



Men's EHF Cup 2016/17
Group Phase
Media Guide



EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION

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Foreword



Dear media representative,

As we move towards the conclusion of the 5th season of the Men's EHF Cup, the event has seemingly left its mark on the sporting market. As the competition grows increasingly popular among the handball fans of Europe, we look forward to our continued cooperation with you, media representatives.

As in the previous season, Germany and Denmark lead the way with more than two teams still in the competition. Spain and Portugal follow closely with two teams each remaining. Finland, France, Hungary, Israel, and Slovenia are pinning their hopes on their solo teams.

Saint-Raphael Var Handball (FRA) are looking to get to the quarter-finals and beyond; RD Riko Ribnica (SLO) join the EHF Cup competition for the first time. GOG (DEN) are back in competition for the first time since the 2009/10 season and Füchse Berlin (GER) are hungry to be part of the finals once again – Group A is set to be very interesting.

In Group B, five-time finalist and three-time winner, and now hosts – Frisch Auf Göppingen have tremendous motivation to see this competition through to the end. HC Midtjylland (DEN) are the newcomer in a group of EHF Cup experienced teams, Fraikin B.M. Granollers have their eye on the trophy after finishing third last year; even Futebol Clube do Porto (POR) are back for their 10th season.

Group C sees KIF Kolding København return to the EHF Cup for the third time after reaching the quarter-finals in 2013. Grundfos Tatabánya KC return for their seventh consecutive season and are determined to make it to the next stage of the competition.

With three EHF Cup titles, SC Magdeburg are ready to take on Maccabi CASTRO Tel Aviv (ISR), a team that has made it to a group phase of such a competition for the first time. With S.L. Benfica (POR) being the team the longest on the European Cup circuit, Group D is another group where the viewers can expect the unexpected and the other teams, MT Melsungen (GER), Cocks (FIN), and Helvetia Anaitasuna (ESP) are playing the Group Phase for the first time.

We pride ourselves on our positive and cooperative relationship with the press and media and I am sure this will continue and develop in the future. Should you require any information, help or assistance during the course of the season, your first point of contact is the EHF Media and Communications Department based in our office in Vienna. They will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you might have.

We look forward to working with you in the upcoming season!

Michael Wiederer
EHF President

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MEN'S EHF CUP TEAMS

Group Phase 2016/17



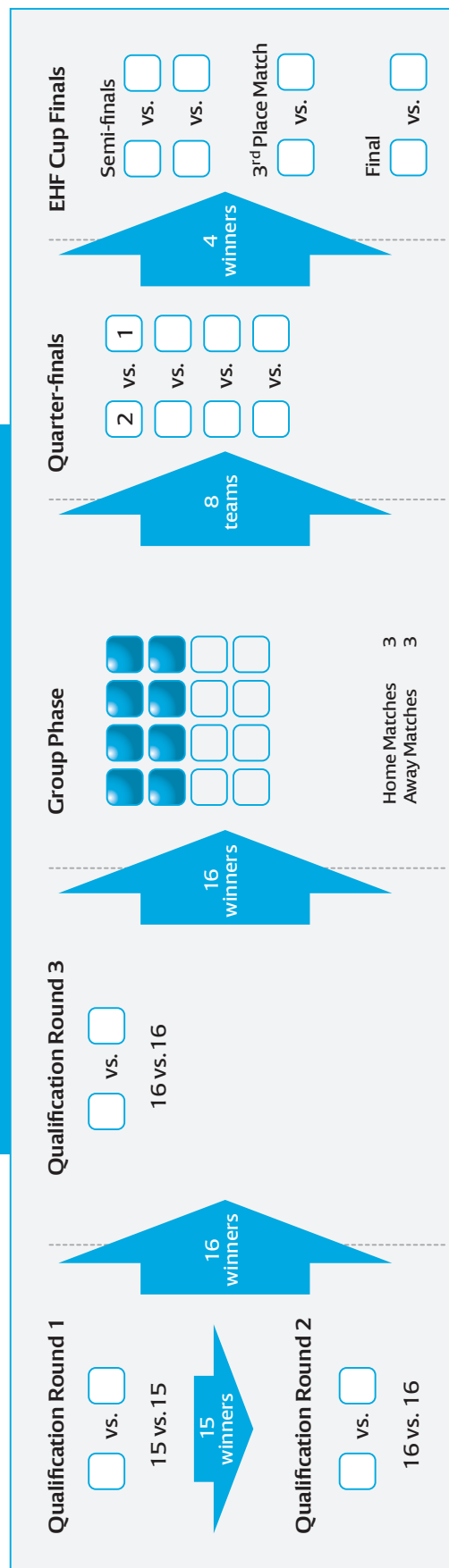
2016/2017 MEN'S EHF CUP



MEN'S		Qualification Round 1	Qualification Round 2	Qualification Round 3	Group Phase	Quarter finals	Final Tournament
		30 teams	32 teams	32 teams	16 teams	8 teams	4 teams
		03/04.09.2016 first leg	08/09.10.2016 first leg	19/20.11.2016 first leg	R1: 11/12.02.2017 R2: 18/19.02.2017 R3: 04/05.03.2017 R4: 11/12.03.2017 R5: 25/26.03.2017 R6: 01/02.04.2017	22/23.04.17 first leg	20/21.05.2017 Tournament
		10/11.09.2016 second leg	15/16.10.2016 second leg	26/27.11.2016 second leg		29/30.04.17 second leg	
NATION							
DRAWS:		19.07.2016	19.07.2016	18.10.2016	01.12.2016	04.04.2017	02.05.2017
1	Def. Champ.			Frisch Auf Göppingen/GER	16 Winners of Qualification Round 3	1st and 2nd placed teams of each group of the Group Phase	4 Winners of Quarterfinals
2	ESP			Abanca Ademar Leon			
3	FRA			St. Raphael Var Handball			
4	GER			MT Melsungen			
5	ESP			Helvetia Anaitasuna			
6	DEN			HC Midjylland			
7	SLO			RD Riko Ribnica			
8	HUN			Grundfos Tatabanya KC			
9	POL			Azoty-Pulawy			
10	GER			SC Magdeburg			
11	ESP			Frankin BM Granollers			
12	DEN			GOG			
13	2nd CL QT1			2nd CL QT1			
14	2nd CL QT2			2nd CL QT2			
15	3rd CL QT1			3rd CL QT1			
16	3rd CL QT2			3rd CL QT2			
17	4th CL QT1		16 Winners of Qualification Round 2	4th CL QT1			
18	4th CL QT2			4th CL QT2			
19	SWE			Alingsas HK			
20	SLO			RD Koper 2013			
21	SUI			Wacker Thun			
22	HUN			Balatonfüredi KSE			
23	POR			SL Benfica			
24	ROU			CSM Bucuresti			
25	BLR			SKA Minsk			
26	CRO			RK Nexse			
27	RUS			St. Petersburg HC			
28	NOR			OIF Arendal			
29	SVK			HC Sporta Hlohovec			
30	CZE			Talent M.A.T. Plzen			
31	POL			Gornik Zabrze			
32	GER			Füchse Berlin			
33	DEN			KIF Kolding København			
34	FRA	Chambery Savoie HB	15 Winners of Qualification Round 1				
35	HUN	Csurgoi KK					
36	FRA	US Creteil Handball					
37	POR	FC do Porto					
38	ROU	CSU Poli. Timisoara					
39	CRO	GRK Varazdin 1930					
40	RUS	Dinamo Astrakhan					
41	MKD	HC Prilep					
42	CZE	HC Dukla Praha					
43	ISL	Haukar					
44	UKR	ZTR Zaporozhye					
45	SRB	HC Vojvodina					
46	GRE	A.C.C. Filippou Verias					
47	ISR	Maccabi S. Rishon Lezion					
48	NED	OCI-Lions					
49	KOS	KH Besa Famiglia					
50	EST	Põlva Serviti					
51	TUR	B.B. Ankara SK					
52	LUX	HB Käerjeng					
53	MDA	HC Olimpus-85 USEF					
54	MNE	RK Budvanska Rivijera					
55	GBR	London GD HC					
56	GEO	B.S.B. Batumi					
57	SRB	RK Metaloplastika Sabac					
58	GRE	A.C. Diodmis Argous					
59	SUI	Pfadi Winterthur					
60	CRO	HC Zamet					
61	NOR	Bodo HK					
62	AUT	Alpla HC Hard					
63	NED	KRAS Volendam					



Men's EHF Cup 2016/17 playing system



Season 2016/17 playing dates

Qualification Round 1 first leg - 03/04.09.2016 second leg - 10/11.09.2016	Qualification Round 2 first leg - 08/09.10.2016 second leg - 15/16.10.2016	Qualification Round 3 first leg 19/20.11.2016 second leg 26/27.11.2016	Group Phase 11/12.02.2017 18/19.02.2017 04/05.03.2017 11/12.03.2017 25/26.03.2017 01/02.04.2017	Quarter-finals first leg 22/23.04.2017 second leg 29/30.04.2017	EHF Cup Finals 20/21.05.2017
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Göppingen to host the EHF Cup Finals in 2017

The fifth edition of the EHF Cup Finals in 2017 will be hosted by Frisch Auf Göppingen after the EHF Executive Committee decided to award the hosting rights to the defending champions of the Men's EHF Cup under the condition of an agreement with the event's organiser, EHF Marketing GmbH.

The final tournament will take place on 20 and 21 May 2017 as four best teams of the competition will descend on the EWS Arena in Göppingen with a capacity of 5,600.

The first edition of the tournament took place in Nantes, France, which also hosted the last tournament in 2016, when Frisch Auf defeated the home team HBC Nantes in the final. In 2014 and 2015, Füchse Berlin staged the final tournament in the Max-Schmeling Halle in Berlin and also bid to play host in 2017.



Playing hall
EWS Arena Göppingen
Nördlichen Ringstrasse 87
73033 Göppingen
Germany
Capacity: 5,600

Media Accreditation for the EHF Cup Finals

The accreditation procedure of media representatives for the EHF Cup Finals 2017 will start on 8 March 2017 through the HTML form on the EHF official website. The accreditation procedure will be open to all media professionals and will run until 10 May 2017.

Playing system – organiser Göppingen

Possibility no. 1

The organisers finish 1st in their group or are one of the three best 2nd ranked teams

The organisers qualify directly for the EHF Cup Finals and the other six teams play three quarter-finals.

The worst second ranked team will be eliminated.

Possibility no. 2

The organisers are the 4th ranked of the 2nd ranked teams

The organisers play the quarter-finals and are qualified for the EHF Cup Finals if they win the quarter-final.

Possibility no. 3

The organisers are ranked 3rd or 4th in the group and are not qualified for the EHF Cup Finals.

All 1st and 2nd ranked teams play the quarter-finals. The organisers will still stage the EHF Cup Finals for the four quarter-finals winners.

Important regulations

Scoring of the matches and ranking

General

All matches of the Men's EHF Cup shall be played in 2 x 30 minutes with a half-time break of 10 minutes. The EHF reserves the right to extend the half-time break in special circumstances to 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) greater 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) higher number of goals scored in the away match
- d) goal difference in all matches of the group
- e) 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.

If one of the participating clubs is the organiser of the EHF Cup Finals the ranking of the 2nd ranked teams of the Group Phase is as follows:

- a) number of points in matches against all teams of the group;
- b) goal difference in those matches as mentioned in a);
- c) greater number of plus goals in those matches as mentioned in a);

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.

[Find all the Men's EHF Cup regulations on eurohandball.com](http://eurohandball.com)

Facts & Figures

Before the Group Phase

Just as in the previous season, 16 teams from nine different countries – including former winners of different EHF European Cup competitions – have made it to the Men's EHF Cup Group Phase. As throw-off for the fifth edition of the group phase draws closer, here are the most important facts and figures of the 16 participants.

0 teams have qualified for all group phases since the introduction of the new format, when the EHF Cup and Cup Winners' Cup merged in 2012. Füchse Berlin, Magdeburg, Göppingen and Granollers are all taking part for the third time.

1 player in the EHF Cup Group Phase has won all major European cup trophies: Konstantin Igropulo of Russia. The right back took the Cup Winners' Cup with Chekhovskie Medvedi in 2006, the VELUX EHF Champions League title with Barcelona in 2011, and the EHF Cup with Berlin in 2015.

1 team has made it all the way from the first qualification round to the group phase: Portugal's FC Porto. Three more teams arrived from the second qualification stage: Berlin (GER), KIF Kolding København (DEN) and S.L. Benfica (POR).

1 former winner of the EHF Champions League is among the 16 group phase participants: SC Magdeburg (2002). In every season of the merged EHF Cup, one former EHF Champions League winner has been part of the group phase: SC Magdeburg (2012/13 and 2015/16, CL winner in 2002), Montpellier Agglomération HB (2013/14, CL winner in 2003), and HSV Hamburg (2014/15, CL winner in 2013).

1 group phase participant won the Cup Winners' Cup before the EHF Cup was founded: Granollers in 1975/76.

2 group phase participants are European Cup debutants: Riko Ribnica (SLO) and FC Midtjylland (DEN, men's team).

2 teams have made it to the group phase after failing to qualify for the VELUX EHF Champions League this summer: Cocks (FIN) and Maccabi CASTRO Tel Aviv (ISR).

2 winners of the current EHF Cup format, defending champions Frisch Auf Göppingen and 2015 winners Füchse Berlin (both GER), are contesting the title this season. The other two winners, Rhein-Neckar Löwen (2013) and MOL-Pick Szeged (2014), are competing in the VELUX EHF Champions League Group Phase.

2 group phase participants were part of the VELUX EHF Champions League last season: Kolding København (DEN) and FC Porto (POR).

2 countries have won the 'new' EHF Cup so far: Germany (three titles: Rhein-Neckar Löwen 2013, Berlin 2015, Göppingen 2016) and Hungary (Szeged 2014).

2 cities have hosted all four previous EHF Cup Finals: Nantes (2013, 2016) and Berlin (2014, 2015).

2 nations are represented for the first time in the group phase of the merged EHF Cup: Finland (by Cocks) and Israel (by Tel Aviv).

2 times, SC Magdeburg have lost in the quarter-finals to another German team, which then went on to win the competition: Rhein-Neckar Löwen (2013) and Göppingen (2016).

3 group phase participants won the EHF Cup in the old format: Granollers (1995, 1996), Magdeburg (1999, 2001, 2007) and Göppingen (2011, 2012).

3 teams have already experienced the EHF Cup Finals: Göppingen (2013, 2016), Berlin (2014, 2015) and Granollers (2016).

3 Danish teams have qualified for the group phase, just like last year. However, none of the three teams are the same: Aalborg, Bjerringbro-Silkeborg and Holstebro played last season; Kolding København, Midtjylland and GOG contest the group phase this time.

4 teams represent the same nation for the first time: Göppingen, Berlin, Magdeburg and Melsungen form a German quartet. They will be drawn into four different groups as per the competition rules.

4 nations in this season's group phase were also represented in the 2015/16 group phase: Germany, Denmark, Spain and France.

4 countries have won the EHF Cup since its initial implementation by the EHF in the 1993/94 season: Germany (17 titles), Spain (4), Croatia and Hungary (1 each).

5 teams from last season have made it to their second consecutive EHF Cup Group Phase: Granollers, Anaitasuna (both ESP), Göppingen, Magdeburg (both GER) and Saint-Raphael (FRA).

5 nations that were not in this stage of the competition last season will take part in the group phase 2016/17: Hungary, Slovenia, Portugal, Finland and Israel.

5 nations that were present in the group phase last season are missing this time: Romania, Belarus, Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden.

6 teams rallied from losing the first leg in the third qualification round to book their group phase tickets: Saint Raphael, Benfica, Granollers, Tel Aviv, GOG and Ribnica.

7 nations have been represented by clubs in the four previous EHF Cup Finals: Germany (6 teams/3 winners), France (4/0), Denmark (2/0), Hungary (1/1), Romania (1/0), Slovenia (1/0) and Spain (1/0).

9 of this season's 16 teams have been part of the four previous EHF Cup Group Phases: Göppingen, Magdeburg, Kolding, Berlin, Granollers, Porto, Melsungen, Saint-Raphael and Anaitasuna. The other 7 teams are group stage debutants.

9 different countries are represented by the 16 clubs: Germany (4 teams), Denmark (3), Portugal, Spain (2 each), France, Hungary, Slovenia, Finland and Israel (1 each).

21 goals have been scored by both Michael Allendorf (Melsungen) and Chen Pomeranz (Tel Aviv), who share the lead in the top scorers list.

23 goals was the biggest winning margin in the third qualification round, as Melsungen scored an aggregate 66:43 against Zamet (CRO).

48 group matches will decide the six or eight teams – depending on finals hosts Göppingen's performance – to proceed to the quarter-finals.

Champions League revenge and historic newcomers

Group Phase Preview

A remake of the EHF Champions League semi-final in 2002 will be one of the ties in the group phase of the Men's EHF Cup, where Finland and Israel will both be writing handball history by being represented in a European group phase for the first time ever.

The 16 teams in the four groups are battling for eight quarter-final berths. However, the number of quarter-final tickets may be reduced to six, if Frisch Auf Göppingen, who will be organising the final tournament, manage to qualify directly for the finals by winning their group. In that case, the weakest number two in will be eliminated just like number three and four in all groups.

Füchse chasing new success in Group A

In 2015, Füchse Berlin won the EHF Cup, when the finals took place in the German capital. Last season, however, the Foxes were far less successful, being sent out already in the qualification tournament. This year, the ambitious German club is yearning for a comeback to the top. However, Saint-Raphael Var Handball also want to have a say here. The French side missed the finals last season and will be eager to do better this season in a group, where the traditional Danish club GOG is back after a seven-year absence, and Slovenian EHF Cup debutants RK Riko Ribnica make up the fourth team.

Two of last season's top sides to meet in Group B

No less than two of the teams from the finals in Nantes last season are meeting in Group B, where ruling champions Frisch Auf Göppingen as well as last year's number three, Spanish Fraikin Bm. Granollers are to be found. Göppingen are likely to be particularly keen on doing well, not only as they are defending their title, but also because the German club will be hosting the finals this time around. European debutants HC Midtjylland from Denmark and Portuguese Futebol Clube de Porto complete this group.

2002 Champions League semi-finalists meet in Group C

Back in the 2001/02 season, one of the semi-final ties was between KIF Kolding (now KIF Kolding København) and SC Magdeburg. Back then, Magdeburg won both matches and later the final. Now KIF have the chance for revenge, with the two teams meeting in Kolding on match day one. Two debutants fill the last two spots of the group; Hungarian Grundfos Tatabánya KC are in their first EHF Cup Group Phase, while Maccabi CASTRO Tel Aviv are the first ever Israeli team to enter a European group phase.

Second try for Melsungen and Anaitasuna in Group D

MT Melsungen are in the EHF Cup Group Phase for the second time. The first time the Bundesliga team was there, they made it to the quarter-finals, where they were eliminated by Danish Skjern Handbold on away goals. Helvetia Anaitasuna are also in the group phase for the second time, and the Spanish side will try to do better than at their debut in the 2014/15 season, when they did not make the quarter-finals. Just like in Group C, there is history in the making in this group too, as Finnish champions Cocks are the first team from Finland ever in the group phase of a European Cup competition. The group is completed by last season's Challenge Cup finalists, Portuguese S.L. Benfica.



Group A head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group A opponents in the EC

No previous encounters in European competitions

Saint-Raphael Var Handball vs RD Riko Ribnica

Saint-Raphael Var Handball vs GOG

Saint-Raphael Var Handball vs Füchse Berlin

RD Riko Ribnica vs GOG

RD Riko Ribnica vs Füchse Berlin

GOG vs Füchse Berlin

GROUP A



Playing hall

Palais des Sports JF Krakowski
Rue des Chataigniers
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France
Capacity: 2,000

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Kit colours

Light
Player shirt: white
Player short: white
Goalkeeper shirt: green
Dark
Player shirt: red
Player short: red
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

SAINT-RAPHAEL VAR HANDBALL (FRA)

Last season, two goals separated Saint-Raphael Var Handball and a place in the EHF Cup Finals as they lost an all-French quarter-final against Chambéry. This year, coach Joel de Silva has no intention of missing out: "We want to go in the same direction as last season, but this time we want to win the EHF Cup." In Group A, his team faces 2015 EHF Cup winner Füchse Berlin (who eliminated Chambéry in qualification), Ribnica and GOG.

The French runners-up have bolstered their squad with Spanish world champion and two-time EHF Champions League winner Dani Sarmiento (from Barcelona) as the successor to Icelandic playmaker Arnor Atlason and Belarusian World Championship star Artsem Karalek. The line player joined the team which knocked his former team Minsk out in the previous round.

It is the fifth international season for Saint-Raphael, and for da Silva it is "important for our progress to face Europe's top teams. "Mainly the four German teams but also Granollers and Porto are his favourites for reaching the EHF Cup Finals in Göppingen in May." Besides the pair of changes in the squad, another major change occurred in the club management as former Saint-Raphael player Emeric Paillason became the new manager.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ SKA Minsk (BLR) L30:28
2nd leg: vs SKA Minsk (BLR) W33:25
Aggregate score: 61:55

Newcomers:

Dani Sarmiento (Barcelona)
Artsem Karalek (Minsk)

Left the club:

Arnor Atlason (Aalborg)
Ognjen Djeric (Selestat)

Coach: Joel Da Silva (since 2014)

Captain: Aurelien Aubily

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League
Qualification (1): 2012/2013

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (3): 2010/11, 2011/12,
2015/16
Round 3 (1): 2012/13

Other

French League: - (2016 runners-up)

SAINT-RAPHAEL VAR HANDBALL (FRA)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
6	Chamal	Abdullah	FRA	Right Wing	20.07.1998	MARSEILLE, FRA	78	183	
10	Aurelien	Abily	FRA	Left Back	22.07.1982	LE MANS, FRA	80	192	15
50	Paolo	Bardi	FRA	Left Back	18.08.1999	FREJUS, FRA	75	181	
33	Marco	Belin	FRA	Left Back	06.01.1996	TALENCE, FRA	110	204	0
20	Raphael	Caucheteux	FRA	Left Wing	09.05.1985	MONTPELLIER, FRA	90	200	4
32	Adrien	Dipanda	FRA	Right Back	03.05.1988	DIJON, FRA	105	202	10
1	Slavisa	Djukanovic	SRB	Goalkeeper	03.05.1979	BELGRADE, SRB	97	190	0
78	Rares Dan	Fortuneanu	ROU	Centre Back	19.12.1978	CLUS NAPOCA, ROU	94	190	
77	Dorian	Galliano	FRA	Left Wing	20.03.1997	FREJUS, FRA	72	176	
22	Sebastien	Garain	FRA	Line Player	20.10.1987	POINTE A PITRE, FRA	104	194	
88	Wissem	Hmam	FRA	Left Back	21.04.1981	MENZEL TEMIME, TUN	104	198	4
5	Lucas	Hubert	FRA	Back	13.07.1998	Grasse, FRA	86	188	
19	Miroslav	Jurka	CZE	Right Wing	07.06.1987	VALASSKE MEZIRICI, CZE	82	189	5
50	Artsem	Karalek	BLR	Line Player	20.02.1996	Grodno, BLR	105	196	19
17	Aleksa	Kolakovic	SRB	Centre Back	10.08.1997	PODGORICA			1
31	Nicolas	Krakowski	FRA	Left Back	31.10.1987	FREJUS, FRA	92	196	3
2	Geoffroy	Krantz	FRA	Centre Back	03.12.1981	GIEN, FRA	105	186	5
91	Pierre	Luhern	FRA	Goalkeeper	09.08.1991	FREJUS, FRA	77	183	
14	Alexander	Lynggaard	DEN	Line Player	27.03.1990	KOGE, DEN	102	198	
76	Valentin	Malek	FRA	Right Wing	07.02.1999	FREJUS, FRA	82	187	
8	Jonathan	Mapu	FRA	Line Player	10.03.1998	FREJUS, FRA	95	181	6
12	Romain	Mathias	FRA	Goalkeeper	13.09.1997	PARIS, FRA	95	197	
82	Emeric	Paillason	FRA	Back	13.06.1982	ST MARTIN D'HERES, FRA	89	193	
16	Mihai Catalin	Popescu	ROU	Goalkeeper	15.03.1985	Gaesti, DB, ROU	100	190	0
99	Romain	Quatrevaux	FRA	Goalkeeper	29.12.1999	FREJUS, FRA	76	188	
11	Daniel	Sarmiento Melian	ESP	Centre Back	25.08.1983	Las Palmas, ESP	85	188	7
7	Alexandru Viorel	Simicu	ROU	Left Back	08.10.1988	Timisoara, ROU	96	202	1
23	Jan	Stehlik	CZE	Right Back	18.04.1985	PLZEN, CZE	91	188	0
27	Alexian	Trottet	FRA	Left Wing	13.05.1997	VERNON, FRA	75	175	0
24	Arthur	Vigneron	FRA	Right Wing	30.01.1995	SAINT-MICHEL, FRA	78	182	0



SAINT-RAPHAEL VAR HANDBALL (FRA)

Coach and key players profiles



Joel Da Silva coach

- after training Toulouse for four seasons, he signed for Saint-Raphaël in the summer of 2014
- has already declared that this season would be his last in the club
- elected best coach in the French league in the 2015/16 season
- has never played handball at a high level and started coaching at 14!
- before joining Toulouse in 2009, he used to work in a garden store
- has a lot of tattoos and a habit of warming the Saint-Raphaël fans up



Raphael Caucheteux left wing

- with his 2 m height, he's one of the tallest wingers in the handball world
- stayed with Saint Raphaël since signing in January 2007 from Montpellier - no one in the squad has played longer for the club
- one of the only three players who has scored more than a thousand goals in the French league
- despite his effectiveness, he's never worn the national jersey



Daniel Sarmiento centre back

- transferred from FC Barcelona last summer, in order to replace Arnor Atlason
- was part of the FC Barcelona team which broke all records in the 2013/14 season, scoring 1,146 goals in only 30 games played
- after playing seven seasons in Catalunya, this is his first experience abroad
- coach Joël Da Silva was convinced by his ability to make other players play well
- despite not speaking a word of French when he arrived, he's now quite fluent and able to give interviews



Adrien Dipanda right back

- formed in Montpellier, before moving to Ademar Leon and then to Saint-Raphael in 2012
- late bloomer, playing mostly in defence until just three years ago
- his progress is now apparent, since he is regularly picked for in the national team

WCh: G 2013, EURO: B 2014

OG: S 2016; Wch: S 2017

GROUP A



Playing hall

Sportni Center Ribnica
Majnikova ulica 2
1310 Ribnica, Slovenia
Capacity: 950

Club Address:

RD Riko Ribnica
Majnikova 2
1310 Ribnica
Slovenia

Media contact:

Marko Obrstar
rdribnica95@gmail.com

Online information:

www.rokometno-drustvo-ribnica.si
Facebook: [rd.ribnica](https://www.facebook.com/rd.ribnica)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

RD RIKO RIBNICA (SLO)

In 2016, the year of their 60th anniversary, Riko Ribnica achieved their best ever result in the Slovenian league, finishing third, only the powerhouses from Celje and Velenje. And compared to runners-up Velenje the team from the small city with just about 10,000 people made it to the group phase of the EHF Cup right in their first international season after beating Romanian side Timisoara in Qualification Round 3.

The team of head coach Robert Begus consists almost entirely of Slovenian players, the only foreign player is Bosnian Alen Kulenovic, one of five new arrivals at the start of the season. "We are part of the EHF Cup for the first time. We would be glad to win some points and gain as much experience as we can for the next years," says Begus. and French runners-up Saint-Raphael.

"All opponents have larger budgets and much more experience in international competitions than we have. We will try to win some matches though, in particular those on home ground," says Begus. For him, the three German participants Berlin, Melsungen, Magdeburg and EHF Cup Finals hosts Göppingen are the main title contenders this season. For the Ribnica coach to be part of the competition is already a success. "This is a recognition and confirmation that even in small towns and small clubs good to very good handball can be played." The only player missing the group phase for Ribnica is Erak Slavko who sustained a knee injury in December and was expected to be sidelined for six to eight months.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ SCM Politehnica Timisoara (ROU) L27:22
2nd leg: vs SCM Politehnica Timisoara (ROU) W30:19
Aggregate score: 52:46

Coach: Robert Beguš

Captain: Blaz Nosan

Newcomers:

David Kovacic (MRK Krka Novo Mesto)
Slavko Erak (RD Slovan Ljubljana)
Alen Kulenovic, (HSG Bärnbach)
Rok Setnikar (SV Beckdorf)
Gašper Horvat (RK Jeruzalem Ormoz)

Left the club:

Aleksander Atanasov (RD Slovan Ljubljana), Peter Batinic (SD Skofljica)
Andris Celmins (RK Gorenje Velenje)
Crt Abrahamsberg (end of career)

Past achievements

Other

Slovenian league: - (3rd place 2015/16)

RD RIKO RIBNICA (SLO)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
37	Slavko	Erak	SLO	Right Wing	31.12.1990	Ljubljana, SLO	81	180	3
7	Blaz	Fink	SLO	Line Player	30.03.1989	Ljubljana, SLO	102	189	8
13	Jan	Grebenc	SLO	Left Back	18.08.1992	Ljubljana, SLO	94	194	9
12	Matej	Grebenc	SLO	Goalkeeper	08.04.1998	Ljubljana, SLO	84	186	
15	Nik	Henigman	SLO	Left Back	04.12.1995	Ljubljana, SLO	102	200	8
6	Gasper	Horvat	SLO	Left Back	10.04.1998	Maribor, SLO	89	198	
31	Mark	Klaric	SLO	Goalkeeper	27.04.1990	Ljubljana, SLO	105	191	0
44	Jure	Kljun	SLO	Left Wing	22.06.1994	Ljubljana, SLO	64	175	0
14	Uros	Knava	SLO	Left Wing	11.10.1996	Ljubljana, SLO	82	177	3
99	Gregor	Kosmrli	SLO	Line Player	05.09.1988	Ljubljana, SLO	90	189	0
34	David	Kovacic	SLO	Line Player	03.04.1995	Ljubljana, SLO	110	190	3
87	Alen	Kulenovic	BIH	Right Back	25.09.1987	Jajce, BIH	109	203	0
5	Patrik	Leban	SLO	Centre Back	07.09.1989	Ljubljana, SLO	97	187	14
27	Blaz	Nosan	SLO	Left Back	19.02.1993	Ljubljana, SLO	108	186	
24	Domen	Pahulje	SLO	Centre Back	08.01.1995	Ljubljana, SLO	100	196	0
76	Jost	Perovsek	SLO	Goalkeeper	29.04.1990	Ljubljana, SLO	92	189	0
22	Jan	Pucelj	SLO	Left Wing	25.01.1990	Ljubljana, SLO	84	180	1
77	Rok	Setnikar	SLO	Right Wing	29.05.1991	Kranj, SLO	95	187	
17	Janez	Skusek	SLO	Right Wing	23.04.1983	Ljubljana, SLO	82	180	3



RD RIKO RIBNICA (SLO)

Coach and key players profiles



Robert Begus coach

- became head coach before 2013/2014 season
- previously worked also as the head coach of the Slovenia women national team with which he reached their all-time high 9th place at the EHF EURO 2004
- former head coach of the CL winners RK Krim
- his wife Inna Dolgun was Ukranian and Slovenian international and CL winner with Krim, she also is a handball coach



Nik Henigman left back

- born and raised in Ribnica, where he started to play handball at the age of eight
- never was a club top scorer, but still surprisingly called up for the national team in June 2016 for the WCh qualifying match against Norway (scored three goals) also played at Rio Olympics
- one of the big Slovenian hopes for the future and a player who is already a target of bigger clubs



Patrik Leban centre back

- brain of the squad, pulling all the strings in the attack and with 211 goals in the 2015/16 league season also the club's top scorer (5.3 per game)
- Dean Bombac (Kielce) and Stas Skube (Pick Szeged) are born the same year (1989) and both are more in the spotlight of the national team coach
- in the season 2015/16 he was voted as one of top three players of Slovenian league (only Zarabec and Janc of Celje made a bigger impression)



Jan Grebenc left back

- a couple of years older and a few centimetres shorter than Henigman, Grebenc is also an assest for Ribnica at left back
- with a good movement and ball handling skills even a more effective scorer than Henigman (178 goals/ 4.4 per game season 2015/16)
- played his first game for the national team in November 2016 at the EHF EURO 2018 qualifiers, but failed to reach the final WCh squad for France 2017

GROUP A



Playing hall

GOG Arena, Gudme
Staerkaervej 1
5884 Gudme
Denmark
Capacity: 1,756

Club Address:

GOG
Jacob Jorgensen
Staerkaervej 1
5884 Gudme
Denmark

Media contact:

Kasper Jorgensen
+45 62 252135
kasper@gog.dk

Online information:

Website: www.gog.dk
Facebook: [GOGsport](https://www.facebook.com/GOGsport)
Instagram: [GOGsport](https://www.instagram.com/GOGsport)
Snapchat: [GOGsport](https://www.snapchat.com/add/GOGsport)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: red
Player short: red
Goalkeeper shirt: white

GOG (DEN)

Three World Championship 2017 silver medallists will take to the court when Danish side GOG enter the EHF Cup Group Phase. Goalkeeper Espen Christensen, left wing Magnus Joendal and centre back Goeran Johannessen reached the tournament's final in Paris with Norway and are ready to make a splash with their club in the EHF Cup as well.

Johannessen and Joendal were among the GOG newcomers ahead of the season. Besides the two Norwegians the club also signed line player Torsten Laen who has won the EHF Champions League with Ciudad Real and reached the VELUX EHF FINAL4 with Füchse Berlin. Laen had been playing for GOG's rivals KIF Kolding København for the past three seasons.

With the EHF Cup participation, a seven-year absence from any European Cup has come to an end for GOG. In Group A, Torsten Laen will meet plenty of his former Füchse Berlin teammates when GOG face the 2015 winners of the competition. The Danish club has also been drawn against Saint-Raphael Var Handball from France and RD Riko Ribnica from Slovenia.

GOG head coach Jakob Larsen regards the German and the French teams as main contenders to reach the EHF Cup Finals in Göppingen, hence for him his club's qualification to the group phase is already a major success. "We hope to play some good games and win most of our home matches. If everything goes well, we can qualify for the quarter-finals. But of course, Berlin and Saint Raphael are the favourites in our group."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Alingsas HK (SWE) L29:26
2nd leg: vs Alingsas HK (SWE) W33:27
Aggregate score: 59:56

Newcomers:

Magnus Joendal (OIF Arenedal)
Torsten Laen (KIF)
Goeran Soegard Johannessen (Viking Stavanger)

Left the club:

Lars Hald (Chartres)
Kasper Kildelund (TTH)
Mikkel Moller (Lemvig)
Minik Dahl Hoegh (Aarhus)
Aku Kreutzmann (Ribe/Esbjerg)

Coach: Jakob Larsen (since 2012)

Past achievements

EHF Champions League

Main Round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09
Last 16 (2): 2004/05, 2006/07
Group Matches (1): 2001/02
Champions League (3): 1995/96, 1997/98, 1998/99

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (3): 1999/2000, 2001/02, 2005/06
Round 4 (1): 2009/10

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: runners-up
1994/95, quarter-finals (1993/94, 2002/03)

Danish league: 7 titles (1992, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2004, 2007)
Danish cup: 9 titles (1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2005)

Alternative playing hall

Sparekassen Fyn Arena
Orbaekvej 350
5220 Odense, Denmark
Capacity: 4,000

GOG (DEN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
24	Mads Michael	Bruus	DEN	Right Back	24.11.1988	Ebeltoft, DEN	106	196	0
1	Espen	Christensen	NOR	Goalkeeper	17.06.1985	Stavanger, NOR	88	190	0
77	Frederik Kiehn	Clausen	DEN	Left Back	29.06.1995	DEN	102	197	14
15	Andreas	Holst Jensen	DEN	Left Back	01.12.1994	DEN	102	202	
9	Henrik	Jakobsen	NOR	Line Player	16.12.1992	Lorenskog, NOR	100	196	5
17	Magnus	Joendal	NOR	Left Wing	07.02.1988	Ski, NOR	83	187	2
23	Goeran Soegaard	Johannessen	NOR	Centre Back	26.04.1994	NOR	92	192	5
42	Frederik	Krabbe	DEN	Left Back	05.01.1997	DEN	95	198	1
20	Lasse	Kronborg	DEN	Centre Back	18.05.1984	DEN	95	193	11
2	Torsten	Laen	DEN	Line Player	26.11.1979	Odense, DEN	98	198	0
6	Jon	Lindenchrone Andersen	DEN	Right Back	02.01.1997	DEN	84	195	0
11	Andreas	Lonberg	DEN	Left Wing	11.06.1990	DEN	80	180	1
12	Frank	Mikkelsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	24.06.1988	DEN	90	190	0
10	Tobias Torpegaard	Möller	DEN	Left Wing	04.02.1990		83	183	7
64	Lasse Kjaer	Møller	DEN	Left Back	11.06.1996				
16	Mathias Hoyer	Mosel	DEN	Goalkeeper	05.05.1994	DEN	87	186	0
4	Lasse	Rosendahl	DEN	Centre Back	26.01.1997	DEN	102	190	
19	Mark	Strandgaard Petersen	DEN	Right Wing	18.05.1987	DEN	73	181	2
3	Niclas	Vest Kirkelokke	DEN	Right Back	26.03.1994	DEN	100	195	11



GOG (DEN)

Coach and key players profiles



Jakob Larsen coach

- has been head coach in GOG since 2012
- also has a past career as player in the club for 10 years as left back and an uncompromising defender
- has his roots in Greenland and has also represented Greenland's national team many times, being a key player there
- led GOG to the bronze medal in the Danish league in the 2015/16 season and thereby to a comeback to Europe after six years' absence
- is leaving the club after this season, though, for a so far unknown destination



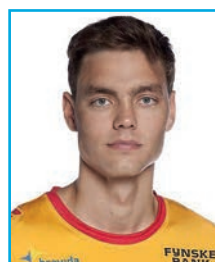
Espen Christensen goalkeeper

- joined GOG in the summer of 2015 from Swedish league club Lugi HF, with whom he played the EHF Cup the 2013/14 season
- started his career in Stavanger Handball in his homeland, with whom he made his first European experience, in the Cup Winners' Cup in the 2003/04 season
- with his 192 cm, he fills out his goal well, but he is also remarkable explosive, considering his size
- has played more than 50 internationals for Norway
- at the EHF EURO 2016, where he played a considerable part in Norway reaching the semi-final



Frederik Clausen left back

- started playing handball at the age of seven in the small club Egense Rantzausminde, but is mainly a product of the talent development in GOG, known as Denmark's largest "talent factory"
- mainly a huge talent in the defence, but lately, he has contributed more and more in the attack as well
- with his 197 cm and 103 kg, he has a size and physical strength that make him useful at both ends of the court
- his skills have also caught the eye of national coach Gudmundur Gudmundsson who has included him in his squad several times already, mainly due to his defensive qualities
- despite his early start with handball, he did not reach the top until lately. As an U16 player, he was still in the reserve team in GOG



Niclas Kyrkelokke right back

- started with handball at the age of six in the small club Risohøj but is a product of the GOG talent school
- his 195 cm and 100 kg provide him with the necessary physical strength to cope against almost any defence
- possesses a hard and varied left-hand shot
- has been bothered quite a lot by shoulder problems, but seems to be in the form of his life now
- already an integrated part of the Danish national team, where he is back up to veteran Kasper Søndergaard on the right back position
- part of the Danish team who won the Youth World Championship in 2013

GROUP A



Playing hall

Max-Schmeling-Halle
Falkplatz 1
10437 Berlin
Germany
Capacity: 8,521

Club Address:

Füchse Berlin
Markgrafenstraße 34
10117 Berlin
Germany

Media contact:

Stefan Güter
+49 177 4054946
gueter@fuechse-berlin.de

Online information:

Website: www.fuechse-berlin.de
Facebook: [fuechseberlin](https://www.facebook.com/fuechseberlin)
Twitter: [@FuechseBerlin](https://twitter.com/FuechseBerlin)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: silver
Player short: silver
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: red
Player short: red
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

FÜCHSE BERLIN (GER)

In order to reach the group phase of the Men's EHF Cup, no team had higher hurdles to clear than Füchse Berlin. However, after they had beaten former EHF Cup Finals participants, Chambéry Savoie from France and Gorenje Velenje from Slovenia in Rounds 2 and 3, something surprising happened: In December 2016, Berlin parted ways with their head coach Erlingur Richardsson. The Icelandic had taken over the team in summer 2015, succeeding Dagur Sigurdsson who then only focussed on his role as German national team coach. Richardsson's successor is now the experienced Velimir Petkovic, who coached several German clubs before and steered Frisch Auf Göppingen to the EHF Cup trophy in 2016.

"We have to survive this stage," says Petkovic. "In particular, the two matches against Saint-Raphael will be extremely tough. They are famous for their strength in away matches. And any Danish side is a high hurdle, too. We will have to give it all we have to make it to Göppingen (hosts of the EHF Cup Finals 2017)." Even though Petkovic has been part of many European Cup matches, he says that the EHF Cup is special for him. "The competition is hugely important for the club. We have certain goals to fulfil. It is not enough to be part of the group phase, we want more – a ticket to Göppingen." For the upcoming matches, Petkovic will have to replace injured Croat Drago Vukovic. Furthermore, there is a question mark hovering over German international Fabian Wiede who is still recovering from a shoulder injury. However, Wiede should be fit again at a later stage of the competition.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: Chambéry Savoie Handball (FRA) W22:25
2nd leg: vs Chambéry Savoie Handball (FRA) W24:22
Aggregate score: 49:44

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Rk Gorenje Velenje (SLO) W24:29
2nd leg: vs Rk Gorenje Velenje (SLO) L29:32
Aggregate score: 58:56

Newcomers:

Fynn Ole Fritz (Füchse youth team)
Mark Ferjan (Füchse youth team)
Christoph Reißky (Füchse youth team)
Steffen Fäth (HSG Wetzlar)
Kresimir Kozina (SG Flensburg-Handewitt)

Left the club:

Willy Weyhrauch (ThSV Eisenach)
Angelo Grunz (TUSEM Essen)
Colja Löffler (retired)
Denis Spoljaric (retired)
Bartłomiej Jaszka (retired)
Moritz Schade (Dessau-Roßlauer HV)
Jesper Nielsen (PSG Handball)
Faruk Vrazalic (Besiktas)

Coach: Velimir Petkovic

Team captain: Peter Stochl

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League
VELUX EHF FINAL4 (1): fourth place 2011/12
Last 16 (1): 2012/13
Qualification (1): 2013/14

EHF Cup

Winners (1): 2014/15
EHF Cup Finals (2): third place 2013/14, winners 2014/15
Qualification Round 3 (1): 2015/16

Other

IHF Super Globe: winners 2015, 2016
German cup: 1 title (2014)

FÜCHSE BERLIN (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
9	Cyrill	Akakpo	GER	Right Wing	01.10.1997	Berlin, GER	88	186	
31	Tim	Bielzer	GER	Line Player	07.11.1997	Berlin, GER	104	195	
95	Paul	Drux	GER	Left Back	07.02.1995	Gummersbach, GER	92	192	8
4	Bjarki Mar	Elisson	ISL	Left Wing	16.05.1990	Reykjavik, ISL	88	191	15
23	Steffen	Fäth	GER	Left Back	04.04.1990	Frankfurt a.M., GER	90	194	8
16	Mark	Ferjan	SLO	Goalkeeper	30.06.1998	Ljubljana, SLO	89	183	
5	Fynn Ole	Fritz	GER	Left Back	03.05.1997	Berlin, GER	94	194	
10	Jakov	Gojun	CRO	Left Back	18.04.1986	Split, CRO	112	203	2
12	Silvio	Heinevetter	GER	Goalkeeper	21.10.1984	Bad Langensalza, GER	92	194	1
44	Kresimir	Kozina	CRO	Line Player	25.06.1990	Derventa, CRO	99	196	8
32	Christoffer	Kubrak	GER	Goalkeeper	03.10.1997	Berlin, GER	84	189	
18	Hans	Lindberg	DEN	Right Wing	01.08.1981	Höje Taastrup, DEN	88	188	21
13	Petar	Nenadic	SRB	Centre Back	28.06.1986	Beograd, SRB 80	198	18	
17	Ignacio	Plaza Jimenez	ESP	Line Player	10.01.1994	Ciudad Real, ESP	102	195	7
22	Yannick-Marcos	Pust	GER	Right Wing	17.10.1998	Berlin, GER	80	185	
43	Christoph	Reißky	GER	Right Back	11.08.1995	Freiberg, GER	80	187	1
14	Kuno	Schauer	GER	Centre Back	07.11.1998	Berlin, GER	82	189	0
26	Frederik	Simak	GER	Left Wing	24.01.1998	Gengenbach, GER	100	196	0
71	Petr	Stochl	CZE	Goalkeeper	24.04.1976	Pilsen, CZE	93	195	0
7	Kevin	Struck	GER	Left Wing	31.12.1996	Berlin, GER	87	193	0
15	Kent Robin	Tönnesen	NOR	Right Back	05.06.1991	Partille, SWE	90	194	
6	Drago	Vukovic	CRO	Centre Back	03.08.1983	Split, CRO	92	194	6
20	Konstantin	Werner	GER	Left Wing	25.09.1997	Berlin, GER	82	182	
3	Fabian	Wiede	GER	Right Back	08.02.1994	Belzig, GER	89	192	10
21	Mattias	Zachrisson	SWE	Right Wing	22.08.1990	Huddinge, SWE	86	178	2



FÜCHSE BERLIN (GER)

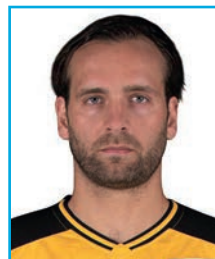
Coach and key players profiles



Velimir Petkovic coach

- born in former Yugoslavia, but with German citizenship now
- as player won the European Champions Cup in 1976 with Borac Banja Luka
- as coach of the same club he won the IHF Cup Winners' Cup in 1991
- after his six-year stint with Wetzlar he was at the helm of Frisch Auf Göppingen for nearly ten years steering them to two EHF Cup titles and the premiere edition of the EHF Cup Finals in 2013

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2011, 2012, IHF CWC 1991 (as coach), Champions Cup 1976 (as player)



Silvio Heinevetter goalkeeper

- goalkeeping stalwart of the German national team
- his former goalkeeper coach at SC Magdeburg was legendary Wieland Schmidt (Olympic champion 1980)
- famous for his unusual style of saving shots
- liaised with a German TV star Simone Thomalla
- extended his contract until 2018

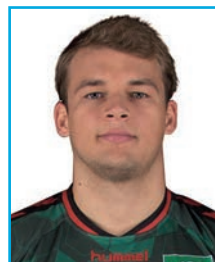
EC trophies: EHF Cup 2007, 2015
OG: B 2016



Petar Nenadic centre back

- signed by Füchse from Plock in September 2014, after playmaker Bartłomiej Jaska was out for months due to an injury
- currently playing in the sixth different country after Serbia, Spain, Hungary, Denmark and Poland
- married with the Serbian volleyball international Jelena Nikolic, and will leave Füchse after this season

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2015
EURO: S 2012



Paul Drux left back

- born in Gummersbach, discovered by Füchse Berlin, when he was 16
- since then (until 2016) coached by Sigurdsson in the club – and since November 2014 also in the German national team
- All-star Player at the Men's 20 EHF EURO 2014 in Austria, where he led the Germans to the gold medal like at the Men's 18 EHF EURO 2012
- nominated for the WCh 2015 in Qatar, but proved his high level getting in the starting seven

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2015
OG: B 2016



Group B head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group B opponents in the EC

Frisch Auf Göppingen vs Futebol Clube do Porto 2 1-1-0 (55:47) 3:1

15.11.2009 FC Porto/Vitalis vs Frisch Auf Göppingen, EHF Cup – Last 32

21.11.2009 Frisch Auf Göppingen vs FC Porto/Vitalis, EHF Cup – Last 32

24:24 (14:13)

31:23 (16:12)

Fraikin BM. Granollers vs Futebol Clube do Porto 1 1-0-0 (17:12) 2:0

1958/1959 BM Granollers vs FC Porto, Champions Cup – Last 16 17:12 (8:7)

No previous encounters in European competitions

Frisch Auf Göppingen vs HC Midtjylland

Frisch Auf Göppingen vs Fraikin BM. Granollers

HC Midtjylland vs Fraikin BM. Granollers

HC Midtjylland vs Futebol Clube do Porto

GROUP B



Playing hall

EWS Arena Göppingen
Nördlichen Ringstrasse 87
73033 Göppingen
Germany
Capacity: 5,600

Club Address:

Frisch Auf Göppingen
Leonhard Weiss -Strasse 40
73037 Göppingen
Germany

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Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

FRISCH AUF GÖPPINGEN (GER)

For the first time in the short history of the EHF Cup Finals, the defending champions will have a chance to defend their title on home turf. After beating 2016 hosts HBC Nantes to win the current format for the first time after lifting the last two trophies of the old version in 2010 and 2011, Göppingen successfully applied for the upcoming EHF Cup Finals on 13/14 May.

Despite their tough schedule in the Bundesliga, coach Magnus Andersson is confident of going all the way for the third time after 2012 and 2016: "I have a good feeling that we as the defending champions can make it to the EHF Cup Finals on home ground." Andersson does not predict only German teams as the main contenders for making it to the final tournament, but: "Of course, they always belong to the group of favourites, but this year, there are strong sides from France and Denmark in the competition." His club is already looking forward "to being a good host of the event for all teams and their fans. We wish all group phase participants luck on their Road to Göppingen."

His team lost their 2007 World Champion Michael Kraus (now Stuttgart), but signed German international Jens Schöngarth from Magdeburg and Sebastian Heymann, one of the country's biggest talents. On their way to the group phase, the defending champions did not have to travel that far to take the win at their Swiss neighbours Winterthur. Now they face two trips to the west and one to the north in the group with Granollers, FC Porto and Midtjylland waiting in Group B. "It is a tough, but great group," says Swedish-born coach Andersson, adding: "I expect highly interesting matches and a close and thrilling race for the top positions until the final round."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Pfadi Winterthur (SUI) W30:33
2nd leg: vs Pfadi Winterthur (SUI) W37:32
Aggregate score: 70:62

Newcomers:

Jens Schöngarth (SC Magdeburg)
Sebastian Heymann (TSB Horkheim)

Left the club:

Peter Tatai (Nettelstedt)
Michael Kraus (TVB Stuttgart)
Kevynn Nyokas (Gummersbach)
Thomas Kristensen (Haslum)
Felix Lobedank (Stuttgart)

Coach: Magnus Andersson (since 2014)

Captain: Manuel Späth

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Winners (3): 2010/11, 2011/12, 2015/16
Runners-up (1): 2005/06
EHF Cup Finals (2): fourth 2013
Quarter-final (1): 2009/10

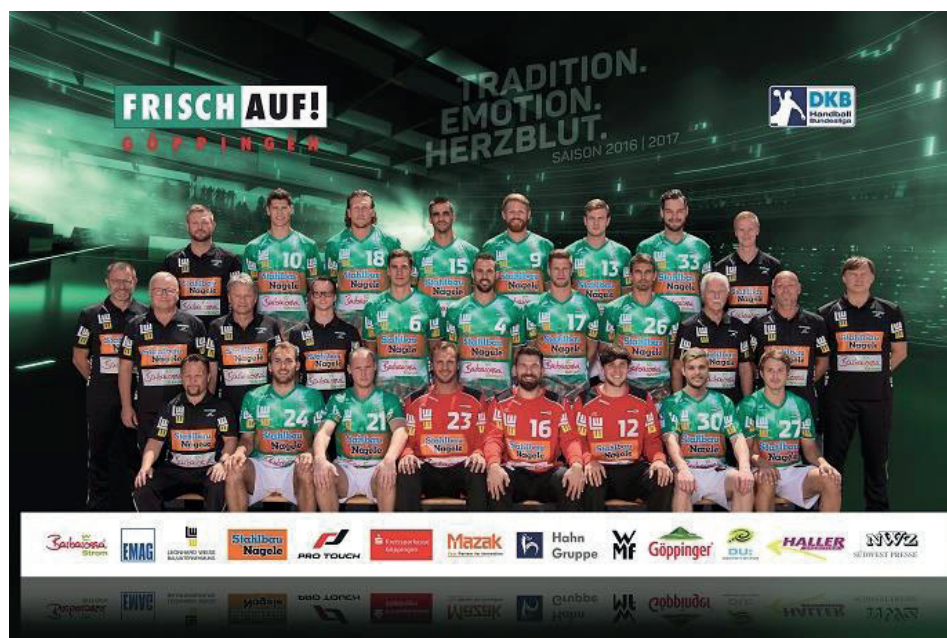
Other

German league: 11 titles; outdoor 1954, 1957; indoor 1954, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1970, 1972

FRISCH AUF GÖPPINGEN (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
13	Niclas Andreas	Barud	SWE	Line Player	22.03.1988	Partille, SWE	105	196	1
21	Andreas	Berg	SWE	Left Wing	09.05.1992	Säve, SWE	88	190	6
17	Daniel	Fontaine	GER	Left Back	02.07.1989	Saarlouis, GER	95	194	9
3	Tobias	Gehrke	GER	Left Wing	05.01.1996	Esslingen, GER	80	178	
30	Anton	Halen	SWE	Right Wing	28.11.1990	Helgum, SWE	90	192	4
10	Sebastian	Heymann	GER	Left Back	01.03.1998	Heilbronn, GER	91	198	1
18	Lars	Kaufmann	GER	Left Back	25.02.1982	Görlitz, GER	107	199	1
4	Tim	Kneule	GER	Centre Back	18.08.1986	Reutlingen, GER	99	190	4
26	Adrian	Pfahl	GER	Right Back	30.07.1982	Bietigheim, GER	92	192	3
16	Primoz	Prost	SLO	Goalkeeper	14.07.1983	TRBOVLJE, SLO	96	186	1
12	Daniel	Rebmann	GER	Goalkeeper	16.01.1994	Stuttgart, GER	100	190	0
27	Marco	Rentschler	GER	Right Wing	28.12.1994	Bietigheim, GER	82	185	10
23	Bastian	Rutschmann	GER	Goalkeeper	30.12.1982	Karlsruhe, GER	93	195	0
24	Marcel	Schiller	GER	Left Wing	15.08.1991	Bad Urach, GER	94	189	11
6	Jona	Schoch	GER	Centre Back	02.08.1994	Ostfildern, GER	90	192	
33	Jens	Schöngarth	GER	Right Back	07.12.1988	Emmendingen, GER	98	203	11
15	Zarko	Sesum	SRB	Left Back	16.06.1986	Backa Palanka, SRB	97	195	3
9	Manuel	Späth	GER	Line Player	16.10.1985	Ostfildern, GER	101	200	5



FRISCH AUF GÖPPINGEN (GER)

Coach and key players profiles



Magnus Andersson coach

- as a player was part of the famous “Bengan Boys”, the most successful generation of Swedish handball, playing 307 international matches
- started his coaching career at Halmstadt in Sweden, where he was until 2010
- coach of AG København, leading them to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2012, before the club ceased to exist
- was parallel coach of the Austrian national team from 2010 until 2012
- was coach of Malmö and the Swedish junior team, before he arrived at Göppingen in summer 2014

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2016 (as coach)
WCh: G 1990, 1999, EURO: G 1994, 1998, 2000, 2002, OG: S 1992, 1996, 2000 (as player)



Zarko Sesum left back

- born in the same Serbian city, Backa Palanka, like THW Kiel’s right back Marko Vujin
- like Vujin, he transferred to Veszprem, in 2010 switched for Rhein-Neckar Löwen, then for FAG
- severely injured (skull fracture) during an incident in a night club in Veszprem in 2009, when his former teammate Marian Cozma was killed
- hit by a coin in the eye after the EURO 2012 semi-final Serbia vs Croatia, nearly lost his eye sight
- awarded the MPV of the EHF Cup Finals 2016 in Nantes

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013, 2016
EURO: S 2012



Marcel Schiller left wing

- started his career in Neuhausen, the same “home club” as team captain Manul Späth
- German youth champion with Neuhausen.
- arrived at Göppingen in 2013 after scoring 172 Bundesliga goals for Neuhausen in the 2012/13 season.
- shares the left wing position with young Swede Andreas Berg
- second best scorer of the EHF Cup 2015/16 (69 goals)

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2016
EURO: S 2012



Manuel Späth line player

- captain of Frisch Auf wears Göppingen’s jersey since 2006, played all of his senior career at the club
- made a special record on 9 November 2013, when he played his 250th Bundesliga match (his 309th match in total) for Göppingen in a row, without missing a match due to injury
- boss of FAG’s defence had been playing more than 30 matches for the German national team
- in the summer 2017 he will join TVB 1898 Stuttgart

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2011, 2012, 2016
EURO: S 2012

GROUP B



Playing hall

IBF Arena
Stadion Allé 2b
7430 Ikast, Denmark
Capacity: 2,250

Club Address:

HC Midtjylland
Avnvej 5-7
7400 Herning
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Instagram: [hc_midtjylland](https://www.instagram.com/hc_midtjylland)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: red
Player short: red
Goalkeeper shirt: blue/yellow

Dark

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

HC MIDTJYLLAND (DEN)

Midtjylland is a famous handball city in Denmark, well known in particular for its women's team, FC Midtjylland, former winners of the Danish championship, the Women's EHF Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup and participants at the Women's EHF FINAL4 in 2014. And from the shadows of FCM, a second side, the men's team of HC Midtjylland, is ready to jump into the spotlight.

Over the past 12 months HCM has put a lot of effort into a new and refreshed start, creating something that can be dubbed a 2.0 version of the club with the aim of reaching higher levels on and off the court. HCM want to play a consist role among the Danish top clubs and right in the "update's" first year they won the Danish cup for the first time and therefore qualified for the Men's EHF Cup. Then, in what marked their European Cup debut, they beat Russian side Astrakhan clearly in Qualification Round 3 to advance to the competition's group phase. And while club officials say that the team will take it one game at a time, they made at the same time some big transfers, including Norwegian international Espen Lie Hansen, to underline their ambitions.

For head coach Morten Secher participating in the EHF Cup is a huge chance for the team. "It means that we get a chance to develop as a team. It is interesting and fun to play European handball and it takes everything to a different perspective. It is something different from the usual and everything is just at a higher level." He also thinks that the club as a whole will benefit. "For the club it opens something new and we get the chance to see and experience new things. "The participation gives the club the possibility to lift the organisation to another level because everything is just a bit better and at a higher scale when you play European handball." Secher expects a tough campaign for his team: "From now on it is going to be difficult. We have some really tough matches. Nothing will come easy. We are ready to work hard and hopefully we can get some good results."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Dinamo Astrakhan (RUS) W29:29
2nd leg: vs Dinamo Astrakhan (RUS) W35:26
Aggregate score: 64:55

Newcomers:

Espen Lie Hansen (Bregenz Handball)
Eivind Tangen (Fyllingen Bergen)
Lars Eggen Rismark (Fyllingen Bergen)
Rasmus Carlsen (Halden Topphandball)
Dennis Kirkegaard (Bjerringbro)
Morten Slundt (Aalborg Handbold)
Lars Jakobsen (OIF Arendal)

Left the club:

Pascal Hens (HBW Balingen Weilstetten), Martin Hansen (TTH Holstebro), Vignir Svarvarsson (TTH Holstebro), Nicolaj Norager (Skive fH), Rune Andersen (Fredericia HK 1990), Lasse Justesen (Mors/Thy), Jacob Weinreich (Skive fH), Simon B. Madsen (Ribe-Esbjerg HH), Kasper Kvist (HSG Wetzlar), Rasmus Porup (Skanderborg Handbold)

Coach: Morten Secher (since 2015)

Team captain: Jacob Ostergaard

Past achievements

Other

Danish cup: 1 title (2015)

HC MIDTJYLLAND (DEN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
4	Oliver	Baadsgaard Bondrop	DEN	Line Player	26.10.1997	Herning			4
9	Rasmus	Hedegaard Carlsen	DEN	Centre Back	24.03.1991	Frederikshavn, DEN	94	185	6
	Casper	Tindal Ebbesen	DEN		19.09.1997				
	Hans C.J.	Fangel	DEN		30.11.1997				
18	Kristian	Kjaer Gjessing	DEN	Left Back	15.01.1978	Aarhus, DEN	105	196	0
16	Soren	Gottfredsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	19.02.1968	Aalborg, DEN	84	192	
23	Kasper	Gudnitz	DEN	Right Back	08.07.1989	Rudersdal, DEN	88	185	4
89	Espen	Lie Hansen	NOR	Left Back	01.03.1989	Drammen, NOR	108	196	
15	Dennis	Staunstrup Kirkegaard	DEN	Right Wing	04.06.1981	Holsterbro, DEN	89	186	11
	Mathias H.	Kristensen	DEN		08.07.1996				
	Simon	Morgenstern Madsen	DEN		02.10.1991				
	Peter	Martin Nielsen	DEN		18.02.1997				
11	Mathias	Pilgaard	DEN	Line Player	08.02.1995	Herning, DEN	105	185	2
52	Rasmus	Sogaard Porup	DEN	Left Back	27.05.1988	Lemvig, DEN	105	198	8
23	Jorgen T.B	Rasmussen	DEN	Left Wing	29.08.1989	Ringkjobing, DEN	80	175	1
12	Lars	Eggen Rismark	NOR	Goalkeeper	01.08.1991	Trondheim, NOR	94	188	0
10	Jacob	Sand Sjörslev-Ostergaard	DEN	Line Player	03.01.1986	Skjern, DEN	100	192	4
6	Morten	Andreas Slundt	DEN	Centre Back	26.05.1984	Tårnby, DEN	89	187	11
	Mikkel	Söby	DEN		26.12.1996				
24	Casper	Sas Sörensen	DEN	Left Wing	24.04.1992	Herning, DEN	87	189	6
17	Bastian	Rahbek Straede	DEN	Left Wing	14.11.1994	Skjern, DEN	75	189	
2	Eivind	Tangen	NOR	Right Back	04.05.1993	Bergen, NOR	100	192	7
1	Tim	Legaard Duus Winkler	DEN	Goalkeeper	14.02.1986	Esbjerg, DEN	99	189	0



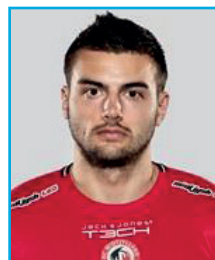
HC MIDTJYLLAND (DEN)

Coach and key players profiles



Morten Secher coach

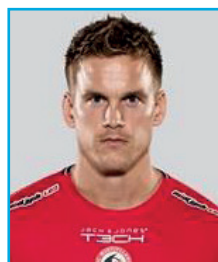
- one of the youngest head coaches in the Danish league
- has been with HC Midtjylland since 2014 and recently extended his contract until the summer of 2019
- joined Midtjylland from Odder, whom he led to promotion to the Danish top flight, but with whom he was also relegated after just one year in the league
- led Midtjylland to the win in the Danish Cup final against EHF Cup colleagues GOG last season, a win which was the ticket for the EHF Cup 2016/17



Eivind Tangen right back

- joined Midtjylland ahead of this season from Norwegian league club FyllingenBergen
- his girlfriend, Norwegian international Stine Skogrand also plays in Denmark in nearby league club Silkeborg Voel and won the EHF EURO 2016
- has CL as well as EHF Cup experience from his seven years with Fyllingen
- his 192 cm and 100 kg give him good odds against almost any defence
- in Norwegian national coach Christian Berge's squad for the 2017 World Championship in France

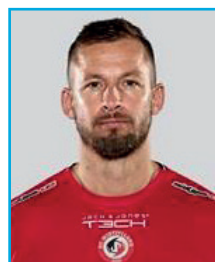
WCh: S 2017



Espen Lie Hansen left back

- joined Midtjylland from Austrian side Bregenz Handball ahead of the 2016/17 season
- has a previous career in Danish handball, having played the 2011/12 season for Bjerringbro Silkeborg with whom he also gained Champions League experience
- his career has brought him around in a bit of handball Europe, as he has also represented Dunkerque in the French league as well as in the CL, and SC Magdeburg in the German Bundesliga
- with his 196 cm, he is able to shoot over many a defender, and his shot is feared in the Danish league
- has been a regular in Norway's national team for quite some time now

WCh: S 2017



Kristian Gjessing left back

- playing his fourth season with Midtjylland after joining from Skjern
- used to be an efficient shooter, but these days, he is mainly used in the defence, though he can still contribute to the attack as well, not least in the second wave of the counter phase
- managed to come back from a complicated knee injury in 2010
- has also represented AaB Handball in Denmark as well as BM Altea in Spain
- married to triple taekwondo paralympic World champion Lisa Gjessing who had her left forearm amputated in 2012 due to cancer

GROUP B



Playing hall

Palau d'Esports de Granollers
Adva. Francesc Macia s/num.
08400 Granollers
Spain
Capacity: 5,260

Club Address:

Fraikin BM. Granollers
C/Voluntaris 1
08402 Granollers
Spain

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Facebook: [BMGranollers](https://www.facebook.com/BMGranollers)
Twitter: [@BMGranollers](https://twitter.com/BMGranollers)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

BM FRAIKIN GRANOLLERS (ESP)

Like German side SC Magdeburg and their upcoming group phase opponents Frisch Auf Göttingen, Fraikin BM Granollers are one of three teams in the Men's EHF Cup Group Phase that won the competition when it was still played in its old format. Furthermore, last season the club became the first from Spain to qualify for the EHF Cup Finals (finished third).

Head coach Carlos Viver Arza expects tough matches. "The level of this group, compared to our two previous participations in the EHF Cup, is very high. It looks similar to last season's group phase, but Porto are definitely stronger than our opponents back then. "It seems that this is the most difficult group of our last three participations at this level. We have some huge challenges ahead, but this is sports and this is precious."

The team Viver Arza will send to the court looks much different compared to last season: six players left, six new ones arrived. Nevertheless, reaching the EHF Cup Finals is the club's goal. "For us, being part of the EHF Cup means to be able to compete with the European handball elite. Our presence in the group phase is a reward for the club, the players, the fans and the city of Granollers," says Viver Arza. In his opinion, there are many contenders for the title this season, much more than in previous years. "I think any of the German or French teams have the chances to go all the way."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: Fraikin BM Granollers (ESP) vs ZTR Zaporozhye (UKR) L 29:27
2nd leg: Zaporozhye vs Granollers W 30:28
Aggregate score: 57:57

Coach: Carlos Viver Arza (since 2014)

Captain: David Resina Forns

Newcomers

Jorge De Silva (Anaitasuna De Pamplona)
Mikael Kasal (Aix En Provence)
Mamadou Gassama (Granollers II)
Vicente Alamo (FC Benfica)
Alvaro Cabanas (BM Huesca)
Vladan Loncar (Pick Szeged)

Left the club:

Ferran Solé (Fenix Toulouse)
Cesar Almeida (IK Arendal)
Henrique Teixeira (BM Huesca)
Moises Blanxart (H. Les Franqueses)
Guillermo Valadao (Brazil)
Francisco Pacheco (Sagunto)

Past achievements

EHF Cup:

Winners (2): 1994/95, 1995/96
EHF Cup Finals (1): third ranked 2015/16
Semi-final (2): 1996/97, 2015/16
Group Phase (1): 2014/15
Quarter-final (1): 2004/05
Last 16 (2): 2007/08, 2011/12

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: final 2009/10
Champions Trophy: final 1995/96
City Cup: semi-final 1993/94
IHF Cup Winners' Cup: 1975/76

Spanish league: 10 titles (1959, 1960, 1961, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974)

Copa del Rey: 3 titles
ASOBAL Cup: 1 title

BM FRAIKIN GRANOLLERS (ESP)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
1	Vicente	Alamo Yeste	ESP	Goalkeeper	10.02.1976	Barcelona, ESP	91	186	0
39	Carles	Asensio Cambra	ESP	Line Player	10.08.1997	St. Quirze del Vallès, ESP	110	197	
2	Alvaro	Cabanas Carcia Pertusa	ESP	Left Wing	22.04.1990	Santander, ESP	71	181	17
14	Marc	Cañellas Reixach	ESP	Centre Back	21.07.1995	S.M. de Palautordera, ESP	80	187	1
18	Adria	Cumplido Lopez	ESP	Right Wing	10.01.1995	Barcelona, ESP	75	181	
28	Jorge Filipe	F.M da Silva	POR	Right Back	23.05.1989	Lisboa, POR	100	200	5
8	Alvaro	Ferrer Vecilla	ESP	Centre Back	17.03.1982	Granollers, ESP	95	190	0
13	Adrian	Figueras Trejo	ESP	Line Player	31.08.1988	Barcelona, ESP	88	191	11
6	Miquel	Flores Traveria	ESP	Centre Back	29.03.1990	Granollers, ESP	80	185	0
9	Arnau	Garcia Barcelo	ESP	Left Back	12.06.1994	Granollers, ESP	90	194	5
7	Marc	Garcia Dieguez	ESP	Left Back	27.09.1984	Barcelona, ESP	97	194	0
19	Mamadou	Gassama Cissokho	ESP	Right Wing	28.10.1993	Granollers, ESP	90	188	0
12	Marc	Guardia Tomas	ESP	Goalkeeper	13.01.1995	Barcelona, ESP	83	187	
41	Michal	Kasal	CZE	Left Back	03.04.1994	N.M. Na Moravé, CZE	100	207	3
24	Vladan	Loncar	BIH	Left Back	25.01.1997	Sarajevo, BIH	100	201	4
95	Alejandro	Marquez Coloma	ESP	Right Back	05.01.1995	Alcobendas, ESP	90	194	0
5	Edgar	Perez Lopez	ESP	Left Wing	20.03.1994	Granollers, ESP	75	178	
10	Adria	Perez Martinez	ESP	Left Wing	26.11.1991	Barcelona, ESP	80	181	3
3	Gonzalo Vicente	Porras Perez	ESP	Line Player	18.06.1992	Erandio, ESP	98	190	1
17	David	Resina Forns	ESP	Left Wing	05.04.1987	Granollers, ESP	75	181	6
22	Guillem	Rivera Ventura	ESP	Goalkeeper	14.02.1999	Vic, ESP	88	185	
16	Pol	Sastre Rodriguez	ESP	Goalkeeper	24.07.1991	Granollers, ESP	80	182	1
99	Ian	Tarrafeta Serrano	ESP	Centre Back	04.01.1999	Sabadell, ESP	80	188	0
23	Pol	Valera Rovira	ESP	Left Back	19.09.1998	Granollers, ESP	77	187	



BM FRAIKIN GRANOLLERS (ESP)

Coach and key players profiles



Carlos Viver coach

- became head coach before 2014/15 season, after leading the BM. Granollers female team to the Spanish 1st Division in the previous season
- born in the same city (Granollers), he is the perfect prototype of a “one club man”, playing 16 seasons in BM. Granollers as a professional player
- 1,150 league goals and most capped player for his club in European competition
- steered Granollers the 3rd place at the EHF Cup Finals 2017



David Resina Forns left wing

- joined his hometown club in 2006 and the 2016/17 season is his sixth in EC competition with the Catalan club
- reached the Cup Winners’ Cup final in 2009/10
- scored two goals against eventual winners VfL Gummersbach in the first leg on home court
- played nine internationals for the Spanish junior national team

EC trophies: EHF Cup 1994, 1995 (player)



Marc Canellas centre back

- his older brother Joan plays in HC Vardar
- unlike his brother, who belongs to stalwarts of the Spanish national team, Marc is waiting for his debut in the senior team
- has played 16 matches for the Spanish junior national team and was part of a bronze-winning team at the Men’s 20 EHF EURO 2014
- student of biotechnology joined Granollers before the 2014/15 season



Adria Figueras line player

- joined the team in the 2014/15 season
- second best scorer of Granollers in the 2015/16 EHF Cup season
- came through ranks of FC Barcelona
- played one CL game for Barca in the 2006/07 season scoring his only goal against Panellinios Athens

GROUP B



Playing hall

Dragao Caixa

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

Club Address:

Futebol Clube do Porto
Estádio do Dragão vi FC Porto
Entrada Poente, Piso 3
4350-451 Porto
Portugal

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

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white and blue
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

Dark

Player shirt: black
Player short: black
Goalkeeper shirt: gray

FUTEBOL CLUBE DO PORTO (POR)

After Futebol Clube do Porto had won the Portuguese domestic championship seven times in a row, it was all different in the 2015/16 season. S. L. Benfica and ABC/UMinho were better and reached the final, with the latter eventually taking the title. For Porto it meant that the team, a group phase participant of the VELUX EHF Champions League in 2015/16, now had to start already in Qualification Round 1 for the Men's EHF Cup. However, after overcoming Georgian side B.S.B. Batumi, RD Koper 2013 from Slovenia and Bregenz Handball from Austria they reached their first goal, the group phase.

Ambitions for the season remain high as the club wants to proceed to the quarter-finals as the group's top-ranked team and claim back the domestic championship's title. While they may have been weakened by the departure of their top star Gilberto Duarte to Polish EHF Champions League side Orlen Wisla Plock, they signed three new Brazilian players to make up for the loss. Head coach Ricardo Costa expects strong opponents in the group phase. "Göppingen is not just the defending champion of the competition. It is a club with a long history in European handball," he says. "Midtjylland comes from a leading handball country and we will face the true Scandinavian handball school by a team with mainly young players. For us it is an opportunity to showcase the value of Portuguese handball," says Costa.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 1

1st leg: @ B.S.B. Batumi (GEO) W16:49
2nd leg: vs B.S.B. Batumi (GEO) W44:16
Aggregate score: 93:32

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs RD Koper 2013 (SLO) W31:24
2nd leg: @ RD Koper 2013 (SLO) W22:26
Aggregate score: 57:46

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Bregenz Handball (AUT) W27:28
2nd leg: vs Bregenz Handball (AUT) W31:29
Aggregate score: 59:56

Newcomers:

Victor Iturriza (A.A.Avanca)
Leandro Semedo (ISMAI)
Nikola Spelic (Maribor)
Paulo Candido (Sorriso)
Patrick Lemos (S. Bernardo Metodista)
Felipe Santaella (Pinheiros)
Marko Matic (Metalurg)

Left the club:

Gilberto Duarte (Wisla Plock)
Edgar Landim (SC Horta)
Nuno Goncalves (Istres Provence)
Nuno Roque (CF Os Belenenses)
Felisberto Landim (SC Horta)
Michal Kasal (Fraikin BM Granollers)

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Last 16 (1): 1999/2000
Group Phase (2): 2013/14, 2015/16
Qualification (6): 2004/2005,
2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012,
2012/2013, 2014/15)

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Quarter-finals
2000/2001, 2001/2002

Portuguese league: 19 titles (1954,
1957, 1958, 1959, 1963, 1964, 1965,
1968, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2009,
2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
Portuguese cup: 7 titles

Coach: Ricardo Costa (since 2015)

Team captain: Ricardo Moreira

FUTEBOL CLUBE DO PORTO (POR)

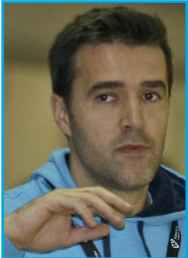
Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
29	Miguel	Alves	POR		22.07.1996	Porto			
15	Daymaro	Amador Salina	POR	Line Player	01.09.1987	Havana, CUB	110	202	9
3	Tomas	Barbosa	POR	Right Wing	26.05.1997	Porto, POR	81	182	1
1	Alfredo	Bravo Quintana	POR	Goalkeeper	20.03.1988	Havana, CUB	105	202	2
18	Jose Mario	Carrillo Gutierrez	ESP	Left Wing	18.12.1990	León, ESP	75	180	18
57	Pedro	Carvalho	POR	Goalkeeper	28.01.1995	Guimaraes, POR	90	195	0
9	Gustavo	Cesar Rodrigues	BRA	Right Back	09.04.1995	São Paulo, BRA	95	191	15
8	Yoel	Cuni Morales	CUB	Right Back	15.02.1987	Havana, CUB	85	189	19
24	Hugo	Delgado Santos	POR	Left Wing	02.03.1992	Porto, POR	70	178	7
37	Leonel	Fernandes	POR	Centre Back	12.03.1998	Porto, POR	80	186	
22	Alexis	Hernandez Borges	CUB	Line Player	06.10.1991	Habana, CUB	115	195	18
4	Victor Manuel	Iturriza Alvarez	CUB	Line Player	22.05.1990	Havana, CUB	105	200	12
16	Hugo	Madeira Laurentino	POR	Goalkeeper	22.07.1984	Evora, POR	88	188	0
29	Marko	Matic	CRO	Left Back	25.01.1988	Ljubuski, CRO	100	202	7
25	Antonio	Rodrigues Areia	POR	Right Wing	21.06.1990	Lisboa, POR	91	191	25
58	Alejandro	Romero Carreras	CUB	Goalkeeper	17.09.1994	Havana, CUB	95	198	
17	Felipe	Santacla	BRA	Line Player	27.01.1995	Sao Paulo, BRA	110	205	
6	Leandro	Semedo	CPV	Left Back	24.12.1995	Praia, CPV	82	192	13
2	Diogo	Silva	POR	Right Back	02.07.1998	Porto, POR	90	194	2
19	Ricardo	Silva Moreira	POR	Right Wing	28.04.1982	Figueira da Foz, POR	82	185	7
10	Miguel	Soares Martins	POR	Centre Back	04.11.1997	Porto, POR	84	193	17
14	Rui	Sousa Martins Silva	POR	Centre Back	28.04.1993	Guimaraes, POR	80	186	13
8	Nikola	Spelic	CRO	Left Back	27.03.1991	Zagreb, CRO	102	198	12
13	Patrick Andre	Toniazza Lemos	BRA	Left Back	23.05.1996	Sorriso, BRA	92	195	12



FUTEBOL CLUBE DO PORTO (POR)

Coach and key players profiles



Ricardo Costa coach

- in June 2014 replaced Ljubomir Obradovic, who took over the Montenegrin national team during the previous season
- Manolo Cadenas and Jordi Ribera are his greatest sources of inspirations
- has already won six national championships for FC Porto (three as a player and three as assistant coach)
- in the 2014/15 season was the head coach of ADA Maia.
- during his player career gathered 206 caps, only three players in national team history have more



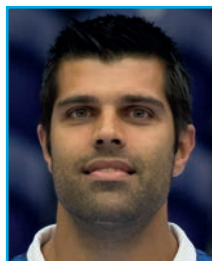
Hugo Laurentino goalkeeper

- experienced goalkeeper has been of most importance to the Dragons since he joined the club in 2005/06, winning seven championships
- might not be from the north of Portugal (born in Évora), but he certainly carries the northern spirit
- has had a distinguished career with FC Porto, but has also played for clubs in the south of the country, such as Vitória de Setubal and Évora AC, as well as being a regular on the Portugal national team



Rui Silva centre back

- came to FC Porto as one of the summer reinforcements in 2015
- played for Sporting Lisboa, who played against Porto in the 2015/16 league final
- promising playmaker, a lot of people compare him with Carlos Resende, the best Portuguese handball player in history



Ricardo Moreira right wing

- Captain of the side, he is the soul of the Dragons
- was an FC Porto player from 1997 to 2001 and returned to the club three years later to become the most influential player in the dressing room
- also played in Vitória de Setubal, CPN and Belenenses
- besides being the starting right wing, he usually takes the penalties
- known by keeping a cool head when things are going wrong for FC Porto, putting his teammates' minds in place



Group C head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group C opponents in the EC

KIF Kolding København vs SC Magdeburg 2 2-0-0 (57:44) 4:0

23.03.2002 Sportclub Magdeburg vs Kolding IF, EHF Champions League – Semi-final

29:19 (13:8)

31.03.2002 Kolding IF vs Sportclub Magdeburg, EHF Champions League – Semi-final

25:28 (12:11)

No previous encounters in European competitions

KIF Kolding København vs Grundfos Tatabánya KC

KIF Kolding København vs Maccabi CASTRO Tel Aviv

Grundfos Tatabánya KC vs SC Magdeburg

Grundfos Tatabánya KC vs Maccabi CASTRO Tel Aviv

SC Magdeburg vs Maccabi CASTRO Tel Aviv

GROUP C



Playing hall

Sydbank Arena Kolding
Ambolten 2-6
6000 Kolding, Denmark
Capacity: 2,800

Club Address:

KIF Kolding København
Ambolten 2-6
6000 Kolding
Denmark

Media contact:

Claudia Bisconti
+45 28 116158
claudia@kif.dk

Online information:

Website: www.kif.dk
Facebook: [KIFKBH](https://www.facebook.com/KIFKBH)
Twitter: [@KifKoldingKBH](https://twitter.com/KifKoldingKBH)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: light blue

Dark

Player shirt: blue/green/red
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: green

KIF KOLDING KOBENHAVN (DEN)

13 times KIF Kolding København have played in the VELUX EHF Champions League, but in the 2015/16 season Bjerringbro-Silkeborg and TTH Holstebro both surpassed them in the Danish league, making the EHF Cup the new European handball home for the 14-time national champions. The previous season also marked a cut in other ways, and one of the first steps in building a new team was the signing of Carlos Antonio Ortega as new coach in January 2016, only months after the Spaniard and his previous club Telekom Veszprem had parted ways.

For the current season, Ortega, who the EHF Champions League five times as a player, was behind the signings of fellow Spaniards, Antonio Garcia and Niko Mindegia, as well of some international players who played for Spanish clubs before such as Swede Philip Stenmalm and Brazilian Fabio Chiuffa. However, at the same time some big names, including top talent Lasse Andersson (to FC Barcelona Lassa) and former EHF Champions League winner Torsten Laen (to GOG) left KIF. Despite this transition phase, everyone at KIF hopes to return to the top of the Danish league and to reach the knockout stage of the EHF Cup.

"We are in a strong group and SC Magdeburg must be the favourites. However, we believe we can advance from the group stage and who knows what happens then. Maybe we can compete with some of the other top teams," says Ortega.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs Talent M.A.T. Plzen (CZE) W38:23
2nd leg: @ Talent M.A.T. Plzen (CZE) W20:31
Aggregate score: 69:43

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Abanca Ademar Leon (ESP) W24:27
2nd leg: vs Abanca Ademar Leon (ESP) L25:27
Aggregate score: 52:51

Newcomers:

Philip Stenmalm (Naturhouse La Rioja)
Niko Mindegia (MOL-Pick Szeged)
Antonio Garcia (MOL-Pick Szeged)
Fabio Chiuffa (Ciudad de Guadalajara)
Nicolas Kristiansen (HIK)

Left the club:

Lasse Andersson (FC Barcelona Lassa)
Lukas Karlsson (Ribe Esbjerg)
Torsten Laen (GOG)
Kasper Irming (Skanderborg Handbold)

Coach: Carlos Ortega

Captain: Bo Spellerberg

Playing hall

Trefor Arena Brøndby
Brøndby Stadion 20
2605 Brøndby, Denmark
Capacity: 5,000

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Semi-final (1): 2001/02
Quarter-final (1): 2002/03
Last 16 (8): 2003/04, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2013/14, 2014/15
Last 32 (1): 1993/94
Group Phase (2): 1994/95, 2015/16

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals 1999/2000,
Quarter-finals 2007/08
EHF Cup: Quarter-finals 2012/13

Danish champions: 14 times (1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2014, 2015)

Danish cup: 7 times

KIF KOLDING KOBENHAVN (DEN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
22	Sebastian	Augustinussen	DEN	Right Wing	06.05.1996	Kolding, DEN			5
18	Morten	Björnshauge	DEN	Line Player	04.07.1990	Denmark, DEN	110	198	0
3	Lasse	Boesen	DEN	Left Back	18.09.1979	Kolding, DEN	100	192	
20	Marcus David	Cleverly	DEN	Goalkeeper	15.06.1981	Hillerød, DEN	90	188	0
	Mathias	Daugard	DEN	Left Wing	24.02.1997	Kolding, DEN	83	190	
27	Rasmus	Dossing	DEN	Goalkeeper	06.02.1997	Kolding, DEN	100	195	
9	Antonio Jesus	Garcia Robledo	ESP	Left Back	06.03.1984	Llagosta, ESP	93	191	20
1	Kasper	Hvidt	DEN	Goalkeeper	06.02.1976	Frederiksberg, DEN	96	192	0
35	Konstantin	Igropulo	RUS	Right Back	14.04.1985	Stawropol, RUS	97	189	19
21	Simon Edelberg	Jensen	DEN	Right Wing	02.06.1984	Svendborg, DEN	85	185	
6	Lars Troels	Jorgensen	DEN	Back	03.02.1978	Køge, DEN	102	192	5
	Jens	Kjaergaard	DEN	Left Wing	12.04.1997	Skive, DEN	75	183	
29	Nicolas Lundbye	Kristiansen	DEN	Right Back	12.03.1992	Hellerup, DEN	88	188	2
17	Magnus	Landin Jacobsen	DEN	Left Wing	20.08.1995	Helsingør, DEN	88	196	6
	Jeppe	Larsen	DEN	Centre Back	14.07.1997	Vamdrup, DEN	85	188	
12	Anders	Lynge	DEN	Goalkeeper	16.04.1997	Kolding, DEN	81	183	0
5	Niko	Mindegia Elizaga	ESP	Centre Back	19.07.1988	Santesteban, ESP	87	184	10
15	Jens Svane	Peschardt	DEN	Left Back	22.03.1997	Vejle, DEN	8		
7	Malthe	Povlsen	DEN	Right Back	14.04.1997	Odense, DEN	94	196	0
28	Fabio	Rocha Chiuffa	BRA	Right Wing	10.03.1989	Brasil, BRA	80	187	14
8	Bo Dybdal	Spellerberg	DEN	Left Back	24.07.1979	Gladsaxe, DEN	84	192	10
21	Philip	Stenmalm	SWE	Left Back	03.03.1992	Vaxjö, SWE	89	198	14
	Thomas	Straarup	DEN	Left Back	31.03.1996	Rudersdal, DEN	92	187	
19	Cyril	Viudes	FRA	Line Player	06.02.1982	C-Sur-Marne, FRA	110	198	8
	Kevin	Wonsild	DEN	Left Back	13.07.1997	Haderslev, DEN	92	197	



KIF KOLDING KOBENHAVN (DEN)

Coach and key players profiles



Antonio Carlos Ortega coach

- six-time CL champion; 14 different cup titles in Spain
- as a player for Barcelona he won every possible title at least three times
- in 2005 started his coaching career in Antequera
- in 2012 left Spain for the first time to take on the challenge in Veszprém and in his second year he steered them to the VELUX EHF FINAL4 for the first time
- took over as head coach in KIF in February 2016

EC trophy: CL 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2005; Cup Winners' Cup 1995; EHF Cup 2003
OG: B 2000, EURO: S 1998, B 2000



Kasper Hvidt goalkeeper

- still considered to be among the best goalkeepers in the world
- retired from international handball in 2010 after being awarded MVP as Denmark won the EHF EURO 2008 in Norway
- after a career in Germany and Spain, including a successful spell in FC Barcelona, returned home in 2009 to play for FCK Handbold, AG København, with whom he reached the FINAL4 in 2012
- with KIF since August 2013, he will be ending his long career after this season to start in a new job as E-Sports director

WCh: S 2011, EHF EURO: G 2008



Konstantin Igropulo right back

- a Russian with Greek roots also played for a club in Athens; one of the first Russians to play for FC Barcelona
- arrived in Berlin thanks to the praise of his former teammate Iker Romero; came to Denmark in summer 2015 after winning the EHF Cup trophy
- European champion and silver medallist at the World Championship for beach handball
- married with the Russian pop singer Marina of the band Blue Marine

EC trophies: CL 2011, EHF Cup 2015



Fabio Chiuffa right wing

- joined KIF this summer from Spanish league club Ciudad de Guadalajara
- was a key player in the Brazilian national team at the Rio Olympics back in August and was in the Brazilian team for the 2017 WCh in France
- possesses an impressive variety of shots from his right wing position and from penalties, while his speed also makes him crucial on the counter attacks
- has won two gold and one silver medal at the Pan American Games with Brazil
- easily recognised by his long dreadlocks

GROUP C



Playing hall (See preview text)

Földi Imre Varosi Sportcsarnok
Sagvari Endre u. 9
2800 Tatabánya
Hungary
Capacity: 1,000

Club Address:

Grundfos Tatabánya KC
Szent Borbála út 11.
2800 Tatabánya
Hungary

Media contact:

Sandor Zoltan Nemeth
+36 30 2807608
kata.marosi@tatabanyahandball.com

Online information:

Website: www.tatabanyahandball.com
Facebook: [tatabanyahandball](https://www.facebook.com/tatabanyahandball)
Twitter: [tatabanyahandball](https://twitter.com/tatabanyahandball)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: green

Coach: Vladan Matic (since 2014)

Team captain: Janos Denes

GRUNDFOS TATABANYA KC (HUN)

Three seasons in a row, from 2013 to 2015, Hungarian side Grundfos Tatabánya KC failed to reach the group phase of the EHF Cup. This season, in the club's ninth appearance in the competition overall, things finally worked out and the club made it among the last 16 teams for the first time.

At the beginning of the season the team of head coach Vladan Matic, a former Serbian international and Serbian national team coach, underwent some huge changes. Twelve players including Richard Bodo, Adam Borbely and Rade Mijatovic left, ten new players including the experienced Ferenc Ilyes and Balasz Szöllösi arrived.

"We will do our best and we will proudly represent Hungary in the EHF Cup," says Matic. "In the group phase we want to gain as much international experience as possible. Making it to the EHF Cup Finals is a dream, of course, but we have to remain realistic. There are many teams with much more international experience. However, we train hard and we will do our best to surprise our group phase opponents."

For their home matches, Tatabánya face a challenge as they have to play them in Győr's Audi Arena which is about 65 kilometres west of Tatabánya. Playing our home games in a different hall in a different city will be difficult," says Matic. However, the coach is proud of what his team has already achieved. "This is the first time we have reached the group phase and we are very proud to represent Hungary in the EHF Cup. We have ten new players this season, not a lot of international experience and therefore it is a big success to be a part of the group phase."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs Maccabi Srugo Rishon Lezion (ISR) W35:23

2nd leg: @ Maccabi Srugo Rishon Lezion (ISR) W26:28

Aggregate score: 63:49

Newcomers:

Milos Bozovic (Gorenje Velenje)
Demis Cosmin Grigoras (CH Poli Timisoara)
Csaba Leimeter (PLER Budapest)
Adrian Sipos (Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau)
Ferenc Ilyes (MOL-Pick Szeged)
Vladimir Vranjes (MOL-Pick Szeged)
Marton Szekely (Csurgoi KK)
Michal Toth (Vaci KSE)
Balazs Szöllösi (Balatonfüredi KSE)
Szabolcs Nagy (PLER Budapest)

Left the club:

Akos Lele (B.Braun Gyöngyös)
Rade Mijatovic (HC Meshkov Brest)
David Katzirz (Balmazújvárosi KK)
Adam Borbely (Telekom Veszprém)
Richard Bodo (MOL-Pick Szeged)
Marko Krsmanovic (Besiktas Mogaz HT)
Szabolcs Törő (TUS Helmlingen)
Martin Mazak (CYEB Budakalasz),
Nikola Crnoglavac (HCM Constanta)
Peter Vasko (Mezőkövesdi KK)
Marcell Gabor (Neka)
Ivo Diaz (retired)

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Last 16 (1): 2010/11
Qualification Round 3 (2): 2014/15,
2015/16
Round 3 (3): 2004/05, 2005/06, 2011/12
Qualification Round 2 (2): 2012/13,
2013/14

Other

IHF Champions Cup: quarter-finals 1977
IHF Cup Winners' Cup: semi-finals 1978

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

Hungarian cup: 2 titles (1969, 1978)

GRUNDFOS TATABANYA KC (HUN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
2	Milos	Bozovic	MNE	Left Back	10.12.1994	Budva, SRB	97	199	8
1	Xaver	Demenyi	HUN	Goalkeeper	16.04.1999	Budapest, HUN	73	183	
24	Janos	Denes	HUN	Back	15.11.1984	Dunaujvaros, HUN	97	195	1
23	Demis Cosmin	Grigoras	ROU	Right Back	30.06.1993	Vaslui, ROU	98	194	
10	Gergely	Harsanyi	HUN	Right Wing	03.05.1981	Nyiregyhaza, HUN	95	191	6
18	Ferenc	Ilyés	HUN	Left Back	20.12.1981	Székelyudvarhely, ROU	103	198	3
7	Adam	Juhasz	HUN	Centre Back	06.06.1996	Debrecen, HUN	187	85	10
15	Csaba	Leimeter	HUN	Right Back	15.12.1994	Budapest, HUN	91	195	2
79	Szabolcs	Nagy	HUN	Left Back	24.11.1995	Tatabánya, HUN	100	202	0
4	Akos	Pasztor	HUN	Right Wing	24.06.1991	Miskolc, HUN	84	187	11
19	Miklos	Rosta	HUN	Line Player	14.02.1999	Gyor, HUN	117	203	0
8	Adrian	Sipos	HUN	Line Player	08.03.1990	Szombathely, HUN	109	198	2
12	Marton	Szekely	HUN	Goalkeeper	02.01.1990	Budapest, HUN	92	194	0
14	Balazs	Szöllösi	HUN	Centre Back	24.10.1992	Veszprem, HUN	80	192	7
28	Szabolcs	Szöllösi	HUN	Line Player	28.01.1989	Békéscsaba, HUN	101	194	4
16	Michal	Toth	SVK	Goalkeeper	03.09.1992	Nove Zamky, SVK	103	196	0
77	Vladimir	Vranjes	BIH	Line Player	14.12.1988	Banja Luka, BIH	107	200	3
6	Milos	Vujovic	MNE	Left Wing	05.09.1993	Cetinje, MNE	72	181	6



GRUNDFOS TATABANYA KC (HUN)

Coach and key players profiles



Vladan Matic coach

- played for both Belgrade clubs, Crvena Zvezda and Partizan before joining Pick Szeged
- started the 2007/08 season as a player but in February he was appointed as head coach of Szeged and in his first half of a season he managed to win the Hungarian championship against Veszprém
- since 2007 Matic lead Ferencváros, then Celje as head coach and was appointed national team coach of Serbia in 2013; also worked as an assistant coach at the Hungarian national team.
- has been head coach of Tatabánya since 2014, in 2015/16 they finished third behind Veszprém and Szeged



Adam Juhasz centre back/left wing

- one of the hottest talents in Hungary, despite his young age (20) he was capped for the 2017 WCh by Xavi Sabaté, however, as a left winger
- still eligible to play for the junior national team; was voted as MVP in the M18 EURO 2014, where he was the captain of his team
- when Tatabánya signed the youngster, he also played for the club's youth teams and became top scorer of the second division
- second most prolific scorer for Tatabánya this season



Gergely Harsanyi right wing

- prominent figure of Hungarian handball; well over his 100th national team appearance so he brings international experience to the young Tatabánya squad
- made his international debut in 2003 and featured in several World and European championships in the Hungarian national team
- part of the old guard in Tatabánya, too, as he started his seventh season at with them in 2016
- started his career as a right back and makes good use of his skills in the back positions, while he is also a reliable penalty taker



Szabolcs Szöllösi line player

- spotted by the scouts of Veszprém and he was only 18 when he made his debut in the Hungarian league
- has been a regular member of the Hungarian national team since his debut in 2011
- has already played and scored 17 goals in the EHF Cup with Csurgó, who he left to join Tatabánya in 2015
- his wife Szandra Zacsik is a fellow Hungarian international

GROUP C



Playing hall

GETEC-Arena - Bördelandhalle
Berliner Chaussee 32
39114 Magdeburg
Germany
Capacity: 7,800

Club Address:

SC Magdeburg
Handball magdeburg GmbH
Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 68
39114 Magdeburg, Germany

Media contact:

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Online information:

Website: www.scm-handball.de
Facebook: [SCMagdeburg](https://www.facebook.com/SCMagdeburg)
Twitter: [@SCMagdeburg](https://twitter.com/SCMagdeburg)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white/red
Player short: white/red
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

Dark

Player shirt: green/red
Player short: green/red
Goalkeeper shirt: red

SC MAGDEBURG (GER)

Once more, German side SC Magdeburg are the only former winners of the EHF Champions League in the upcoming EHF Cup Group Phase. Furthermore, they have won the EHF Cup three times when it was still played in its old format – the last victory came exactly ten years ago and in the 2016/17 season they hope to reach the EHF Cup Finals for the first time.

SC Magdeburg's best results to date in the new format are the quarter-finals in 2013 and 2016, but on both occasions they were eliminated by eventual winners Rhein-Neckar Löwen and Frisch Auf Göppingen respectively. "We have a very demanding group and I expect exciting and balanced games. Kolding are very experienced in international business for many years. Tatabanya are also a very good team. Tel Aviv are difficult to assess, but in the group stage all teams have a lot of quality," says head coach Bennet Wiegert. On a side note, Wiegert's father Ingolf coached SC Magdeburg in the early 1990s while his son Bennet played for the club. Overall, there are plenty of teams in Wiegert's opinion who can make it to the EHF Cup Finals in May.

Ahead of the season, Magdeburg signed Norwegian Christian O'Sullivan, Danish Olympic champion Mads Christiansen and Swede Daniel Pettersson. On the other hand, experienced stars such as Michael Haaß, Andreas Rojewski and Jens Schöngarth left the German club. "For us the participation in the group phase is the result of a successful season 2015/16 which was crowned by winning the German cup. For me it is a great experience and reaching the group phase is something special," says Wiegert.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs RK Nexø (CRO) W31:22
2nd leg: @ RK Nexø (CRO) W27:30
Aggregate score: 61:49

Coach: Bennet Wiegert (December 2015)
Captain: Fabian van Olphen

Newcomers:

Christian O'Sullivan (IFK Kristianstad)
Mads Christiansen (Bjerringbro-Silkeborg)
Daniel Pettersson (Eskilstuna Guif)

Left the club:

Michael Haaß (HC Erlangen)
Andreas Rojewski (SC DHfK Leipzig)
Jens Schöngarth (Frisch Auf Göppingen)
Jure Natek (end of career)

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League

Winners (1): 2001/02
Semi-final (1): 2003/04
Quarter-final (1): 2002/03
Last 16 (1): 2005/06

EHF Cup

Winners (3): 1998/99, 2000/01, 2006/07
Runners-up (1): 2004/05
Quarter-final (1): 2012/13
Last 16 (1): 1999/00

Other

Champions Trophy: Winners (2000/01, 2001/02)
Cup Winners' Cup: Semi-finals (1996/97), Quarter-finals (2007/08)
German league: 12 titles (outdoor 1967, indoor 1970, 1977, 1980-85, 1988, 1991 - all GDR, 2001)
German cup: 7 titles (1970, 1977, 1978, 1984, 1990 - all GDR, 1996, 2016)

SC MAGDEBURG (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
14	Jacob	Bagersted	DEN	Line Player	25.03.1987	Kobenhavn, DEN	111	196	3
25	Marko	Bezjak	SLO	Centre Back	26.06.1986	Ptuj, SLO	87	184	6
20	Mads	Christiansen	DEN	Right Back	03.05.1986	Næstved, DEN	92	194	7
22	Andre	Czech	GER	Right Wing	17.05.1996	Calbe/Saale, GER	78	182	
34	Michael	Damgaard Nielsen	DEN	Left Back	18.03.1990	Lolland, DEN	95	192	10
15	Yves	Grafenhorst	GER	Left Wing	15.03.1984	Staßfurt, GER	84	186	0
16	Jannick	Green Krejberg	DEN	Goalkeeper	29.09.1988	Lemvig, DEN	94	195	0
9	Justus	Kluge	GER	Left Wing	24.12.1997	Magdeburg, GER	87	190	
50	Finn	Lemke	GER	Right Back	30.04.1992	Bremen, GER	115	210	2
12	Florian	Link	GER	Goalkeeper	31.07.1997	Magdeburg, GER	89	193	
2	Zeljko	Musa	CRO	Line Player	08.01.1986	Mostar, CRO	103	200	3
6	Matthias	Musche	GER	Left Wing	18.07.1992	Magdeburg, GER	75	186	12
24	Christian	O'Sullivan	NOR	Centre Back	22.08.1991	Oslo, NOR	89	190	2
14	Daniel	Pettersson	SWE	Right Wing	06.05.1992	Eskilstuna, SWE	72	179	9
21	Dario	Quenstedt	GER	Goalkeeper	22.09.1989	Burg, GER	93	190	0
29	Alexander	Saul	GER	Right Back	06.10.1995	Premnitz, GER	91	197	
7	Julian	Schulze	GER	Left Wing	23.03.1998	Magdeburg, GER	70	176	
10	Fabian	Van Olphen	NED	Left Back	30.03.1981	Den Haag, NED	102	194	0
8	Johannes	Wasielewski	GER	Right Back	22.09.1997	Halle, GER	94	195	
28	Robert	Weber	AUT	Right Wing	25.11.1985	Bregenz, AUT	76	179	5
18	Tim	Wiebe	GER	Right Back	23.05.1996	Rostock, GER	98	199	
42	Nemanja	Zelenovic	SRB	Right Back	27.02.1990	Knin, SRB	93	194	2



SC MAGDEBURG (GER)

Coach and key players profiles



Bennet Wiegert coach

- part of the SCM squad from 1998 until 2013, with the exception of only three years and won the CL with Magdeburg in 2002
- former German international on the left wing
- appointed new coach in December 2015 as successor of Geir Sveinsson
- his father Ingolf (Olympic champion as a player in 1980) was also Magdeburg coach
- director of the SCM youth academy until December 2015 and still is in the youth national team coaching staff of German Handball Federation

EC trophies: CL 2002, EHF Cup 2001 (as player)



Michael Damgaard left back

- 2015/16 season is his first abroad after he had been playing for Gudme (2008-2010) and Holstebro (2010-2015)
- part of the first ever EHF Cup Finals 2013 in Nantes with Holstebro, finishing third
- his brother Allan left Holstebro at the same time to Hamburg, but is back in Denmark (Bjerringbro) after HSV went bankrupt
- back-up of Mikkel Hansen in the Danish national team

OG: G 2016



Robert Weber right wing

- top Austrian scorer at the EHF EURO 2014 and the 2015 WCh; scored more than 500 for the national team
- playing for Magdeburg since 2009, before he was signed by Balingen (Germany) and Hard (Austria), scored more than 1,300 goals since then for Magdeburg
- Bundesliga top scorer in 2014/15 with 271 goals (as first ever Magdeburg player in history)
- counter-attack and penalty throw specialist



Finn Lemke left back

- the tallest player of the squad (2.10 m)
- arrived from Lemgo before the 2015/16 season, where he scored over 300 goals in four seasons
- missed the 2015 WCh after he broke his hand in the penultimate test match
- by the number of blocks - the most efficient defence player at the EHF EURO 2016
- born near Bremen, he is a big fan of Werder Bremen football club

OG: B 2016, EURO: G 2016

GROUP C



Playing hall

Drive Inn Arena
7 Izik Ramba street
67062 Tel Aviv, Israel
Capacity: 2,700

Club Address:

Maccabi CASTRO Tel Aviv
Shitrit st. 6, Hadar Josep
61240 Tel Aviv
Israel

Media contact:

Avigdor Resch
avi@maccabi-telaviv.co.il

Online information:

Facebook: [MaccabiTelAviv](https://www.facebook.com/MaccabiTelAviv)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

Player shirt: blue
Player short: blue
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

MACCABI CASTRO TEL AVIV (ISR)

26 November 2016 was a special day for Israeli and European handball. On that date, Maccabi CASTRO Tel Aviv beat St. Petersburg HC 28:23 to overcome the Russian side on aggregate in the third qualification round of the EHF Cup after they had lost the first leg 25:23. It was the first time that a handball club from Israel reached the group phase of the EHF Cup. For the Tel Aviv-based side and 2015/16 domestic champions - who only narrowly failed in qualification for the VELUX EHF Champions League - it was the biggest success in their history. "Let's be realistic. We have already achieved a historic result and playing the group phase will be a pleasure for us," says head coach Dragan Djukic who also trained Israel's national team in the past.

"Our opponents, the names of the clubs, their tradition, the quality of their players and huge international experience make us the underdogs. There is no imperative for victory ahead of us, but the big desire to enjoy these fantastic matches and give a chance to the Israeli handball fans to see teams such as Magdeburg, Kolding and Tatabanya." Djukic is one of three Serbian coaches the club signed to build a generation of players that is hoped to be as successful as the current one. The club also runs a special social project in which Israeli Arab kids can train together with Jewish children. "For me having reached the group phase means a lot because I'm proud of this generation of players who believed from the beginning that we can do it and worked hard to succeed," says Djukic.

Due to the fact that in the past 20 years only three non-German clubs won the EHF Cup, Djukic expects another dominant season for Bundesliga participants, but he also has other teams on the list: "Besides my top favourites Füchse Berlin, French team Saint Raphael or the two Portuguese giants Porto and Benfica can make it."

Road to the Group Phase

VELUX EHF Champions League Qualification - 3rd ranked

GROUP 2 (Bregenz/AUT)

Semi-final: vs ABC/UMinho (POR) L34:27

3rd place match: vs Achilles Bocholt (BEL) W33:30

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ St. Petersburg HC (RUS) L25:23

2nd leg: vs St. Petersburg HC (RUS) W28:23

Aggregate score: 51:48

Newcomers:

Alexander Sychenko (S.C Ramat Hasharon)
Nivo Levy (Oroshazi FKSE)
Dan Tepper (Asa Tel Aviv)
Srdjan Djordjevic (Hapoel Ramat Gan)

Left the club:

Vladi Kofman (Maccabi Srugo Rishon Lezion)
Milan Kosanovic, Eliran Matzki (H.C Nes Tziona)

Coach: Dragan Djukic (since May 2016)

Team captain: Omer Davda

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League
Qualification (1): 2016/17

Other

Israeli league: 2 titles (2014, 2016)

MACCABI CASTRO TEL AVIV (ISR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
19	Yosef	Appo	ISR	Line Player	01.10.1993	PETACH TIKVA, ISR	90	192	2
7	Novak	Boskovic	SRB	Right Back	23.05.1989	Sombor, SRB	91	196	7
33	Bojan	Butulija	SRB	Left Back	23.07.1979	BELOGRAD, SRB	108	193	3
18	Itamar	Dahan	ISR	Right Wing	18.03.1999	GIVATAYIM, ISR	85	190	0
21	Omer	Davda	ISR	Line Player	04.11.1987	HAIFA, ISR	100	184	4
79	Srdan	Djordjevic	SRB	Goalkeeper	23.01.1979	Beograd, SRB	102	195	0
11	Sahar	Halfon	ISR	Right Wing	13.02.1994	Savyon, ISR	70	183	0
23	Niv	Levy	ISR	Left Back	08.06.1993	KIRYAN ONO, ISR	100	190	
4	Yizhak	Meloul	ISR	Left Back	11.05.1998	DIMONA, ISR	82	189	
9	Dan	Nathan	ISR	Right Back	02.11.1988	TEL AVIV , ISR	89	190	3
77	Chen	Pomeranz	ISR	Centre Back	28.05.1984	RAMAT HASHARON, ISR	87	186	21
83	Gil	Pomeranz	ISR	Left Wing	17.11.1991	RAMAT HASHARON, ISR	84	181	1
3	Amir Benjamin	Seifert	ISR	Centre Back	18.03.1999	TEL AVIV, ISR	64	177	0
55	Yahav	Shamir	ISR	Goalkeeper	06.04.1999	TEL AVIV, ISR	94	190	
16	Tom	Shem Tov	ISR	Goalkeeper	29.10.1996	TEL AVIV, ISR			0
13	Werner	Strydom	ISR	Left Back	13.03.1990	Johannesburg, ISR	92	190	1
27	Alexander	Sychenko	ISR	Centre Back	17.08.1988	Kiev, ISR	90	191	5
14	Dan	Tepper	ISR	Goalkeeper	04.03.1994	TEL AVIV, ISR	77	189	0
8	Ido	Turel	ISR	Left Wing	08.03.1988	RAMAT HASHARON, ISR	79	182	4



MACCABI CASTRO TEL AVIV (ISR)

Coach and key players profiles



Dragan Djukic coach

- considered as a highly appreciated figure in world handball; a master coach of the EHF
- Maccabi Tel Aviv is the first club that he heads in Israel after coaching the Israeli national team between 2012-15
- though it's his first season in Maccabi TLV, he is quite familiar with 10 of his players whom he guided at the Israeli national team
- Maccabi is the third team that he leads to EHF Champions League after Vardar Skopje (2003-05) and Pick Szeged (2009/10)
- has a record of coaching five different national teams: FYR Macedonia, Jordan, Switzerland, Great Britain and Israel



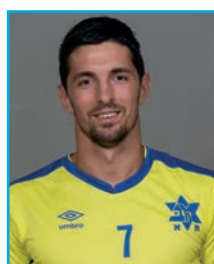
Omer Davda line player

- starts his 8th season at the club and his fourth as a team captain
- had his first EC experience in EHF CL 2016/17 qualification
- part of the team which reached the 2012 Challenge Cup semi-final
- over 70 appearances in the national team
- MVP of the Israeli league in 2013/14 and three times the best line player of the Israeli league and once selected as the best defender



Chen Pomeranz centre back

- returned to Israeli handball at the start of 2016 after nine years abroad
- scored more than 1,100 goals during his two years in Switzerland and seven years in Germany, took part in 2010 Bundesliga All-star game
- more than 100 international matches and 700 goals for the Israeli national team
- achieved a MBA degree in sport management from the university of Real Madrid.



Novak Boskovic right back / right wing

- member of Serbia national team for the last 3 years played also at EHF EURO 2016 in Poland
- third spell at Maccabi Tel Aviv, took a major part in Maccabi first championship title in 2014. Last season help the club to win its second title
- with 62 goals second top scorer of the 2011/12 Challenge Cup with Maccabi
- moved to Cimos Koper (SLO) and got familiar with CL, also played for Tatabanya (HUN)



Group D head-to-heads

Historic encounters of the Group D opponents in the EC

No previous encounters in European competitions

MT Melsungen vs NFH - Helvetia Anaitasuna

MT Melsungen vs SL Benfica

MT Melsungen vs Cocks

Helvetia Anaitasuna vs SL Benfica

Helvetia Anaitasuna vs Cocks

SL Benfica vs Cocks

GROUP D



Playing hall

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

Club Address:

MT Melsungen
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Twitter: [@mthandball](https://twitter.com/mthandball)
Instagram: [mtmelsungen](https://www.instagram.com/mtmelsungen)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

MT MELSUNGEN (GER)

Two years ago, one single goal was missing for MT Melsungen to crown their first international season with a ticket to the EHF Cup Finals 2015. But after they had lost 25:20 in the first leg of the quarter-finals, the 28:23 win on home court against Danish side Skjern was not enough to advance. Two years later, in their second appearance in this competition, the team of head coach Michael Roth is eager to go all the way. Melsungen ranked fourth in the previous Bundesliga season, their best result in the history of the club which has just celebrated its 90th anniversary. Their biggest domestic successes before had been participations in the German cup final tournament in 1996, 2013 and 2014.

"We are very satisfied with this draw. Looking at the composition of the three other groups, we know that it could have been worse for us," says Michael Roth. "Any team which made it to the EHF Cup has to have a certain quality. At the end of the day, I see a good chance of qualifying for the quarter-finals." But his side had to face a bit of an injury crisis in recent weeks. Croatian line player Marino Maric will be sidelined for a longer time following foot surgery. "This is a profound loss, both in defence and in attack," says Roth. He sees German competitors SC Magdeburg, Frisch Auf Göppingen and Füchse Berlin as the main contenders for making it to the EHF Cup Finals, but also does not write off "teams with a great international experience such as GOG, Kolding and Granollers."

For the next season, Melsungen already announced two major signings. The two German EHF EURO 2016 champions, Tobias Reichmann (arriving from Vive Tauron Kielce) and Finn Lemke (SC Magdeburg) will join the club.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ HC Zamet (CRO) W23:34
2nd leg: vs HC Zamet (CRO) W32:20
Aggregate score: 66:43

Newcomers:

Johannes Golla (MT Melsungen junior team)
Svetislav Verkic (ThSV Eisenach)
Gabor Langhans (TuS N-Lübbecke)
Arjan Haenen (TBV Lemgo)
Dener Jaanimaa (THW Kiel)

Left the club:

Jan Forstbauer (HSV Hamburg)
Christian Hildebrand (TSG Offenbach-Bürgel)
Malte Schröder (TV Emsdetten)

Coach: Michael Roth (since October 2010)

Team captain: Michael Müller

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2014/15

Other

German league: 4th place 2015/16

MT MELSUNGEN (GER)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
22	Michael	Allendorf	GER	Left Wing	16.09.1986	Heppenheim, GER	90	190	21
41	Fin	Backs	GER	Left Wing	22.04.1998	Hann. Münden, GER	82	181	
19	Jeffrey	Boomhouwer	NED	Left Wing	15.06.1988	Amsterdam, NED	75	179	
17	Felix	Danner	GER	Line Player	24.07.1985	Freiburg (im B.), GER	104	198	0
9	Patrik	Fahlgren	SWE	Centre Back	27.06.1985	Göteborg, SWE	92	188	3
8	Johannes	Golla	GER	Line Player	05.11.1997	Wiesbaden, GER	102	195	3
97	Jan	Grolla	GER	Right Back	09.12.1997	Wolfsburg, GER	91	194	
36	Arjan	Haenen	NED	Right Wing	12.07.1987	Amsterdam, NED	85	180	10
24	Dener	Jaanimaa	EST	Right Back	09.08.1989	Tallinn, EST	85	185	5
39	Gabor	Langhans	GER	Right Back	10.04.1989	Berlin, GER	98	198	
3	Marino	Maric	CRO	Line Player	01.06.1990	Mostar, BIH	115	196	9
25	Michael	Müller	GER	Right Back	19.09.1984	Würzburg, GER	100	197	2
18	Philipp	Müller	GER	Left Back	19.09.1984	Würzburg, GER	104	196	1
16	Maurice	Paske	GER	Goalkeeper	21.02.1996	Kassel, GER	90	189	
20	Momir	Rnic	SRB	Left Back	01.11.1987	Zrenjanin, SRB	102	196	6
21	Timm	Schneider	GER	Centre Back	15.06.1988	Giessen, GER	110	196	0
5	Johannes	Sellin	GER	Right Wing	31.12.1990	Wolgast, GER	81	195	0
1	Johan	Sjöstrand	SWE	Goalkeeper	26.02.1987	Skövde, SWE	95	195	0
12	Svetislav	Verkic	SRB	Goalkeeper	11.06.1981	Kac, SRB	98	190	0
30	Rene E. Hedegaard	Villadsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	18.04.1986	Olgod, DEN	100	201	0
23	Nenad	Vuckovic	SRB	Centre Back	23.08.1980	Pula, CRO	98	192	6



MT MELSUNGEN (GER)

Coach and key players profiles



Michael Roth coach

- has been the head coach of MT Melsungen since 2010, leading the team into the EHF Cup and twice into the final tournament of the German cup
- was a German international and played together with his twin brother Uli who manages German band "Pur" these days. Their father was a basketball international for Germany.
- Suffered from prostate cancer in 2009 and because of this he is ambassador for the German Cancer Aid

EC trophies (as player): City Cup 1994 (TuSem Essen)
OG: S 1984 (as player)



Johan Sjöstrand goalkeeper

- has played for SG-Flensburg-Handewitt, FC Barcelona and THW Kiel over the past years. He joined MT Melsungen ahead of the 2015/16 season
- was part of the FC Barcelona team that won the EHF Champions League in 2011
- suffered from brucellosis, also known as Malta fever, in early 2015, forcing him to take a half-year break
- horse racing is his another passion, just one look at his Instagram account will show you that

EC trophies: CL 2011
OG: S 2012



Momir Rnic left back

- started his international career at Slovenian Gorenje Velenje and RK Celje Pivovarno Lasko, acquiring EHF Champions League experience
- joined MT Melsungen in 2014 after he had been playing for Frisch Auf Göppingen for 3 seasons before, winning the EHF Cup in 2012
- After the current season he will replace Kim Ekdahl du Rietz at German champions Rhein-Neckar Löwen; His father was a Yugoslavian international

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2012 (Frisch Auf Göppingen)
EURO: S 2012



Johannes Sellin right wing

- a product of famous Füchse Berlin youth programme
- U21 world champion with Germany in 2011
- played his first major tournament at the WCh in Qatar
- at the age of 21 he was part of the Füchse squad at the VELUX EHF FINAL4

EURO: G 2016

GROUP D



Playing hall

Polideportivo Anaitasuna,
Pamplona
Doctor Lopez Sanz 2
31011 Pamplona-Navarra, Spain
Capacity: 3,000

Club Address:

Helvetia Anaitasuna
Doctor López-Sanz s/n
31011 Pamplona
Spain

Media contact:

Carlos Mangado
+34 630 891096
gerencia@anaitasuna.com

Online information:

Website: www.anaitasunabmasobal.com
Facebook: [anaitasunabm.asobal](https://www.facebook.com/anaitasunabm.asobal)
Twitter: [AnaitasunaBM](https://twitter.com/AnaitasunaBM)

Kit colours

Light

Player shirt: white
Player short: white
Goalkeeper shirt: red

Dark

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

HELVETIA ANAITASUNA (ESP)

Helvetia Anaitasuna, the team from the Spanish city of Pamplona, have reached the EHF Cup Group Phase for the second time in a row. After their campaign ended at this stage in the 2015/16 season, they hope to make it one step further and reach at least the quarter-finals this season.

The squad of coach Juan Tomas Apezetxea became a little more international by including Brazilian Gabriel Ceretta and Swede Henrik Nordlander ahead of the season. Filipe Mota from Portugal and Bozidar Nadoveza complete the international quartet playing for Anaitasuna.

"We will try to fight for the second position in this group," says coach Apezetxea. "Melsungen are the strongest team, the three remaining sides are very equal and all have the skills to finish second. Cocks have ten foreign players and a strong team. Benfica have very powerful defenders and a very good goalkeeper: Hugo Figueira."

Apezetxea, who regards the four German teams and Saint-Raphael Var Handball as the competition's main favourites, is looking forward to playing the group phase for the second time in a row with Anaitasuna. "Our team can be more ambitious after the experience of last season. We know now what to do in important moments. The second participation is a new step for us," he says.

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs Csurgói KK (HUN) W27:21
2nd leg: @ Csurgói KK (HUN) L30:26
Aggregate score: 53:51

Coach: Juan Tomas Apezetxea (since November 2015)

Captains: Miguel Goni and Carlos Chocarro

Newcomers:

Henrik Nordlander (Skovde, SWE)
Mikel Aguirrezabalaga (Ademar Leon)
Erik Balenciaga (Teucro)
Oswaldo Maestro (Villa de Aranda)
Gabriel Ceretta (FC Barcelona B)

Left the club:

Gregor Lorgier (RK Nexø)
Alex Costoya (Ademar Leon)
Juan Castro (US Creteil)
Jorge Silva (Granollers)
Alvaro del Valle (Nice),
Angel Perez (Puerto Sagunto)

Past achievements

EHF Cup

Group phase (1): 2015/16

Other

Spanish league: - 4th place 2014/15

HELVETIA ANAITASUNA (ESP)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
14	Ander	Adarraga Lecumberri	ESP	Back	14.10.1995	Pamplona, ESP	90	183	
21	Mikel	Aguirrezabalaga Garcia	ESP	Left Back	08.04.1984	Zarautz, ESP	89	194	9
9	Inaki	Astrain Alonso	ESP	Back	26.01.1996	Pamplona, ESP	98	201	
23	Erik	Balenciaga Azcue	ESP	Centre Back	10.05.1993	Zarautz, ESP	64	170	6
18	Inigo	Barricart Dorval	ESP	Left Wing	30.08.1995	Pamplona, ESP	85	195	
3	Antonio	Bazan Legasa	ESP	Line Player	19.05.1996	Pamplona, ESP	94	195	0
19	Gabriel	Ceretta Jung	BRA	Right Wing	12.06.1997	Videira, BRA	88	195	
17	Carlos	Chocarro Gorraiz	ESP	Left Wing	29.07.1985	Pamplona, ESP	83	185	2
7	Alvaro	Del Valle Navasa	ESP	Right Back	21.01.1994	Zaragoza, ESP	85	192	1
26	Oswaldo	Dos Santos Maestro	ESP	Right Back	23.10.1989	Sao Paulo, BRA	90	185	12
8	Xabier	Etxeberria Uriz	ESP	Right Wing	08.10.1991	Pamplona, ESP	81	180	2
6	Alejandro	Garza Hernandez	ESP	Line Player	03.03.1986	Badajoz, ESP	98	198	0
2	Alvaro	Gaston Fernandez	ESP	Right Wing	27.08.1993	Pamplona, ESP	75	183	1
20	Miguel	Goni Arraras	ESP	Left Wing	07.05.1981	Pamplona, ESP	74	176	1
25	Sergey	Hernandez Ferrer	ESP	Goalkeeper	17.06.1995	Kropotkin, RUS	90	196	
22	Fermin	Iturri Bandres	ESP	Line Player	18.06.1995	Pamplona, ESP	88	186	
31	Jokin	Jimenez Eneriz	ESP	Line Player	19.09.1995	Pamplona, ESP	105	188	
15	Oleg	Kisselev Kisseleva	ESP	Left Back	02.08.1997	Santander, ESP	104	198	0
1	Javier	Labairu Elizalde	ESP	Goalkeeper	19.09.1991	Pamplona, ESP	89	180	0
10	Filipe	Mota	POR	Centre Back	07.05.1984	Odivelas, POR	92	190	5
13	Bozidar	Nadoveza	SRB	Left Back	16.05.1981	Sibenik, CRO	98	192	5
33	Henrik	Nordlander	SWE	Goalkeeper	16.03.1992	Vinslöv, SWE	80	190	0
24	Ander	Ugarte Cortes	ESP	Line Player	06.06.1990	Irun, ESP	105	192	9



HELVETIA ANAITASUNA (ESP)

Coach and key players profiles



Juan Tomas Apezetxea coach

- the new head coach of the Navarra team since November 2015, after the dismissal of Inaki Perez for the poor results in ASOBAL league.
- was the coach of the team years before when they were in the second division
- has experience in ASOBAL league courtesy of acting as the coach of San Antonio and also managed Itxako team in the first women division



Alvaro del Valle right back

- one of the best shooters in the team
- with the youth national teams of Spain won the bronze medal in Men's 20 EHF EURO (Austria, 2014) and ranked 7th in the Junior World Championship (Brazil, 2015)
- the 2016/17 season is his fourth time in the EHF Cup after he played in BM Aragon (2012-2014) and 2015/16 with Helvetia
- in the 2014/15 season was the fifth top scorer in the ASOBAL league



Mikel Aguirrezabalaga left back

- new signing of the 2016 summer
- Anaitasuna is his fourth Spanish club after splitting his time in ASOBAL among FC Barcelona (two stints), Alcobendas and Reale Ademar Leon (two stints)
- won two Spanish title with Barcelona in 2011/12 and 2012/13
- his only season abroad was in 2013/14 - after Dinamo Minsk went bankrupt he finished the season in Eisenach, Germany before he returned to Spain



Filipe Mota centre back

- Started playing handball at Odivelas, in Lisbon
- Played ten years in FC Porto and won seven portuguese championships
- Played in Almeria (Spain), Győr and Csurgói (Hungary) and Pandurii (Romania) before arriving Anaitasuna
- Experienced player known for his good technical capabilities
- Played EHF Champions League 2012/13 group phase with FC Porto

GROUP D



Playing hall

Pavilhao EDP Benfica Lisboa
Av. General Norton Matos
1500-313 Lisboa
Portugal
Capacity: 1,540

Club Address:

Av. Eusébio Silva Ferreira
1500-313 Lisboa
Portugal

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Twitter: [@slbenfica](https://twitter.com/slbenfica)
Instagram: [slbenfica](https://www.instagram.com/slbenfica)
Snapchat: [slbsnap](https://www.snapchat.com/add/slbsnap)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

SL BENFICA (POR)

For Portuguese side S.L. Benfica the 2016/17 season already marks the 17th participation in any EHF European Cup competition. Twice, in 2011 and 2016, they reached the Challenge Cup Final but lost on both occasions. However, the participation in the EHF Cup Group Phase is a first for the club from Lisbon. In Group D, the seven-time domestic champions face MT Melsungen from Germany, Helvetia Anaitasuna from Spain and Cocks from Finland.

The goal is to advance to the knockout phase underlines head coach Mariano Ortega. "Our expectations are to reach the quarter-finals. We know it will be difficult because we don't have the experience of having played a group phase before and because we face high-quality opponents. "However, we hope to finish in the second position and to overcome a high amount of competitive games." Ortega has had a look at all three opponents his team will play against. "Melsungen are a club with little experience in European competitions, but they can count on players with a lot of quality. They play with a physically strong defence. Cocks are another physically strong team that plays with high intensity. Anaitasuna for the past couple of years have been fighting for domestic success. They count on a strong collective as well as their players' individual quality."

In Ortega's opinion it is an advantage that his side is a part of the internationally well-known Benfica Lisbon football club. "We are one of greatest clubs in the world and we have maximum demands, but we are aware that when it comes to handball the club is only growing. For us, it is very important to compete with the best teams and the best players to develop as a team as well as individually. Playing the EHF Cup Group Phase is ideal in this respect."

Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs Handball Kaerjeng (LUX) W31:26
2nd leg: @ Handball Kaerjeng (LUX) W30:33
Aggregate score: 64:56

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ KS Azoty-Pulawy (POL) L34:29
2nd leg: vs KS Azoty-Pulawy (POL) W24:18
Aggregate score: 53:52

Newcomers:

Stefan Terzic (Naturhouse La Rioja)
Joao Ferreira (Passos Manuel)
David Pinto (Madeira SAD)
Fabio Vidrago (ABC Braga)
Luka Rakovic (RK Zagreb)
Jernej Papez (Saran)

Left the club:

Javier Borragan (Bidasoa Irun)
T. Ferro (Belenenses)
Dragan Vrgoc, Hugo Freitas (Sp. Horta),
Augusto Aranda (Madeira SAD)

Coach: Mariano Ortega (since July 2014)

Team captain: Joao Pais

Past achievements:

VELUX EHF Champions League
Qualification (1): 2008/09

Other

Cup Winners' Cup: 2011/12 quarter-finalists
Challenge Cup: 2010/11, 2015/16 runners-up, 2007/08, 2014/15 semi-finalists

Portuguese league: 7 titles (1962, 1975, 1982, 1983, 1989, 1990, 2008)
Portuguese cup: 5 titles (1985-87, 2011, 2016)

SL BENFICA (POR)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
86	Ales	Abrao Silva	BRA	Line Player	06.02.1986	Joinville	110	202	7
34	Fabio	Antunes	POR	Left Wing	28.10.1988	Braga	69	180	6
19	Augusto	Aranda	ANG	Right Wing	07.08.1998	Luanda	73	180	1
41	Gustavo	Capdeville	POR	Goalkeeper	31.08.1997	Lisbon	81	193	0
3	Davide	Carvalho	POR	Right Wing	05.08.1994	Lisbon	82	179	8
24	Alexandre	Cavalcanti	POR	Left Back	27.12.1996	Almada	102	201	4
1	Hugo	Costa Figueira	POR	Goalkeeper	04.10.1979	Montijo	100	191	1
15	Uelington	Da Silva Ferreira	BRA	Left Back	13.08.1986	Rondonopolis	102	202	5
31	Joao	Ferreira	POR	Centre Back	12.05.1993	Lisbon	95	188	
6	Tiago	Ferro	POR	Left Wing	19.08.1993	Lisbon	78	187	
33	Andre	Lima	POR	Right Wing	25.04.1997	Terceira	80	179	1
4	Hugo	Lima	POR	Centre Back	21.04.1993	Lisbon	94	185	4
16	Nikola	Mitrevski	MKD	Goalkeeper	03.10.1985	Bitola	84	188	0
11	Belone	Moreira	POR	Right Back	01.06.1990	Lisbon	77	180	16
13	Paulo	Moreno	POR	Line Player	08.05.1992	Lisbon	100	197	16
8	Joao	Pais	POR	Left Wing	23.06.1988	Lisbon	77	184	7
25	Jernej	Papez	SLO	Right Back	29.01.1991	Novo Mesto	94	190	
50	Francisco	Pereira	POR	Centre Back	26.03.1999	Lamego	96	191	
7	Tiago	Pereira	POR	Centre Back	08.06.1989	Guimaraes	89	186	8
20	David	Pinto	POR	Line Player	25.03.1991	Lisboa	90	198	0
17	Luka	Rakovic	CRO	Right Wing	06.06.1988	Zagreb	86	179	4
30	Elledy	Semedo	POR	Left Back	21.03.1988	Cabo Verde	93	187	17
5	Valter	Soares	POR	Line Player	11.03.1998	Lagoa	85	188	
9	Stefan	Terzic	SRB	Right Back	17.05.1994	Arilje	93	195	12



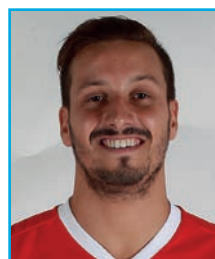
SL BENFICA (POR)

Coach and key players profiles



Mariano Ortega coach

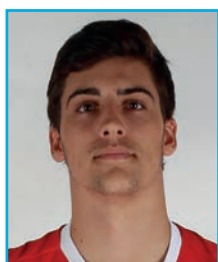
- arrived in SL Benfica in 2014, after six years as a coach in Caja3 BM Aragón
- won a Portugal Cup with Benfica in 2016
- played for the Spanish national team as right back
- played in EHF EURO 2002, 2006, 2008 and WCh of 2003, 2005 and 2007



Tiago Pereira centre back

- started playing handball in ABC/UMinho and played for Braga's senior team from 2006 to 2012
- arrived in SL Benfica in 2012
- won three titles with ABC/UMinho and a Portugal Cup and a Supercup with Benfica
- made his debut with the Portuguese national team in 2011
- MVP of the 21st World University Championship

EURO: S 1998, 2006, B 2000, WCh: G 2005



Alexandre Cavalcanti left back

- played in the youth teams of SL Benfica and started playing in the senior team in 2014
- won a Portugal Cup and a Supercup with Benfica
- made his debut with Portugal national team in 2016
- one of the athletes nominated for "Revelation of 2015/2016" by the Portuguese Handball Federation event



Belone Moreira right back

- played in Belenenses and Passos Manuel, before joining SL Benfica in 2015
- was part of Portugal junior national team, who was runner-up in Europe in 2010
- was considered one of the big prospects of Portuguese handball
- won a World University title in 2015
- won a Portugal Cup and a Supercup with Benfica

GROUP D



Playing hall

Elenia Areena

Härkätie 17 B
13130 Hämeenlinna
Finland
Capacity: 1,960

Club Address:

Cocks
Teollisuuskatu 16
11120 Riihimäki
Finland

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Facebook: [riihimakicocks](https://www.facebook.com/riihimakicocks)
Twitter: [@riihimakicocks](https://twitter.com/riihimakicocks)

Kit colours

Light

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

Dark

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

COCKS (FIN)

After Finland's men's team booked their ticket to the second qualification phase of the EHF EURO 2018 in April 2016, domestic champions Cocks made an even more historic step for handball in Finland some months later. By beating experienced Polish side Górnik Zabrze in Qualification Round 3, the team of head coach Gintaras Savukynas advanced to the EHF Cup Group Phase as the first Finnish team.

"As group phase debutants we already achieved much more in this competition than anybody expected from us before the start of the season," says coach Savukynas. "We will prepare seriously to be worthy opponents in every game and hope to gain a maximum of experience against clubs from such great handball nations as Germany, Spain and Portugal are. "Participating in the group phase of the second strongest EHF club competition is a big honour, responsibility and great experience. I'm looking forward to it."

Finnish international Andreas Rönnberg left before the season, but the squad was strengthened with players such as Tiago da Silva from Portugal and Aliaksandr Tsitou, a World Championship participant for Belarus. Before this season, the Cocks' biggest international successes had been quarter-final participations in the Challenge Cup in 2014 and 2015. Hence, the step among the last 16 of the EHF Cup is huge. "For every club from countries like Finland or Israel it is a great achievement to face those top clubs, but on the other hand it shows that everything is possible when people work hard and believe in what they are doing," says Savukynas. "Those EHF Cup matches will - without doubt - be a big promotion for handball in Finland."

Road to the Group Phase

VELUX EHF Champions League Qualification - 3rd ranked

GROUP 1 (Presov/SVK)

Semi-final: vs Rk Gorenje Velenje (SLO) L28:25

3rd place match: vs Red Boys Differdange (LUX) W30:21

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs Górnik Zabrze (POL) W30:19

2nd leg: @ Górnik Zabrze (POL) L30:29

Aggregate score: 59:49

Newcomers:

Tiago da Silva (Horta)
Aliaksandr Bachko (SKA Minsk)
Aliaksandr Tsitou (Mogliov)

Left the club:

Andreas Rönnberg (BK-46)
Kristian Jansson (HIFK)

Coach: Gintaras Savukynas (since 2016)

Team captain: Antti Valo

Past achievements

VELUX EHF Champions League
Qualification (1): 2016/17

Other

Challenge Cup: quarter-finals 2013/14, 2014/15

Baltic league: winners 2015/16, runners-up 2012/13

Finnish league: 8 titles (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016)

Finnish cup: 7 titles

COCKS (FIN)

Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
30	Kalle	Alander	FIN	Goalkeeper	13.06.1995	Riihimäki, FIN	90	200	
7	Aliaksandr	Bachko	BLR	Centre Back	15.08.1989	Grandichi, BLR	90	189	5
91	Tiago	Da Silva	POR	Right Back	04.01.1991	Guimaraes, POR	92	198	4
47	Andrei	Kaliarovich	BLR	Left Back	18.08.1993	Minsk, BLR	92	196	1
31	Victor	Kovalenko	RUS	Centre Back	13.01.1982	Leningrad, RUS	93	192	
17	Yury	Lukyanchuk	BLR	Line Player	05.01.1990	Brest, BLR	96	195	9
5	Kiril	Morozov	RUS	Goalkeeper	11.03.1988	Chelyabinsk, RUS	99	195	0
23	Vitalie	Nenita	MDA	Right Back	04.06.1987	Chisinau, MDA	90	191	8
20	Andrei	Novoselov	RUS	Right Wing	25.08.1986	Yougorenok, RUS	73	177	5
22	Nico	Rönnerberg	FIN	Left Back	14.04.1992	Karjaa, FIN	91	190	11
11	Gheorghe	Safronii	MDA	Left Back	21.01.1986	Kishinev, MDA	95	203	0
87	Vitalii	Shitsko	RUS	Goalkeeper	09.09.1987	St. Petersburg, RUS	97	198	0
21	Robin	Sjöman	FIN	Line Player	25.08.1992	Karjaa, FIN	95	195	0
19	Roni	Syrjälä	FIN	Right Wing	28.03.1995	Riihimäki, FIN	70	180	0
15	Teemu	Tamminen	FIN	Left Wing	27.08.1987	Riihimäki, FIN	82	190	14
55	Aliaksandr	Tsitou	BLR	Line Player	28.10.1986	Mahilev, BLR	105	193	0
3	Jani	Tuominen	FIN	Left Wing	30.01.1992	Riihimäki, FIN	66	182	2
4	Antti	Valo	FIN	Right Wing	28.12.1983	Riihimäki, FIN	90	185	0



COCKS (FIN)

Coach and key players profiles



Gintaras Savukynas coach

- joined in the summer of 2016 from a job as coordinator of the handball section of the Norwegian club Bergsjø IL, where he was also head coach
- has signed a two year contract with Cocks with an option for another two years
- was national coach of Lithuania from 2009-2014, simultaneously also in charge of Belarusian Meshkov Brest from 2010-2012
- during his time as a player, he played in Iceland, Switzerland and Norway, apart from his native country
- particularly known for his professional approach to his job and for his tactical skills



Kirill Morozov goalkeeper

- born in Chelyabinsk in Russia
- has CL experience from Russian Chekhovskie Medvedi as well as from HC Bosna BH
- has also represented Sungul in his homeland for one season, 2013-14 before moving abroad again
- played a great part in Cocks winning the Finnish championship as well as the Baltic Handball League last season
- tall (195 cm) and heavy (99 kg) goalkeeper who is good at foreseeing shots



Teemu Tamminen left wing

- scored a total of 22 goals – 11 in each match – as Finland defeated Luxembourg in the play-offs for the Qualification 2 for the EHF EURO 2018
- born in Riihimäki, the home town of Cocks, and has always played for the club
- scored no less than 14 goals, as Cocks defeated HC West in the decisive match for the Finnish championship 2015-16
- recently extended his contract for another two years, so the Cocks should be sure to benefit from his skills at least until the summer of 2018



Tiago Silva right back

- joined in the summer of 2016 from FC Porto in his homeland
- another player with CL experience – from exactly FC Porto
- born in the city of Guimaraes, he started his career in Braga, some kind of a handball metropole in Portugal
- Cocks are his first foreign adventure
- benefits from his height (198 cm), his hard shot and his ability to move inwards on the court to shoot from the centre



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Previous seasons' top scorers

Season	Name & nation	Club	Goals
2015/16	Ferran Sole Sala (ESP)	Fraikin BM Granollers (ESP)	70
2014/15	Skube Stas (SLO)	Rk Gorenje Velenje (SLO)	81
2013/14	Dragan Gajic (SLO)	Montpellier Agglomeration HB (FRA)	72
2012/13	Momir Rnic (SRB)	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)	59

2015/16 top scorers

Rank	Name & nation	Club	Goals
1	Ferran Sole (ESP)	Fraikin BM. Granollers (ESP)	70
2	Marcel Schiller (GER)	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)	69
3	Robert Weber (AUT)	SC Magdeburg (GER)	66
4	Valero Rivera (ESP)	HBC Nantes (FRA)	59
5	Michael Damgaard (DEN)	SC Magdeburg (GER)	58
	Javier Humet (ESP)	CSM Bucuresti (ROU)	58
7	Timothey N'guessan (FRA)	Chambery Savoie Handball (FRA)	56
8	Adrian Figueras (ESP)	Fraikin BM. Granollers (ESP)	53
	Jakov Vrankovic (CRO)	Dinamo Bucuresti (ROU)	53
10	Peter Balling (DEN)	Team Tvis Holstebro (DEN)	51
	Patrick Wiesmach (DEN)	Team Tvis Holstebro (DEN)	51
12	Raphael Caucheteux (FRA)	Saint-Raphael Var Handball (FRA)	50
13	Uladzislau Kulesh (BLR)	SKA Minsk (BLR)	47
14	Adrian Dipanda (FRA)	Saint-Raphael Var Handball (FRA)	46
15	Melvyn Richardson (FRA)	Chambery Savoie Handball (FRA)	45
16	Damir Bicanic (CRO)	Chambery Savoie Handball (FRA)	42
	Marcel Hess (SUI)	Pfadi Winterthur (SUI)	42
	Stefan Hundstrup (DEN)	Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)	42
	Michael Kraus (GER)	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)	42
	Lukas Nilsson (SWE)	Ystads IF (SWE)	42

Top scorers of the qualification

Rank	Name & nation	Club	Goals
1	Michael Allendorf (GER)	MT Melsungen (GER)	21
	Chen Pomeranz (ISR)	Maccabi CASTRO Tel Aviv (ISR)	21
3	Ante Esegovic (AUT)	Bregenz Handball (AUT)	20
4	Roman Sidorowicz (SUI)	Pfadi Winterthur (SUI)	18
5	Pertusa Cabanas (ESP)	Fraikin BM. Granollers (ESP)	17
	Konstantin Igropulo (RUS)	KIF Kolding Kobenhavn (DEN)	17
7	Hans Lindberg (DEN)	Füchse Berlin (GER)	16
8	Aurelien Abily (FRA)	Saint-Raphael Var Handball (FRA)	15
	Petar Nenadic (SRB)	Füchse Berlin (GER)	15
	Nikola Prce (BIH)	KS Azoty-Pulawy (POL)	15
11	Frederik Kiehn (DEN)	GOG (DEN)	14
	Patrik Leban (SLO)	RD Riko Ribnica (SLO)	14
	Iurii Orlov (RUS)	Dinamo Astrakhan (RUS)	14
	Teemu Tamminen (FIN)	Cocks (FIN)	14
15	Matjaz Brumen (SLO)	Rk Gorenje Velenje (SLO)	13
	Magnus Persson (SWE)	Alingsas HK (SWE)	13
17	Dmytro Artemenko (UKR)	ZTR Zaporozhye (UKR)	12
	Oswaldo Dos Santos Maestro (ESP)	Helvetia Anaitasuna (ESP)	12
	Ivan Karacic (BIH)	Maccabi Srugo Rishon Lezion (ISR)	12
	Artsem Karalek (BLR)	SKA Minsk (BLR)	12
	Matthias Musche (GER)	SC Magdeburg (GER)	12
	Antonio Rodrigues Areia (POR)	Futebol Clube do Porto (POR)	12
	Elledy Semedo (POR)	S.L. Benfica (POR)	12

(**Bold text** indicates players that are still active in the competition.)

Past winners



2016 Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)



2015 Füchse Berlin (GER)



2014 Pick Szeged (HUN)



2013 Rhein Neckar Löwen (GER)



Previous Men's EHF Cup winners

2012	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2011	Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)
2010	TBV Lemgo (GER)
2009	VfL Gummersbach (GER)
2008	HSG Nordhorn (GER)
2007	SC Magdeburg (GER)
2006	TBV Lemgo (GER)
2005	Tusem Essen (GER)
2004	THW Kiel (GER)
2003	FC Barcelona (ESP)
2002	THW Kiel (GER)
2001	Sportclub Magdeburg (GER)
2000	Metkovic Jumbo (CRO)
1999	Sportclub Magdeburg (GER)
1998	THW Kiel (GER)
1997	SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)
1996	BM Granollers (ESP)
1995	BM Granollers (ESP)
1994	Aliza Avides (ESP)

Previous Men's Cup Winners' Cup winners

2012	SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)
2011	VfL Gummersbach (GER)
2010	VfL Gummersbach (GER)
2009	Pevafersa Valladolid (ESP)
2008	MKB Veszprem KC (HUN)
2007	HSV Hamburg
2006	Chekhovski Medvedi (RUS)
2005	C. BM Ademar Leon (ESP)
2004	Portland San Antonio (ESP)
2003	A.D.C. Ciudad Real (ESP)
2002	A.D.C. Ciudad Real (ESP)
2001	SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)
2000	Portland San Antonio (ESP)
1999	Prosesa Ademar Leon (ESP)
1998	Caja Cantabria Santander (ESP)
1997	Elgorriaga Bidasoa (ESP)
1996	TBV Lemgo (GER)
1995	FC Barcelona (ESP)
1994	FC Barcelona (ESP)

Men's EHF Cup 2016/17 Group Phase

Media Guide

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