

2026 European Masters Handball Championships

for Men and Women

June 18 – 21, 2026 in Setúbal / POR



EHF EUROPEAN MASTERS HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

SETUBAL/PORTUGAL • 18–21 JUNE 2026

TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Preamble

The Philosophy of Masters Handball is based on the principles of „Fair Play“ – every decision has to be taken in accordance with these ethics and the behaviour and interaction of all parties involved should follow the respective spirit.

Tournament Management

The tournament will be directed by the tournament management. It decides on the match schedule, playing times and other open questions in connection with the tournament.

Tournament Management:

Tjark de Lange / NED	EHF Executive Committee member
Cristina Fernández Piñeiro / ESP	EHF Delegate
Antonio Goulão / POR	EHF Delegate
Zuzana Fuleova / SVK	EHF Delegate
Claudia Brantl / AUT	EHF Office
Ines Tækker / AUT	EHF Office
Luis Camarinha da Silva / POR	LOC

Accreditation and list of players

The Tournament Accreditation will take place on **Wednesday, 17 June 2026, from 14:00 hrs to 18:30 hrs** at Pavilhão Desportivo Municipal das Manteigadas (Avenida Emídio Graça, 2910-267 Setúbal). The accreditation is obligatory for each team. The accreditation will not be handed over if all settlements have not been paid. The final list of players must be submitted at the occasion of the accreditation. The number of players to insert on the players' list is max. 18 (+4 officials). It is mandatory that at least one official per team speaks English (see EHF Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions Point E.e).

Only a player with an accreditation can be registered on the players' list and consequently is eligible to participate in the matches.

Any registration after the first accreditation is subject of approval by the Tournament Management in case the respective delegation presents less than 18 players.

A player is **not allowed** to be on the players' list of **two or more different teams**.

The **Health Confirmation** in English language must be presented at the accreditation. In case of a missing health confirmation every player must sign a **Declaration** (available at the accreditation desk).

Technical meeting

The Technical Meeting (**mandatory** for all participating teams/one representative of each team) will be held on **Wednesday, 17 June 2026 at 18:30** Pavilhão Desportivo Municipal das Manteigadas (Avenida Emídio Graça, 2910-267 Setúbal).

Playing dresses

Each team shall have available two sets of clothing in different colours (number in front and back). The colour of the playing dresses will be checked by the referees prior to each game. If the referees consider that the clothing of two teams is likely causing confusion, the team named second on the match report shall change its clothing to ensure a good contrast.

The players must play **with the same number during the whole tournament**; therefore, both sets of shirts must include the exact same numbers! (see EHF Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions, Point D)

Furthermore, officials must wear different colours than opponent players.

Match Report

Prior to each match the match report must be filled in, signed by the responsible person of the team and given to the timekeeper's table. *(Every player must wear the same number during the tournament and this number is not allowed to be used by any other player).*

The referee(s) is/are solely responsible for the correctness of the match result during and after the match.

Categories

The European Masters Handball Championships 2026 are played in six categories:

Men +35	open for players of 35 years of age or older (born before 31.12.1991)
Men +45	open for players of 45 years of age or older (born before 31.12.1981)
Men +50	open for players of 50 years of age or older (born before 31.12.1976)
Men +55	open for players of 55 years of age or older (born before 31.12.1971)
Women +33	open for players of 33 years of age or older (born before 31.12.1993)
Women +43	open for players of 43 years of age or older (born before 31.12.1983)

Any violation of playing eligibility linked to the age category is subject of the legal proceedings.

In principle all matches are played according to the current "IHF Rules of the game". Some exceptions apply and are especially mentioned below.

Playing schedule

Please find enclosed the playing schedules for all categories. The EHF reserves the right for any changes in connection with the playing schedule.

The composition of the group respects the previous results of the European Masters together with a country allocation.

The European Masters will be played in 4 halls:

- Pavilhão Desportivo Municipal das Manteigadas I
Avenida Emídio Graça
2910-267 Setúbal

- Pavilhão Desportivo Municipal das Manteigadas II
Avenida Emídio Graça
2910-267 Setúbal
- Pavilhão Antoine Velge
Av. Independência das Colónias
2900-407 Setúbal
- Pavilhão Municipal Joao dos Santos
R. Batalha do Viso
2904-510 Setúbal

Playing times, suspensions and team time out:

Playing time main round, semi-finals and placement matches (including matches 3/4) – all categories

- 2 x 15 minutes (no break)
- No team time out
- Suspension: 2 minutes

Playing time finals – only place 1/2 (Sunday) all categories

- 2 x 20 minutes (break 5 minutes)
- One team time out per halftime
- Suspension: 2 minutes

In case of a draw during the placement matches, semi finals and finals, the match will be decided by 7-meter throws immediately.

Ranking after group phase

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

- a) number of points from the direct match between both teams;
- b) goal difference in all matches of the group;
- c) higher number of plus goals in all matches of the group;

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

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

If the ranking of one of these teams is determined, the criteria are consecutively followed until the ranking of all teams is determined. If no ranking can be determined, a decision shall be obtained by drawing lots. Lots shall be drawn by the EHF, if possible, in the presence of a responsible of each team concerned.

Floor Manager

The Floor Manager is responsible for the providing of a correct playing court and takes all organizational decisions related to each match.

Referees

The nomination of referees will be carried out by the Tournament Management. All teams will be informed on the nomination in due time prior to the matches.

Disciplinary cases and protests

Protests shall be settled in the first and only instance against payment of a fee of € 110. The written protest and the fee shall be received by any Tournament Management Member within 30 minutes after the end of the match.

There shall be no valid reason for protests related to:

- the nomination of the referees and delegates
- the referee decisions on facts in accordance with the rules of the game, including those based on delegates recommendations
- the playing schedule
- direct red cards – automatically suspended for the next match (see below)

All disciplinary cases and protests shall be dealt with and finally be decided upon by three members of the Disciplinary Commission - one Chairperson and two members appointed by him/her out of the EHF officials on-site - or any substitute member(s) to be named by the EHF. In case of reasons of bias or neutrality issues the EHF Court of Handball (CoH) shall act as ad-hoc body.

The Disciplinary Commission decides sanctions and penalties in accordance with the EHF Legal Regulations, except in case of direct disqualifications.

All legal matters including procedural aspects not expressly regulated by the present regulations shall be governed by the applicable EHF Legal Regulations.

Direct disqualification of a player (red card and/or red card with blue card)

Any player sent off by the referees with a direct red card will be **automatically suspended** for the next game of the team concerned (no written decision is necessary – each team is responsible to make sure that the player does not play the next match).

After the **second direct red card** of the same player, he/she is **automatically suspended for all remaining matches of the tournament** (no written decision is necessary – each team is responsible to make sure that the player does not play the remaining matches of the tournament).

Any participation of a player being not eligible to play leads to a match result of 10:0 goals and 2:0 points.

Awards

Each team participating at the European Masters Handball Championships shall receive a medal for participation.

The winner of each category will receive the EHF winner plate.

The teams ranked 1 – 4 of each category at the European Masters Handball Championships shall receive a cup.

Each player of a team ranked 1st to 4th in the respective category shall receive a medal (gold for rank 1, silver for rank 2, bronze for rank 3 and glass for rank 4).

The awarding ceremony of place 3/4 will take place immediately after the respective match (Saturday).

Any changes of the Tournament Regulations will be announced at the accreditation.

EHF-Vienna, June 2026