



EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

MEDIA GUIDE

MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2022/23

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I INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW SEASON

Dear handball friends,

Usually, the summertime is a quiet time for the EHF Champions League. But not so much in 2022, as we have proudly presented a new title sponsor for Europe's premium men's club handball competition. So, welcome to the Machineseecker EHF Champions League 2022/23!

Machineseecker has arrived as title sponsor at the start of the competition's anniversary 30th season. Handball history has been written many times and numerous legends have arisen since the first edition in 1993/94. And I am sure the upcoming season will only add to that legacy! The big question will be if Barça will be holding the trophy for a third straight season at the TruckScout EHF FINAL4 2023 in Cologne. The Spanish record champions could not exactly replicate their perfect 2020/21 season, when they won all 20 matches, but they still ended up on the highest step of the podium again in 2021/22.

Barça's attempt for a third consecutive championship will be anything but a walk in the park. They start their journey in the strong group B alongside three other former champions - RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, last season's runners-up Lomza Industria Kielce, and four-time trophy holders THW Kiel. On top of that, this extremely challenging companion is further improved by former finalists HBC Nantes and Aalborg Håndbold, and competition regulars Pick Szeged and Elverum Handball.

On the other hand, group A doesn't look much easier, with multiple EHF FINAL4 contenders Paris Saint-Germain Handball and Telekom Veszprém HC, 2002 trophy holders SC Magdeburg, two-time EHF Finals Men contenders Orlen Wisła Płock, perennial Croatian champions HC PPD Zagreb, Portuguese pride FC Porto, reinforced C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti, and dangerous Danish side GOG.

New name, same format: All matches in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League 2022/23 will be played on Wednesdays and Thursdays (at 18:4500 and 20:4500 CE(S)T), the two best-ranked teams from each group will advance directly to the quarter-finals, while the teams finishing between third and sixth will first proceed to the play-offs.

I NEW TITLE SPONSOR ON BOARD

Europe's premium club handball competition welcomes the Machineseeker Group, Europe's leading operator of online marketplaces for used machines and commercial vehicles, as new title sponsor for the EHF Champions League Men.

The title sponsorship agreement commences with the start of the 2022/23 season and is initially limited until 30 June 2023. The EHF Champions League Men will be named Machineseeker EHF Champions League and the EHF FINAL4 Men 2023, the competition's final weekend and undisputed top event in Cologne, will be named TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2023, highlighting one of the Group's leading marketplaces.

As part of the sponsorship Machineseeker receives extensive exposure at all 132 matches throughout the season, including floor stickers and LED presence as well as integration in all relevant digital channels and websites of the Machineseeker EHF Champions League.

Furthermore, Machineseeker will become part of the competition's official logo with the new composite logo to be used on all relevant materials on site as well as in digital and print material.



HANDMADE HISTORY

Machineseeker EHF Champions League
Watch live on ehftv.com



MACHINESEEKER

EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

I HANDMADE HISTORY

Ahead of the start of the 30th anniversary season of the EHF Champions League the brand- new digital campaign “Handmade History” was introduced. Handmade History celebrates the rich history of the competition, it’s incredible match action, passionate teams and legendary players, while highlighting the thrilling present and exciting future of the EHF Champions League.

The new campaign highlights the core values of the competition, especially teamwork, passion, and the dedication it takes to write the next chapter of handball history – Handmade History!



I HANDBALLS GET FRESH LOOK FOR THE NEW SEASON

New season, new look! The official SELECT SPORT match balls for the 2022/23 season of the EHF Champions League appear in a high-class and fresh design. In line with the competition's brand identity introduced in 2020, the new EHF Champions League ball showcases the use of flashes of gold colour.

The hand-sewn ball is made of extremely hard-wearing synthetic leather material and a patented zero-wing bladder inside the ball ensures optimal roundness.

The new balls were first introduced at both EHF FINAL4 2022 events - for women, on 4/5 June in Budapest; and for men, on 18/19 June in Cologne.

Only one click away - the Home of Handball Shop

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



I STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Newsletter, app, social media – fans have the opportunity to follow the Machineseeker EHF Champions League and their favourite teams on multiple digital channels!

EHFCL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Subscribers of the EHFCL Weekly receive a fresh slice of the latest news directly to their inbox every Friday during the season. From exclusive interviews to a light-hearted look at handball in the Timeout section, EHFCL Weekly is the perfect way to end the working week and start the weekend. In honour of the 30th anniversary of the competition, this season the popular “This Is Me” series features legendary players of the game.

<https://go.eurohandball.com/ehfcl>

HOME OF HANDBALL APP

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

The app allows for each user to completely individualise his or her experience by selecting their favourite club and/or favourite competition.

<https://www.eurohandball.com/en/services/the-home-of-handball-app/>

FOLLOW, COMMENT, SHARE

Of course, you can also join the conversation and engage with the EHFCL family on social media. The EHF Champions League accounts give fans a steady stream of sharable and engaging content, keeping them informed on all the latest results and news from handball’s top-flight.

In addition to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, fans can also check out the newest channel additions Twitch and TikTok.

After successful live shows around both men’s and women’s EHF FINAL4 events in 2022, fans can look forward to a regular presence of the EHF Champions League on the video-streaming platform Twitch throughout the new season. The Home of Handball TikTok channel showcases quirky, creative, and viral video content.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ehf.champions.league>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ehfcl>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/TheHomeofHandball>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ehfcl/>

Twitch: <https://www.twitch.tv/homeofhandball>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@homeofhandball?lang=en>

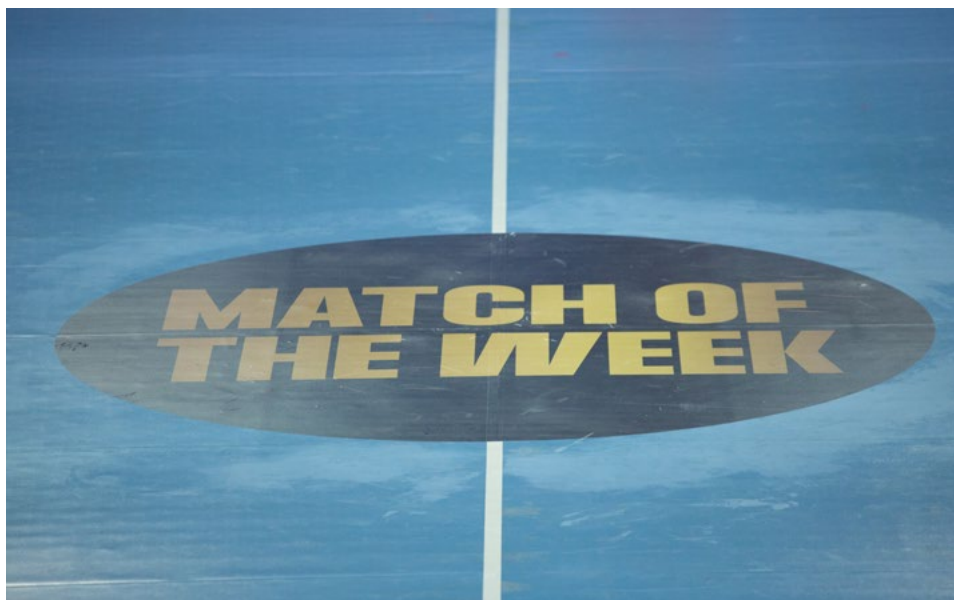
| MOTW SHOWCASES THE BEST OF THE BEST

MOTW – when these four letters pop up next to a match, fans are in for a special treat. The Match of the Week (MOTW) is back for the 2022/23 season of the Machineseecker EHF Champions League as well as the EHF Champions League Women.

Every round one match has the honour of shining in the spotlight and carrying the title of Match of the Week. Across all channels fans are treated to a very special coverage that will bring the action even closer to everyone watching around the world.

On match days and during the week, fans should pay the EHFCL social media channels a visit to ensure they get the most out of the content. As in previous seasons the faces of the EHFCL, Hannah Jackson, Markus Floth, and three-time EHF Champions League winner Anja Althaus will lead through the coverage on the competition's social media channels, conducting exclusive interviews with players and giving exceptional insights.

Furthermore, the on-site mobile reporters of the EHF Champions League capture behind the scenes clips and sneak peeks from inside the arenas and bring the coverage of top-flight handball to the next level.



I EHFTV

The OTT portal of the EHF and EHF Marketing, EHFTV has established itself over the past decade as a meeting point for all handball fans. The option to watch EHF games for free, live and on-demand, as well as the opportunity to enjoy additional content created for the EHF competitions on a regular basis, has made EHFTV a unique and highly-appreciated OTT service in the sport market.

The general approach of EHFTV remains, offering the best handball content for free. This approach is complemented with the option to register to the portal for free. This registration gives handball fans the option to watch games live and on-demand, but also allows fans to improve and personalise their fan experience during the season – and all of that for free.

On EHFTV, matches from every EHF competition are available, complemented with highlights, the best goals and saves and plenty of additional content created exclusively for the portal. Since 2020 the new EHFTV has been designed to be fully adaptable to all devices, regardless of whether fans are at home or on the go, the best handball action is accessible any time and from anywhere.

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

Furthermore, the state-of-the-art video player, which also includes a multi-screen feature, guarantees the best quality and the perfect conditions to follow the EHF Champions League, whenever it is played.

Join [EHFTV](#) and get ready for a new handball era.

The screenshot shows the EHFTV website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the EHFTV logo on the left and links for HOME, SCHEDULES, COMPETITIONS, ARCHIVE, and FAQs in the center. On the right side of the navigation bar, there is a 'My Account' link and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, the main content area features a large promotional banner for the Machineseeker EHF Champions League. The banner includes the Machineseeker logo (a gear with a lightning bolt) and the EHF Champions League logo (a yellow star). The text on the banner reads: 'Machineseeker EHF Champions League' in large white letters, followed by a paragraph: 'Showtime for Champions! Watch the Machineseeker EHF Champions League, the best European club handball competition. Enjoy live streams including Match of the Week, highlights, top goals and saves, best players of the round and more exclusive videos on EHFTV.' The background of the banner is a blue-tinted image of hands holding a handball.

TV STATIONS TO BROADCAST MATCHES ALL OVER THE WORLD

Broadcasters will beam the Machineseeker EHF Champions League 2022/23 group phase matches into fans' homes in over 30 countries when the competition gets underway this weekend.

Live broadcasters have been confirmed for nations around Europe, plus the USA and the Middle East and North Africa – with fans in those countries not covered able to access the EHF's on-demand platform, EHFTV.

The coverage means fans will be able to keep track of their favourite teams as they progress through the 14 group phase matches ahead.

TV PARTNERS BROADCASTING THE MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2022/23

AUT – DAZN

BIH – Arena Sport

BUL – B1B

CRO – Arena Sport

CZE – AMC

DEN – Viaplay

ESP – DAZN

ESP – TV3

FIN – Viaplay

FRA – Eurosport

GEO – Silknet

GER – DAZN

HUN – AMC

ISR – SportTV

ITA – Eleven Sports

KOS – Arena Sport

MKD – Arena Sport

MENA (Middle East and North Africa) – ONSports

MNE – Arena Sport

NED – Ziggo

NOR – Viaplay

POL – Eurosport

POR – SportTV

POR – Porto Canal

ROU – Telekom Sport

ROU – Prima Sport

ROU – Digi Sport

SRB – Arena Sport

SLO – Arena Sport

SUI – DAZN

SVK – AMC

SWE – Viaplay

UK – Viaplay

USA – JOYMO

Worldwide – [EHFTV](#) (Geo-restrictions could apply)

I PARTNERS



- Title partner of the EHF Champions League Men, referred to as the Machineseeker EHF Champions League
- Title sponsorship agreement commences with the start of the 2022/23 season
- Including the Machineseeker EHF Champions League 2022/23 season and TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2023



- Part of the Machineseeker Group
- Title partner of the EHF FINAL4 Men 2023, referred to as the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2023



- Part of the Machineseeker Group and German subbrand
- Presented alongside Machineseeker in Games relevant to the German Market



- Premium partner of the Machineseeker EHF Champions League
- Contract prolonged until 2024/25 season
- Part of the EHF family since 2017
- Uniting sports fans via Simplyfans social media channels

I SUPPLIERS

SELECT

- In 2020 signed a four-year contract extension until 2023/24
- Official Ball Supplier for the EHF Champions League and EHF European League
- Dedicated ball designs for EHF Champions League and EHF European League as of the 2021/22 season, so that men and women of the same competition play with the same design

hummel

- contracted until 2023/24
- Official apparel supplier for EHF Champions League and EHF European League
- EHF/M webshop has been launched in autumn 2020 with special products designed according to the competition designs, merchandising at the EHF FINAL4s and EHF European League Finals

UNIQA

- Official insurance supplier
- Present in: Croatia, Hungary, Poland and Romania
- Cooperation prolonged until and including the 2022/23 season.

Gerflor[®] theflooringgroup

- Official flooring supplier
- The distinctive “lagoon blue” court first introduced to the men’s competition at the start of the 2006/07 season and extended to the women’s competition from 2011/12
- Cooperation extended until and including the 2025/26 season

COMPETITION

I EHF/M MEDIA CONTACTS

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MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SEASON 2022/23



MACHINESEEKER EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2022/23 SEASON

Playing system and dates

<p>Group Phase <i>Draw required</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>A</p> <p>A1* A2* A3 A4 A5 A6</p> <p>☒ ☒</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>B</p> <p>B1* B2* B3 B4 B5 B6</p> <p>☒ ☒</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p>Play-offs <i>No draw required</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>M1 B6 v A3</p> <p>M2 A6 v B3</p> <p>M3 B5 v A4</p> <p>M4 A5 v B4</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>4</p> </div> </div>	<p>Quarter-finals <i>No draw required</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>M4 v A1</p> <p>M3 v B1</p> <p>M2 v A2</p> <p>M1 v B2</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>4</p> </div> </div>	<p>TRUCKSCOUT24 EHF FINAL4 <i>Draw required</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SEMI-FINALS</p> <p>☐ v ☐</p> <p>☐ v ☐</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>3rd PLACE MATCH</p> <p>☐ v ☐</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>FINAL</p> <p>☐ v ☐</p> </div> </div>	<p>17-18 June 2023</p>
<p>* Top two places of Groups A and B proceed directly to the Quarter-finals.</p>	<p>1st leg – 22-23 March 2023 2nd leg – 29-30 March 2023</p>	<p>1st leg – 10-11 May 2023 2nd leg – 17-18 May 2023</p>		
<p>R1: 14-15/9/22 R2: 21-22/9/22 R3: 28-29/9/22 R4: 5-6/10/22 R5: 26-27/10/22 R6: 2-3/11/22 R7: 23-24/11/22</p> <p>R8: 30/11-1/12/22 R9: 7-8/12/22 R10: 14-15/12/22 R11: 8-9/2/23 R12: 15-16/2/23 R13: 22-23/2/23 R14: 1-2/3/23</p>				

10 DEBUTANTS, 4 TOP SCORERS, 11 NATIONS, 30TH ANNIVERSARY

FACTS AND FIGURES: ALL THE NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE THE START OF THE SEASON

The Machineseeker EHF Champions League 2022/23 starts with 16 teams from 11 countries, including five (former) champions.

With the competition heading into its anniversary 30th season, here are the most important facts and figures before the throw-off on 14/15 September.

0 debutants are among the 16 teams.

1 new title sponsor has become partner of the competition, which is called the Machineseeker EHF Champions League 2022/23, culminating in the TruckScout EHF FINAL4 2023.

1

team has finally managed to win the EHF FINAL4 in back-to-back years: Barça won the title in 2021 after beating Aalborg in the final, and again in 2022 after defeating Kielce in a penalty shootout.

1 more draw will be needed in the rest of the season: for the semi-final pairings at the TruckScout EHF FINAL4 2023 on 17/18 June; the play-offs and quarter-finals will be determined based on the group phase standings.

1 EHF FINAL4 was played with neither a Spanish nor a German team taking part – in 2018, when French sides Montpellier, Nantes, and PSG, and Macedonian team Vardar played for the title.

2 coaches have won the EHF Champions League with different teams: Alfred Gislason with Magdeburg (2002) and Kiel (2010 and 2012); Talant Dujšebaev with Ciudad Real (2006, 2008, 2009) and Kielce (2016).

2 Barça players won their fourth EHF Champions League title last season: Aitor Arino and Gonzalo Perez de Vargas. Three players from teams taking part in the 2022/23 group phase have won the title three times: Aron Palmarsson (Aalborg), Nikola Karabatic (PSG), and Ivan Cupic (Zagreb).

2

teams per group – the winners and the runners-up – will directly advance to the quarter-finals.

4 (former) EHF Champions League top scorers are part of the 2022/23 group phase: Kielce's Alex Dujšebaev, Aalborg's Mikkel Hansen, PSG's Nikola Karabatic, and Barça's Aleix Gomez; also, two current coaches were top scorers in the past: Kiel's Filip Jicha and Veszprém's Momir Ilic.

4 men have won the EHF Champions League as a player and a coach: Antonio Ortega, Talant Dujšebaev, Roberto Parrondo, and Filip Jicha.

4 of the 16 coaches have won the EHF Champions League title as coach: Barça's Carlos Ortega with Barça, Kielce's Talant Dujšebaev with Ciudad Real and Kielce; Dinamo's Xavi Pascual with Barça, and PSG's Raul Gonzalez with Vardar.

4 (former) IHF World Players of the Year are part of the 2022/23 group phase: PSG's Nikola Karabatic (2007, 2014, 2016), Aalborg's Mikkel Hansen (2011, 2015, 2018), Kiel's Domagoj Duvnjak (2013), and Kiel's Niklas Landin (2019, 2021); also, two coaches received the award in the past: Kielce's Talant Dujšebaev and Kiel's Filip Jicha.

5 of the 16 coaches have won the EHF Champions League as a player: Barça's Carlos Ortega with Barça, Kielce's Talant Dujšebaev with Santander, and Veszprém's Momir Ilic, Kiel's Filip Jicha, and Børge Lund all with Kiel.

5 nations are represented by two teams each in the 2022/23 group phase: Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, and Poland.

5 teams that did not take part in the 2021/22 group phase are back for on the starting grid for the 2022/23 season: Celje, GOG, Magdeburg, Nantes, and Plock.

5 teams in the 2022/23 group phase have combined won the trophy 17 times in the past: Barça (10 titles), Kiel (4), Magdeburg, Celje, and Kielce (1 each).

6 countries are represented by the 29 EHF Champions League winners so far: Spain (16 titles), Germany (7), France, North Macedonia (2 each), Poland, and Slovenia (1 each).

9 of 13 EHF FINAL4 winners so far are part of the 2022/23 group phase; the four teams missing are Hamburg, Flensburg, Montpellier, and Vardar.

10 titles (1995-2000, 2011, 2015, 2021, 2022) make Barça the record winners of the EHF Champions League; Kiel (2007, 2010, 2012, 2020) are next with four titles.

10 Spanish coaches have combined won 19 EHF Champions League titles: Valero Rivera (5), Talant Dujšebaev (4), Xavi Pascual (3), Carlos Ortega, Javier Cuesta, Julian Ruiz, Francisco Equisoain, Francesc Espar, Raul Gonzalez and Roberto Parrondo (1 each); Dujšebaev, Parrondo and Gonzalez won with non-Spanish teams.

11 nations are represented by the 16 teams in the 2022/23 group phase; two fewer than in 2021/22.

13 goals is the biggest winning margin for any of the 24 EHF FINAL4 matches so far, set in 2021 when Barça defeated Aalborg 36:23.

16 times, the EHF Champions League trophy went to a team from Spain: Barça (10), Ciudad Real (3), Santander, Irun, and Portland (1 each).

16 or 18 matches long is the road to the TruckScout EHF FINAL4 2023 on 17/18 June, depending on whether the team in question has skipped the play-offs or not.

20 wins from 20 matches was the season record set by Barça in 2020/21.

20 matches played at EHF FINAL4 events makes Aron Palmarsson (now Aalborg) the record holder.

29 participations (including 2022/23) make Zagreb the record holders, ahead of Veszprém (28), Celje (27), Barça (26), and Kiel (25).

68 goals (in his 14 matches) make retired Kiril Lazarov the all-time top scorer of the EHF FINAL4.

132 matches are scheduled for the 2022/23 season: 112 in the group phase, eight in the play-offs, eight in the quarter-finals, four at the TruckScout EHF FINAL4 2023.

267 wins (plus 22 draws and 61 defeats) give Barça the lead in the all-time EHF Champions League standings.

280 goals were scored at the EHF FINAL 4 2022, more than ever before – remarkably, three of the four matches ended in 37:35.

7,652 goals were scored in the 2021/22 season: 6,408 in the group phase; 478 in the play-offs; 486 in the quarter-finals; 280 at the EHF FINAL4.

TEAMS BY AGE AVERAGE

Telekom Veszprém HC	29.14
C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	28.21
THW Kiel	27.77
FC Porto	27.01
HC PPD Zagreb	26.32
Orlen Wisła Płock	26.29
Aalborg Håndbold	26.17
CL Average Age	25.81
Paris Saint-Germain Handball	25.67
SC Magdeburg	25.54
Pick Szeged	25.47
Lomza Industria Kielce	25.45
Barça	25.34
HBC Nantes	24.77
Elverum Handball	24.30
GOG	23.49
RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	22.81

TEAMS BY HEIGHT AVERAGE

THW Kiel	195.67
C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	195.25
Pick Szeged	195.22
Lomza Industria Kielce	194.86
Telekom Veszprém HC	193.89
Paris Saint-Germain Handball	193.44
RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	193.35
CL Average Height	192.75
Aalborg Håndbold	192.44
HC PPD Zagreb	192.17
GOG	191.96
Elverum Handball	191.89
HBC Nantes	191.85
FC Porto	191.45
Orlen Wisła Płock	190.75
Barça	190.50
SC Magdeburg	189.96

TEAMS BY WEIGHT AVERAGE

Telekom Veszprém HC	100.28
THW Kiel	99.24
Lomza Industria Kielce	98.62
C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	96.04
Aalborg Håndbold	94.85
GOG	94.67
CL Average Weight	94.22
FC Porto	94.14
HC PPD Zagreb	93.71
RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	93.65
Pick Szeged	93.63
Elverum Handball	93.58
HBC Nantes	92.38
Orlen Wisła Płock	92.08
SC Magdeburg	91.81
Paris Saint-Germain Handball	91.26
Barça	90.59

FACTS AND FIGURES – MAX AND MIN

YOUNGEST



12/09/2006

João Rodrigues Magalhães

FC Porto

João Rodrigues Magalhães	POR	FC Porto	12/09/2006
Péter Gazsó	HUN	Pick Szeged	12/06/2006
Tiago Sousa	POR	FC Porto	24/03/2006
Aksel Kaj Larsen	DEN	GOG	21/12/2005
Žan Korže Lesjak	SLO	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	26/05/2005
Lasse Vilhelmsen	DEN	GOG	26/04/2005
Emil Oxenvad Tonnesen	DEN	GOG	25/01/2005
Patrick Helland Anderson	NOR	Elverum Handball	08/12/2004
Pierre-Alexis Favril	FRA	HBC Nantes	15/10/2004
Hjalte Lykke	DEN	GOG	05/10/2004
Uros Mitrovic	SRB	Orlen Wisla Plock	13/09/2004
Radoš Premovic	MNE	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	06/09/2004
Marcus Kløve	DEN	Aalborg Håndbold	24/08/2004
Eduardo Leite	POR	FC Porto	07/08/2004
Fritz-Leon Haake	GER	SC Magdeburg	29/07/2004
Tim Maximilian Hertzfeld	GER	SC Magdeburg	19/07/2004

SHORTEST



Luc Steins

Paris Saint-Germain Handball

173 cm

Luc Steins	NED	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	173
Kosuke Yasuhira	JPN	Orlen Wisla Plock	173
Gonzalo Pérez Arce	ESP	Orlen Wisla Plock	175
Alex Pascual Garcia	ESP	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	175
Baptiste Damatrin-Bertrand	FRA	HBC Nantes	177
Ivan Cupic	CRO	HC PPD Zagreb	178
Miha Zarabec	SLO	THW Kiel	178
Hjalte Lykke	DEN	GOG	178
Daniel Pettersson	SWE	SC Magdeburg	179
Mikkel Kjær Møller	DEN	GOG	179
Louis Perreux	FRA	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	179
Eduardo Leite	POR	FC Porto	179
Timur Dibirov	RUS	HC PPD Zagreb	180
Gasper Marguc	SLO	Telekom Veszprém HC	180
Nicusor Andrei Negru	ROU	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	180
Paolo Kraljevic	CRO	HC PPD Zagreb	180

LIGHTEST



Kosuke Yasuhira

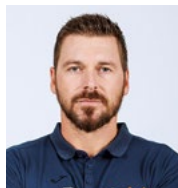
Orlen Wisla Plock

67 kg

Kosuke Yasuhira	JPN	Orlen Wisla Plock	67
Gonzalo Pérez Arce	ESP	Orlen Wisla Plock	70
Bruno Reguart	ESP	Barça	70
Artur Parera	ESP	Barça	70
Aleix Gómez	ESP	Barça	71
Salomon Nassequela	COD	HBC Nantes	71
Valentin Bzdynga	FRA	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	71
Luc Steins	NED	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	72
Hjalte Lykke	DEN	GOG	72
Louis Perreux	FRA	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	72
Tim Kloor	GER	SC Magdeburg	73
Håvar Hildre Skare	NOR	Elverum Handball	73
Timur Dibirov	RUS	HC PPD Zagreb	74
Karpo Sirotic	CRO	HC PPD Zagreb	74
Stanis Soullier	FRA	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	74
Eduardo Leite	POR	FC Porto	75

FACTS AND FIGURES – MAX AND MIN

OLDEST



12/07/1983

Mirsad Terzic

Orlen Wisla Plock

Mirsad Terzic	BIH	Orlen Wisla Plock	12/07/1983
Timur Dibirov	RUS	HC PPD Zagreb	30/07/1983
Daniel Sarmiento	ESP	Orlen Wisla Plock	25/08/1983
Nikola Karabatic	FRA	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	11/04/1984
Valentin Ghionea	ROU	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	29/04/1984
Pedro Cruz	POR	FC Porto	06/06/1984
Cedric Sorhaindo	FRA	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	07/06/1984
Roland Mikler	HUN	Pick Szeged	20/09/1984
Morten Olsen	DEN	GOG	11/10/1984
Henrik Møllgaard Jensen	DEN	Aalborg Håndbold	02/01/1985
Mikael Aggefors	SWE	Aalborg Håndbold	20/01/1985
Valero Rivera Folch	ESP	HBC Nantes	22/02/1985
Mirko Alilovic	CRO	Pick Szeged	15/09/1985
Nikola Mitrevski	MKD	FC Porto	03/10/1985
Željko Musa	CRO	HC PPD Zagreb	08/01/1986
Ivan Cupic	CRO	HC PPD Zagreb	27/03/1986

TALLEST



Dainis Kristopans

Paris Sain-Germain Handball

215 cm

Dainis Kristopans	LAT	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	215
Tomasz Gebala	POL	Lomza Industria Kielce	212
Kamil Syprzak	POL	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	207
Mike Jensen	DEN	SC Magdeburg	207
Calin Dedu	ROU	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	207
Viachaslau Bokhan	BLR	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti	206
Thibaud Briet	FRA	HBC Nantes	205
Jakov Gojun	CRO	HC PPD Zagreb	204
Leon Šušnja	CRO	Orlen Wisla Plock	204
Sebastian Leth Frandsen	DEN	FC Porto	204
Amir Muhovic	BIH	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	204
Matej Mandic	CRO	HC PPD Zagreb	204
Leo Villain	FRA	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	204
Piotr Chrapkowski	POL	SC Magdeburg	203
Luka Stepancic	CRO	Pick Szeged	203
Hendrik Pekeler	GER	THW Kiel	203

HEAVIEST



Dainis Kristopans

Paris Sain-Germain Handball

135 kg

Dainis Kristopans	LAT	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	135
Matic Suholežnik	SLO	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	130
Kamil Syprzak	POL	Paris Saint-Germain Handball	127
Tomasz Gebala	POL	Lomza Industria Kielce	124
Emil Nielsen	DEN	Barça	120
Adin Faljic	BIH	HC PPD Zagreb	120
Andreas Nilsson	SWE	Telekom Veszprém HC	120
Atal Lakanval	DEN	GOG	119
Daymaro Salina	POR	FC Porto	119
Dawid Dawydzik	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	119
Victor Iturriza	POR	FC Porto	117
Moritz Preuss	GER	SC Magdeburg	117
Andreas Wolff	GER	Lomza Industria Kielce	117
Blaz Blagotinsek	SLO	Telekom Veszprém HC	117
Vladimir Cupara	SRB	Telekom Veszprém HC	116
Leon Šušnja	CRO	Orlen Wisla Plock	116



EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE

CLUBS



HANDBALL

GROUP A PREVIEW

STALWARTS AND NEW FACES MINGLE

While group A may feature some of the biggest names in European handball, none of its sides has won the EHF Champions League since 2002, when SC Magdeburg lifted the trophy after defeating Veszprém in the final.

The German side will make their comeback to the Machineseecker EHF Champions League this season, after missing out since 2006. In the meantime, SCM won the EHF European League in 2021 and reached the final again in 2022.

Magdeburg have built an impressive side over the last couple of seasons. Even though they lost goalkeeper Jannick Green to Paris Saint-Germain, Magdeburg will still be able to count on serial-scorer Ómar Ingi Magnusson, who netted 71 times in the European League last season.

While Magdeburg appear as outsiders in the run for the first two spots of the group, Veszprém and Paris definitely look like favourites. Although neither team has yet lifted the Champions League trophy, they made it to Cologne several times in the past few seasons.

Veszprém's last trip to the LANXESS Arena dates back to last June, when they were defeated in the semi-final by Kielce. After strengthening themselves with Icelandic left-winger Bjarki Mar Elisson and Serbian lineplayer Dragan Pechmalbec, the Hungarian side will try to make it all the way to the EHF FINAL4 yet again.

Paris Saint-Germain are one of their fiercest rivals for the top spot and a direct qualification to the quarter-finals. The French side may be going through a rebuilding season, with stalwarts Vincent Gérard, Nédim Rémili and Mikkel Hansen having left in the summer, but signings Andreas Palicka and Green will provide some security between the posts.

Alongside Magdeburg, some unfamiliar faces will feature in group A. OrLEN Wisła Plock and GOG's last participation date back to 2019/20. Both teams have proven to be among the best in the European League since, with the Polish side playing the EHF Finals two seasons ago while GOG qualified twice for the quarter-finals.





For their return to the Champions League, Plock drafted Croatian national goalkeeper Kristian Pilipovic as well as a few of the brightest upcoming stars in Europe, like Gonzalo Pérez Arce and Tomas Piroch.

GOG also underwent some changes, with several players, including Mathias Gidsel, leaving last summer. But the Danish side have proven in the past their ability to discover new talents.

FC Porto is on the starting line of the Champions League for the fourth straight season, with a team that has barely changed since last season when they reached the play-offs.

C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti and Zagreb did not make it out of the group phase last season, but both have signed many stars this summer. European League winner Lazar Kucic and Champions League winner Ali Zein both join the Romanian team, from SL Benfica and Barça respectively. After upsetting Kielce and Veszprem last season, Dinamo can hope to make it to the play-offs for the first time this year.



While Zagreb lost David Mandic and Marin Sipic at the end of last season, they managed to seduce the former Champions League winner from Vardar, Timur Dibirov. With this asset, the Croatian side hopes to make it out of the group phase, something they have not done since 2018/19.

Kevin Domas



RUKOMETNI KLUB
PRVO PLINARSKO DRUŠTVO
Z A G R E B



I GROUP A HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS EC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP A TEAMS

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs SC Magdeburg 0-0-2 (48:66) 0:4

06.11.2004	Paris Handball vs SC Magdeburg, EHF Cup – Round 3	25:30 (9:18)
13.11.2004	SC Magdeburg vs Paris Handball, EHF Cup – Round 3	36:23 (18:9)

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs GOG 1-0-1 (47:51) 2:2

16.11.1996	PSG Asnières vs GOG Gudme, EHF Champions League – Group D	25:20 (15:10)
05.01.1997	GOG Gudme vs PSG Asnières, EHF Champions League – Group D	31:22 (15:7)

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs FC Porto 5-0-1 (184:158) 10:2

17.11.2007	FC do Porto/Vitalis vs Paris Handball, Cup Winners' Cup – Round 3	30:23 (14:11)
25.11.2007	Paris Handball vs FC do Porto/Vitalis, Cup Winners' Cup – Round 3	26:20 (13:9)
18.11.2020	FC Porto vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, EHF Champions League – Group A	31:34 (16:12)
26.11.2020	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs FC Porto, EHF Champions League – Group A	29:28 (15:11)
18.11.2021	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs FC Porto, EHF Champions League – Group B	33:19 (18:4)
25.11.2021	FC Porto vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, EHF Champions League – Group B	30:39 (15:23)

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti 2-0-0 (80:61) 4:0

23.09.2021	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti, EHF Champions League – Group B	41:30 (21:11)
03.03.2022	CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, EHF Champions League – Group B	31:39 (16:20)

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs Telekom Veszprém HC 7-1-6 (400:402) 15:13

19.04.2014	PSG Handball vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	26:28 (14:12)
26.04.2014	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs PSG Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	31:26 (12:12)
12.04.2015	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	24:24 (10:12)
19.04.2015	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	34:28 (16:12)
25.10.2015	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:27 (16:12)
28.11.2015	MVM Veszprém vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:20 (16:14)
20.11.2016	Telekom Veszprém vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:29 (14:15)
27.11.2016	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs Telekom Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:24 (14:12)
03.06.2017	Telekom Veszprém vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Semi-final	26:27 (11:11)
12.11.2017	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:28 (19:14)
18.11.2017	Telekom Veszprém HC vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	24:29 (12:12)
29.12.2020	Telekom Veszprém HC vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Place 3/4	26:31 (11:14)
16.09.2021	Telekom Veszprém HC vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, EHF Champions League – Group B	34:31 (13:17)
10.03.2022	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs Telekom Veszprém HC, EHF Champions League – Group B	39:40 (19:20)

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs Orlen Wisla Plock 4-0-0 (118:101) 8:0

27.09.2015	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:24 (16:13)
27.02.2016	Orlen Wisla Plock vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	22:27 (12:16)
02.10.2016	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	33:30 (15:15)
05.03.2017	Orlen Wisla Plock vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:29 (11:14)

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC PPD Zagreb 8-1-1 (309:249) 17:3

05.10.2014	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF CL – Group A	27:22 (11:9)
09.12.2014	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF CL – Group A	25:24 (14:13)
11.10.2015	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF CL – Group A	34:23 (18:8)
10.02.2016	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF CL – Group A	23:25 (10:15)
23.04.2016	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain Handball, VELUX EHF CL – Quarter-final	20:28 (13:16)
01.05.2016	Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF CL – Quarter-final	32:32 (16:13)
29.09.2018	HC PPD Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	21:32 (9:15)
17.02.2019	Paris Saint-Germain HB vs HC PPD Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:28 (19:13)
14.09.2019	HC PPD Zagreb vs Paris Saint-Germain HB, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:37 (15:19)
01.03.2020	Paris Saint-Germain HB vs HC PPD Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	37:26 (17:12)

SC Magdeburg vs GOG

No previous encounters in European competitions

SC Magdeburg vs FC Porto 3-0-1 (109:108) 6:2

09.11.1996	Sportclub Magdeburg vs Futebol Clube do Porto, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	30:26 (15:13)
16.11.1996	Futebol Clube do Porto vs Sportclub Magdeburg, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	25:26 (14:12)
18.11.2018	SC Magdeburg vs Futebol Clube do Porto, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	26:23 (14:11)
25.11.2018	Futebol Clube do Porto vs SC Magdeburg, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	34:27 (18:12)

SC Magdeburg vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti 2-0-0 (73:55) 4:0

21.02.2016	Dinamo Bucuresti vs SC Magdeburg, EHF Cup – Group A	33:34 (18:14)
27.03.2016	SC Magdeburg vs Dinamo Bucuresti, EHF Cup – Group A	39:22 (17:9)

SC Magdeburg vs Telekom Veszprém HC 3-0-4 (176:183) 6:8

25.11.2001	Fotex KC Veszprém vs Sportclub Magdeburg, EHF Champions League – Group D	24:20 (12:11)
15.12.2001	Sportclub Magdeburg vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Group D	25:22 (12:10)
21.04.2002	Fotex KC Veszprém vs Sportclub Magdeburg, EHF Champions League – Final	23:21 (9:8)
27.04.2002	Sportclub Magdeburg vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Final	30:25 (15:10)
26.10.2002	Sportclub Magdeburg vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF for Club Teams – Final	31:30 (17:15)
24.11.2002	Fotex KC Veszprém vs Sportclub Magdeburg, EHF Champions League – Group A	31:22 (14:13)
15.12.2002	Sportclub Magdeburg vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Group A	27:28 (10:12)

SC Magdeburg vs Orlen Wisla Plock 3-0-0 (101:90) 6:0

16.11.2002	Sportclub Magdeburg vs Wisla Plock SSA, EHF Champions League – Group A	40:32 (17:11)
30.11.2002	Wisla Plock SSA vs Sportclub Magdeburg, EHF Champions League – Group A	29:31 (16:12)
22.05.2021	SC Magdeburg vs Orlen Wisla Plock, EHF European League – EHF Finals – Semi-final	30:29 (13:15)

SC Magdeburg vs HC PPD Zagreb

No previous encounters in European competitions

GOG vs FC Porto

No previous encounters in European competitions

GOG vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti 0-0-2 (59:67) 0:4

25.09.2019	CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs GOG, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	35:28 (17:12)
01.12.2019	GOG vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	31:32 (16:18)

GOG vs Telekom Veszprém HC 0-0-2 (40:50) 0:4

12.04.1992	Bramac SE Veszprem vs GOG Gudme, Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final	26:21 (14:9)
19.04.1992	GOG Gudme vs Bramac SE Veszprem, Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final	19:24 (9:11)

GOG vs Orlen Wisla Plock 2-0-2 (108:112) 4:4

13.10.2019	GOG vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	28:27 (16:14)
23.11.2019	Orlen Wisla Plock vs GOG, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	27:24 (11:13)
13.04.2021	GOG vs Orlen Wisla Plock, EHF European League – Quarter-final	30:27 (17:12)
20.04.2021	Orlen Wisla Plock vs GOG, EHF European League – Quarter-final	31:26 (13:13)

GOG vs HC PPD Zagreb 0-1-1 (42:47) 1:3

17.01.1996	GOG Gudme vs Croatia Banka Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group B	21:21 (13:9)
19.03.1996	Croatia Banka Zagreb vs GOG Gudme, EHF Champions League – Group B	26:21 (11:12)

FC Porto vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti 1-0-1 (58:58) 2:2

30.09.2021	CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs FC Porto, EHF Champions League – Group B	26:27 (14:15)
24.02.2022	FC Porto vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti, EHF Champions League – Group B	31:32 (12:12)

FC Porto vs Telekom Veszprém HC 0-1-3 (103:127) 1:7

13.10.2019	Telekom Veszprém HC vs FC Porto Sofarma, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	38:28 (19:16)
08.02.2020	FC Porto Sofarma vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	24:31 (9:14)
14.10.2021	FC Porto vs Telekom Veszprém HC, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	23:30 (10:16)
16.02.2022	Telekom Veszprém HC vs FC Porto, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:28 (15:15)

FC Porto vs Orlen Wisla Plock 0-0-2 (42:52) 0:4

16.11.2013	FC Porto Vitalis vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	20:24 (9:14)
21.11.2013	Orlen Wisla Plock vs FC Porto Vitalis, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:22 (12:10)

FC Porto vs HC PPD Zagreb

No previous encounters in European competitions

CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs Telekom Veszprém HC 1-0-3 (117:151) 2:6

08.10.2005	MKB Veszprém KC vs Dinamo Baunit Bucuresti, EHF Champions League – Group F	37:27 (20:13)
22.10.2005	Dinamo Baunit Bucuresti vs MKB Veszprém KC, EHF Champions League – Group F	27:38 (13:17)
28.10.2021	CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs Telekom Veszprém HC, EHF Champions League – Group B	31:29 14:13)
02.12.2021	Telekom Veszprém HC vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti, EHF Champions League – Group B	47:32 (22:15)

CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs Orlen Wisla Plock 2-1-1 (107:96) 5:3

14.10.2018	Dinamo Bucuresti vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	24:21 (13:10)
03.11.2018	Orlen Wisla Plock vs Dinamo Bucuresti, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	29:28 (14:12)
20.10.2019	Orlen Wisla Plock vs CS Dinamo Bucuresti, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	26:26 (13:12)
30.10.2019	CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	29:20 (13:10)

CS Dinamo Bucuresti vs HC PPD Zagreb 2-0-0 (31:16) 4:0

16.01.1963	Dinamo Bucuresti vs GRK Zagreb, Champions Cup – Quarter-final	22:8 (8:5)
03.02.1963	GRK Zagreb vs Dinamo Bucuresti, Champions Cup – Quarter-final	8:9 (6:6)

Telekom Veszprém HC vs Orlen Wisla Plock 5-2-1 (245:214) 12:4

09.11.2002	Wisla Plock SSA vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Group A	25:30 (9:13)
08.12.2002	Fotex KC Veszprém vs Wisla Plock SSA, EHF Champions League – Group A	38:24 (20:14)
23.03.2014	Orlen Wisla Plock vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	34:33 (16:16)
29.03.2014	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	31:26 (16:11)
19.09.2015	Orlen Wisla Plock vs MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:27 (11:13)
05.03.2016	MVM Veszprém vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – group A	27:25 (16:13)
08.10.2016	Orlen Wisla Plock vs Telekom Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:28 (13:14)
25.02.2017	Telekom Veszprém vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	31:25 (18:14)

Telekom Veszprém HC vs HC PPD Zagreb 10-1-3 (378:340) 21:7

24.01.1995	Badel Zagreb vs Fotex Veszprem, EHF Champions League – Group A	30:18 (16:8)
15.02.1995	Fotex Veszprem vs Badel Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group A	23:23 (11:12)
06.12.1998	Fotex KC Veszprém vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group A	27:25 (14:14)
09.01.1999	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Group A	19:18 (14:8)
19.02.2000	Fotex KC Veszprém vs Badel 1862 Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	27:25 (13:12)
27.02.2000	Badel 1862 Zagreb vs Fotex KC Veszprém, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	30:26 (16:12)
20.10.2013	HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb vs MKB-MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	22:33 (8:15)
15.02.2014	MKB-MVM Veszprém vs HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	34:27 (19:11)
03.10.2015	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs MVM Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – group A	20:21 (10:9)
21.02.2016	MVM Veszprém vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:25 (16:12)
25.03.2017	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Telekom Veszprém, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	22:23 (10:12)
01.04.2017	Telekom Veszprém vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	29:19 (15:9)
24.09.2020	Telekom Veszprém HC vs HC PPD Zagreb, EHF Champions League – Group B	37:25 (18:12)
25.02.2021	HC PPD Zagreb vs Telekom Veszprém HC, EHF Champions League – Group B	28:35 (11:17)

Orlen Wisla Plock vs HC PPD Zagreb 1-2-3 (144:165) 4:8

12.10.2008	HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb vs Wisla Plock SA, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group H	34:17 (15:7)
08.11.2008	Wisla Plock SA vs HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group H	24:27 (12:16)
17.10.2015	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:25 (13:13)
05.12.2015	Orlen Wisla Plock vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	23:23 (11:12)
08.10.2017	HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb vs Orlen Wisla Plock, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:28 (18:16)
10.02.2018	Orlen Wisla Plock vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:24 (13:10)

GROUP A



Club contact

Club Address

Paris Saint-Germain
Handball
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Media contact

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psg.fr



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



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



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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white/grey
Player short: white/grey
GK shirt: orange

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

PARIS SAINT–GERMAIN HANDBALL



Last season, Paris Saint-Germain HB missed the EHF FINAL4 Men for the first time since 2018/19. After a tough group phase, where the French side faced Barça, Lomza Industria Kielce and Telekom Veszprém, PSG fell short by just one goal against 2019/20 champions THW Kiel in the quarter-finals.

While the squad had remained exactly the same last summer, coach Raul Gonzalez now faces a massive rebuilding job before the Machineseker EHF Champions League 2022/23 season begins after four key players left the club in June.

Main facts:

- PSG will celebrate their 10th consecutive season in the Machineseker EHF Champions League – their 11th overall
- they have reached the EHF FINAL4 five times, but their only appearance in the final came in 2017
- in the 2021/22 season, Paris were defeated by THW Kiel 63:62 on aggregate in the quarter-finals
- important players like Nedim Remili, Benoit Kounkoud (both Kielce), Mikkel Hansen (Aalborg) and Vincent Gerard (Saint-Raphaël) left the club in the summer
- major signings include goalkeepers Andreas Palicka and Jannick Green, as well as EHF EURO 2018 champion David Balaguer

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 11

Final (1): 2016/17

Semi-finals (4): 2015/16, 2017/18, 2019/20, 2020/21

Quarter-finals (4): 2013/14, 2014/15, 2018/19, 2021/22

Last 16 (1): 2005/06

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2006/07, Last 16 2003/04

French league: 9 titles (2013, 2015–22)

French cup: 6 titles (2007, 2014–15, 2018, 2021, 2022)

League Cup: 3 titles (2017, 2018, 2019)

Supercup: 4 titles (2014, 2015, 2016, 2019)



9 **MATCHES**
Longest
winning run

44 **GOALS**
Most goals

79 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	42:24 (22:10) v THW Kiel GER (h), 12.03.2017
Biggest defeat	44:28 (22:12) v THW Kiel GER (a), 10.12.2005
Longest winning run	9 matches (08.10.2017 – 17.02.2018)
	9 matches (27.05.2018 – 14.11.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	10 matches (11.02.2017 – 03.06.2017)
Longest losing run	4 matches (23.11.1996 – 18.01.1997)
Longest run without win	4 matches (23.11.1996 – 18.01.1997)
Most goals	44 v Elverum Handball NOR 29:44W (a), 02.03.2021
Most goals opponent	44 v THW Kiel GER 44:28L (a), 10.12.2005
Most goals both teams	79 v Telekom Veszprém HUN 39:40L (h), 10.03.2022
Fewest goals	20 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 20:26L (h), 11.01.1997
	20 v Caja Cantabria Santander ESP 26:20L (a), 18.01.1997
	20 v MVM Veszprém HUN 28:20L (a), 28.11.2015
Fewest goals opponent	18 v HC Banik Karvina CZE 21:18W (h), 09.10.2005
	18 v RK Celje Pivovarna L. SLO 27:18W (h), 13.10.2019
Fewest goals both teams	39 v HC Banik Karvina CZE 21:18W (h), 09.10.2005

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 1996/97 PSG Asnières FRA	6	1	0	5	131:161	-30	2:10		4th Gr. D
2005/06 Paris Handball FRA	8	4	1	3	212:229	-17	9:7		Last 16
2013/14 PSG Handball FRA	14	7	1	6	429:402	+27	15:13		1/4-finals
2014/15 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	14	8	1	5	395:367	+28	17:11		1/4-finals
2015/16 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	18	14	1	3	557:496	+61	29:7		Third Place
2016/17 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	20	15	2	3	622:543	+79	32:8		Runner-up
2017/18 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	18	14	1	3	550:498	+52	29:7		Third Place
2018/19 Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	16	14	0	2	514:445	+69	28:4		1/4-finals
2019/20 Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA	16	12	0	4	507:452	+55	24:8		Third place
2020/21 Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA	20	13	1	6	583:496	+87	27:13		Third place
2021/22 Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA	18	9	4	5	581:519	+62	22:14		Quarter-final
Total:	168	111	12	45	5081:4608	+473	234:102		



Raul Gonzalez Gutierrez

Coach

- former stalwart of BM Valladolid and a member of the Spanish national team
- started his coaching career at Atletico Madrid and Ciudad Real, working in a team with Talant Dujshbaev
- moved to Vardar in 2013/14, won the CL in 2017, and joined PSG in the summer of 2018
- also coached the Macedonian national team between 2017 and 2019 as successor of Lino Cervar
- voted best coach in the CL 2016/17 All-star Team

EC trophies: CL 2017

Arrivals:

Dominik Mathé (Elverum Handball/NOR)
 Jannick Green (SC Magdeburg/GER)
 Andreas Palicka (Rhein-Neckar Löwen/GER)
 David Balaguer (HBC Nantes/FRA)
 Yoann Gibelin (US Créteil/FRA)

Departures:

Nedim Remili (Lomza Industria Kielce/POL)
 Benoit Kounkoud (Lomza Industria Kielce)
 Yann Genty (Limoges Hand/FRA)
 Vincent Gerard (Saint-Raphael ar/FRA)
 Mikkel Hansen (Aalborg Håndbold/DEN)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Stanis	Soullier	FRA	Goalkeeper	20/02/2004	Grenoble, FRA	196	74
3	Valentin	Bzdynga	FRA	Right Wing	19/07/2002	LambreslezDouai, FRA	184	71
4	Baptiste	Clay	FRA	Centre Back	14/08/2002	Amiens, FRA	191	85
6	Luc	Steins	NED	Centre Back	22/03/1995	Voerendaal, NED	173	72
7	Sadou	N'Tanzi	FRA	Centre Back	07/01/2000	Longjumeau, FRA	183	80
8	Noa	Narcisse	FRA	Left Back	25/01/2004	Chambéry, FRA	183	90
9	Adama	Keita	FRA	Left Wing	05/06/1997	Paris, FRA	185	81
10	Dainis	Kristopans	LAT	Right Back	27/09/1990	Ludza, LAT	215	135
12	Andreas	Palicka	SWE	Goalkeeper	10/07/1986	Nöbbelöv, SWE	189	90
14	Ferran	Sole Sala	ESP	Right Wing	25/08/1992	Sant Quirze, ESP	192	88
15	Henrik	Toft Hansen	DEN	Line Player	18/12/1986	Skive, DEN	200	102
16	Jannik	Green	DEN	Goalkeeper	29/09/1988	Lemvig, DEN	195	94
19	David	Balaguer	ESP	Right Wing	17/08/1991	Barcelona, ESP	185	91
20	Mathieu	Grebille	FRA	Left Wing	06/10/1991	Paris, FRA	198	94
21	Kamil	Syprzak	POL	Line Player	23/07/1991	Plock, POL	207	127
C 22	Luka	Karabatic	FRA	Line Player	19/04/1988	Strasbourg, FRA	202	90
23	Dominik	Mathe	HUN	Right Back	01/04/1999	Nyiregyhaza, HUN	201	108
26	Louis	Perreux	FRA	Centre Back	28/04/2002	Lyon, FRA	179	72
27	Tony	Mendy	FRA	Right Back	10/12/2002	Brou-sur-Chant., FRA	195	82
28	Yoann	Gibelin	FRA	Left Back	26/11/1999	Créteil, FRA	198	99
33	Victor	Crenn	FRA	Right Back	17/02/2003	NogentsurMame, FRA	197	95
44	Nikola	Karabatic	FRA	Centre Back	11/04/1984	Nis, SRB	196	104
45	Leo	Villain	FRA	Goalkeeper	06/11/2002	Les Abimes, FRA	204	83
47	Wallem-Konrad	Peleka	FRA	Left Back	18/01/2002	Stains, FRA	196	83
71	Elohim	Prandi	FRA	Left Back	24/08/1998	Istres, FRA	193	96
90	Léo	Plantin	FRA	Left Wing	01/05/2003	Toulouse, FRA	186	75
97	Gautier	Loredon	FRA	Line Player	15/10/2002	Le Lamentin, FRA	200	103



Andreas Palicka

@andreaspalicka12

Goalkeeper

- veteran goalkeeper was a corner stone of the Sweden title run at the EHF EURO 2022
- elected best goalkeeper of the WCh 2021
- spent most of his career in the German Bundesliga, with THW Kiel (2008-2015) and Rhein-Neckar Löwen (2016-2022)
- signed for two seasons with Paris Saint-Germain before the 2022/23 season
- best known for his crazy style, full of jumping and throwing legs around

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012
EURO: G 2022, S 2018; WCh: S 2021



Mathieu Grébillé

@mat_grebille

Left wing

- played for Montpellier throughout his career before joining PSG in summer of 2020
- former back court player who turned winger after shoulder injury in 2017, a year after tearing ligaments in his knee
- found his way back to the national team and won bronze at WCh 2019
- has passion for tattoos and drawings, sharing them on his social media channels

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



Nikola Karabatic

@nikolakarabatic44

Left back

- won CL with all his previous clubs but not yet with PSG, despite four trips to Cologne
- missed almost entire 2020/21 season following knee surgery in October 2020, but returned to the courts seven months later, just in time for the EHF FINAL4 2021
- twice EHF EURO MVP (2008, 2014) and top scorer in 2008; also EHF EURO All-star centre back in 2010 and left back in 2004
- three-time World Handball Player of the Year, who won all major prizes in the sport on club level and with the French national team

CL: 2003, 2007, 2015
EURO: G 2006, 2010, 2014, B 2008, 2018; OG: G 2008, 2012, 2020, S 2016; WCh: G 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, B 2003, 2005, 2019



Luc Steins

@luc_steins

Centre back

- joined PSG in November 2020 as a replacement for injured Nikola Karabatic, but instantly made an impact
- arrived in France in 2016, first played for Massy in the second league, before joining Tremblay, then Toulouse
- at 173 cm, is one of the shortest players in the CL
- All-star centre back of the EHF EURO 2022 and the key factor for Netherlands' successful tournament
- his older brother Ivo is also a regular fixture in the Dutch national team



Luka Karabatic

@lukakarabatic

Line player

- began in Montpellier, moved to Aix, then joined PSG in 2015
- PSG is the third club where he plays alongside his brother, Nikola
- was a national-level tennis player until the age of 19 when he chose handball
- EHF EURO 2022 was his fourth ECh, having debuted in 2014 but missed 2020

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



Kamil Syprzak

@kamil_syprzak

Line player

- moved from Plock to Barça in 2015 and after four seasons transferred to PSG, where he extended his contract in 2022
- scored a personal best 86 goals in the CL 2021/22, when he started shooting seven-meters throws
- at 31, the most experienced and the tallest (207 cm) player in the team
- was ruled out from the WCh 2021 in Egypt with Covid-19

WCh: B 2015



Dainis Kristopans

@dainiskristopans

Right back

- joined PSG in summer of 2020 after playing for Vardar and Füchse Berlin in 2019/20
- born in small Latvian town, Ludza, he started his career at local club Latgols
- spent nearly six years at Tatran Presov, winning Slovakian domestic league five times
- won his first CL title in 2019 with Vardar, moved to Berlin half a year later

EC trophies: CL 2019



Ferran Solé

@ferransole14

Right wing

- joined PSG in summer of 2020, his third French club after Granollers and Toulouse
- at age 28 he made his CL debut in 2020/21 season
- part of Spanish national team that won EHF EURO titles in 2018 and 2020
- named best right wing of EHF EURO 2018 and WCh 2019
- top scorer of EHF Cup 2015/16, with 70 goals for Granollers

OG: B 2020; EURO: G 2018, 2020, S 2022; WCh: B 2021

GROUP A



Club contact

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 scm-handball.de

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

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: green
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: red or green



Playing hall

Getec Arena Magdeburg
Berliner Chaussee 32
39114 Magdeburg
Germany
Capacity: 7,800

SC MAGDEBURG



20 years after the biggest success in club history – winning the EHF Champions League in 2001/02 – SC Magdeburg are back on the big stage in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League. In June, the EHF European League 2020/21 winners and 2021/22 runners-up took their second Bundesliga title.

Magdeburg, who will meet the likes of Telekom Veszprém HC, Paris Saint-Germain Handball and FC Porto in group A, are hoping for a long-lasting adventure in their fifth EHF Champions League season.

Main facts:

- sealed their Machineseecker EHF Champions League spot by winning their first Bundesliga title since 2001
- first Champions League appearance since 2005/06 – after winning the competition in the 2001/02 season
- said farewell to goalkeeper Jannick Green (to PSG) and line player Magnus Gullerud (Kolstad) at the end of last season
- the only two new arrivals are both Swiss internationals: goalkeeper Nikola Portner and line player Lucas Meister

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 5
Winners (1): 2001/02
Semi-final (1): 2003/04
Quarter-final (1): 2002/03
Last 16 (1): 2005/06

Other

EHF European League: Winners 2020/21, Runners-up 2021/22
EHF Cup: Winners 1998/99, 2000/01, 2006/07
EHF Champions Trophy: Winners 2000/01, 2001/02

German league: 12 titles (1970, 1977, 1980, 1981-85, 1988, 1991 (GDR); 2001, 2022)
German cup: 7 titles (1970, 1977, 1978, 1984, 1990 (GDR); 1996, 2016)



6 **MATCHES**
Longest unbeaten run

40 **GOALS**
Most goals

72 **GOALS**
Most goals both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	33:19 (17:6) v Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD (h), 17.11.2001 38:24 (18:11) v Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD (h), 23.11.2003
Biggest defeat	38:25 (16:9) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 29.11.2003
Longest winning run	5 matches (12.10.2003 – 23.11.2003)
Longest unbeaten run	6 matches (08.03.2003 – 23.11.2003)
Longest losing run	3 matches (12.11.2005 - 10.12.2005)
Longest run without win	3 matches (15.12.2002 – 08.03.2003) 3 matches (12.11.2005 - 10.12.2005)
Most goals	40 v Wisla Plock SSA POL 40:32W (h), 16.11.2002
Most goals opponent	38 v FC Barcelona ESP 38:25L (a), 29.11.2003
Most goals both teams	72 v Wisla Plock SSA POL 40:32W (h), 16.11.2002
Fewest goals	20 v Fotex KC Veszprém HUN 24:20L (a), 25.11.2001 20 v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 30:20L (a), 13.03.2004
Fewest goals opponent	17 v Panellinios AC Athens GRE 17:29W (a), 09.11.2002
Fewest goals both teams	44 v Fotex KC Veszprém HUN 24:20L (a), 25.11.2001 44 v Fotex KC Veszprém HUN 23:21L (a), 21.04.2002


I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2001/02 Sportclub Magdeburg GER	12	7	2	3	327:289	+38	16:8	Winner	
2002/03 Sportclub Magdeburg GER	8	4	1	3	235:226	+9	9:7	Quarter-final	
2003/04 SC Magdeburg GER	12	9	0	3	366:340	+26	18:6	Semi-final	
2005/06 SC Magdeburg GER	8	4	0	4	238:222	+16	8:8	Last 16	
Total:	40	24	3	13	1166:1077	+89	51:29		



Bennet Wiegert

Coach

 @bennetwiegert

- former German international on the left wing, who played for Magdeburg from 1998-2013, except for three seasons
- won the CL with the club as a player in 2002
- won the inaugural EHF European League as a coach in 2021, and finished runner-up the following year
- replaced Ger Sveinsson as head coach of Magdeburg in December 2015; previously worked as director of the club's youth academy
- his father, Ingolf, won Olympic gold as a player in 1980 and later was also Magdeburg coach

EC trophies: CL 2002 (as player); EL 2021 (as coach)

Arrivals:

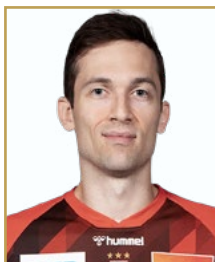
Nikola Portner (Chambéry Savoie HB/FRA)
Lucas Meister (GWD Minden/GER)

Departures:

Magnus Gullerud (Kolstad IL/NOR)
Jannick Green (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Mike	Jensen	DEN	Goalkeeper	26/02/1995	Maribo, DEN	207	115
2	Lucas	Meister	SUI	Line Player	16/08/1996	Muttentz, SUI	197	100
3	Piotr	Chrapkowski	POL	Left Back	24/03/1988	Kartuzy, POL	203	104
6	Matthias	Musche	GER	Left Wing	18/07/1992	Magdeburg, GER	187	92
7	Elias	Ruddat	GER	Left Wing	12/12/2002	Magdeburg, GER	190	85
9	Tim	Kloor	GER	Right Wing	22/01/2002	Schwerin, GER	188	83
10	Gisli Thorgeir	Kristjansson	ISL	Centre Back	30/03/1999	Reykjavik, ISL	191	95
11	Daniel	Pettersson	SWE	Right Wing	06/05/1992	Eskitstuna, SWE	179	78
14	Ómar Ingi	Magnusson	ISL	Right Back	12/03/1997	Selfoss, ISL	186	90
16	Niclas	Behrendt	GER	Goalkeeper	10/01/2022	Lüneburg, GER	192	85
17	Hornke	Tim	GER	Right Wing	04/08/1990	Hannover, GER	188	84
20	Philipp	Weber	GER	Left Back	15/09/1992	Schönebeck, GER	194	91
22	Lukas	Mertens	GER	Left Wing	22/03/1996	Wilhelmshaven, GER	182	85
23	Magnus	Saugstrup Jensen	DEN	Line Player	12/07/1996	Aalborg, DEN	195	105
C 24	Christian	O'Sullivan	NOR	Centre Back	22/08/1991	Oslo, NOR	190	95
25	Marko	Bezjak	SLO	Centre Beck	26/06/1986	Ptuj, SLO	184	88
31	Kay	Smits	NED	Right Back	31/03/1997	Geleen, NED	186	89
34	Michael	Damgaard Nielsen	DEN	Left Back	18/03/1990	Rødby, DEN	192	91
80	Nikola	Portner	SUI	Goalkeeper	19/11/1993	Lyon, FRA	194	90
95	Moritz	Preuss	GER	Line Player	22/02/1995	Dachau, GER	194	117



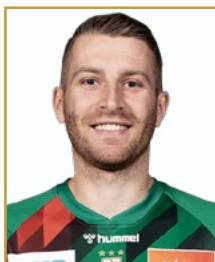
Nikola Portner

 @nikola_portner

Goalkeeper

- signed for Magdeburg in summer 2022 together with his Swiss national teammate Lukas Meister
- Magdeburg is his sixth club in his career, after Grauholz, Bern Muri, Kadetten Schaffhausen, Montpellier, and Chambéry
- played the CL for six seasons with both Montpellier and Schaffhausen, winning in 2018 with Montpellier
- awarded best goalkeeper of the French league in the season 2021/22

EC trophies: CL 2018



Lukas Mertens

 @lukasmertens22

Left wing

- regular in the German national team since 2021, played his first major tournament at the EHF EURO 2022
- thanks to his high-speed counter attacks his nickname is “Speedy”
- started his career at his home club Wilhelmshaven, joined SCM in 2017
- silver medallist and All-star Team left wing at the M20 EHF EURO in Denmark in 2018
- studies sports science at the Magdeburg University

EC trophies: EL 2021



Michael Damgaard

 @dgaard34

Left back

- together with Ómar Ingi Magnusson joint top scorer for SCM in the 2020/21 EL group phase
- joined Magdeburg in 2015 from TTH Holstebro in his native Denmark
- started professional career at GOG before moving to Holstebro in 2010
- was Magdeburg’s best scorer in the last EHF Cup 2019/20 season
- his older brother, Allan, is also a professional handball player, for Holstebro

EC trophies: EL 2021
OG: G 2016; WCh: G 2019



Christian O’Sullivan

 @christianosullivan24

Centre back

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

EC trophies: EL 2021
EURO: B 2020; WCh: S 2017, 2019



Marko Bezjak

 @25bezo

centre back

- Slovenian international who arrived in Magdeburg from Velenje in 2013
- won Slovenian league title three times and gained CL experience with Velenje
- shares playmaker position with captain Christian O’Sullivan and Gisli Kristjansson
- came back even stronger from a long-term injury break after a shoulder surgery

EC trophies: EL 2021
WCh: B 2017



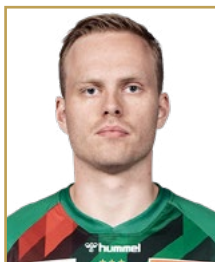
Magnus Saugstrup

 @magnussaugstrup

Line player

- joined Magdeburg after impressive season with Aalborg, reaching CL final in 2020/21
- arrived at Aalborg at the age of 18 - and played more than 250 matches for the club
- was the X-factor for Denmark at the WCh 2021, scoring 29 goals, 17 of them in the knock-out stage; EHF EURO 2020 was his first major tournament

EURO: B 2022; OG: S 2020; WCh: G 2021



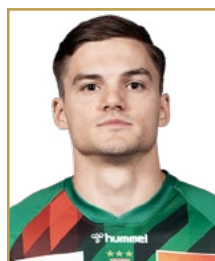
Ómar Ingi Magnusson

 @omaringim

Right back

- Icelandic back, who joined Magdeburg in summer of 2020 after four years in Denmark, with Aarhus and Aalborg, respectively
- top scorer of German Bundesliga and second-best EL scorer in 2020/21
- forms back-court duo with fellow Icelandic player Gisli Kristjansson
- made national team debut for Iceland at age 18
- top scorer of EHF EURO 2022 with 59 goals in eight matches

EC trophies: EL 2021



Kay Smits

 @kay_smits

Right back

- arrived at Magdeburg in 2020, after playing for Wilhelmshaven (GER) and Holstebro (DEN)
- at first was only on loan to replace injured Albin Lagergren in 2020, then became an integral SCM player
- one of the Dutch stars and their top scorer at the EHF EURO 2022, by scoring 45 goals in only five games, before being ruled out by covid
- his sister Inger just won the EL with her club SG BBM Bietigheim and was world champion in 2019, his father Gino is coach of the German U17 women’s team

GROUP A



Club contact

Club Address

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gog.dk



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



[gogsport](https://www.instagram.com/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

Jyske Bank Arena
Orbaekvej 350
5220 Odense
Denmark
Capacity: 4,000

GOG



Joy and disappointment were close at GOG last season: hit by injuries, the Danish side missed the EHF Finals 2022 following a quarter-final defeat by RK Nexø. But a few weeks later, GOG dethroned Aalborg Håndbold as Danish champions.

After a huge transition in the squad, which included the departure of several key players, GOG are now back in the Machineseeker EHF Champions League for the first time since 2019/20.

Main facts:

- last played the CL in 2019/20, finishing third in group C and missing the play-offs
- have reached the CL knock-out phase twice: in 2004/05 and 2006/07
- made it to the EHF European League quarter-finals last season, losing 69:64 on aggregate to RK Nexø
- beat Aalborg 27:26 away in the final of the Danish league to seal their eighth title and to secure their Champions League spot
- notable departures include star right back Mathias Gidsel – the MVP of the Tokyo Olympics – and goalkeepers Torbjørn Bergerud and Viktor Hallgrímsson; new signings include Swedish keeper Tobias Thulin

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 9
Main Round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09
Last 16 (2): 2004/05, 2006/07
Group Matches (4): 1995/96, 1996/97, 1998/99, 2000/01, 2019/20

Other

EHF European League: Quarter-finals 2020/21
EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 1999/00, 2001/02, 2005/06
Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 1995/96, Quarter-finals 1993/94, 1997/98

Danish league: 8 titles (1992, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2022)
Danish cup: 10 titles (1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2019)



4 **MATCHES**
Longest
unbeaten run

45 **GOALS**
Most goals

77 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	36:17 (16:8) v Brestskiy HC Meshkovo BLR (h), 09.10.2004
Biggest defeat	29:45 (18:24) v BM Ciudad Real ESP (h), 04.12.2004
Longest winning run	4 matches (09.10.2004 – 30.10.2004)
Longest unbeaten run	4 matches (09.10.2004 – 30.10.2004)
	4 matches (10.11.2007 – 10.02.2008)
Longest losing run	6 matches (16.11.2008 – 08.03.2009)
Longest run without win	6 matches (14.02.1996 – 24.11.1996)
	6 matches (16.11.2008 – 08.03.2009)
Most goals	45 v HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE 45:32W (h), 15.10.2006
Most goals opponent	45 v BM Ciudad Real ESP 29:45L (h), 04.12.2004
Most goals both teams	77 v HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE 45:32W (h), 15.10.2006
Fewest goals	18 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 18:22L (h), 24.11.1996
	18 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 29:18L (a), 18.01.1997
Fewest goals opponent	17 v Brestskiy HC Meshkovo BLR 36:17W (h), 09.10.2004
	17 v CS HCM Constanta ROU 33:17W (h), 22.10.2006
Fewest goals both teams	40 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 18:22L (h), 24.11.1996

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1995/96 GOG Gudme DEN	6	1	2	3	136:159	-23	4:8	4th Gr. B	
1996/97 GOG Gudme DEN	6	1	0	5	133:155	-22	2:10	3rd Gr. D	
1998/99 GOG Gudme DEN	6	2	0	4	160:180	-20	4:8	3rd Gr. C	
2000/01 GOG Gudme DEN	6	3	0	3	165:158	+7	6:6	3rd Gr. C	
2004/05 GOG Gudme DEN	8	4	0	4	238:230	+8	8:8	Last 16	
2006/07 GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN	8	3	0	5	261:244	+17	6:10	Last 16	
2007/08 GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN	12	6	3	3	380:365	+15	15:9	2nd MR Gr. 4	
2008/09 GOG Svendborg TGI DEN	10	3	0	7	292:324	-32	6:14	4th MR Gr. 4	
2019/20 GOG DEN	10	4	1	5	310:319	-9	9:11	3rd Gr. D	
Total:	72	27	6	39	2075:2134	-59	60:84		



Nicolej Krickau

Coach

 @nicolej_krickau

- Danish former centre back, who ended his playing career in 2007 due to injury after just three seasons with Skanderborg Håndbold, his first professional club
- started working as a youth coach at Skanderborg, took over the senior team in 2013, before joining GOG four years later
- replaced Jakob Larsen as head coach in the summer of 2017
- known for his ability to develop young players; has taken GOG back to the top of Danish handball

Arrivals:

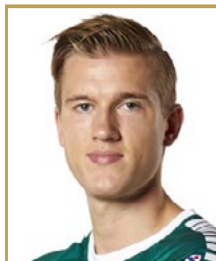
Tobias Thulin (TVB Stuttgart/GER)
 Joachim Lyng (GOG youth/DEN)
 Henrik Jakobsen (USAM Nimes Gard/FRA)
 Nicolai Pedersen (C'Chartres/FRA)
 Nejc Cehte (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER)
 Lauritz Legér (TMS Ringsted/DEN)
 Oskar Vind Rasmussen (TMS Ringsted/DEN)
 Atal Lakanval (GOG youth/DEN)
 Hjalte Lykke (GOG youth/DEN)
 Christoffer Dreyer (GOG youth/DEN)

Departures:

Anders Beuschau (KIF Kolding/DEN)
 Lasse Pedersen (IK Sävehof/SWE)
 Mathias Larson (ØIF Arendal/NOR)
 Lucas Garsdal (HØJ Handball/NOR)
 Emil Lærke (TBV Lemgo-Lippe/GER)
 Viktor Hallgrímsson (HBC Nantes/FRA)
 Oscar Bergendahl (TVB Stuttgart/GER)
 Mathias Gidsel (Füchse Berlin/GER)
 Torbjørn Bergerud (Kolstad Handball/NOR)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Atal	Lakanval	DEN	Goalkeeper	14/01/2003	Svendborg, DEN	194	119
C 2	Simon Bogetoft	Pytlick	DEN	Left Back	11/12/2000	Svendborg, DEN	193	98
3	Nicolai Nygaard	Pedersen	DEN	Left Back	15/02/1994	Hillerød, DEN	198	100
6	Henrik	Jakobsen	NOR	Line Player	16/12/1992	Lørenskog, NOR	196	115
7	Christoffer Sundsgaard	Dreyer	DEN	Centre Back	16/03/2002	Svendborg, DEN	196	98
9	Jerry	Tollbring	SWE	Left Wing	13/09/1995	Rimbo, SWE	182	80
11	Emil Wernsdorf	Madsen	DEN	Right Back	01/01/2001	Svendborg, DEN	194	99
12	Matthias René Rex	Dorgelo	DEN	Goalkeeper	31/10/2002	Odense, DEN	200	100
14	Lukas Lindhard	Jørgensen	DEN	Line Player	31/03/1999	Lejre, DEN	194	109
15	Lauritz Reinholdt	Legér	DEN	Centre Back	14/01/2000	Maribo, DEN	193	86
16	Tobias	Thulin	SWE	Goalkeeper	05/07/1995	Gøteborg, SWE	198	100
19	Oskar Vind	Rasmussen	DEN	Right Wing	08/08/2000	Roskilde, DEN	190	78
21	Kasper Emil	Kildelund	DEN	Right Wing	11/05/1994	Svendborg, DEN	184	83
22	Anders	Zachariassen	DEN	Line Player	04/09/1991	Sonderborg, DEN	192	110
23	Joachim Lyng	Als	DEN	Left Wing	07/04/2003	Copenhagen, DEN	200	100
26	Viktor	Gaini	FAR	Line Player	31/07/2002			
27	Lasse	Vilhelmsen	DEN	Right Back	26/04/2005	Svendborg, DEN	191	92
28	Emil Oxenvad	Tonnesen	DEN	Right Back	25/01/2005	Esbjerg, DEN	189	88
29	Hjalte	Lykke	DEN	Right Back	05/10/2004	Aarhus, DEN	178	72
33	Nejc	Cehte	SLO	Right Back	04/09/1992	Brezice, SLO	196	100
34	Morten	Olsen	DEN	Centre Back	11/10/1984	Lejre, DEN	184	95
35	Aksel Kaj	Larsen	DEN	Centre Back	21/12/2005	Svendborg, DEN	199	87
36	Mikkel Kjær	Møller	DEN	Left Wing	09/11/1993	Svendborg, DEN	179	80
37	Nicolas	Nielsen	DEN	Centre Back	02/01/2003	Rødovre, DEN	190	81
38	Nikolaj	Haagen	DEN	Left Back	06/11/2003			
43	Emil La Cour	Andersen	DEN	Left Wing	13/02/2001			
C 77	Frederik Kiehn	Clausen	DEN	Left Back	29/06/1995	Svendborg, DEN	197	102



Tobias Thulin

 @tobias_thulin

Goalkeeper

- joined GOG in summer 2022
- this will be his first appearance in the CL
- began senior career at Redbergslids IK in his native Sweden, before spending two years at Magdeburg and one at TVB 1898 Stuttgart
- part of the Swedish squad which won the EHF EURO 2022

EC trophies: EL 2021
EURO: G 2022



Jerry Tollbring

 @tollbring

Left wing

- moved to GOG in the summer of 2021 from Rhein-Neckar Löwen
- won three domestic championships at IFK Kristianstad in Sweden
- member of the WCh 2017 All-star team
- was part of the Swedish national side that earned a silver medal at EHF EURO 2018

EURO: S 2018



Simon Pytlick

 @simonpytlickk

Left back

- has only ever played for GOG, starting his senior career at the club in 2018
- son of former handball coach and Olympic champion Jan Pytlick
- won the Danish league in 2022 and the Danish Cup in 2019
- although just 21, previously played in the CL in 2019/20, scoring 10 goals that season
- made Danish national team debut in 2021



Lauritz Reinholdt Léger

Centre back

- one of a talented young generation hoping to make a splash for GOG
- joined the club in summer 2022 from TMS Ringsted
- has a contract until 2025
- this is his first season in the CL



Morten Olsen

Centre back

- one of few players in the GOG squad that are at the end of their careers
- still has one of the best shots from the floor
- started his career in GOG and since 2020 he is back in “his” club
- has won four gold medals with the Danish national team

OG: G 2016, S 2020; WCh: G 2019, 2021



Anders Zachariassen

 @zachariassen22

Line player

- returned to Denmark and joined GOG in summer of 2020 after six seasons at Flensburg-Handewitt in Germany
- was leading an ordinary Danish league life in SønderjyskE, until Flensburg discovered his potential in 2014
- had his international breakthrough at the 2019 WCh, playing a large role in Denmark’s run to the title
- a reliable central defender and brilliant in attack

WCh: G 2019



Emil Madsen

Right back

- although still only 21, playing his fourth season in GOG’s senior team
- began his junior career at the club
- scored 69 times for GOG in the 2021/22 EL season



Kasper Kildelund

 @kasperkildelund

Right wing

- another player who began his career at GOG
- spent four years at TTH Holstebro between 2016 and 2020, before returning to GOG in 2020
- in only previous CL season, 2016/17 with Holstebro, scored 37 goals

GROUP A



Club contact

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Estádio do Dragão
Via FC Porto,
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 fcporto.pt

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

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

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: blue and white (stripes)
Shorts: blue or white
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

Dark

Player shirt: Yellow
Player shorts: yellow
Goalkeeper shirt: dark blue



Playing hall

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

FC PORTO



FC Porto have been regulars in the Machineseeeker EHF Champions League knockout phase each season since they played the final tournament of the EHF Cup in 2019. But a quarter-final berth has remained out of reach.

Aalborg Håndbold and Montpellier HB defeated Porto in the play-offs the last two seasons. After losing a couple of players this summer and replacing them mainly with Scandinavian talents, Porto want to keep improving and get to the quarter-finals for the first time in 2022/23.

Main facts:

- this season will be Porto's fourth straight EHF Champions League season and 13th overall
- Porto have qualified for the knockout phase in each of the last three seasons
- last season, Porto won the domestic title for the 23rd time
- this summer, Porto saw two players move to the German Bundesliga: Ivan Sliskovic and Djibril M'Bengue, and one to the French Starligue: Diogo Silva
- three Scandinavian players were signed, including Nikolaj Læsø from fellow EHF Champions League competitors Aalborg

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 13

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

Last 16 (1): 2019/20*

Group phase (2): 2013/14, 2015/16

Qualification (7): 1999/00, 2004/05, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2014/15

* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF Cup: 3rd 2018/19, Group Phase 2014/15, 2016/17, Last 16 1998/99, 2010/11, 2011/12
Cup Winner's Cup: Quarter-final 2000/01, 2001/02, Last 16 1996/97, 2007/08

Portuguese league: 23 titles (1954, 1957-60, 1963-65, 1968, 1999, 2002-04, 2009-15, 2019, 2021, 2022)

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



3 **MATCHES**
Longest
winning run

38 **GOALS**
Most goals

72 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	37:15 (16:7) v Vojvodina SRB (h), 05.12.2015
Biggest defeat	33:19 (18:4) v Paris Saint-Germain FRA (a), 18.11.2021
Longest winning run	3 matches (01.10.2015 – 17.10.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	3 matches (01.10.2015 – 17.10.2015)
	3 matches (19.10.2019 – 10.11.2019)
	3 matches (15.10.2020 – 29.10.2020)
Longest losing run	3 matches (22.09.2013 – 12.10.2013)
	3 matches (27.11.2019 – 15.02.2020)
	3 matches (18.11.2021 – 02.12.2021)
Longest run without win	6 matches (14.10.2021 – 02.12.2021)
Most goals	38 v Elverum Handball NOR 30:39L (h), 04.03.2021
Most goals opponent	39 v Lomza Vive Kielce POL 39:33L (a), 20.10.2021
	39 v Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA 30:39L (h), 25.11.2021
Most goals both teams	72 v Lomza Vive Kielce POL 39:33L (a), 20.10.2021
Fewest goals	19 v Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA 33:19L (a), 18.11.2021
Fewest goals opponent	15 v Vojvodina SRB 37:15W (h), 05.12.2015
Fewest goals both teams	43 v Dunkerque HB FRA 22:21W (h), 20.10.2013

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY


	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2013/14 FC Porto Vitalis POR	10	2	1	7	241:278	-37	5:15	5th Gr. B	
2015/16 Futebol Clube do Porto POR	10	7	0	3	296:265	+31	14:6	3rd Gr. C	
2019/20 FC Porto Sofarma POR	14	6	2	6	400:410	-10	14:14	Last 16*	
2020/21 FC Porto POR	16	6	2	8	417:408	+9	14:18	Play-offs	
2021/22 FC Porto POR	16	4	4	8	431:472	-41	12:20	Play-offs	
Total:	66	25	9	32	1785:1843	-58	59:73		

* Last 16 and Quarter-finals cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic



Magnus Andersson

Coach

 @virusmagnus

- Swedish former centre back, going into his 12th season as a coach, and fifth with Porto after joining the club in 2018
- previously coached teams like Göppingen, Malmö and København as well as the national team of Austria
- led Göppingen to two EHF Cup titles, in 2016 and 2017
- in his playing days, he was a centre back who competed at three Olympics as part of Sweden's golden generation, winning two world and four EHF EURO titles

EC trophies: EHF Cup 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:

Jakob Mikkelsen (Istres Provence HB/FRA)
 Nikolaj Læsø Christensen (Aalborg Håndbold/DEN)
 Ignacio Plaza Jimenez (AEK Athens HC/GRE)
 Jack Erik Panos Thurin (IFK Skövde Handboll/SWE)

Departures:

Djibril M'Bengue (Bergischer HC/GER)
 Ivan Sliskovic (TVB Stuttgart/GER)
 Diogo Silva (PAUC Handball/FRA)
 Diogo Rêma (FC Gaia/POR – on loan)
 Jesus Hurtado (FC Gaia/POR – on loan)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
2	Pedro	Veitia Valdés	CUB	Left Back	07/08/1994	Villa Clara, CUB	190	101
3	André	Sousa	POR	Centre Back	03/03/2002	Espinho, POR	186	91
4	Victor Manuel	Iturriza Alvarez	POR	Line Player	22/05/1990	Havana, CUB	193	117
5	João	Rodrigues Magalhães	POR	Left Wing	12/09/2006	Gaia, POR	190	80
6	Tiago	Sousa	POR	Centre Back	24/03/2006	Espinho, POR	190	80
7	Jakob	Mikkelsen	DEN	Right Back	05/02/1997	Horsens, DEN	200	102
8	Eduardo	Leite	POR	Right Wing	07/08/2004	Guimaraes, POR	179	75
9	Pedro	Cruz	POR	Left Back	06/06/1984	Gaia, POR	188	93
10	Diogo	Oliveira	POR	Centre Back	07/05/1997	Matosinhos, POR	193	97
13	Nikolaj Læsø	Christensen	DEN	Left Back	15/11/1996	Aarhus, DEN	198	99
14	Rui	Silva	POR	Centre Back	28/04/1993	Guimaraes, POR	185	88
C 15	Daymaro	Salina	POR	Line Player	01/09/1987	Artemisa, CUB	200	119
16	Nikola	Mitrevski	MKD	Goalkeeper	03/10/1985	Bitola, MKD	184	78
17	Ignacio	Plaza Jimenez	ESP	Line Player	10/01/1994	Ciudad Real, ESP	195	102
18	Jack	Thurin	SWE	Right Back	09/06/1999	Skövde, AFG	199	103
21	Leonel	Fernandes	POR	Left Wing	12/03/1998	Vila Real, POR	191	85
23	Diogo	Branquinho	POR	Left Wing	25/07/1994	Coimbra, POR	185	94
25	Antonio	Areia	POR	Right Wing	21/06/1990	Lisbon, POR	189	91
27	Francisco	Fontes	POR	Goalkeeper	27/01/2002	Guimaraes, POR	190	87
29	Miguel	Alves	POR	Right Wing	22/07/1996	Porto, POR	189	89
32	Sebastian Leth	Frandsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	27/05/1994	Aarhus, DEN	204	103
88	Fabio	Magalhães	POR	Left Back	12/03/1988	Lisbon, POR	194	97



Nikola Mitrevski

 @nikolamitrevski16

Goalkeeper

- joined Porto in 2020 after playing in many clubs across Europe
- former football player who switched to handball at age 13
- played for all three major Macedonian clubs: Vardar, Pelister and Metalurg
- makes a great goalkeeping duo with Martin Tomovski



Diogo Branquinho

 @diogobranquinho_

Left wing

- after several years at ABC - and winning the EHF Challenge Cup with them in 2015/16 - he joined FC Porto in 2017
- won all domestic titles (league, cup, Super Cup) with ABC and again with Porto
- made his debut for Portugal against Germany in 2016 and represented the national team at the EHF EURO 2020
- his father is an engineer, while his mother is a physical education teacher. Branquinho is also studying engineering and wants to become an engineer after his playing career is over

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2016



Fabio Magalhães

 @magalhaes80

Left back

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

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2010



Rui Silva

 @ruiisilva14

Centre back

- after five years at Sporting CP, he arrived at domestic rivals FC Porto in 2015 and quickly became a key player for the club
- an intelligent athlete and essential in the team's attacking play
- very important in 7-against-6 tactics for his team
- assists the line player well, also a strong finisher



Daymaro Salina

 @daymarosalina

Line player

- Cuba-born player who joined FC Porto in 2011 and stayed with the club ever since
- one of Porto's team captains, he has won five Portuguese league titles with the club
- an easy scorer and a defensive machine
- made his national team debut for Portugal against Qatar in 2016



Victor Iturriza

 @victoriturrisa04

Line player

- a mainstay in defence for both Portugal and FC Porto, Iturriza was nominated as All-Star line player in the CL in 2020/21
- he always plays with an Alfredo Quintana shirt underneath his own during games, in tribute to his lost friend and a former teammate
- born in Cuba, he came to Portugal in 2014, at 24, and made his debut in the Portuguese national team in 2020
- has represented Portugal at the 2021 WCh, Tokyo 2020 OG, and EHF EURO 2022

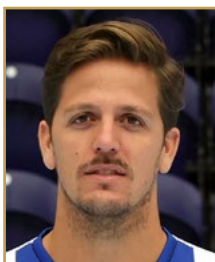


Jakob Mikkelsen

 @jakob_mikkelsen_

Right back

- played for Fredericia, in Denmark, for 5 seasons, before moving abroad in 2021
- scored 106 in 24 goals for Istres in the French league in 2021/22
- joined Porto in 2022 on a two-season contract
- this season will be his first opportunity to play in the CL



Antonio Areia

 @antonioareia25

Right wing

- Portuguese player who arrived at FC Porto in 2015 after five seasons with league rivals Benfica
- previously played for Belenenses from 2008-10
- left-handed wing, who is a true expert from the penalty line
- debuted for Portuguese national team against Romania in 2014

GROUP A



Club contact

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csdinamo.eu

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Sala Polivalenta Bucuresti
Calea Piscului Nr. 10,
sector 4
020121 Bucuresti
Romania
Capacity: 5,000

CS DINAMO BUCURESTI



Signing Xavi Pascual as the new coach at the start of the 2021/22 season was a huge coup for C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti, as the Spanish coach was just coming off a flawless season with Barça.

Dinamo did not make it into the play-offs, but with plenty of new experienced players, Pascual and the Romanian champions are ready to make waves in the Machineseeeker EHF Champions League 2022/23.

Main facts:

- this will be the second season for Spanish coach Xavi Pascual at Dinamo, as he ushered in a new era for the Romanian champions
- Dinamo will have seven former EHF Champions League winners in their squad: Cédric Sorhaindo, Mamdouh Shebib, Ali Zein, Eduardo Gurbindo, Khalifa Ghedbane, Christian Dissinger, Alex Pascual
- since the current format of the competition was introduced, Dinamo have never progressed to the knockout phase
- the Romanian side lost their last season's top scorer, left back Raul Nantes Campos, who netted 78 times

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 9

Last 16 (1): 2019/20*

Group phase (5): 2005/06, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2021/22

Qualification (2): 1995/96, 1997/98

* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF European League: Group Phase: 2020/21

EHF Cup: Semi-finals: 2003/04; Last 16: 2001/02, 2004/05

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals: 2002/03

Challenge Cup: Final: 2000/01, Semi-finals: 2007/08

City Cup: Semi-finals: 1999/2000

European Champions' Cup: 1 title (1965)

IHF Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up: 1983

Romanian league: 18 titles (1959-62, 1964-66, 1978, 1986, 1995, 1997, 2005, 2016-19, 2021, 2022)

Romanian cup: 7 titles (1979, 1982, 1988, 2017, 2020-22)



13 MATCHES
Longest unbeaten run

35 GOALS
Most goals

79 GOALS
Most goals both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	34:23 (15:13) v Chekhovskie med. RUS (h), 20.11.2019
Biggest defeat	40:17 (19:9) v BM Ciudad Real ESP (a), 06.11.2005
Longest winning run	5 matches (20.11.2019 – 16.09.2021)
Longest unbeaten run	13 matches (12.09.2019 – 16.09.2021)
Longest losing run	7 matches (08.10.2017 – 30.11.2017)
Longest run without win	7 matches (08.10.2017 – 30.11.2017)
Most goals	35 v HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR 35:31W (h), 29.09.2016 35 v ABC/UMinho POR 35:29W (h), 01.12.2016 35 v Wacker Thun SUI 35:34W (h), 26.09.2018 35 v Abanca Ademar Leon ESP 35:30W (h), 08.11.2018 35 v GOG DEN 35:28W (h), 25.09.2019
Most goals opponent	47 v Telekom Veszprém HC HUN 47:32L (a), 02.12.2021
Most goals both teams	79 v Telekom Veszprém HC HUN 47:32L (a), 02.12.2021
Fewest goals	17 v BM Ciudad Real 40:17L (a), 06.11.2005
Fewest goals opponent	20 v Chekhovskie medvedi RUS 20:30W (a), 12.10.2019 20 v OrLEN Wisla Plock POL 29:20W (h), 30.10.2019
Fewest goals both teams	45 v OrLEN Wisla Plock POL 24:21W (h), 14.10.2018

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2005/06 Dinamo Baumeit Bucuresti ROU	6	1	0	5	148:198	-50	2:10	4th Gr. F	
2016/17 Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	10	3	2	5	294:294	0	8:12	4th Gr. D	
2017/18 Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	10	1	0	9	278:324	-46	2:18	6th Gr. C	
2018/19 Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	12	7	0	5	350:339	+11	14:10	Elimination C+D	
2019/20 Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	12	9	3	0	350:305	+45	21:3	Last 16*	
2021/22 CS Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	14	4	0	10	415:470	-55	8:20	7th Gr. B	
Total	64	25	5	34	1835:1930	-95	55:73		

* Last 16 and Quarter-finals cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic



Xavi Pascual
Coach

- legendary Spanish coach who joined Dinamo in 2021 after 12 highly successful seasons at the helm of Barça, winning more than 60 trophies, including three CL titles
- former Barça player, who first became goalkeeper coach at the club in 2005 before taking over as head coach four years later
- won all possible titles with Barça in historic 2014/15 season, emulating Valero Rivera's success (7 out of 7) in 1999/2000
- also coached Romanian national team for two years (2016-18)

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2015, 2021

Arrivals:

Ali Zein (Barça/ESP)
Lazar Kucic (SL Benfica/POR)
Stanislav Kasperek (Meshkov Brest/BLR)
Joao Pedro Da Silva (Puente Genil/ESP)
Andrii Akimenko (KS Azoty Putawy/POL)
Viachaslau Bokhan (HC Motor/UKR)
Alexandru Bucataru (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)
Rares Muntean (CSS Fagaras/ROU)

Departures:

Dan Andrei Lazar (Politehnica Timisoara/ROU)
Raul Nantes Campos (Al Ahly/EGY)
Ahmed Khairy Nasralla (Al Ahly/EGY)
Razvan Gavriiloaia (CSU Suceava/ROU)
Alireza Mousavi (CSA Steaua)
Amine Bannour (Mudhar Club/SAU)

I TEAM ROSTER

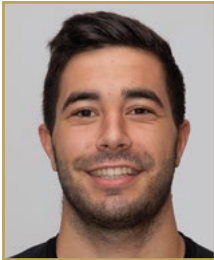
No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Alexandru Florin	Bucataru	ROU	Goalkeeper	04/11/1995	Piatra Neamt, ROU	203	114
5	Calin	Dedu	ROU	Line Player	21/10/2002	Labruge, ROU	207	108
6	Vlad Alexandru	Popa	ROU	Right Wing	19/08/2002	Bucharest, ROU	185	76
7	Dan Emil	Racotea	ROU	Left Back	21/07/1995	Ramnicu Sarat, ROU	203	112
14	Joao Pedro	Francisco da Silva	BRA	Centre Back	29/01/1994	Nova Iguacu, BRA	190	97
C 15	Valentin Marian	Ghionea	ROU	Right Wing	29/04/1984	Craiova, ROU	197	90
18	Eduardo	Gurbindo Martinez	ESP	Right Back	08/11/1987	Pamplona, ESP	196	91
20	Rares	Muntean	ROU	Left Wing	20/08/2003	Fagaras, ROU	198	98
22	Khalifa	Ghedbane	ALG	Goalkeeper	26/11/1996	M'sila, ALG	200	110
23	Saeid	Heidarirad	IRI	Goalkeeper	22/09/1990	Khorramabad, IRI	194	95
24	Nicusor Andrei	Negru	ROU	Left Wing	24/05/1994	Resita, ROU	180	82
25	Christian	Dissinger	GER	Left Back	15/11/1991	Ludwigshafen, GER	202	102
28	Alex Pascual	Garcia	ESP	Left Wing	13/02/2000	Vigo, ESP	175	83
34	Lazar	Kukic	SRB	Centre Back	12/12/1995	Belgrade, SRB	188	90
37	Stanislav	Kasperek	CZE	Right Back	11/06/1996	Prerov, CZE	200	85
47	Ante	Kuduz	CRO	Left Back	11/04/1995	Osijek, CRO	202	104
51	Javier Humet	Gaminde	ROU	Right Back	22/01/1990	Zaragoza, ESP	196	87
55	Andrii	Akimenko	UKR	Right Wing	12/06/1994	Zaporozhye, UKR	190	85
73	Catalin Octavian	Bizau	ROU	Centre Back	21/11/1997	Baia Mare, ROU	194	96
74	Viachaslau	Bokhan	BLR	Line Player	07/04/1996	Navapolatsk, BLR	206	100
89	Mohamed	Mamdouh Shebib	EGY	Line Player	01/04/1989	Cairo, EGY	193	100
90	Ali	Zein	EGY	Left Back	14/12/1990	Giza, EGY	199	95
94	Robert Mihai	Militaru	ROU	Left Back	04/01/1994	Targu Jiu, ROU	196	100
99	Cédric	Sorhaindo	FRA	Line Player	07/06/1984	La Trinité, FRA	192	105



Saeid Heidarirad

Goalkeeper

- Iranian international, who arrived in Bucharest in 2017, got his Romanian citizenship just before the start of the CL 2022/23 season
- settled down in Romania, loves the country and said his favourite Romanian dish is beef soup
- one of the favourites of the Dinamo fans thanks to his antics, is nicknamed “Ninja” and “Spiderman”
- initially played volleyball, but switched to handball



Alex Pascual

 @alexpascual.28

Left wing

- son of coach Xavi Pascual, made the move to Dinamo with his father in the 2021/22 season
- won the league and the Romanian Cup in his first season at the club
- started playing football in Barça’s youth teams and moved to handball at the age of 13
- played his entire previous career at Barça and made his debut with the first team in 2018. Just one year later he was already settled in the team
- elected best left wing in ASOBAL League 2019/20



Ali Zein

 @ali_zein_6

Left back

- joined Dinamo in summer of 2022 after one season with Barça, in which he won the CL
- used mainly as a defender at Barça; scored 12 goals in CL 2021/22 season, including two in the final against Kielce
- previously played for clubs in the UAE, France, Tunisia and his native Egypt, where he started at Al Ahly
- MVP of African Championship in 2018 and All-star Left back at the event in 2020 and 2022

EC trophies: CL 2022



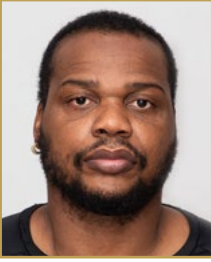
Lazar Kukic

 @lazar_kukic

Centre back

- started his career in Serbia, at RK Partizan, but moved to Logrono in Spain in 2017 before signing for Benfica in 2020, where he won the EL 2022
- his major tournament debut was WCh 2019; he also played at EHF EURO 2020 and 2022
- started handball when he was seven years old, helped by his father, who had a big passion for the sport
- voted player of the season at La Rioja and nominated as the best ASOBAL League playmaker in 2017/18

EC trophies: EL 2022



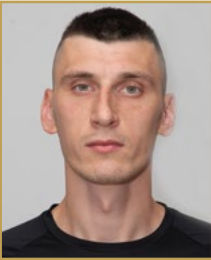
Cedric Sorhaindo

@tchoufy10

Line player

- joined from Barça in summer of 2021, alongside coach Xavi Pascual and Alex Pascual
- born on Martinique, started handball in a local club, then moved to France aged 17
- became captain of French national team, played 220 games between 2005 and 2020
- one of the most decorated players in handball's history, winning more than 40 trophies at club level and with national team

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2015, 2021 / EHF EURO: G 2010, G 2014, B 2018; WCh: G 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, B 2019, OG: G 2012, 2020, S 2016



Viachaslau Bokhan

Line player

- one of the tallest players in the CL, standing at 206 cm tall, has great mobility and is very strong in defence
- has already scored over 100 goals in the European premium competition for Motor Zaporozhye
- played for the Belarus men's national team in three consecutive EHF EURO editions, in 2018, 2020 and 2022
- has always worn number 74, both at club and national team level
- was close to a move to Barcelona this summer



Stanislav Kasperek

@stana_kasperek

Right back

- has played for Pick Szeged and HC Meshkov Brest in the past in the European premium competition; this will be his fifth season in the CL
- moved abroad at the age of 19 from his home club Zubri, when he transferred to Hungarian side Balatonfüred; joined Pick Szeged in 2018
- was the second-best Czech scorer at both EHF EURO 2018 (33 goals) and EHF EURO 2020 (29)
- a classical shooter, who takes advantages of his height and his hammer shots



Valentin Ghionea

@ghioneavalentin

Right wing

- experienced wing, who played for Dinamo between 2005-07 before returning in 2020, after plying his trade for clubs like Szeged (HUN), Plock (POL), and Sporting (POR)
- was domestic league top scorer and player of the year in Romania twice, has also scored 681 goals for the national team in 134 matches
- has scored 570 goals for various clubs in total during 15 seasons in the CL, the best Romanian scorer ever in the competition
- his wife Renata, a former player, is a coach at the Dinamo youth academy

GROUP A



Club contact

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



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



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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Veszprém Arena
Külső Kádártai út
8200 Veszprém
Hungary
Capacity: 5,096

TELEKOM VESZPRÉM HC



Having reached the EHF FINAL4 Men seven times in the last nine years, Telekom Veszprém HC are regular participants in Cologne. Indeed, only Barça can match this record of reaching European handball's showpiece event.

On the other hand, Veszprém's long dream of claiming the Machineseecker EHF Champions League title has not yet come true, but the club started a new era with Momir Ilic as head coach last season.

Main facts

- this will be the club's 45th season since it was established in 1977
- prolific wings Mikita Vailupau and Bjarki Mar Elisson joined Veszprém in the summer
- fan favourite Máté Lékai left the club after eight seasons
- although Veszprém are the most successful Hungarian club, they have finished as runners-up in the domestic championship in back-to-back seasons
- Veszprém won the Hungarian Cup in the 2021/22 season

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 28
Final (4): 2001/02, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19
Semi-finals (6): 2002/03, 2005/06, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2019/20, 2021/22
Quarter-finals (10): 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2012/13, 2020/21
Last 16 (4): 1993/94, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2017/18
Group Phase (3): 1994/95, 1995/96, 2007/08

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2008, Finalists 1997
SEHA-league: 5 titles (2015, 2016, 2020, 2021, 2022)

Hungarian league: 26 titles (1985-86, 1992-1995, 1997-99, 2001-06, 2008-17, 2019)
Hungarian Cup: 29 titles (1984, 1988-1992, 1994-1996, 1998-2000, 2002-05, 2007, 2009-18, 2021, 2022)



12 **MATCHES**
Longest
winning run

47 **GOALS**
Most goals

79 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

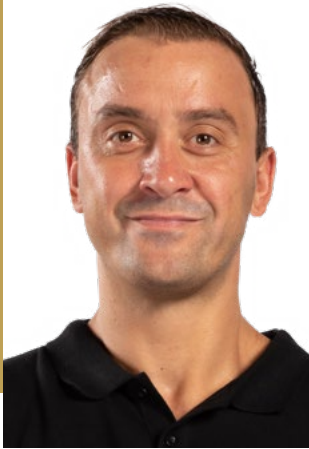
Biggest win	38:17 (18:9) v HC Granitas Kaunas LTU (h), 06.11.2004
Biggest defeat	30:18 (16:8) v Badel Zagreb CRO (a), 24.01.1995
Longest winning run	12 matches (17.11.2018 – 01.06.2019)
Longest unbeaten run	12 matches (17.11.2018 – 01.06.2019)
Longest losing run	4 matches (28.12.2020 – 09.02.2021)
Longest run without win	4 matches (09.01.1999 – 31.10.1999)
	4 matches (28.12.2020 – 09.02.2021)
Most goals	47 v C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti ROU 47:32W (h), 02.12.2021
Most goals opponent	39 v THW Kiel GER 39:32L (a), 01.03.2007
	39 v KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL 39:38La7m (a), 29.05.16
	39 v Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA 39:40W (a), 10.03.2022
Most goals both teams	79 v C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti ROU 47:32W (h), 02.12.2021
	79 v Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA 39:40W (a), 10.03.2022
Fewest goals	15 v TEKA Santander ESP 25:15L (a), 15.03.1995
Fewest goals opponent	13 v SO Chambéry FRA 29:13W (h), 18.11.2001
	13 v Panellinios AC Athens GRE 19:13W (h), 17.11.2002
Fewest goals both teams	32 v Panellinios AC Athens GRE 19:13W (h), 17.11.2002

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 Fotex Veszprems HUN	6	2	2	2	131:147	-16	6:6	3rd Gr. A	
1995/96 Fotex Veszprems HUN	6	3	0	3	147:144	+3	6:6	3rd Gr. A	
1997/98 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	5	1	2	228:204	+24	11:5	Quarter-final	
1998/99 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	3	1	4	200:188	+12	7:9	Quarter-final	
1999/00 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	8	4	0	4	203:202	+1	8:8	Quarter-final	
2001/02 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	12	9	0	3	310:267	+43	18:6	Runner-up	
2002/03 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	8	0	2	276:238	+38	16:4	Semi-final	
2003/04 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	7	0	3	306:276	+30	14:6	Quarter-final	
2004/05 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN	10	7	0	3	317:259	+58	14:6	Quarter-final	
2005/06 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	9	0	3	373:318	+55	18:6	Semi-final	
2006/07 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	10	7	0	3	338:288	+50	14:6	Quarter-final	
2007/08 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	6	2	2	2	184:171	+13	6:6	3rd Gr. F	
2008/09 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	8	0	4	351:320	+31	16:8	Quarter-final	
2009/10 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	14	11	0	3	419:368	+51	22:6	Quarter-final	
2010/11 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	9	0	3	373:338	+35	18:6	Last 16	
2011/12 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	12	7	0	5	321:322	-1	14:10	Last 16	
2012/13 MKB Veszprém KC HUN	14	11	0	3	410:348	+62	22:6	Quarter-final	
2013/14 MKB-MVM Veszprém HUN	16	11	1	4	477:410	+67	23:9	Fourth Place	
2014/15 MKB-MVM Veszprém HUN	16	13	1	2	480:423	+57	27:5	Runner-up	
2015/16 MVM Veszprém HUN	20	15	2	3	600:539	+61	32:8	Runner-up	
2016/17 Telekom Veszprém HUN	20	13	2	5	549:511	+38	28:12	Third Place	
2017/18 Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	16	9	2	5	466:439	+27	20:12	Last 16	
2018/19 Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	20	15	0	5	589:543	+46	30:10	Runner-up	
2019/20 Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	16	10	0	6	509:453	+56	20:12	Fourth Place	
2020/21 Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	18	12	2	4	583:511	+72	26:10	Quarter-final	
2021/22 Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	18	10	2	6	581:542	+39	22:14		
Total:	330	220	18	92	9721:8769	+952	458:202		

TELEKOM VESZPRÉM

#HandballCity #RedUnited #StrongerTogether



Momir Ilic
Coach

 @ilic_momir

- former Serbian international, who took over from David Davis at the helm of Veszprém in summer of 2021
- ended his playing career in 2019 after spending the last six seasons at Veszprém; previously played for Kiel and Gummersbach in Germany, and Velenje in Slovenia
- won CL two times with Kiel, in 2010 and 2012
- played 11 years for the national team and helped Serbia win silver at their home EHF EURO in 2012
- joined the management of Veszprém following his retirement as a player, before getting his first opportunity as head coach

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012
EURO: S 2012 (all as player)

Arrivals:

Dragan Pechmalbec (HBC Nantes/FRA)
Mikita Vailupau (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
Bjarki Mar Elisson (TBV Lemgo Lippe/GER)
Yehia Mohammed Elderaa (Zamalek SC/EGY)

Departures:

Borisz Dörnyei (HC Dinamo Pancevo/SRB)
Dejan Manaskov (HC Vardar 1961/MKD)
Jorge Maqueda (HBC Nantes/FRA)
Blaz Blagotinsek (Frisch Auf Göppingen/GER)
Máté Lékai (FTC/HUN)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
5	Yahia Khaled	Fathy Omar	EGY	Right Back	09/09/1997	Giza, EGY	197	103
12	Rodrigo	Corrales Rodal	ESP	Goalkeeper	24/01/1991	Cangas, ESP	200	104
13	Petar	Nenadic	SRB	Left Back	28/06/1986	Belgrade, SRB	198	96
16	Vladimir	Cupara	SRB	Goalkeeper	19/02/1994	Belgrade, SRB	199	116
18	Andreas	Nilsson	SWE	Line Player	12/04/1990	Trelleborg, SWE	198	120
21	Bjarki Mar	Elisson	ISL	Left Wing	16/05/1990	Reykjavik, ISL	190	94
23	Patrik	Ligetvári	HUN	Left Back	13/02/1996	Várpalota, HUN	203	115
24	Gasper	Marguc	SLO	Right Wing	20/08/1990	Celje, SLO	180	87
C 25	Rasmus	Lauge Schmidt	DEN	Left Back	20/06/1991	Randers, DEN	195	102
26	Manuel	Strlek	CRO	Left Wing	01/12/1988	Zagreb, CRO	185	86
27	Péter	Lukács	HUN	Centre Back	30/07/2002	Budapest, HUN	190	79
35	Kentin	Mahé	FRA	Centre Back	22/05/1991	Paris, FRA	186	86
39	YehiaMohamed	Elderaa	EGY	Centre Back	17/07/1995	Cairo, EGY	190	100
43	Zoran	Ilic	HUN	Right Back	02/01/2002	Zenta, SRB	197	100
46	Dragan	Pechmalbec	SRB	Line Player	05/01/1996	Cahors, FRA	194	102
55	Mikita	Vailupau	BLR	Right Wing	30/07/1995	Vitebsk, BLR	187	92
88	Adrián	Sipos	HUN	Line Player	08/03/1990	Szombathely, HUN	198	106



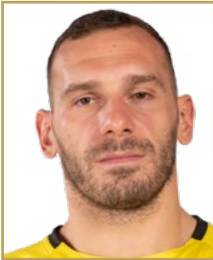
Rodrigo Corrales

@rodrigao016

Goalkeeper

- joined Veszprém in 2020 after three seasons with PSG in France
- came through youth ranks of Barça and first joined the A team in 2009, gaining his first CL experience in November 2011
- in 2014, he moved to Wisła Płock, which was coached by then Spanish national team coach Manolo Cadenas and he made his debut for Spain the same year

OG: B 2020; EURO: G 2018, 2020, S 2022; WCh: B 2021

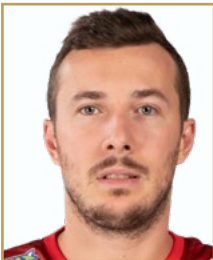


Vladimir Cupara

@cupara16

Goalkeeper

- came to Veszprém in 2019 from Kielce, where he spent one season after a three-year stint at Ademar León
- debuted for Serbia national team in 2016; played his third EHF EURO in 2022
- started professional career at boyhood club Red Star Belgrade
- loves to express his emotions on the court and share them with the fans



Manuel Strlek

Left wing

- Croatian wing, who had CL debut with Zagreb at age 18
- played for Kielce for six seasons, and won the CL with them in 2016, before moving to Veszprém in the summer of 2018
- voted CL 2019/20 All-star left wing, after scoring 42 times that season
- made debut in Croatian national team in 2010, at EHF EURO 2010 in Austria

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



Petar Nenadic

@pepa_n_34

Left back

- Serbian back who arrived at Veszprém from Füchse Berlin midway through 2017/18 season and became starting left back in 2021/22 season
- series of strong performances saw him win EHF Player of the Year 2019 award
- has played at eight different clubs in his career, including Barcelona and Szeged
- his father and brother also play handball, his wife is part of national volleyball team

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2015
EURO: S 2012



Rasmus Lauge Schmidt

@rasmuslauge25

Left back

- joined Veszprém in summer of 2019 after six seasons in Germany, arriving in Hungary as Olympic and world champion
- one of the few players who have played at both THW Kiel and SG Flensburg-Handewitt
- often plays as a centre back as well as left back, especially in the national team
- made debut for Denmark in 2010, but did not become a regular starter until Thomas Mogensen ended his national team career after EHF EURO 2014
- an intelligent and inventive playmaker with a good shot and fine skills for breaking through the defence

OG: G 2016; WCh: G 2019, S 2011, 2013; EURO: G 2012, B 2022



Kentin Mahe

@kentinmahe35

Centre back

- joined Veszprém in 2018 after spells with Flensburg, Hamburg, Gummersbach and Dormagen, where he was coached by his father Pascal
- scored 65 goals in CL 2021/22 season, his personal best, and was named in the 2021 CL All-star Team
- lost all three EC finals he played in: CL 2018/19 with Veszprém, EHF Cup 2014/15 with Hamburg, and CWC 2011/12 with Gummersbach
- MVP of EHF Cup Finals 2015; M20 EURO 2010 MVP and top scorer (49 goals)

EURO: B 2018; OG: G 2020, S 2016; WCh: G 2015, 2017, B 2019



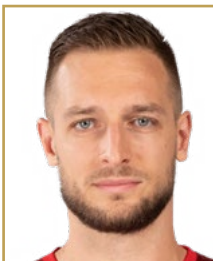
Yahia Omar

@yahia_omar5

Right back

- arrived at Veszprém from Egyptian record champions El-Zamallek in 2019
- won the SEHA-League in his first season at the club and made it to the EHF FINAL4
- scored a personal best 83 goals in the CL 2021/22 season
- was top scorer for Egypt with 11 goals in historic WCh 2021 quarter-final against Denmark, which the eventual world champions won in a penalty shoot-out

African Championship: G 2020, S 2018



Gasper Marguc

@gaspermarguc

Right wing

- came to Veszprém in 2014 from Celje, where he had played since 2009
- had his best CL season for Veszprém in 2021/22, scoring 88 goals
- once scored 18 goals from 18 attempts for Celje in two matches against THW Kiel's legendary goalkeeper Thierry Omeyer
- took part in WCh in 2013 when Slovenia placed fourth, and in 2017 when they won bronze

WCh: B 2017

GROUP A



Club contact

Club Address

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Poland

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j.gawlinska@sprwislaplock.pl



sprwislaplock.pl



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



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



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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

ORLEN Arena

Pl. Celebry Papięskiej 1
09-400 Płock
Poland
Capacity: 5,467

ORLEN WISLA PLOCK



Orlen Wisła Płock have impressed for two consecutive seasons in the EHF European League Men, reaching the EHF Finals in both campaigns and finishing fourth and third, respectively. After those two years in Europe's second-tier men's club competition, the Polish side is eager to leave their mark in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League 2022/23.

Following a close battle with Lomza Industria Kielce for the Polish domestic championship and winning the Polish cup, as well as a lot of hard work, Płock are ready for their comeback to Europe's top tier.

Main facts:

- Wisła Płock are back to the EHF Champions League after two seasons
- head coach Xavier Sabate has entered his fifth season at the club
- last season, they finished third in the EHF European League Men for the club's biggest international success so far
- eight new players have arrived, including goalkeeper Kristian Pilipovic, while six others left the club
- Płock have been runners-up in the Polish league for 11 straight season, but lifted the domestic cup for the first time in 14 seasons this year

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 15
Last 16 (5): 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19
Group Phase (3): 2016/17, 2017/18, 2019/20
Group Matches (5): 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2008/09
Qualification (1): 2012/13

Other

EHF European League: 3rd place 2021/22, 4th place 2020/21
EHF Cup: Quarter-final 1993/94
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 1996/97

Polish league: 7 titles (1995, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2011)
Polish cup: 11 titles (1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2022)



6 **MATCHES**
Longest unbeaten run

42 **GOALS**
Most goals

72 **GOALS**
Most goals both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	42:26 (19:11) v Crvena Zvezda Beograd SCG (h), 13.11.2004 34:18 (16:10) v Riihimäen Cocks FIN (h), 26.09.2018
Biggest defeat	35:18 (19:4) v KIF Kolding Elite A/S DEN (a), 07.10.2006 34:17 (15:7) v HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO (a), 12.10.2008
Longest winning run	5 matches (29.11.2014 – 14.03.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	6 matches (23.11.2014 – 14.03.2015)
Longest losing run	6 matches (05.10.2008 – 20.11.2008) 6 matches (25.02.2017 – 01.10.2017)
Longest run without win	13 matches (25.11.2015 – 19.10.2016)
Most goals	42 v Crvena Zvezda Beograd SCG 42:26W (h), 13.11.2004
Most goals opponent	40 v Sportclub Magdeburg GER 40:32L (a), 16.11.2002
Most goals both teams	72 v Sportclub Magdeburg GER 40:32L (a), 16.11.2002
Fewest goals	13 v Chambéry Savoie HB FRA 21:13L (a), 15.10.2006
Fewest goals opponent	18 v Riihimäen Cocks FIN 34:18W (h), 26.09.2018
Fewest goals both teams	34 v Chambéry Savoie HB FRA 21:13L (a), 15.10.2006

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2002/03 Wisła Płock SSA POL	6	1	0	5	167:195	-28	2:10	3rd Gr. A	
2004/05 Wisła Płock SSA POL	6	1	0	5	159:177	-18	2:10	4th Gr. D	
2005/06 Wisła Płock SSA POL	6	2	0	4	155:182	-27	4:8	3rd Gr. E	
2006/07 Wisła Płock SA POL	6	2	0	4	141:170	-29	4:8	3rd Gr. C	
2008/09 Wisła Płock SA POL	6	0	0	6	122:188	-66	0:12	4th Gr. H	
2011/12 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	12	4	1	7	321:332	-11	9:15	Last 16	
2013/14 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	12	5	0	7	335:341	-6	10:14	Last 16	
2014/15 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	12	7	1	4	340:337	+3	15:9	Last 16	
2015/16 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	16	3	3	10	426:452	-26	9:23	Last 16	
2016/17 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	14	3	2	9	367:401	-34	8:20	7th Gr. A	
2017/18 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	14	2	3	9	380:408	-28	7:21	7th Gr. A	
2018/19 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	14	8	0	6	363:341	+22	16:12	Last 16	
2019/20 Orlen Wisła Płock POL	12	6	1	5	318:309	+9	13:11	Last 16*	
Total:	136	44	11	81	3594:3833	-239	99:173		

* Last 16 and Quarter-finals cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic



Xavier Sabate

Coach

 @xavi_sabate

- Spanish coach who has been leading Płock since July 2018, a few months after Piotr Przybecki had left the club
- steered Płock to the EHF Finals two seasons in a row
- experienced coach who worked at Veszprém from 2015-17
- led the Hungarian team to the CL 2016 final, where they lost to Kielce in a penalty shoot-out
- was voted coach of the CL 2015/16 All-star Team
- great eye for detail, engaging in all aspects of coaching including tactical analysis and team building

Arrivals:

Dawid Dawydzik (Azoty-Puławy/POL)
 Marcel Sroczyk (MKS Zagłębie Lubin/POL)
 Kristian Pilipović (Kadetten Schaffhausen/SUI)
 Gonzalo Perez Arce (Abanca Ademar León/ESP)
 Tomáš Piroch (US Créteil Handball/FRA)
 Gergo Fazekas (Telekom Veszprém HC/HUN)
 Filip Michalowicz (SMS ZPRP Kielce/POL)
 Marcel Jastrzębski (SMS ZPRP Kielce/POL)
 Daniel Sarmiento (Saint-Raphael/FRA)
 Kosuke Yasuhira (USAM Nîmes Gard/FRA)

Departures:

Dominik Mierzwicki (Jurand Ciechanów/POL)
 Marek Dacko (unknown)
 Jan Jurečić (RK Trimo Trebnje/SLO)
 Admir Ahmetasavić (Pfadi Winterthur/SUI)
 Zoltán Szita (Pick Szeged/HUN)
 Adam Morawski (MT Melsungen/GER)
 Mikolaj Czapliński (BM Torrelavega/ESP – on loan)
 Dawid Fernandez (Ademar León/ESP – on loan)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Kristian	Pilipovic	AUT	Goalkeeper	10/12/1994	Dakovo, CRO	191	103
C 3	Michał	Daszek	POL	Right Back	27/06/1992	Tczew, POL	182	87
6	Tin	Lucin	CRO	Left Back	16/08/1999	Rijeka, CRO	196	98
7	Tomas	Piroch	CZE	Right Back	12/05/2000	Pilzno, CZE	187	90
8	Oliwier	Kaminski	POL	Right Back	24/04/2004	Plock, POL	192	82
9	Kosuke	Yasuhiro	JPN	Centre Back	29/06/2000	Takaoka, JPN	173	70
11	Marcel	Sroczyk	POL	Left Wing	17/05/1998	Lubin, POL	184	78
13	Uros	Mitrovic	SRB	Right Back	13/09/2004	Vrbas, BIH	199	96
17	Abel	Serdio Guntín	ESP	Line Player	16/04/1994	Aviles, ESP	196	115
19	Leon	Šušnja	CRO	Line Player	05/08/1993	Siroki Brijeg, BIH	204	116
20	Krystian	Witkowski	POL	Goalkeeper	01/12/1999	Mielec, POL	200	103
22	Daniel	Sarmiento	ESP	Centre Back	25/08/1983	Las Palmas, ESP	186	86
23	Filip	Michalowicz	POL	Right Wing	05/06/2003	Głogów, POL	197	78
24	Gergő	Fazekas	HUN	Centre Back	31/10/2003	Budapest, HUN	191	90
25	Krzysztof	Komarzewski	POL	Right Wing	18/09/1998	Gdansk, POL	188	85
26	Przemysław	Krajewski	POL	Left Wing	20/01/1987	Chiechánów, POL	184	85
29	Gonzalo	Pérez Arce	ESP	Right Wing	20/07/1998	Leon, ESP	175	70
30	Mirsad	Terzic	BIH	Left Back	12/07/1983	Priboj, SRB	196	110
55	Niko	Mindegia Elizaga	ESP	Centre Back	19/07/1988	San Sebastian, ESP	182	85
33	Dawid	Dawydzik	POL	Line Player	07/12/1994	Zary, POL	200	119
34	Lovro	Mihic	CRO	Left Wing	25/08/1994	Zagreb, CRO	181	81
75	Marcel	Jastrzebski	POL	Goalkeeper	14/03/2003	Lubin, POL	196	92
89	Dmitry	Zhitnikov	RUS	Centre Back	20/11/1989	Olomunec, CZE	197	100
99	Sergei Mark	Kosorotov	RUS	Left Back	16/06/1999	Moscow, RUS	200	95



Kristian Pilipovic

 @kristianpilipovic56

Goalkeeper

- Croatian goalkeeper started his professional career at Fivers (AUT)
- joined Orlen Wisła Płock in summer 2022 from Kadetten Schaffhausen to replace Adam Morawski, previously also played for Nexe
- Croatian international, had his debut at EHF EURO 2022
- until January 2022 played for Austria, also played for Austria's younger age category teams



Lovro Mihic

Left wing

- started handball at a young age, spent his youth in PPD Zagreb
- Wisła Płock is only the second club in his career, coming from Zagreb in 2016
- got invited to Croatia national team in 2015, later participated at the 2017 WCH
- his wife Tarra was also a handball player



Tin Lucin

 @tin_lucin

Left back

- Rijeka-born, started his career at Kozala
- also played for Zamet and PPD Zagreb in Croatia, later for Ademar Leon before joining Wisła Płock in 2021
- was part of youth national team and plays for Croatia national team
- his younger brother Fran is a handball goalkeeper

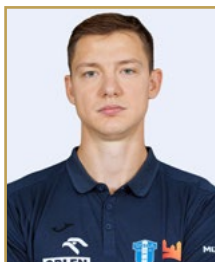


Sergei Mark Kosorotov

 @sergey_mark

Left back

- joined Wisła Płock in the summer of 2021 from Chekhovskie Medvedi
- one of the biggest talents of Russian handball and a national team regular
- wears number 99 because 1999 is his year of birth
- unusually for Russia has two first names but is usually called just Sergei
- his father was a famous judoka, while his mother played handball at Luch Moscow



Dmitry Zhitnikov

Centre back

- Russian international, joined Wisła Płock in 2021
- in his second stint with the Polish club, previously played there 2015-2017
- started handball in Krasnodar, where his first coach was his father, at the local school
- a talented young player, invited to Chekhov at age 16; played five seasons in the reserve team before his breakthrough



Abel Serdio

 @abelserdio

Line player

- Spanish international, started his career at Gijón
- came to Wisła Płock in 2020 on a loan from Barcelona
- also played for Valladolid
- 1994-born line player made his national team debut in 2018
- his European breakthrough was in 2019/20 with Barça in the CL



Michał Daszek

 @michaldaszek

Right back

- arrived at Płock from MMTS Kwidzyn in 2014, a year after he had made his debut in the Polish national team
- versatile player who can also play at centre back and right back
- was best wing and MVP of the Polish league in 2018/19
- won bronze with Poland at WCh 2015 and played at Olympics the following year

WCh: B 2015



Gonzalo Perez Arce

 @gonzaloperez_19

Right wing

- born in Leon, started his handball career in Ademar where he made A team debut in 2014/15 season
- joined Wisła in summer 2022 on a two-year contract
- also a keen football player as a kid, but chose handball at the age of 14
- his brother Rodrigo is also a handball player, at JS Cherbourg
- had national team debut in 2019, also played for Spanish youth team

GROUP A



Club contact

Club Address

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 @rkzagreb_official

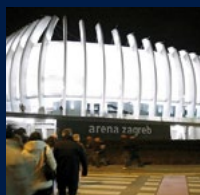
Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

HC PPD ZAGREB



In the 2021/22 season, HC PPD Zagreb continued their perfect streak in Croatia, taking both the league and cup titles. After two disappointing European seasons, Zagreb also got back on track internationally and they want to build up on that this Machineseecker EHF Champions League season.

With two surprising signings and a well-tuned team, Zagreb are aiming to return, at least, to the play-offs.

Main facts:

- head coach Ivica Obrvan took over in February 2021 and renewed his contract in June until 2024
- Zagreb's two biggest signings for the new season are former EHF Champions League winners: Timur Dibirov and Vuko Borozan
- Zagreb's 29th appearance in the EHF Champions League makes them the record holders for participations
- Jakov Gojun has taken over as team captain
- for the second consecutive season, Zagreb will play in the Croatian league from the start

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 29
Final (4): 1994/95, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99
Semi-finals (1): 1999/00
Quarter-finals (7): 2000/01, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2008/09, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16
Play-offs (1): 2020/21
Last 16 (5): 2005/06, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2018/19
Main Round (1): 2007/08
Group Phase (9): 1993/94, 1995/96, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2017/18, 2019/20, 2021/22

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 2004/05, Semi-finals 2006/07
IHF European Champions Cup: 2 titles (1991/92, 1992/93)

Croatian league: 30 titles (1992-2019, 2021, 2022)
Croatian cup: 28 titles (1992-2000, 2003-2019, 2021, 2022)



6 **MATCHES**
Longest
winning run

38 **GOALS**
Most goals

72 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	34:15 (16:8) v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH (h), 04.12.2010
Biggest defeat	43:21 (23:10) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 18.04.2015
Longest winning run	6 matches (12.12.1998 – 27.02.1999)
Longest unbeaten run	6 matches (09.11.1996 – 18.01.1997) 6 matches (12.12.1998 – 27.02.1999) 6 matches (30.10.1999 – 05.12.1999) 6 matches (04.10.2008 – 22.11.2008)
Longest losing run	17 matches (01.03.2020 – 08.04.2021)
Longest run without win	22 matches (01.03.2020 – 17.11.2021)
Most goals	38 v Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI 38:30W (h), 23.02.2013
Most goals opponent	45 v Barca ESP 45:27L (a), 14.10.2020
Most goals both teams	72 v Barca ESP 45:27L (a), 14.10.2020
Fewest goals	15 v Portland San Antonio ESP 31:15L (a), 22.10.2005
Fewest goals opponent	13 v THW Kiel GER 22:13W (h), 25.03.2000 13 v Pelister Bitola MKD 37:13W (h), 16.10.2005
Fewest goals both teams	36 v ZTR Zaporozhye UKR 18:18D (a), 20.11.1999 36 v HC Metalurg MKD 19:17W (h), 11.10.2014

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1993/94 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	6	0	2	4	135:147	-12	2:10	4th Gr. A	
1994/95 Badel Zagreb CRO	8	5	1	2	203:203	0	11:5	Runner-up	
1995/96 Croatia Banka Zagreb CRO	6	2	1	3	138:144	-6	5:7	3rd Gr. B	
1996/97 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	6	3	3	310:294	+16	15:9	Runner-up	
1997/98 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	7	0	5	300:287	+13	14:10	Runner-up	
1998/99 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	12	8	1	3	288:269	+19	17:7	Runner-up	
1999/00 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	10	7	1	2	260:230	+30	15:5	Semi-final	
2000/01 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO	8	4	1	3	195:192	+3	9:7	Quarter-final	
2002/03 RK Zagreb CRO	8	3	2	3	209:216	-7	8:8	Quarter-final	
2003/04 RK Zagreb CRO	10	4	0	6	273:258	+15	8:12	Quarter-final	
2004/05 RK Zagreb CRO	6	3	0	3	165:170	-5	6:6	3rd Gr. B	
2005/06 RK Zagreb CRO	8	5	1	2	212:194	+18	11:5	Last 16	
2006/07 RK Zagreb CRO	6	3	0	3	153:148	+5	6:6	3rd Gr. D	
2007/08 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	5	1	6	339:344	-5	11:13	3rd MR Gr. 3	
2008/09 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	7	3	2	357:313	+44	17:7	Quarter-final	
2009/10 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO	12	6	0	6	351:335	+16	12:12	Last 16	
2010/11 HC Croatia Osiguranje ZAGREB CRO	12	6	3	3	358:319	+39	15:9	Last 16	
2011/12 Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	14	9	1	4	391:359	+32	19:9	Quarter-final	
2012/13 HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	10	2	1	7	266:284	-18	5:15	5th Gr. D	
2013/14 HC Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb CRO	10	4	0	6	267:282	-15	8:12	5th Gr. A	
2014/15 HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO	14	7	0	7	328:356	-28	14:14	Quarter-final	
2015/16 HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO	18	6	2	10	464:480	-16	14:22	Quarter-final	
2016/17 HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO	16	4	1	11	373:408	-35	9:23	Last 16	
2017/18 HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO	14	2	2	10	349:396	-47	6:22	8th Gr. A	
2018/19 HC PPD Zagreb CRO	16	4	3	9	407:447	-40	11:21	Last 16	
2019/20 HC PPD Zagreb CRO	14	2	1	11	343:419	-76	5:23	7th Gr. A	
2020/21 HC PPD Zagreb CRO	16	0	0	16	369:482	-113	0:32	Play-offs	
2021/22 HC PPD Zagreb CRO	14	3	2	9	351:385	-34	8:20	7th Gr. A	
Total:	316	124	33	159	8154:8361	-207	281:351		



Ivica Obrvan

Coach

- player for Zagreb from 1988 until 1996, helped win the club the CL twice - in 1992 and 1993
- started his coaching career in 1999 at Jambo Metkovic
- first stint as Zagreb coach was between 2010 and 2012 after previously leading Velenje, Chambéry and the Macedonian national team
- became Zagreb coach again in March 2021, replacing Vlado Sola, who had taken over from Igor Vori in October 2020
- previously also in charge of national teams of North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

EHF EURO: B 1994 (as a player)

Arrivals:

Aljaz Panjtar (RK Gorenje Velenje/SLO)
 Timur Dibirov (HC Vardar 1961/MKD)
 Vuko Borozan (Al-Arabi/QAT)
 - his contract terminated before the season's start
 Milan Milic (HBC Nantes/FRA)
 Gabriel Buvinic (MRK Umag/CRO)

Departures:

Filip Vistorop (HBW Ballingen-Weilstetten/GER)
 Fabijan Grubišić (unknown)
 Sandro Obranovic (Kadetten Schaffhausen/SUI)
 Valentino Ravnica (HCD Constanta/ROU)
 David Mandic (MT Melsungen/GER)
 Marin Šipic (HC Luzern)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
5	Milan	Milic	SRB	Right Back	14/05/1998	Aleksandrovac, SRB	198	87
6	Davor	Cavar	CRO	Left Wing	07/12/1995	Zagreb, CRO	187	85
8	Adin	Faljic	BIH	Line Player	24/09/2000	Zenica, BIH	197	120
9	Luka Lovre	Klarica	CRO	Right Back	25/09/2001	Zadar, CRO	198	95
c 10	Jakov	Gojun	CRO	Left Back	18/04/1986	Split, CRO	204	110
11	Zvonimir	Srna	CRO	Left Back	18/01/1998	Dubrovnik, CRO	202	100
12	Dino	Slavic	CRO	Goalkeeper	04/12/1992	Rijeka, CRO	185	113
13	Edin	Klis	BIH	Left Back	22/02/2000	Zenica, BIH	195	96
16	Aljaz	Panjtar	SLO	Goalkeeper	20/08/1991	Ljubljana, SLO	183	93
18	Paolo	Kraljevic	CRO	Right Wing	31/03/2001	Ljubuški, BIH	180	80
20	Gabriel	Buvinic	CRO	Left Wing	13/04/1999	Rijeka, CRO	181	80
22	Zeljko	Musa	CRO	Line Player	08/01/1986	Mostar, BIH	200	114
23	Karpo	Sirotic	CRO	Centre Back	22/02/2000	Zagreb, CRO	188	74
24	Vlado	Matanovic	CRO	Right Wing	29/05/1995	Rijeka, CRO	182	85
25	Matej	Mandic	CRO	Goalkeeper	02/05/2002	Ljubuški, BIH	204	95
27	Ivan	Cupic	CRO	Right Wing	27/03/1986	Metkovic, CRO	178	78
31	Timur	Dibirov	RUS	Left Wing	30/07/1983	Petrozavodsk, RUS	180	74
37	Tin	Tomljanovic	CRO	Centre Back	02/03/2001	Rijeka, CRO	198	93
44	Stefan	Dodic	SRB	Centre Back	13/03/2003	Vranje, SRB	197	90
47	Aleks	Kavcic	SLO	Left Back	15/05/1996	Skofja Loka, SLO	186	93
55	Csaba	Leimeter	HUN	Right Back	15/12/1994	Budapest, HUN	195	98
71	Nikola	Grahovac	CRO	Line Player	14/12/1998	Cakovec, CRO	201	111
87	Vuko	Borozan	MNE	Left Back	09/04/1994	Cetinje, MNE	203	105



Dino Slavic

 @dinoslavic

Goalkeeper

- born in Rijeka, started his professional career in Zamet, also played for Umag before joining Ademar Leon in 2018
- arrived at PPD Zagreb at the start of the 2021/22 season
- played his first European match in 2013 with Zamet
- forms goalkeeper trio with Matej Mandic and newcomer from Gorenje Velenje, Aljaz Panjtar
- was elected as the best goalkeeper of the Spanish Cup in 2021



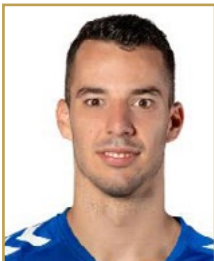
Timur Dibirov

 @timurdibirov31

Left wing

- Russia-born winger joined Vardar in 2013; won CL twice, in 2017 and 2019
- moved to the Croatian capital in 2022 to replace David Mandic, Zagreb is only the third club in his career
- also reached the premiere EHF FINAL4 with Chekhovskie Medvedi in 2010
- fast-break specialist and also key in defence
- married to Irina Poltoratskaya, who steered Vardar's women's team to CL final in 2017 as coach

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



Zvonimir Srna

 @zvone_srna

Left back

- joined PPD Zagreb in 2019 from Dubrovnik
- started playing handball in Metkovic, also was on a short loan to Gorica
- versatile player, plays both left and centre back and is a strong defence player
- Croatia national team player, also played for youth categories
- his uncle is Darijo Srna, former Croatia football national team captain and current director of FC Shakhtar Donetsk

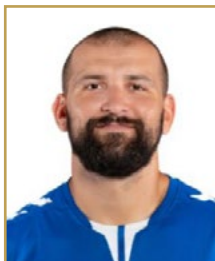


Stefan Dodic

 @stefan_dodic44

Centre back

- 2003-born from Vranje, Serbia
- joined PPD Zagreb on a loan from Kielce to strengthen centre back position
- at the age of 14 transferred to Metalurg; one year later became youngest goal-scorer in the CL 2018/19
- also played for Vardar 1961, in summer 2022 signed contract with Kielce
- elected as MVP of the M20 EHF EURO
- with style of play and talent, one to follow in the future



Željko Musa

@zeljko.musa.02

Line player

- experienced Croatian line player, who joined Zagreb - the eighth club of his career - in the summer of 2021 after six years with SC Magdeburg in Germany
- won the EHF European League with Magdeburg in 2020/21, and finished third at the EHF FINAL4 with Kielce in 2012/13
- has won a total of four WCh and EHF EURO medals; scored winning goal in EHF EURO 2020 semi-final vs Norway after two periods of extra time

EC trophies: EL 2021
EURO: S 2020, S 2012, S 2010; WCh: B 2013



Jakov Gojun

Line player

- joined Zagreb in summer of 2021 after six seasons with Füchse Berlin in Germany; had earlier stint at Zagreb in 2009-12
- previously played for PSG, Atletico de Madrid and several Croatian clubs
- core player of Croatian national team until retiring after home EHF EURO in 2018
- named best defender of EHF EURO 2010, when Croatia won bronze

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2018
EURO: B 2010; OG: B 2012

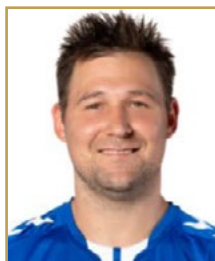


Luka Lovre Klarica

@luka_klarica

Right back

- 2001-born from Zadar where he made his first handball steps
- joined PPD Zagreb in 2018, spent short time on loan to Gorica
- had his CL debut in 2020 against Kiel
- as a kid used to play football, his first handball position was on the right wing



Ivan Čupić

Right wing

- joined Zagreb in 2021 after playing five years in Vardar, and in total 16 years abroad
- despite losing a finger in an accident in 2008, he has remained an important player for his club teams and the Croatian national side
- still the only player ever to win the VELUX EHF FINAL4 two years in a row: first with Kielce in 2016, then with Vardar in 2017
- second-best scorer of 2012 Olympic handball tournament

CL 2016, 2017, 2019
OG: B 2012; WCh: S 2009, B 2013; EURO: S 2008, 2010, 2020, B 2012, 2016

GROUP B PREVIEW



ARGUABLY THE BEST GROUP IN HISTORY

Former EHF Champions League winners THW Kiel and Lomza Industria Kielce, along with Mikkel Hansen's new club Aalborg Håndbold, will be hunting defending champions Barça in group B of the Machineseeker EHF Champions League.

However, those four teams may not be the only contenders from group B for the Trucksout24 EHF FINAL4 2023, as Pick Szeged also hope to make it to Cologne.



With three clubs from the EHF FINAL4 Men 2022, including both finalists, group B will offer the best of the best in this competition. "This is probably the best group ever in the history of the Champions League," said THW Kiel manager Viktor Szilagy.

Barça will be hunted again after completing a historic double in June, when they won the EHF Champions League for the 10th time and became the first side to defend the title at the LANXESS arena in Cologne. On that occasion, Carlos Ortega's side beat Lomza Industria Kielce after a penalty shoot-out in the final.

The record Champions League winners have strengthened their squad with an outstanding Scandinavian trio. Goalkeeper Emil Nielsen arrived from group phase opponents HBC Nantes, while Swedish EHF EURO champions Jonathan Carlsbogard and Hampus Wanne transferred from TBV Lemgo and SG Flensburg-Handewitt, respectively. With a well-prepared and balanced squad, Barça are the side to beat again.



The main question for Lomza Industria Kielce is how they have coped with their dramatic final defeat. The Polish champions signed many new players but allowed some to go out on loan to other clubs – such as top Balkan talents Stefan Dodic (to HC PPD Zagreb) and Halil Jaganjac (to Rhein-Neckar Löwen).

But the two biggest signings will definitely improve the quality of Talant Dujshabaev's side: Nedim Remili and Benoit Konkoud. The two Olympic and world champions are the third and fourth French players, after Nicolas Tournat and Dylan Nahi, to join Kielce's squad.





THW Kiel, ranked third at the EHF FINAL4 2022, will suffer from the same injury problems they had in Cologne until the competition restarts in 2023. Defence specialist Hendrik Pekeler and prolific playmaker Sander Sagosen are out for several months. Swedish backs Eric Johansson and Karl Wallinius, two young EHF EURO champions, and Norwegian line player Petter Ørverby should step in. Despite the injuries, Kiel are aiming high in their last season with superstars Sander Sagosen and Niklas Landin.

Aalborg are more than a dark horse in group B – mainly because of one player: Mikkel Hansen. After 10 years at PSG, the three-time IHF World Player of the Year returned to Denmark. Hansen finally hopes to add the only major trophy missing in his cabinet – the EHF Champions League. After making it to the final in the 2020/21 season against Barça, Aalborg are the fourth side in this group with the clear mission of making it to Cologne again. Hansen has not played for almost half a year, so he will need time to adapt to his new surroundings.



The remaining four teams have the same goal of reaching the knockout stage, but the base from which they start is quite different. Hungarian champions Pick Szeged have never made it to Cologne, despite reaching the quarter-finals several times. Szeged hope to get closer to the EHF FINAL 4 Men with almost the same squad. In the previous season, Szeged defeated Kiel and Aalborg in the group phase – but failed in the play-offs.

HBC Nantes – EHF Champions League finalists in 2018 and EHF FINAL4 participants in 2020 – are in transition after the arrival of new coach Gregory Cojean. Cornerstones like Kiril Lazarov, Emil Nielsen, Dragan Pechmalbec and David Balaguer have left the French club. However, Nantes have big hopes in Jorge Maqueda, who returned from Hungary, and new but experienced goalkeepers Ivan Pesic and Viktor Hallgrímsson.



Elverum Handball and RK Celje Pivovarna Laško are two of the younger teams in the competition, and they will play the role of underdogs in this group. Elverum lost rising stars Eric Johansson and Dominik Mathe in the summer, whereas 2003/04 EHF Champions League winners Celje have a pool of talents as they return to the top-flight competition for their 27th season.

Björn Pazen



I GROUP A HEAD-TO-HEADS

PREVIOUS EC ENCOUNTERS OF THE GROUP B TEAMS

Pick Szeged vs Barça 5-0-15 (494:558) 10:30

1977/1978	Szegedi SC vs FC Barcelona, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	27:22 (0:0)
1977/1978	FC Barcelona vs Szegedi SC, Cup Winners' Cup – Last 16	15:13 (0:0)
23.03.1994	Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona, Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final	22:24 (8:13)
06.04.1994	FC Barcelona vs Pick Szeged, Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final	19:14 (10:8)
08.02.1997	SC Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	25:26 (12:12)
15.02.1997	FC Barcelona vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	40:17 (19:5)
23.10.2004	SC Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Group A	22:21 (11:13)
13.11.2004	FC Barcelona vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group A	35:26 (19:11)
08.10.2005	FC Barcelona-Cifec vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group D	27:20 (13:13)
22.10.2005	SC Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona-Cifec, EHF Champions League – Group D	26:28 (12:17)
23.02.2008	Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	28:33 (15:14)
15.03.2008	FC Barcelona vs Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	28:32 (13:16)
18.11.2012	Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona Intersport, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	28:33 (15:18)
24.11.2012	FC Barcelona Intersport vs Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	33:24 (16:13)
04.10.2015	MOL-Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:30 (12:13)
21.02.2016	FC Barcelona Lassa vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:25 (19:14)
19.11.2017	MOL-Pick Szeged vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	31:28 (16:13)
04.03.2018	FC Barcelona Lassa vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:27 (16:14)
14.09.2019	MOL-Pick Szeged vs Barça, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:28 (18:11)
29.02.2020	Barça vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:28 (13:15)

Pick Szeged vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško 7-1-2 (278:244) 15:5

04.12.2004	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs SC Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Last 16	23:23 (11:10)
12.12.2004	SC Pick Szeged vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Last 16	20:21 (12:9)
10.02.2008	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Main Round-Group 4	35:30 (18:13)
08.03.2008	Pick Szeged vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Main Round-Group 4	20:19 (8:7)
12.11.2016	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	25:31 (15:16)
03.12.2016	MOL-Pick Szeged vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:22 (15:10)
06.10.2018	MOL-Pick Szeged vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	33:24 (18:8)
10.02.2019	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:29 (16:18)
03.11.2019	MOL-Pick Szeged vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	31:24 (14:14)
24.11.2019	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	23:34 (11:19)

Pick Szeged vs Lomza Industria Kielce 2-0-8 (268:291) 4:16

17.03.2013	Pick Szeged vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	26:25 (15:14)
24.03.2013	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	32:27 (14:11)
04.10.2014	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	37:32 (18:17)
06.12.2014	MOL-Pick Szeged vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	26:27 (11:14)
20.09.2015	MOL-Pick Szeged vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:30 (17:14)
06.03.2016	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:26 (12:16)
09.10.2016	MOL-Pick Szeged vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:29 (15:16)
26.02.2017	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:24 (13:14)
23.09.2020	Lomza Vive Kielce vs MOL-Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group A	26:23 (12:7)
25.02.2021	MOL-Pick Szeged vs Lomza Vive Kielce, EHF Champions League – Group A	26:30 (14:14)

Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel 4-1-7 (334:377) 9:15

02.10.2011	Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	26:38 (14:16)
09.02.2012	THW Kiel vs Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	34:24 (18:12)
12.04.2015	MOL-Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	31:29 (17:15)
19.04.2015	THW Kiel vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	31:23 (18:10)
20.03.2016	MOL-Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	33:29 (16:14)
23.03.2016	THW Kiel vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	36:29 (18:14)
21.03.2018	THW Kiel vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	29:22 (14:14)
01.04.2018	MOL-Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	28:27 (12:13)
31.03.2021	MOL-Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Play-offs	28:33 (13:21)
07.04.2021	THW Kiel vs MOL-Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Play-offs	33:28 (18:15)
20.10.2021	THW Kiel vs Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group A	32:32 (17:14)
09.12.2021	Pick Szeged vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group A	30:26 (19:13)

Pick Szeged vs HBC Nantes 2-0-4 (163:178) 4:8

09.02.2014	Pick Szeged vs HBC Nantes, EHF Cup – Group C	28:27 (18:13)
23.03.2014	HBC Nantes vs Pick Szeged, EHF Cup – Group C	31:23 (15:10)
17.09.2017	HBC Nantes vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:26 (18:15)
11.11.2017	MOL-Pick Szeged vs HBC Nantes, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:33 (15:17)
23.09.2018	MOL-Pick Szeged vs HBC Nantes, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:28 (11:12)
23.02.2019	HBC Nantes vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	29:26 (13:11)

Pick Szeged vs Elverum Håndball 4-0-1 (151:135) 8:2

10.11.2019	MOL-Pick Szeged vs Elverum Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	32:25 (15:13)
17.11.2019	Elverum Handball vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:26 (9:14)
26.11.2020	MOL-Pick Szeged vs Elverum Handball, EHF Champions League – Group A	36:27 (17:15)
26.02.2021	Elverum Handball vs MOL-Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group A	0:10*
14.10.2021	Pick Szeged vs Elverum Handball, EHF Champions League – Group A	30:34 (15:19)
02.03.2022	Elverum Handball vs Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group A	24:27 (12:13)

* Match not played and points allocated. Result not included in overall stat.

Pick Szeged vs Aalborg Håndbold 4-2-2 (240:226) 10:6

10.10.2010	Pick Szeged vs AaB Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	37:28 (18:13)
06.03.2011	AaB Handball vs Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	34:30 (17:19)
12.10.2014	Aalborg Handball vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	25:28 (11:15)
22.02.2015	MOL-Pick Szeged vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	23:23 (10:10)
13.10.2019	Aalborg Håndbold vs MOL-Pick Szeged, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:35 (17:22)
08.02.2020	MOL-Pick Szeged vs Aalborg Håndbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:26 (13:15)
27.10.2021	Pick Szeged vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF Champions League – Group A	31:28 (17:13)
01.12.2021	Aalborg Håndbold vs Pick Szeged, EHF Champions League – Group A	34:30 (16:14)

Barça vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško 12-0-4 (535:441) 24:8

16.03.1997	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	24:29 (11:14)
23.03.1997	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	22:26 (14:10)
27.02.1999	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	35:32 (18:18)
06.03.1999	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	30:26 (19:11)
18.03.2000	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	39:25 (14:14)
25.03.2000	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	27:20 (13:12)
02.04.2005	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	34:31 (16:15)
09.04.2005	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	31:26 (16:16)
16.02.2008	FC Barcelona vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	39:28 (20:11)
01.03.2008	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Main Round Group 4	27:32 (12:15)
09.10.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	44:33 (22:15)
05.03.2011	HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:30 (15:16)
21.09.2019	Barça vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	45:21 (21:13)
23.02.2020	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Barça, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	25:37 (14:19)
24.09.2020	Barça vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško, EHF Champions League – Group B	42:28 (21:14)
24.02.2021	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Barça, EHF Champions League – Group B	29:32 (17:16)

Barça vs Lomza Industria Kielce 7-2-3 (390:362) 16:8

20.11.2010	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:33 (11:18)
27.11.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:28 (15:12)
01.06.2013	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs FC Barcelona Intersport, VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Semi-final	23:28 (10:13)
30.05.2015	FC Barcelona vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Semi-final	33:28 (16:14)
17.10.2015	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:30 (14:17)
05.12.2015	FC Barcelona Lassa vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:33 (19:16)
04.11.2018	Barça Lassa vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	31:27 (14:11)
24.11.2018	PGE Vive Kielce vs Barça Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	36:42 (15:18)
02.06.2019	Barça Lassa vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Place 3/4	40:35 (20:16)
18.11.2021	Barça vs Lomza Vive Kielce, EHF Champions League – Group B	30:32 (16:19)
24.11.2021	Lomza Vive Kielce vs Barça, EHF Champions League – Group B	29:27 (14:16)
19.06.2022	Barça vs Lomza Vive Kielce, EHF FINAL4 – Final	37:35 (14:13, 28:28, 32:32)

Barça vs THW Kiel 15-2-12 (852:849) 32:26

22.04.2000	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Final	28:25 (15:14)
29.04.2000	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Final	29:24 (15:12)
25.03.2001	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	28:24 (12:11)
31.03.2001	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	33:28 (14:11)
20.04.2002	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Cup – Final	36:29 (19:13)
28.04.2002	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Cup – Final	28:24 (14:8)
05.03.2005	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	30:25 (13:14)
12.03.2005	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	33:27 (17:14)
06.04.2008	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	41:31 (20:15)
13.04.2008	FC Barcelona vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Semi-final	44:37 (19:20)
19.10.2008	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group C	27:31 (15:15)
23.11.2008	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Borges, EHF Champions League – Group C	33:26 (16:11)
11.10.2009	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group D	27:30 (17:20)
14.02.2010	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Borges, EHF Champions League – Group D	30:32 (15:17)
30.05.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel GER, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Final	34:36 (20:17)
03.10.2010	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:28 (14:10)
05.12.2010	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	32:29 (13:15)
24.04.2011	FC Barcelona Borges vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	27:25 (14:15)
01.05.2011	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Borges, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	33:36 (15:19)
24.04.2016	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	29:24 (16:12)
30.04.2016	FC Barcelona Lassa vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	33:30 (13:14)
01.10.2016	FC Barcelona Lassa vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:25 (10:13)
05.03.2017	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:27 (13:15)
23.04.2017	THW Kiel vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	28:26 (16:15)
29.04.2017	FC Barcelona Lassa vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	23:18 (13:9)
19.11.2020	THW Kiel vs Barça, EHF Champions League – Group B	26:32 (15:16)
26.11.2020	Barça vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group B	29:25 (13:12)
29.12.2020	THW Kiel vs Barça, VELUX EHF FINAL4 – Final	33:28 (19:16)
18.06.2022	THW Kiel vs Barça, EHF FINAL4 – Semi-final	30:34 (18:19)

Barça vs HBC Nantes 6-0-1 (213:187) 12:2

07.10.2017	FC Barcelona Lassa vs HBC Nantes, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	31:25 (13:16)
02.12.2017	HBC Nantes vs FC Barcelona Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	29:25 (16:11)
24.04.2019	HBC Nantes vs Barça Lassa, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	25:32 (12:16)
04.05.2019	Barça Lassa vs HBC Nantes, VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final	29:26 (17:14)
01.10.2020	HBC Nantes vs Barça, EHF Champions League – Group B	27:35 (15:18)
17.02.2021	Barça vs HBC Nantes, EHF Champions League – Group B	30:29 (14:17)
12.06.2021	Barça vs HBC Nantes, EHF FINAL4 – Semi-final	31:26 (15:13)

Barça vs Elverum Håndball 4-0-0 (139:94) 8:0

12.10.2019	Barça vs Elverum Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	33:24 (15:12)
09.02.2020	Elverum Handball vs Barça, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	26:30 (14:16)
02.04.2021	Elverum Handball vs Barça, EHF Champions League – Play-offs	25:37 (12:19)
05.04.2021	Barça vs Elverum Handball, EHF Champions League – Play-offs	39:19 (20:10)

Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold 9-0-0 (311:228) 18:0

23.03.2014	Aalborg Handball vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	22:29 (13:15)
29.03.2014	FC Barcelona vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	31:20 (16:11)
15.03.2015	Aalborg Handball vs FC Barcelona, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	11:31 (5:16)
22.03.2015	FC Barcelona vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16	29:22 (14:9)
10.11.2019	Aalborg Handbold vs Barça, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:34 (14:15)
16.11.2019	Barça vs Aalborg Handbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	44:35 (22:17)
29.10.2020	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF Champions League – Group B	42:33 (20:18)
02.12.2020	Aalborg Håndbold vs Barça, EHF Champions League – Group B	32:35 (15:19)
13.06.2021	Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF FINAL4 – Final	36:23 (16:11)

RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Lomza Industria Kielce 6-0-2 (255:244) 12:4

30.10.1999	KS Iskra-Lider Market vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, EHF Champions League – Group B	25:30 (13:14)
27.11.1999	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs KS Iskra-Lider Market, EHF Champions League – Group B	40:32 (20:13)
26.09.2010	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:36 (11:18)
19.02.2011	HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:29 (12:14)
15.10.2016	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:23 (16:15)
19.02.2017	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	34:33 (16:19)
30.09.2017	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:27 (16:12)
17.02.2018	PGE Vive Kielce vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	37:31 (21:17)

RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs THW Kiel 3-1-8 (340:382) 7:17

28.11.2004	THW Kiel vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, Ech for Club Teams – Final	29:30 (17:15)
21.10.2007	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs THW Kiel, Champions Trophy – Final	34:38 (17:23)
17.10.2010	HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:34 (10:18)
27.02.2011	THW Kiel vs HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	43:27 (23:16)
17.11.2012	Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	31:28 (12:12)
21.11.2012	THW Kiel vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:26 (13:12)
21.10.2015	THW Kiel vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	35:32 (16:14)
28.11.2015	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	23:23 (14:14)
12.11.2017	THW Kiel vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:29 (15:14)
19.11.2017	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:28 (14:15)
01.10.2020	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group B	24:35 (13:16)
02.03.2021	THW Kiel vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško, EHF Champions League – Group B	33:29 (19:15)

RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs HBC Nantes 1-1-2 (111:126) 3:5

14.10.2018	HBC Nantes vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	38:27 (17:13)
02.12.2018	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs HBC Nantes, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	29:29 (15:19)
25.11.2020	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs HBC Nantes, EHF Champions League – Group B	25:31 (11:13)
04.02.2021	HBC Nantes vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško, EHF Champions League – Group B	28:30 (13:14)

RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Elverum Håndball 1-0-1 (58:62) 2:2

20.10.2019	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Elverum Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	32:25 (14:15)
01.12.2019	Elverum Handball vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	37:26 (21:13)

RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Aalborg Håndbold 1-0-4 (143:148) 2:8

24.09.2017	Aalborg Handbold vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:30 (15:13)
24.02.2018	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Aalborg Handbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:28 (15:12)
29.09.2019	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko vs Aalborg Handbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:29 (14:10)
16.02.2020	Aalborg Handbold vs RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	28:24 (1 3:9)
16.09.2020	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF Champions League – Group B	29:31 (16:15)
04.03.2021	Aalborg Håndbold vs RK Celje Pivovarna Laško, EHF Champions League – Group B	0:10*

* Match not played and points allocated. Result not included in overall stat.

Lomza Industria Kielce vs THW Kiel 7-2-3 (355:350) 16:8

21.02.1998	Jskra Ceresit Kielce vs THW Kiel, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	28:27 (16:12)
01.03.1998	THW Kiel vs Jskra Ceresit Kielce, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	31:26 (16:11)
10.10.2010	THW Kiel vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	33:29 (16:13)
06.03.2011	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	27:36 (11:18)
02.06.2013	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Place 3/4	31:30 (19:12)
19.10.2013	KS Vive Targi Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	34:29 (17:11)
16.02.2014	THW Kiel vs KS Vive Targi Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:28 (13:16)
13.05.2015	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League FINAL4 – Place 3/4	28:26 (12:12)
24.09.2017	PGE Vive Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:21 (18:11)
24.02.2018	THW Kiel vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	29:30 (17:16)
15.09.2019	THW Kiel vs PGE VIVE Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:30 (14:15)
29.02.2020	PGE VIVE Kielce vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	32:30 (16:18)

Lomza Industria Kielce vs HBC Nantes 1-0-1 (56:58) 2:2

31.03.2021	HBC Nantes vs Lomza Vive Kielce, EHF Champions League – Play-offs	24:25 (14:12)
07.04.2021	Lomza Vive Kielce vs HBC Nantes, EHF Champions League – Play-offs	31:34 (13:15)

Lomza Industria Kielce vs Elverum Håndball 2-0-0 (70:51) 4:0

01.10.2020	Elverum Handball vs Lomza Vive Kielce, EHF Champions League – Group A	22:31 (11:18)
18.02.2021	Lomza Vive Kielce vs Elverum Handball, EHF Champions League – Group A	39:29 (20:14)

Lomza Industria Kielce vs Aalborg Håndbold 4-0-0 (122:108) 8:0

16.11.2014	Aalborg Handball vs KS Vive Tauron Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	25:27 (12:13)
23.11.2014	KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs Aalborg Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group D	33:26 (18:15)
12.11.2017	Aalborg Håndbold vs PGE Vive Kielce, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	30:34 (14:18)
18.11.2017	PGE Vive Kielce vs Aalborg Håndbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:27 (15:14)

THW Kiel vs HBC Nantes 0-1-1 (51:59) 1:3

24.09.2020	THW Kiel vs HBC Nantes, EHF Champions League – Group B	27:35 (12:15)
25.02.2021	HBC Nantes vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group B	24:24 (12:9)

THW Kiel vs Elverum Håndball 2-0-0 (72:66) 4:0

22.09.2021	THW Kiel vs Elverum Handball, EHF Champions League – Group A	41:36 (20:20)
17.02.2022	Elverum Handball vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group A	30:31 (15:14)

THW Kiel vs Aalborg Håndbold 6-1-1 (239:213) 13:3

14.02.2004	THW Kiel vs AaB Håndbold Aalborg, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	30:23 (12:8)
22.02.2004	AaB Håndbold Aalborg vs THW Kiel, EHF Cup – Quarter-final	32:32 (15:16)
27.09.2017	THW Kiel vs Aalborg Håndbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:26 (13:12)
18.02.2018	Aalborg Håndbold vs THW Kiel, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	20:27 (11:15)
21.10.2020	Aalborg Håndbold vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group B	23:31 (9:17)
23.02.2021	THW Kiel vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF Champions League – Group B	28:26 (15:15)
18.11.2021	THW Kiel vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF Champions League – Group A	31:28 (17:14)
24.11.2021	Aalborg Håndbold vs THW Kiel, EHF Champions League – Group A	35:33 (17:16)

HBC Nantes vs Elverum Håndball 2-0-0 (52:44) 4:0

24.11.2013	HBC Nantes vs Elverum Handball Herrer, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	28:21 (16:11)
30.11.2013	Elverum Handball Herrer vs HBC Nantes, EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3	23:24 (12:13)

HBC Nantes vs Aalborg Håndbold 1-0-1 (62:61) 2:2

14.10.2020	Aalborg Håndbold vs HBC Nantes, EHF Champions League – Group B	32:24 (16:9)
10.02.2021	HBC Nantes vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF Champions League – Group B	38:29 (18:14)

Elverum Håndball vs Aalborg Håndbold 0-0-4 (107:130) 0:8

15.09.2019	Elverum Handball vs Aalborg Håndbold, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	24:34 (12:18)
01.03.2020	Aalborg Håndbold vs Elverum Handball, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group A	30:28 (18:11)
08.12.2021	Elverum Handball vs Aalborg Håndbold, EHF Champions League – Group A	28:34 (12:16)
23.02.2022	Aalborg Håndbold vs Elverum Handball, EHF Champions League – Group A	32:27 (14:13)

GROUP B



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

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: gold
Player short: gold
GK shirt: blue or yellow

Dark

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



Playing hall

Palau Blaugrana
Av. Aristides Maillol, s/n
08028 Barcelona
Spain
Capacity: 7,585

BARÇA



After winning back-to-back EHF Champions Leagues over the last two seasons, the side from Barcelona start as red-hot favourites to claim this season's trophy. Three title wins in a row is what Barça are chasing in the coming season, after lifting the trophy in 2021 and 2022. They are the only team to win this competition three times in a row, a feat they pulled off as part of their run of five victories from 1996 to 2000. However, no team has done so since the EHF FINAL4 started in 2010, in fact Barça were the first team to win consecutive titles since then.

Main facts

- Barça will play their 26th season in the Champions League in 2022/23
- the Spanish side holds the record for most titles won in the competition (10), including the last two editions
- last season, they defeated Kielce in the final in Cologne after dominating THW Kiel in the semi-final
- players such as Ali Zein and Angel Fernandez left the club in the summer, and only three new faces joined the roster in August
- major signings for next season include goalkeeper Emil Nielsen (Nantes), Swedish left winger Hampus Wanne (Flensburg) and fellow compatriot Jonathan Carlsbogard (TBV Lemgo)

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 26
Winners (10): 1995/96, 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2004/05, 2010/11, 2014/15, 2020/21, 2021/22
Final (4): 2000/01, 2009/10, 2012/13, 2019/20
Semi-finals (4): 2007/08, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2018/19
Quarter-finals (4): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2011/12, 2015/16
Last 16 (2): 2003/04, 2017/18
Main Round (1): 2008/09

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2002/03, Runners-up 2001/02
Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 1993/94, 1994/95
IHF European Champions Cup: 1990/91
IHF Super Globe: 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018

Spanish league: 29 titles (1969, 1973, 1980, 1982, 1986, 1988-92, 1996-2000, 2003, 2006, 2011-22)

Spanish cup: 26 titles (1969, 1972-73, 1983-85, 1988, 1990, 1993-94, 1997-98, 2000, 2004, 2007, 2009-10, 2014-2022)



22 **MATCHES**
Longest
winning run

46 **GOALS**
Most goals

82 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	17:43 (9:21) v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH (a), 19.11.2011
Biggest defeat	31:21 (13:10) v SG Flensburg-H. GER (a), 23.02.2007 41:31 (20:15) v THW Kiel GER (a), 06.04.2008
Longest winning run	22 matches (21.09.2019 – 28.12.2020)
Longest unbeaten run	22 matches (21.09.2019 – 28.12.2020)
Longest losing run	2 matches (nine times)
Longest run without win	3 matches (30.05.2010 – 03.10.2010) 3 matches (03.06.2017 – 17.09.2017) 3 matches (28.10.2021 – 24.11.2021)
Most goals	46 v KIF Kolding DEN 46:36W (h), 17.10.2009
Most goals opponent	41 v THW Kiel GER 41:31L (a), 06.04.2008 41 v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 39:41L (a), 31.05.2014
Most goals both teams	82 v KIF Kolding DEN 46:36W (h), 17.10.2009
Fewest goals	21 v ABC Braga POR 21:21D (a), 09.11.1997 21 v SC Pick Szeged HUN 22:21L (a), 23.10.2004 21 v Portland San Antonio ESP 25:21L (a), 25.02.2006 21 v SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 31:21L (a), 23.02.2007 21 v Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 22:21L (a), 20.09.2015 11 v Aalborg Handball DEN 11:31W (a), 15.03.2015
Fewest goals opponent	11 v Aalborg Handball DEN 11:31W (a), 15.03.2015
Fewest goals both teams	38 v Elgorriaga Bidasoa ESP 23:15W (h), 20.04.1996 38 v Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD 12:26W (a), 06.11.2004

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1995/96 FC Barcelona ESP	8	5	2	1	213:173	+40	12:4	Winner	
1996/97 FC Barcelona ESP	12	10	1	1	358:264	+94	21:3	Winner	
1997/98 FC Barcelona ESP	12	9	1	2	358:284	+74	19:5	Winner	
1998/99 FC Barcelona ESP	12	8	3	1	357:289	+68	19:5	Winner	
1999/00 FC Barcelona ESP	12	10	0	2	345:271	+74	20:4	Winner	
2000/01 FC Barcelona ESP	12	8	2	2	316:281	+35	18:6	Runner-up	
2003/04 FC Barcelona ESP	8	5	1	2	262:212	+50	11:5	Last 16	
2004/05 FC Barcelona Cifec ESP	14	8	0	6	400:360	+40	16:12	Winner	
2005/06 FC Barcelona-Cifec ESP	10	9	0	1	293:244	+49	18:2	Quarter-final	
2006/07 FC Barcelona-Cifec ESP	10	8	0	2	314:263	+51	16:4	Quarter-final	
2007/08 FC Barcelona ESP	14	11	0	3	475:407	+68	22:6	Semi-final	
2008/09 FC Barcelona Borges ESP	10	6	0	4	307:275	+32	12:8	3rd MR Gr. 4	
2009/10 FC Barcelona Borges ESP	16	13	1	2	545:461	+84	27:5	Runner-up	
2010/11 FC Barcelona Borges ESP	16	10	3	3	501:451	+50	23:9	Winner	
2011/12 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP	14	11	0	3	459:357	+102	22:6	Quarter-final	
2012/13 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP	16	13	0	3	488:404	+84	26:6	Runner-up	
2013/14 FC Barcelona ESP	16	12	1	3	535:426	+109	25:7	Third Place	
2014/15 FC Barcelona ESP	16	14	1	1	527:408	+119	29:3	Winner	
2015/16 FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	16	12	1	3	480:431	+49	25:7	Quarter-final	
2016/17 FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	18	13	1	4	517:460	+57	27:9	Fourth Place	
2017/18 FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	16	10	2	4	463:433	+30	22:10	Last 16	
2018/19 Barça Lassa ESP	18	15	0	3	614:506	+108	30:6	Third Place	
2019/20 Barça ESP	16	14	0	2	550:445	+105	28:4	Runner-Up	
2020/21 Barça ESP	20	20	0	0	721:562	+159	40:0	Winner	
2021/22 Barça ESP	18	13	2	3	551:487	+64	28:8	Winner	
Total:	350	267	22	61	10949:9154	+1795	556:144		



Carlos Ortega

Coach

- former Spanish international, taking over at Barça in 2021 from the legendary Xavi Pascual
- successfully defended the CL trophy with Barça in 2021/22 for his first international trophy as a coach
- in his playing career as a right back and wing, Ortega won the CL six times in his 11 years with Barça
- scored more than 500 goals for the Spanish national team
- started his coaching career in Antequera in 2005; later worked at Veszprém (HUN), Kolding (DEN), and Hannover (GER)

EC trophies: 1996-2000, 2005 (as player), 2022 (as coach); CWC 1995; EHF Cup 2003

OG: B 2000; EURO: S 1998, B 2000 (all as player)

Arrivals:

Emil Nielsen (HBC Nantes/FRA)
Hampus Wanne (SG Flensburg-Handewitt/GER)
Jonathan Carlsbogard (TBV Lemgo Lippe/GER)

Departures:

Ali Zein (CS Dinamo Bucuresti/ROU)
Youssef Ben Ali (PAUC Handball/FRA)
Ángel Fernández (Limoges Hand/FRA)
Leo Maciel (SL Benfica/POR)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
C 1	Gonzalo	Perez de Vargas	ESP	Goalkeeper	10/01/1991	Toledo, ESP	188	88
3	Aleksandar	Cenic	SRB	Right Back	11/01/2003	Leskovac, SRB	200	93
9	Jonathan	Carlsbogard	SWE	Left Back	19/04/1995	Göteborg, SWE	195	96
10	Dika	Mem	FRA	Right Back	31/08/1997	Paris, FRA	194	104
12	Emil	Nielsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	10/03/1997	Aarhus, DEN	191	125
13	Aitor	Ariño	ESP	Left Wing	05/10/1992	Penarth, WAL	184	82
15	Hampus	Wanne	SWE	Left Wing	10/12/1993	Göteborg, SWE	185	84
18	Blaz	Janc	SLO	Right Wing	20/11/1996	Brezice, SLO	185	85
19	Timothee	N'guessan	FRA	Left Back	18/09/1992	Massy, FRA	195	108
20	Aleix	Gómez	ESP	Right Wing	07/05/1997	Sabadell, ESP	183	81
21	Bruno	Reguart	ESP	Centre Back	25/05/2003	Barcelona, ESP	187	81
22	Thiagus	Petrus	BRA	Line Player	25/01/1989	Juiz de Fora, BRA	199	108
23	Martí	Soler	ESP	Left Wing	28/04/2003	Barcelona, ESP	195	89
25	Luka	Cindric	CRO	Centre Back	05/07/1993	Ogulin, CRO	181	91
33	Artur	Parera	ESP	Line Player	28/08/2002	Barcelona, ESP	192	93
35	Domen	Makuc	SLO	Centre Back	01/07/2000	Postojna, SLO	188	89
36	Roberto	Domenech	ESP	Goalkeeper	23/06/2002	Alicante, ESP	186	98
37	Haniel Vincius	Langaro Inoue	BRA	Left Back	07/03/1995	Umarama, BRA	196	98
66	Melvyn	Richardson	FRA	Right Back	31/01/1997	Marseille, FRA	190	90
72	Ludovic	Fabregas	FRA	Line Player	01/07/1996	Perpignan, FRA	197	102
77	Pablo	Urdangarin	ESP	Right Wing	06/12/2000	Barcelona, ESP	195	84
82	Luis	Frade	POR	Line Player	11/09/1998	Rio Tinto, POR	193	121



Gonzalo Perez de Vargas

@perezdvargas

Goalkeeper

- formed in Barcelona; returned to the club in 2014 after stints with Granollers and Toulouse focused on gaining experience
- won his fourth CL title in 2021/22 season; was the CL 2016/17 All-star goalkeeper
- represented Spain in all age categories; forms duo with Veszprém's Rodrigo Corrales
- medallist at five consecutive EHF EUROs, starting in 2014

EC trophies: CL 2011, 2015, 2021, 2022
OG: B 2020; EURO: G 2018, 2020, S 2022, 2016, B 2014; WCh: B 2021



Hampus Wanne

@hampusw

Left wing

- helped Sweden win EHF EURO silver in 2018 and gold in 2022, but missed the 2020 tournament
- best left wing of the WCh 2021 and of the 2022 EHF Champions League
- born in 1993, he joined Flensburg in 2013, aged only 20
- moved to Barça in the summer of 2022, after playing for nine seasons in Flensburg
- in a relationship with Swedish national player Daniela Gustin

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



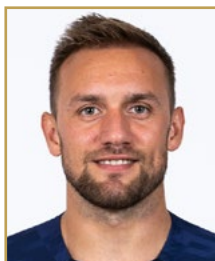
Timothy N'guessan

@timoute19

Left back

- French international, who arrived at Barça in the summer of 2016 from his only previous club: Chambéry in France
- scored 41 goals for Barça on their way to the CL title in 2021/22
- struggled with injuries and missed EHF EURO 2020, but got back his best in the following seasons, winning Olympic gold with France and the CL twice with Barça

CL: 2021, 2022
OG: G 2020, S 2016; EURO: B 2018; WCh: G 2017, B 2019



Luka Cindric

@luka_cindric25

Centre back

- joined Barça in the summer of 2019, arriving after one season with Kielce
- won CL with Vardar in 2017, scoring last-second winner in semi-final against Barça
- won two more CL trophies with Barça, in 2021 and 2022, and was voted CL All-star centre back in 2020/21
- voted EHF Player of the Year in 2017, and best Croatian player in 2017 and 2018
- key member of the Croatian national team

EC trophies: CL 2017, 2021, 2022
EURO: S 2020, B 2016



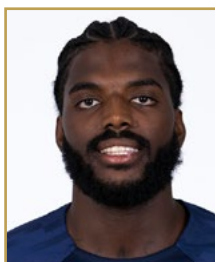
Ludovic Fabregas

@chiki_lf27

Line player

- joined Barça after winning CL in 2018 with Montpellier, scoring six goals in the final, and lifted the trophy again with the Spanish side in 2021
- CL All-star line player in 2016/17 and 2020/21, and best young player in 2018/19
- was youth world champion in mountain biking before turning to handball only at age 15

EC trophies: CL 2018, 2021, 2022
OG: G 2020, S 2016; WCh: G 2017, B 2019



Dika Mem

@dikamem

Right back

- French international, who joined from French club Tremblay in 2016 at age 19
- contributed massively to Barça's back-to-back CL title wins, scoring 93 goals in CL 2020/21 and 100 in CL 2021/22 season
- CL All-star right back in 2017/18 and again in 2020/21 and 2021/22
- won two Olympic and two WCh medals and EHF EURO bronze with France

EC trophies: CL 2021, 2022
OG: G 2020; EURO: B 2018; WCh: G 2017, B 2019



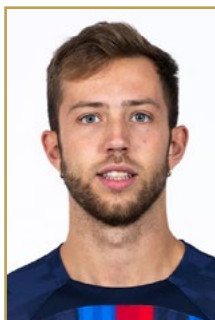
Melvyn Richardson

@Melvyn_richardson

Right back

- French international, who joined Barça in 2021 from Montpellier HB
- son of Jackson Richardson, who won CL in 2001 with Portland San Antonio — 17 years before Melvyn would repeat the feat with Montpellier
- played for the first time with the French national team in June 2017; won gold at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and a WCh bronze in 2019

EC trophies: CL 2018, 2022
OG: G 2020; WCh: B 2019



Aleix Goméz

@aleixgomez11

Right wing

- came through club's youth ranks as a young talent since 2009, developed into an established asset on the Barça wing
- became CL top scorer in 2021/22 after netting 22 times at the EHF FINAL4 2022 and raising his season tally to 104
- also played key role in Barça's CL triumph in 2020/21, scoring 92 goals that season
- had previously been sharing right wing position with club icon Victor Tomas, who retired in 2020
- made CL All-star Team in 2019/20 as best young player, and in 2020/21 and 2021/22 as right wing

EC trophies: CL 2021, 2022
OG: B 2020; EURO: G 2020, S 2022; WCh: B 2021

GROUP B



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Hungary

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Pick Arena

Városi Stadion
Felső Tisza-Part 1-3
6723 Szeged
Hungary
Capacity: 8,300

PICK SZEGED



Pick Szeged made history in the 2021/22 season as they clinched back-to-back Hungarian league titles. SG Flensburg-Handewitt stopped Szeged in the EHF Champions League play-offs, but the Hungarian side's squad has not changed much before the upcoming Machineseecker EHF Champions League season.

Team captain Bence Bánhidi, one of Szeged's most valuable players, has fully recovered after a long-term injury, providing the team with a huge boost at both ends of the court.

Main facts:

- this will be Pick Szeged's 21st season in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League
- the Hungarian club have never reached the EHF FINAL4 Men
- Szeged's off-season was one of the quietest on the continent, as only one player left the squad while Zoltan Szita became their sole signing before the 2022/23 season
- Spanish head coach Juan Carlos Pastor starts his 10th season with Szeged

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 21
Quarter-finals (5): 1996/1997, 2003/2004, 2014/15, 2016/17, 2018/19
Play-offs (2): 2020/21, 2021/22
Last 16 (8): 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007, 2010/2011, 2012/13, 2015/16, 2017/18, 2019/20*
Main Round (1): 2007/2008
Group Phase (3): 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2011/2012
Qualification (1): 2013/14
* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2015, Quarter-final 2001
Last 16: 1994/95, 1999/2000
Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-final 1993/94, Quarter-final: 2002/03, 2008/09

Hungarian league: 5 titles (1996, 2007, 2018, 2021, 2022)
Hungarian cup: 7 titles (1977, 1982, 1983, 1993, 2006, 2008, 2019)



10 **MATCHES**
Longest
unbeaten run

39 **GOALS**
Most goals

73 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	39:24 (15:10) v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH (h), 07.10.2007
Biggest defeat	40:17 (19:5) v FC Barcelona ESP (a), 15.02.1997
Longest winning run	7 matches (13.10.2019 – 30.11.2019)
Longest unbeaten run	10 matches (28.09.2019 – 16.02.2020)
Longest losing run	6 matches (17.10.2009 – 20.02.2010)
	6 matches (06.03.2011 – 15.10.2011)
Longest run without win	7 matches (17.10.2009 – 27.02.2010)
Most goals	39 v HC Bosna Sarajevo BIH 39:24W (h), 07.10.2007
Most goals opponent	40 v FC Barcelona ESP 40:17L (a), 15.02.1997
Most goals both teams	73 v Montpellier Aggl. HB FRA 38:35W (h), 19.11.2011
Fewest goals	17 v FC Barcelona ESP 40:17L (a), 15.02.1997
Fewest goals opponent	16 v Wisla Plock SA POL 16:26W (a), 05.10.2008
	16 v Orlen Wisla Plock POL 23:16W (h), 31.03.2019
Fewest goals both teams	39 v Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 20:19W (h), 08.03.2008
	39 v Orlen Wisla Plock POL 23:16W (h), 31.03.2019

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1996/97 Pick Szeged HUN	8	3	2	3	205:216	-11	8:8	Quarter-final	
2003/04 SC Pick Szeged HUN	10	4	0	6	269:262	+7	8:12	Quarter-final	
2004/05 SC Pick Szeged HUN	8	4	2	2	190:187	+3	10:6	Last 16	
2005/06 SC Pick Szeged HUN	8	3	0	5	219:218	+1	6:10	Last 16	
2006/07 SC Pick Szeged HUN	8	3	2	3	202:203	-1	8:8	Last 16	
2007/08 Pick Szeged HUN	12	9	0	3	361:310	+51	18:6	3rd MR Gr. 4	
2008/09 Pick Szeged HUN	6	2	0	4	159:161	-2	4:8	3rd Gr. H	
2009/10 Pick Szeged HUN	10	2	2	6	287:307	-20	6:14	5th Gr. A	
2010/11 Pick Szeged HUN	12	5	0	7	336:351	-15	10:14	Last 16	
2011/12 Pick Szeged HUN	10	3	0	7	285:316	-31	6:14	5th Gr. D	
2012/13 Pick Szeged HUN	12	4	0	8	313:350	-37	8:16	Last 16	
2014/15 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	14	9	1	4	395:383	+12	19:9	Quarter-final	
2015/16 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	16	8	1	7	466:455	+11	17:15	Last 16	
2016/17 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	18	10	2	6	492:458	+34	22:14	Quarter-final	
2017/18 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	16	7	1	8	471:467	+4	15:17	Last 16	
2018/19 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	18	12	2	4	508:489	+19	26:10	Quarter-final	
2019/20 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	14	9	2	3	409:370	+39	20:8	Last 16*	
2020/21 MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	16	6	0	10	374:395	-21	12:20	Play-offs	
2021/22 Pick Szeged HUN	16	9	3	4	469:452	+17	21:11	Play-offs	
Total:	232	112	20	100	6410:6350	+60	244:220		

* Last 16 and Quarter-finals cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

PICK SZEGED HANDBALL TEAM



Juan Carlos Pastor

Coach

- Spanish mastermind of contemporary handball, winning a lot of silverware during his coaching career
- Szeged signed him in 2013 to rebuild the team and challenge Veszprém for the Hungarian title, which Szeged won in 2018 and again in 2021
- also led Szeged to EHF Cup triumph in 2013/14
- previously worked with BM Valladolid and won Cup Winners' Cup with the Spanish side in 2008/09
- had huge success as Spain's national team coach in 2004-08, winning world title, EHF EURO silver and Olympic bronze

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

Arrivals:

Zoltán Szita (Orlen Wisla Plock/POL)

Departures:

Nik Henigman (Saint-Raphaël Var HB/FRA)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
4	Barnabás	Rea	HUN	Centre Back	15/11/2002	Szeged, HUN	182	85
5	Kent Robin	Tönnesen	NOR	Right Back	05/06/1991	Partille, SWE	194	90
7	Luka	Stepancic	CRO	Right Back	20/11/1990	Pula, CRO	203	105
9	Richárd	Bodó	HUN	Left Back	13/03/1993	Mateszalka, HUN	203	110
10	Miguel	Martins Soares	POR	Centre Back	04/11/1997	Porto, POR	192	91
16	Roland	Mikler	HUN	Goalkeeper	20/09/1984	Dunaujvaros, HUN	192	98
17	Bogdan	Radivojevic	SRB	Right Wing	02/03/1993	Belgrade, SRB	192	80
21	Zoltan	Szita	HUN	Left Back	10/02/1998	Veszprém, HUN	197	92
22	Matej	Gaber	SLO	Line Player	22/07/1991	Kranj, SLO	198	110
24	Mario	Sostaric	SLO	Right Wing	25/11/1992	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	193	87
25	Sebastian	Frimmel	AUT	Left Wing	18/12/1995	Perchtoldsdorf, AUT	190	89
C 27	Bence	Banhidi	HUN	Line Player	09/02/1995	Győr, HUN	195	96
29	Marcell Csaba	Ludman	HUN	Left Back	29/11/2002	Budapest, HUN	197	95
32	Mirko	Alilovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	15/09/1985	Ljubuski, CRO	201	106
34	Mihály	Varga	HUN	Centre Back	23/09/2003	Bekescsaba, HUN	193	85
41	ImanolGarcandia	Alustiza	ESP	Right Back	30/04/1995	Urretxu, ESP	203	105
44	Dean	Bombac	SLO	Centre Back	04/04/1989	Koper, SLO	190	93
45	Miklós	Rosta	HUN	Line Player	14/02/1999	Győr, HUN	203	110
51	Borut	Mackovsek	SLO	Left Back	11/09/1992	Koper, SLO	203	95
64	Patrik	Hegedus	HUN	Left Back	02/03/2003	Kiskunhalas, HUN	196	93
71	Alexander	ChristoffersenBlonz	NOR	Left Wing	17/04/2000	Clamart, FRA	187	82
77	Luka	Krivokapic	SRB	Goalkeeper	07/02/2002	Funchal, POR	195	85
	Gellért	Fekete	HUN		21/03/2004	Szeged, HUN	198	88
	Péter	Gazsó	HUN		12/06/2006	Gyula, HUN	191	94
	Robin	Molnár	HUN		01/02/2004			
	Zsolt	Radvánszki	HUN		24/12/2002			
	Levente	Tisza	HUN		25/06/2003			



Roland Mikler

 @miklerroland

Goalkeeper

- returned to Szeged in 2019 following five-year spell at domestic rivals Veszprém
- joined Veszprém after winning EHF Cup with Szeged in 2014
- earlier in his career he played an EHF Cup final as a teenager with Dunaferr in 2003
- All-star goalkeeper at junior WCh 2005, where Hungary won bronze, and has been regular in Hungarian national team ever since

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2014

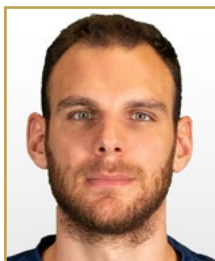


Sebastian Frimmel

 @seppo_

Left wing

- in his first season playing for Szeged 2021/22 was the third best scorer of the club with 60 goals
- tall for a wing at 190 cm
- has scored over 200 goals for the Austrian national team, including 21 at EHF EURO 2020
- won bronze at School WCh in 2013; made debut in senior national team at age 18 in 2014
- awarded 'best young player' of Austrian league in 2014/15 season



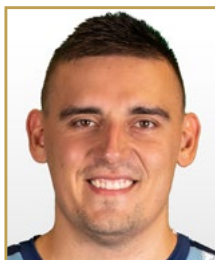
Borut Mackovsek

 @borut.mackovsek

Left back

- started playing handball after he went to his brother's practice and later joined the team
- came to Szeged in the summer of 2020 from their rivals Veszprém
- also played for Celje Pivovarna Lasko, Maribor, Al Sadd, ThSV Hannover-Burgdorf, Dinamo Minsk, TSV Eisenach and Montpellier
- had his first CL appearance in 2009/10 season with Celje, now enters his 12th
- part of Slovenia national team, won bronze medal at the WCh 2017 in France

WCh: B 2017



Richard Bodo

Left back

- joined Szeged in 2016 from Tatabánya
- made national team debut in 2012
- was named as Hungarian player of the year 2018
- player with the ability of scoring with huge shots



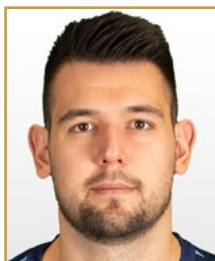
Dean Bombac

@dean_bombac44

Centre back

- Slovenian playmaker, returned to Szeged in 2018 following two-year stint at Kielce
- moved to Poland after his exceptional CL 2015/16 season with Szeged, scoring 101 goals and being voted into All-star Team
- won Challenge Cup with his first club, Slovenia's RK Koper, in 2011; also had short spells at Dinamo Minsk in Belarus and PAUC in France
- flamboyant player with ability to score incredible goals

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2011

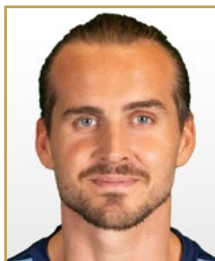


Bence Bánhidi

@banhidibence27

Line pleyer

- only started playing at age 14, as back-court player at his local club Győr
- arrived at Szeged in 2016 after four years with Balatonfüredi KSE
- sharing playing time on the line with Slovenian defence specialist Matej Gaber
- named Junior Player of the Year in Hungary in 2015, year after his national team debut
- key player for Hungary, voted EHF EURO 2020 All-star Team line player



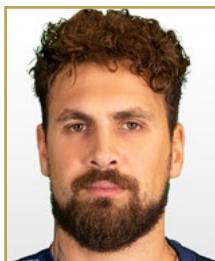
Kent Robin Tønnesen

@kente15

Right back

- Norwegian international, who joined Szeged in the summer of 2021 after four seasons with Hungarian league rivals Veszprém
- left his native Norway in 2012 to play in Sweden for one year (IK Sävehof) and in Germany for four years (HSG Wetzlar, Füchse Berlin)
- played at four straight EHF EURO events for Norway before missing the 2020 edition due to a torn Achilles tendon; returned to the team for the Tokyo Olympics

WCh: S 2017



Bogdan Radivojevic

@radivojevicbogdan41

Right wing

- Serbian international, who was named EHF Player of the Month in September 2019, right after joining Szeged following two seasons with Rhein-Neckar Löwen
- scored 63 and 57 goals respectively in his first two CL seasons with Szeged
- previously also played for Flensburg-Handewitt, winning the CL in 2014
- once said he "would trade everything I ever won for an EHF EURO medal with Serbia"

EC trophies: CL 2014

GROUP B



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Slovenia

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 @RK CPL

 @rkcp1

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: yellow-blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: blue, green,
orange

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
GK shirt: blue, green,
orange

Playing hall
Dvorana Zlatorog

Opekarniška cesta 15
3000 Celje
Slovenia
Capacity: 4,827

RK CELJE PIVOVARNA LAŠKO



RK Celje Pivovarna Laško were a remarkable absentee last season but the Slovenian champions are back in the Machineseecker EHF Champions League after one year.

The evergreen participants in the top European competition have gone through several changes and with a rejuvenated squad, they are hoping to prove themselves at the biggest stage in Europe.

Main facts:

- former player Alem Toskic took over in July 2021 and enters his first EHF Champions League season as Celje coach
- the rejuvenated team includes many players from the club's youth academy
- Celje welcomed a new club director, Miro Benicky from Tatran Presov, in the offseason
- the Slovenian club enters its 27th EHF Champions League season, after missing the 2021/22 season
- Celje raised the EHF Champions League trophy once, in the 2003/04 season

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 27

Winner (1): 2003/04

Semi-final (6): 1996/97, 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/2000, 2000/01, 2004/05

Quarter-final (2): 2001/02, 2005/06

Last 16 (5): 1995/96, 2006/07, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2019/20

Play-offs (1): 2020/21

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

Group Phase (8): 1993/94, 1994/95, 2010/11, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19

Qualification (1): 2009/10

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2009/10

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 2002/03, 2011/12

Slovenian league: 25 titles (1991-2001, 2003-08, 2010, 2014-20, 2022)

Slovenian cup: 21 times (1992-2001, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2012-18)



8

MATCHES**Longest unbeaten run**

44

GOALS**Most goals**

77

GOALS**Most goals both teams**

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	37:17 (16:9) v Redberglids IK SWE (h), 18.11.2000
Biggest defeat	45:21 (21:13) v Barça ESP (a), 21.09.2019
Longest winning run	6 matches (23.03.1997 – 24.01.1998)
	6 matches (25.03.2000 – 09.12.2000)
Longest unbeaten run	8 matches (31.10.2004 – 02.04.2005)
Longest losing run	10 matches (24.11.2019 – 14.10.2020)
Longest run without win	10 matches (25.11.2018 – 13.10.2019)
	10 matches (24.11.2019 – 14.10.2020)
Most goals	44 v HC 'Granitas-Karys' LTU 44:27W (h), 22.11.2008
Most goals opponent	45 v Barça ESP 45:21L (a), 21.09.2019
Most goals both teams	77 v FC Barcelona Borges ESP 44:33L (a), 09.10.2010
Fewest goals	17 v UHK West Wien AUT 18:17L (a), 06.04.1994
Fewest goals opponent	16 v SG Wallau-Massenheim GER 23:16W (h), 13.02.1994
	16 v Redberglids Göteborg SWE 31:16W (h), 14.11.1998
Fewest goals both teams	35 v UHK West Wien AUT 18:17L (a), 06.04.1994

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1993/94 Celje 'Pivovarna Lasko' SLO	6	2	0	4	120:116		+4	4:8	4th Gr. A
1996/97 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	7	1	2	254:213		+41	15:5	Semi-final
1997/98 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	8	0	2	268:234		+34	16:4	Semi-final
1998/99 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	7	1	2	290:245		+45	15:5	Semi-final
1999/00 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	7	0	3	294:250		+44	14:6	Semi-final
2000/01 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	6	1	3	292:254		+38	13:7	Semi-final
2001/02 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	8	6	0	2	232:217		+15	12:4	Quarter-final
2003/04 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	10	2	2	447:398		+49	22:6	Winner
2004/05 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	12	8	1	3	360:327		+33	17:7	Semi-final
2005/06 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	7	0	3	311:273		+38	14:6	Quarter-final
2006/07 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	8	6	0	2	272:237		+35	12:4	Last 16
2007/08 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	12	4	2	6	342:344		-2	10:14	4th MR Gr. 4
2008/09 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	4	0	6	296:287		+9	8:12	4th MR Gr. 2
2010/11 HC Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	3	0	7	300:332		-32	6:14	5th Gr. A
2012/13 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	12	5	0	7	305:324		-19	10:14	Last 16
2013/14 Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	12	5	1	6	322:327		-5	11:13	Last 16
2014/15 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	10	3	0	7	284:293		-9	6:14	5th Gr. C
2015/16 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	3	1	10	385:398		-13	7:21	7th Gr. A
2016/17 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	3	3	8	399:424		-25	9:19	7th Gr. B
2017/18 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	3	1	10	398:434		-36	7:21	7th Gr. B
2018/19 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	3	1	10	380:416		-36	7:21	8th Gr. B
2019/20 RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	14	3	0	11	355:429		-74	6:22	Last 16*
2020/21 RK Celje Pivovarna Laško SLO	16	4	0	12	419:481		-62	8:24	Play-offs
Total:	260	117	15	128	7325:7253		+72	249:271	

* Last 16 and Quarter-finals cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic



Alem Toskic

Coach

 @alemtoskic

- former Serbian international, who returned to Celje in 2021 as a coach, after having played for the club in 2007-13
- ended his playing career in 2019 at Csurgói KK and became head coach of the Hungarian club for two seasons
- was an experienced line player, who started his career in Fidelinka and also played for Partizan
- his first international experience as a player came at Zagreb in 2005; later he also played for Vardar and Velenje
- part of the Serbian team that won silver at EHF EURO 2012

EURO: S 2012 (as a player)

Arrivals:

Yassine Belkaied (Sporting Lisbon)
 Filip Rakita (Maribor - back from loan)
 Mitja Janc (Maribor - back from loan)
 Vukašin Antonijević (Metaloplastika Šabac)
 Amir Muhovic (Izvidac)
 Rados Premović (youth)

Departures:

Tilen Kodrin (VfL Gummersbach/GER)
 Stefan Terzić (Talent Plzen/CZE)
 Vid Poteko (Frisch Auf Göppingen/GER)
 Radojica Čepić (HSG Wetzlar/GER)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Nebojša	Bojic	BIH	Goalkeeper	30/12/1996	Doboj, BIH	194	100
2	Tilen	Strmljan	SLO	Centre Back	01/03/1996	Ljubljana, SLO	185	80
3	Radoš	Premovic	MNE	Left Back	06/09/2004	Berane, MNE	195	93
4	Žan	Korže Lesjak	SLO	Line Player	26/05/2005	Celje, SLO	185	87
5	Domen	Knez	SLO	Left Back	05/10/2001	Celje, SLO	199	93
6	Tadej	Mazej	SLO	Left Wing	31/07/1998	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	190	90
7	Gal	Marguc	SLO	Right Back	16/11/1996	Celje, SLO	197	80
10	Tim	Cokan	SLO	Right Wing	07/06/2001	Celje, SLO	191	81
17	Ante	Ivankovic	CRO	Left Back	15/08/2000	Zagreb, CRO	195	93
18	Mitja	Janc	SLO	Centre Back	05/04/2003	Brezice, SLO	182	86
23	Amir	Muhovic	BIH	Line Player	02/12/1999	Sarajevo, BIH	204	104
33	Stefan	Žabic	SLO	Line Player	17/02/1999	Celje, SLO	202	110
55	Žiga	Mlakar	SLO	Right Back	16/05/1990	Celje, SLO	193	100
61	Yassine	Belkaied	TUN	Goalkeeper	19/10/2000	Hammamet, TUN	197	95
66	Filip	Rakita	SLO	Left Wing	09/11/2001	Celje, SLO	185	80
C 88	Aleks	Vlah	SLO	Centre Back	22/07/1997	Izola, SLO	191	90
92	Patrik	Martinovic	CRO	Right Back	29/08/2000	Rijeka, CRO	188	91
95	Matic	Suholežnik	SLO	Line Player	02/05/1995	Celje, SLO	202	130
99	Gal	Gaberšek	SLO	Goalkeeper	23/08/2001	Trbovlje, SLO	200	95



Nebojsa Bojic

 @bo_jic

Goalkeeper

- 1996-born from Dobož, started his career in Sloga
- spent most of his career in Slovenia, Celje is his fourth club there
- previously played for Riko Ribnica, Slovenj Gradec and Slovan
- part of Bosnia and Herzegovina national team



Tadej Mazej

 @majeztadej

Left wing

- from Velenje, where he also started his handball career
- never left Slovenia, joined Celje in 2020, only his second club so far
- part of Slovenia national team, also played in younger categories
- will form duo with Filip Rakita



Ante Ivankovic

 @anteivankovic00

Left back

- Croatian international from Zagreb
- started his career at Dubrava Zagreb and joined Celje in 2021
- talented left back was part of Croatia's youth categories, also got invited to A national team
- had his first European season in 2018 with Dubrava in EHF Cup



Mitja Janc

 @mitja_janc

Centre back

- young talented centre back, started his career in Sevnica
- spent his youth in Celje, played for Maribor Branik before joining Celje again
- MVP and top scorer at the M19 EHF EURO 2021
- younger brother of CL winner Blaz Janc



Aleks Vlah


 @aleksvlah

Centre back

- joined Celje in 2021, the third club in his career
- started playing handball in Koper where he played until 2019 before transfer to Zagreb
- has 14 caps for Slovenia, was part of younger age categories
- became team captain instead of David Razgor, who is now assistant coach

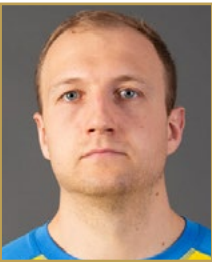


Matic Suholeznik


 @suholeznik_matic

Line player

- line player from Celje, where he started playing handball
- had his international breakthrough in Dunkerque and Benfica before returning to Celje in 2021
- plays for Slovenia national team
- had his first CL season in 2014

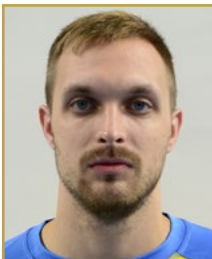


Ziga Mlakar

 @zmlakar

Right back

- Slovenian back who started playing handball at age 12; occasional member of Slovenia national team
- Wisla Plock was his first foreign club, also played for PPD Zagreb and Maribor Branik
- spent most of his career at Celje, where he returned in 2020
- one of the leading players of Slovenia's successful 1990 generation
- had his best CL season in 2015/16 with Celje, scoring 60 goals



Gal Marguc

 @galmarguc

Right wing

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



GROUP B



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Poland

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

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Hala Legionów
ul. Łaszka Drogosza 2
15-116 Kielce
Poland
Capacity: 4,200

LOMZA INDUSTRIA KIELCE

Lomza Industria Kielce enter the new season with the same ambition, to qualify for the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 tournament. The 2021/22 runner-ups already had a strong and well-balanced team, but with their reinforcements they are going to be a strong opponent for everyone in group B.

Main facts

- Kielce enter the 2022/23 season with new name: Lomza Industria Kielce
- this will be Kielce's 20th Champions League season, the Polish champions are in it for the 11th consecutive time
- they lost on penalties to Barca in the EHF FINAL4 2022 final
- Talant Dujshabaev enters his ninth CL season as head coach, accompanied by his sons, Alex (since 2017) and Daniel (since 2018)
- the biggest names among the arrivals are two French players, Nedim Remili and Benoit Kounkoud

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 20

Winners (1): 2015/16

Runners-up (1): 2021/22

Semi-finals (3): 2012/13, 2014/15, 2018/19

Quarter-finals (1): 2017/18

Play-offs (1): 2020/21

Last 16 (7): 1993/94, 1994/95, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2016/17, 2019/20*

Last 32 (2): 1996/97, 1998/99

Group Matches (3): 1999/2000, 2003/04, 2010/11

* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 1997/98, 2005/06

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals 1995/96

Polish league: 19 titles (1993-94, 1996, 1998-99, 2003, 2009-10, 2012-22)

Polish cup: 17 titles (1985, 2000, 2003-04, 2006, 2009-19, 2021)



18 MATCHES
Longest unbeaten run

41 GOALS
Most goals

78 GOALS
Most goals both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	41:17 (21:8) v Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER (h), 24.03.2018
Biggest defeat	30:41 (19:19) v Fotex KC Veszprém HUN (h), 15.11.2003 37:26 (19:10) v PSG Handball FRA (a), 23.02.2021
Longest winning run	11 matches (25.09.2014 – 15.03.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	18 matches (15.11.2015 – 15.10.2016)
Longest losing run	5 matches (13.02.2010 – 27.03.2010) 5 matches (19.02.2011 – 09.10.2011)
Longest run without win	6 matches (26.09.2010 – 27.11.2010)
Most goals	41 v Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 41:17W (h), 24.03.2018
Most goals opponent	42 v Barça Lassa ESP 36:42L (h), 24.11.2018
Most goals both teams	78 v Barça Lassa ESP 36:42L (h), 24.11.2018
Fewest goals	21 v HC Bosna BH Gas BIH 25:21L (a), 27.02.2010 21 v HC Metalurg MKD 21:20W (h), 24.11.2012
Fewest goals opponent	17 v Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER 41:17W (h), 24.03.2018
Fewest goals both teams	41 v HC Metalurg MKD 21:20W (h), 24.11.2012

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1999/00 KS Iskra-Lider Market POL	6	3	0	3	173:186	-13	6:6	3rd Gr. B	
2003/04 KS 'Vive' Kielce POL	6	2	1	3	159:177	-18	5:7	3rd Gr. G	
2009/10 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	5	1	6	345:344	+1	11:13	Last 16	
2010/11 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	10	1	2	7	276:300	-24	4:16	6th Gr. A	
2011/12 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	6	1	5	345:336	+9	13:11	Last 16	
2012/13 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	16	14	0	2	469:400	+69	28:4	Third Place	
2013/14 KS Vive Targi Kielce POL	12	7	1	4	362:331	+31	15:9	Last 16	
2014/15 KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL	16	14	0	2	483:439	+44	28:4	Third Place	
2015/16 KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL	20	14	4	2	614:577	+37	32:8	Winner	
2016/17 KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL	16	9	0	7	469:451	+18	18:14	Last 16	
2017/18 PGE Vive Kielce POL	18	8	3	7	555:524	+31	19:17	Quarter-final	
2018/19 PGE Vive Kielce POL	20	9	1	10	631:624	+7	19:21	Fourth Place	
2019/20 PGE VIVE Kielce POL	14	8	2	4	421:389	+32	18:10	Last 16*	
2020/21 Lomza Vive Kielce POL	16	10	1	5	498:472	+26	21:11	Play-offs	
2021/22 Lomza Vive Kielce POL	18	13	0	5	582:537	+45	26:10	Runner-up	
Total:	212	123	17	72	6382:6087	+295	263:161		

* Last 16 and Quarter-finals cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic



Talant Dujshbaev

Coach

- first person in men's handball to win the CL as a player (once, in 1994) and as a coach (four times)
- won many trophies during his playing career with three different national teams: CIS, Russia, and Spain
- voted IHF World Player of the Year twice, in 1994 and 1996
- enjoying successful coaching career spanning well over a decade, which saw him win the CL four times
- father of Alex and Daniel, who both play in Kielce as backs

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

Arrivals:

Nedim Remili (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)
 Benoit Kounkoud (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)
 Elliot Stenmalm (Redberglids IK/SWE)
 Szymon Wiaderny (KS Vive Kielce/POL)

Departures:

Uladzislau Kulesh (Hannover-Burgdorf/GER)
 Sigvaldi Gudjonsson (Kolstad Handball/NOR)
 Branko Vujović (Hannover-Burgdorf/GER – on loan)
 Faruk Yusuf (CB Granollers/ESP – on loan)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Mateusz	Kornecki	POL	Goalkeeper	05/06/1994	Skarzysko-Kamienna, POL	193	91
4	Miguel Sanchez-Migallon	Naranjo	ESP	Left Wing	08/02/1995	Ciudad Real, ESP	200	99
5	Michal	Olejniczak	POL	Left Back	31/01/2001	Gorzów, POL	195	97
6	Szymon	Wiaderny	POL	Left Wing	25/05/2003	Kielce, POL	189	79
7	Benoit	Kounkoud	FRA	Right Wing	19/02/1997	Le Chesnay, FRA	190	92
9	Szymon	Sicko	POL	Line Player	20/08/1997	Dabrowa Bialostocka, POL	200	100
C 10	Alex	Dujshebaev	ESP	Right Back	17/12/1992	Santander, ESP	188	94
11	Nicolas	Tournat	FRA	Line Player	05/04/1994	Niort, FRA	200	113
18	Igor	Karacic	CRO	Centre Back	02/11/1988	Mostar, BIH	191	90
23	Arkadiusz	Moryto	POL	Right Wing	31/08/1997	Kraków, POL	182	84
24	Daniel	Dujshebaev	ESP	Left Back	04/07/1997	Santander, ESP	197	106
25	Haukur	Thrastarson	ISL	Centre Back	14/04/2001	Sveitarfelagid, ISL	193	91
27	Cezary	Surgiel	POL	Left Wing	18/09/2002	Kielce, POL	188	79
29	Nedim	Remili	FRA	Right Back	18/07/1995	Créteil, FRA	196	100
30	Elliot	Stenmalm	SWE	Left Back	04/05/200	Skogslyckan, SWE	200	110
33	Andreas	Wolff	GER	Goalkeeper	03/03/1991	Euskirchen, GER	198	117
33	Pawel	Paczkowski	POL	Right Back	14/06/1993	Swiecie, POL	195	98
41	Damian	Domagala	POL	Back	30/12/2002	Zawiecie, POL	196	94
48	Tomasz	Gebala	POL	Left Back	23/11/1995	Gdynia, POL	212	124
50	Artsem	Karalek	BLR	Line Player	20/02/1996	Grodno, BLR	197	110
99	Dylan	Nahi	FRA	Left Wing	30/11/1999	Paris, FRA	192	103



Andreas Wolff

 @andi_jo_wo

Goalkeeper

- joined Kielce as his first foreign club in summer of 2019, arriving from THW Kiel
- started his career at Wetzlar before moving to Kiel in 2016
- named German handball player of the year in 2015 and 2016
- excelled during Germany's golden EHF EURO 2016 in Poland with over 50% save rate in final against Spain, was named All-star goalkeeper of the event
- besides playing handball, he studies international management

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2019
EURO: G 2016; OG: B 2016



Dylan Nahi

 @dylan_nahi99

Left wing

- joined Kielce in summer of 2021 from PSG, following his breakthrough season in the CL – scoring 67 goals for the French club and making the CL All-star Team
- third-best scorer for Kielce, with 73 goals, in his first CL season with the Polish side
- made debut in PSG's senior team at age 15 in August 2015; became youngest player ever at EHF FINAL4 – in 2017, when he was 17 years and 185 days old



Szymon Sicko

 @szymon_sicko

Left back

- Polish international, signed by Kielce in 2017; played on loan for Hüttenberg (GER) and Zabrze (POL) before returning to Kielce in 2020
- scored 53 times for Kielce in CL 2021/22 season, his personal best in the CL
- a classical shooter, the successor of legendary left back Karol Bielecki
- Poland's second-best scorer at EHF EURO 2022, with 31 goals



Igor Karacic

 @igorkaracic

Centre back

- joined Kielce in summer of 2019, replacing fellow Croatian national team player Luka Cindric, after winning CL for second time with Vardar
- speedy and tough player, excelling in one-on-one situations but prefers giving assists over scoring himself
- born in Mostar, he plays for Croatian national team but brother Ivan plays for Bosnia and Herzegovina
- awarded MVP of EHF FINAL4 2019 and All-star centre back of EHF EURO 2020

EC trophies: CL 2017, 2019
EURO: S 2020, B 2016



Artsem Karalek

 @karalek_artsem

Line player

- joined Kielce in 2018 and has become a leading player through the years; awarded MVP of the EHF FINAL4 2022
- born in Grodno, started career at local side Kronon, moved to SKA Minsk in 2014
- joined Saint-Raphaël Var in France in 2016 and reached EHF Cup final in 2017/18
- developed from the country's biggest young talent into an experienced key player for Belarusian handball
- made his debut in Belarusian national team at age 17



Nicolas Tournat

 @nicolas_tournat

Line player

- arrived from HBC Nantes in summer of 2020 as successor of Julien Aguinalalde
- played (and lost) three European finals with Nantes: EHF Cup 2013, 2016; CL 2018
- was awarded best line player of French league in three straight years (2018-20)
- scored 850 goals for Nantes in six years (2014-20)

OG: G 2020; EURO: B 2018



Alex Dujshbaev

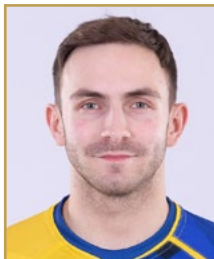
 @alexdujshebaev

Right back

- son of coach Talant Dujshbaev, joined Kielce at start of 2017/18 season and became CL top scorer the next season
- had four-year stay in Vardar, winning first CL trophy in club's history in 2017
- usually plays right back but sometimes used in the middle
- important player for Spain, helped team win back-to-back EHF EURO titles in 2018 and 2020

EC trophies: CL 2017

OG: B 2020; EURO: G 2018, 2020, S 2016; WCh: B 2021



Arkadiusz Moryto

 @arekmoryto

Right wing

- arrived at Kielce from Zagłębie Lubin in 2018, after becoming youngest top scorer of Polish league in 2017/18, was top scorer again in 2018/19 and 2019/20
- was Kielce's leading scorer in CL 2021/22 season with 79 goals, his personal best in the CL
- his role model was Ivan Cupic, who he replaced at Kielce in 2018
- has been part of Polish national team since WCh 2017; was top scorer of the team at the EHF EURO 2022 with 46 goals

GROUP B



Club contact

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thw-handball.de



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



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



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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

THW KIEL



Reaching the EHF FINAL4 is a traditional season goal for four-time winners and 2022 bronze medallists THW Kiel.

However, the club begins the 2022/23 season without star Sander Sagosen and defence boss Hendrik Pekeler, both sidelined through injury – Sagosen has been ruled out until at least December. The German side will need to use all their bench depth to succeed in a group including Barça and Kielce.

Main facts

- had two All-star Team members last season: goalkeeper Niklas Landin and best defender Hendrik Pekeler
- after two back-to-back Bundesliga victories in 2020 and 2021, were runners-up in 2022 to Magdeburg
- head coach Filip Jicha is now in his fourth season in charge – and is still the only person to win the EHF Champions League in Cologne as player and coach
- star centre back Sander Sagosen missed the EHF FINAL4 2022 after breaking his ankle. 2022/23 is set to be his last season at Kiel, and goalkeeper Niklas Landin will also leave next summer
- squad is bolstered by Tomas Mrkva (from Bergischer) and Eric Johansson (Elverum) among others

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 25
Winners (4): 2006/07, 2009/10, 2011/12, 2019/20
Final (4): 1999/2000, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2013/14
Semi-finals (6): 1996/97, 2000/01, 2012/13, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2021/22
Quarter-finals (8): 1998/99, 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2010/11, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2020/21
Group Phase (2): 1994/95, 1995/96

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 1997/98, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2018/19
Champions Trophy: Winners 2006/07; Runners-up: 2000/01, 2001/02, 2003/04, 2007/08

German league: 22 titles (1957, 1962-63, 1994-96, 1998-2000, 2002, 2005-10, 2012-15, 2020-21)

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



17 **MATCHES**
Longest unbeaten run

50 **GOALS**
Most goals

81 **GOALS**
Most goals both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	26:50 (13:24) v Banik OKD Karvina CZE (a), 22.10.2006
Biggest defeat	42:24 (22:10) v Paris SG Handball FRA (a), 12.03.2017
Longest winning run	11 matches (02.10.2014 – 22.03.2015)
Longest unbeaten run	17 matches (22.10.2011 – 11.10.2012)
Longest losing run	3 matches (07.02.1996 – 19.03.1996)
	3 matches (30.05.2015 – 17.09.2015)
	3 matches (30.04.2016 – 29.05.2016)
	3 matches (29.04.2017 – 24.09.2017)
	3 matches (19.11.2020 – 02.12.2020)
Longest run without win	5 matches (15.02.2017 – 22.03.2017)
Most goals	50 v Banik OKD Karvina CZE 26:50W (a), 22.10.2006
Most goals opponent	44 v FC Barcelona ESP 44:37L (a), 13.04.2008
Most goals both teams	81 v FC Barcelona ESP 44:37L (a), 13.04.2008
Fewest goals	13 v Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO 22:13L (a), 25.03.2000
Fewest goals opponent	15 v SKA Minsk BLR 15:27W (a), 10.11.1996
	15 v SKA Minsk BLR 21:15W (h), 12.01.1997
Fewest goals both teams	35 v Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO 22:13L (a), 25.03.2000

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
1994/95 THW Kiel GER	6	3	0	3	137:136	+1	6:6	2nd Gr. B	
1995/96 THW Kiel GER	6	3	0	3	151:148	+3	6:6	2nd Gr. A	
1996/97 THW Kiel GER	10	6	1	3	247:211	+36	13:7	Semi-final	
1998/99 THW Kiel GER	8	7	0	1	229:199	+30	14:2	Quarter-final	
1999/00 THW Kiel GER	12	7	1	4	319:283	+36	15:9	Runner-up	
2000/01 THW Kiel GER	10	5	1	4	279:255	+24	11:9	Semi-final	
2002/03 THW Kiel GER	8	4	1	3	234:211	+23	9:7	Quarter-final	
2004/05 THW Kiel GER	10	8	0	2	336:274	+62	16:4	Quarter-final	
2005/06 THW Kiel GER	10	8	0	2	346:293	+53	16:4	Quarter-final	
2006/07 THW Kiel GER	14	11	1	2	517:420	+97	23:5	Winner	
2007/08 THW Kiel GER	16	13	0	3	533:462	+71	26:6	Runner-up	
2008/09 THW Kiel GER	16	12	1	3	548:461	+87	25:7	Runner-up	
2009/10 THW Kiel GER	16	14	1	1	534:444	+90	29:3	Winner	
2010/11 THW Kiel GER	14	9	2	3	456:393	+63	20:8	Quarter-final	
2011/12 THW Kiel GER	16	12	3	1	496:414	+82	27:5	Winner	
2012/13 THW Kiel GER	16	11	0	5	518:457	+61	22:10	Fourth Place	
2013/14 THW Kiel GER	16	13	1	2	491:427	+64	27:5	Runner-up	
2014/15 THW Kiel GER	16	12	0	4	498:421	+77	24:8	Fourth Place	
2015/16 THW Kiel GER	20	10	1	9	579:567	+12	21:19	Fourth Place	
2016/17 THW Kiel GER	18	7	2	9	449:474	-25	16:20	Quarter-final	
2017/18 THW Kiel GER	18	9	2	7	478:467	+11	20:16	Quarter-final	
2019/20 THW Kiel GER	16	11	2	3	506:461	+45	24:8	Winner	
2020/21 THW Kiel GER	18	10	2	6	519:497	+22	22:14	Quarter-final	
2021/22 THW Kiel GER	18	12	2	4	557:526	+31	26:10	Third Place	
Total:	328	217	24	87	9957:8901	+1056	458:198		



Filip Jicha
Coach

 @filda39

- took over as head coach in 2019 after one season as assistant, becoming only the third THW head coach since 1993 – after Noka Serdarcusic (1993-2008) and Alfred Gislason (2008-19)
- led Kiel to the domestic title in his first season and was awarded best Bundesliga coach of 2019/20
- as a player, he was part of the golden generation in 2007-15
- twice CL top scorer, he ended his career in Barcelona in 2017
- first in handball to win the EHF FINAL4 as a player (2010, 2012) and a coach (2020), and third after Talant Dujshabaev and Roberto Parrondo to win the CL as a player and a coach

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

Arrivals:

Eric Johansson (Elverum Handball/NOR)
Karl Wallinius (Montpellier HB/FRA)
Petter Øverby (HC Erlangen/GER)
Tomas Mrkva (Bergischer HC/GER)
Henri Pabst (THW Kiel U19/GER)
Ben Connor Battermann (THW Kiel U19/GER)

Departures:

Dario Quenstedt (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf/GER)
Leon Ciudad (VfL Schwartau-Lübeck/GER)
Pavel Horak (Lovci Lovosice/CZE)
Bjarte Myrhol (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
C 1	Niklas	Landin Jacobsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	19/12/1988	Søborg, DEN	201	105
3	Sven	Ehrig	GER	Right Wing	26/06/2000	Kiel, GER	197	94
C 4	Domagoj	Duvnjak	CRO	Centre Back	01/06/1988	Dakovo, CRO	198	104
5	Sander	Sagosen	NOR	Centre Back	14/09/1995	Trondheim, NOR	195	103
6	Harald	Reinkind	NOR	Right Back	17/08/1992	Tønsberg, NOR	197	106
8	Ben Connor	Battermann	GER	Left Back	28/03/2004	Lemgo, GER	195	93
7	Magnus	Landin Jacobsen	DEN	Left Wing	20/08/1995	Helsingør, DEN	197	96
11	Petter	Øverby	NOR	Line Player	26/03/1992	Kongsvinger, NOR	200	110
12	Philip Hartwig	Saggau	GER	Goalkeeper	05/01/2002	Kiel, GER	190	99
13	Steffen	Weinhold	GER	Right Back	19/07/1986	Fürth, GER	191	103
16	Tomas	Mrkva	CZE	Goalkeeper	20/01/1989	Havirov, CZE	201	110
C 17	Patrick	Wienczek	GER	Line Player	22/03/1989	Duisburg, GER	200	113
18	Niclas	Ekberg	SWE	Right Wing	23/12/1988	Ystad, SWE	191	92
19	Henri	Pabst	GER	Right Back	09/02/2004	Hamburg, GER	190	88
21	Eric	Johansson	SWE	Left Back	28/06/2000	Eskilstuna, SWE	197	100
23	Rune	Dahmke	GER	Left Wing	10/04/1993	Kiel, GER	189	85
24	Miha	Zarabec	SLO	Centre Back	12/10/1991	Novo Mesto, SLO	178	79
49	Karl	Wallinius	SWE	Left Back	14/01/1999	Lund, SWE	199	103
53	Nikola	Bilyk	AUT	Left Back	28/11/1996	Tunis, TUN	198	102
61	Hendrik	Pekeler	GER	Line Player	02/07/1991	Itzehoe, GER	203	104

* THW Kiel use a three-man captaincy



Niklas Landin

@niklaslandin

Goalkeeper

- arrived in Kiel in summer of 2015 after three seasons with Rhein-Neckar Löwen; 2022/23 is his last season in Germany before going back to Denmark (Aalborg)
- won his first Bundesliga title in 2019/20
- captain of world-title winning Danish national team, has been named IHF World Player of the Year 2019 and again in 2021
- one of six players in handball history to win Olympics, WCh, EURO, and CL titles

EC trophies: CL 2020; EHF Cup 2013, 2019
OG: G 2016, S 2020; WCh: G 2019, 2021, S 2011, 2013; EURO: G 2012, S 2014, B 2022



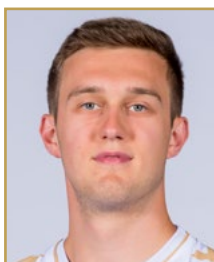
Magnus Landin

@magnuslandin

Left wing

- younger brother of goalkeeper Niklas Landin; joined THW and his brother at the start of the 2018/19 season
- tall wing (197 cm), who had debut in Danish national team at age 20; has played at three EHF EURO events (2018-20-22)
- previously played for KFUM Kobenhavn and KIF Kolding Kobenhavn

EC trophies: CL 2020, EHF Cup 2019
OG: S 2020; WCh: G 2019, 2021; EURO: B 2022



Nikola Bilyk

@nikolabilyk53

Left back

- born in Tunis, where his father Serhij was goalkeeper at Esperance; later, they played together at Vienna's Fivers club
- at 18, he was the youngest player at WCh 2015 in Qatar; joined Kiel the following year
- missed Kiel's triumphant EHF FINAL4 2020 with a knee injury, but did play at the 2022 edition
- was third-best scorer of EHF EURO 2020, with 46 goals in seven matches for Austria; when he was 23, he had already scored more than 300 goals for the national team

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2019



Domagoj Duvnjak

@domagojduvnjak88

Centre back

- Croatian international, playing for Kiel since 2014/15, after five seasons at Hamburg
- one of three THW team captains, alongside Niklas Landin and Patrick Wiencsek
- IHF World Player of the Year 2013 and MVP of EHF EURO 2020, All-star Team member at EHF EURO 2014 and WCh 2013 and 2017
- has more than 200 caps for Croatia and over 1,200 goals in the Bundesliga

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



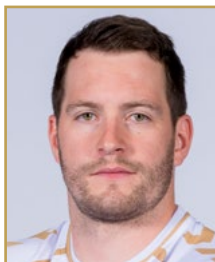
Patrick Wiencek

 @patrickwiencek

Line player

- the boss of the THW defence and one of the three team captains
- joined THW in 2012, previously played for Essen and Gummersbach
- named German handball player of the year in 2019
- missed Germany's golden EHF EURO 2016 due to a knee injury
- forms line player quartet in national team with Hendrik Pekeler, Jannik Kohlbacher and Johannes Golla

EC trophies: CL 2020; EHF Cup 2019; CWC 2011
OG: B 2016



Miha Zarabec

Centre back

- Slovenian international, who joined Kiel in 2017 after three seasons with Celje
- son of a former handball player, who is now working as a coach
- a classical playmaker with strengths in one-against-one situations
- was one of the key players for Slovenia on their way to bronze at the WCh 2017

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2008, 2013
WCh: S 2017, 2019



Harald Reinkind

 @haraldreinkind

Right back

- Norwegian back, who arrived in Germany in 2014 from FyllingenBergen
- first played for Rhein-Neckar Löwen until he joined Kiel in 2018, sharing right-back position with Steffen Weinhold
- three-time German champion, with Löwen (2016, 2017) and Kiel (2020)
- Norwegian international since 2011, won WCh 2019 silver and EHF EURO 2020 bronze

EC trophies: CL 2020; EHF Cup 2019
WCh: S 2017; EURO: B 2020



Niclas Ekberg

 @ekbergniclas18

Right wing

- joined Kiel after 2012 Olympics, where he was silver medallist and top scorer; previously played for AG København and started his career at Ystad
- MVP of EHF Cup Finals 2019 and Kiel's best scorer that EHF Cup season
- CL top scorer with 85 goals and All-star right wing in Kiel's golden 2019/20 season
- Swedish international, part of the team that won the EHF EURO 2022; played in all EHF EURO tournaments since 2012, apart from 2020
- became Kiel's all-time top scorer during 2021/22 season, overtaking Filip Jicha

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

GROUP B



Club contact

Club Address

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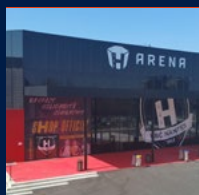
Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
GK shirt: yellow, blue or green

Dark

Player shirt: grey
Player short: grey
GK shirt: yellow, blue or green



Playing hall

H ARENA
Palais des Sports de
Beaulieu
7-9 rue André Tardieu
44200 Nantes, France
Capacity: 5,400

HBC NANTES



When HBC Nantes last played in the Machineseeker EHF Champions League, they lost to Barça and Paris Saint-Germain HB at the EHF FINAL4 Men 2021. But being among the last four in Europe's biggest club competition was already an achievement for Nantes, as this was their second qualification for the EHF FINAL4, after 2018.

In a group featuring the last two EHF Champions League winners, and with a team that has been rejuvenated a lot since 2021, Nantes are aiming one of the positive surprise stories of the season again.

Main facts:

- this is Nantes' fifth season in the EHF Champions League, and their first season dates back to 2016/17
- the French side reached the EHF FINAL4 twice, in 2018 and 2021, and even made the final in 2018
- last season, they reached the EHF European League Men quarter-finals, where they lost to SC Magdeburg
- the squad has undergone some important changes this summer, with Emil Nielsen, Dragan Pechmalbec and David Balaguer leaving the club and Kiril Lazarov retiring
- summer signings include goalkeepers Ivan Pesic and Viktor Hallgrímsson, as well as right back Jorge Maqueda

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 5
Runners-up (1): 2017/18
Semi-finals (1): 2020/21
Quarter-finals (1): 2018/19
Last 16 (1): 2016/17

Other

EHF European League: Quarter-finals 2021/22
EHF Cup: Runners-up 2012/13, 2015/16; Quarter-finals 2013/14
French Cup: 1 title (2017)
French League Cup: 2 titles (2015, 2022)
Trophee des Champions: 1 title (2017)



7 **MATCHES**
Longest
unbeaten run

38 **GOALS**
Most goals

69 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	33:19 (16:9) v Besiktas Mogaz HT TUR (h), 01.10.20168
Biggest defeat	35:27 (15:13) v Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA (a), 01.04.2017 27:35 (15:18) v Barça ESP (h), 01.10.2020 32:24 (16:9) v Aalborg Håndbold (a), 14.10.2020
Longest winning run	7 matches (14.10.2017 – 10.02.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	7 matches (14.10.2017 – 10.02.2018) 7 matches (25.02.2018 – 26.05.2018)
Longest losing run	3 matches (27.05.2018 – 23.09.2018) 3 matches (24.04.2019 – 16.09.2020) 3 matches (09.12.2020 – 04.02.2021) 3 matches (20.05.2021 – 13.06.2021)
Longest run without win	5 matches (18.11.2018 – 07.02.2019)
Most goals	38 v RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO 38:27W (h), 14.10.2018 38 v Aalborg Håndbold DEN 38:29W (h), 10.02.2021
Most goals opponent	35 v Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA 35:27L (a), 01.04.2017 35 v Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA 35:34L (a), 06.10.2018 35 v Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA 31:35L (h), 07.02.2019 35 v Barça ESP 27:35L (h), 01.10.2020
Most goals both teams	69 v Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA 35:34L (a), 06.10.2018
Fewest goals	22 v HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO 23:22L (a), 17.02.2018
Fewest goals opponent	19 v Besiktas Mogaz HT TUR 33:19W (h), 01.10.2016
Fewest goals both teams	43 v HC PPD Zagreb CRO 23:20W (h), 03.11.2018

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2016/17 HBC Nantes FRA	14	10	2	2	433:387		+46	22:6	Last 16
2017/18 HBC Nantes FRA	20	12	4	4	581:548		+33	28:12	Runner-up
2018/19 HBC Nantes FRA	18	6	4	8	534:530		+4	16:20	Quarter-final
2020/21 HBC Nantes FRA	20	7	2	11	562:556		+6	16:24	Fourth Place
Total:	210	122	17	71	6310:6015		+295	261:159	



Grégory Cojean
Coach

- took over from Alberto Entrerrios as head coach in 2022, having worked for the club in various capacities since 2005
- started, as a 27-year-old, as coach of the reserve team
- has been on the bench of the A team in 2009, assisting first Thierry Anti (until 2019), then Entrerrios
- has had huge impact on the youth development programme of Nantes, which helped talents emerge like Dragan Pechmalbec, Thibaud Briet, and Theo Monar

Arrivals:

Jorge Maqueda (Telekom Veszprém HC/HUN)
Kauldi Odriozola (Bisasa Irun/ESP)
Viktor Hallgrímsson (GOG/DEN)
Ivan Pesic (HC Meshkov Brest/BLR)
Jérémy Toto (HC Vardar 1961/MKD)

Departures:

Emil Nielsen (Barça/ESP)
Milan Milic (HC PPD Zagreb/CRO)
Dragan Pechmalbec (Telekom Veszprém HC/HUN)
Mickael Robin (St Raphael Var/FRA)
David Balaguer (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)
Kiril Lazarov (retired)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Ivan	Pesic	CRO	Goalkeeper	17/03/1989	Rijeka, CRO	194	110
2	Ruben	Marchan Criado	ESP	Line Player	20/09/1994	Manzanares, ESP	202	110
3	Thibaud	Briet	FRA	Left Back	14/12/1999	Rouen, FRA	205	95
4	Aymeric	Minne	FRA	Centre Back	20/04/1997	Melun, FRA	186	85
5	Lucas	De la Breteche	FRA	Centre Back	19/11/2001	Saint-Nazaire, FRA	193	85
6	Linus	Persson	SWE	Right Back	16/04/1993	Helsingborg, SWE	191	95
C 7	Valero	Rivera Folch	ESP	Left Wing	22/02/1985	Barcelona, ESP	185	83
8	Alexandre	Cavalcanti	POR	Left Back	27/12/1996	Almada, POR	201	105
9	Alexander	Shkurinskiy	RUS	Left Back	11/04/1995	Krasnodar, RUS	190	78
10	Rok	Ovnicsek	SLO	Centre Back	29/01/1995	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	185	88
11	Baptiste	Damatrin-Bertrand	FRA	Left Wing	29/04/2000	Saint Maurice, FRA	177	91
12	Andreas	Hofmann	FRA	Goalkeeper	29/06/2001	Marseille, FRA	185	87
14	Pedro	Portela	POR	Right Wing	06/01/1990	Leiria, POR	186	85
15	Jorge	Maqueda Peno	ESP	Right Back	06/02/1988	Toledo, ESP	197	102
16	Viktor	Hallgrímsson	ISL	Goalkeeper	24/07/2000	Reykjavik, ISL	203	115
17	Jérémy	Toto	FRA	Line Player	15/08/1992	Courbevoie, FRA	197	106
18	Théo	Monar	FRA	Line Player	06/06/2001	Fort-de-France, FRA	200	112
19	Kauldi	Odriozola Yeregui	ESP	Right Wing	07/01/1997	Zumaia, ESP	183	80
20	Salomon	Nassequela	COD	Right Back	15/01/2004	Kinshasa, COD	183	71
22	Alban	Simonnet	FRA	Centre Back	04/01/2004	Orléans, FRA	191	84
23	Enzo	Handjou Tchuilieu	FRA	Line Player	27/01/2002	Paris, FRA	195	111
24	Ernest	Pineau	FRA	Right Back	30/01/2003	Rochefort, FRA	198	84
25	Sebastian	Vellenoweth	GBR	Left Back	10/03/2002	Pembury, GBR	195	92
26	Pierre-Alexis	Favril	FRA	Left Wing	15/10/2004	Dreux, FRA	186	75
27	Mathis	Beauchef	FRA	Right Wing	26/02/2001	Mont-Saint-Aignan, FRA	183	78
28	Tchambou	Wenkegheu	FRA	Line Player	01/01/2004	Paris, FRA	197	95



Viktor Hallgrímsson

 @viktorhallgrimsson

Goalkeeper

- joined from Fram Reykjavik in the summer of 2019, moved to Nantes in 2022
- debuted in the Icelandic national team by 19 and he made a name for himself at the Junior (U21) World Championship 2019
- continued building his name at EHF EURO 2020, ranking among the top penalty savers with seven stops at 44 per cent
- a fast and very talented goalkeeper with fine reactions



Ivan Pesic

 @ivanpesic17

Goalkeeper

- joined TVB Stuttgart from Meshkov Brest in November 2021 before moving to Nantes in 2022
- had a kidney removed after being stabbed in 2009 night club incident, in which Veszprém teammate Marian Cozma was killed
- practised taekwondo successfully in his childhood
- has 58 caps for Croatia since his debut in 2008, but did not feature in the squad for EHF EURO 2020
- won gold at the U18 EHF EURO in 2006



Valero Rivera

 @valerorivera

Left wing

- CL winner and world champion, who returned to Nantes from Barcelona in summer of 2018, after earlier spell with the French club in 2010-16
- elected as All-star left wing of the CL 2020/21
- top scorer of EHF EURO 2016, with 48 goals, and best left wing of WCh 2015
- his father, Valero Rivera sr., has been coach of Barcelona, Spain and Qatar
- married to former handball player Marion Anti, daughter of previous Nantes coach Thierry Anti

EC trophies: CL 2005; EHF Cup 2003
EURO: G 2018, S 2016, B 2014; WCh: G 2013; OG: B 2020



Thibaud Briet

left back

- born in 1999, he made his debut with Nantes' A team aged only 18
- played his first competition with France at the EHF EURO 2022
- confesses to "still be amazed when playing against players that I watched on TV not so long ago"



Aymeric Minne

 @aymericminne

Centre back

- talented back, who signed for Nantes in summer of 2019 after four seasons in Aix
- initially an offensive player, but has made huge progress as a defender as well
- scored a personal best 54 goals in the CL 2020/21, including eight in Nantes' crucial 34:31 away win at Kielce in the play-offs in April 2021
- made national team debut for France in EHF EURO qualifier against Greece in April 2021



Theo Monar

 @mnr.theo17

Line player

- the latest of the players to sign a first professional contract with Nantes, at only 19
- made his first national team appearance in the EHF EURO qualifiers in April 2021
- seen as the natural successor for Nicolas Tournat, another line player brought up in the club



Jorge Maqueda

 @maqueda15

Right back

- world-class defender, who came back in Nantes in 2022
- previously played for Barça, Alcobendas, Aragon, Nantes, Vardar and Veszprem
- first played in France from 2012 to 2015, playing the EHF Cup final for the first time in the club's history in 2015
- won world title in 2013 and EHF EURO in 2020 with Spain
- won the EHF Champions League final with Vardar in 2017

EC trophies: CL 2017
EURO: G 2020, S 2016, 2022, B 2014; OG: B 2020; WCh: G 2013, B 2011



Kauldi Odriozola

 @kauldi4

Right wing

- started playing handball at his local club in Zumaya, Pulpo KE
- signed for Bidasoa Irun in 2016, when the club was promoted to the ASOBAL League, before moving to Nantes in 2022
- won gold with Spain M17 EHF Championship 2016 Junior WCh 2017
- made national team debut for Spain in an EHF EURO 2018 qualifier in 2017
- awarded best right wing in the Asobal 2017/18 and 2018/19 and the best rookie of the Spanish league in 2017

GROUP B



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



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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

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

ELVERUM HANDBALL



Elverum Handball are ready to start their ninth straight season in the Machineseeker EHF Champions League. After making it out of the group phase in both 2020/21 and 2021/22, the Norwegian side have their eyes set on yet another appearance in the knockout phase for the upcoming season.

In order to keep their dreams of a play-off spot – or even more – alive, Elverum will have to advance from a very strong group B.

Main facts:

- this is Elverum's eighth consecutive season in the EHF Champions League
- they won the Norwegian league for the sixth time last season, defeating ØIF Arendal in the final
- several key players have left the team, including Dominik Mathe (PSG) and Eric Johansson (Kiel) who both joined title contenders
- the side will focus on some of the best Scandinavian talents, who joined this summer
- Elverum will face the likes of titleholders Barça, 2020 champions THW Kiel, and 2022 finalists Lomza Industria Kielce

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 9

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

Group Phase (5): 2015/16, 2016/2017, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20

Qualification (1): 2013/14

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 2010/11

EHF Cup: Group Phase 2012/13

Norwegian league: 6 titles (2013, 2017, 2018, 2020-22)

Norwegian play-off: 11 titles

Norwegian Cup: 4 titles (2019-22)



4 **MATCHES**
Longest
winning run

40 **GOALS**
Most goals

77 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	37:26 (21:13) v RK Celje Pivovarna L. SLO (h), 01.12.2019
Biggest defeat	39:19 (20:10) v Barca ESP (a), 05.04.2021
Longest winning run	4 matches (30.09.2018 – 03.11.2018)
Longest unbeaten run	4 matches (30.09.2018 – 03.11.2018)
	4 matches (29.09.2021 – 28.10.2021)
Longest losing run	8 matches (17.11.2021 – 09.03.2022)
Longest run without win	10 matches (01.12.2018 – 24.11.2019)
	10 matches (18.02.2021 – 29.09.2021)
	10 matches (17.11.2021 – 30.03.2022)
Most goals	40 v Dinamo Bucuresti ROU 40:32W (h), 08.10.2017
Most goals opponent	44 v PSG Handball FRA 29:44L (h), 02.03.2021
Most goals both teams	77 vs THW Kiel GER 41:36L (a), 22.09.2021
Fewest goals	17 v HC Metalurg MKD 18:17L (a), 24.09.2016
Fewest goals opponent	18 v HC Metalurg MKD 18:17L (a), 24.09.2016
Fewest goals both teams	35 v HC Metalurg MKD 18:17L (a), 24.09.2016

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2015/16 Elverum Handball Herrer NOR	10	3	1	6	274:289	-15	7:13	5th Gr. D	
2016/17 Elverum Handball NOR	10	3	2	5	257:274	-17	8:12	5th Gr. C	
2017/18 Elverum Handball NOR	10	5	0	5	287:304	-17	10:10	4th Gr. C	
2018/19 Elverum Handball NOR	10	6	1	3	278:272	+6	13:7	3rd Gr. D	
2019/20 Elverum Handball NOR	14	1	1	12	365:419	-54	3:25	8th Gr. A	
2020/21 Elverum Handball NOR	16	2	1	13	431:533	-102	5:27	Play-offs	
2021/22 Elverum Handball NOR	16	3	3	10	477:516	-39	9:23	Play-offs	
Total:	86	23	9	54	2369:2607	-238	55:117		



Børge Lund
Coach

 @louboega

- Norwegian former centre back, who took over from Michael Apelgren as Elverum coach in the summer of 2020
- Elverum is his first job as head coach after working for four years as an assistant with the Norwegian national team
- spent most of his playing career in Germany, competing for teams like THW Kiel, Rhein-Neckar Löwen and Füchse Berlin
- won CL with Kiel at inaugural EHF FINAL4 in 2010
- played more than 200 matches and scored 390 goals for Norway between 2000 and 2014

EC trophies: CL 2010 (as player)

Arrivals:

Uros Borzas (Fenix Toulouse/FRA)
Daniel Blomgren (Alingsås HK/SWE)
Kassem Awad (HK Malmö/SWE)
Benjamin Berg (Fjellhammer IL/NOR)
Patrick Helland Anderson (Follo HK/NOR)
Håvar Hildre Skare (Storhamar/NOR)
Jacob Moen (Elverum youth/NOR)
Simon Mizera (HC Robe Zubri/CZE)

Departures:

Brede Dahl (Fold HK/NOR)
Simen Holand Pettersen (Skjern Håndbold/DEN)
Thorsten Fries (Fredricia HK/DEN)
Dominik Mathe (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)
Eric Johansson (THW Kiel/GER)
Erlend Stafset (Nøtterøy/NOR)
Thomas Solstad (BSH/DEN)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
2	Daniel	Blomgren	SWE	Left Back	23/06/1997	Eskilstuna, SWE	193	104
3	Josip	Vidovic	CRO	Centre Back	21/05/1990	Metkovic, CRO	192	87
4	Christopher	Hedberg	SWE	Right Wing	08/08/1992	Skövde, SWE	190	88
5	Kristian	Hübert Larsen	NOR	Line Player	22/03/2000	Sandefjord, NOR	199	103
6	Stig-Tore	Moen Nilsen	NOR	Right Back	09/08/1994	Alta, NOR	193	91
7	Kasper	Thorsen Lien	NOR	Right Wing	15/04/2001	Fredrikstad, NOR	191	90
9	Patrick Helland	Anderson	NOR	Right Back	08/12/2004	Ski, NOR	193	80
11	Kassem	Awad	SWE	Line Player	19/03/1995	Nyköping, SWE	196	109
12	Emil Kheri	Imsgard	NOR	Goalkeeper	06/03/1998	Hamar, NOR	197	105
13	Uros	Borzas	SRB	Left Back	28/07/1999	Senta, SRB	198	101
14	Niclas	Fingren	SWE	Left Back	19/11/1995	Kungsbacka, SWE	197	105
15	Tobias Schjølberg	Grøndahl	NOR	Centre Back	22/01/2001	Bærum, NOR	183	85
16	Hildre	Skare Håvar	NOR	Goalkeeper	18/09/2003	Brummendal, NOR	187	73
17	Orri Freyr	Þorkelsson	ISL	Left Wing	25/06/1999	Reykjavik, ISL	185	88
18	Andreas Horst	Haugsgeng	NOR	Back	18/08/1998	Stavanger, NOR	193	101
C 20	Endre	Langaas	NOR	Line Player	05/10/1991	Trondheim, NOR	185	100
33	Sindre	Heldal	NOR	Left Wing	10/02/1999	Bergen, NOR	183	83
45	Benjamin	Berg	NOR	Right Back	16/03/2003	Lillestrøm, NOR	198	95
71	Šimon	Mizera	CZE	Goalkeeper	29/12/2000	Valasske Mezirci, CZE	190	90

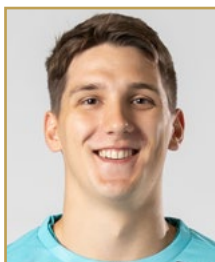


Emil Kheiri Imsgard

 @kherio

Goalkeeper

- has played all of his professional career in Elverum
- this season will be his seventh in the Champions League, after playing his first season in the competition only aged 16
- has to step into the spotlight this season as former number 1 Thorsten Fries moved back to Denmark last summer



Šimon Mizera

 @simon_miz

Goalkeeper

- young Czech goalkeeping prospect joined in the summer of 2022 from Robe Zubri
- up until his move to Norway never played for a foreign club
- already at the age of 18 made a debut in the senior national team in a friendly match vs Slovakia in 2019
- as of September 2022 he had 13 caps including three matches at the EHF EURO 2022 in Bratislava

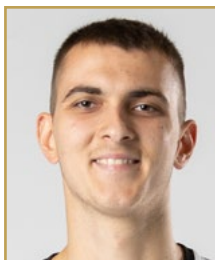


Sindre Heldal

 @sindreheldal

Left wing

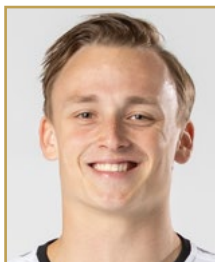
- young Norwegian player, who arrived from Naerbo Idrettslag in the summer of 2021
- scored 63 goals for his first Champions League season in 2021/22
- managed to take the pressure under his stride when it came to replacing Alexander Blonz last season




Uros Borzas

Left back

- moved to Elverum in 2022 after playing for two seasons for French side Toulouse
- 2022/23 will be his first experience in the CL after playing the EL many times with former sides
- scored a career-high 36 goals last season in the European League, when Toulouse reached the quarter-finals

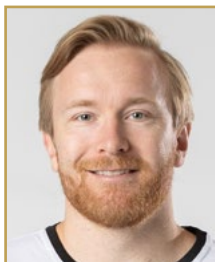


Tobias Grøndahl

 @tobias_grondahl

Centre back

- the Norwegian playmaker is one of the revelations of the 2021/22 season as he shot to the upper echelons of the top scorer ranking
- in his third season in Europe, he claims to have “cracked the code on how to find my teammates in open spaces whilst still being a threat myself”
- became Elverum’s first-choice playmaker at the age of 20
- has appeared at senior level for Norway but yet to be called up for a major championship



Endre Langaas

Line player

- starting his fifth season in Elverum, having joined the club in 2018
- 2020/21 was his best season in the Champions League so far, with 37 goals scored
- his performances have allowed to play a few stints with the Norwegian national team, though he has yet to make his debut in a major competition



Stig-Tore Moen

 @gitsmoen

Right back

- moved back to Norway in 2021 after leaving Bodo in 2016
- played for Kristianstad from 2016 to 2019 and in GOG from 2019 to 2021
- his career high in the Champions League dates back to 2018/19, when he scored 65 for Kristianstad



Christopher Hedberg

 @christopherhed

Right wing

- Swedish wing who joined Elverum in 2020 from Skövde
- scored 21 goals for Elverum in the Champions League in 2020/21, his first season in the competition and his best one so far
- Elverum is his first foreign club, after four seasons with Skövde (2016-20) and four with HK Aaranäs (2012-16)

GROUP B



Club contact

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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



Playing hall

Sparekassen Danmark
Arena
Willy Brandts Vej 31
9220 Aalborg Ost
Denmark
Capacity: 5,020

AALBORG HÅNDBOLD



Three-time IHF World Player of the Year Mikkel Hansen returning home to Denmark to play for Aalborg Håndbold after 10 years in Paris is the top transfer of 2022 in international handball.

His new club hopes that Hansen's skills and experience will help them make the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2023 in Cologne. But in the Machineseeker EHF Champions League group phase, Aalborg will face three participants from the EHF FINAL4 Men 2022 – Barça, Lomza Industria Kielce and THW Kiel – in group B.

Main facts:

- after reaching the EHF FINAL4 Men in 2021, Aalborg lost to Telekom Veszprém in the quarter-finals last season
- Aalborg were runners-up in the Danish league 2021/22, after GOG defeated them in the final
- this will be Aalborg's eighth participation; their best performance came in 2021, when they lost in the final to Barça
- the club signed Danish superstar Mikkel Hansen for this season and have already announced the arrival of Niklas Landin for 2023

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2022/23 season): 8
Final (1): 2020/21
Quarter-final (1): 2021/22
Last 16 (2): 2013/14, 2019/20*
Group Phase (3): 2010/11, 2014/15, 2017/18
* 2019/20 Last 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-final 2003/04, Group Phase 2015/16
Challenge Cup: Round 4 2002/03

Danish league: 6 titles (2010, 2013, 2017, 2019-21)
Danish cup: 2 titles (2019, 2022)



7 **MATCHES**
Longest
winning run

38 **GOALS**
Most goals

79 **GOALS**
Most goals
both teams

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CLUB RECORDS

Biggest win	37:23 (17:7) v HK DROTT Halmstad SWE (h), 24.11.2013
Biggest defeat	11:31 (5:16) v FC Barcelona ESP (h), 15.03.2015
Longest winning run	7 matches (24.11.2021 – 09.03.2022)
Longest unbeaten run	7 matches (24.11.2021 – 09.03.2022)
Longest losing run	6 matches (01.12.2013 – 29.03.2014)
Longest run without win	9 matches (16.11.2014 – 16.09.2017)
Most goals	38 v HC Motor UKR 38:29W (h), 23.09.2020
	38 v HC PPD Zagreb CRO 38:29W (h), 18.02.2021
Most goals opponent	44 v Barça ESP 44:35L (a), 16.11.2019
Most goals both teams	79 v Barça ESP 44:35L (a), 16.11.2019
Fewest goals	11 v FC Barcelona ESP 11:31L (h), 15.03.2015
Fewest goals opponent	20 v HC PPD Zagreb CRO 30:20W (h), 22.09.2019
Fewest goals both teams	42 v FC Barcelona ESP 11:31L (h), 15.03.2015

I EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE HISTORY

	MP	W	T	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS	Stage
2010/11 AaB Handball DEN	10	2	2	6	311:339	-28	6:14	6th Gr. C	
2013/14 Aalborg Handball DEN	12	4	0	8	317:325	-8	8:16	Last 16	
2014/15 Aalborg Handball DEN	12	2	3	7	289:329	-40	7:17	Last 16	
2017/18 Aalborg Handbold DEN	14	2	1	11	364:405	-41	5:23	8th Gr. B	
2019/20 Aalborg Handbold DEN	14	7	1	6	416:420	-4	15:13	Last 16*	
2020/21 Aalborg Handbold DEN	20	10	0	10	566:590	-24	20:20	Runner-up	
2021/22 Aalborg Håndbold DEN	16	12	0	4	519:481	+38	24:8	Quarter-final	
Total:	98	39	7	52	2782:2889	-107	85:111		

* Last 16 and Quarter-finals cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic



Stefan Madsen

Coach

- promoted from assistant to head coach at Aalborg Håndbold in summer of 2018
- previously worked with women's team of HC Leipzig in German Bundesliga
- combined his job at Aalborg with coaching Danish national under-21 team but stepped down from that job in May 2020, after extending his contract with Aalborg to 2023
- generally calm, analytic and communicative coach

Arrivals:

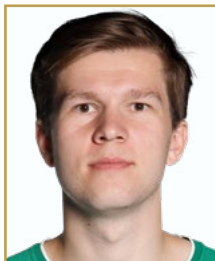
Andreas Flodman (KIF Kolding/DEN)
 Mads Hoxer (Mors-Thy Håndbold/DEN)
 Christian Termansen (Aalborg youth/DEN)
 Mikkel Hansen (Paris Saint-Germain HB/FRA)

Departures:

Nikolaj Læsø (FC Porto/POR)
 Jonas Samuelsson (IF Skövde/SWE)
 Valdemar Hermansen (HC Midtjylland/DEN)

I TEAM ROSTER

No.	First name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of birth	Place of birth	Height	Weight
1	Simon	Gade	DEN	Goalkeeper	03/01/1997	Holstebro, DEN	194	96
2	Benjamin	Jakobsen	DEN	Line Player	09/09/1991	Hamburg, GER	191	115
3	Victor	Kristensen Thomadsen	DEN	Left Back	07/03/2003	Aalborg, DEN	189	90
4	Aron	Pálmarrsson	ISL	Centre Back	19/07/1990	Reykjavik, ISL	193	101
5	Victor	Kløve	DEN	Left Back	27/06/2002	Brønderslev, DEN	197	99
6	Sebastian	Barthold	NOR	Left Wing	27/08/1991	Oslo, NOR	185	89
7	Felix	Claar	SWE	Centre Back	05/01/1997	Vrinnevi, SWE	192	98
8	Jesper	Nielsen	SWE	Line Player	30/09/1989	St. Johannes, SWE	200	111
9	Sebastian	Henneberg	DEN	Left Back	18/02/1994	Viborg, DEN	197	101
11	Lukas	Sandell	SWE	Right Back	03/02/1997	Reslöv, SWE	193	89
12	Nichlas Kristian	Ludvigsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	14/10/2003	Rebild, DEN	195	100
13	Noah Juul	Lykke	DEN	Right Wing	19/09/2003	Aalborg, DEN	180	80
14	Mads	Hoxer Hangaard	DEN	Right Back	06/12/2000	Thisted, DEN	196	97
16	Mikael	Aggefors	SWE	Goalkeeper	20/01/1985	Tumba, SWE	191	92
17	Martin	Larsen	DEN	Right Back	19/09/1992	Aalborg, DEN	194	96
18	Frederik Møller	Christoffersen	DEN	Centre Back	06/09/2003	Aalborg, DEN	198	100
19	Kristian	Bjørnsen	NOR	Right Wing	10/01/1989	Stavanger, NOR	191	86
20	Andreas	Flodman	SWE	Right Wing	14/03/1993	Eskilstuna, SWE	183	86
21	Henrik	Møllgaard Jensen	DEN	Centre Back	02/01/1985	Esbjerg, DEN	196	101
C 22	Rene	Antonsen	DEN	Line Player	04/03/1992	Vesthimmerland, DEN	196	106
23	Buster	Juul	DEN	Left Wing	31/03/1993	Slagelse, DEN	200	96
24	Mikkel	Hansen	DEN	Left Back	22/10/1987	Helsingør, DEN	196	102
25	Marinus Grandahl	Munk	DEN	Left Back	22/04/2003	Aalborg, DEN	200	87
26	Christian	Termansen	DEN	Right Back	17/06/2003	Frederikshavn, DEN	195	81
27	Mikkel	Ladefoged	DEN	Left Wing	11/05/2003	Aalborg, DEN	183	85
28	Mikkel	Stouby	DEN	Left Wing	12/05/2003	Copenhagen, DEN	182	82
29	Marcus	Kløve	DEN	Line Player	24/08/2004	Brønderslev, DEN	189	95



Simon Gade

@simon.gade

Goalkeeper

- joined Aalborg from TTH in the summer of 2020
- had been with TTH for almost whole career, except for few seasons on loan at neighbouring clubs
- tall goalkeeper with fine reach, good reactions and strong ability for reading shots
- shares the position with Swedish WCh 2021 silver medallist Mikael Aggefors



Sebastian Barthold

@sbarthold

Left wing

- has only played for two teams in his whole career: Haslum (NOR), for seven seasons, and Aalborg since 2017
- scored over 60 goals in each of the last two EHF CL seasons, but has never played in a major tournament for Norway
- is the brother in law of teammate Kristjan Bjørnsen, after marrying his sister, Line, this summer
- made national team debut for Norway in 2012, but recently become first choice after EHF EURO 2020 All-star left wing Magnus Jøndal retired



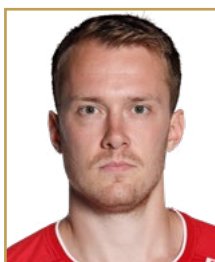
Henrik Møllgaard

@henrikmlgrd

Left back

- joined from PSG in 2018 but played in Aalborg before, from 2009 to 2012
- has also represented two other Danish top clubs, KIF Kolding and Skjern Handbold
- a regular in the Danish national team, where he plays entirely in the defence, while he plays at both ends of the court in Aalborg
- well into his 30s, he is still a huge asset in defence as well as attack

OG: G 2016; WCh: G 2019, 2021, S 2013; EURO: S 2014, B 2022



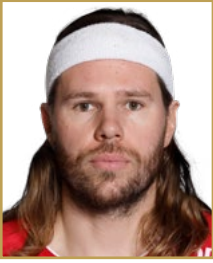
Felix Claar

@felixclaar

Centre back

- arrived in Aalborg in summer of 2020 from Alingsas HK in his native Sweden
- was crucial in Aalborg's 2020/21 quarter-final win over Flensburg, scoring 14 times
- spent seven years at Alingsas, winning Swedish league in 2014 and named MVP of the league in 2018/19 and 2019/20 seasons
- made national team debut in 2017

WCh: S 2021; EURO: G 2022



Mikkel Hansen

 @mikkelhansen24


Line player

- returns to Denmark after 10 years in Paris
- was ruled out by a long-term injury since March
- played EHF FINAL4 five times (Barça, København and PSG three times) but is yet to lift the trophy
- son of former Danish international Flemming, having grown into a top player at GOG
- holds record for most CL goals in one season: 141 in 2015/16

EURO: G 2012, S 2014; OG: G 2016, S 2020; WCh: G 2019, 2021, S 2011, S 2013



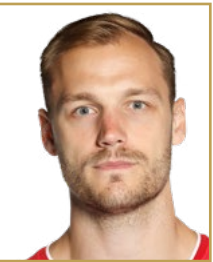
Aron Palmársson

 @aronpalm

Centre back

- arrived in Aalborg in summer of 2021 after four years at Barça and winning the CL 2020/21 with the Spanish side
- previously played two seasons at Veszprém (2015-17) and six at Kiel (2011-17)
- versatile, tactically and technically skilled Icelander who set a record with his ninth EHF FINAL4 participation in June 2021
- MVP of the EHF FINAL4 in 2014 and again in 2016

CL: 2010, 2012, 2021 EURO: B 2010



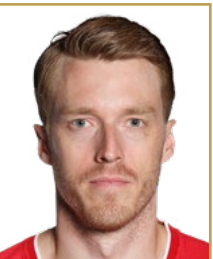
Lukas Sandell

 @lukassandell

Right back

- Swedish back, who arrived in Aalborg in summer of 2020 after two seasons with another Scandinavian CL team, Elverum in Norway
- second best Aalborg scorer, with 66 goals, in CL 2020/21 season, when the team reached the final
- previously played for Ystads IF, where he learned a lot from legendary Kim Andersson
- has a great variety of shots and plenty of speed

WCh: S 2021; EURO: G 2022



Kristian Bjørnsen

 @kbjornsen89

Right wing

- started career at FyllingenBergen (NOR) and represented IFK Kristianstad (SWE) before joining HSG Wetzlar in Germany and then Aalborg Håndbold
- a tall, experienced and efficient wing, is the tenth all-time goal scorer for Norway, with over 550 goals
- has been first choice on right wing in national team for numerous years
- his younger sister, Line, was also a top-level handball player

WCh: S 2017, 2019; EURO: B 2020

I IMPORTANT REGULATIONS – NO AWAY GOALS RULE

Away goals not among the criteria to decide the ranking anymore

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 shall be played in 2 x 30 minutes with a half-time break of 15 minutes.

The matches shall be scored as follows:

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

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

GROUP PHASE

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

During the group phase:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PLAY-OFF AND QUARTER-FINAL MATCHES

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

- a) goal difference
- b) penalty throws

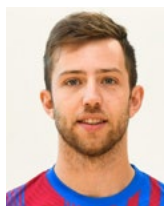
RULES FOR EXECUTION OF PENALTY THROWS

- Only players (incl. goalkeepers) who are listed on the match report and are not suspended or disqualified at the end of the playing time are entitled to participate at the penalty throws.
- Prior to the penalty throws, each team shall name five players by handing the referees a list of numbers. These players shall then take one throw each until a decision (a winner) is reached, alternating with their opponents. Each team is free to determine the sequence in which throwers will take their throws.
- The goalkeepers may be freely selected from the match report and exchanged in accordance with the Rules of the Game. Goalkeepers may take throws and throwers may perform as goalkeepers.
- The referees shall choose the goal at which throws are taken. The team taking the first penalty throw shall be determined by the referees by drawing lots. The team winning the draw may choose whether it wishes to throw first or last.
- If the scores are equal after the first round of penalty throws, it shall be continued until a decision is reached. In the second round, the other team shall start. Again, five players shall be named who are eligible to play (the players named before may be named once again).
- In the second round, a decision (a winner) is reached when a goal difference arises after both teams have taken one throw each.
- Serious infractions committed during penalty throws shall be sanctioned by disqualification. If a thrower is disqualified or suffers an injury, an eligible substitute player shall be supplementary named.
- While the throws are being taken, only the player taking the throw, the current goalkeeper and the referees may enter the respective half of the playing court.
- If the number of eligible players falls below five, players may be named to take a second throw in the same round.



HISTORY AND FUTURE

I 2021/22 TOP SCORERS



104 goals

Aleix Gomez
Barça

	Player	Club	Gls
1	Aleix Gómez (ESP)	Barça (ESP)	104
2	Dika Mem (FRA)	Barça (ESP)	100
3	Petar Nenadic (SRB)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	93
4	Felix Claar (SWE)	Aalborg Håndbold (DEN)	88
	Gasper Marguc (SLO)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	88
6	Kamil Syprzak (POL)	Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)	86
7	Yahia Omar (EGY)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	83
8	Tobias Grøndahl (NOR)	Elverum Handball (NOR)	81
	Hampus Wanne (SWE)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	81
10	Arkadiusz Moryto (POL)	Lomza Vive Kielce (POL)	79
11	Raul Nantes (BRA)	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti (ROU)	78
12	Ivan Cupic (CRO)	HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)	75
	Timur Dibirow (RUS)	HC Vardar 1961 (MKD)	75
	Alex Dujšhebaev (ESP)	Lomza Vive Kielce (POL)	75
	Mikkel Hansen (DEN)	Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)	75
	Eric Johansson (SWE)	Elverum Handball (NOR)	75
	Manuel Strlek (CRO)	Telekom Veszprém HC (HUN)	75
18	Kristian Bjørnsen (NOR)	Aalborg Håndbold (DEN)	73
	Hugo Descat (FRA)	Montpellier HB (FRA)	73
	Niclas Ekberg (SWE)	THW Kiel (GER)	73
	Dylan Nahi (FRA)	Lomza Vive Kielce (POL)	73

ALL-STAR TEAM 2021/22



PREVIOUS ALL-STAR TEAMS OVERVIEW

S	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
GK	Darko Stanic (Metalurg)	Niklas Landin (RNL)	Roland Mikler (Veszprém)	Niklas Landin (Kiel)	Gonzalo Perez de Vargas (Barcelona)	Arpad Sterbik (Vardar)	Dejan Milosavljev (Vardar)	Niklas Landin (Kiel)	Niklas Landin (Kiel)
LW	Anders Eggert (Flensburg)	Timur Dibirov (Vardar)	Uwe Gensheimer (RNL)	Manuel Strlek (Kielce)	Uwe Gensheimer (PSG)	Uwe Gensheimer (PSG)	Timur Dibirov (Vardar)	Manuel Strlek (Veszprém)	Valero Rivera (Nantes)
LB	Filip Jicha (Kiel)	Momir Ilic (Veszprém)	Nikola Karabatic (Barcelona)	Dean Ilic (Veszprém)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)	Sander Sagosen (PSG)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)	Sander Sagosen (PSG)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)
CB	Daniel Narcisse (Kiel)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)	Dean Bombac (Szeged)	Nikola Karabatic (PSG)	Nikola Karabatic (PSG)	Nikola Mahe (Veszprém)	Mikkel Hansen (PSG)	Luka Cindric (Barça)
LP	Julen Aguinagalde (Atletico)	Renato Sulic (Veszprém)	Renato Sulic (Veszprém)	Rastko Stojkovic (Brest)	Ludovic Fabregas (Montpellier)	Bjarte Myrhol (Skjern)	Julen Aguinagalde (Kielce)	Bence Banhidi (Szeged)	Ludovic Fabregas (Barça)
RB	Laszlo Nagy (Veszprém)	Kiril Lazarov (Barcelona)	Kiril Lazarov (Barcelona)	Kiril Lazarov (Barcelona)	Alex Dujšebaev (Vardar)	Dika Mem (Barcelona)	Dainis Kristopans (Vardar)	Alex Dujšebaev (Kielce)	Dika Mem (Barça)
RW	Ivan Cupic (Kielce)	Luc Abalo (PSG)	Victor Tomas (Barcelona)	Gasper Marguc (Veszprém)	Victor Tomas (Barcelona)	David Balaguer (Nantes)	Ivan Cupic (Vardar)	Niclas Ekberg (Kiel)	Aleix Gomez (Barça)
< 23	N/A	N/A	Alex Dujšebaev (Vardar)	Darko Djukic (Besiktas)	Nedim Remili (PSG)	Romain Lagarde (Nantes)	Ludovic Fabregas (Barça)	Aleix Gomez (Barça)	Dylan Nahi (PSG)
DEF	Timuzsin Schuch (Veszprém)	Timuzsin Schuh (Veszprém)	Rene Toft Hansen (Kiel)	Timuzsin Schuh (Veszprém)	Luka Karabatic (PSG)	Luka Karabatic (PSG)	Blaz Blagotinsek (Veszprém)	Blaz Blagotinsek (Veszprém)	Henrik Møllgaard (Aalborg)
C	N/A	N/A	Talant Dujšebaev (Kielce)	Xavier Sabate (Veszprém)	Raul Gonzalez (Vardar)	Patrice Canayer (Montpellier)	Roberto Parrondo (Vardar)	David Davis (Veszprém)	Alberto Entrerrios (Nantes)

I PAST WINNERS

Year	Club	Nation
2022	Barça	ESP
2021	Barça	ESP
2020	THW Kiel	GER
2019	HC Vardar	MKD
2018	Montpellier HB	FRA
2017	HC Vardar	MKD
2016	Vive Tauron Kielce	POL
2015	FC Barcelona	ESP
2014	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	GER
2013	HSV Hamburg	GER
2012	THW Kiel	GER
2011	FC Barcelona Borges	ESP
2010	THW Kiel	GER
2009	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2008	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2007	THW Kiel	GER
2006	BM Ciudad Real	ESP
2005	FC Barcelona-Cifec	ESP
2004	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško	SLO
2003	Montpellier HB	FRA
2002	SC Magdeburg	GER
2001	Portland San Antonio	ESP
2000	FC Barcelona	ESP
1999	FC Barcelona	ESP
1998	FC Barcelona	ESP
1997	FC Barcelona	ESP
1996	FC Barcelona	ESP
1995	Elgorriaga Bidasoa	ESP
1994	TEKA Santander	ESP

I ALL-TIME CLUB STANDINGS 1993–2022

TR	Name of the club	MP	W	D	L	GF:FA	GD	P	NP	%
1	Barça ESP	350	267	22	61	10949:9154	+1795	556:144	(26)	79,43%
2	THW Kiel GER	328	217	24	87	9957:8901	+1056	458:198	(25)	69,82%
3	Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	332	220	18	94	9791:8843	+948	458:206	(27)	68,98%
4	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	252	146	21	85	7250:6828	+422	313:191	(17)	62,10%
5	Montpellier HB FRA	250	136	19	95	7184:6878	+306	291:209	(21)	58,20%
6	HC PPD Zagreb CRO	316	124	33	159	8154:8361	-207	281:351	(29)	44,20%
7	Lomza Vive Kielce POL	212	123	17	72	6382:6087	+295	263:161	(16)	62,03%
8	RK Celje Pivovarna Laško SLO	260	117	15	128	7325:7253	+72	249:271	(24)	47,88%
9	Pick Szeged HUN	232	112	20	100	6410:6350	+60	244:220	(20)	52,59%
10	Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	168	111	12	45	5081:4608	+473	234:102	(12)	69,64%
11	BM Atletico Madrid ESP	144	111	5	28	4502:3803	+699	227:61	(10)	78,82%
12	HC Vardar 1961 MKD	188	83	21	84	5144:5241	-97	187:189	(15)	49,73%
13	Chekhovskie medvedi RUS	176	75	18	83	5250:5200	+50	168:184	(18)	47,73%
14	Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	134	72	17	45	3971:3774	+197	161:107	(9)	60,08%
15	HSV Hamburg GER	98	68	9	21	3088:2670	+418	145:51	(7)	73,98%
16	Portland San Antonio ESP	100	64	6	30	2929:2594	+335	134:66	(9)	67,00%
17	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP	122	61	8	53	3440:3386	+54	130:114	(12)	53,28%
18	KIF Kolding København DEN	118	54	9	55	3330:3361	-31	117:119	(12)	49,58%
19	HC Motor UKR	120	48	11	61	3394:3511	-117	107:133	(9)	44,58%
20	Orlen Wisła Płock POL	136	44	11	81	3594:3833	-239	99:173	(14)	36,40%
21	HC Meshkov Brest BLR	142	40	14	88	3842:4134	-292	94:190	(12)	33,10%
22	Aalborg Håndbold DEN	98	39	7	52	2782:2889	-107	85:111	(8)	43,37%
23	HBC Nantes FRA	72	35	12	25	2110:2021	+89	82:62	(5)	56,94%
24	HC Metalurg MKD	102	35	6	61	2516:2718	-202	76:128	(10)	37,26%
28	GOG DEN	72	27	6	39	2075:2134	-59	60:84	(10)	41,67%
29	FC Porto POR	66	25	9	32	1785:1843	-58	59:73	(6)	44,70%
30	CS Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	64	25	5	34	1835:1930	-95	55:73	(7)	42,97%
31	Elverum Handball NOR	86	23	9	54	2369:2607	-238	55:117	(8)	31,98%
34	SC Magdeburg GER	40	24	3	13	1166:1077	+89	51:29	(5)	63,75%

I ALL-TIME STATS 1993–2020

31

HSV Hamburg GER @ Fyllingen
Handball NOR 17:48 (10:25) 14.11.2009

Biggest wins

- 29 ZTR Zaporozhye UKR @ AS Conversano 2003 ITA 12:41 (5:19), 29.11.2003
- 26 Montpellier HB FRA vs AC PAOK GRE 46:20 (26:9), 04.10.2009
- 26 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP @ HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 17:43 (9:21), 19.11.2011

26

Montpellier HB FRA vs AC PAOK GRE
46:20 (26:9), 04.10.2009

Biggest home wins

- 25 FC Barcelona ESP vs Hapoel Rishon Le Zion ISR 42:17 (18:10), 15.11.1997
- 25 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI vs HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 43:18 (23:8), 09.02.2012

31

HSV Hamburg GER @ Fyllingen Handball
NOR 17:48 (10:25), 14.11.2009

Biggest away wins

- 29 ZTR Zaporozhye UKR @ AS Conversano 2003 ITA 12:41 (5:19), 29.11.2003
- 26 FC Barcelona Intersport ESP @ HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 17:43 (9:21), 19.11.2011

18

RK Zagreb CRO vs Pelister Bitola MKD
37:13 (23:5), 16.10.2005

Biggest lead at half-time

- 17 Montpellier HB FRA vs AC PAOK GRE 46:20 (26:9), 04.10.2009
- 15 KIF Kolding Elite A/S DEN vs Wisla Plock SA POL 35:18 (19:4), 07.10.2006
- 15 MKB Veszprém KC HUN vs HC Bosna BH Gas BIH 35:18 (22:7), 14.11.2009
- 15 HSV Hamburg GER @ Fyllingen Handball NOR 17:48 (10:25), 14.11.2009
- 15 Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI vs HC Bosna BH Gas Sarajevo BIH 43:18 (23:8), 09.02.2012

50

THW Kiel GER @ HC Banik OKD Karvina
CZE 26:50 (13:24), 22.10.2006

Most goals

- 48 HSV Hamburg GER @ Fyllingen Handball NOR 17:48 (10:25), 14.11.2009
- 47 THW Kiel GER vs CS HCM Constanta ROU 47:31 (24:18), 12.11.2006
- 47 Telekom Veszprém HC HUN v C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti ROU 47:32W (h), 02.12.2021

82

FC Barcelona Borges ESP vs KIF Kolding
DEN 46:36 (23:19), 17.10.2009

Most goals both teams

- 81 FC Barcelona ESP vs THW Kiel GER 44:37 (19:20), 13.04.2008
- 80 FC Barcelona ESP vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 39:41 (17:18, 32:32, 36:36), 31.05.2014 (after penalty throws)

11

Aalborg Handball DEN vs FC Barcelona
ESP 11:31 (5:16), 15.03.2015

Fewest goals

- 12 AS Conversano 2003 ITA vs ZTR Zaporozhye UKR 12:41 (5:19), 29.11.2003
- 12 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD vs FC Barcelona ESP 12:26 (8:15), 06.11.2004

32

SG Wallau-Massenheim GER vs UHK West
Wien AUT 17:15 (7:6), 20.03.1994

Fewest goals both teams

- 32 Fotex KC Veszprém HUN vs Panellinios AC Athens GRE 19:13 (9:7), 17.11.2002
- 33 Panellinios AC Athens GRE vs Fotex KC Veszprém HUN 16:17 (8:9), 30.11.2002

-9

KS Vive Tauron Kielce POL @ HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR 27:28 (19:10), 18.02.2015

Biggest deficit overcome after losing first half to win a game

- 7 HC Vardar MKD @ Barça Lassa ESP 27:29 (16:9), 01.06.2019
- 6 FC Porto Sofarma POR vs HC Meshkov Brest BLR 27:25 (9:15), 14.09.2019

-6

FC Barcelona ESP @ GOG Gudme DEN 22:22 (16:10), 14.02.1996

Biggest deficit overcome after losing first half to draw a game

- 6 HC Croatia Osiguranje-Zagreb CRO vs HC Vardar PRO – Skopje MKD 28:28 (10:16), 07.10.2007
- 6 Pevafersa Valladolid ESP vs Pick Szeged HUN 35:35 (13:19), 27.02.2010
- 6 Naturhouse La Rioja ESP vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER 32:32 (13:19), 19.10.2013
- 6 Orlen Wisla Plock POL @ THW Kiel GER 24:24 (15:9), 03.12.2016
- 6 Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER vs FC Barcelona Lassa ESP 31:31 (12:18), 17.09.2017
- 6 HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR vs HC Metalurg MKD 28:28 (12:18), 08.10.2017

26

Kolding KIF DEN vs RK Partizan Belgrad SCG – 2nd half 42:26 (16:13), 12.10.

Most goals in one half

- 26 Montpellier HB FRA vs AS Conversano 2003 ITA – 2nd half 44:25 (18:14), 10.10.2004
- 26 MKB Veszprém KC HUN vs MSK SIRS Povazska Bystrica SVK – 2nd half 46:26 (20:14), 07.10.2006
- 26 GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN vs HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE – 2nd half 45:32 (19:15), 15.10.2006
- 26 THW Kiel GER @ HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE – 2nd half 26:50 (13:24), 22.10.2006

45

PGE Vive Kielce POL vs Barça Lassa ESP – 2nd half 36:42 (15:18), 24.11.2018

Most goals in one half both teams

- 44 Sportclub Magdeburg GER vs Wisla Plock SSA POL – 2nd half 40:32 (17:11), 16.11.2002
- 43 GOG Svendborg TGI Gudme DEN vs HC Banik OKD Karvina CZE – 2nd half 45:32 (19:15), 15.10.2006
- 43 Hammarby IF HB SWE vs THW Kiel GER – 1st half 36:40 (22:21), 08.11.2007

3

HC Metalurg MKD @ THW Kiel GER – 1st half 35:16 (17:3), 15.02.2015

Fewest goals in one half

- 4 Kolding IF DEN @ TEKA Santander ESP – 1st half 28:16 (16:4), 25.01.1995
- 4 Granitas Kaunas LTU vs ABC Braga POR – 1st half 16:22 (4:12), 10.11.1996
- 4 Schachtjor Donetsk UKR @ ABC Braga POR – 1st half 21:15 (11:4), 16.11.1996
- 4 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD vs FC Barcelona ESP – 2nd half 12:26 (8:15), 06.11.2004
- 4 Wisla Plock SA POL @ KIF Kolding Elite A/S DEN – 1st half 35:18 (19:4), 07.10.2006
- 4 RK Gorenje Velenje SLO vs Pick Szeged HUN – 1st half 17:29 (4:14), 03.10.2007
- 4 HC Vardar MKD vs THW Kiel GER – 1st half 20:31 (4:16), 12.10.2019
- 4 FC Porto POR @ Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA – 1st half 33:19 (18:4), 18.11.2021

13

SG Wallau-Massenheim vs UHK West Wien AUT – 1st half 17:15 (7:6), 20.03.1994

Fewest goals in one half both teams

- 14 Riihimäen Cocks FIN vs Abanca Ademar Leon ESP – 2nd half 19:19, (13:11), 12.09.2018
- 15 ABC Braga POR vs Schachtjor Donetsk UKR – 1st half 21:15 (11:4), 16.11.1996
- 15 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO vs Fotex KC Veszprém HUN – 2nd half 19:18 (14:8), 09.01.1999
- 15 Skjern Handball DEN vs ZTR Zaporozhye UKR – 2nd half 16:20 (9:12), 13.11.1999
- 15 Badel 1862 Zagreb CRO vs THW Kiel GER – 1st half 22:13 (8:7), 25.03.2000
- 15 RK Zagreb CRO vs Sandefjord TIF NOR – 1st half 22:15 (10:5), 12.10.2003
- 15 Vardar Vatrost. Skopje MKD vs FC Barcelona ESP – 2nd half 12:26 (8:15), 06.11.2004
- 15 Pick Szeged HUN vs Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO – 1st half 20:19 (8:7), 08.03.2008
- 15 HC Metalurg MKD vs Elverum Handball NOR – 1st half 18:17 (8:7), 24.09.2016

22

Barça
(21.09.2019 – 28.12.2020)

Longest winning run

- 20** BM Ciudad Real (23.10.2005 – 24.02.2007)
- 13** BM Ciudad Real (31.05.2009 – 03.04.2010)
- 12** FC Barcelona Intersport (24.04.2011 – 12.02.2012)
- 12** Telekom Veszprém HC (17.11.2018 – 01.06.2019)

22

Barça
(21.09.2019 – 28.12.2020)

Longest unbeaten run

- 20** BM Ciudad Real (23.10.2005 – 24.02.2007)
- 18** KS Vive Tauron Kielce (15.11.2015 – 15.10.2016)
- 17** THW Kiel (22.10.2011 – 11.10.2012)
- 16** FC Barcelona (24.01.1996 – 16.03.1997)

15

HC PPD Zagreb
(01.03.2020 – 04.03.2021)

Longest losing run

- 12** AS Conversano 2003 (11.10.2003 – 13.11.2004)
- 12** MSK SIRS Povazska Bystrica (12.10.2003 – 11.11.2006)
- 12** HC 'Granitas-Karys' (01.10.2005 – 22.11.2008)
- 12** RK Partizan (01.10.2011 – 07.10.2012)

20

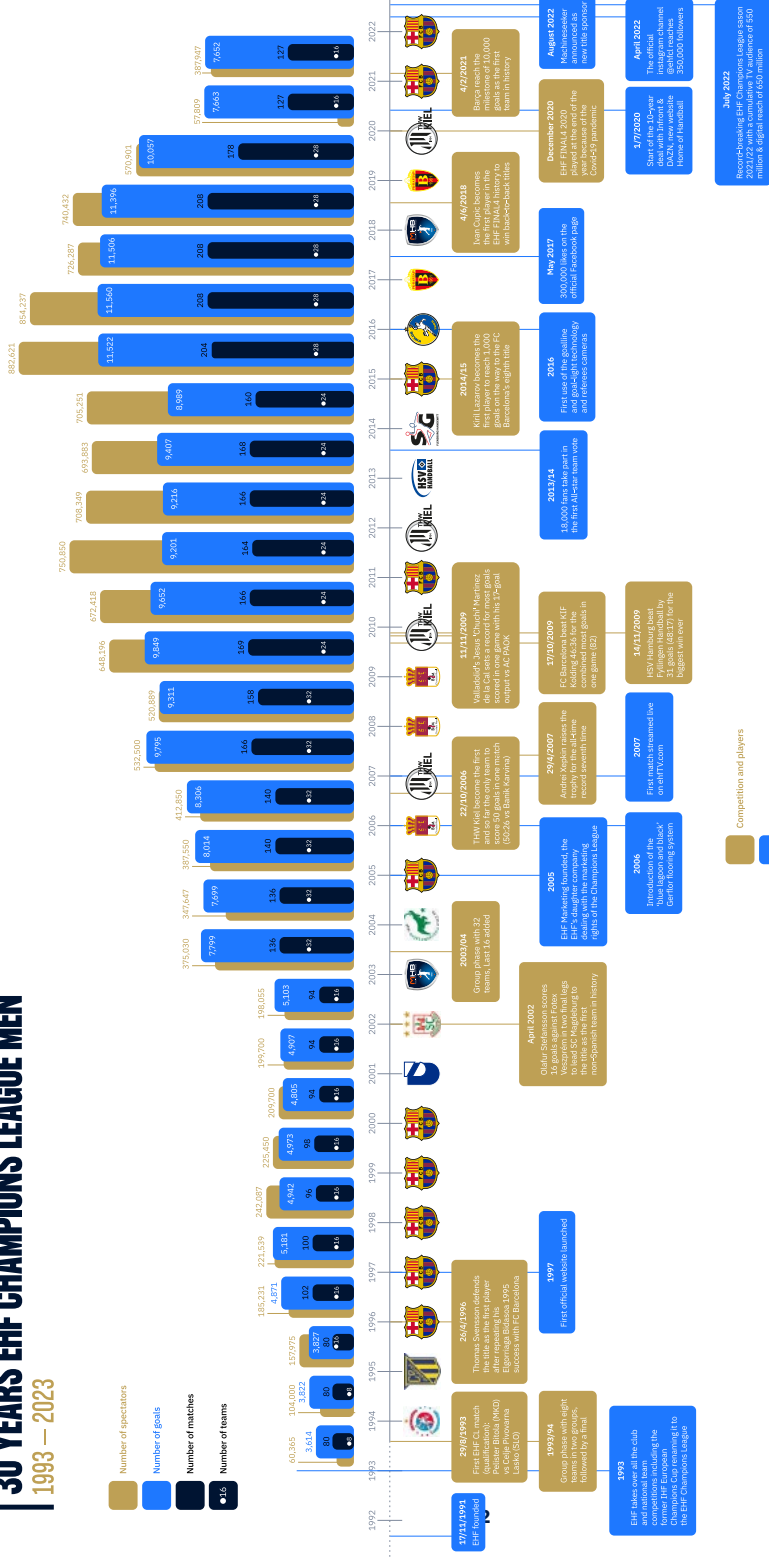
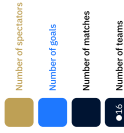
Wacker Thun
(21.09.2013 – 29.11.2018)

Longest run without a win

- 16** TATRAN Presov (16.11.2008 – 10.10.2015)
- 15** HC PPD Zagreb (01.03.2020 – 04.03.2021)
- 13** Orlen Wisla Plock (25.11.2015 – 19.10.2016)
- 12** HC Motor (03.03.2019 – 20.11.2019)

30 YEARS EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

1993 — 2023



Competition and players
marketing, TV, media, organisation

19/11/1991 EHF founded

29/01/1993 First EHF Cup match between Borussia Dortmund and FC Barcelona

1993/94 Group phase with eight teams in two groups (fourteen 0-0 in the

1993 EHF launches the club and national team competitions including the Champions Cup (renaming it to the EHF Champions League)

26/04/1996 The club's stadium rebrands after reporting his first success with FC Barcelona

1997 First official website launched

April 2002 Oskar Stefansson scores to lead SK Høvelteung to non-Spanish team in history

2000/04 Group phase with 32 teams (16 in 2 groups)

2005 EHF Marketing founded the EHF's daughter company rights of the Champions League

2006 Club's first stadium one blue lappon and black Berlin flooring system

22/10/2006 Remy Riexen hits the first score 40 goals in one match (SC2A vs Bank Sarasin)

20/04/2007 Andriy Mykhailenko scores the first trophy for the team

2007 Club's first stadium one on a TV screen

11/11/2009 Veljko Pašić becomes the first player to score in one game with the 17-goal output vs AC Fleck

17/10/2009 FC Barcelona beat RIF Aodhán 4-2 in the first all-star team vote one game (2)

10/11/2009 105 goals scored by EHF player (Mehdi Ben Barka) in one game

2013/14 18,000 fans take part in the first all-star team vote

2014/15 First use of the goal-line and goal-technology and referee camera

4/6/2018 Ivan Čupić becomes EHF FIMA's history win back-to-back titles

4/7/2021 Barça reach the 1000 goals as the first team in history

December 2020 EHF FIMA 2020 played at the end of the Covid-19 pandemic

August 2022 Kati Hänninen announced as the first woman to sponsor

1/7/2020 The club's first Instagram channel with 3,000+ & 250,000 followers

April 2022 The club's first Instagram channel with 3,000+ & 250,000 followers

July 2022 Record-breaking EHF Champions League season 2021/22 with a cumulative TV audience of 500 million & eight years of Guinness

I HISTORY: 29 YEARS OF EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

1993/94

Final: ABC Braga vs TEKA Santander

22:22/21:23 (43:45)

The inaugural year of the Men's EHF Champions League saw the classic home and away knockout matches being replaced with a totally new system: 32 teams in two qualification rounds, eliminating 24 clubs. The remaining eight teams were placed into two groups of four. TEKA Santander and ABC Braga topped their respective groups and faced each other in the final. Santander narrowly kept the upper hand and started what should become an eight-year Spanish club winning streak in the Men's EHF Champions League.

1994/95

Final: Elgorriaga Bidasoa Irun vs Badel Zagreb

30:20 / 26:27 (56:47)

The final of the EHF Champions League's second season became the match of a lifetime for Irun's Nenad Perunicic, nicknamed "the canon" or "Il Conquistadore" by the fans. He was his team's key player in the final and, in his first year in Spain, not only he lifted the EHF Champions League but also the national championship trophy with Irun.

1995/96

Final: FC Barcelona vs Elgorriaga Bidasoa Irun

23:15 / 23:23 (46:38)

In the season that was marked by the "Bosman decision", which had substantial effects on transfer regulations and transfer fees in sport, FC Barcelona won their first EHF Champions League title. No other should be capable of dethroning the Catalan side for the next four years.

1996/97

Final: FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb

31:22 / 30:23 (61:45)

In their second consecutive EHF Champions League Final Barcelona dominated both matches against Badel Zagreb. And while the Spanish side celebrated their second EHF Champions League triumph, the Croatian side had lost their second final. Also in 1996/97 the so called "fast break" was born due to a rule change, making handball more attractive and athletic than ever before.

1997/98

Final: FC Barcelona vs Badel Zagreb

28:18 / 28:22 (56:40)

Barcelona beat Zagreb once more to win their third consecutive EHF Champions League title. But at least as much news as the repeated triumph made the wedding of Barcelona player Inaki Urdangarin who married Christina, youngest daughter of Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, on 4th October 1997.

1998/99

Final: Badel Zagreb vs FC Barcelona

22:22 / 18:29 (40:51)

Once again there were tears in Zagreb and joy in Barcelona. The Spanish team beat Zagreb in their third consecutive final and lifted the EHF Champions League trophy for the fourth time in a row. Zagreb's coach Velimir Klajic had to admit that Barcelona "at this moment in time, were quite simply the best club team in the world."

1999/00

Final: THW Kiel – FC Barcelona

28:25 / 24:29 (52:54)

THW Kiel became the first German team to make it into the Final but even a 28:25-victory in the final's first leg was not enough to end Barcelona's EHF Champions League winning streak. Backed by half of the Spanish national team and international stars like Christian Schwarzer and Tomas Svensson, Barcelona won their fifth title.

2000/01

**Final: Portland San Antonio – FC Barcelona
30:24 / 22:25 (52:49)**

For Barcelona it was a whole new feeling to watch another team celebrating at the end of the Champions League Final. Following five consecutive titles an era came to an end when Spanish King Juan Carlos handed the huge trophy to Portland San Antonio at the end of all-Spanish Final.

2001/02

**Final: Fotex Veszprem vs SC Magdeburg
23:21 / 25:30 (48:51)**

One year after Barcelona's dominance had ended in the EHF Champions League, the dominance of Spanish clubs also came to an end, when SC Magdeburg became the first German team to win the competition. And late at night, at the end of a glittering party, Stefan Kretzschmar and coach Alfred Gislason were still up for jokes: "Training is on the agenda. The entire team is going to run through the whole town until 08:00 tomorrow morning," they said.

2002/03

**Final: Portland San Antonio – Montpellier HB
27:19 / 19:31 (46:50)**

A new star was born during the finals of the 2002/03 EHF Champions League season. Montpellier's Nikola Karabatic scored 11 goals in the first leg in Spain and another six in front of his home fans, enabling his team to turn around the eight goal defeat from the first leg and to become the first French side to win the CL.

2003/04

**Final: Celje vs Flensburg- Handewitt
34:28 / 28:30 (62:58)**

In March 2003 the EHF had decided on a new structure for the competition. Three teams from Spain and Germany now had a starting slot. Two representatives from Hungary, Slovenia, Denmark and Croatia would start in the Group Phase. Overall 32 teams (8 groups of 4 teams each) made up the Group Phase. Flensburg had

profited from the new system but Slovenian side Celje was too strong in the final.

2004/05

**Final: BM Ciudad Real vs FC Barcelona Cifec
28:27 / 27:29 (55:56)**

Following four years without being present in the final, Barcelona won their sixth EHF Champions League title. And while the spectator record for one match was 10,000 fans, the whole city celebrated Barcelona's victory. "We did a lap of honour in the Stadion Nou Camp in front of 100,000 spectators and were celebrated by the whole town," remembers Barcelona's Dane Lars Krogh Jeppesen.

2005/06

**Final: Portland San Antonio vs BM Ciudad Real
19:25 / 28:37 (47:62)**

Spanish businessman and BM Ciudad Real president, Domingo Diaz de Mera, had put together a team that proved to be unbeatable in the 2005/06 Champions League season. Mera bought superstars from all over Europe and the team around Olafur Stefansson, Mirza Dzomba, Didier Dinart et al. paid justified Mera's expenses when they beat Spanish rival San Antonio in the final.

2006/07

**Final: SG Flensburg- Handewitt vs THW Kiel
28:28 / 27:29 (55:57)**

The EHF Champions League, through the efforts of the 2005 founded EHF Marketing GmbH, became a unified look. Since 2006, TV spectators across Europe know they are watching a men's EHF Champions League match when they see the distinct blue lagoon and black supplied by flooring specialists Gerfloor in addition to the season's individual yellow and blue handball supplied by adidas. On the sport side of things, Kiel won their first EHF Champions League title, beating arch rival Flensburg-Handewitt.

I HISTORY: 29 YEARS OF EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

2007/08

BM Ciudad Real vs THW Kiel 27:29 / 31:25 (58:54)

In the 2007/08 season a second Group Phase with four groups of four teams each replaced the Last 16-matches and the quarter-finals. The first teams of each group qualified for the semi-finals and in the final 2006 champion Ciudad Real faced 2007 champion THW Kiel. The Spanish side prevailed and could win their second EHF Champions League trophy.

2008/09

THW Kiel vs BM Ciudad Real 39:34 / 27:33 (66:67)

THW Kiel and BM Ciudad Real faced each other in the final for the second year in a row and even though Kiel had won the first leg of the final by five goals, it was Ciudad Real that won the EHF Champions League for a second consecutive time. Kiel were still in the lead by 20:16 after 39 minutes but with a series of 10:3 goals within 11 minutes Ciudad Real turned the match in their favour.

2009/10

FC Barcelona Borges vs HW Kiel 34:36

In the 2009/10 season the number of participating teams in the first Group Phase was reduced from 32 to 24. Four groups of six teams each were formed and the first four teams qualified for the knockout phase which replaced the second group phase. For the first time the VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournament, which combined the Semi-finals and the Final, was held in Cologne, Germany, to decide the champion. THW Kiel won their second title when they beat Barcelona.

2010/11

FC Barcelona vs Renovalia Ciudad Real 27:24

Since 2010 the event is known as the VELUX EHF Champions League. 40,000 fans stormed

to Cologne to attend the VELUX EHF FINAL4 weekend and TV viewing audience figures went to a new height. 310 million viewers from 76 countries worldwide watched 2,800 hours of TV transmissions 2010/11. Barcelona extended their lead as the most successful club in EHF Champions League history when won their seventh title, beating Ciudad Real in the Final.

2011/12

THW Kiel vs BM Atletico Madrid 26:21

The German powerhouse sensationally lost in their first home match of the season against Montpellier, but no other team was able to overcome THW Kiel throughout the remaining of the season. Gíslason led his team to the third trophy in the club's history becoming the first coach who won with two different teams. Defending champions from Barcelona were eliminated in the quarter-finals by AG København, but the Danish side was stopped in the semi-final by Atlético Madrid, who made it to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 for the fourth time in a row.

2012/13

FC Barcelona vs HSV Hamburg 29:30 AET

HSV Hamburg go into the new season as the defending champion. For the first time the extra-time had to decide the winner. In 20 years of EHF Champions League history there have only been two champions, Montpellier in 2003 and Celje in 2004, who neither came from Spain nor from Germany. The All-Stars team of the 20 years were announced: Goalkeeper Tomas Svensson (SWE), Left Wing Stefan Kretzschmar (GER), Left Back Filip Jicha (CZE), Line Player Andrei Xepkin (ESP), Centre Back Jackson Richardson (FRA), Right Back (Oláfur Stefansson), Right Wing Mirza Džomba (CRO), Best defender Didier Dinart (FRA)

2013/14

SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs THW Kiel 30:28

For the third year in a row a team from Northern Germany prevailed as SG Flensburg-Handewitt took both of their opponents at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 by surprise. In the semi-final the “Vranjes boys” eliminated giants of FC Barcelona after a penalty-shoot-out thriller and made the Cinderella story perfect by beating their neighbours from Kiel 30:28 in the final.

2014/15

FC Barcelona vs MKB-MVM Veszprem 28:23

The defending champions from SG Flensburg-Handewitt were eliminated already in the Last 16 as well as Rhein-Neckar Löwen. The end of the three-year-old reign of Bundesliga was sealed only in Cologne as THW Kiel were unable to repeat their 2014 semi-final win against Veszprem. However, the effort of Hungarian champions for their premiere trophy were denied by FC Barcelona who rose to the throne for the eighth time in the EHF history.

2015/16

KS Vive Tauron Kielce vs MVM Veszprem 39:38 after 7m shootout

This final went down to history books of the Champions League as a breathtaking classic. Deep in the second half Veszprem were leading by nine goals, still Kielce put up a spirited fight to force the extra-time. Even the additional ten minutes could not solve the thriller and in the 7m shootout Kielce were luckier with Julen Aguinagalde’s last effort clinched the maiden title for the Polish champions adding only fifth country to the list of winners.

2016/17

Paris Saint-Germain Handball vs HC Vardar 23:24

For the first time in history no German team made it to the EHF FINAL4. The sold-out arena still saw yet another edition of some showcase handball and three out of four matches ended in only one goal differences. HC Vardar beat the buzzer for two days in a row as Luka Cindric

sank FC Barcelona Lassa in the semi-final and Ivan Cupic clinched the maiden title for the Macedonian team in the final against PSG sending their country into a handball frenzy.

2017/18

HBC Nantes vs Montpellier HB 27:32

In its 25th anniversary the European top flight once again underlined the rule that favourites cannot take anything for granted in this fierce competition. No fewer than three French teams made it to the final tournament in Cologne and after both finalists from the previous edition (Vardar and PSG) failed in the semi-finals it was a showdown between two pre-season underdogs HBC Nantes and Montpellier HB in the final. Mainly courtesy of a brilliant performance of their playmaker Diego Simonet Montpellier returned to the European throne after 15 years and became the first team from Group C or D with this achievement.

2018/19

HC Vardar vs Telekom Veszprém HC 27:24

The Macedonian champions unexpectedly returned to the throne. Despite losing several key players in the summer and during the season Vardar reached their third VELUX EHF FINAL4 in a row. After having stunned Barcelona in the semi-finals they held the upper hand throughout the whole final over Veszprem, whose losing streak in the Champions League finals was extended to four games. After what many saw as the club’s last shot at glory tens of thousands of people were welcoming the champions in the streets of Skopje.

I HISTORY: 29 YEARS OF EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MEN

2019/20

THW Kiel vs Barça 33:28

For the first time in the history of the competition, the final of the EHF Champions League could only be played halfway through the following season. In March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic put the Champions League on hold after the group phase. The Last 16 and the quarter-finals had to be cancelled, but the EHF FINAL4 could be played - on 28/29 December, more than six months after its initial date. It didn't seem to bother Kiel, who had returned to the competition in the 2019/20 season after one year in the EHF Cup. The German side didn't arrive as the tournament favourites in Cologne, but edged Veszprém in the semi-finals before upsetting Barça 33:28 in the final to claim their fourth title, but first in eight years.

2020/21

Barça vs Aalborg Håndbold 36:23

Two clubs who had a stunning season, each in their own way, made it all the way to the final in Cologne in June 2021, and this time favourites Barça truly delivered and took their ninth title. In what was head coach Xavi Pascual's last match in charge, the Spanish champions eased past Aalborg to complete a perfect season: 20 matches played, 20 matches won - a feat never seen before in the EHF Champions League. The success story of Aalborg was also impressive: the Danish side didn't have an outstanding group phase campaign but grew stronger and stronger as the season progressed. They beat Flensburg in the quarter-final to get to their maiden EHF FINAL4, where they defeated PSG in the semi-final, only for their fairy-tale run coming to an end in the final.

2021/22

Barça vs Lomza Vive Kielce 37:35 after penalties

In the lead-up to the season's climax, the defending champions suffered just three defeats - two of them in the group phase against Kielce. However, when it mattered most Barça held the upper hand even though there was a lot of luck involved. For the second time in history, a penalty shoot-out had to determine the champions. After Ludovic Fabregas, who returned to the line-up from an injury just before the EHF FINAL4, scored the trophy-clinching goal the Catalan giants added a tenth CL silverware to their trophy cabinet and became only the first club which defended the title at the EHF FINAL4. After two corona-hit editions, the 2022 event was played again in front of a sold-out crowd which was treated not only by a great final but also by another thriller in the third place match, when THW Kiel defeated Veszprém also only after a penalty shoot-out drama. What a prelude to the anniversary 30th season it was!

ON THE ROAD TO COLOGNE

The TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 is the culmination of the European handball season. The two-day event sees the best four men's teams in Europe playing to decide the ultimate winner of the Machineseecker EHF Champions League Men. The 2023 edition will take place on 17/18 June in Cologne, which hosts the event for the 14th straight time and will continue to do so until 2026.

On the eve of the 2022 semi-finals it was confirmed that Cologne's LANXESS arena will host the highlight of European club handball until 2026.

The success story between the EHF FINAL4 Men, the LANXESS arena and the City of Cologne started in 2010 when the first event was held in front of a capacity crowd of 19,750 spectators. The decision to create a new format for the final phase of the EHF Champions League was seen as crucial for the growth of handball across Europe. The aim was to create a flagship event, one that could compete on the international sports market and make the Europe's leading club competition even more attractive to fans, partners and sponsors. The success of all previous editions up to date showed that this format has been the right strategy. It has set new standards in organisation and entertainment; it is not just four games played over two days but an event that combines outstanding sports and unique entertainment.

After two years of pandemic with the EHF FINAL4 being played behind almost closed doors in 2020 and in front of only 1,000 fans in 2021, the

13th edition in 2022 followed in the footsteps of previous events with a sold-out arena and 19,750 spectators witnessing Barça's 37:35 victory after penalty shoot-out in the final against Lomza Vive Kielce from Poland, making the Spanish side the first to successfully defend the title since the inaugural EHF FINAL4 was played in 2010.

Ticket sales for the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2023 which will take place on 17/18 June 2023 are ongoing. Furthermore, fans that are looking for an exclusive VIP experience, have the opportunity to join the EHF Champions Club. Members come to enjoy special benefits throughout the season and can experience the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2023 from their exclusive VIP Courtside seats.

[More information on ticketing can be found online on eurohandball.com.](https://eurohandball.com)

MEDIA ACCREDITATION

The accreditation procedure of media representatives for the TruckScout24 EHF FINAL4 2023 will start in March 2023.



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