2019
- finished third in the Hungarian league behind Veszprém and Szeged in the 2023/24 season
- nine new players joined ahead of the 2024/25 campaign, including French centre back Sadou Ntanzi, from Paris Saint-Germain
- nine players including Hungarian national team player Adam Juhasz and team captain Gábor Ancsin left the club at the end of the 2023/24 season

Tatabánya were eliminated in the group matches last season, but they have reinforced their roster during the summer with experienced international players, such as Sadou Ntanzi, who arrived from PSG, and Ignacio Plaza Jimenez, from FC Porto.

“We know teams in the EHF European League are strong, as we are in the same group with the titleholders, Flensburg-Handewitt. First, we would like to perform decently, our main goal is to advance from the group matches. But of course, we would be happy if we could get as far as possible in this competition.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4

Group matches (1): 2023/24

Group phase (2): 2021/22, 2022/23

Other

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (2): 2016/17, 2018/19

Last 16 (1): 2010/11

Group phase (1): 2019/20

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

Hungarian cup: 2 titles (1969, 1978)





CRISTIAN UGALDE

Coach

- two-time EHF Champions League winner who retired as player at the end of the 2023/24 season, and was then announced as the new head coach of Tatabánya
- the former Spanish left wing had joined the club in 2022
- he previously played for Barça, Veszprém, Hannover, and Athens, winning three European club trophies in total
- played over 130 matches for the Spanish national team
- graduated in Science of Physical Activity and Sport at a private university near Madrid

CL 2005, 2011; EC 2021 (player)

WCh: B 2011; EURO: S 2016, B 2014 (player)

ARRIVALS

Attila Radvánszki (Szeged/HUN)
Sadou Ntanzi (PSG/FRA)
Patrick Lemos (AEK Athens/GRE)
Baptiste Damatrin (Nantes/FRA)
Nacho Ignacio Plaza (FC Porto/POR)
Damian Przytula (Zabrze/POL)
Matej Havran (Zubri/CZE)
Milan Golubovic (Vojvodina/SRB)

DEPARTURES

Gábor Ancsin (FTC/HUN)
Mátyás Györi (FTC/HUN)
Reza Yadegari (Eger/HUN, on loan)
Uros Vilovszky (Győr/HUN)
Huba Vajda (Győr/HUN)
Josip Peric (Olympiacos/GRE)
Andrej Pergel (La Rioja/ESP)

TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Attila	Radvánszki	HUN	Goalkeeper	31/12/2004	Kisvárdá, HUN	193
2	Mateo	Maraš	CRO	Right back	17/12/2000	Split, CRO	203
7	Sadou	Ntanzi	FRA	Centre back	07/01/2000	Longjumeau, FRA	183
10	Patrick	Lemos	BRA	Centre back	23/05/1996	Sorriso, BRA	190
11	Baptiste	Damatin	FRA	Left wing	29/04/2000	Saint Maurice, FRA	177
C 12	Márton	Székely	HUN	Goalkeeper	02/01/1990	Budapest, HUN	194
14	Márkó	Eklemovic	HUN	Centre back	04/10/2007	Telki, HUN	182
15	Christian	Dissinger	GER	Left back	15/11/1991	Ludwigshafen, GER	202
16	László	Bartucz	HUN	Goalkeeper	05/11/1991	Orosháza, HUN	194
17	Ignacio	Plaza Jimenez	ESP	Line player	10/01/1994	Ciudad Real, ESP	195
22	Petar	Topic	HUN	Line player	30/12/1991	Split, CRO	201
23	Cristian	Ugalde Garcia	ESP	Left wing	19/10/1987	Barcelona, ESP	186
26	Pedro Rodríguez	Alvarez	HUN	Right wing	22/08/1990	Vigo, ESP	193
30	Yuga	Enomoto	JPN	Right wing	20/12/2000	Tokyo, JPN	175
37	Damian	Przytula	POL	Left back	27/11/1998	Olsztyn, POL	200
54	Matej	Havran	CZE	Left back	22/01/2002	Vsetín, CZE	190
61	Milan	Golubovic	SRB	Right back	21/09/2000	Belgrade, SRB	190
88	Bence	Krakovszki	HUN	Right wing	09/07/2002	Győr, HUN	187



MÁRTON SZÉKELY

 @martonszekely

Goalkeeper

- Tatabánya team captain, who returned to the club in 2022 after an earlier three-year stint in 2016-19
- played for five clubs in Hungary, including two seasons at Veszprém, before spending nearly two years abroad at Porto (POR) and Pelister (MKD)
- had national team debut in 2013; has played at various major events for Hungary since 2019, including their home EHF EURO in 2022



CHRISTIAN DISSINGER

 @christiandissinger

Left back

- German international, who signed for Tatabánya midway through the 2023/24 season, arriving from another Hungarian side, PLER Budapest
- has played for clubs in seven different countries, including Kiel in Germany, Vardar in North Macedonia, and Dinamo Bucuresti in Romania
- won CL with Vardar in 2019, and the EHF EURO with Germany in 2016

CL: 2019
WCh: B 2011; EURO: G 2016; OG: B 2016



IGNACIO PLAZA JIMENEZ

 @nacheto_plaza

Line player

- Spanish pivot, who played for his youth club Ciudad Real and Puerto Sagunta before moving abroad in 2015
- after stints in Germany (Füchse, Magdeburg), Greece (Athens), and Portugal (Porto), he arrived at Tatabánya in the summer of 2024
- won EC in 2020/21 with AEK; together with his current coach, Cristian Ugalde
- was the All-star line player of the M20 EHF EURO 2014, where Spain took bronze

EHF Cup: 2018; EC: 2021



PEDRO RODRÍGUEZ

 @pedrorodriguez26

Right wing

- Spanish-born Hungarian international, who arrived at Tatabánya in 2022
- started senior career in his native Spain and played for La Rioja until his move to Hungary in 2016, when he joined Szeged
- spent three seasons each with Szeged and Balatonfüred before joining Tatabánya
- played three games for Spain in 2015/16 but later gained Hungarian citizenship; part of Hungary national team since January 2021, competed at 2024 Olympics

GROUP G




Club contact


Club address

MRK Sesvete
Bistricka 9/1
10360 Sesvete
Croatia

Media contact

Filip Škrlec
skrlec@gmail.com
+385 912 271 704

 mrk-sesvete.hr

 mrksesvete

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 @mrksesvete

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

High school Jelkovec
Vladimira Strahuljaka
Street 1 S
10 360 Zagreb
Croatia
Capacity: 950

MRK SESVETE



The ambitious club from Sesvete, the easternmost city district of Zagreb, is entering its first-ever group stage of a European competition. Founded in 2000, the Croatian club secured a spot in the national first division in 2017 and has been on the rise since. They have finished third in the Croatian league for three consecutive years, and with legendary line player Igor Vori leading the team from 2023, they are dreaming big. Two years of playing in the EHF European Cup and the qualification round of the EHF European League will bring additional experience to a well-structured team.

- it is first time Croatia is represented by two teams in the group matches of the EHF European League
- head coach is Olympic and EHF Champions League winner Igor Vori, who started to play handball at Sesvete at the age of 16
- Sesvete's best result in a European club competition is the quarter-final of the EHF European Cup 2022/23, when they lost to eventual champions Nærbø IL
- one of their most experienced players, Ivan Dumencic, is also a renowned beach handball player, with three world and two European gold medals
- the squad of Sesvete includes only Croatian players

Sesvete are going on steadily for a couple of years without major changes in the squad and they proved that again this summer. Only three players hit the exit while three others joined.

Team captain Mislav Suker: "The biggest motivation will be to show everything that we have trained for and worked on in recent years. For all players, playing in the EHF European League is a great reward, and we will accept it wholeheartedly."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 2
Qualification (1): 2021/22

Other

EHF European Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2022/23

Croatian league: –

Croatian cup: –





IGOR VORI

Coach

- highly decorated former Croatian international, who took over as head coach of MRK Sesvete, his youth club, in 2023
- Sesvete is his third job as a coach, he previously led HC Zagreb and TV Großwallstadt in Germany
- worked as an assistant to national team coach Lino Cervar at the EHF EURO 2020, where Croatia won silver
- ended his career as a line player at Zagreb in 2018; played in four other countries — France, Spain, Germany and Italy
- won CL in 2013 with Hamburg and nine medals from major events with Croatia between 2004 and 2013

CL: 2013 (as player)

WCh: G 2003, S 2005, 2009, B 2013; OG: G 2004, B 2012;

EURO: S 2008, 2010, B 2012 (as player)

ARRIVALS

Matej Svržnjak (Gorica/CRO)

Tonči Ivanišević (Togir/CRO)

Nikola Kahlina (Maksimir/CRO, return from loan)

Leon Pavičić (Zagreb/CRO)

DEPARTURES

Matej Ćuk (Čakovec/CRO)

Marko Prpić (Karlovac/CRO, on loan)

Aleksandar Čaprić (Eisenach/GER)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Filip	Peric	CRO	Goalkeeper	17/12/1998	Zagreb, CRO	190
3	Karlo	Antunovic	CRO	Left back	25/08/2006	Zagreb, CRO	185
5	Franko	Pomper	CRO	Left wing	05/10/2006	Zagreb, CRO	187
7	Patrik	Hršak	CRO	Left back	14/07/2002	Zagreb, CRO	194
9	Luka	Horvat	CRO	Right wing	22/06/2008	Zagreb, CRO	187
10	Nikola	Jelovcic	CRO	Line player	04/12/2001	Zagreb, CRO	193
11	Ivan	Dumencic	CRO	Centre back	10/07/1990	Zagreb, CRO	191
12	Nikola	Kahlina	CRO	Goalkeeper	05/08/2004	Zagreb, CRO	201
13	Josip	Tomic	CRO	Left back	24/03/2006	Zagreb, CRO	192
15	Filip	Turcic	CRO	Right wing	06/09/1998	Zagreb, CRO	199
16	Leo Branko	Sunajko	CRO	Goalkeeper	22/11/2006	Zagreb, CRO	191
17	Zlatko	Raužan	CRO	Line player	14/02/2002	Zagreb, CRO	189
C 18	Mislav	Šuker	CRO	Line player	13/09/1996	Zagreb, CRO	195
19	Tonci	Ivanišević	CRO	Left back	06/03/2004	Split, CRO	196
21	Davor	Gavric	CRO	Centre back	09/10/2000	Zagreb, CRO	190
24	Karlo	Godec	CRO	Left wing	14/01/1999	Zagreb, CRO	192
25	David	Štrkovic	CRO	Left back	31/01/2002	Zagreb, CRO	205
27	Nikola	Finek	CRO	Left wing	19/09/1999	Zagreb, CRO	186
32	Vito	Salaj	CRO	Centre back	14/08/2006	Zagreb, CRO	185
39	Fran	Premec	CRO	Centre back	07/05/2006	Koprivnica, CRO	179
44	Ante	Lasan	CRO	Line player	31/12/2006	Zagreb, CRO	205
45	Mihael	Udovicic	CRO	Left wing	01/08/2006	Zagreb, CRO	195
54	Noa Luka	Lujic	CRO	Left back	19/10/2007	Zagreb, CRO	191
55	Leon	Pavicic	CRO	Right back	09/05/2006	Zagreb, CRO	195
99	Josip	Topic	CRO	Right wing	02/07/1999	Zagreb, CRO	182



PATRIK HRŠAK

 @h.patrik26

Left back

- started his career in Dugo Selo, transferred to Sesvete before the 2021/22 season
- has been part of Croatia's YAC national teams; won silver at M19 EHF EURO 2021 which took place in Croatia
- was Sesvete's best scorer, and third-best overall, in the 2023/24 season of the Croatian league, netting 139 times in 25 games



IVAN DUMENCIC

 @duma11

Centre back

- one of the most experienced players in the squad, started playing handball in Sesvete
- returned to the club in the summer of 2021; had stints in Dubrava, Borac Banja Luka, Nexe, and clubs in Qatar, Türkiye, Hungary, and the United Arab Emirates
- missed the 2023/24 season due to a knee injury but has recovered
- also a prolific beach handball player; won three world and two European titles



DAVOR GAVRIC

 @davor_gavric

Centre back

- joined Sesvete in the 2018/19 season; previously played for Dubrava, where he was also part of the youth academy
- had his first European season with the club in the EL 2021/22
- was Sesvete's second-best scorer in the Croatian league, netting 113 goals in 25 games with an additional 22 in four games of the EC



MISLAV ŠUKER

Line player

- team captain, who has been playing for Sesvete since October 2018
- started to play handball in Dugo Selo; also played for Dubrava and Varazdin in Croatia
- crucial defensive player for Sesvete; scored 35 times in the EC 2022/23, when the club reached the quarter-finals
- made his European debut in 2017/18 with Dubrava in the EHF Cup

GROUP G



Club contact


Club address

HCB Karvina
Cihelni 1652/51
73 506 Karvina-Nove Mesto
Czechia


Media contact

Michaela Hlubková
michaela.hlubkova@hcb-karvina.cz
+420 702 233 744

 hcb-karvina.cz

 HcbKarvina

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 @hcbkarvina

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Sportovní hala házené
STARS

Cihelni 1652/51
73506 Karvina-Nove Mesto
Czechia
Capacity: 1,600

HCB KARVINA



The Czech champions secured their spot in the EHF European League Men through a special qualification path, against HC Izvidac. The ambitious club from Karvina are entering their seventh consecutive European season with their biggest success in recent years being the quarter-finals of the EHF European Cup in 2022/23.

Karvina return to the group phase of an European competition after previously playing the same stage of the EHF Champions League in eight seasons, from 2000/01 to 2007/08.

- this is the 25th season in HCB Karvina's European history, which started with the City Cup in 1993/94
- head coach and president Michal Brůna is a former player of Karvina, participated in four EHF Champions League seasons with the club
- in 2022/23, they reached the EHF European Cup quarter-finals, but lost to Runar Sandefjord Elite
- legendary Czech goalkeeper Martin Galia works as a goalkeeper coach at Karvina
- Ukrainian international Illia Blyzniuk is the only non-Czech player in the squad

Led by head coach and club president Michal Brůna and with an almost all-Czech squad, the club is eager to showcase their skills on the European stage and secure additional experience for the young talents. Playing against strong opponents in group G is not important only for the players, but also for the club and fans, as they are committed to making the most of this opportunity.

Team captain Jan Uzek says: "We have achieved our first goal; we have made it into the group matches. Our biggest motivation is to provide the strongest competition for all the teams and deliver the best possible performances. Our motivation is that we can compare ourselves with some of the best teams in Europe."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 1

Other

EHF Champions League

Group matches (8): 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (2): 1997/98, 1998/99

City Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 1999/2000

EHF European Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2022/23

Last 16 (1): 2023/24

Czech league: 15 titles (1968, 1972, 2000-02, 2004-10, 2018, 2022, 2024)

Czech cup: 8 titles (including 2024)





MICHAL BRŮNA

Coach

- former Czech international, who took over at Karvina in 2020 both as head coach and as club president
- as player, he was a right back and grew up at Karvina
- then had stints at clubs like Toulouse, Rostock, Pogoń Szczecin, and Fūchse Berlin; retired in 2020
- competed in four major tournaments for the Czech national team, including the EHF EURO events in 2004 and 2008

ARRIVALS

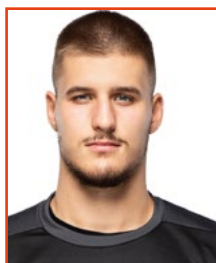
Illja Blyzniuk (Zaporozhye/UKR)
Vojtěch Patzel (Lübeck-Schwartau/GER)
Pavel Bajer (Zubří/CZE)
Daniel Křístek (Dukla Praha/CZE)

DEPARTURES

Jan Plaček (retired)
David Ruza (Maloměřice/CZE)
Adam Ptáčník (Brno/CZE)
Dušan Živanov (unknown)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Petr	Mokros	CZE	Goalkeeper	08/08/1997	Havírov, CZE	188
7	Illia	Blyzniuk	UKR	Right back	19/02/2001	Zaporozi, UKR	185
10	Vaclav	Kostalek	CZE	Left back	07/04/2005	Ostrava, CZE	186
13	Vojtech	Prasivka	CZE	Centre back	08/01/2005	Ostrava, CZE	190
15	Vojtech	Patzel	CZE	Left back	23/09/1998	Prague, CZE	190
16	Martin	Galia	CZE	Goalkeeper	12/04/1979	Karviná, CZE	189
18	Jan	Placek	CZE	Right wing	04/08/1997	Karviná, CZE	186
19	Jonas	Patzel	CZE	Centre back	14/02/2002	Prague, CZE	190
21	Patrik	Fulnek	CZE	Centre back	23/05/1995	Kopřivnice, CZE	186
22	Vojtech	Kostalek	CZE	Goalkeeper	07/04/2005	Ostrava, CZE	186
C 23	Jan	Uzek	CZE	Line player	11/10/1993	Karviná, CZE	194
27	Denis	Harabis	CZE	Right wing	26/05/1999	Ostrava, CZE	181
30	Dominik	Solak	CZE	Left back	17/08/1997	Orlová, CZE	199
31	Ondrej	Skalicky	CZE	Left wing	19/11/1998	Pardubice, CZE	175
32	Matej	Brychlec	CZE	Goalkeeper	28/04/2004	Ostrava, CZE	186
33	Petr	Siroky	CZE	Left wing	08/12/2002	Karviná, CZE	186
34	Daniel	Kristek	CZE	Left back	22/07/1998	Ostrava, CZE	195
38	Matej	Nantl	CZE	Line player	15/07/1998	Litovel, CZE	195
66	Ondrej	Mira	CZE	Goalkeeper	28/06/2005	Karviná, CZE	184
74	Pavel	Bajer	CZE	Right wing	02/05/2002	Prerov, CZE	186
96	Vaclav	Franc	CZE	Line player	10/08/1996	Litomerice, CZE	201



VOJTECH KOSTALEK

 @vojta_kostalek

Goalkeeper

- young talented goalkeeper, who previously played in Ostrava
- his twin brother Vaclav also plays for Karvina, as left back
- spent part of the last few seasons on loan with SKH Polanka, but had special training sessions in Karvina with legendary goalkeeper Martin Galia
- was crucial for Karvina in the EL 2024/25 qualification against Izvidac, with 21 saves for a save efficiency of almost 48 per cent over the two games

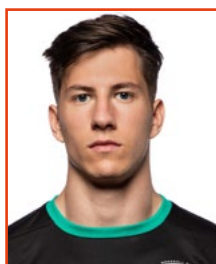


DOMINIK SOLAK

 @soloo_30

Left back

- Czech international and one of the club's most experienced players
- has spent his whole playing career in Karvina; made his European debut with the club in the EHF Cup 2018/19
- was Karvina's top scorer in the EC 2023/24 season, netting 47 times
- regular in the Czech national team since his debut at the 2019 WCh

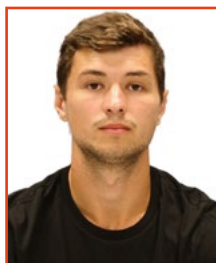


JONAS PATZEL

 @jonaspatzel

Centre back

- arrived in Karvina at the start of the 2022/23 season from HSG Nordhorn-Lingen
- before moving to Germany, Patzel played for Dukla Praha, his childhood club
- is a versatile player, can be used both as a centre back and as a left back
- member of the Czech national team — scored his first goals at a major championship during the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in Germany



ILLIA BLYZNIUK

 @ilyhab_7

Right back

- Ukrainian international, joined Karvina in the summer of 2024 from HC Motor Zaporozhye, the club where he started his career
- became the only non-Czech player in Karvina's squad for the EL 2024/25 season
- this is his sixth European season, he debuted in 2018/19; in 2022/23, he scored 17 goals when Motor reached the Last 16 of the EL
- initially a right wing, but he has transformed into a right back

GROUP H PREVIEW



FOUR TEAMS PREPARE FOR TIGHT RACE TO MAIN ROUND

A mix of north and central Europe forms a balanced group H. Judging by the results of the last few years, Swedish side IK Sävehof might be in the role of favourites. Last season, they made it to the quarter-finals of the EHF European League, but lost against eventual champions SG Flensburg-Handewitt after they had eliminated another team from Germany, TSV Hannover-Burgdorf, in the play-offs. In 2022, they fell one goal short in the Last 16 against Kadetten Schaffhausen. The 2014 Challenge Cup winners became Swedish champions for the eighth time in 2024 and now play their 20th season in EHF competitions – led by Faroese star Óli Mittún.



The most prolific player of this group is the playmaker of FH Hafnarfjörður; Aron Pálmarsson became the youngest ever two-time winner of the EHF Champions League at the age of 22, when he won the trophy again with THW Kiel, before taking up residence at several top cities of international handball such as Veszprém, Barcelona, and Aalborg, winning the EHF Champions League again in 2021 with the Spanish side. Pálmarsson started his career at Hafnarfjörður and returned in 2023, and he also played for many years with Gummersbach's coach Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson in the Icelandic national team. The Icelandic champions from 2023/24, Hafnarfjörður will play their first group stage in an EHF competition.



Fenix Toulouse are playing their sixth international season and their third in the EHF European League. In 2021/22, they only narrowly lost out in the Last 16 against eventual winners SL Benfica. The team of head coach Danijel Anđelkovic finished the French league season 2023/24 in fourth to return to the EHF European League after a two-year absence – in the year of the club's 40th anniversary. Star of the team is Serbian wing Nemanja Ilic, while experienced Swedish defender Fredric Pettersson has retired.



VfL Gummersbach took the biggest margin of victory in qualification, 22 goals against Danish side Mors-Thy. 12 years after their last European season, which ended in the Cup Winners' Cup final against SG Flensburg-Handewitt, the German side is back on the continental stage. Coach Sigurdsson, who steered the team from the second division to the EHF European League, can count on a squad with several big names, mainly thanks to the new arrivals Kentin Mahé (world, Olympic and European champion with France) and Croatian goalkeeper Dominik Kuzmanovic. Also, German Olympic silver medallist Julian Köster and two of Slovenia's Paris 2024 semi-finalists – Kristjan Horzen and Tilen Kodrin – are part of the team.

Björn Pazen

I GROUP H HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS DUELS BETWEEN THE TEAMS OF GROUP H

IK Sävehof vs FH Hafnarfjörður

No previous encounters in European competitions

IK Sävehof vs Fenix Toulouse

No previous encounters in European competitions

IK Sävehof vs VfL Gummersbach

No previous encounters in European competitions

FH Hafnarfjörður vs Fenix Toulouse

No previous encounters in European competitions

FH Hafnarfjörður vs VfL Gummersbach

No previous encounters in European competitions

Fenix Toulouse vs VfL Gummersbach

No previous encounters in European competitions

GROUP H



Club contact

Club address


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

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Partille Arena
Arenatorget 2
43338 Partille
Sweden
Capacity: 4,000

IK SÄVEHOF



After delivering a successful farewell season to former coach Michael Apelgren, who has left for OTP Bank - PICK Szeged, winning the Swedish championship for the eighth time and reaching the quarter-finals of the EHF European League, it is time for a new era at IK Sävahof. Kind of.

New head coach Linus Ekman is a very familiar face. The 31-year-old served as Apelgren's assistant for the past four years, as well as coordinating the club's renowned youth teams. It was only logical for the Swedish champions to turn to one of their own to take over.

- **IK Sävahof reached the EHF European League quarter-finals in 2023/24 – their best European result since winning the EHF Challenge Cup 10 years earlier**
- **they faced all-German opposition in the knockout phase last season, beating TSV Hannover-Burgdorf in the play-offs but losing to eventual champions SG Flensburg-Handewitt in the quarter-finals**
- **their roster includes lots of talented youngsters, like the Men's 20 EHF EURO 2024 top scorer, Óli Mittún**
- **Sävahof's four goalkeepers in the squad have an average age of 19.25 years at the start of the season**

Even though Ekman is a young coach, only one player in the squad is older than him, 33-year-old right back Magnus Persson. One of the eye-catching youngsters in the Sävahof roster is Óli Mittún, who is among the leaders of a new generation of Faroese players. He embodies the style of the team perfectly: dynamic, fast-paced, always gunning for the ball.

Former team captain and goalkeeper Simon Möller left the club for Fenix Toulouse. Möller does not have to wait too long for his return though, as Sävahof and Toulouse were drawn in group H of this year's competition.

Team captain Sebastian Spante says that game is one he is looking forward to, adding: "Every European League game is very special and we are looking forward to all of them."

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4

Quarter-finals (1): 2023/24

Last 16 (1): 2021/22

Qualification (1): 2022/23

Other

EHF Champions League

Last 16 (2): 2004/05, 2011/12

Group phase (4): 2005/06, 2010/11, 2012/13, 2019/20

EHF Cup

Last 16 (1): 2006/07

EHF Challenge Cup

Winners (1): 2013/14

Semi-finals: 2002/03

Swedish league: 8 titles (2004, 2005, 2010-12, 2019, 2021, 2024)

Swedish cup: 1 title (2022)





LINUS EKMAN

Coach

- former Sävehof player, who was promoted to the head coach position in 2024 after Michael Apelgren left to join Szeged
- had previously served as assistant coach for four seasons
- has taken on his first head coaching job, at the age of 31; worked with Sävehof's youth teams earlier
- played as a left back for Sävehof; was part of the squad in the 2013/14 season when they won the club's only European trophy so far – the Challenge Cup

CC: 2014 (as player)

ARRIVALS

Magnus Persson (Malmö/SWE)
Isak Vedelsbøl (H71/FAR)

DEPARTURES

Simon Möller (Toulouse/FRA)
Felix Möller (Aalborg Håndbold)
William Andersson Moberg (Fredericia/DEN)
Alexander Ørjevik Westby (Drammen/NOR)
Tobias Johansson (retired)

TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Oscar	Sävinger	SWE	Goalkeeper	13/06/2002	Sävedalen, SWE	197
2	Emil	Johannisson	SWE	Line player	01/06/2004	Partille, SWE	192
3	Emil	Berlin	SWE	Right back	24/02/2001	Göteborg, SWE	188
4	Leon	Halén	SWE	Left wing	25/05/2006	Partille, SWE	185
5	Olle	Ek	SWE	Centre back	01/11/1997	Sofia, SWE	186
6	Adam	Blanche	SWE	Line player	18/10/2000	Stockholm, SWE	193
8	Kelvin	Roberts	SWE	Left back	17/01/2003	Partille, SWE	192
9	Erik	Follin	SWE	Right back	15/05/2005	Landvetter, SWE	192
10	Magnus	Persson	SWE	Right back	17/12/1990	Halmstad, SWE	192
11	Gustaf	Wedberg	SWE	Right wing	18/04/1999	Partille, SWE	180
12	Erik	Andersson	SWE	Goalkeeper	21/03/2007	Skogslyckan, SWE	195
15	Sebastian	Durlanu	SWE	Centre back	24/05/2004	Craiova, ROU	181
16	Arvid	Norén	SWE	Goalkeeper	21/02/2004	Partille, SWE	197
C 17	Sebastian	Spante	SWE	Left wing	26/07/2000	Haga, SWE	176
18	Pontus	Brolin	SWE	Left back	25/12/2000	Kloster, SWE	193
19	Tryggvi	Þórisson	ISL	Line player	18/06/2002	Sellfoss, ISL	200
21	David	Sandberg	SWE	Left back	10/05/1998	Säve, SWE	197
22	Alexander	Hambalek	SWE	Centre back	07/05/2004	Styrstad, SWE	182
23	Arvid	Moradnia	SWE	Centre back	04/06/2006	Björkekärr, SWE	178
24	Fabian	Blomberg	SWE	Centre back	24/10/2006	Barcelona, ESP	185
25	Malte	Celander	SWE	Right wing	18/03/2002	Sävedalen, SWE	190
26	Lukas	Bill	SWE	Right back	15/01/2007	Partille, SWE	183
27	Johan	Rahm	SWE	Left wing	25/07/2004	Partille, SWE	187
28	Janne	Delkvist	SWE	Left back	28/04/2006	Nylöse, SWE	191
29	Thure	Frederiksen	SWE	Centre back	08/06/2007	Sävedalen, SWE	187
30	Jakob	Printz	SWE	Goalkeeper	22/02/2006	Partille, SWE	190
47	Ísak	Vedelsbøl	FAR	Line player	18/10/2004	Copenhagen, DEN	196
78	Óli	Mittún	FAR	Centre back	10/06/2005	Torshavn, FAR	186



OSCAR SÄVINGER

 @oscarsavinger

Goalkeeper

- Swedish international, who has made his way through the youth ranks of the club
- stepped up in the Swedish league play-off final in 2023/24 after Möller's injury to lead his team to the series win against Ystads IF HF
- became new No. 1 on goal after Simon Möller left for Toulouse in 2024
- made his national team debut for Sweden in April 2024

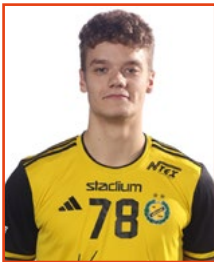


KELVIN ROBERTS

 @kelvin_roberts_

Left back

- key player for Sävehof since making his debut for the club in 2022
- plays as a left back, but can also feature on the left wing; made the M20 EHF EURO 2022 All-star Team as left wing
- his sister, Jamina, is a Swedish international and won the CL with Vipers in 2023
- their father, James, was a sailor who came to Sweden from Aruba in the 1970s



ÓLI MITTÚN

 @oli_mittun

Centre back

- one of Faroe Islands' biggest talents; cousin of fellow internationals Elias and Rói Ellefsen á Skipagøtu; his brother Pauli and sister Jana are also internationals
- initially also played football, even made Faroe Island's national under-15 team, but ultimately switched to handball
- top scorer of M18 EHF EURO 2022 with 80 goals, and 2023 Youth WCh with 87 goals
- was part of the Faroese national team that made their EHF EURO debut in 2024



GUSTAF WEDBERG

 @wedberg

Right wing

- born in Partille and began his career at his hometown club; returned to Sävehof in 2023 after two years at IF Hallby
- became Sävehof's top scorer in the EL 2023/24 season with 72 goals, was the seventh-best scorer overall that season
- son of Robert Wedberg, former Swedish international and Sävehof coach

GROUP H



Club contact

Club address

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 FH Hafnarfjörður

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 @fthingar

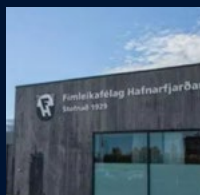
Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
GK shirt: violet



Playing hall

Íþrottamidstöð Kaplakríka
Kaplakríki
220 Hafnarfjörður
Iceland
Capacity: 2,800

FH HAFNARFJÖRDUR



FH Hafnarfjörður make their debut in the EHF European League after featuring in the EHF European Cup last season, where they reached the Last 16. The Icelandic club endured a successful season on home soil as FH won the domestic league for the first time since 2009.

Now, the ambitious club has risen to play in the EHF second-tier club competition after leaving a positive impression in the EHF European Cup. With an experienced leader in their ranks, Aron Pálmarsson, they hope for another positive impact this year.

- **Hafnarfjörður played in the EHF European Cup in 2023/24; reaching the Last 16 marked their best result in a European club competition**
- **they have a talented squad, blending youth and experience with players aged from 17 to 36, led by EHF Champions League winner Aron Pálmarsson**
- **won the domestic title in 2023/24 for the first time in 13 years, and for the 17th time overall, making them the second-most successful club in Iceland**

Hafnarfjörður proved themselves to be a tough nut to crack last season by coming out unscathed from a couple of extremely difficult trips to Diomidis Argous and RK Partizan, which speaks volumes about their quality and mentality. With the experience in EHF club competitions behind them, they will be even more dangerous this time around, despite the tougher competition.

Coach Sigursteinn Arndal says: “Competing in the European League is very important for FH Hafnarfjörður as a club. It gives us the chance to play against top European teams and allows our team and players to measure themselves against some of the best in the world.”

Pálmarsson adds that the club’s main objective is to “win all three domestic titles and make some noise in the EHF European League, have fun and enjoy playing on such a big stage for us as a team.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 1

Other

EHF Champions League

Qualification (1): 2011/12

EHF European Cup

Last 16 (1): 2023/24

Icelandic league: 17 titles (1956, 1957, 1959-61, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1971, 1974, 1976, 1984, 1985, 1990, 1992, 2011, 2024)

Icelandic cup: 6 titles (1975-77, 1992, 1994, 2019)





SIGURSTEINN ARNDAL

Coach

- former Hafnarfjörður player, who has been working as their head coach since 2019
- led Hafnarfjörður to the title in the Icelandic league (Úrvalsdeild karla) last season, which was the club's first domestic league title since 2009
- previously coached the Icelandic youth national teams
- competed in more than 300 matches for Hafnarfjörður during his playing career

ARRIVALS

Ólafur Gústafsson (Akureyri/ISL)
Gunnar Kári Bragason (Selfoss/ISL)

DEPARTURES

Atli Steinn Arnarson (Gróttá/ISL)
Einar Bragi Aðalsteinsson (Kristianstad/SWE)
Axel Hreinn Hilmisson (retired)

TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Daníel Freyr	Andrússon	ISL	Goalkeeper	20/04/1989	Reykjavík, ISL	191
2	Ágúst	Birgisson	ISL	Line player	04/08/1991	Reykjavík, ISL	195
3	Þórir Ingi	Þorsteinsson	ISL	Right wing	21/09/2006	Reykjavík, ISL	191
C 4	Aron	Pálmásson	ISL	Centre back	19/07/1990	Reykjavík, ISL	193
5	Ásbjörn	Friðriksson	ISL	Centre back	02/05/1988	Akureyri, ISL	186
7	Ingvar Dagur	Gunnarsson	ISL	Left back	26/03/2006	Reykjavík, ISL	196
9	Leonhard Thorgeir	Harðarson	ISL	Right wing	03/04/1996	Reykjavík, ISL	186
10	Jón Bjarni	Ólafsson	ISL	Line player	01/09/1995	Reykjavík, ISL	198
11	Ólafur	Gústafsson	ISL	Left back	27/03/1989	Reykjavík, ISL	198
12	Birkir Fannar	Bragason	ISL	Goalkeeper	04/02/1988	Selfoss, ISL	185
15	Jakob Martin	Ásgeirsson	ISL	Left wing	02/05/1998	Reykjavík, ISL	186
18	Daníel	Matthíasson	ISL	Line player	14/11/1994	Akureyri, ISL	185
22	Gunnar Kári	Bragason	ISL	Line player	17/10/2004	Selfoss, ISL	190
24	Einar Örn	Sindrason	ISL	Centre back	10/08/2001	Reykjavík, ISL	186
25	Ómar Darri	Sigurgeirsson	ISL	Left back	21/01/2008	Reykjavík, ISL	197
26	Birgir Már	Birgisson	ISL	Right wing	26/11/1998	Reykjavík, ISL	187
33	Jóhannes Berg	Andrason	ISL	Right back	19/06/2003	Reykjavík, ISL	191
34	Garðar Ingi	Sindrason	ISL	Centre back	01/08/2007	Reykjavík, ISL	190
48	Simon Michael	Gudjónsson	ISL	Left wing	17/10/2002	Reykjavík, ISL	185



ÁSBJÖRN FRÍÐRIKSSON

Centre back

- a player-coach in the 2024/25 season, one of the oldest and most experienced members of Hafnarfjörður's squad
- joined Hafnarfjörður at a young age and has meanwhile played more than 460 matches for them, the sixth-most in the history of the club
- contributed 28 goals to the team's run to the Last of the EC 2023/24



ARON PÁLMARSSON

 @aronpalm

Centre back

- three-time CL winner, who returned to his youth club Hafnarfjörður in 2023
- had left the club in 2009 for Kiel – the start of a glorious career at various top clubs, also including Veszprém, Barça, and Aalborg
- generally regarded one of the best playmakers in handball during the past decade
- made numerous All-star Teams and was MVP of the EHF FINAL4 in 2014 and 2016

CL: 2010, 2012, 2021
EURO: B 2010



JON BJARNI ÓLAFSSON

 @jonbjarnni

Line player

- physically strong line player, who plays a pivotal role in both defence and attack
- was Hafnarfjörður's third-best scorer in the EC 2023/24 season when they reached the Last 16, with 31 goals
- started to play handball at Hauk, but soon switched to Hafnarfjörður
- left for Fjölnir in 2018 but returned to Hafnarfjörður the following year



JÓHANNES BERG ANDRÁSSON

 @joi.berg

Right back

- one of the most promising talents in Hafnarfjörður's young squad
- was the team's top scorer in the EC 2023/24 season with 41 goals
- a skilled shooter with great potential, has a perfect role model in Aron Pálmarsson
- was a regular in Iceland YAC national teams, and has meanwhile made his debut in the senior team

GROUP H



Club contact

Club address

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Media contact

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 fenix-toulouse.fr

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

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

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: sky blue

Dark

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



Playing hall

Palais des Sports André
Brouat

3 rue Pierre Laplace
31000 Toulouse
France
Capacity: 4,226

FENIX TOULOUSE



Fenix Toulouse return to the EHF European League for the first time since they made the Last 16 in 2021/22, when they narrowly lost to eventual champions Benfica. The French side earned their spot by finishing fourth in the French league in 2023/24.

Many of the roster's strongest players from three seasons ago are still wearing the Fenix jersey, most notably Nemanja Ilic, who is still the main offensive threat on the left wing position, and goalkeeper Jef Lettens, the reliable backbone of the team.

- **Toulouse qualified for their third EHF European League campaign after finishing fourth in the French league, behind PSG, Nantes, and Montpellier**
- **their best result in the competition has been the Last 16 in the 2021/22 season; previously they once reached the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup**
- **head coach Danijel Andjelkovic has been in this position since 2021, after serving as an assistant coach for six seasons since 2015/16**
- **the club has proven its ability to allow young players to grow over the years; Edouard Kempf and Gonçalo Vieira recently, after Valentin Porte, Ferran Sole or Cédric Sorhaindo in the past**

Among the most notable players who have arrived since 2022 are young Swedish centre back Casper Käll and goalkeeper Simon Möller, and experienced Spanish playmaker Niko Mindegia, who has joined from Plock in the summer of 2024.

Team captain Maxime Gilbert: “[Our biggest motivation is] to try to perform well, do our best on the court and go as far as possible in the competition. It’s been two years in which we aimed to return to the EHF European League. Now that we are here again, we really want to do everything to go as far as possible.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 3

Last 16 (1): 2021/22

Group phase (1): 2020/21

Other

Cup Winners' Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 1998/99

French league: –

French cup: 1 title (1998)





DANIJEL ANDJELKOVIC

Coach

- former Serbian international, who took over as head coach of Toulouse in 2021 after six years as assistant at the club
- says he has been hugely influenced by Philippe Gardent, the previous head coach whom he had assisted since 2015
- was a centre back, who ended his playing career in 2016 after six years at Toulouse; also played six years for Szeged
- named best coach of the French league in two consecutive years: in 2022 and 2023

ARRIVALS

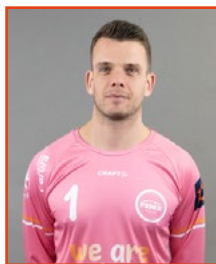
Yassine Belkaied (Kriens-Luzern/SUI)
Antoni Doniecki (Bergischer HC/GER)
Uros Kojadinovic (Partizan/SRB)
Simon Möller (Sävehof/SWE)
Niko Mindegia (Plock/POL)

DEPARTURES

Ayoub Abdi (Nantes/FRA)
Teodor Paul (retired)
Fredric Pettersson (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Jef	Letpens	BEL	Goalkeeper	12/08/1990	Hasselt, BEL	194
2	Romain	Girardeau	FRA	Right wing	02/03/2000	La Tronche, FRA	170
4	Erwin	Feuchtmann Perez	GER	Left back	02/05/1990	Punta arenas, CHI	190
5	Gabriel	Nyembo	CGO	Line player	16/06/1997	Strasbourg, FRA	190
6	Antoni	Doniecki	POL	Line player	19/11/2001	Lodz, POL	192
7	Téo	Jarry	FRA	Left wing	03/03/2000	Toulouse, FRA	183
8	Matthieu	Marmier	FRA	Right back	08/06/2000	Montauban, FRA	186
9	Jérémy	Robert	FRA	Line player	08/03/2004	Saint Benoit, FRA	193
C 10	Maxime	Gilbert	FRA	Centre back	22/05/1991	Talence, FRA	187
11	Edouard	Kempf	FRA	Right wing	20/03/1998	Mulhouse, FRA	178
13	Bakary	Diallo	FRA	Field player	03/12/1994	créteil, FRA	188
14	Casper Emil	Käll	SWE	Centre back	26/11/2000	Lund, SWE	186
15	Uros	Mitrovic	SRB	Right back	13/09/2004	Novi Sad, SRB	199
16	Ialy	Ralambofiringa	FRA	Right wing	15/12/2005	Toulouse, FRA	172
17	Uros	Kojadinovic	SRB	Right back	26/09/2000	Subotica, SRB	187
19	Nemanja	Ilic	SRB	Left wing	11/05/1990	Belgrad, SRB	177
20	Timéo	Albouy	FRA	Left wing	01/11/2003	Rodez, FRA	184
21	Idris	Firmesse	FRA	Line player	15/09/2002	Chatenay Malabry, FRA	190
23	Gonçalo	Vieira	POR	Left back	27/04/1999	Maia Porto, POR	190
24	Vojin	Cabrilo	SRB	Left back	24/08/2004	Sombor, SRB	191
25	Martin	Guibert	FRA	Right back	09/01/2005	St. Jean d'Angely, FRA	190
26	Yoran	Calmes	FRA	Line player	14/05/2003	Rodez, FRA	190
55	Niko	Mindegia Elizaga	ESP	Centre back	19/07/1988	SantEsteban, ESP	184
61	Yassine	Belkaied	TUN	Goalkeeper	19/10/2000	Hammamet, TUN	197
64	Gabriel-Rares	Marchis	ROU	Goalkeeper	28/05/2005	Oradea, ROU	190
89	Maxime	Discamps	FRA	Left back	03/07/2003	Le Chesnay, FRA	203
97	Mytchel	Meslien	FRA	Centre back	10/01/2006	Schoelcher, FRA	

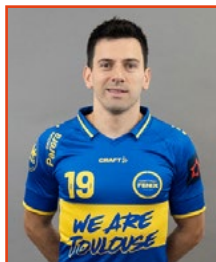


JEF LETTENS

 @jeflettens1

Goalkeeper

- former Belgian international, who has been playing for Toulouse since 2019
- originally signed with Nantes in 2019, but that club ultimately decided to sign Danish goalkeeper Emil Nielsen instead
- left Belgium in 2015 to play for Saran, and later Cesson-Rennes, in France
- played at the 2023 WCh for Belgium but has meanwhile retired from the national team

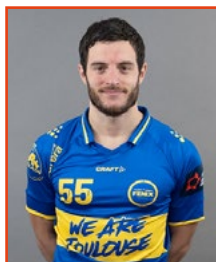


NEMANJA ILIC

 @ilicnemanja19

Left wing

- experienced Serbian left wing who has been with Toulouse since 2013, except for four months on loan at Barça in 2018/19 to replace injured Casper Mortensen
- was top scorer (202 goals) and All-star left wing of the French league in 2022/23
- his younger brother Vanja is also a left wing who plays in France, for Chartres; both are internationals for Serbia



NIKO MINDEGIA

 @nikomindegia

Centre back

- former Spanish international, who returned to France in the summer of 2024 after five seasons with Plock in Poland
- previously played two seasons in France for Chambéry; also had stints in Hungary (Szeged) and Denmark (Kolding) after leaving La Rioja in his native Spain in 2013
- won the EHF Cup in 2014 with Szeged; and played twice at the EHF Finals, in 2021 and 2022, with Plock

EC: 2014
EURO: S 2016



EDOUARD KEMPF

 @edouardkempf11

Right wing

- started playing handball aged four before joining Paris Saint-Germain HB at 18
- made the headlines in November 2017 when he scored six times each in two matches against Veszprém within one week in the CL 2017/18 group phase
- joined Toulouse in 2020 – first on loan, but signed with them permanently in 2022
- named best right wing of the 2017 Youth WCh

GROUP H




Club contact


Club address

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Media contact

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 [vfl.gummersbach](https://www.facebook.com/vfl.gummersbach)

 –

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: mint-green
Player short: mint-green
GK shirt: dark green

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: brown



Playing hall

Schwalbe Arena
Heiner-Brand-Platz 1
51643 Gummersbach
Germany
Capacity: 4,141

VFL GUMMERSBACH



After a 12-year absence, VfL Gummersbach are back on the international stage. The German side was one of the best clubs in the world before the EHF was founded, winning the Champions Cup – the forerunner of the EHF Champions League – five times between 1967 and 1983.

The signing of Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson as the new coach brought the team back to the Bundesliga in 2022. Two years later, Gummersbach finished in sixth place and qualified for the EHF European League for the first time.

- **Gummersbach are 12-time German champions, but their last domestic title came more than three decades ago, in 1991**
- **however, they did win three titles in EHF competitions in three consecutive years: the EHF Cup in 2009, and the Cup Winners' Cup in 2010 and 2011; they reached the final again in 2012, but lost that time**
- **in 2019, they were relegated to the second Bundesliga, but returned three years later under the guidance of head coach Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson**
- **got easily past Mors-Thy Håndbold in qualification, winning the away leg in Denmark 35:22, before taking the home leg 39:30**

After cruising through the qualification round, Gummersbach aim for more – thanks to top signings like Kentin Mahé, Dominik Kuzmanovic, and German international Julian Köster, who was part the team that won Olympic silver in Paris. The roster also includes Kristian Horzen and Tilen Kodrin, Olympic semi-finalists with Slovenia.

Team captain Julian Köster says: “In recent years, we as a club, VfL Gummersbach, and I personally have been able to develop further and further. That is also my ambition and my goal for this season. I want to get better. Of course I’m looking forward to all the games. It’s the first time I’ve been able to play with the club on the international stage. But I think the away game in Iceland will be special. We have an Icelandic coach and two Icelanders in the team. It will be a special game for them.”

PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 1

Other

EHF Champions League

Quarter-finals (1): 2006/07

Main round (1): 2007/08

EHF Cup

Winners (1): 2008/09

Semi-finals (1): 2004/05, 2005/06

Cup Winners' Cup

Winners (2): 2009/10, 2010/11

Runners-up (1): 2011/12

German league: 12 titles (1966, 1967, 1969, 1973-76, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1988, 1991)

German cup: 5 titles (1977, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1985)





GUDJON VALUR SIGURDSSON

Coach

- former Iceland international and Gummersbach player, who arrived back at the club as head coach in 2020
- played for Gummersbach in 2005-08 before joining a string of European top clubs, like Kiel, København, Löwen, Barça, and PSG, where he ended his career aged 41 in 2020
- played seven EHF FINAL4 events with five different clubs, and won the trophy once – with Barça in 2015
- is the all-time top scorer for Iceland with 1,875 goals from 364 matches; was the all-time Men's EHF EURO top scorer but Mikkel Hansen and Nikola Karabatic overtook him in 2024
- was inducted in EHF's Hall of Fame in 2023

CL: 2015; EHF Cup: 2005 (as player)

OG: S 2008; EHF EURO: B 2010 (as player)

ARRIVALS

Kentin Mahé (Veszprém/HUN)
Bertram Obling (Erlangen/GER)
Teitur Einarsson (Flensburg/GER)
Anel Durmić (Gummersbach youth/GER)
Mykola Protsiuk (Gummersbach youth/GER)
Dominik Kuzmanović (Nexe/CRO)

DEPARTURES

Dominik Mappes (Wetzlar/GER)
Tibor Ivanišević (Göppingen/GER)
Tom Jansen (Hamm-Westfalen/GER)
Arnór Oskarsson (Löwen/GER)
Finn Schroyen (Dormagen/GER)
Daniel Rebmann (Bietigheim/GER)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height
1	Dominik	Kuzmanovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	15/08/2002	Zagreb, CRO	191
4	Elliði	Viðarsson	ISL	Line player	15/11/1998	Vestmannaeyjar, ISL	194
5	Tilen	Kodrin	SLO	Left wing	14/05/1994	Celje, SLO	192
6	Milos	Vujovic	MNE	Left wing	05/09/1993	Cetinje, MNE	181
C 7	Julian	Köster	GER	Left back	16/03/2000	Bielefeld, GER	203
8	Lukas	Blohme	GER	Right wing	07/11/1994	Flensburg, GER	193
11	Mathis	Häseler	GER	Right wing	25/06/2002	Lünen, GER	190
14	Teitur Örn	Einarsson	ISL	Right back	23/09/1998	Stavanger, NOR	190
15	Miro	Schluroff	GER	Left back	25/04/2000	Bregenz, AUT	198
16	Bertram	Obling	DEN	Goalkeeper	26/09/1995	Aarhus, DEN	193
19	Giorgi	Tskhovrebadze	GEO	Right back	19/02/2001	Tbilisi, GEO	194
22	Kentin	Mahé	FRA	Centre back	22/05/1991	Paris, FRA	186
23	Ole	Pregler	GER	Centre back	26/05/2002	Kassel, GER	192
27	Kristjan	Horzen	SLO	Line player	08/12/1999	Novo Mesto, SLO	192
30	Tom	Kiesler	GER	Left back	24/04/2001	Bad Soden, GER	193
32	Mykola	Protsiuk	UKR	Left back	23/09/2005	Khmelnytskyi, UKR	200
66	Štěpán	Zeman	CZE	Centre back	09/05/1997	Valašské Meziříčí, CZE	203
77	Anel	Durmic	GER	Goalkeeper	11/09/2006	Hanau, GER	192



DOMINIK KUZMANOVIC

 @dominik_kuzmanovic

Goalkeeper

- talented Croatian international, who always played for his youth club Nexe until signing with Gummersbach in 2024
- has played three seasons in the EL with Nexe and reached the EHF Finals 2022
- turned only 22 in 2024, but is already the No. 1 in the Croatian national team and played an outstanding EHF EURO 2024 for his country



MILOS VUJOVIC

 @milos_vujovic_vuja

Left wing

- Montenegrin international, who arrived at Gummersbach from Füchse in 2023 and became the team's leading goal scorer in his first season with the club
- first moved abroad in 2015 when he joined Tatabanya in Hungary for five seasons
- won the EL 2023 with Füchse and was the team's best scorer that season
- missed most of 2020/21 after he was hit by a truck during a bike ride in Berlin

EL: 2023



JULIAN KÖSTER

 @julian_kstr

Left back

- became Gummersbach team captain in 2022, when he was still only 20
- a tall shooter, started his career at Dormagen before joining Gummersbach in 2020
- his star rose at EHF EURO 2022, when he was among Germany's top scorers and was awarded Player of the Match twice
- part of the team that won silver at the Paris 2024 Olympics

OG: S 2024



KENTIN MAHÉ

 @kentinmahe35

Right back

- French international, who has never played for a club in France
- started his career in Germany, where his father Pascal – world champion in 1995 – was player and coach at several clubs
- played for Hamburg and Flensburg early in his career before joining Veszprém for six seasons in 2018; played CL final in 2019, which Veszprém lost against Vardar
- has scored more than 500 goals in total in EHF club competitions

OG: G 2021, S 2016; WCh: G 2015, 2017, S 2023, B 2019; EHF EURO: G 2024



HISTORY

I CHAMPIONS 1994–2024

EHF European League Men

2024	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)
2023	Füchse Berlin (GER)
2022	SL Benfica (POR)
2021	SC Magdeburg (GER)

Men's EHF Cup

2020	<i>no title awarded due to coronavirus pandemic</i>
2019	THW Kiel (GER)
2018	Füchse Berlin (GER)
2017	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2016	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2015	Füchse Berlin (GER)
2014	Pick Szeged (HUN)

Men's EHF Cup

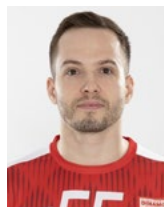
2012	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2011	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2010	TBV Lemgo (GER)
2009	VfL Gummersbach (GER)
2008	HSG Nordhorn (GER)
2007	SC Magdeburg (GER)
2006	TBV Lemgo (GER)
2005	Tusem Essen (GER)
2004	THW Kiel (GER)
2003	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2002	THW Kiel (GER)
2001	Sportclub Magdeburg (GER)
2000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

Men's Cup Winners' Cup

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

TOP SCORERS 2023/24*

95 goals



Andrii Akimenko
Dinamo Bucuresti

#	Player	Club	Goals
1	Andrii Akimenko (UKR)	Dinamo Bucuresti	95
2	Niclas Kirkeløkke (DEN)	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	87
3	Mathias Gidsel (DEN)	Füchse Berlin	84
4	Juri Knorr (GER)	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	80
5	Lasse Andersson (DEN)	Füchse Berlin	78
6	Francisco Costa (POR)	Sporting CP	73
7	Gustaf Wedberg (SWE)	IK Sävehof	72
8	Odinn Thor Rikhardsson (ISL)	Kadetten Schaffhausen	71
9	Óli Mittún (FAR)	IK Sävehof	68
	Lasse Møller (DEN)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	68

TOP SCORERS 2020–24*

Season	Player	Club	Goals
EHF European League 2023/24	Andrii Akimenko (UKR)	Dinamo Bucuresti	95
EHF European League 2022/23	Odinn Thor Rikhardsson (ISL)	Kadetten Schaffhausen	110
EHF European League 2021/22	Halil Jaganjac (CRO)	RK Nexe	109
	Petar Djordjic (SRB)	SL Benfica	109
EHF European League 2020/21	Emil Jakobsen (DEN)	GOG	96

* starting from group phase/group matches; qualification not included

ALL-TIME STANDINGS EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2020–24*

1	Füchse Berlin GER	60	45	3	12	1,843:1,597	+246	93:27	(4)	77.50%
2	RK Nexe CRO	54	29	3	22	1,583:1,549	+34	61:47	(5)	56.48%
3	Sporting CP POR	50	28	3	19	1,473:1,391	+82	59:41	(4)	59.00%
4	SC Magdeburg GER	32	28	2	2	1,032:844	+188	58:6	(2)	90.63%
5	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	52	26	6	20	1,501:1,501	0	58:46	(5)	55.77%
6	Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	32	23	2	7	964:879	+85	48:16	(2)	75.00%
7	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	28	23	1	4	979:793	+186	47:9	(3)	83.93%
8	Orlen Wisla Plock POL	32	23	1	8	949:828	+121	47:17	(2)	73.44%
9	Montpellier HB FRA	30	19	2	9	875:793	+82	40:20	(3)	66.67%
10	GOG DEN	28	18	2	8	897:849	+48	38:18	(3)	67.86%
11	HBC Nantes FRA	26	16	4	6	812:728	+84	36:16	(2)	69.23%
12	Sport Lisboa e Benfica POR	34	17	2	15	1,080:1,064	+16	36:32	(4)	52.94%
13	IK Sävehof SWE	26	16	1	9	826:764	+62	33:19	(3)	63.46%
14	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD	34	12	5	17	881:906	-25	29:39	(3)	42.65%
15	USAM Nimes Gard FRA	24	11	5	8	675:650	+25	27:21	(2)	56.25%
16	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	26	13	1	12	816:769	+47	27:25	(2)	51.92%
17	Frisch Auf Göppingen GER	16	13	0	3	517:444	+73	26:6	(1)	81.25%
18	Skjern Håndbold DEN	24	12	0	12	737:704	+33	24:24	(2)	50.00%
19	Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA	22	9	3	10	587:585	+2	21:23	(3)	47.73%
20	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	24	10	1	13	654:660	-6	21:27	(2)	43.75%
21	Fraikin BM. Granollers ESP	16	9	1	6	504:483	+21	19:13	(2)	59.38%
22	Bidasoa Irun ESP	24	8	2	14	698:706	-8	18:30	(3)	37.50%
23	RK Gorenje Velenje SLO	24	7	4	13	690:731	-41	18:30	(3)	37.50%
27	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP	12	5	4	3	365:364	+1	14:10	(2)	58.33%
28	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg DEN	12	7	0	5	365:368	-3	14:10	(2)	58.33%
29	TATTRAN Presov SVK	30	7	0	23	752:881	-129	14:46	(4)	23.33%
32	MOL Tatabanya KC HUN	26	6	0	20	692:769	-77	12:40	(4)	23.08%
33	Valur ISL	12	5	1	6	398:397	+1	11:13	(2)	45.83%
34	Ystads IF HF SWE	12	5	1	6	374:381	-7	11:13	(2)	45.83%
36	Vojvodina SRB	10	5	0	5	276:289	-13	10:10	(2)	50.00%
39	Górnik Zabrze POL	10	4	1	5	276:286	-10	9:11	(2)	45.00%
40	CSM Constanta ROU	10	4	1	5	280:291	-11	9:11	(2)	45.00%
49	HC Kriens-Luzern SUI	6	1	2	3	179:180	-1	4:8	(2)	33.33%
61	KGHM Chrobry Glogow POL	6	0	1	5	138:197	-59	1:11	(2)	8.33%
NR	MRK Sesvete CRO	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	HC B Karvina CZE	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Bathco Bm. Torrelavega ESP	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	Limoges Handball FRA	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	VfL Gummersbach GER	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	THW Kiel GER	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	MT Melsungen GER	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	FH Hafnarfjörður ISL	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	HC Vardar 1961 MKD	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A
NR	FC Porto POR	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(1)	N/A

- **bold** = 2024/25 group matches participants

- (x) = number of seasons played, including 2024/25

- x% = winning percentage

* last updated after 2023/24 season; qualification matches not included for any season

ALL-TIME STATS EHF EUROPEAN LEAGUE MEN 2020–24*

BIGGEST WIN

28	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU vs HC Izvidac BIH	52:24 (27:7), 17.10.2023
24	Montpellier HB FRA vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
23	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs HC Lovcen-Cetinje MNE	42:19 (24:8), 05.12.2023
21	IK Sävehof SWE vs Pfadi Winterthur SUI	41:20 (21:11), 14.11.2023
20	Skjern Handbold DEN vs MSK Povazska Bystrica SVK	42:22 (21:10), 24.10.2023
19	SC Magdeburg GER vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	41:22 (21:11), 09.02.2021
19	Orlen Wisla Plock POL @ HC Metalurg MKD	19:38 (9:16), 14.02.2021
19	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER @ Bjerringbro-Silkeborg DEN	26:45 (17:19), 05.03.2024
18	SC Magdeburg GER @ Besiktas Aygaz TUR	23:41 (8:20), 20.10.2020
17	Frisch Auf Göppingen GER @ Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN	23:40 (11:20), 07.02.2023
17	Sporting CP POR vs KGHM Chrobry Glogow POL	37:20 (20:7), 17.10.2023

BIGGEST HALF-TIME LEAD

20	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU vs HC Izvidac BIH	52:24 (27:7), 17.10.2023
16	Montpellier HB FRA vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
16	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs HC Lovcen-Cetinje MNE	42:19 (24:8), 05.12.2023
14	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	46:32 (25:11), 17.10.2023
13	Sporting CP POR vs KGHM Chrobry Glogow POL	37:20 (20:7), 17.10.2023
12	SC Magdeburg GER @ Besiktas Aygaz TUR	23:41 (8:20), 20.10.2020
12	HC CSKA RUS vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	32:24 (21:9), 01.12.2020
12	Montpellier HB FRA vs FTC HUN	43:29 (23:11), 28.03.2023
12	IK Sävehof SWE vs REBI Balonmano Cuenca ESP	40:27 (21:9), 28.11.2023
12	MOL Tatabanya KC HUN vs KGHM Chrobry Glogow POL	37:24 (20:8), 05.12.2023


* last updated: 26 May 2024 (after EHF Finals Men 2024); qualification matches not included for any season

MOST GOALS

52	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU vs HC Izvidac BIH	52:24 (27:7), 17.10.2023
46	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN	46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
46	Frisch Auf Göppingen GER vs Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN	46:30 (23:18), 25.10.2022
46	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	46:32 (25:11), 17.10.2023
45	Fivers AUT vs HC Metalurg MKD	45:30 (22:13), 23.02.2021
45	Skjern Handbold DEN vs RK Gorenje Velenje SLO	45:31 (22:16), 13.02.2024
45	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER @ Bjerringbro-Silkeborg DEN	26:45 (17:19), 05.03.2024
43	IK Sävehof SWE vs BM Logroño	43:31 (23:16), 19.10.2021
43	Valur ISL vs FTC HUN	43:39 (22:15), 25.10.2022
43	Füchse Berlin GER @ HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD	34:43 (14:22), 22.11.2022
43	Montpellier HB FRA vs FTC HUN	43:29 (23:11), 28.03.2023

MOST GOALS BOTH TEAMS

82	Valur ISL vs FTC HUN	43:39 (22:15), 25.10.2022
79	SL Benfica POR vs SC Magdeburg GER	40:39 (15:14, 32:32), 29.05.2022
78	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	46:32 (25:11), 17.10.2023
77	GOG DEN vs SL Benfica POR	39:38 (20:18), 01.03.2022
77	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs Füchse Berlin GER	34:43 (14:22), 22.11.2022
76	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN	46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
76	Frisch Auf Göppingen GER vs Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN	46:30 (23:18), 25.10.2022
76	Montpellier HB FRA vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	40:36 (22:18), 07.02.2023
76	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU vs HC Izvidac BIH	52:24 (27:7), 17.10.2023
76	Skjern Handbold DEN vs RK Gorenje Velenje SLO	45:31 (22:16), 13.02.2024




FEWEST GOALS

15	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL	15:29 (8:13), 22.02.2022
16	Besiktas Aygaz TUR @ Montpellier HB FRA	40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
18	RK Nexe CRO @ HC CSKA RUS	29:18 (15:8), 24.11.2020
18	KGHM Chrobry Glogow POL @ CSM Constanta ROU	29:18 (15:8), 14.11.2023
19	Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN @ HC Eurofarm Pelister	21:19 (11:10), 10.02.2021
19	HC Metalurg MKD vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL	19:38 (9:16), 14.02.2021
19	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA	19:31 (12:16), 07.12.2021
19	AEK Athens HC GRE @ HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD	30:19 (10:8), 08.03.2022
19	Orlen Wisla Plock POL vs SL Benfica POR	19:26 (8:10), 28.05.2022
19	HV Lovcen-Cetinje MNE vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	19:35 (12:15), 24.10.2023
19	HV Lovcen-Cetinje MNE @ SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	42:19 (24:8), 05.12.2023
19	RK Nexe CRO vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	19:24 (11:13), 26.03.2024

FEWEST GOALS BOTH TEAMS

40	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN	21:19 (11:10), 10.02.2021
42	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN	22:20 (12:11), 13.12.2022
43	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs RK Nexe CRO	21:22 (11:11), 05.04.2022
43	RK Nexe CRO vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	19:24 (11:13), 26.03.2024
44	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL	15:29 (8:13), 22.02.2022
45	RK Nexe CRO vs Montpellier HB FRA	22:23 (8:10), 17.11.2020
45	USAM Nimes Gard FRA vs TATRAN Presov SVK	25:20 (12:11), 09.02.2021
45	Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN vs HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD	21:24 (11:9), 11.02.2021
45	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Sporting CPO POR	24:21 (12:13), 16.02.2021
45	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI vs RK Trimo Trebnje SLO	24:21 (10:12), 16.02.2021
45	Orlen Wisla Plock POL vs SL Benfica POR	19:26 (8:10), 28.05.2022
45	Vojvodina SRB vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	24:21 (11:8), 05.03.2024



BIGGEST DEFICIT OVERCOME AFTER LOSING FIRST HALF TO WIN A MATCH

-6	Sporting CP POR @ Füchse Berlin GER	31:32 (19:13), 20.02.2024
-5	TSV Hannover-Burgdorf GER @ Górnik Zabrze POL	29:32 (19:14), 05.12.2023
-4	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	33:32 (15:19), 13.04.2021
-4	Pfadi Winterthur SUI @ TATTRAN Presov SVK	29:33 (16:12), 16.11.2021
-4	Kadetten Schaffhausewn SUI @ Frisch Auf Göppingen GER	24:25 (14:10), 06.12.2022
-3	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI @ Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN	30:32 (18:15), 23.02.2021
-3	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP @ Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	34:35 (20:17), 27.02.2021
-3	Alingsas HK SWE vs Besiktas Aygaz TUR	30:29 (14:17), 02.03.2021
-3	Sporting CP POR vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	29:28 (9:12), 19.10.2021
-3	SL Benfica POR @ Cocks FIN	32:37 (18:15), 16.11.2021
-3	RK Gorenje Velenje SLO @ IK Sävehof SWE	27:28 (14:11), 08.03.2022
-3	Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA vs SL Benfica POR	38:34 (17:20), 29.03.2022
-3	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs TM Benidorm ESP	35:30 (16:19), 25.10.2022
-3	PAUC Handball FRA vs FTC HUN	33:30 (14:17), 22.11.2022
-3	Bidasoa Irun ESP vs HC Motor	26:22 (9:12), 22.11.2022
-3	Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN vs TATTRAN Presov SVK	30:28 (13:16), 06.12.2022
-3	Ystads IF HF SWE @ PAUC Handball FRA	34:36 (18:15), 06.12.2022
-3	Sporting CP POR @ Skjern Handbold DEN	28:30 (15:12), 06.12.2022
-3	Frisch Auf Göppingen GER vs SL Benfica POR	31:29 (15:18), 14.02.2023
-3	Füchse Berlin GER vs CSM Constanta ROU	35:31 (16:19), 05.03.2024

BIGGEST DEFICIT OVERCOME AFTER LOSING FIRST HALF TO DRAW A MATCH

-6	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI @ HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD	25:25 (16:10), 17.11.2020
-5	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD @ Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	28:28 (16:11), 26.10.2021
-5	KGHM Chrobry Glogow POL vs CSM Constanta ROU	29:29 (14:19), 21.11.2023
-4	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI @ Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	30:30 (17:13), 02.02.2021
-4	RK Gorenje Velenje SLO vs SL Benfica POR	27:27 (11:15), 03.05.2022
-4	FTC HUN vs Valur ISL	33:33 (14:18), 06.12.2022
-3	Fenix Toulouse Handball FRA vs Abanca Ademar Leon ESP	28:28 (14:17), 24.11.2020
-3	HC Metalurg MKD vs Fivers AUT	33:33 (16:19), 22.12.2020
-3	BM Logroño La Rioja ESP vs SC Magdeburg GER	29:29 (13:16), 16.11.2021
-3	RK Gorenje Velenje SLO @ PAUC Handball FRA	26:26 (17:14), 23.11.2021
-3	TBV Lemgo Lippe GER vs HBC Nantes FRA	37:37 (17:20), 22.02.2022
-3	Cocks FIN vs TBV Lemgo Lippe GER	29:29 (12:15), 01.03.2022
-3	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP @ HC Metalurg MKD	27:27 (16:13), 02.03.2021
-3	SC Magdeburg GER @ Sporting CP POR	29:29 (16:13), 29.03.2022
-3	HC Alkaid MKD @ BM Logroño La Rioja	29:29 (18:15), 24.10.2023
-3	RK Gorenje Velenje SLO vs IK Sävehof SWE	28:28 (12:15), 05.12.2023

MOST GOALS IN ONE HALF

27	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU vs HC Izvidac BIH – 1st half	52:24 (27:7), 17.10.2023
26	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER @ Bjerringbro-Silkeborg DEN – 2nd half	26:45 (17:19), 05.03.2024
25	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI – 1st half	46:32 (25:11), 17.10.2023
25	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU vs HC Izvidac BIH – 2nd half	52:24 (27:7), 17.10.2023
24	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN – 1st half	46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
24	FTC HUN @ Valur ISL – 2nd half	43:39 (22:15), 25.10.2022
24	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs HC Lovcen-Cetinje MNE – 1st half	42:19 (24:8), 05.12.2023
23	Montpellier HB FRA vs Besiktas Aygaz - 1st half	40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
23	Fivers AUT vs HC Metalurg MKD – 2nd half	45:30 (22:13), 23.02.2021
23	SC Magdeburg GER vs IFK Kristianstad SWE – 1st half	39:31 (23:12), 20.04.2021
23	IK Sävehof SWE vs BM Logroño La Rioja ESP – 1st half	43:31 (23:16), 19.10.2021
23	Frisch Auf Göppingen GER vs Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN – 1st half	46:30 (23:18), 25.10.2022
23	Frisch Auf Göppingen GER vs Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN – 2nd half	46:30 (23:18), 25.10.2022
23	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs FTC HUN – 1st half	42:30 (23:15), 13.12.2022
23	Sporting CP POR vs Fraikin BM. Granollers ESP – 2nd half	38:31 (15:14), 14.02.2023
23	Füchse Berlin GER @ Bidasoa Irun ESP – 1st half	32:40 (17:23), 14.02.2023
23	Montpellier HB FRA vs FTC HUN – 1st half	43:29 (23:11), 28.03.2023
23	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU @ HC Izvidac BIH – 2nd half	24:40 (11:17), 28.11.2023
23	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU vs Chambéry Savoie Mont Blanc Handball FRA – 1st half	36:33 (13:14), 05.12.2023
23	Skjern Handbold DEN vs RK Gorenje Velenje SLO – 2nd half	45:31 (22:16), 13.03.2024

MOST GOALS IN ONE HALF BOTH TEAMS

45	Valur ISL vs FTC HUN – 2nd half	43:39 (22:15), 25.10.2022
42	GOG DEN vs Cocks FIN – 2nd half	46:30 (22:12), 26.10.2021
42	GOG DEN vs RK Nexø CRO – 1st half	37:37 (22:20), 03.05.2022
42	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI – 2nd half	46:32 (25:11), 17.10.2023
42	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU vs HC Izvidac BIH – 2nd half	52:24 (27:7), 17.10.2023
41	Frisch Auf Göppingen GER vs Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN – 1st half	46:30 (23:18), 25.10.2022
41	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs Füchse Berlin GER – 2nd half	34:43 (14:22), 22.11.2022
41	Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN vs Montpellier HB FRA – 1st half	31:39 (16:25), 29.11.2022
41	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER vs Dinamo Bucuresti ROU – 2nd half	38:32 (18:11), 25.05.2024
40	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP vs HC Metalurg MKD – 2nd half	41:32 (20:13), 17.11.2020
40	Fivers AUT vs HC Metalurg MKD – 2nd half	45:30 (22:13), 23.02.2021
40	SC Magdeburg GER vs Sporting CP POR – 1st half	36:35 (21:19), 05.04.2022
40	RK Nexø CRO vs Fraikin BM. Granollers ESP -2nd half	39:36 (19:16), 06.12.2022
40	Montpellier HB FRA vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI – 1st half	40:36 (22:18), 07.02.2023
40	Sporting CP POR vs Fraikin BM. Granollers ESP – 2nd half	38:31 (15:14), 14.02.2023
40	Bidasoa Irun ESP vs Füchse Berlin GER – 1st half	32:40 (17:23), 14.02.2023
40	Skjern Handbold DEN vs Dinamo Bucuresti ROU – 2nd half	34:38 (12:20), 30.04.2024

FEWEST GOALS IN ONE HALF

5	Alingsas HK SWE vs HC CSKA RUS – 1st half	23:31 (5:16), 16.02.2021
6	Alingsas HK SWE @ SC Magdeburg GER – 2nd half	36:21 (18:15), 23.02.2021
6	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs USAM Nimes Gard FRA – 1st half	21:26 (6:15), 19.10.2021
7	Besiktas Aygaz TUR @ Montpellier HB FRA – 1st half	40:16 (23:7), 24.11.2020
7	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Fenix Toulouse Handball – 2nd half	19:31 (12:16), 07.12.2021
7	HC Izvidac BIH @ Dinamo Bucuresti ROU – 1st half	52:24 (27:7), 17.10.2023
7	KGHM Chrobry Glogow POL @ Sporting CP POR – 1st half	37:20 (20:7), 17.10.2023
7	HC Lovcen-Cetinje MNE vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER – 2nd half	19:35 (12:15), 24.10.2023
7	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL – 2nd half	15:29 (8:13), 22.02.2022

FEWEST GOALS IN ONE HALF BOTH TEAMS

18	RK Nexe CRO vs Montpellier HB FRA – 1st half	22:23 (8:10), 17.11.2020
18	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs AEK Athens HC GRE – 1st half	30:19 (10:8), 08.03.2022
18	Orlen Wisla Plock POL vs SL Benfica PORF – 1st half	19:26 (8:10), 28.05.2022
18	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER – 2nd half	25:24 (15:16), 28.11.2023
18	Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER vs Górnik Zabrze POL – 1st half	27:23 (10:8), 05.03.2024
19	HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD vs Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN – 2nd half	21:19 (11:10), 10.02.2021
19	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Fejer BAL-Veszprem HUN – 2nd half	22:20 (12:11), 13.12.2022
19	Vojvodina SRB vs Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI – 1st half	24:21 (11:8), 05.03.2024
19	RK Nexe CRO vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER – 2nd half	19:24 (11:13), 26.03.2024
20	Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN vs HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD – 1st half	21:24 (11:9), 11.02.2021
20	TATRAN Presov SVK vs Sporting CP POR – 2nd half	24:21 (12:13), 16.02.2021
20	USAM Nimes Gard FRA vs Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN – 1st half	24:22 (11:9), 30.11.2021
20	Bidasoa Irun ESP vs HC Eurofarm Pelister MKD – 2nd half	32:20 (20:12), 06.12.2022

LONGEST WINNING RUN

SC Magdeburg GER	14 matches (01.12.2020 – 26.10.2021)
Füchse Berlin GER	12 matches (25.10.2022 – 28.03.2023)
Füchse Berlin GER	10 matches (18.04.2023 – 13.02.2024)
Frisch Auf Göppingen	9 matches (13.12.2022 - 18.04.2023)
Orlen Wisla Plock POL	8 matches (20.10.2020 – 20.02.2021)
Orlen Wisla Plock POL	8 matches (23.11.2021 - 29.03.2022)
HBC Nantes FRA	8 matches (14.11.2023 – 05.03.2024)

LONGEST UNBEATEN RUN

SC Magdeburg GER	27 matches (01.12.2020 – 28.05.2022)
Füchse Berlin GER	12 matches (25.10.2022 – 28.03.2023)
Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	11 matches (17.11.2020 – 30.03.2021)
Orlen Wisla Plock POL	11 matches (23.11.2021 – 03.05.2022)
Füchse Berlin GER	10 matches (18.04.2023 – 13.02.2024)

LONGEST LOSING RUN

Grundfos Tatabanya KC HUN	12 matches (17.11.2020 – 26.10.2021)
Besiktas Aygaz TUR	10 matches (20.10.2020 – 02.03.2021)
Cocks FIN	8 matches (19.10.2021 - 22.02.2022)
TATRAN Presov SVK	8 matches (26.10.2021 – 01.03.2022)
Pfadi Winterthur SUI	8 matches (30.11.2021 - 17.10.2023)
IFK Kristianstad SWE	8 matches (13.04.2021 - 05.12.2023)

LONGEST RUN WITHOUT WIN

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

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