

VELUX®



**EHF
CHAMPIONS
LEAGUE**

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DRAW INFORMATION

VELUX EHF Champions League

2019/20 Group Phase Draw

27 June 2019, 18:00 hrs

Erste Campus, Vienna

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Partners



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SEASON 2019/20

-  Groups A+B teams
-  Groups C+D teams



IFK Kristianstad
SWE

IK Sävehof
SWE

GoG
DEN

Everum
NOR

AALBURG
Håndbold
DEN

SG
50 Flensburg
Håndbold
GER

THW
KIEL
GER

VELUX EHF FINAL4
Cologne, GER

PARIS
Saint-Germain
Håndball
FRA

Bidasoa
Irion
ESP

FC Porto
POR

Sporting
CP, POR

Memphis
HB, ESP

Barça
Lasca, ESP

Kadetten
Schifflausen, SUI

RK Celje Pivovarna
Lasko, SLO

HC PPD
Zagreb, CRO

HC Eurofarm
Rabotnik, MKD

HC Vardar
MKD

Dinamo
Bucuresti, ROU

MOL-Pick
Szeged, HUN

Telcel
Veszprém HC, HUN

HC Motor
Zaporozhye, UKR

Tatran
Prešov, SVK

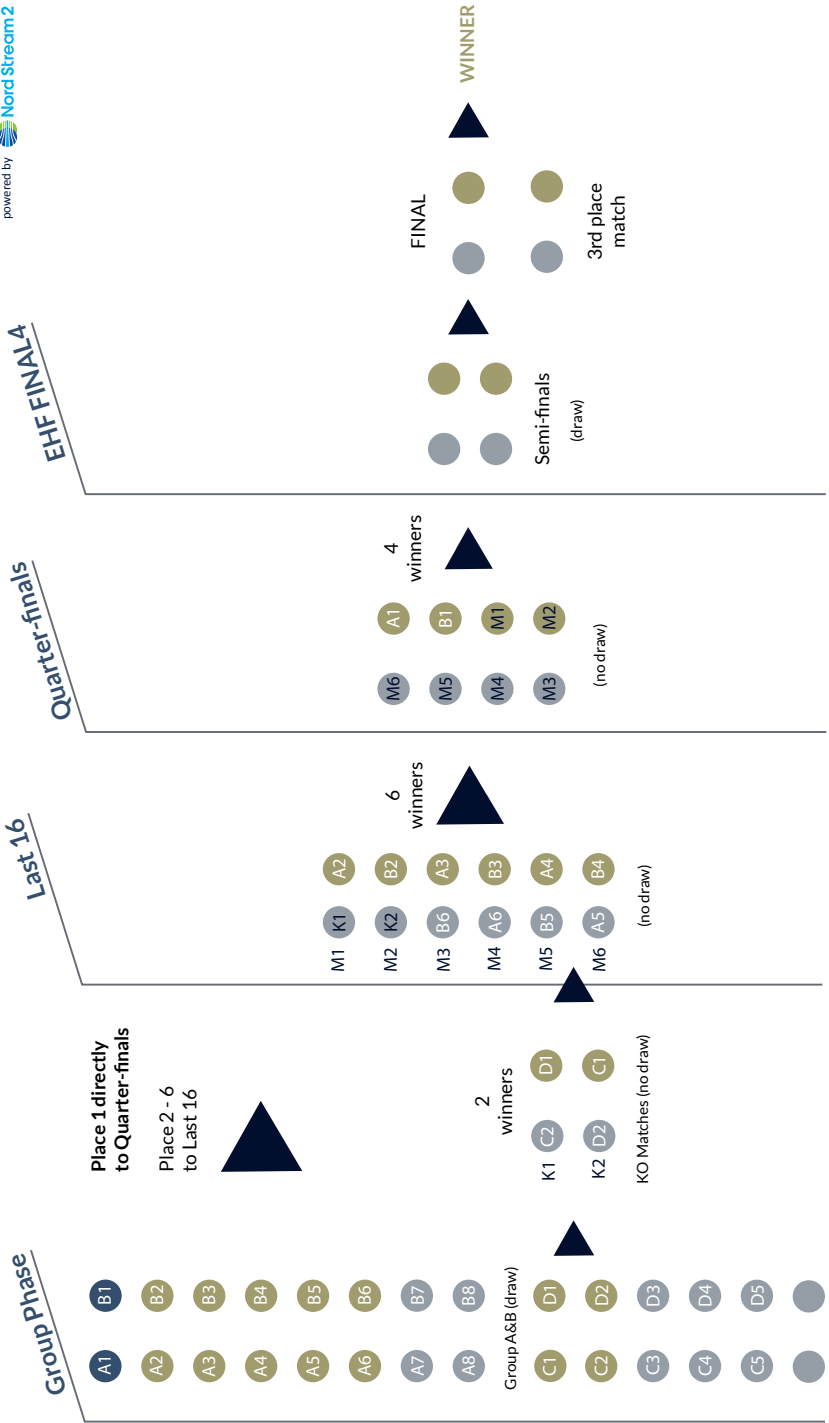
Cherkhovskie
Medvedi, RUS

PGE Vive
Kielce, POL

HC Meshkov
Brest, BLR

Orlen Wisła
Plock, POL

Riihimäki
Cods, FIN



Group C&D (draw)

VELUX EHF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2019/20



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

↓

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

Seeding for the group phase draw

All 28 teams directly seeded for the group phase will learn their fate in the new season on Thursday 27 June at 18:00 hrs as the draw both for the Groups A&B and Groups C&D is to be conducted at the Erste Campus in Vienna (live on ehfTV.com).

There are eight pots of two teams in the Groups A&B and six pots in the Groups C&D. The defending champions HC Vardar will be drawn from the Pot 1 together with the French champions Paris Saint-Germain Handball.

The last season's runners-up Telekom Veszprém HC will be in the Pot 2 together with the third ranked team of 2018/19 Barça, while the the fourth team of the previous season and Polish title holders PGE VIVE Kielce are seeded in the third pot alongside the German champions SG Flensburg-Handewitt.

Country protection

The teams will not be able to face opponents from the same country in the group what applies to sides from France, Germany, Hungary and Sweden.

During the draw of Group A and Group B five pots will be completely open, but due to the country protection three pots will have to be allocated.

Following an open draw of the first four pots MOL-Pick Szeged in the Pot 5 will go to the group with the record champions Barça to avoid Veszprém, which means HC Motor Zaporozhye will end up in a group with Veszprém.

The same rule will send the 2018 champions from Montpellier in the Pot 6 to a group with Vardar to prevent them from meeting PSG. Consequently, HC PPD Zagreb will become one of the PSG's opponents.

The Pot 7 with FC Porto Sofarma and Elverum Handball will be open, but the last pot has to be allocated again as THW Kiel cannot go to a group with their regional rivals from Flensburg-Handewitt. This will see RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko to a group of the 2014 champions.

All but one of the pots in the Groups C/D section will be drawn as teams come from 11 different countries. Following an open draw of the first three pots IFK Kristianstad will be allocated to the group with CS Dinamo Bucuresti and hence HC Eurofarm Rabotnik will play in the group with IK Sävehof.

The group phase will commence with the first round matches on 11-15 September, the last round in A and B is scheduled for 26 February - 1 March 2020.

Seeding for the group phase draw:



GROUP A&B

GROUP PHASE SEEDINGS

Pot

HC Vardar	1	Paris Saint-Germain HB
Telekom Veszprém HC	2	Barça Lassa
PGE Vive Kielce	3	SG Flensburg-Handewitt
Aalborg Handbold	4	HC Meshkov Brest
HC Motor Zaporozhye	5	MOL-Pick Szeged
HC PPD Zagreb	6	Montpellier Handball
FC Porto Sofarma	7	Elverum Handball
RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko	8	THW Kiel



GROUP C&D

GROUP PHASE SEEDINGS

Pot

IK Sävehof	1	C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti
Chekhovskie Medvedi	2	Tatran Presov
Kadetten Schaffhausen	3	Riihimäen Cocks
HC Eurofarm Rabotnik	4	IFK Kristianstad
Bidasoa Irun	5	Orlen Wisla Plock
GOG	6	Sporting CP

2019/20 Group Phase - A & B Draw

POT 1

FRA Paris Saint-Germain HB
MKD HC Vardar

POT 2

ESP Barça
HUN Telekom Veszprém HC

POT 3

GER SG Flensburg-Handewitt
POL PGE Vive Kielce

POT 4

BLR HC Meshkov Brest
DEN Aalborg Handbold

POT 5

HUN MOL-Pick Szeged
UKR HC Motor Zaporozhye

POT 6

CRO HC PPD Zagreb
FRA Montpellier HB

POT 7

NOR Elverum Handball
POR FC Porto Sofarma

POT 8

GER THW Kiel
SLO RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko

GROUP A

GROUP B

Playing dates

Round 1	11.-15.09.2019	Round 8	13.-17.11.2019
Round 2	18.-22.09.2019	Round 9	20.-24.11.2019
Round 3	25.-29.09.2019	Round 10	27.11.-1.12.2019
Round 4	09.-13.10.2019	Round 11	05.-09.02.2020
Round 5	16.-20.10.2019	Round 12	12.-16.02.2020
Round 6	30.10.-03.11.2019	Round 13	19.-23.02.2020
Round 7	06.-10.11.2019	Round 14	26.2.-01.03.2020

2019/20 Group Phase - C & D Draw

POT 1

ROU C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti
SWE IK Sävehof

POT 2

SVK Tatran Presov
RUS Chekhovskie Medvedi

POT 3

FIN Cocks
SUI Kadetten Schaffhausen

POT 4

MKD HC Eurofarm Rabotnik
SWE IFK Kristianstad

POT 5

ESP Bidasoa Irun
POL Orlen Wisla Plock

POT 6

DEN GOG
POR Sporting CP

GROUP C	

GROUP D	

Playing dates

Round 1 11.-15.09.2019
Round 2 18.-22.09.2019
Round 3 25.-29.09.2019
Round 4 09.-13.10.2019
Round 5 16.-20.10.2019
Round 6 30.10.-03.11.2019
Round 7 06.-10.11.2019

Round 8 13.-17.11.2019
Round 9 20.-24.11.2019
Round 10 27.11.-1.12.2019

Group Phase KO playing dates

1st Leg 19.-23.02.2020
2nd Leg 26.2.-01.03.2020

POT 1



HANDBALL

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 PSGHand

 @psghand

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Paris Saint-Germain Handball



- Won their fifth straight French champion title in a row last season, the sixth in the history of the club
- Also won the French League cup
- With two trophies won, last season was the least successful for Paris since 2015/16
- For the first time in four years, failed to qualify for the VELUX EHF FINAL4 after being outed by Kielce in the quarter-finals
- Mikkel Hansen was voted as best left back in last season's All-Star Team
- Uwe Gensheimer left to Rhein-Neckar Löwen and Luka Stepancic to Pick Szeged, while Thierry Omeyer retired
- Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson signed from Rhein-Neckar Löwen, Vincent Gérard from Montpellier and Kamil Syprzak from Barcelona



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 8
Runners-up (1): 2016/17
Semi-final (2): 2015/16, 2017/18 (3rd)
Quarter-final (3): 2013/14, 2014/15, 2018/19
Last 16 (1): 2005/06

Other

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

French league: 6 titles (2013, 2015-19)

French cup: 4 titles

League Cup: 3 titles

Trophee des Champions: 3 titles

POT 1



Club Address

HC Vardar
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 rkvardar

 @HCVardar

Kit colours

Light

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

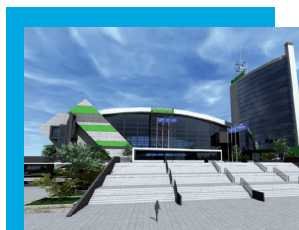
Dark

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

HC Vardar



- stunned the handball world with an unlikely run to the title, defeating Veszprém 27:24 in the final
- last season's success is Vardar's second VELUX EHF Champions League win in three seasons, putting them joint top alongside Barcelona and Kiel in the EHF FINAL4 era
- the champions have undergone a massive personnel overhaul for the second year in a row, with at least seven players leaving the squad
- alongside coach Roberto Parrondo, key players Dejan Milosavljev, Gleb Kalarash, Igor Karacic and Rogerio Moraes are among the names to have left Skopje
- although the likes of Stas Skube, Timur Dibirov, Ivan Cupic and Stojanche Stoilov have stayed put, it will be a monumental task for new Spanish coach David Pisone-ro to emulate their recent success



Playing hall

Jane Sandanski
 Bubl. Avnoj b.b
 1000 Skopje
 FYR Macedonia
 Capacity: 5,000

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

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

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 1998/99, 2004/05, 2010/11, Quarter-finals 2006/07

SEHA league: 4 titles (2012, 2014, 2017, 2018)

Macedonian league: 13 titles (1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2013, 2015-19)
Macedonian cup: 13 titles

POT 2



Club Address

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 FCBHandbol

 @FCBHandbol

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Barça



- Dominant team in Spain, Barça had won ASOBAL League for ninth consecutive year with a superior record and with just one lost point out of 60.
- Won the group phase in the previous VELUX EHF Champions League season with 12 wins and only two defeats.
- At their record seventh VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournament they lost the semi-final to Vardar after squandering a seven-goal half-time lead.
- Coached by Xavi Pascual, who has been in charge of the team since he replaced Manolo Cadenas in 2009.
- Record Champions league winner with eight titles.
- Luka Cindric and Spaniard Abel Serdio will join the team next season. Kamil Syprzak, Nemanja Ilic, Gilberto Duarte, plus players in loan, will leave.



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

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

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2002/03, Runners-up 2001/02
Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 1993/94, 1994/95
(IHF) European Champions Cup: 1990/91
IHF Super Globe: 2013, 2014, 2017
Spanish league: 26 titles (1969, 1973, 1980, 1982,
 1986, 1988-92, 1996-2000, 2003, 2006, 2011-19)
Spanish Cup winner: 23 titles
Asobal Cup winner: 14 titles




POT 2

**Club Address**

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

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

Telekom Veszprém HC



- in the previous season they changed the head coach after a slow start, David Davis replaced Ljubomir Vranjes on the bench
- finished as runner-up in the Hungarian cup and in VELUX EHF FINAL4 after having lost their fourth Champions League final
- won the Hungarian championship
- extended David Davis' contract for another three years
- will also compete in SEHA-League in 2019/20
- László Nagy and Momir Ilic retire, Zoltán Szita, Iman Jamali, René Toft Hansen, Roland Mikler, Gábor Ancsin, William Accambray and Patrik Ligetvári leave the record champion
- Vladimír Cupara, Paweł Paczkowski (PGE Vive Kielce), Márton Székely, (Grundfos Tatabánya KC), Rogério Moraes, Vuko Borozan (HC Vardar), Ramus Lauge (Flensburg) will join the squad

**Playing hall**

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

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 25
Final (4): 2001/02, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19
Semi-final (4): 2002/03, 2005/06, 2013/14, 2016/17
Quarter-final (9): 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00, 2003/04, 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2012/13

Last 16 (4): 1993/94, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2017/18
Group Phase (3): 1994/95, 1995/96, 2007/08

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2007/08, runners-up 1996/97

SEHA-league: 2 titles (2015, 2016)

Hungarian league: 26 titles (1985, 1986, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008-17, 2019)

Hungarian Cup winner: 27 times

POT 3



FLENSBURG-HANDEWITT

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 handewitt.de

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 SGFlHa

 @SGFlHa

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

SG Flensburg-Handewitt



- German champions for the third time after 2004 and 2018
- Were two points ahead of THW Kiel 64:4 vs 62:6 points - second best ever number of points in Bundesliga history below Kiel's 68:0 in the 2011/12 season
- Had won 34 straight Bundesliga matches from 22 March 2018 until 20 March 2019, when they were defeated at Magdeburg, later-on lost their second match of the season against Kiel
- Were eliminated four times in a row in the Champions League quarter-finals, had only once been in Cologne - when they won the trophy in 2014
- Changes in the squad: Tobias Karlsson (end of career) and Rasmus Lauge (Veszprem) leave, Michal Jurecki (Kielce) and Lasse Möller (GOG) will arrive



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

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

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winners 2000/01 2011/2012
EHF Cup: Winners 1996/1997
City Cup: Winners 1998/1999

German league: 3 titles (2004, 2018, 2019)
German cup: 4 titles

POT 3

**Club Address**

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Poland

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

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

PGE VIVE Kielce



- After dominating the Polish league once again, Talant Dujšebaev's side earned their eighth domestic title in a row
- Kielce will have their sights set on another VELUX EHF FINAL 4 spot, after finishing fourth last season, with losses against Veszprem and Barça Lassa in June in Cologne
- It has been a busy summer for Kielce, with eight players leaving and eight players coming in
- Star playmaker Luka Cindric signed for Barça Lassa, while goalkeepers Filip Ivic and Vladimir Cupara also left. Experienced Polish stalwarts Michal Jurecki and Marius Jurkewicz have also finished their stints in Kielce
- Kiel's goalkeeper, Andreas Wolff, is the marquee signing for Kielce this summer, as left back Tomasz Gebala made the switch from Orlen Wisla Plock and playmaker Igor Karacic added depth to the back line

**Playing hall**

Hala M.O.S.I.R. – Legionów
ul. Boczna 15A
25-093 Kielce
Poland
Capacity: 4,000

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

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

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 1997/98, 2005/06
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals 1995/96
Polish league: 16 titles (1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012-19)
Polish cup: 16 titles

POT 4



Club Address

HC Meshkov Brest
Leningradskaya 4
224028 Brest
Belarus

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 bgk-meshkova.com

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

HC Meshkov Brest



- won the Belarusian league for the sixth successive year and 11th in history
- reached the Last 16 of the VELUX EHF Champions League for the fourth straight year, but lost to Flensburg there
- hosted SEHA League Final4 and took the third place in 2019
- in April, head coach Manolo Cadenas resigned and was replaced by his assistant Raul Alonso
- in late May, Alonso was confirmed as a head coach for the next season
- a number of key players such as Pavel Horak, Petar Djordjic, Sime Ivic, Vid Poteko and Dzianis Rutenka left the club after the season
- to replace them, William Accambray, Nemanja Obradovic, Marko Panic, Branko Kankaras, Danijel Andreew, Jaka Malus join Brest this summer



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

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

Other

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

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

POT 4



Club Address

Aalborg Handball
 Willy Brandts Vej 31
 9220 Aalborg Ost
 Denmark

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 aalborghaandbold.dk

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Aalborg Handbold



- Enter the CL as Danish champions for the fourth time in history
- Won the double in Denmark by also winning the Danish Cup, and in addition to this, they also won the league
- Were forced into three matches in the final tie by GOG, winning the third leg 38:32 in front of 5000 spectators on home ground
- Stefan Madsen, who is also in charge of the Danish U21 men’s team, continues as head coach, and so does former Iceland international Arnór Atlason as assistant coach
- Former Denmark international Mads Christiansen will be joining from SC Magdeburg to reinforce the right back position from next season, right back Jesper Meinby is leaving for Drammen HK in Norway this summer
- Key players such as left back Andreas Holst, left wing Buster Juul, right back Ómar Ingi Magnússon and line player Knud Ronau will all be returning from injury for the start of the coming season or a bit into the season



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

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 5

Last 16 (1): 2013/14

Group Phase (3): 2010/11, 2014/15, 2017/18

Other

EHF Cup : quarter-final 2003/04, group phase 2015/16

Challenge Cup: Round 4 2002/03

Danish league: 4 titles (2010, 2013, 2017, 2019)

Danish cup: 1 title (2018)

POT 5

**Club Address**

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

Media contact

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 www.pickhandball.hu

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

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

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

MOL-Pick Szeged



- triumphed in the final of the Hungarian cup having faced the old rival, Veszprém
- did not reach VELUX EHF FINAL4 after having lost against Vardar in the quarter-finals (despite coming back from a 10-goal deficit midway the second leg)
- could not repeat the success in the Hungarian league's final as Telekom Veszprém won
- Luka Stepanic (PSG), Roland Mikler (Telekom Veszprém), Bogdan Radivojevic (Rhein-Neckar Löwen), Miklós Rosta (Grundfos Tatabánya HC) will join the "Blues"
- Marin Sego, Pedro Rodriguez and Zsolt Balogh leave the club
- with more than 8,000 seats, a brand new handball venue in the city is already under construction

**Playing hall**

Varosi Sportcsarnok Szeged
Temesvari Krt.33
6726 Szeged
Hungary
Capacity: 3,200

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

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

Other

EHF Cup: Winners 2014/15, Quarter-final 2000/01
Last 16: 1994/95, 1999/2000
Cup Winners' Cup
Semi-final: 1993/94
Quarter-final: 2002/03, 2008/09
Hungarian league: 3 titles (1996, 2007, 2018)
Hungarian cup: 7 titles

POT 5



Club Address

HC Motor Zaporozhye
Ivanova Str. 24
69068 Zaporozhye
Ukraine

Media contact

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 handball.motorsich.com

 Handball Club Motor
Zaporozhye

Kit colours

Light

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

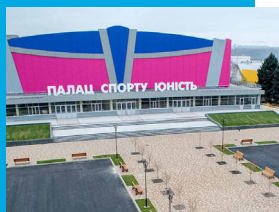
Dark

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

HC Motor Zaporozhye



- became the Ukrainian champions for the seventh straight year
- enjoyed a perfect record in the national league, winning all 32 matches
- in the VELUX EHF Champions League, reached the Last 16 for just the third time in history
- however, Kielce were too strong for Motor in Last 16
- played home matches at the renovated Yunost Sports Palace, opened in August 2018
- Barys Pukhouski became EHF Player of the Month in February and the joint fourth-best scorer of the VELUX EHF Champions League with 87 goals
- in October, head coach Patryk Rombel was replaced by Mykola Stepanets
- next season, Dener Jaanimaa and Stefan Vujovic will join the team, while Pavel Paczkowski, Zarko Pesevski and Aliaksei Shynkel will leave



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

Past achievements

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

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

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

POT 6

RUKOMETNI KLUB
PRVO PLINARSKO DRUŠTVO
ZAGREB



Club Address
HC PPD Zagreb
Veprinacka 16
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

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 RKZagreb

 @RKZagreb

Kit colours

Light

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

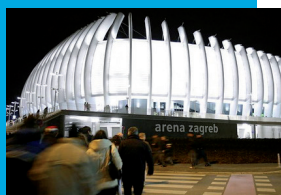
Dark

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

HC PPD Zagreb



- Croatia still has the same representative in VELUX EHF Champions League: PPD Zagreb will play their 26th season in the top European competition.
- Zagreb Lions have won their 28th consecutive title in the Croatian championship and lifted their 26th Croatian Cup trophy.
- Record-setting 2018/19 season for Zagreb was heightened with a second place at the SEHA-Gazprom League Final Four and Last 16 of the CL.
- At the beginning of the 2019, Zagreb changed coach, with Branko Tamse replacing Lino Cervar.
- In the season 2019/20 hopes are high for a club from the capital as PPD Zagreb would like to try to go one step further in their CL appearance.
- Club will have somewhat changed squad: Tin Kontrec, Leon Susnja, Urh Kastelic, Gregor Potocnik, Nikola Potic, Artur Karvatski and Senjamin Buric have left the club. Confirmed newcomers for now, Kristian Beciri, Marin Sipic, Darko Stojnic, Matej Asanin and Aleksander Spende.



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

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

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 2004/05, Semi-finals 2006/07
(IHF) European Champions Cup: 2 titles (1991/92, 1992/93)
SEHA League: 1 title (2013)
Croatian league: 28 titles (1992-2019)
Croatian Cup winner: 26 times

POT 6



Club Address

Montpellier HB
1000 avenue du Val de
Montferand
34090 Montpellier
France

Media contact

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s.demonte@
montpellierhandball.com

 montpellierhandball.com

 MHB - Montpellier Handball

 @mhbofficiel

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Montpellier HB



- After winning the VELUX EHF Champions League in 2018, Montpellier failed to make it out of the group phase last season
- Apart from the Champions Trophy, the club didn't win anything last season
- Next season will see a huge change in the roster, with four new players confirmed so far and six departures
- Most important departures are Vincent Gérard to Paris and Vid Kavtichnik and Baptiste Bonnefond to Aix
- Coach Patrice Canayer will start his 26th season at the head of the team
- Melvyn Richardson, last season's best scorer for the club in the Champions League, was voted MVP of the French league



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

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

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

Other

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

POT 7



ELVERUM
HÅNDBALL

Club Address

Elverum Handball
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2403 Elverum
Norway

Media contact

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 www.ehh.no

 elverumhandball

 @ElverumHandball

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Elverum Handball



- They did not manage to win the Norwegian league, where they finished second after ØIF Arendal, but by defeating Arendal in the final, they won the play-offs
- The championship marked an anniversary, as it was Elverum's 10th Norwegian championship in history – and their seventh in a row
- Mikael Apelgren is taking another year as head coach before moving home to Sweden and to IK Sävehof in 2020
- After this season, they say goodbye to goalkeeper Morten Nergaard and backcourt player Alexander Børresen, who have ended their careers, and Danish line player Søren Tau who is joining TTH Holstebro in the Danish league.
- For the coming season, Elverum have signed three of Norway's most promising young talents, Alexander Blonz, Thomas Solstad and Tobias Grøndal. Furthermore, Danish league players Thorsten Fries, Sebastian Henneberg and Rasmus Boysen are joining.



Playing hall
Ternen Arena
Hamarvegen 112
2418 Elverum
Norway
Capacity: 2,400

Past achievements

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

Other

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

Norwegian play off: 10 titles (1995, 2008,
2012-19)
Norwegian league: 3 titles (2013, 2017, 2018)
Norwegian Cup: 2 titles

POT 7



Club Address

FC Porto Sofarma
Estádio do Dragão
Via FC Porto,
Portugal

Media contact

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 www.fcporto.pt

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

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white and blue

Player short: white or blue

Goalkeeper shirt: blue

Dark

Player shirt: grey

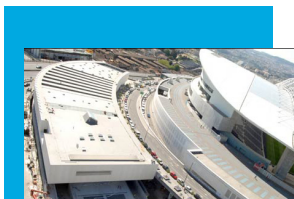
Player short: grey

Goalkeeper shirt: grey

FC Porto Sofarma



- returning to the VELUX EHF Champions League Group Phase after three years
- on previous two appearances the group phase was also their final stop one draw and one loss, the final stage was equally impeccable.
- coming from an extremely successful season which was crowned by their maiden EHF Cup Finals participation and the final third place which was the all-time high not only for Porto but for any Portuguese team in the reformed EHF Cup
- also tied their arch rivals Sporting after having claimed their 21st national league title, in addition they are also the reigning Portuguese Cup holders
- Swedish head coach Magnus Andersson, who joined Porto in the beginning of the 2018/19 season after replacing Lars Walther, returns to the European top flight after seven years, last time he led AG Copenhagen to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in 2012



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 9

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

Qualification (6): 1999/00, 2004/05, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2014/15

Other

EHF Cup: 3rd 2018/19, group phase 2014/15, 2016/17, Last 16 (3): 1998/99, 2010/11, 2011/12

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

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

Portuguese cup: 8 titles

POT 8

**Club Address**

THW Kiel
Ziegelteich 30
24103 Kiel
Germany

Media contact

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 www.thw-handball.de

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

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

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
Goalkeeper shirt: black
Dark
Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: red

THW Kiel



- Were the best ever runners-up in 53 Bundesliga years by 62:6 points, lost only three matches, twice against Magdeburg, once at Flensburg
- New coach: Filip Jicha (so far assistant of Alfred Gislason) will succeed on Gislason, who was at the helm since 2008 - his farewell match took place on 26 June at Kiel
- Changes in the squad: Dario Quenstedt (Magdeburg) replaces goalkeeper Andrerass Wolff (to Kielce), besides Pavel Horak arrives from Meshkov Brest
- German Cup winner and EHF Cup winner in the 2018/19 season



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

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

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

Other

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

German league: 20 titles (1957, 1962, 1963, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)

German Cup: 11 titles

POT 8



Club Address

Celje Pivovarna Lasko
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Slovenia

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

 @RKCPL

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko



- For the sixth season in a row, Celje won the title in Slovenia, extending their tally to 23 won championships
- While Celje failed to remain unbeaten over the course of the season, their six-point advantage was enough to see off Velenje's challenge
- For the fifth year in a row, Celje will aim to proceed from Groups A+B in the Last 16 phase. They failed to achieve the feat in the past four tries
- Branko Vujović, Jan Jurečič, Jaka Malus, Rok Ovniček, Aljaž Panjtar, William Accambroy, Igor Anić and Kristian Bečiri will leave the team
- RK Nexe's playmaker Patrik Leban, and Meshkov Brest's line player Vid Poteko reinforce the team, while Domen Novak, Stefan Žabič, Tobias Cvetko will also don Celje's shirt from next season



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

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

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2009/10
Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 2002/03, 2011/12
Slovenian league: 23 titles (1992-2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2014-19)
Slovenian cup: 21 times

POT 1



Club Address

Dinamo Bucuresti
Sos.Stefan cel Mare n° 7-9 ,sec2
Bucuresti
Romania

Media contact

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sanenciu@yahoo.com

 www.csdinamo.eu

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Dinamo Bucuresti



- Won the Romanian title for the fourth time in a row, after disposing of Dobrogea Sud Constanta in the final, with a 66:45 aggregate score in the final
- Have a superb following, with 2,500 raucous fans usually filling up the Dinamo Arena in Bucharest
- Progressed for the first time in the play-off round of the VELUX EHF Champions League last season, only to be left heartbroken by Sporting CP, with an aggregate score of 59:57
- Four quality players, left wing Hugo Descat, backs Vitali Komogorov and Ciprian Sandru and line player Andrasz Szasz left the team
- They will be replaced by Brazilian back Raul Nantes Santos, left wing Alexandru Asoltanei, Egyptian line player Mohamed Mamdouh Shebib and Serbian playmaker Stefan Vujic
- Dinamo will still have a team with players from eight different countries – Tunisia, Iran, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Brazil, Egypt and Romania



Playing hall

Dinamo Bucuresti Arena
Soseaua Stefan cel Mare 7-9
Sector 2, 020121 Bucuresti
Romania
Capacity: 2,538

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 7
Group phase (4): 2005/06, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19
Qualification (2): 1995/96, 1997/98

Other

EHF Cup: semi-finals 2003/04, Last 16 2001/02, 2004/05
Cup Winners' Cup: quarter-finals 2002/03
Challenge Cup: runners-up 2000/01, semi-finals 2007/08
City Cup: Semi-finals 1999/2000
European Champions' Cup: 1 title (1965)
IHF Cup Winners' Cup: runners-up 1983
Romanian league: 16 titles (1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1978, 1986, 1995, 1997, 2005, 2016-19)
Romanian cup: 4 titles (1979, 1982, 1988, 2017)

POT 1



Club Address

IK Sävehof
Partille Arena
Arenatorget 2
43322 Partille
Sweden

Media contact

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cl@savehof.se

 www.savehof.se

 Savehof

 @IK_Savehof

Kit colours

Light

- Player shirt: yellow
- Player short: black/yellow
- GK shirt: green/orange
- Dark
- Player shirt: grey/black
- Player short: black
- GK shirt: blue

IK Sävehof



- They only finished seventh in the Swedish league, but still, they won the championship by defeating Alingsås with three wins against two in the five-legged final
- The championship was Sävehof’s sixth in history and their first since 2012
- Head coach Andreas Stockenberg is leaving after this season for second league club Alstermo Handball
- Versatile backcourt player and former Sweden international Jonas Larholm is going to be playing coach during the coming season
- Another former player, Emil Berggren became sports director
- From the summer of 2020, current Elverum coach Mikael Apelgren will be taking over as head coach
- Playmaker Oskar Sunnefeldt is leaving after this season to join Danish SønderjyskE, while left wing Viktor Ottosson has ended his career



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

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

Other

EHF Cup: Last 16 2006/07
Cup Winners’ Cup: Last 16 1993/94, 2006/07
Challenge Cup: winners 2013/14, semi-finals 2002/03

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

POT 2



Club Address

Chekhovskie Medvedi
Poligrafistov str. 30
142300 Chekhov, Mosk. oblast
Russia

Media contact

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 www.ch-medvedi.ru

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Chekhovskie Medvedi



- perennial Russian champions won the national league for the 18th straight year
- they were seriously challenged by Spartak Moscow, but came from behind to win the final best-of-three series 2:1
- in the VELUX EHF Champions League, the team finished fourth in Group C
- Medvedi are still coached by the legendary Vladimir Maximov, who has been at the helm since the team's creation in 2001
- Russia's international Dmitri Kiselev will join the team from Vardar next season



Playing hall
Sport Hall "Olimpiyskiy"
Chekhov
Poligrafistov Str. 30
142300 Chekhov
Russia
Capacity: 3,000

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 19
Semi-final (1): 2009/10
Quarter-final (2): 2008/09, 2010/11
Last 16 (3): 2004/05, 2006/07, 2012/13
Main Round (1): 2007/08
Group Phase (11): 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04, 2005/06, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Winner 2005/06

Russian league: 18 titles (2002-2019)
Russian cup: 9 titles

POT 2



Club Address

TATRAN Presov
Handball Club
Holleho 3
080 01 Presov
Slovakia

Media contact

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everydayrf@yahoo.com



www.tatranpresov.sk



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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Tatran Presov



- Tatran won their 15th domestic championship last season, their 13th title in a row
- Croatian coach Slavko Goluz, who was appointed in 2017, will return as a coach this season
- Romanian left back Rares Fodorean from HKM Sala, Slovenian left back Nino Grzentic from Koper, Spanish right wing Javier Munoz Cabezon from Logrono La Rioja, right wing Josef Hozman and left wing David Michalka both from Topolcany will join Presov this season
- Since 2004/05 the Slovakian outfit never progressed from the group phase of the VELUX EHF Champions League, finishing third in Group C last season



Tatran Handball Arena Presov

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

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

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

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-final 2011/12
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-final 2005/06

Slovak league: 15 titles (2004, 2005, 2007-19)
Slovak cup: 15 titles

POT 3



Club Address

Cocks
Teollisuuskatu 16
11120 Riihimäki
Finland

Media contact

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 www.cocks.fi

 [riihimak cocks](https://www.facebook.com/riihimak cocks)

 [@riihimak cocks](https://twitter.com/riihimak cocks)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Cocks



- Won the Finnish championship for the seventh time in a row and for the 11th time in history
- Had to play all five final matches in the play-offs against arch rivals Dicken, before the title was a fact
- Won the Baltic League for the fourth time
- Are in for the second season in the VELUX EHF Champions League
- Left back André Udd, right wing Andrei Novoselov, centre backs Oleksandr Kyrylenko and Victor Kovalenko, goalkeepers Kalle Alander and Giedreius Morkunas as well as right back Theo Westerlund have all left the club after this season.
- New players joining are Russian centre back Yury Semenov, joining from Hungarian Balatonfüredi KSE, versatile Russian backcourt player Evgeny Semenov from HC Spartak Moscow, Serbian right wing Aleksandar Gugleta from Macedonian RK Pelister and Belarusian goalkeeper Aliaksandr Markelau from Romanian CS Minaur Baia Mare
- Former cruise manager at the ferry company Silja Line Kristian Alanen has joined the club in a new function as CEO



Playing hall

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

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

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

Other

EHF Cup: group phase 2016/17
Challenge Cup: quarter-finals 2013/14, 2014/15

Baltic league: winners 2016-18, runners-up 2012/13

Finnish league: 11 titles (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013-19)
Finnish cup: 10 titles

POT 3



Club Address:

Kadetten Schaffhausen
Schweizersbildstrasse 10
8207 Schaffhausen
Switzerland

Media contact:

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www.kadettensh.ch



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



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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: orange

Player short: black

GK shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: black

Player short: black

GK shirt: green

Kadetten Schaffhausen



- After changing their coach from Peter Kukucka to Petr Hrachovec they won the Swiss league again
- The first two league finals against Winterthur ended after extra time, then Kadetten took a clear win to end the best of 5 series after only three matches
- Was their eleventh championship trophy at Switzerland
- Changes in the squad: Lucas Meister and Croatian goalkeeper Ivan Stevanovic leave, Filip Maros from Winterthur and the two Spaniards Angel Montoro and goalkeeper Ignacio Biosca arrive



Playing hall

BBC Arena
Schweizersbildstr. 10
8207 Schaffhausen
Switzerland
Capacity: 3,000

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 12
Last 16 (2): 2010/11, 2011/12
Group Phase (8): 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08, 2012/13, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19
Qualification (1): 2009/10

Other

EHF Cup: final 2009/10
Cup Winners' Cup: semi-final: 2007/08

Swiss league: 11 titles (2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014-17, 2019)
Swiss Cup: 7 titles

POT 4



HC EUROFARM

Club Address

HC Eurofarm Rabotnik
7000 Bitola
North Macedonia

Media contact

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www.rkeurofarmrabotnik.com



rkeurofarmrabotnik

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Eurofarm Rabotnik



- Eight years after they were founded, HC Eurofarm Rabotnik Bitola made fantastic result by winning the second position in the domestic championship at the same time leaving out HC Metalurg on the third spot.
- Last season debuted in the EHF Cup and only won one match against RK Nexe during the group phase
- Head coach Djordje Cirkovic left the club last season as the legendary Macedonian winger Stevche Alushovski took over the helm.
- The club also participated in the Last 16 phase in the Challenge Cup edition 2017/18, which was their first European Cup season
- Season 2019/20 will be their premiere appearance in the VELUX EHF Champions league
- While the roster is still open for changes, last season best player Filip Kuzmanovski left the team along with Faruk Memic and Goran Krstevski and new names in the team are Anze Ratajac, Nikola Mitrevski, Bojan Madjovski and Martin Velkovski



Playing hall
Sportska sala "Mladost" Bitola
Partizanska b.b.
7000 Bitola FYRO
Macedonia
Capacity: 4,100

Past achievements

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

Other
Challenge Cup: Last 16 2017/18

Macedonian league: -
Macedonian cup: -

POT 4

**Club Address**

IFK Kristianstad
Västra Storgatan 69
29154 Kristianstad
Sweden

Media contact

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sebastian.rosenberg@ifkkristianstad.se



www.ifkkristianstad.se



IFKKristianstad



@IFKKristianstad

Kit colours**Light**

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

Dark

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

IFK Kristianstad



- After winning the Swedish championship four years in a row, they lost the title this season
- They did win the league, but were eliminated through three straight defeats against Alingsås in the semi-final of the play-off
- Ljubomir Vranjes, who took over as head coach in March this year, is continuing in the job
- The club is saying goodbye to Norwegian right back Stig Tore Moen Nilsen and Icelandic line player Arnor Freyr Arnarsson, who are both joining Danish GOG, while right wing Johannes Larsson who is joining Malmö HK, and left wing Anton Persson is leaving for HIF Karlskrona along with young goalkeeper Gustaf Banke
- Danish right back Simon Birkefeldt is joining from Bundesliga club MT Melsungen, while Tunisian line player Jihed Jaballah is joining Turkish Eskisehir

**Playing hall**

Kristianstad Arena
Västra Storgatan 69
S-29154 Kristianstad
Sweden
Capacity: 4,800

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 5
Last 16 (1): 2017/18
Group Phase (4): 2015/16, 2016/17, 2018/19

Other

EHF Cup: Group Phase 2013/14

Swedish league: 8 titles (1941, 1948, 1952, 1953, 2015-18)

POT 5



Club Address

Club Deportivo Bidasoa
Kale Nagusia 30
20304 Irun
Spain

Media contact

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www.cdbidasoa.eus



[CDBidasoa.Balonmano](https://www.facebook.com/CDBidasoa.Balonmano)



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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Bidasoa Irun



- The team from the Basque region reached the runner-up position of ASOBAL League for the first time after long 25 years
- Also, Bidasoa Irun were runner-up of ASOBAL Cup last December.
- Bidasoa Irun were best team in defence of the Spanish national league with 707 goals conceded. They registered second best point total of club history at the League with 45 points.
- The Chilean Rodrigo Salinas was top scorer of the team with 106 goals.
- After 24 years, Bidasoa Irun will play again EHF Champions League, just this season they will celebrate 25 years of being Champions League winners (1994/95 beating Zagreb in the final).
- Gurutz Aguinagalde, former captain of BM Logroño La Rioja and brother of PGE VIVE Kielce line player Julen Aguinagalde, is the president of the club.



Playing hall
Polideportivo Artaleku s/n
Apartado 431
20304 Irun
Spain
Capacity: 2,800

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 3
Winner (1): 1994/95
Runner-up (1): 1995/96

Other

EHF Cup: semi-final 1993/94, 2000/01, quarter-final 2005/06, 2006/07
Cup Winners' Cup: winners 1996/97, 2004/05, runners-up 2000/01, 2006/07
EHF Cup: quarter-finals 2010/11, group phase 2013/14

Spanish league: 2 titles (1987, 1995)
Copa del Rey: 2 titles (1991, 1996)
Copa ASOBAL: 1 title (1993)

POT 5



Club Address

Orlen Wisła Plock
Plac Cebry Papieskij 1
09-400 Plock
Poland

Media contact

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 www.sprwislaplock.pl

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

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

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

Orlen Wisla Plock



- The Polish side finished second in their domestic league, after a 58:51 aggregate loss against Kielce in the final, despite a 26:26 draw on their home court
- Last season, Plock have proceeded to the Last 16 phase for the fourth time in the past six seasons
- In an unprecedented clearout this summer, nine players have left the team, including backs Tomasz Gebala, Dan Racotea and Jose Toledo
- Six players have signed for Plock, with two Spanish playmakers, Niko Mindegia and Alvaro Ruiz Sanchez spearheading the list
- Players from seven different countries – Poland, Spain, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Sweden and Czechia - will don the Plock shirt next season



Playing hall

Orlen Arena
Pl. Cebry Papieskij 1
09-400 Plock
Poland
Capacity: 5,467

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 15
Last 16 (5): 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2018/19
Group Phase (7): 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2016/17, 2017/18
Last 32 (1): 1995/96
Qualification (1): 2012/13

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 1993/94, Group Phase 2012/13
Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals 1996/97
Polish league: 7 titles (1995, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2011)
Polish Cup: 10 titles

POT 6

**Club Address**

GOG Sport 2010
Staerkaervej 1
5884 Gudme
Denmark

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+45 62 252135
torsten@gog.dk



www.gog.dk



GOGsport

Kit colours**Light**

Player shirt: yellow

Player short: red

Goalkeeper shirt: green

Dark

Player shirt: blue

Player short: red

Goalkeeper shirt: white

GOG



- Enter the CL as runners-up in Denmark
- Forced Aalborg Handbold into three matches in the championship final before having to see Aalborg taking the title after all
- The final was GOG's first championship final in 11 years
- Nicolej Krickau continues as head coach next season with Martin Albrechtsen as assistant
- Assistant coach Martin Albrechtsen is son of former head coach Carsten Albrechtsen who led GOG to winning the Danish championship in 2007
- After this season, they say goodbye goalkeeper Ole Erevik who ends his career, goalkeeper Fran Mikkelsen who is joining second league club TMS Ringsted, right back and Denmark international Niclas Kirkeløkke who is joining Rhein-Neckar Löwen, right back Jon Andersen who is joining Danish league rivals SønderjyskE and line player Lars Hald who has ended his career.
- 18-year-old Icelandic goalkeeper Viktor Gisli Hallgrímsson is joining from Fram Reykjavik along with Norwegian right back Stig Toe Moen Nilsen and Icelandic line player Arnar Freyr Arnarsson, both arriving from IFK Kristianstad

**Playing hall**

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

Past achievements**VELUX EHF Champions League**

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 9

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

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

Group Matches (4): 1995/96, 1996/97,
1998/99, 2000/01

Other

EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 1999/00, 2001/02,
2005/06, Group Phase 2018/19

Cup Winners' Cup: Runners-up 1995/96,
Quarter-final 1993/94, 1997/9

*Danish league: 7 titles (1992, 1995, 1995, 1998,
2000, 2004, 2007)*

Danish cup: 10 titles

POT 6



Club Address

Pavilhao do Ginasio Clube do Sul
Rua de Angola No 23
2805-086 Almada
Portugal

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

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: green/white
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: black/white/green

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: black/green/white

Sporting CP



- For the first time ever, Sporting join FC Porto Sofarma as two Portuguese teams will play in the group phase of the VELUX EHF Champions League
- The Lisbon Lions finished second in the Portuguese league, after finishing four points off Porto last season
- Sporting changed their coach this summer, signing French ace Thierry Anti for two seasons. Anti was Nantes' coach since 2009 and led the French side to the VELUX EHF FINAL 4 final two seasons ago
- Anti replaced Hugo Canela, while two players, Pedro Solha and Bosko Bjelanovic, who played in the past four seasons for Sporting, also left the club



Playing hall

Pavilhao Joao Rocha
Rua Prof. Fernando da Fonseca
Apartado 4120
1501-806 Lisboa
Portugal
Capacity: 3,000

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Participations (including 2019/20 season): 4
Group phase (2): 2017/18, 2018/19
Group matches (1): 2001/02

Other

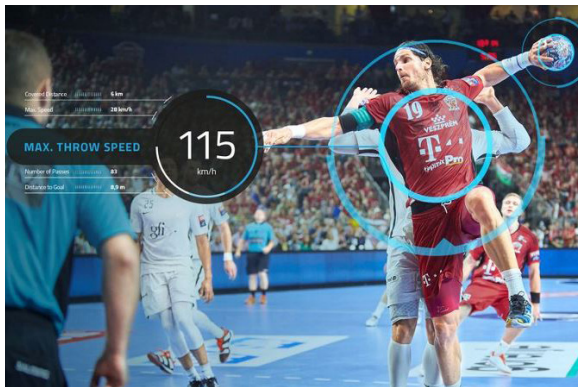
EHF Cup: quarter-finals 2000/01, 2013/14
Cup Winners' Cup: 2003/04 quarter-finals
Challenge Cup: winners 2009/10, 2016/17, semi-finals 2011/12
Portuguese league: 21 titles (1952, 1956, 1961, 1966-67, 1969-73, 1978-81, 1984, 1986, 2001, 2017, 2018)
Portuguese cup: 15 titles

10th edition of VELUX EHF FINAL4 set new milestones

The VELUX EHF FINAL4 celebrated its 10th anniversary on 1/2 June 2019. Since its inauguration in 2010, the marquee event in men’s club handball has constantly set new benchmarks in the world of indoor sports - and the jubilee edition last season was no exception.

Players’ tracking

One of the innovative new features introduced in 2019 was player tracking technology. Together with the SELECT iBall, which returned after its premiere in 2018, it raised the match data collection to new heights. Together with partner KINEXON, a large amount of match and players data were gathered during the four matches. Each player wore a sensor, which was integrated in his jersey. For the first time in an EHF competition, fans, coaches and players were able to see players’ running distance, playing time, fastest sprints and goalkeeper saves or highest jumps



Also, the chip integrated in the iBall collected information like ball speed, shot detection, position of the shot and placement of the ball on target. Both offered an unparalleled second-screen service for spectators in the arena but also to the fans watching at home.

Ball of Fame

The 10th anniversary was honoured with the erection of a permanent handball monument, which was unveiled during the Opening Party. The ‘Ball of Fame’ has been placed in front of the LANXESS arena and displays a giant handball surrounded by glass columns representing the event’s winners and with the recognisable arena arch stretching over the whole structure. The monument is an eye-catcher for all visitors, and especially for handball fans coming to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 in years to come as the event will stay in Cologne at least until 2024.

The Score

Also in terms of entertainment the event reached new heights. Ahead of the final match and again just before the award ceremony on 2 June, US duo The Score warmed up a capacity crowd of almost 20,000 at LANXESS arena. In the lead-up to the final match, Eddie Anthony and Edan Dover performed their hit ‘Legend’, which has more than 23 million views on YouTube, and they ignited the atmosphere before the award ceremony with their energetic song ‘Born For This’.

App & All-star Team Vote

The revamped VELUX EHF FINAL4 App, developed with Switzerland-based company Fanpictor, became a fresh look, offering a range of new features, most notably the exclusive All-star Team voting. Fans could pick their favourites names out of 50 nominated players and coaches and send in their selection of best players of the season. Also, the app offered the data from iBall and players tracking together with the match statistics.



2018/19 top scorers

Rank	Player	Club	Goals
1	Alex Dujshbaev (ESP)	PGE Vive Kielce (POL)	99
2	Dainis Kristopans (LAT)	HC Vardar (MKD)	94
3	Andre Schmid (SUI)	Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)	91
4	Barys Pukhouski (BLR)	HC Motor Zaporozhye (UKR)	87
6	Zlatko Horvat (CRO)	HC PPD Zagreb (CRO)	85
7	Valero Rivera (ESP)	HBC Nantes (FRA)	81
8	Nedim Remili (FRA)	Paris Saint-Germain HB (FRA)	80
9	Uwe Gensheimer (GER)	Paris Saint-Germain HB (FRA)	79
13	Timur Dibirov (RUS)	HC Vardar (MKD)	78
14	Aleix Gomez (ESP)	Barça Lassa (ESP)	77
15	Ivan Cupic (CRO)	HC Vardar (MKD)	76
16	Bence Banhidi (HUN)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	75
20	Dika Mem (FRA)	Barça Lassa (ESP)	74
21	Mikkel Hansen (DEN)	Paris Saint-Germain HB (FRA)	73
22	Nico Rönnerberg (FIN)	Riihimäen Cocks (FIN)	72
23	Aidenas Malasinskas (LTU)	HC Motor Zaporozhye (UKR)	71
24	Rasmus Lauge Schmidt (DEN)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	68
25	Johan a Plogv Hansen (DEN)	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)	67
27	Hampus Wanne (SWE)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	66
28	Artsem Karalek (BLR)	PGE Vive Kielce (POL)	65
30	Stefan Rafn Sigurmannsson (ISL)	MOL-Pick Szeged (HUN)	63
	Sander Sagosen (NOR)	Paris Saint-Germain Handball (FRA)	69
23	Holger Glandorf (GER)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	68
	Karol Bielecki (POL)	PGE Vive Kielce (POL)	68
25	Valero Rivera (ESP)	FC Barcelona Lassa (ESP)	66
	Niclas Ekberg (SWE)	THW Kiel (GER)	66
	Luka Cindric (CRO)	HC Vardar (MKD)	66
28	Tim Sörensen (DEN)	IFK Kristianstad (SWE)	65
	Rasmus Lauge Schmidt (DEN)	SG Flensburg-Handewitt (GER)	65
	Anders Eggert (DEN)	Skjern Handbold (DEN)	65

Past winners

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

All-time club standings 1993 - 2019

TR	Name of the club	MP	W	D	L	GF:FA	GD	P	NP	%	
1	Barça ESP	296	220	20	56	9127:7660	+1467	460:132	(22)	77,70%	AB
2	Telekom Veszprém HC HUN	278	188	14	76	8048:7263	+785	390:166	(23)	70,14%	AB
3	THW Kiel GER	276	184	18	74	8375:7417	+958	386:166	(21)	69,93%	AB
4	HC PPD Zagreb CRO	272	119	30	123	7091:7075	+16	268:276	(25)	49,27%	AB
5	SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	202	121	17	64	5953:5540	+413	259:145	(14)	64,11%	AB
6	Montpellier Handball FRA	218	120	14	84	6260:5977	+283	254:182	(19)	58,26%	AB
7	RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko SLO	230	110	15	105	6551:6343	+208	235:225	(21)	51,09%	AB
8	BM Atletico Madrid ESP	144	111	5	28	4502:3803	+699	227:61	(10)	78,82%	
9	PGE VIVE Kielce POL	164	92	14	58	4881:4689	+192	198:130	(12)	60,37%	AB
10	MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	186	88	15	83	5159:5133	+26	191:181	(16)	51,34%	AB
11	Paris Saint-Germain HB FRA	114	77	7	30	3410:3141	+269	161:67	(8)	70,61%	AB
12	Rhein-Neckar Löwen GER	134	72	17	45	3971:3774	+197	161:107	(9)	60,08%	
13	Chekhovskie Medvedi RUS	166	71	18	77	4970:4892	+78	160:172	(17)	48,19%	CD
14	HC Vardar MKD	142	69	15	58	3924:3938	-14	153:131	(12)	53,87%	AB
15	HSV Hamburg GER	98	68	9	21	3088:2670	+418	145:51	(7)	73,98%	
16	Portland San Antonio ESP	100	64	6	30	2929:2594	+335	134:66	(9)	67,00%	
17	Abanca Ademar Leon ESP	122	61	8	53	3440:3386	+54	130:114	(12)	53,28%	
18	KIF Kolding Kobenhavn DEN	118	54	9	55	3330:3361	-31	117:119	(12)	49,58%	
19	Orlen Wisla Plock POL	124	38	10	76	3276:3525	-249	86:162	(12)	34,68%	CD
20	HC Motor Zaporozhye UKR	76	35	9	32	2232:2207	+25	79:73	(6)	51,97%	AB
24	Kadetten Schaffhausen SUI	96	29	7	60	2686:2856	-170	65:127	(10)	33,85%	CD
25	HC Meshkov Brest BLR	96	27	11	58	2599:2798	-199	65:127	(9)	33,85%	AB
29	GOG DEN	62	23	5	34	1765:1815	-50	51:73	(8)	41,13%	CD
30	Tatran Presov SVK	66	20	5	41	1782:1975	-193	45:87	(9)	34,09%	CD
36	Elverum NOR	40	17	4	19	1096:1139	-43	38:42	(4)	47,50%	AB
40	IK Sävehof SWE	46	15	3	28	1287:1449	-162	33:59	(5)	35,87%	CD
45	Sporting Lisbon POR	30	15	0	15	845:845	0	30:30	(3)	50,00%	CD
47	IFK Kristianstad SWE	58	11	6	41	1587:1791	-204	28:88	(4)	24,14%	CD
49	Dinamo Bucuresti ROU	38	12	2	24	1070:1155	-85	26:50	(4)	34,21%	CD
50	Aalborg Handbold DEN	48	10	6	32	1281:1398	-117	26:70	(4)	27,08%	AB
55	Bidasoa Irun ESP	16	9	1	6	385:355	+30	19:13	(2)	59,38%	CD
57	FC Porto Sofarma POR	20	9	1	10	537:543	-6	19:21	(2)	47,50%	AB
85	Cocks FIN	10	2	2	6	246:269	-23	6:14	(1)	30,00%	CD
NR	HC Eurofarm Rabotnik MKD	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0:0	(0)	0,00%	CD

History: 26 years of EHF Champions League

1993 - 2007

1993/94

Final: ABC Braga vs TEKA Santander

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

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

1994/95

Final: Elgorriaga Bidasoa Irun vs Badel Zagreb

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

The final of the EHF Champions League's second season became the match of a lifetime for Irun's Nenad Perunicic, nicknamed "the canon" or "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 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 Gerflor in addition to the season's individual yellow and blue handball supplied by adidas. On the sport side of things, Kiel won their first EHF Champions League title, beating arch rival Flensburg-Handewitt.

History: 25 years of EHF Champions League

2007 - 2019

2007/08

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

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

2008/09

Final: THW Kiel vs BM Ciudad Real 39:34 / 27:33 (66:67)

THW Kiel and BM Ciudad Real faced each other in the final for the second year in a row and even though Kiel had won the first leg of the final by five goals, it was Ciudad Real that won the EHF Champions League for a second consecutive time. Kiel were still in the lead by 20:16 after 39 minutes but with a series of 10:3 goals within 11 minutes Ciudad Real turned the match in their favour.

2009/10

Final: FC Barcelona Borges vs HW Kiel 34:36

In the 2009/10 season the number of participating teams in the first Group Phase was reduced from 32 to 24. Four groups of six teams each were formed and the first four teams qualified for the knockout phase which replaced the second group phase. For the first time the VELUX EHF FINAL4 tournament, which combined the Semi-finals and the Final, was held in Cologne, Germany, to decide the champion. THW Kiel won their second title when they beat Barcelona.

2010/11

Final: FC Barcelona vs Renovalia Ciudad Real 27:24

Since 2010 the event is known as the VELUX EHF Champions League. 40,000 fans stormed

to Cologne to attend the VELUX EHF FINAL4 weekend and TV viewing audience figures went to a new height. 310 million viewers from 76 countries worldwide watched 2,800 hours of TV transmissions 2010/11. Barcelona extended their lead as the most successful club in EHF Champions League history when won their seventh title, beating Ciudad Real in the Final.

2011/12

Final: THW Kiel vs BM Atletico Madrid 26:21

The German powerhouse sensationally lost in their first home match of the season against Montpellier, but no other team was able to overcome THW Kiel throughout the remaining of the season. Gíslason led his team to the third trophy in the club's history becoming the first coach who won with two different teams. Defending champions from Barcelona were eliminated in the quarter-finals by AG København, but the Danish side was stopped in the semi-final by Atlético Madrid, who made it to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 for the fourth time in a row.

2012/13

Final: FC Barcelona vs HSV Hamburg 29:30 AET

HSV Hamburg go into the new season as the defending champion. For the first time the extra-time had to decide the winner. In 20 years of EHF Champions League history there have only been two champions, Montpellier in 2003 and Celje in 2004, who neither came from Spain nor from Germany. The All-Stars team of the 20 years were announced: Goalkeeper Tomas Svensson (SWE), Left Wing Stefan Kretzschmar (GER), Left Back Filip Jicha (CZE), Line Player Andrei Xepkin (ESP), Centre Back Jackson Richardson (FRA), Right Back (Oláfur Stefansson), Right Wing Mirza Džomba (CRO), Best defender Didier Dinart (FRA)

2013/14

Final: SG Flensburg-Handewitt vs THW Kiel 30:28

For the third year in a row a team from Northern Germany prevailed as SG Flensburg-Handewitt took both of their opponents at the VELUX EHF FINAL4 by surprise. In the semi-final the “Vranjes boys” eliminated giants of FC Barcelona after a penalty-shoot-out thriller and made the Cinderella story perfect by beating their neighbours from Kiel 30:28 in the final.

2014/15

Final: FC Barcelona vs MKB-MVM 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 VELUX EHF FINAL4. The sold-out LANXESS arena still saw yet another edition of some showcase handball and three out of four matches ended in only one goal differences. HC Vardar beat the buzzer for two days in a row as Luka Cindric sank FC Barcelona Lassa in the semi-final and Ivan Cupic clinched the maiden title for the Macedonian team in the final against PSG sending the whole country into a handball frenzy.

2017/18

HBC Nantes vs Montpellier HB 27:32

In its 25th anniversary the European top flight once again underlined the rule that favourites cannot take anything for granted in this fierce competition. No fewer than three French teams made it to the final tournament in Cologne and after both finalists from the previous edition (Vardar and PSG) failed in the semi-finals it was a showdown between two pre-season underdogs HBC Nantes and Montpellier HB in the final. Mainly courtesy of a brilliant performance of their playmaker Diego Simonet Montpellier returned to the European throne after 15 years and became the first team from Group C or D with this achievement.

2018/19

HC Vardar vs Telekom Veszprém HC 27:24

The Macedonian champions unexpectedly returned to the throne. Despite losing several key players in the summer and during the season Vardar reached their third VELUX EHF FINAL4 in a row. After having stunned Barcelona in the semi-finals they held the upper hand throughout the whole final over 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.

