



M20 EHF EURO (Slovenia)
YAC Qualitative Analysis



M20 EHF EURO

SLOVENIA • 10–21 JULY 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The M20 EHF EURO 2024 Slovenia qualitative summary provides an analysis of the performance of the 24 participating teams and their respective players, who competed at the tournament from 10 to 21 July 2024.

Expert: Mark Hawkins



TOURNAMENT – FACTS & FIGURES

- 24 teams competed in four preliminary groups.
- 96 matches were played over the course of 11 days.
- 5,681 goals were scored, at an average of 59.17 goals per game and with an efficiency of 62 per cent.
- The goalkeepers made 2,063 saves out of 7,744 shots, at an efficiency of 27 per cent.
- None of the four finalists had a perfect record coming into the final matches.
- Spain, Portugal, Denmark and Germany played in the final weekend. The game between Spain and Portugal was a rematch of the final from the M20 EHF EURO 2022.

MATCHES & PLAYERS — FACTS

- The top three goalkeepers in terms of save percentage were Malte Eichhorst (DEN – 59 saves at 39.1%), Julian Buchele (GER – 38 saves at 35.9%), Arvid Skoog (SWE – 76 saves at 33.9%).
- The best players in terms of saves made were Leon Bergmann (AUT – 83 saves at 33.6%), Tin Herceg (CRO – 83 saves at 32.2%).
- The top three goal scorers were Óli Mittún (FAR – 76 goals at 66.1%), Patrick Helland Anderson (NOR – 70 goals at 68%) and Nace Zajc (SLO – 55 goals at 79.7%). Zajc had the highest shooting percentage of the top 40 scorers.
- Top scorers – Oli Mittun (FAR), Daniel Stanciuc (ROU), Ricardo Brandão and Diogo Rêma Marques (POR) all played for their senior national teams at the EHF EURO 2024 in Germany.

COACHES

- No foreign coaches were active at the YAC competition, equating to 0 per cent of participating teams.
- Every team had coaches from their own nation.
- There were no instances of female coaches being listed as part of any of the teams' delegations.

DEFENCE GENERAL ASPECTS

- The teams at the M20 EHF EURO 2024 used a variety of defensive formations.
- Sweden had the best defence in the tournament conceding just 19.32 goals per 50 defences.
- Portugal had the sixth best defence with 20.51 goals per 50 defences, Spain were 10th with 21.16 goals per 50 defences. Teams ranked from second place to 10th were very closely separated, by just 0.90 goals per 50 defences.
- Spain forced the most turnovers per 50 defences (11.64).

DEFENCE TACTICAL ASPECTS

- Most of the teams used a 6:0 zone defence, although with different styles.
- Spain played a significant amount of time with a 3:2:1 defence system:
 - aggressive nature of the defensive system puts a lot of pressure on the opponent
 - they forced the most turnovers out of any team per 50 defensive possessions playing this way
- Many teams played with a 5:1 defensive system as a second system.
- Best individual defenders:
 - adaptability of central defenders who could switch between 3:2:1 and 6:0 seamlessly because of the skill set of the middle defenders.
- Numerical inferiority: more teams are coming up with imaginative ways to play when their opponents have superiority
 - wing players try to steal the ball allowing the middle four defenders to stay compact
 - some teams were playing a 5:1 defence to try and disrupt the passing of the ball between the back players
 - back defender aims to pressure the playmaker
- Israel played a lot of inferiority defence in a 4:1 formation.

TOP 3 BEST DEFENDERS

Name	Nation	Blocks	Steals	Total	Avg.	MP
Tobias Tombak	DEN	6	13	19	2.4	8
Miguel Oliveira	POR	11	5	16	2	8
Mischa Romer	SUI	7	9	16	2	8

GOALKEEPER PERFORMANCE

- The goalkeeper performance was very similar to that of the M20 EHF EURO 2022. There isn't a great deal of difference between any of the areas of shooting, for example the six metre save percentage rose by 3% and wing shots dropped by 3%.
- There was a very similar overall save percentage (27% dropping from 29% in 2022). The top two teams in both tournaments were Spain and Portugal and their overall save percentages were close to the tournament average percentage, which remained constant across both tournaments.
- Both teams had a big rise in the save percentage in wing shots and Portugal also had a significant increase from six-metre saves.
- The top three goalkeeping teams in the tournament were Austria, Germany and Sweden (32.6%, 33.9% and 31.7%, respectively)
- They all achieved this position largely due to the saves from close distance (six metres and wing shots); in these statistics they all were very prominent, with Austria making the most saves and third best percentage, Germany had fourth-most saves and equal best percentage, they were equal with Sweden who made the fifth-most saves.
- To go along with this, they all ranked relatively low in shots faced here (Austria – eighth, Germany – 13th, Sweden – 17th). Combining the rise in performance of near shots for the top two teams and the best goalkeepers excelling in this area, it is clear this is a prime area to develop to enhance the quality of goalkeeping impact.

GOALKEEPERS				
	Goals	Shots	Percentage	
			2024	2022
6m centre shots	1,084	4,555	24%	21%
Wing shots	209	812	26%	29%
9m shots	653	1,643	40%	42%
7m penalty shots	100	585	17%	21%
Total	2,063	7,744	27%	29%

GOALKEEPERS TOP 2 TEAMS						
	M20 EHF EURO 2024		M20 EHF EURO 2022	M20 EHF EURO 2024		M20 EHF EURO 2022
	Goals/ Shots	%	%	Goals/ Shots	%	%
6m centre shots	35/112	31%	23%	18/95	19%	27%
Wing shots	16/44	36%	36%	13/30	43%	37%
9m shots	54/107	50%	53%	57/129	44%	45%
7m penalty shots	12/43	29%	33%	5/27	19%	17%
Total	127/360	35%	35%	106/376	28%	31%

ATTACK GENERAL ASPECTS

- At the M20 EHF EURO 2024, 5,681 goals were scored from 9,115 shots, at a rate of 62.3%, compared to 3,354 goals from 5,540 in 2022, at a rate of 60.5%. A minimal uplift, and the increase in the amount of goals and shots is attributed to the increase in games, following the increase of teams in the tournament.

ATTACK TACTICAL ASPECTS

- In common attack, most teams played crossings against zone defence, transitions:
 - back players changing place with LP moving away
 - cross with the LP
 - back transition with wide LP to attack 2v2 in the middle
 - wing transition
- When attacking in numerical superiority, the teams often played with two line players:
 - after several failed attacks, the extra player was substituted
 - another aspect was to break down the offensive defence
 - Spain and Portugal, the top two teams, were notable for the variety of 6v5 attack styles, using two or three different methods to attack in superiority.
 - Denmark used a conventional startup, they found very different ways to finish the attacks, using screens and movements from the PV to create more solutions.
- Attack transition defence – attack together with the goalkeeper:
 - the offensive 3:2:1 defence created a lot of steals to direct fast breaks for the players alone with the goalkeeper
 - speed, in which the middle defenders who would win back the possession of the ball had the intent and ability to start the fast break incredibly quickly
 - fast throw-off
- Completing the attack when passive play signals.
- Completing the attack with free throw when passive play.

RATIO & EFFICENCY OF SHOTS BY POSITION

Rank	Team	9m Ratio	9m Shot %	6m Ratio	6m Shot %	Wing Ratio	Wing Shot %
1	Spain	29.54%	49.2%	49.39%	71.6%	14.53%	73.3%
2	Portugal	25.24%	58.1%	43.03%	67.0%	17.79%	66.2%
3	Denmark	31.91%	45.8%	58.78%	64.3%	11.44%	60.5%
4	Germany	19.41%	52.1%	59.84%	53.8%	15.43%	55.2%



PROFILE OF THE MODERN PLAYER

PLAYERS FOR THE FUTURE

Launched in 2019 by the EHF, the Respect Your Talent program promotes the holistic development of talented players both on and off the handball court, addressing topics such as the dual career, anti-doping, mental fitness, media, and sports law. During the past years, a plethora of young players has taken part in the program, mentored by former stalwarts like Ivano Balic, Vid Kavtanic, Victor Tomas, Stefan Lövgren and Carlos Prieto after shining at the younger age categories of the EHF EURO. Now, as those players come of age, they are ready to impress at the highest level at the senior Men's EHF EURO.

Miguel Oliveira, the left back from Portugal, is a good example of the modern player. Oliveira is a great example of a two-way player, ranking among the best defenders in the tournament according to the provoking turnovers and blocking shots when defending in the middle of the Portuguese defence. Also, in attack, he showed a wide variety in his skill set, with 17 assists and 38 goals from 55 shots, meaning he was Portugal's top scorer and 28th overall in the competition, at an efficiency of 69.1 %, which is very impressive for a back court player.

CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

- Spain won a second successive M20 EHF EURO title.
- They beat Portugal in the final for the second consecutive edition.
- Portugal had previously beaten Spain in the main round.
- Spain scored the most goals (26.10) and made the fewest turnovers (7.16) per 50 attacks.
- Despite the increase in teams from 16 to 24, the shooting efficiency increased from 60.5% to 62.3%.
- Offensive defences are an area of focus. Spain played the most offensive 3:2:1 defence, approximately 35% of all their defences, and were the team who forced the most turnovers per 50 defensive possessions (11.64). While in inferiority situations, Israel implemented a 4:1 defensive system – they had the second-most efficient defence in this stage of the game (35%)
- Goals conceded per 50 possessions had more of an impact on the final rankings than goals scored per 50 possessions. Only two teams outside of the top five in the rankings had fewer goals conceded per 50 possessions. However, 10 teams outside of the top five in the rankings recorded a better number of goals scored per 50 possessions.

ALL-STAR TEAM

The All-star Team was based on thousands of votes from fans and a panel of EHF experts.

GOALKEEPER Leon Bergmann 	LEFT WING Dávid Móri 	LEFT BACK Frederik Emil Pedersen 
CENTRE BACK Hjalte Lykke 	RIGHT BACK Patrick Helland Anderson 	RIGHT WING Xavier Gonzalez Unciti 
LINE PLAYER Ricardo Brandão 	MVP Petar Cikusa I Jelcic 	



EHF Sport & Game Services
Hoffingergasse 18
1120 Vienna, Austria
+43 1 80 151 112
www.eurohandball.com

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FEDERATION