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14th JANUARY - 2nd FEBRUARY

#INSPIREDBYHANDBALL

2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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Hassan Moustafa

Handball Unites the World

Dear Handball Friends,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 29th IHF Men's World Championship. This year, the men's flagship event will be staged in three countries – Croatia, Denmark and Norway – marking the first time in the competition's history that three hosts team up to deliver the best experience for all stakeholders.

Five cities in Croatia, Denmark and Norway will be hosting the dreams and hopes of the world's 32 best men's national teams, with the third edition of the world handball flagship competition to have a 32-team line-up.

In Croatia, matches will be organized in Zagreb, Varaždin and Poreč – three cities where handball is at the forefront, while in Denmark, we are returning to Herning, a city with plenty of tradition in handball. Norway, with its capital Oslo, will also make handball shine in the Unity Arena.

All three countries have plenty of experience in organizing high-profile events, with all arenas having been used in the past for major international handball competitions. While Croatia and Denmark have already hosted the IHF Men's World Championship in the past, Norway will be the co-host for the first time in history, also organizing the big final on 2 February.

In the 32-team line-up, all handball powerhouses are represented, with Denmark aiming for a historical fourth consecutive title, after sweeping their opponents in 2019, 2021 and 2023. Teams from five continents will take to the court, with 18 sides from Europe, five sides from Africa, four sides from Asia, three teams from South and Central America and two teams from North America and the Caribbean securing their tickets for Croatia/Denmark/Norway 2025.

One side, Guinea, will make their debut at the 2025 IHF Men's World Championship, while Italy will be returning after 28 years, qualifying for the second time in their history. Cuba, the NACHC Men's Handball Championship winners, are also due to play on the biggest stage of all for the first time since 2009, as well as Kuwait, who are returning after 16 years.

At this point, I want to express my gratitude to Croatia, Denmark and Norway and their Organizing Committees who took all the necessary measures to realis an unforgettable championship. I hope you will all enjoy your time in these beautiful countries.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the 32 teams, their National Federations and the Continental Confederations for their hard work that made their teams' dream to participate in a World Championship come true. We appreciate their commitment to the values of the sport, such as fair play, which I am confident they will showcase. My appreciation goes out to all parties involved, including but not limited to the spectators, fans, volunteers, referees and coaches, who will all contribute to the success of this prestigious event.

We look forward to a superb competition and wish all the players and teams health and luck. May the best team win!

Hassan Moustafa, President, IHF

2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

CROATIA | DENMARK | NORWAY

GROUP A

- GERMANY
- CZECH REPUBLIC
- POLAND
- SWITZERLAND

GROUP B

- DENMARK
- ITALY
- ALGERIA
- TUNISIA

GROUP C

- FRANCE
- AUSTRIA
- QATAR
- KUWAIT

GROUP D

- HUNGARY
- NETHERLANDS
- NORTH MACEDONIA
- GUINEA

GROUP E

- NORWAY
- PORTUGAL
- BRAZIL
- USA

GROUP F

- SWEDEN
- SPAIN
- JAPAN
- CHILE

GROUP G

- SLOVENIA
- ICELAND
- CUBA
- CAPE VERDE

GROUP H

- EGYPT
- CROATIA
- ARGENTINA
- BAHREIN

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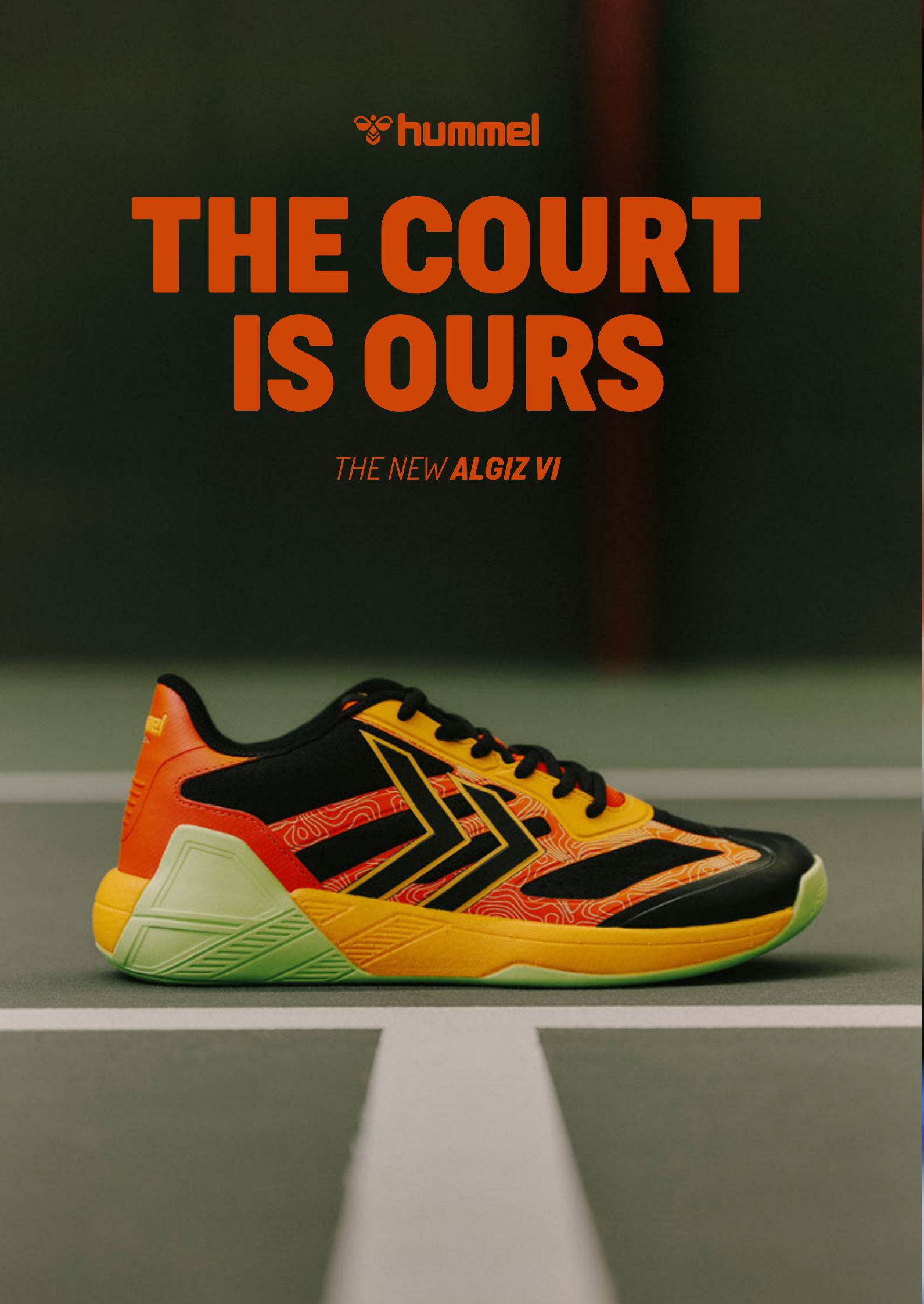

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Match Schedule

14 JANUARY - 2 FEBRUARY 2025

29th IHF Men's Handball

PRELIMINARY ROUND

	TUESDAY 14 Jan.	WEDNESDAY 15 Jan.	THURSDAY 16 Jan.	FRIDAY 17 Jan.	SATURDAY 18 Jan.	SUNDAY 19 Jan.	MONDAY 20 Jan.
HERNING GROUP A / GROUP B / MR I	ITA-TUN 32-25	CZE-SUI 17-17	ITA-ALG 32-23	CZE-POL 19-19	ALG-TUN 25-26	POL-SUI 28-30	
	DEN-ALG 47-22	GER-POL 32-28	TUN-DEN 21-32	SUI-GER 29-31	DEN-ITA 39-20	GER-CZE 29-22	
OSLO GROUP F / GROUP E / MR III / QF/SF / FINALS	POR-USA 30-21	ESP-CHI 31-22	POR-BRA 30-26	ESP-JPN 39-20	BRA-USA 31-24	JPN-CHI 26-31	
	NOR-BRA 26-29	SWE-JPN 39-21	USA-NOR 17-33	CHI-SWE 30-42	NOR-POR 28-31	SWE-ESP 29-29	
ZAGREB GROUP H / GROUP G / MR IV / QF/SF	EGY-ARG 39-25	SLO-CUB 41-19	BRN-EGY 24-35	CPV-SLO 24-36	ARG-BRN 26-25	CUB-CPV 28-38	
	CRO-BRN 36-22	ISL-CPV 34-21	CRO-ARG 33-18	ISL-CUB 40-19	EGY-CRO 28-24	SLO-ISL 18-23	
VARAŽDIN GROUP D / MR II	NED-GUI 40-23		NED-MKD 37-32		MKD-GUI 29-20		
	HUN-MKD 27-27		GUI-HUN 18-35		HUN-NED 36-32		
POREČ GROUP C / PC I / PC II	FRA-QAT 37-19		HUW-FRA 19-43		FRA-AUT 35-27		
	AUT-KUW 37-26		AUT-QAT 28-26		QAT-KUW 25-22		

MAIN ROUND / PRESIDENT'S CUP

	TUESDAY 21 Jan.	WEDNESDAY 22 Jan.	THURSDAY 23 Jan.	FRIDAY 24 Jan.	SATURDAY 25 Jan.	SUNDAY 26 Jan.
HERNING	SUI-TUN 37-26		TUN-CZE 26-32		ITA-SUI 25-33	
	CZE-ITA 18-25		ITA-GER 27-34		CZE-DEN 22-28	
	DEN-GER 40-30		DEN-SUI 39-28		GER-TUN 31-19	
OSLO		BRA-CHI 28-24		ESP-POR 29-35		POR-CHI 46-28
		SWE-POR 37-37		SWE-BRA 24-27		ESP-BRA 25-26
		NOR-ESP 25-24		CHI-NOR 22-39		NOR-SWE 29-24
ZAGREB		SLO-ARG 34-23		ARG-CPV 30-26		ISL-ARG 30-21
		CPV-CRO 24-44		EGY-SLO 26-25		CPV-EGY 24-31
		EGY-ISL 24-27		CRO-ISL 32-26		CRO-SLO 29-26
VARAŽDIN	AUT-MKD 29-29		MKD-QAT 39-34		NED-AUT 37-37	
	QAT-NED 37-38		NED-FRA 28-35		QAT-HUN 23-29	
	HUN-FRA 30-37		HUN-AUT 29-26		FRA-MKD 32-25	
POREČ	KUW-GUI 26-24	CUB-BRN 26-39	ALG-GUI 32-23	JPN-BRN 31-27	ALG-KUW 31-38	JPN-CUB 32-23
	POL-ALG 38-32	USA-JPN 27-25	POL-KUW 42-32	USA-CUB 27-26	GUI-POL 28-40	BRN-USA 28-30

The order/throw-off times of the matches after the preliminary round are subject to change

**Opening ceremony before the match*

HERNING / JYSKE BANK BOXEN
CAPACITY: 12.500

OSLO / UNYTY ARENA
CAPACITY: 15.000

ZAGREB / ARENA ZAGREB
CAPACITY: 15.200

VARAŽDIN/ / ARENA VARAŽDIN
CAPACITY: 5.200

POREČ / ŽATIKA HALL
CAPACITY: 3.700

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World Championship

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MONDAY 27 Jan.	TUESDAY 28 Jan.	WEDNESDAY 29 Jan.	THURSDAY 30 Jan.	FRIDAY 31 Jan.	SATURDAY 1 Feb.	SUNDAY 2 Feb.
QUARTER FINALS / SEMI FINALS					FINALS	
QF/SF					F	
		DEN-BRA 17:30		SF2 20:30		BRONZE 15:00
		POR-GER 20:30				FINAL 18:00
QF1/QF2 FROM OSLO/HERNING(MRI-MRIII) SF2 FROM OSLO (QF1-QF2)						
	CRO-HUN 18:00		SF1 20:30			
	FRA-EGY 21:00					
QF3/QF4 FROM ZAGREB/VARAŽDIN (MRII-MRIV) SF1 FROM ZAGREB (QF3-QF4)						
	GUI-CUB 13:00					
	ALG-BRN 15:30					
	KUW-JPN 18:00					
	POL-USA 20:30					

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Jyske Bank Boxen

Capacity: 15.000

HERNING

Opened in 2010, this arena has hosted numerous major tournaments. These include the Women's Euro in 2010 and 2020, the Men's Euro in 2014, the Men's World Championship in 2019, and the Women's World Championship in 2023.

Herning is a city in Denmark's Central Jutland Region and the administrative center of Herning Municipality. It has a population of 46,873, making it Denmark's 11th most populous urban area. First mentioned in 1579, Herning remained a village until around 1800. Its population grew rapidly as people settled in the area for its agricultural potential, typical of much of Denmark. This development turned Herning into a trade hub for the surrounding region.

Herning is renowned for its textile industry, which initially drove the local economy and expanded to the surrounding area. While textiles were once the dominant industry, Herning now has a diverse industrial base. It gained city status in 1913 and has twice been named Denmark's best city of the year, in 1965 and 2003.

Situated at an elevation of 40–55 meters, Herning lies in the temperate northern zone, with its low-lying landscape influenced by the Gulf Stream. Although it is not located near the sea or rivers, residents utilize nearby lakes for water supply and tourism. Herning's blend of history, industry, and natural surroundings make it a vital part of Denmark's cultural and economic fabric.

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LESERWAHL BEST BRAND 2024 KATEGORIE Schmierstoffe Heft 06/24 Motor Klassik Ausgabe 6/2024

Auto TOP MARKE 2024 GOLD Schmierstoffe Ausgabe 4/2024

Auto TOP MARKE 2024 SILBER Pflegemittel Ausgabe 4/2024

2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

LIQUI MOLY OFFICIAL PARTNER

Jan Kampman

A Historic Championship of Collaboration and Responsibility

Welcome to the 2025 IHF Men's World Championship – a truly historic tournament as Denmark, Norway, and Croatia unite to host the men's championship for the first time across three nations. Under the banner of our slogan, "Inspired by Handball", we have drawn inspiration not only from the sport itself but also from the spirit of European collaboration.

As hosts, we are deeply committed to creating a responsible championship. Together with the arena of Jyske Bank Boxen, we have prioritized initiatives like waste sorting, reducing food waste, and minimizing meat consumption. Additionally, our social project, which channels proceeds from bottle returns to Julemærkehjemmene, supports children facing challenges such as bullying or obesity – a cause close to our hearts.

It is with great pride that we see the Danish national team begin their defense of an unprecedented three consecutive world titles on home soil in Herning. This place holds a special place in our history, as it was here, we celebrated our first world championship in 2019. The atmosphere is always electric in the arena, and we are determined to raise the bar for fan experiences once again by creating a 10,000 square meter fan zone packed with activities for the whole family and the world's largest handball museum, showcasing our proud history in the sport.

Let us come together, inspired by handball, to celebrate this extraordinary tournament.

Jan Kampman
President, Danish Handball Association

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2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
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2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP A

HERNING - DENMARK

GERMANY

CZECH REPUBLIC

POLAND

SWITZERLAND

inspired by handball

GERMANY

GROUP A

History in the competition

1938: Winners, **1954:** Silver medal, **1958:** Bronze medal, **1961:** 4th, **1964:** 4th, **1967:** 6th, **1970:** 5th, **1974:** 9th, **1978:** Winners, **1982:** 7th, **1986:** 7th, **1993:** 6th, **1995:** 4th, **1995:** 5th, **1999:** 5th, **2001:** 8th, **2003:** Silver medal, **2005:** 9th, **2007:** Winners, **2009:** 5th, **2011:** 11th, **2013:** 5th, **2015:** 7th, **2017:** 9th, 2019: 4th, **2021:** 12th, **2023:** 5th

Medal Tally

OG '24:	Silver
OG '16:	Bronze
EC '16:	Gold
WCH '07:	Gold
OG '04:	Silver
EC '04:	Gold
WCH '03:	Silver
EC '02:	Bronze
EC '98:	Bronze
WCH '78:	Gold
WCH '58:	Bronze
WCH '54:	Silver
OG '36:	Gold

Deutscher Handballbund
e.V., Strobelallee 56,
44139 Dortmund,
Germany

Medal Dreams: Germany Eyes a Return to the Podium

Germany's handball team is always considered a medal contender in major tournaments, and the 2025 World Championship is no exception. Ranked among the top five teams for the most medals won at World Championships, Germany's tally includes two golds, two silvers, and one bronze. However, it has been 18 years since they last stood on the podium at a World Championship, when they clinched gold as hosts in 2007. While they've come close in recent years, such as their fourth-place finish in 2019, they fell short in the semifinals against Norway and then lost the bronze medal match to France.

Germany's Bundesliga is one of Europe's strongest leagues, but a challenge for the national team is the prevalence of foreign players in top clubs like Magdeburg, Kiel, Flensburg, and Füchse Berlin. At the recent Paris Olympics, Germany secured silver, losing only twice—once to Croatia in the group stage and then to Denmark in the final.

Germany's greatest strength lies in their goalkeepers, particularly Andreas Wolff. Their promising backcourt includes rising stars like Marko Grgić, Juri Knorr, Renars Uščins, and Julian Köster. For the 2025 World Championship in Croatia, Denmark, and Norway, Germany will rely on their traditionally solid defensive play. Interestingly, Germany will host the next two World Championships: solo in 2027 and jointly with France in 2029. As such, they are already building a team with these future events in mind.

Germany qualified for this World Championship as the third-best team from the previous European Championship, which they hosted. Their Icelandic coach, Alfred Gislason, faces a significant challenge.

GERMANY

GROUP A

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Birlehm, Joel	GK	1997.	Hannover	17/0
Heinevetter, Silvio	GK	1984.	Eisenach	205/3
Rebmann, Daniel	GK	1994.	Gummersbach	4/0
Späth, David	GK	2002.	RN Löwen	23/1
Wolff, Andreas	GK	1991.	Kiel	164/14
Dahmke, Rune	LW	1993.	Kiel	77/120
Freihöfer, Tim	LW	2002.	Füchse	17/71
Mertens, Lukas	LW	1996.	Magdeburg	50/110
Nothdurft, Tim	LW	1997.	RN Löwen	2/1
Groetzki, Patrick	RW	1989.	RN Löwen	173/410
Gömmel, Tim	RW	2005.	Erlangen	0/0
Kastening, Timo	RW	1995.	Melsungen	58/192
Zerbe, Lukas	RW	1996.	Kiel	28/41
Fischer, Justus	LP	2003.	Hannover	15/ 9
Golla, Johannes	LP	1997.	Flensburg	86/302
Kohlbacher, Jannik	LP	1995.	RN Löwen	117/225
Seesing, Aron	LP	2003.	Bergischer	0/0
Zechel, Tim	LP	1996.	Magdeburg	10/6
Grgic, Marko	LB	2003.	Eisenach	8/16
Heymann, Sebastian	LB	1998.	RN Löwen	40/82
Kiesler, Tom	LB	2001.	Gummersbach	0/0
Köster, Julian	LB	2000.	Gummersbach	53/119
Schluroff, Miro	LB	2000.	Gummersbach	0/0
Stutzke, Lukas	LB	1998.	Hannover	10/14
Weber, Philipp	LB	1992.	Magdeburg	87/175
Knorr, Juri	CB	2000.	RN Löwen	64/255
Lichtlein, Nils	CB	2002.	Füchse	12/5
Michalczik, Marian	CB	1997.	Hannover	30/26
Tissier, Leif	CB	1999.	Hamburg	0/0
Witzke, Luca	CB	1999.	Leipzig	32/61
Beneke, Max Christoph	RB	2003.	Füchse	10/31
Schmidt, David	RB	1993.	Göppingen	25/32
Semper, Franz	RB	1997.	Leipzig	19/26
Steinert, Christoph	RB	1990.	Erlangen	51/92
Uscins, Renars	RB	2002.	Hannover	24/95

HEAD COACH

Alfred Gislason

Germany qualified for this World Championship as the third-best team from the previous European Championship, which they hosted.

STAR PLAYER

Andreas Wolff

At 33 years old, Andreas Wolff is regarded as one of the best goalkeepers in the world. Born in the small town of Euskirchen, he began playing handball in 1995 at a young age. His junior career spanned three lesser-known German clubs before making his senior debut with Kirchzell. He then moved to Großwallstadt, a club with two Champions Cup titles from 1979 and 1980. In 2013, Wolff joined Wetzlar, where he spent three seasons before transferring to Kiel in 2016. His first and only stint abroad was with Kielce in Poland, where he played for five seasons before returning to Kiel last year. Since his national team debut in 2013, Wolff has won every medal except one from the World Championship. His accolades include European gold in 2016, Olympic silver in 2024, and bronze in 2016. A World Championship medal is the only missing piece in his collection.

History in the competition

1995: 8th, **1997:** 11th,
2001: 18th, **2005:** 10th,
2007: 12th, **2015:** 17th

CZECH REPUBLIC

ČESKÁ HÁZENÁ
CZECH HANDBALL

Czech Handball Federation
Budejovicka 778/3a,
140 00 Prague 4,
Czech Republic

From Legends to New Beginnings: Czech Handball's 2025 Campaign

The Czech national team first appeared at the World Championship in 1995 in Iceland. This will be only their sixth appearance, with their best result being 8th place in their debut tournament. In the round of 16, they caused one of the biggest surprises by eliminating South Korea after extra time. However, they were defeated by Sweden in the quarterfinals (17:21) despite a strong fight.

Their last World Championship was in 2015. After a long absence, they return to the global stage. During the era of Czechoslovakia, the team achieved great success, winning one gold, two silver, and two bronze medals, placing them 9th overall in the medal standings. As successors to Czechoslovakia alongside Slovakia, the Czech Republic was quickly admitted to the IHF. However, they have not replicated the achievements of their predecessor, which was a World Champion and Olympic silver medalist.

Under Spanish coach Xavier Sabate, the Czech Republic aims to advance to the second round of the 2025 World Championship. The roster includes experienced goalkeeper Tomas Mrkva, who plays for Kiel, and key backcourt players Klima, Babak, and Kasparek, along with left wing Jakub Hrstka. They qualified for the World Championship by defeating Romania. After losing the first leg 31:30, they secured a convincing 29:20 victory at home.

CZECH REPUBLIC

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Herajt, Filip	GK	1996.	Talent Plzeň	0/0
Hrdlicka, Jan	GK	1996.	Kalisz	17/ 0
Mrkva, Tomáš	GK	1989.	Kiel	128/11
Mizera, Šimon	GK	2000.	Elverum	25/ 1
Beneš, Adam	LW	2004.	Talent Plzeň	0/0
Blecha, Jan	LW	1993.	Dukla Praha	10/19
Choteborský, Pavel	LW	2003.	Lovci Lovosice	2/4
Hrstka, Jakub	LW	1990.	Zubří	150/484
Široký, Petr	LW	2002.	Karviná	0/0
Bajer, Pavel	RW	2002.	Karviná	2/2
Harabiš, Denis	RW	1999.	Karviná	18/26
Skopár, Dominik	RW	2006.	Talent Plzen	2/11
Šterba, Jakub	RW	1996.	Hamm	24/55
Dokoupil, Jiří	LP	1999.	Talent Plzeň	2/0
Nantl, Matěj	LP	1998.	Karviná	8/3
Reichl, Vít	LP	1993.	Hüttenberg	22/54
Reznicky, Daniel	LP	1998.	Ostrovia	21/17
Užek, Jan	LP	1993.	Karviná	37/38
Zeman, Štěpán	LP	1997.	Gummersbach	62/55
Bláha, Daniel	LB	2005.	Talent Plzeň	6/6
Brezina, Martin	LB	2001.	Kreuzlingen	10/2
Josef, Jonáš	LB	2004.	Dukla Praha	2/1
Patzel, Vojtěch	LB	1998.	Karviná	44/67
Solák, Dominik	LB	1997.	Karviná	42/35
Babák, Tomáš	CB	1993.	Bergischer	100/299
Douda, Jakub	CB	1994.	Talent Plzen	8/5
Havran, Matej	CB	2002.	Tatabányai	16/4
Morkovsky, Lukas	CB	2002.	Gornik	11/11
Palát, Dušan	CB	2001.	Zubří	1/3
Patzel, Jonáš	CB	2002.	Karviná	15/15
Kašpárek, Stanislav	RB	1996.	Dinamo	70/228
Piroch, Tomáš	RB	2000.	Wisla Plock	37/88
Rakouský, Martin	RB	2002.	Dukla Praha	0/0
Rumian, Jakub	RB	2003.	Karviná	3/1
Tomasek, Adam	RB	2003.	Chambéry	1/2

HEAD COACH

Xavier Sabate

The Czech national team returns to the World Championship after a decade, aiming to build on past successes under coach Xavier Sabate.

STAR PLAYER

Tomas Mrkva

At 35, Tomas Mrkva will be one of the oldest goalkeepers at the 2025 World Championship. He began his career in Karvina before moving to Germany in 2016, first playing for Göppingen and then Kiel, where he currently plays. Early in his career, Mrkva wore jersey number 1, but he switched to number 16 after joining the Bundesliga.

Last season, Mrkva helped Kiel secure third place in the Champions League, delivering 15 saves in the bronze medal match against Magdeburg. Earlier in the tournament, they lost to Barcelona in the semifinals. This season, Mrkva shares playing time at Kiel with Andreas Wolff and hopes to lead the club to another Champions League Final Four appearance.

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2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

WÜRTH

OFFICIAL PARTNER

MCKS – MCMG – 12/24

POLAND

GROUP A

History in the competition

1958: 5th, **1967:** 12th,
1970: 14th, **1978:** 6th,
1982: Bronze medal,
1986: 14th, **1990:** 11th,
2003: 10th, **2007:** Silver medal, **2009:** Bronze medal,
2011: 8th, **2013:** 9th,
2015: Bronze medal,
2017: 17th, **2021:** 13th,
2023: 15th

Medal Tally

WCH '15: Bronze
WCH '09: Bronze
WCH '07: Silver
WCH '82: Bronze
OG '76: Bronze

ZPRP

Polish Handball Federation
Pulawska St. 300A,
02-819 Warszawa,
Poland

From Past Triumphs to New Challenges: Poland's 2025 Journey

Poland will compete in their 18th World Championship, having won four medals: one silver and three bronze. Many still consider them the favorites for gold at the 2007 World Championship in Germany. Under coach Bogdan Wenta, they assembled a stellar team featuring Szmal, Lijewski, Tkaczyk, Bielecki, and Jurecki. They reached the final but were defeated by the hosts, Germany.

Poland's first golden era in World Championship history occurred in the late 1970s. They finished fourth in 1974 and won their first bronze in 1982 in Germany, defeating Denmark in the third-place match. At the time, Wenta, who would later become their coach, was a key player. During this period, they also earned an Olympic bronze in Montreal in 1976.

However, a long drought followed, as Poland failed to qualify for five consecutive World Championships from 1993 to 2003. They returned in Portugal in 2003, advancing to the second round but missing the 2005 tournament in Tunisia. Their comeback in 2007 was spectacular, leading to a silver medal. Poland added bronze medals in 2009 in Croatia and 2015 in Doha, Qatar, marking their last podium finish. It has now been nearly a decade since Poland reached the podium. Their most notable performance in this period was a semifinal appearance at the 2016 Rio Olympics, where they finished fourth.

At the 2025 World Championship, Poland's primary goal is to advance from the group stage. The team benefits from two Champions League clubs—Kielce and Wisla—but the national team's results have been underwhelming. They secured qualification by defeating Slovakia in a playoff, overcoming a 28:29 home loss with a 33:25 away victory.

POLAND

GROUP A

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Ałaj, Jakub	GK	2002.	GO S.A	0/0
Jastrzebski, Marcel	GK	2003.	Wisla Plock	7/0
Ligarzewski, Kacper	GK	2001.	Górnik	0/0
Morawski, Adam	GK	1994.	Melsungen	82/6
Wałach, Miłosz	GK	2001.	Kielce	4/0
Czapliński, Mikołaj	LW	2000.	Wybrzeże	19/28
Czuwara, Jan	LW	1995.	Zaglebie	71/142
Surgiel, Cezary	LW	2002.	Kielce	0/0
Urbaniak, Przemysław	LW	1998.	Ostrovia	8/13
Marciniak, Marek	RW	1995.	Azoty-Pulawy	0/0
Michałowicz, Filip	RW	2003.	Wisla Plock	0/0
Moryto, Arkadiusz	RW	1997.	Kielce	102/499
Szyszko, Jakub	RW	2001.	Górnik	13/29
Wojdan, Mateusz	RW	2000.	GO S.A	0/0
Bis, Bartlomiej	LP	1997.	Coburg	36/12
Dawydzik, Dawid	LP	1994.	Wisla Plock	56/74
Doniecki, Antoni	LP	2001.	Toulouse	1/0
Gebala, Maciej	LP	1994.	Erlangen	103/136
Jankowski, Wiktor	LP	2001.	Kwidzyn	1/0
Rogulski, Łukasz	LP	1993.	Kielce	0/0
Syprzak, Kamil	LP	1991.	PSG	175/394
Mielczarski, Piotr	LB	2005.	Guadalajara	0/0
Pietrasik, Ariel	LB	1999.	Kadetten	41/84
Powarzyński, Jakub	LB	2002.	Dessau	9/9
Przytuła, Damian	LB	1998.	Tatabányai	44/80
Adamski, Kamil	CB	1995.	Ostrovia	2/0
Bedzikowski, Jakub	CB	2003.	Wybrzeże	3/0
Jedraszczyk, Piotr	CB	2001.	GO S.A	37/76
Olejniczak, Michał	CB	2001.	Kielce	69/116
Papina, Maciej	CB	2001.	Wybrzeze	4/2
Paterek, Paweł	CB	2000.	Chrobry	17/25
Kamiński, Oliwier	RB	2004.	GO S.A	0/0
Wasiak, Patryk	RB	2004.	Ademar Leon	0/0
Widomski, Andrzej	RB	2003.	KPR GO S.A	7/9
Żyszkiewicz, Krzysztof	RB	2004.	Piotrkowianin	0/0

HEAD COACH

Marcin Lijewski

Poland, a four-time medalist, seeks a resurgence at the 2025 World Championship after nearly a decade off the podium.

STAR PLAYER

Kamil Syprzak

Standing at 207 cm, is one of the tallest pivots in the world. He began his career with Wisla, making his senior debut at 17 against Azoty, where he scored his first goal in a 28:20 victory. After Wisla, Syprzak joined Barcelona and later moved to PSG. At these clubs, he played alongside some of the greatest handball players, such as Entrerríos, Sigurðsson, Lazarov, Tomas, Sarmiento, Jicha, Rivera, Mem, Pálmarsson, Hansen, Remili, Krištopans, and the Karabatić brothers. Notably, Syprzak left Barcelona one year before they won the Champions League, and although he reached the Final Four three times with PSG, he never lifted the trophy. Syprzak has been a mainstay for Poland since 2011 and was part of the squad that won bronze at the 2015 World Championship in Doha. His towering presence and experience make him a critical player for Poland in their quest for success.

STARTING 7 SEVEN

SWITZERLAND

GROUP A

History in the competition

1954: 4th, **1961:** 10th,
1964: 12th, **1967:** 14th,
1970: 15th, **1982:** 12th,
1986: 11th, **1990:** 13th,
1993: 4th, **1995:** 7th,
2021: 16th

HAND SCHWEIZ SUISSE BALL

Schweizerischer Handball Verband
Tannwaldstrasse 2,
4600 Olten, Switzerland

Switzerland's Handball Revival: Aiming for Recognition in 2025

Remarkably, Switzerland's handball team has played in only one World Championship over the past 30 years. Their last appearance was in 2021 in Egypt, where they finished 16th. They advanced from the group stage as the third-placed team, behind France and Norway and ahead of Austria. In the second round, they managed victories against Algeria and Iceland but failed to reach the quarterfinals. Switzerland's best result was a fourth-place finish at the 1954 World Championship in Sweden. That same year, their football team excelled at the World Cup as hosts, reaching the quarterfinals before losing to Austria (5:7). In 1954, the World Championship featured just six teams, with Switzerland losing the bronze medal match to Czechoslovakia (11:24).

Today, Swiss handball is fighting for its place under the sun, and they will be overjoyed if they make it past the first round. They will not have head coach Andy Schmida or Manuel Zhender in their ranks, as he injured his knee shortly before the World Championship. His brother, Samuel, who plays in Lemgo, is present. In Germany, the team also includes goalkeeper Portner (Magdeburg), Rubin and Laube (Stuttgart), and Gerbl (Hannover). Historically, Swiss handball has produced notable figures such as Marc Baumgartner and Arno Ehret. Over the years, many coaches from the former Yugoslavia, including Goran Perkovac, Pero Janjić, and Sead Hasanefendić, have also left their mark on Swiss handball.

Switzerland qualified for this World Championship thanks to a special IHF invitation after losing in the playoffs to Slovenia.

SWITZERLAND

GROUP A

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Grazioli, Leonard	GK	2001.	Pfadi Winterthur	34/1
Portner, Nikola	GK	1993.	Magdeburg	132/30
Scheidiger, Jannis	GK	2002.	Suhr Aarau	8/2
Seravalli, Mathieu	GK	2004.	Bern	3/0
Wkic, Flavio	GK	1995.	Wacker Thun	17/1
Leopold, Noam	LW	2002.	Nantes	8/4
Lier, Marvin	LW	1992.	Kadetten	105/250
Reichmuth, Timothy	LW	1998.	Eisenach	0/0
Sarlos, Nikos	LW	2005.	Suhr Aarau	0/0
Zehnder, Samuel	LW	2000.	Lemgo	52/103
Attenhofer, Gian	RW	2002.	Eisenach	6/2
Epp, Nils	RW	2007.	Kriens-Luzern	0/0
Gerbl, Maximilian	RW	1995.	Hannover	66/96
Steenaerts, Gino	RW	2005.	Kriens-Luzern	4/6
Bader, Marc	LP	2001.	Amicitia	0/0
Glatthard, Viktor	LP	1993.	Sandnes	0/0
Laube Lukas	LP	2000.	Stuttgart	26/61
Röthlisberger, Samuel	LP	1996.	Stuttgart	83/22
Markovic, Zoran	LP	1995.	Kadetten	31/43
Meister, Lucas Julien	LP	1996.	Kadetten	85/207
Willecke, Joel	LP	2003.	Suhr Aarau	23/7
Ben Romdhane, Medhi	LB	2001.	Kadetten	31/32
Maros, Luka	LB	1994.	Kadetten	72/154
Rellstab, Tim	LB	2001.	Pfadi Winterthur	4/1
Rubin, Lenny	LB	1996.	Stuttgart	77/280
Wolfisberg, Valentin	LB	2004.	Kriens-Luzern	0/0
Aellen, Felix	CB	2003.	Bern	11/16
Aufdenblatten, Tim	CB	1996.	Suhr Aarau	0/0
Schelker, Jonas	CB	1999.	Kriens-Luzern	37/34
Sigrist, Luca	CB	2005.	Kriens-Luzern	2/3
Zehnder, Manuel	CB	1999.	Magdeburg	27/125
Delhees, Ron	RB	1995.	Wacker Thun	21/30
Kusio, Michael	RB	1998.	Bern	17/6
Küttel, Dimitrij	RB	1994.	Kriens-Luzern	81/162
Parkhomento, Daniel	RB	2001.	Suhr Aarau	6/10

HEAD COACH

Andy Schmid

Remarkably, Switzerland's handball team has played in only one World Championship over the past 30 years. Their last appearance was in 2021 in Egypt, where they finished 16th.

STAR PLAYER

Nikola Portner

The star of the Swiss team is goalkeeper Nikola Portner, who plays for one of Europe's best clubs, Magdeburg. Portner is 31 years old, born in France, where his father, Zlatko Portner, a celebrated player for Yugoslavia and Metaloplastika, which was at the pinnacle of European handball, once played. He moved to Switzerland when he was eight months old and has been a citizen since 2008.

In his early career, he played in Switzerland, later joining Montpellier. After his time in France, where he also played for Chambéry, he continued his career in Germany. Last season, he was involved in a doping scandal, which turned out to be false, and he continued to play at a high level. It has been 11 years since his debut for Switzerland against Italy when he was just 20 years old.

He is characterized by speed, exceptional focus, and excellent preparation for every opponent.

DENMARK

Simon Pytlick

01 Denmark is both the reigning World and Olympic champion. Do you see yourselves as frontrunners in the upcoming tournament as well?

I see us as one of the favorites, but there are many really strong teams. That being said, I can't single out one favorite to win it all, as there are many great national teams, and you often see surprises. But, we are among the favorites.

02 What can we expect from Denmark without Mikkel Hansen, and Niklas Landin after so many years? How significant will their absence be for the team?

There's no doubt that it's always been a bit easier to lean on two such experienced players when things got tough, so now there's a greater responsibility on the rest of us. But, we already had a good opportunity to practice this during the Olympics. So, despite this clearly being a test for us, I feel we're well-prepared for the task.

07

Could you share your all-time best 7 players?

- Goalkeeper: Niklas Landin
- Left Wing: Uwe Gensheimer
- Left Back: Mikkel Hansen
- Playmaker: Nikola Karabatic
- Right Back: Kiril Lazarov
- Right Wing: Lasse Svan
- Pivot: Julen Aguinagalde
- Defender: Henrik Møllgaard

03 How have you been managing the demanding schedule over the past few years, especially with the added games from the Olympics last year, which greatly increased the overall game tally?

This is the first time I've experienced an Olympic season, so it's hard to say. But there are days when you just have to tighten up and remind yourself that you're living your dream, playing in scenarios where you get to participate in the European Championship, the Olympics, and the World Championship all within a year. Of course, it's hard on the body – and there are too many games – but I won't complain. This is exactly what I really want to do. It's luckily easy to get motivated for these World Championship games because it's your dream to play them.

04 Who do you consider a potential dark horse in the 2025 World Championship tournament?

Even though they are still waiting for their first World Championship medal, I see Egypt as a top 5 team in the world. So, they are a dark horse. And Croatia on home soil will also be exciting to follow.

05 This tournament marks the start of a new Olympic cycle, culminating in Los Angeles. How do you view the future of handball within this context?

I think Denmark is well-positioned in many ways. When I look at the youth ranks, I see many great talents who are delivering results. So, without being able to predict the future, I feel that when you look at the national team we have now and the upcoming prospects, we are in a very good place heading towards the Olympics in 2028.

06 Could you share your thoughts on your group in the 2025 World Championship and the potential opponents in the Main Round? Do you have any expectations for the other three Main Round groups?

I think there are some underrated teams. We've seen Italy hold their own against Spain, which was surprising in many ways. But it also shows that Italian handball players are doing well. I don't know much about Algeria, but Tunisia also has a solid team that plays good handball. So, we're not going into these games expecting easy wins. These will be tough matches that require full focus to secure maximum points.
For the other group in Denmark, I expect Germany to win it. Then there'll be a close battle for second and third place. All the teams are strong and can deliver a high level on their day. So, it'll be a tough group to cross over with.

DEKRA

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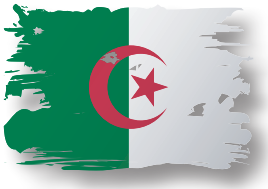
2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP B

HERNING - DENMARK

DENMARK

ITALY



ALGERIA

TUNISIA

inspired by handball

DENMARK

GROUP B

History in the competition

1938: 4th, **1954:** 5th,
1958: 4th, **1961:** 5th,
1964: 7th, **1967:** Silver medal,
1970: 4th, **1974:** 8th,
1978: 4th, **1982:** 4th,
1986: 8th, **1993:** 9th,
1995: 17th, **1999:** 9th,
2003: 9th, **2005:** 13th,
2007: Bronze medal,
2009: 4th, **2011:** Silver medal,
2013: Silver medal,
2015: 5th, **2017:** 10th,
2019: Winners, **2021:** Winners,
2023: Winners

Medal Tally

OG '24:	Gold
EC '24:	Silver
WCH '23:	Gold
EC '22:	Bronze
WCH '21:	Gold
OG '20:	Silver
WCH '19:	Gold
OG '16:	Gold
EC '14:	Silver
WCH '13:	Silver
EC '12:	Gold
WCH '11:	Silver
EC '08:	Gold
WCH '07:	Bronze
EC '06:	Bronze
EC '04:	Bronze
EC '02:	Bronze
WCH '67:	Silver

Dansk Håndbold

DanskHåndbold,
Brøndby Stadion 13,
2605 Brondby,
Denmark

Unstoppable Denmark: Rewriting Handball History

Denmark's men's handball team aims to achieve the impossible: win their fourth consecutive World Championship title. Since 2019, they have been unbeatable in World Championship finals, defeating Norway (31:22), Sweden (26:24), and France (34:29) in the last three tournaments. Denmark currently ranks fourth in the total number of gold medals won, with three, and they have a chance to match Romania and Sweden if they claim their fourth. Regardless of the 2025 outcome, France will remain on top with six golds. Overall, Denmark has won seven medals, five fewer than France and Sweden.

Their first semifinal appearance was in 1958, where they finished fourth. They won their first medal in 1967, claiming silver in Sweden after losing the final to Czechoslovakia. It took decades for them to return to the podium, finally securing bronze in Tunisia in 2005. Since 2007, they have failed to medal only three times: in 2009 (Croatia), 2015 (Qatar), and 2017 (France). Denmark has also gained recognition as a host nation. They first hosted the championship in 1978 when West Germany, led by Croatian coach Vlado Stenzel, won the title. Denmark co-hosted with Germany in 2019 and will co-host with Croatia and Norway in 2025, as well as with Iceland and Norway in 2031.

Many Danish players play key roles in Europe's strongest clubs. Gidsel represents Füchse Berlin, Jakobsen, Møller, Kirkeløkke, Jørgensen, and Pytlick are in Flensburg, Saugstrup plays for Magdeburg, Nielsen for Barcelona, and Madsen for Kiel. This will be Denmark's first major tournament without Mikkel Hansen, who retired from international play after the Paris Olympics. Danish clubs, such as Aalborg, have also become European powerhouses, reaching the Champions League final in 2021 and 2024.

DENMARK

GROUP B

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Gade, Simon Sandgrav	GK	1997.	Hannover	2/0
Green, Jannick	GK	1988.	PSG	139/2
Løvkvist, Mikkel Møller	GK	2002.	Bjerringbro	2/1
Møller, Kevin	GK	1989.	Flensburg	82/7
Nielsen, Emil	GK	1997.	Barcelona	52/6
Bisgaard, Martin Aakjær	LW	1995.	Fredericia	0/0
Jakobsen, Emil	LW	1998.	Flensburg	82/267
Landin, Jacobsen Magnus	LW	1995.	Kiel	45/265
Mortensen, Casper	LW	1989.	HSV	131/339
Andersen, Frederik	RW	1998.	HSV	2/4
Lindberg, Hans	RW	1981.	Håndbold	308/809
Rasmussen, Oskar Vind	RW	2000.	GOG Håndbold	4/8
Plógv, Hansen Johan	RW	1994.	Flensburg	93/171
Hald, Jensen Simon	LP	1994.	Aalborg	97/100
Jørgensen, Lukas Lindhard	LP	1999.	Flensburg	43/128
Ladefoged, Blazejewicz Frederik	LP	1996.	Dinamo Bucuresti	2/0
Lynggaard, Alexander	LP	1990.	Bjerringbro	28/24
Saugstrup, Jensen	LP	1996.	Magdeburg	92/196
Siersbæk, Bergholt Emil	LP	1997.	Skjern	5/6
Andersson, Lasse B.	LB	1994.	Füchse	72/83
Damgaard, Nielsen Michael	LB	1990.	Magdeburg	103/264
Holm, Jacob Tandrup	LB	1995.	PSG	83/212
Mensing, Aaron	LB	1997.	Melsungen	24/53
Møller, Lasse K.	LB	1996.	Flensburg	16/9
Møllgaard, Jensen Henrik	LB	1985.	Aalborg	226/182
Pytlick, Simon Bogetoft	LB	2000.	Flensburg	46/206
Arnoldsen, Thomas Sommer	CB	2002.	Aalborg	17/45
Lauge, Schmidt Rasmus	CB	1991.	Bjerringbro	175/435
Mensah, Larsen Mads	CB	1991.	Flensburg	204/327
Andersen, Jon	RB	1997.	RN Löwen	0/0
Enderleit, Nikolaj	RB	1997.	Melsungen	0/0
Gidsel, Mathias	RB	1999.	Füchse	79/448
Kirkeløkke, Niclas Vest	RB	1994.	Flensburg	91/174
Lassen, Jacob Ellegård	RB	1995.	HSV	12/20
Madsen, Emil	RB	2001.	Kiel	16/31

HEAD COACH

Nikolaj Jacobsen

Denmark's men's handball team aims to achieve the impossible: win their fourth consecutive World Championship title. Since 2019, they have been unbeatable

STAR PLAYER

Mathias Gidsel

Mathias Gidsel is widely regarded as one of the best right backs in the world. He has played for only two clubs in his career, starting with GOG before transferring to Füchse Berlin in 2022. Gidsel made his debut for Denmark on November 7, 2020, against Finland and quickly established himself as one of the team's top players and scorers at the 2021 World Championship in Egypt, where he was named the tournament's best right back.

Gidsel's accolades include Olympic silver in Tokyo, World Championship gold in 2021 and 2023, and European bronze in 2022. He was named MVP of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and the 2023 World Championship in Sweden and Poland. With 75 appearances and 420 goals for Denmark, Gidsel is already one of their all-time greats. In 2022, he became the third Danish player to be named World Handball Player of the Year.

History in the competition

1997: 18th

ITALY

GROUP B

Federazione Italiana Giuoco Handball
Stadio Olimpico, Curva Nord,
00135 Rome, Italy

Italy's Handball Renaissance: Back on the World Stage

Italy enters the World Championship as a team currently making waves. They earned their spot by defeating Montenegro in the playoffs with two wins: 32:26 at home and 34:32 away. This will be Italy's second appearance at the World Championship, with their first in Japan in 1997. Back then, they were coached by Croatian legend Lino Červar, who later led Croatia to World and Olympic gold. Under Červar, Italy finished 18th, leaving a strong impression with a draw against Norway (19:19) and narrow losses to Sweden and France. They also secured a group-stage win over Argentina. Italy is still searching for its first win against a European team at the World Championship, an achievement unlikely to happen in the first round of 2025, as Denmark is too strong, and the other opponents are from Africa.

Italy plays a fast-paced style and features several notable players, such as Helmersson (Coburg), Mengon (Eisenach), and Ebner (Leipzig), who compete professionally. Many players of Yugoslav origin have represented Italy, including Tin Tokić, Damir Opalić, Zaim Kobilica, and Denis Radovčić. Handball remains low in popularity in Italy compared to football, volleyball, basketball, and water polo, where Italy boasts numerous medals. The handball league is improving but remains financially limited, making it difficult to attract major stars.

Italy is coached by Ricardo Trillini.

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Bortolot, Samuele	GK	1996.	Eppan	0/0
Colleluori, Andrea	GK	2000.	Merano	34/0
Ebner, Domenico	GK	1994.	Leipzig (GER)	53/9
Leban, Alessandro	GK	1998.	Junior Fasano	0/0
Pavani, Giovanni	GK	2000.	Sassari	3/0
Arcieri, Stefano	LW	1998.	Brixen	47/43
Dapiran, Gianluca	LW	1994.	Cassano Magnago	65/78
De Angelis, Tommaso	LW	2005.	Benidorm (ESP)	19/22
Nardin, Giovanni	LW	2000.	Sassari	10/3
Pirani Jeremi, Nino	LW	1994.	Tremblay (FRA)	0/0
Bortoli, Tomas	RW	2002.	Istres (FRA)	36/44
Bronzo, Umberto	RW	2000.	Sassari	38/48
D'antino, Nicoló	RW	1999.	Valladolid (ESP)	51/41
Prantner, Leo	RW	2001.	Balingen (GER)	28/18
Wierer, Paul	RW	2004.	Merano	1/0
Bargelli, Raul	LP	1999.	Vernouillet (FRA)	0/0
Iballi, Endrit	LP	1998.	Brixen	23/12
Martini, Oliver	LP	2001.	Mrano	25/7
Parisini, Andrea Carlo	LP	1994.	Pauc (FRA)	97/161
Romei, Tommaso	LP	2003.	Merano	4/0
Sontacchi, Gabriele	LP	2003.	Bozen	7/3
Angiolini, Filippo	LB	1999.	Albatro	11/0
Bulzamini, Davide	LB	1995.	Conversano	72/105
Helmersson, Mikael	LB	2003.	Coburg (GER)	7/23
Magro Arzt, Marco	LB	1996.	Saulheim (GER)	0/0
Moretti, Alessio	LB	1994.	Cassano Magnago	37/58
Starcevic, Ratko	LB	1994.	Merano	4/12
Manojlovic, Christian	CB	2005.	Politehnica Timisoara (ROU)	14/4
Marrochi, Pablo Miguel	CB	1986.	Conversano	48/95
Mengon, Marco	CB	2000.	Celestat (FRA)	52/81
Mengon, Simone	CB	2000.	Eisenach (GER)	37/57
Prantner, Max	RB	2000.	Merano	6/0
Pugliese, Davide	RB	2001.	Junior Fasano	8/2
Savini, Giacomo	RB	1998.	Cassano Magnano	61/46

ITALY

GROUP B

HEAD COACH

Ricardo Trillini

This will be Italy's second appearance at the World Championship, with their first in Japan in 1997. Back then, they were coached by Croatian legend Lino Červar.

STAR PLAYER

Domenico Ebner

Domenico Ebner is one of Italy's most experienced players. The 30-year-old, 192 cm tall goalkeeper currently plays for Germany's Leipzig. Born in Germany, Ebner spent 16 years playing for smaller clubs before making his breakthrough with Bietigheim in 2018, where he earned promotion to the Bundesliga. That year, he was named Goalkeeper of the Month in November.

His strong performances led to a move to Hannover, where he spent four seasons before joining Leipzig in 2023. With dual citizenship thanks to his Italian mother, Ebner debuted for Italy in 2017 against Greece. He is in a relationship with Nicole Roth, a fellow goalkeeper who plays for Thüringen. At Leipzig, Ebner shares goalkeeping duties with Norwegian Kristian Sæverås.

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History in the competition

1974: 15th, **1982:** 16th,
1986: 16th, **1990:** 16th,
1995: 16th, **1997:** 17th,
1999: 15th, **2001:** 13th,
2003: 18th, **2005:** 17th,
2009: 19th, **2011:** 15th,
2013: 17th, **2015:** 24th,
2021: 22nd, **2023:** 31st

Medal Tally

AC '14:	Gold
AG '99:	Gold
AC '96:	Gold
AC '89:	Gold
AC '87:	Gold
AG '87:	Gold
AC '85:	Gold
AC '83:	Gold
AC '81:	Gold
AG '78:	Gold
AG '73:	Gold

ALGERIA

GROUP B

الجزائر
F.A.H.B

Fédération Algérienne de Handball
223 Chemin des Crêtes,
Draria, Alger

From African Powerhouse to Global Stage: Algeria's World Cup Journey

Algeria is a handball powerhouse in Africa and will make their 17th appearance at the World Championship in 2025. While they boast significant experience, their World Championship results have been modest. Their best finish was 13th in 2001 in France, where they advanced to the Round of 16 after defeating Kuwait and Brazil and drawing against Argentina. They were eventually eliminated by Egypt (21:24).

Algeria debuted at the World Championship in 1974, achieving their first victory in 1995 by shocking Denmark. That year, they reached the Round of 16 but fell to Sweden. Algeria has also competed in the Olympics four times, most recently in Atlanta in 1996, where they finished 10th. In the African Championship, Algeria has won a remarkable 20 medals, including seven golds. Alongside Tunisia and Egypt, they are one of the only African nations to claim the continental title.

At the last African Championship, Algeria finished as runners-up to Egypt, securing their place at the World Championship. Their most recent African title came in 2014, when they defeated Tunisia in the final. Algeria has hosted the African Championship four times and remains the record-holder for consecutive titles, winning five in a row from The team is coached by Farouk Dehili. Key players include Mustapha Hadj Sadok, who was named the best center back at the last African Championship. He has played for clubs like Beşiktaş and Winterthur and currently represents Kuwait's Al-Nasr. Many Algerian players also compete in France, including Hichem Daoud (Limoges) and Ayoub Abdi (Nantes). Khalifa Ghedbane, a seasoned goalkeeper with Champions League experience at Vardar, Pelister, and Dinamo Bucharest, is another standout.

ALGERIA

GROUP B

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Chebli, Djabber	GK	1997.	Jeunesse Sportive	0/0
Ghedbane, Khalifa	GK	1996.	Erlangen	99/5
Hofmann, Andreas Zyas	GK	2001.	Livry Gargan	0/0
Mezaza, Salim	GK	2004.	Ciudad de Logrono	10/3
Zemouchi, Yahia	GK	1994.	El-Biar	25/0
Abed Boumedienne, Walid	LW	2001.	Jeunesse Sportive	0/0
Chehri, Mounir	LW	1999.	Aker Topphåndball	0/0
Daoud, Hichem	LW	1992.	Pau Pyrenées	67/115
Balti, Karim	RW	1998.	Bruges Lormont	0/0
Boulesha, Ali	RW	1991.	Jeunesse Sportive	0/0
Saker, Redouane	RW	1991.	Jeunesse Sportive	36/52
Bouakaz, Abderaouf	LP	2002.	Chabab Bordj Bou Arreridj	2/5
Boughaba, Zine Eddine	LP	2000.	AL Shamal	10/15
Kaabeche, Hichem	LP	1990.	Besiktas	85/133
Kaabeche, Islam	LP	1998.	Jeunesse Sportive	0/0
Khermouche, Bastien J.R.	LP	1993.	Dijon	23/45
Zennadi, Abdeldjalil	LP	1998.	Eszterházy Károly	17/22
Amokrane, Abderrahim	LB	1996.	Touta	0/0
Benhalima, Nori	LB	1998.	Povoa	0/0
Berkous, Messaoud	LB	1989.	El-Biar	163/472
Djemaa, Oussama	LB	1996.	Jeunesse Sportive	0/0
Hellal, Nouredine	LB	1996.	Chabab Bordj Bou Arreridj	21/27
Meddahi, Rabah Racim	LB	2002.	Valence	7/40
Naim, Zouhir	LB	1996.	Al Sharja	0/0
Abdelkader Meki, Abdelhak	CB	2000.	El-Biar	0/0
Abrous, Rayane	CB	2001.	AIL Ahli	10/21
Bounab, Hani Abderrafik	CB	2000.	Jeunesse Sportive	13/50
Hadj Sadok, Moustapha	CB	1997.	Al Naser	52/202
Abdellah Berrehail, Yanis	RB	2005.	Créteil	0/0
Abdi, Ayyoub	RB	1997.	Nantes	50/269
Bouadjadja, Elyas O. Yannis	RB	2002.	Massy	0/ 0
Hacene-Djaballah, Mohamed	RB	1993.	Al Rawda	8/10

HEAD COACH

Farouk Dehili

At the last African Championship, Algeria finished as runners-up to Egypt, securing their place at the World Championship. Their most recent African title came in 2014, when they defeated Tunisia in the final

STAR PLAYER

Ayoub Abdi

Ayoub Abdi is the only Algerian currently playing in the European Champions League, representing France's Nantes as a right back. He began his career with Baraki in Algeria before moving to France to join Aix in the 2016/17 season. After just one year, he returned to Baraki but was soon called back to France, signing with Grenoble in 2018. His performances at Grenoble earned him a move to Toulouse, where he spent five seasons before joining Nantes in 2022.

Abdi debuted for the Algerian national team in 2016 and has since earned over 60 caps, scoring more than 200 goals. He was instrumental in Algeria's silver medal run at the last African Championship. At 27 years old and standing 197 cm tall, Abdi is a key player, known for his powerful shots and presence on the court.

History in the competition

1967: 15th, **1995:** 15th,
1997: 16th, **1999:** 12th,
2001: 10th, **2003:** 14th,
2005: 4th, **2007:** 11th,
2009: 17th, **2011:** 20th,
2013: 11th, **2015:** 15th,
2017: 19th, **2019:** 12th,
2021: 25th, **2023:** 25th

Medal Tally

AC '18:	Gold
AC '12:	Gold
AC '10:	Gold
AC '06:	Gold
AC '02:	Gold
AC '98:	Gold
AC '94:	Gold
AC '79:	Gold
AC '76:	Gold
AC '74:	Gold

TUNISIA

GROUP B

Fédération Tunisienne de Handball, Maison des Fédérations Sportives Immeuble B – 6ème étage Centre Urbain Nord, BP 151- 1002 Belvédère Tunis, Tunisie.

Tunisia's Handball Legacy: Chasing Glory in 2025

Tunisia, alongside Egypt, is one of Africa's most successful handball teams in World Championship history. They are the second African team to reach the semifinals, following Egypt in 2001. Tunisia's historic achievement came in 2005, when they hosted the tournament under Croatian coach Sead Hasanefendić. Playing outstanding handball, Tunisia topped their first-round group without a loss, drawing against France (26:26) and defeating Denmark. In the second round, they continued their dominance, beating the Czech Republic and Russia to top their group and reach the semifinals. However, Tunisia fell to Spain in front of 14,000 fans in Rades and lost the bronze medal match to France. That remarkable squad included players like Tej, Hmam, Seboui, Ben Aziza, and Meganhem.

Tunisia first participated in the World Championship in 1967, finishing 15th. Since 1995, they have been regular participants. While they placed 25th in the last two editions, they remain far from their semifinal run in 2005.

Tunisia has won the African Championship 10 times, most recently in 2018. They hold the record for the most African titles (10) and total medals (25). However, Egypt could surpass Tunisia's record if they win a fourth consecutive title in 2026. Tunisia has hosted the African Championship five times, including the inaugural edition in 1974, winning medals on each occasion. They have also competed in four Olympic Games, though without notable results.

Tunisia is coached by legendary French player Patrick Cazal. They qualified for the WC as the bronze medalists of the last African Championship.

TUNISIA

GROUP B

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Belkaied, Yassine	GK	2000.	Toulouse	38/3
Ben, Tekaya Fradj	GK	1998.	Encantada	5/0
Braham, Mohamed Salah	GK	1997.	Ezzit	1/0
Harbaoui, Mehdi Sadri	GK	1996.	Dunkerque	53/2
Namli, Asil	GK	2000.	Esperance	61/5
Sfar, Mohamed	GK	1990.	Esperance	44/0
Zayanne, Youssef	GK	2000.	Etoile Sportive	16/1
Ben, Hassine Jasser	LW	2002.	Esperance	0/0
Khouaja, Wajdi	LW	2001.	El Makarem	0/0
Rmiki, Oussama	LW	1996.	Club Africain	42/67
Toumi, Ghassen	LW	1997.	Esperance	70/159
Gabsi, Abdelmajid	RW	2003.	Sportive	10/12
Jallouz, Tarak	RW	1993.	Esperance	38/58
Rzig, Issam	RW	1989.	Etoile	81/304
Ayed, Anouar	LP	2001.	Club Africain	0/0
Ben, Ghali Ghazi	LP	1999.	AL Gharafa	31/29
Ben, Hamouda	LP	2002.	Sportive	7/5
Jbeli, Islem	LP	1998.	Esperance	39/72
Aidi, Mohamed Aziz	LB	1998.	Vojvodina	13/21
Bacha, Hazem	LB	2001.	Esperance	33/66
Fekih, Rami	LB	2000.	AL Wakrah	20/32
Frad, Mohamed Ridha	LB	1993.	Kazma Sport	20/20
Maaref, Yousef	LB	1996.	AL SAFA	100/185
Sanai, Mosbah	LB	1991.	Sharjah	147/426
Abdelli, Bilel	CB	1995.	Esperance	49/74
Ammar, Mohamed	CB	2000.	Club Sportif	4/7
Ben, Salah Abdelhak	CB	1990.	Esperance	84/170
Jaziri, Oussama	CB	1992.	Al-Arabi	74/115
Manai, Youssef	CB	1995.	Jemmal	0/0
Zariat, Rayen	CB	1999.	Al-Ahli	15/12
Ben, Abdallah Anouar	RB	1996.	Kazma Sport	80/167
Ben, Salem Yassine	RB	2003.	Chartres	13/24
Chatti, Wael	RB	1991.	Ivry	4/5
Hosni, Oussama	RB	1992.	Pelister	130/162
Margheli, Achraf	RB	1997.	Vardar	18/21

HEAD COACH

Patrick Cazal

Rorerionsedi dolores sincto quam id explabo reperehendis et pro iustemos volupta tquide ma est, nim eiae nons ed ut quis dolectur apelis ea vel ea in eatusda

STAR PLAYER

Anouar Ben Abdallah

Anouar Ben Abdallah is a right back who also plays as a right wing when needed. Born on June 20, 1996, in Moknine, he began his career with Etoile, one of Tunisia's top clubs, which has won nine Tunisian league titles and seven domestic cups. Ben Abdallah's talent caught the attention of Slovakia's Tatran, where he moved in 2020. After one season, he transferred to Kuwait's Al-Salmiya and now plays for Kazma, competing in the Asian Champions League.

Ben Abdallah has represented Tunisia at four World Championships (2017, 2019, 2021, and 2023) and won a gold medal at the 2018 African Championship in Gabon. At the 2023 World Championship, he scored in all seven matches, with his best performance being a five-goal game against Morocco (30:25). His versatility and scoring ability make him a critical asset for Tunisia.

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The historic center of Poreč is over 2,000 years old, featuring medieval palaces, towers, and the UNESCO-listed Euphrasian Basilica. Walking through Poreč is like traveling through time, offering sensory delights and unforgettable experiences. The city also hosts world-class jazz concerts in the lapidarium of the Poreč Local Museum and street art festivals that bring life and color to its streets and squares.

Hrvatska Lutrija

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Tomislav Grahovac

Croatian strength, tradition and passion for handball

As the President of the Croatian Handball Federation and a passionate handball enthusiast, it is an extraordinary honor and immense pride for me that Croatia, alongside Denmark and Norway, will be one of the three hosts of the 2025 Handball World Championship.

This exceptional opportunity represents a significant step for our handball community and serves as yet another acknowledgment on the international sports stage. We are ready to host numerous matches in three of our renowned handball cities—Zagreb, at Arena Zagreb; Poreč, at Žatika Hall; and Varaždin, at the City Sports Hall. These cities were not chosen solely because they possess state-of-the-art sports facilities but also because they carry a rich handball tradition that dates back to the distant past.

This is not the first time Croatia has hosted such a significant sporting event. We all remember the euphoria and joy that swept our country when Croatia hosted the 2009 Handball World Championship, as well as the historic success of our national team during that time.

I deeply believe that this time, too, with the passionate support of our fans and thorough preparations, we will achieve successes that will once again unite us in pride and celebration.

I believe that this World Championship will offer everyone involved—be they players, experts, fans, or other visitors—unforgettable sporting moments, accompanied by a wealth of entertainment both inside and outside the sports arenas. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude in advance to all the players, coaches, volunteers, organizers, and sponsors whose hard work and dedication will make this possible. Finally, on behalf of myself and all the staff of the Croatian Handball Federation, I wish all participants of the 2025 World Championship the best of luck, success, and sporting victories.

To our loyal fans, I wish much joy and pride, because no sporting success is complete without their support. Let this World Championship be an event that will remain forever etched in all our memories, and let Croatia once again showcase its strength, tradition, and love for handball.

Tomislav Grahovac
President, Croatian Handball Federation

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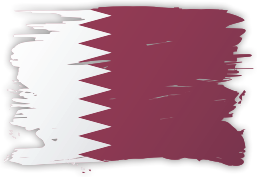
2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP C

POREČ - CROATIA

FRANCE

AUSTRIA



QATAR

KUWAIT

inspired by handball

FRANCE

GROUP C

History in the competition

1954: 6th, **1958:** 9th,
1961: 8th, **1964:** 14th,
1967: 10th, **1970:** 11th,
1978: 16th, **1990:** 9th,
1993: Bronze medal, **1995:** Winners, **1997:** Bronze medal,
1999: 6th, **2001:** Winners,
2003: Bronze medal,
2005: Bronze medal,
2007: 4th, **2009:** Winners,
2011: Winners, **2013:** 6th,
2015: Winners, **2017:** Winners,
2019: Bronze medal,
2021: 4th, **2023:** Silver medal

Medal Tally

EC ’24:	Gold
WCH ’23:	Silver
OG ’20:	Gold
WCH ’19:	Bronze
EC ’18:	Bronze
WCH ’17:	Gold
OG ’16:	Silver
WCH ’15:	Gold
EC ’14:	Gold
OG ’12:	Gold
WCH ’11:	Gold
EC ’10:	Gold
WCH ’09:	Gold
OG ’08:	Gold
EC ’08:	Bronze
EC ’06:	Gold
WCH ’05:	Bronze
WCH ’03:	Bronze
WCH ’01:	Gold
WCH ’97:	Bronze
WCH ’95:	Gold
WCH ’93:	Silver
OG ’92:	Bronze

FFHANDBALL

Fédération Française de Handball
1 rue Daniel Costantini,
CS 90047, 94046
Créteil Cedex, France

France's Golden Legacy:
Handball's Greatest Champions

France is the most successful team in the history of the World Handball Championship, having won 12 medals, including six golds. This record will remain unchallenged after the 2025 World Championship, as Sweden and Romania trail with four titles each.

France's dominance began in 1993, when they won their first medal, a silver, after losing to Russia in the final (19:28). They captured their first gold two years later in Iceland, defeating Croatia (23:19) in the final. This golden generation, coached by Daniel Costantini, included legends like Gaudin, Martini, Volle, Kervadec, Richardson, Anquetil, and Stoecklin. From 2001 onwards, France has missed the semifinals at the World Championship only once—in 2013 in Spain. Under Costantini, France claimed gold in 2001, with a team led by Omeyer, Dinart, Fernandez, the Gille brothers, Narcisse, Girault, and Abati. Claude Onesta succeeded Costantini in 2008, leading France to two Olympic golds, three World titles, and three European crowns. Under his guidance, France simultaneously held the European, World, and Olympic titles, with stars like the Karabatić brothers, Abalo, Sorhaindo, and Guigou. Onesta's final major success was at the 2016 Rio Olympics, after which Didier Dinart took over, winning World gold in 2017. This era introduced new stars like Remili, Mahe, N'Guessan, Fabregas, and Mem. France has not won World gold since 2017. Although they are reigning European champions, their eighth-place finish as hosts of the Paris Olympics was a disappointment.

France qualified for the World Championship as European champions. This will be their 25th appearance, but injuries to key players such as Prandi, Mem, Mahe, and Villeminot pose challenges.

FRANCE

GROUP C

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Bellahcene, Samir	GK	1995.	Stuttgart	13/1
Bolzinger, Charles	GK	2000.	Montpellier	15/1
Desbonnet, Rémi	GK	1992.	Montpellier	50/4
Kieffer, Valentin	GK	1999.	Chambéry	0/0
Pardin, Wesley	GK	1990.	Nîmes	33/0
Descat, Hugo	LW	1992.	Veszprém	68/300
Grebille, Mathieu	LW	1991.	PSG	93/140
Nahi, Dylan	LW	1999.	Kielce	64/169
Traore, Queido	LW	1994.	Chambéry	0/0
Vincent, Guéric	LW	2002.	Nîmes	0/0
Demouge, Théo	RW	1996.	Nantes	0/0
Kounkoud, Benoit	RW	1997.	Kielce	49/71
Lenne, Yanis	RW	1996.	Montpellier	62/122
Richert, Benjamin	RW	1998.	Chambéry	0/0
Fabregas, Ludovic	LP	1996.	Veszprém	151/375
Karabatic, Luka	LP	1988.	PSG	162/176
Konan, Karl-Olivier	LP	1995.	Montpellier	44/7
Lenne, Arthur	LP	2001.	Montpellier	2/2
Monar, Théo	LP	2001.	Kielce	13/28
Toto, Jérémy	LP	1992.	Szeged	2/1
Tournat, Nicolas	LP	1994.	Nantes	103/233
Acquevillo, Jean Jacques	LB	1989.	Nîmes	14/20
Briet, Thibaud	LB	1999.	Nantes	28/46
Lagarde, Romain	LB	1997.	Aix	79/86
N'guessan, Timothey	LB	1992.	Barcelona	114/225
Prandi, Elohim	LB	1998.	PSG	48/124
De La Breteche, Lucas	CB	2001.	Nantes	0/0
Gaudin, Noah	CB	2002.	Skjern	0/0
Mahe, Kentin	CB	1991.	Gummersbach	175/560
Minne, Aymeric	CB	1997.	Nantes	33/93
Remili, Nedim	CB	1995.	Veszprém	136/411
Bos, Julien	RB	1998.	Nantes	6/12
Mem, Dika	RB	1997.	Barcelona	126/441
Pelayo, Tom	RB	1997.	Dunkerque	0/0
Richardson, Melvyn	RB	1997.	Barcelona	97/230

HEAD COACH

Guillaume Gille

France qualified for the World Championship as European champions. This will be their 25th appearance, but injuries to key players such as Prandi, Mem, Mahe, and Villeminot pose challenges.

STAR PLAYER

Nedim Remili

Born in Créteil, Nedim Remili followed in the footsteps of his father, Kamel, a former professional player and club administrator. At 10, Remili began playing for Créteil and made his senior debut at 17, the year the club was relegated to the second division. Despite offers from bigger teams, Remili signed his first professional contract with Créteil in 2013, helping them return to the top tier.

In the 2015/16 season, his exceptional performances earned him a spot in the All-Star game and a call-up to the French national team. After six successful years with PSG, Remili joined Kielce in Poland for a season before moving to Veszprém in 2023. With France, he has won every major title, including European, World, and Olympic gold. He was named MVP of the most recent European Championship.

History in the competition

1938: 2nd, **1958:** 9th,
1993: 14th, **2011:** 18th,
2015: 13th, **2019:** 19th,
2021: 26th

AUSTRIA

GROUP C

HANDBALL AUSTRIA

Österreichischer Handballbund
Am Tabor 21/3/5,
1020 Wien, Österreich

Austria's Handball Revival:
Eyes on the Second Round

Austria will compete in their seventh World Championship. Their debut was in 1958, where they finished 11th, still their best result. Notably, only 16 teams participated in that tournament. Austria lost their first match to Yugoslavia (8:35) but secured their first win against Brazil (24:12) in their second appearance.

Austria missed the last World Championship, with their most recent appearance being in 2021 in Egypt, where they finished 26th. They have fared better at the European Championships, achieving 8th place in 2020 and 2024.

Coached by Slovenian Aleš Pajovič, most of Austria's key players compete in Germany's top league. Historically, women's handball took precedence in Austria, with Hypo Niederösterreich winning the Champions League eight times. The men's team has also seen naturalized players like Janko Božović and Boris Živković. Notably, Ivan Martinović, born in Vienna, chose to represent Croatia instead. Pajovič, a former Ciudad Real and Kiel player, started his coaching career in Graz, where he transitioned from player to coach. Austria aims to advance past the first round of the 2025 World Championship, building on their strong performance at the European Championship. Key players include Nikola Bilyk, Lukas Hutecek, and goalkeeper Constantin Möstl.

Austria qualified for the World Championship by defeating Georgia in the playoffs (27:25 and 37:31).

AUSTRIA

GROUP C

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Bergmann, Leon Theodor	GK	2004.	Fivers	3/0
Domevscek, Lukas Paolo	GK	1999.	Krems	0/0
Häusle, Ralf Patrick	GK	1994.	Bregenz	24/0
Kaiper, Florian	GK	1995.	Linz	22/1
Möstl, Constantin	GK	2000.	Lemgo	31/0
Tanic, Boris	GK	1996.	Sparkasse Schwaz	0/0
Auss, Tobias	LW	2000.	Krems	0/0
Böhm, Elmar	LW	2004.	Linz	0/0
Damböck, Eric	LW	1999.	Kreuzlingen	41/41
Frimmel, Sebastian	LW	1995.	Kézilabda	112/380
Wendel, Samuel	LW	1996.	Alpla Hard	1/0
Breg, Martin	RW	1992.	Füchse	10/11
Lastro, Franko	RW	2003.	Göppingen	20/23
Nigg, Jakob	RW	2003.	Fivers	19/16
Sgonc, Lennio Aurelius	RW	2004.	Alpla Hard	0/0
Herburger, Lukas	LP	1994.	Füchse	76/69
Kofler, Samuel	LP	1997.	Sparkasse	0/0
Meleschnig, Clemens	LP	2004.	West Wien	0/0
Schweighofer, Lukas Johannes	LP	1992.	Graz	19/5
Wagner, Tobias	LP	1995.	Erlangen	107/299
Albek, József	LB	1999.	Graz	2/0
Belos, Nemanja	LB	1994.	Graz	10/0
Bilyk, Mykola	LB	1996.	Kiel	112/512
Hutecek, Lukas	LB	2000.	Lemgo	56/196
Kofler, Elias	CB	2000.	Potsdam	24/8
Mahr, Markus	CB	2000.	Bregenz	20/17
Martinovic, Marin	CB	1996.	Fivers	8/3
Möstl, Clemens	CB	2005.	West Wien	0/0
Bozovic, Janko	RB	1985.	Khaitan	192/541
Dvorak, Florentin	RB	2003.	Fivers	0/0
Kofler, Gabriel	RB	2005.	Fünfhaus	0/0
Paulnsteiner, Nicolas	RB	2004.	Füchse	0/0
Stevanovic, Nikola	RB	1998.	Borac	22/19
Zivkovic, Boris	RB	1992.	AL-Qurain	77/157
Miskovez Michael	D	1997.	Sparkassender	34/5

HEAD COACH

Aleš Pajovič

Austria aims to advance past the first round of the 2025 World Championship, building on their strong performance at the European Championship.

STAR PLAYER

Lukas Hutecek

Lukas Hutecek is the greatest hope for Austria's coach Ales Pajovic. Powerful and dynamic, he plays for Lemgo in Germany's Bundesliga, the strongest league in the world. Hutecek can play both left and center back, is indispensable in the central defensive block, and had an outstanding tournament at the European Championship last year when Austria was one of the biggest surprises.

Hutecek is just 24 years old. He began in the small club Eggenburg, where his coach was his father. In 2021, he moved to Germany, where he has exclusively played for Lemgo in the world's toughest league.

A right-hander, exceptionally strong, incisive, and with an excellent shot, Hutecek is poised to be a key player for the new team that Ales Pajovic has been forming over the past few years.

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Scandic

History in the competition

2003: 16th, **2005:** 21st,
2007: 23rd, **2013:** 20th,
2015: 2nd, **2017:** 8th,
2019: 13th, **2021:** 8th,
2023: 22nd

Medal Tally

AC '24:	Gold
AC '22:	Gold
AC '20:	Gold
AC '18:	Gold
AC '16:	Gold
AC '14:	Gold
WCH '15:	Silver

QATAR

GROUP C

Qatar Handball Association
Duhail Sports Hall 245, Arab League Street, Duhail,
Doha - QATAR; PO Box: 7241

Aiming High Again:
Qatar's Return to the Global Stage

Qatar will participate in their 10th World Championship. Their debut was in 2003, but the team's transformation began when renowned Spanish coach Valero Rivera took charge and Qatar was awarded hosting rights for the 2015 Championship. That year, Qatar assembled a star-studded roster, including Žarko Marković, Hassaan Mabrouk, Rafael Capote, Danijel Šarić, and Goran Stojanović. They won silver after losing to France in the final, their only defeat in the tournament.

Despite regular appearances at the World Championship since 2013, Qatar has not replicated this success. They also competed in the 2016 Rio Olympics, finishing 8th. However, they remain dominant in Asia, winning six consecutive continental titles from 2014 to 2024. While South Korea holds the record for most Asian titles (10), Qatar's recent dominance places them among the region's elite. Their 10 medals in the Asian Championship are matched by Kuwait, trailing South Korea (14) and Japan (13). Qatar hosted the Asian Championship once in 2004, securing bronze.

Hosting the 2015 World Championship saw the construction of three new arenas. Qatar's performance that year included two players in the All-Star Team—Rafael Capote and Žarko Marković.

As reigning Asian champions, Qatar qualified for the 2025 World Championship by defeating Japan 30:26 in the Asian final held in Bahrain. Led by Veselin Vujović, Qatar's squad includes veterans and new talent, marking their return to the global stage.

QATAR

GROUP C

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Alihodzic, Irhad	GK	1996.	Al Arabi	20/0
Grco, Mirnes	GK	1994.	Rayyan	20/0
Lepenica, Bilal	GK	1996.	Al Duhail	50/0
Suljakovic, Anadin	GK	1998.	Wetzlar	43/0
Toumi, Oussama Sabri	GK	2001.	Rayyan	16/2
Adel Fathallah, Sadok	LW	2004.	Rayyan	0/0
Ahmad Murad, Abdulrazzaq	LW	1990.	Al Gharafa	114/177
Ayed, Hamdi	LW	1993.	Al Duhail	80/109
Madadi, Ahmad	LW	1994.	Al Duhail	97/298
Zouaoui, Anis	LW	1992.	Al Arabi	51/175
Aissa, Nidhal	RW	1991.	Al Arabi	18/20
Berrached, Allaedine	RW	1994.	Al Duhail	87/179
Kapic, Mirza	RW	1994.	Al Duhail	35/59
Memisevic, Eldar	RW	1992.	Rayyan	120/232
Sassi, Marwan	RW	1995.	Al Wakrah	42/75
Zemzemi Firas Elmoncef	RW	2004.	Al Duhail	0/0
Altaieb Ali, Youssef	LP	1987.	Rayyan	107/186
Azzabi, Adam	LP	2005.	Al Sadd	0/0
Derbali, Oussema	LP	2005.	Al Arabi	0/0
Sami, Yassine	LP	1985.	Al Wakrah	46/42
Tomic, Mario	LP	1988.	Al Arabi	28/34
Capote, Rafael	LB	1987.	Al Duhail	91/348
Guehis, Amine	LB	1996.	Al Duhail	54/134
Markovic, Zarko	LB	1986.	Al Gharafa	13/31
Megdich, Nasreddine	LB	1991.	Rayyan	22/50
Messaoud, Nidhal Montassar	LB	2004.	Al Ahli	0/0
Nowraddine Denguir, Amir	LB	1995.	Al Gharafa	77/654
Zakkar, Ameen	LB	1994.	Rayyan	85/120
Heiba, Moustafa	CB	1996.	Al Duhail	94/175
Sinen, Wajdi	CB	1990.	Al Arabi	93/298
Tarek Abdalla Abdelrahman	CB	1994.	Al Duhail	70/106
Marzo, Frankis	RB	1987.	Kuwait	70/235
Messoud Mrarha, Bilel	RB	2000.	Al Duhail	15/42
Dridi, Salim	D	2004.	Qatar	0/0

HEAD COACH

Veselin Vujović

Led by Veselin Vujović, Qatar's squad includes veterans and new talent, marking their return to the global stage.

STAR PLAYER

Frankis Carol Marzo

Frankis Carol Marzo, a Cuban-born left back, is one of Qatar's most experienced players at 37. Born in Guantánamo, Marzo has excelled in Qatar's national team, forming a formidable partnership with veteran Žarko Marković. Marzo's career took off at Portugal's Sporting, where he joined in 2011. His debut season saw him score nine goals, and he set a personal best of 63 goals in the 2017/18 season.

Remarkably, Marzo has always worn the number 13 jersey, a number he considers lucky. He transitioned from Europe to Doha, playing for Al Arabi before moving to Al Kuwait SC. His longevity and consistency make him a key asset for coach Veselin Vujović as Qatar continues to compete on the international stage.

History in the competition

1982: 15th, **1995:** 20th,
1999: 19th, **2001:** 23rd,
2003: 20th, **2005:** 22nd,
2007: 19th, **2009:** 22nd

Medal Tally

AC '06:	Gold
AC '04:	Gold
AC '02:	Gold
AC '95:	Gold

KUWAIT

GROUP C

Kuwait Handball Association
2nd Ring Road, Al-D'EYA,
Kuwait or P.O. Box 5925 Safat,
13060 Kuwait

From Asian Success to World Stage: Kuwait's Comeback

Kuwait will make their 9th World Championship appearance in 2025. Their debut was in 1982 in Germany, where they finished 15th, their best result to date. Kuwait earned their first win against Algeria in the placement matches. From 1999 to 2009, Kuwait regularly participated in World Championships, though without significant success. Notably, Kuwait has yet to defeat a European team, with their victories primarily coming against teams from Africa, Asia, and South America.

Kuwait's last World Championship appearance was in 2009 in Croatia, marking a 16-year absence. Interestingly, they return to Croatia for the 2025 Championship, with Group C matches hosted at the Žatika Arena in Poreč. Kuwait has also competed in two Olympics: in Moscow (1980) and Atlanta (1996), finishing 12th both times. They have been more successful in the Asian Championship, where they rank third overall with four golds, including three consecutive titles from 2002 to 2006. Kuwait's most recent Asian medal was a silver in 2008.

Kuwait's handball league has grown stronger, attracting more international players and coaches. Returning to the World Championship as Asia's fourth-place team, Kuwait secured their spot by defeating South Korea in the group stage but lost the bronze medal match to Bahrain. Coached by Algerian Said Hijazi, Kuwait aims to reestablish itself on the global stage.

KUWAIT

GROUP C

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Abdullah, Faraj	GK	2006.	Alqurain Club	4/0
Althafiri, Abdulaziz	GK	1993.	Kazma Sport club	32/1
Buyabes, Mohammad	GK	1997.	Burgan	18/0
Mohammad, Husain	GK	1996.	Al-Salmiya Sporting Club	0/0
Mohammad, Fahad	GK	1998.	Kuwait Sporting Club	0/0
Safar, Hasan	GK	1998.	Kuwait Sporting Club	25/2
Almashari, Fawaz	LW	2002.	Kazma Sport club	25/36
Alsaqer, Hamad	LW	1993.	Qadsia club	0/0
Alshammari, Abdulaziz	LW	1992.	Kuwait Sporting Club	32/35
Boland, Hussen	LW	2006.	Alqurain Club	7/21
Dashti, Haider	LW	2000.	Al-Salmiya Sporting Club	26/34
Alharbi, Mishaal	RW	1992.	Kuwait Sporting Club	37/35
Ali, Saleh	RW	1990.	Kuwait Sporting Club	45/67
Alsalem, Faraj	RW	2002.	Alqurain Club	16/24
Salmin, Abdullatif	RW	2007.	Kuwait Sporting Club	12/32
Alsanea, Mohamad	LP	1996.	Qadsia club	7/14
Alshammari, Meshari	LP	1989.	Kuwait Sporting Club	27/24
Alshammari, Abdulrahman	LP	2002.	Kazma Sport club	15/31
Boland, Hasan	LP	2006.	Alqurain Club	7/25
Ghadanfar, Mohammad	LP	1996.	Burgan	12/13
Aldawani, Saif	LB	2002.	Kuwait Sporting Club	25/63
Jasem, Dawod	LB	2006.	Khitan	4/3
Madwah, Yosef	LB	2006.	Kuwait Sporting Club	7/25
Mubarak, Fawaz	LB	1998.	Al-Arabi	15/18
Radhei, Mohammad	LB	1996.	Kuwait Sporting Club	26/24
Albahar, Mohammad	CB	2001.	Al-Salmiya Sporting Club	0/0
Alkhamees, Abdullah	CB	1992.	Kuwait Sporting Club	54/42
Alraghaib, Saleh	CB	2005.	Burgan	15/28
Mandani, Husain	CB	2006.	Alqurain Club	7/24
Saadoon, Fawaz	CB	1996.	Kuwait Sporting Club	5/12
Salmeen. Abdulaziz	CB	1999.	Qadsia club	19/26
Abdullah, Abdulrahman	RB	2005.	Alqurain Club	10/16
Alhendal, Mohammed	RB	1997.	Fahaheel	17/30
Jaafar, Ali	RB	2002.	Al-Arabi	13/34
Najem, Abdulaziz	RB	2005.	Sulaibikhat Club	15/23

HEAD COACH

Said Hijazi

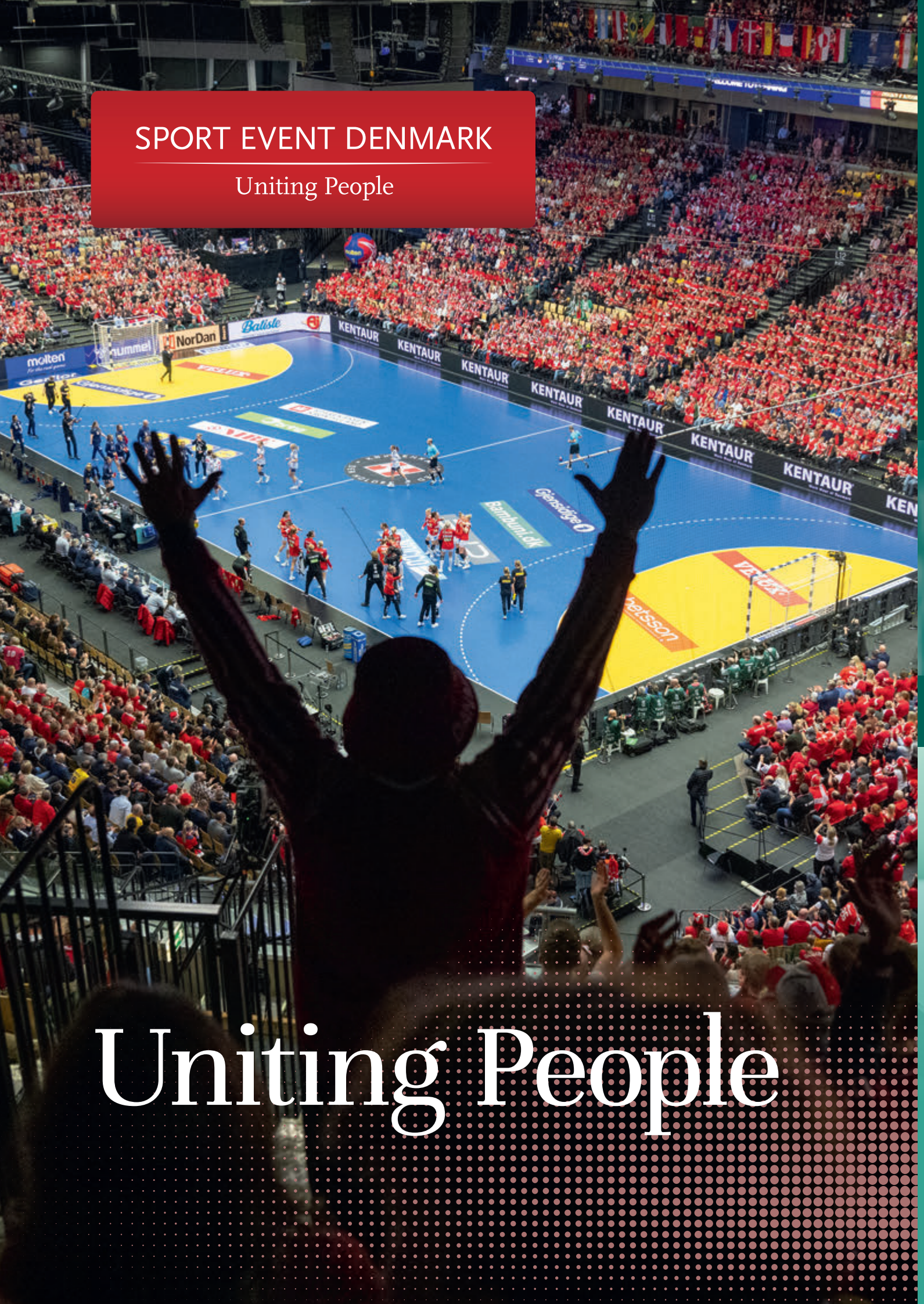
Kuwait's last World Championship appearance was in 2009 in Croatia, marking a 16-year absence. Interestingly, they return to Croatia for the 2025 Championship, hosted at the Žatika Arena in Poreč.

STAR PLAYER

Ali Saleh

Ali Saleh, a 34-year-old right wing, is one of Kuwait's standout players. Known for his scoring ability, Saleh excelled at the 2024 Asian Championship, where Kuwait finished fourth. He was the team's top scorer in several matches, including two games with seven goals each. Saleh plays domestically for Kuwait SC, with whom he competed in the IHF Super Globe. In the 2022 Super Globe, Saleh tied the record for most goals in a single match, scoring 16 in Kuwait SC's 34:18 win over Mudhar.

Saleh's consistency and experience make him a vital player for Kuwait as they aim to leave a mark in their return to the World Championship.



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VARAŽDIN

Varaždin Arena

Capacity: 5.200

The arena was opened for the 2009 Men's Handball World Championship and later hosted the Women's Euro 2014 and Men's Euro 2018.

Just an hour's drive north of Zagreb lies Varaždin—a vibrant and lively historic city that embodies everything that makes continental Croatia unique, interesting, and unforgettable. Its stunning architecture, festivals, rich cultural and gastronomic scene, and distinctive lifestyle, shaped by the love between the city and its residents, make Varaždin a magnet that will capture your heart forever.

Varaždin thrives on diversity. Proud of its free civic heritage and warm hospitality, it blends history and modernity, classical and contemporary culture, tradition and innovation, former glory, and an open future. It offers its residents and visitors a range of experiences, attractions, and delights. What makes Varaždin irresistible isn't just its elegant facades or urban harmony. Its magic lies in the energy and emotion of life, entertainment, art, museums, galleries, and festivals.

Everything you love about Croatia is amplified in Varaždin: a more relaxed lifestyle, richer historical ambiance, more intense flavors, and particularly enjoyable coffee, often enjoyed with views of the imposing towers of the castle around which the city grew. Varaždin is lovingly maintained by its residents, earning it the title "City of Baroque, Music, and Flowers." Its beauty is woven into its opulent past, with architectural gems, magnificent palaces, romantic streets, squares, and cultural heritage that make it a small giant.

Festivals are central to Varaždin's charm, offering seasonal experiences that showcase the city's creativity and hospitality. The variety of events has earned Varaždin the nickname "City of Festivals," with themes ranging from baroque music and hidden courtyards to animated and trash films and an authentic Advent. The most prominent and popular festival is Špancirfest, held each late August, transforming the entire historic city center into a massive stage for music, theater, performances, gastronomy, and creativity, attracting over 330,000 visitors over ten days.

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2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP D

VARAŽDIN - CROATIA

HUNGARY

NETHERLANDS

NORTH MACEDONIA

GUINEA

inspired by handball

HUNGARY

GROUP D

History in the competition

1958: 7th, **1964:** 8th,
1967: 8th, **1970:** 8th,
1974: 7th, **1978:** 9th,
1982: 9th, **1986:** Silver medal,
1990: 6th, **1993:** 11th,
1995: 17th, **1997:** 4th,
1999: 11th, **2003:** 6th,
2007: 9th, **2009:** 6th,
2011: 7th, **2013:** 8th,
2017: 7th, **2019:** 10th,
2021: 5th, **2023:** 8th

Medal Tally

WCh'86: Gold

Hungarian Handball Federation
Modusz Irodahaz,
1087 Budapest, Könyves
Kalman krt 76, Hungary

Powerhouse Hungary:
Strong Squad, Strong Ambitions

Hungary is participating in the Men's Handball World Championship for the 23rd time. Their greatest success came in 1986 when they won a silver medal at the championship held in Switzerland after losing the final to Yugoslavia. In 1997, Hungary played in another medal match but failed to secure a podium finish in Japan against France.

Hungary has been a consistent presence in major tournaments in recent years. They participated in the Paris Olympics, reached the quarterfinals in the last World Championship in Sweden and Poland, and claimed fifth place in the most recent European Championship in Germany. In the last World Championship, their journey ended in the quarterfinals against Denmark, who went on to win the title.

The Hungarian team, led by Spanish coach Chema Rodríguez, hails from a country with two strong Champions League clubs, Veszprém and PICK Szeged. Rodríguez, a renowned former Spanish international, previously played for Ciudad Real and Veszprém. After briefly coaching Hungary in 2016, he returned in 2022. The team has made notable progress in youth development, which has positively impacted the senior team. Hungary is a strong contender capable of defeating any opponent and will have a large fan base in Croatia due to their geographical proximity.

During the last European Championship in Germany, Hungary showcased a revamped strategy and performed exceptionally well. With a robust defense anchored by Sipos and Ligetvári, two promising new goalkeepers—Bartucz and Palasics—and standout players like the rapid winger Imre Bence and the exceptionally powerful pivot Bence Banhidi, Hungary has a well-rounded squad. Additionally, Champions League performers such as Bodo (Szeged), Fazekas (Wisla), and Rosta (Dinamo) add further depth.

HUNGARY

GROUP D

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Andó, Arián	GK	1999.	Füredi	0/0
Bartucz, László	GK	1991.	Tatabánya	33/0
Mikler, Roland	GK	1984.	Szeged	247/1
Nagy, Benedek	GK	2001.	Balingen	0/0
Palasics, Kristóf	GK	2002.	Sporting	19/0
Bóka, Bendegúz	LW	1993.	Füredi	91/216
Kovacsics, Péter	LW	1994.	FTC	7/8
Krakovszki, Bence	LW	2002.	Tatabánya	10/14
Molnár, Robin	LW	2004.	Neka	2/2
Imre, Bence	RW	2002.	Kiel	21/102
Krakovszki, Zsolt	RW	2002.	Wetzlar	11/19
Rodriguez Alvarez, Pedro	RW	1990.	Tatabánya	43/106
Tóth, Péter	RW	2000.	Csurgói	0/0
Bánhidi, Bence	LP	1995.	Szeged	118/364
Papp, Tamás	LP	2002.	Csurgói	0/0
Rosta, Miklós	LP 1	999.	Dinamo	68/186
Sipos, Adrián	LP	1990.	Melsungen	87/37
Szücs, Bence	LP	1999.	Dunkerque	5/5
Balogh, Dániel	LB 2	005.	Szeged	0/0
Bodó, Richárd	LB	1993.	Szeged	117/349
Ligetvári, Patrik	LB	1996.	Veszprém	105/89
Nagy, Bence	LB	1995.	FTC	19/26
Pergel, Andrej	LB	2003.	Logrono	0/0
Szita, Zoltán	LB	1998.	Wisla	79/181
Fazekas, Gergö	CB	2003.	Wisla	32/53
Györi, Mátyás	CB	1997.	FTC	24/54
Hanusz, Egon	CB	1997.	Sporting	53/78
Lukács, Péter	CB	2002.	Elverum	0/0
Lékai, Máté	CB	1988.	FTC	187/561
Tóth, Levente	CB	2005.	Neka	0/0
Ancsin, Gábor	RB	1990.	FTC	166/373
Bartók, Donát	RB	1996.	Kadetten	12/20
Fekete, Bálint	RB	1995.	Dabas	8/4
Ilic, Zoran	RB	2002.	Hamburg	39/51
Ónodi-Jánoskúti, Máté	RB	2002.	FTC	3/4

HEAD COACH

Chema Rodriguez

Hungary earned their place in the 2025. World Championship by dominating Lithuania in the European qualification playoffs, winning 33:26 in Vilnius and 36:23 in Veszprém.

STAR PLAYER

Bence Banhidi

Bence Banhidi is a world-class pivot and one of the best in his position globally. Alongside teammates like Bodo, Ligetvári, Lékai, and Ancsin, he brings a wealth of experience to the Hungarian squad. At 30 years old and standing at 208 cm, Banhidi plays for Szeged, where he has been since 2016 after transferring from Balatonfüred. Born in the handball-stronghold of Győr, Banhidi's physical presence makes him almost impossible to defend against, and his scoring efficiency is exceptional. Injuries have occasionally hampered his career, but when fit, he is unstoppable.

With a decade of consistent Champions League performances, he debuted on the big stage at the 2016. European Championship in Poland under coach Talant Dujshebaev and played his first World Championship in 2017. in France.

NETHERLANDS

GROUP D

History in the competition

1961: 11th, **2023:** 14th

Dutch Handball Federation
Papendallaan 60, 6816
VD Arnhem,
Netherlands

Dutch Determination:
A New Era in Men's Handball

The Netherlands has risen as a new force in European and global handball. Inspired by the success of their women's team, crowned world champions in Japan in 2019, the men's team has climbed the ranks steadily. Head coach Staffan Olsson, a Swedish handball legend, has shaped this team into a formidable unit, led on the court by the talented trio of Baiens, Steins, and Smits, who are now household names among handball fans. Baiens is set to join PSG, Steins is already there, and Smits plays for Flensburg, highlighting the quality within their squad.

This will be the Netherlands' third World Championship appearance and the first time they have qualified for two consecutive tournaments. Including three consecutive European Championships, the Dutch team has become a consistent presence on the international stage. Their rise to prominence in handball, alongside their footballing legacy, was once unimaginable but is now undeniable.

The Netherlands qualified for the World Championship through a challenging playoff against Greece. After losing the first match 31:27 in Kozani, they turned the tables with a 31:25 victory in Eindhoven to secure their spot.

Although the Netherlands lacks a strong domestic league or clubs, their key players compete at the highest level abroad. Luc Steins, the team's linchpin, shines for PSG, while others bring valuable experience from Germany and France. The team, expertly managed by Olsson, also features goalkeeper Ravensbergen, pivot Benghanem, and wingers ten Velde and Schangen. Despite limited squad depth that makes them vulnerable to injuries, the Netherlands remains a dangerous opponent. Ranked 14th globally and 12th in Europe, they are growing stronger and are co-favorites with Hungary in Group D, which will play in Varaždin.

NETHERLANDS

GROUP D

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Dorgelo, Matthias	GK	2002.	Sønderjyske	4/1
Goudriaan, Rob	GK	2001.	Volendam	2/0
Pol, Jorick	GK	2004.	Techniek/Hurry Up	0/0
Ravensbergen, Bart	GK	1993.	Göppingen	105/17
Verbeij, Marco	GK	1997.	Green Park	0/0
Baijens, Jordy	LW	1996.	Volendam	0/0
Geenen, Kaj	LW	2003.	Lübeck-Schwartau	20/16
Ten Velde, Rutger	LW	1997.	Göppingen	71/219
Van Der Ban, Jeromy	LW 2	002.	Green Park	2/2
Vink, Donny	LW	1998.	Green Park	2/2
Nagtegaal, Robin	RW	1999.	Volendam	2/0
Schagen, Bobby	RW	1990.	Lemgo	141/429
Schmeits, Rob	RW	1994.	Sporting Neerpelt	4/3
Smit, Alec	RW	1999.	Pfadi Winterthur	60/71
Besseling, Armando	LP	2002.	Green Park	0/0
Claessens, Tim	LP	1999.	Achilles Bocholt	17/15
Devedzic, Anes	LP	2006.	Techniek/Hurry Up	0/0
Kleijkers, Martijn	LP	2001.	Pau Pyrenées	9/6
Kooij, Lars	LP	2000.	Vardar	27/39
Eussen, Jur	LB	2004.	Kembit Lions	0/0
Schoenaker, Robin	LB	1995.	Sporting Pelt	59/8
Smits, Jorn	LB	1992.	Amicitia	75/112
Van Dijk, Destin	LB	2001.	Bevo	2/0
Baijens, Dani	CB	1998.	PSG	84/229
Blaauw, Niko	CB	2002.	Bad Schwartau	17/3
Bourget, Florent	CB	1998.	Vise	12/20
Houtepen, Thomas	CB	2002.	Lemgo	11/16
Stavast, Ivar	CB	1998.	Elbflorenz	49/61
Steins, Luc	CB	1995.	PSG	111/319
Jansen, Tom	RB	1998.	Hamm-Westfalen	29/49
Skwarczynski, Marek	RB	2006.	Techniek/Hurry Up	0/0
Smits, Kay	RB	1997.	Flensburg	82/383
Van Zundert, Janik	RB	2002.	Bevo	6/0
Versteijnen, Niels	RB	2002.	Lemgo	49/107

HEAD COACH

Staffan Olsson

This will be the Netherlands' third World Championship appearance and the first time they have qualified for two consecutive tournaments. Including three consecutive European Championships.

STAR PLAYER

Luc Steins

Luc Steins, the diminutive but electrifying center back for PSG and the Dutch national team, is the heartbeat of Oranje. Born in Voerendaal, the 30-year-old stands at just 173 cm, yet he is a nightmare for opposing defenses. His exceptional agility, speed, and ability to change direction are unmatched.

Steins began his career in his native Limburg, climbing the ranks in France with stints at Massy, Tremblay, and Toulouse before joining PSG on loan in 2020—a move that became permanent. He has been a standout performer in the Champions League, consistently leading in assists. Steins was named the best center back at the 2022. European Championship in Hungary and Slovakia and Europe's best center back in 2023. by the EHF. Steins arrives at this World Championship in top form and ready to dazzle.

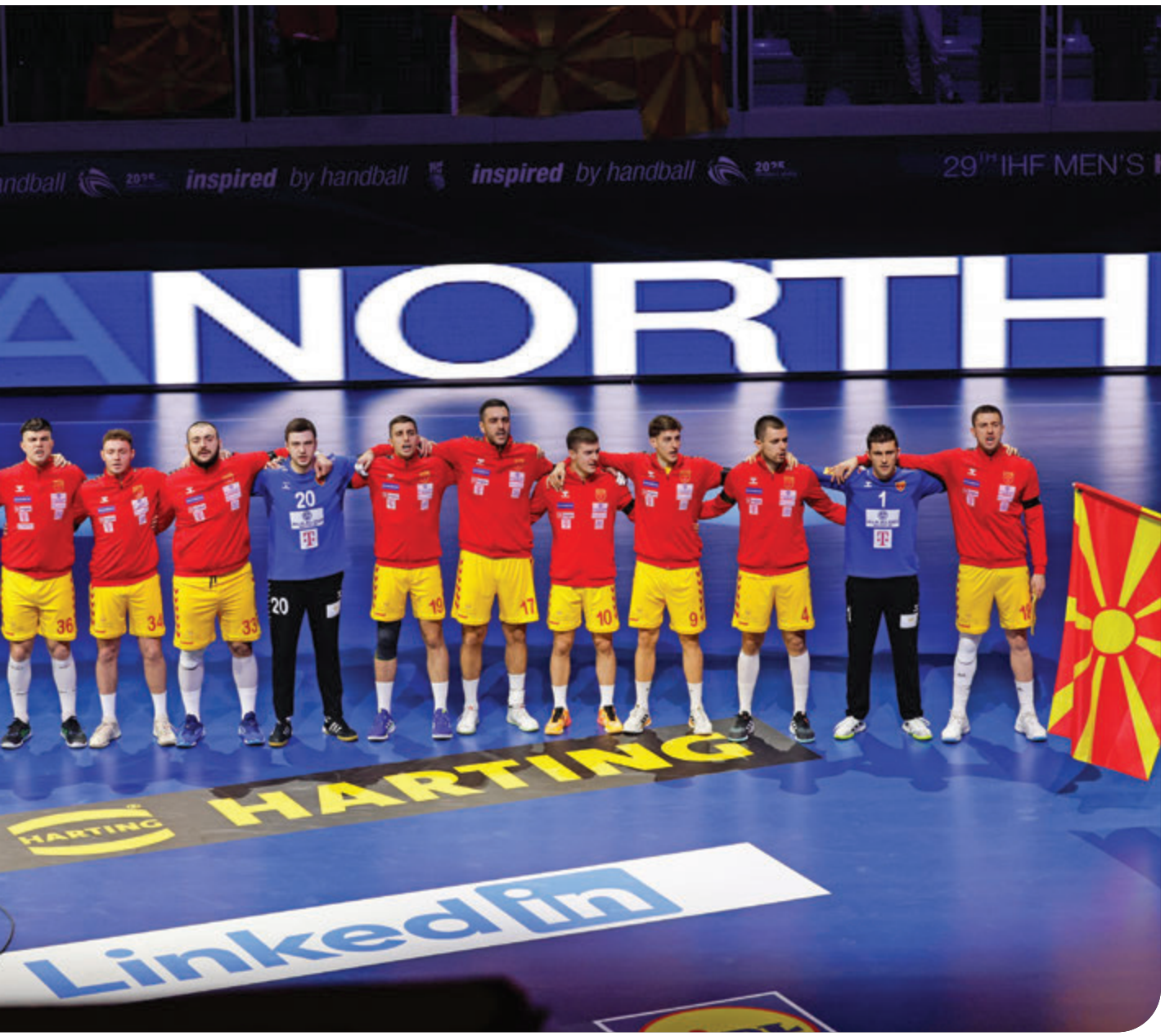
NORTH MACEDONIA

GROUP D

History in the competition

1999: 18th, **2009:** 11th,
2013: 14th, **2015:** 9th,
2017: 15th, **2019:** 15th,
2021: 23rd, **2023:** 27th

Macedonian Handball Federation
Bul. Kuzman Josifovski Pitu 15,
P.O. Box 271, 1000 Skopje,
North Macedonia



Led by a Legend: North Macedonia's Quest for Success in 2025

North Macedonia's handball team will make its ninth appearance at the Men's Handball World Championship. Their debut was in 1999, and their best result came in 2015 when they finished ninth in Qatar. The team is now led by Kiro Lazarov, a legendary player and Europe's all-time leading scorer. Following the retirement of a golden generation of players and the decline of once-dominant clubs like Vardar and Metalurg, the team is undergoing a generational transition under Lazarov's leadership.

This transition has not been without challenges. The current squad lacks the resources and conditions enjoyed during Vardar's prime, yet the consistent presence of the Macedonian team in major tournaments offers hope for future success. Veteran players like goalkeeper Mitrevski, pivot Peševski, and center back Kuzmanovski form the backbone of the team, while emerging talents such as Kostevski, Atanasijević, and Mitev represent the next generation of Macedonian handball.

North Macedonia secured its place in the World Championship after a dramatic playoff against the Faroe Islands. Following a 34:27 loss in Thorshavn, they bounced back with a 34:26 victory in Skopje, advancing by a single goal. The team will play in Varaždin and, as always, will have passionate support from its loyal fan base. While advancing to the next round in a group with Hungary and the Netherlands would be a significant achievement, it remains a challenging goal.

NORTH MACEDONIA

GROUP D

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Galevski, Ivan	GK	2004.	Alkaloid	0/0
Kizikj, Marko	GK	2001.	Alkaloid	0/0
Mitrevski, Nikola	GK	1985.	Pelister	0/0
Tomovski, Martin	GK	1997.	Potsdam	0/0
Atanasijevikj, Petar	LW	2003.	Pelister	0/0
Djonov, Ivan	LW	1997.	Alkaloid	0/0
Kuzmanoski, Cvetan	LW	1999.	Pelister	0/0
Ojleski, Goce	LW	1989.	Ohrid	0/0
Kjosevski, Alen	RW	2001.	Vardar	0/0
Kosteski, Nenad	RW	2001.	Pelister	0/0
Kosteski, Nikola	RW	1992.	Alkaloid	0/0
Petkovski, Aleksandar	RW	2004.	Alkaloid	0/0
Karasmanakis, Valentin	LP	2005.	Alkaloid	0/0
Lazarevski, Milan	LP	1997.	Vardar	0/0
Peshevski, Zharko	LP	1991.	Pelister	0/0
Ristevski, Samoil	LP	2006.	Pelister	0/0
Simonoski, Kristijan	LP	2000.	Alkaloid	0/0
Stojkovikj, Marko	LP	2003.	Alkaloid	0/0
Atanasijevikj, Pavle	LB	2003.	Pelister	0/0
Gjorgovski, Emilijan	LB	2002.	Pelister	0/0
Kuzmanovski, Filip	LB	1996.	Pelister	0/0
Mladenovikj, Mihajlo	LB	2000.	Alkaloid	0/0
Taleski, Filip	LB	1996.	Benfica	0/0
Gjorgiev, Igor	CB	2000.	Alkaloid	0/0
Ivanovski, Martin	CB	2001.	Pelister	0/0
Jagurinoski, Tomislav	CB	1998.	Vardar	0/0
Karapalevski, Martin	CB	2000.	Valladolid	0/0
Mitev, Marko	CB	2002.	Alkaloid	0/0
Tankoski, Mario	CB	1998.	Vardar	0/0
Nikolov, Filip	RB	1999.	Butel	0/0
Savrevski, David	RB	2002.	Alkaloid	0/0
Serafimov, Martin	RB	2000.	Alkaloid	0/0
Velkovski, Martin	RB	1997.	Alkaloid	0/0
Alarov, Mihail	D	1997.	Vardar	0/0
Markoski, Nikola	D	1990.	Alkaloid	0/0

HEAD COACH

Kiril Lazarov

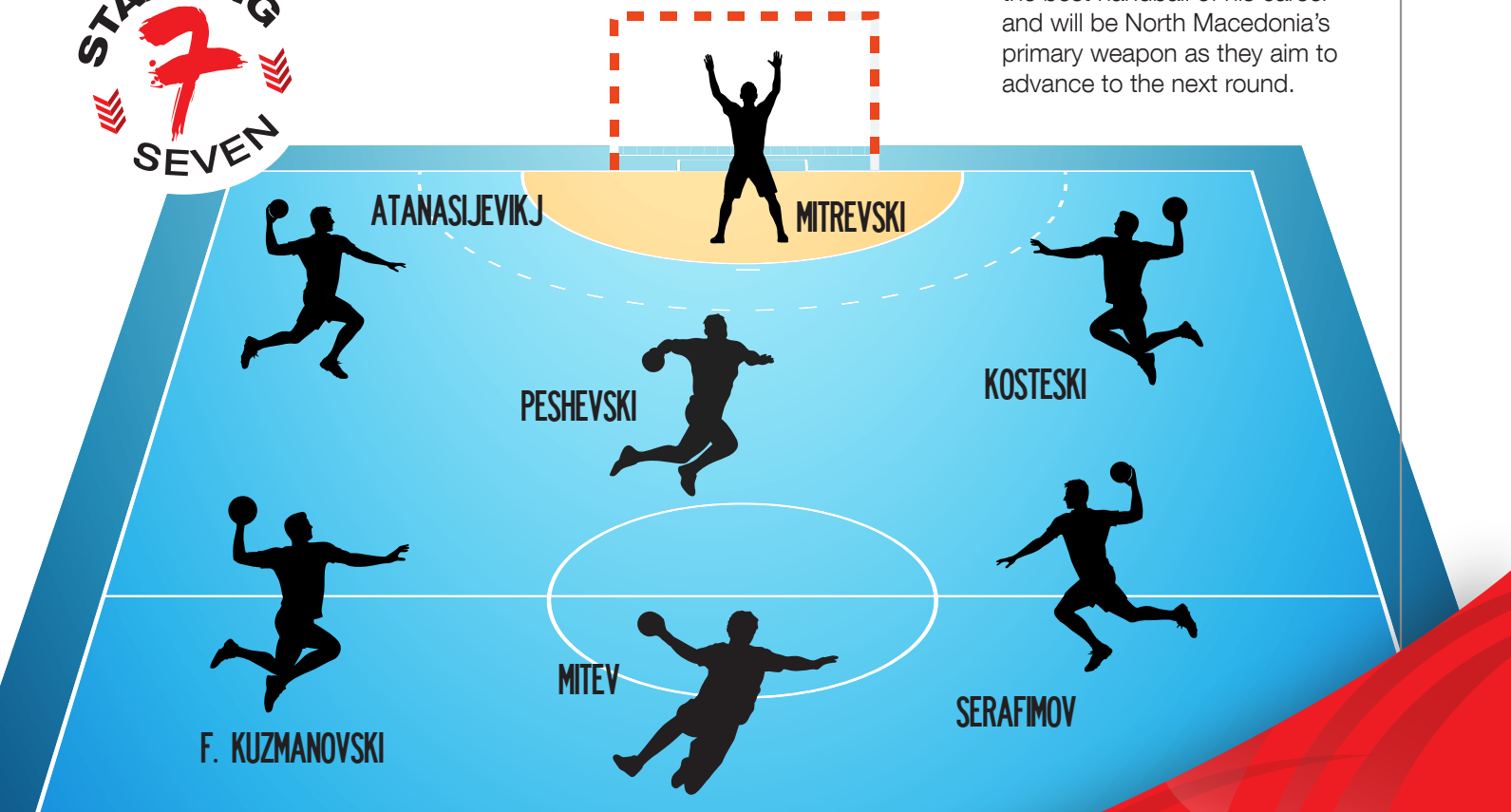
North Macedonia secured its place in the World Championship after a dramatic playoff against the Faroe Islands. Following a 34:27 loss in Thorshavn, they bounced back with a 34:26 victory in Skopje, advancing by a single goal.

STAR PLAYER

Filip Kuzmanovski

Filip Kuzmanovski, a 29-year-old playmaker for Pelister, is North Macedonia's key player. Born in Bitola, he is a technically gifted player with a keen sense for the game and a natural leader on the court. Kuzmanovski thrives under pressure and is unafraid to take responsibility in critical moments. Kuzmanovski's career began in Pelister but took him to stronger teams in Skopje, such as Metalurg and Rabotnik. His performances earned him a move to Germany's Bundesliga, where he played for four years with Magdeburg, Hannover, and Wetzlar before returning to Pelister. His return coincided with the club reclaiming the national championship, bringing the title back to the south of Macedonia. Kuzmanovski is playing some of the best handball of his career and will be North Macedonia's primary weapon as they aim to advance to the next round.

STARTING 7 SEVEN



History in the competition

Debutants

GUINEA

GROUP D

Federation Guineenne de Handball Amateur
Stade 28 Septembre de Conakry, Commune de Dixinn, Republique de Guinee, BP, 2504

Guinea's Historic Debut:
A Newcomer on the World Stage

The men's handball team of Guinea is making its debut at the World Championship. Their historic qualification was achieved by finishing fifth at the 2024 African Championship in Egypt, their best result to date. Guinea earned this spot by defeating Cameroon and Congo in the group stage, followed by a narrow victory over Angola in a penalty shootout and a decisive win against DR Congo in the placement match.

The Guinea Handball Federation, established in 1972, underwent a major transformation in 2020 by naturalizing 15 players from abroad, primarily from France, along with individuals from Madagascar and Côte d'Ivoire. This strategy, implemented by former coach Kevin Decaux, laid the groundwork for their recent success. The team led by Tunisian coach Brahim Lagha, who achieved Guinea's best result yet. Lagha, a former goalkeeper for Tunisia with over 100 international caps, has built a team that is a mix of local talent and international experience. Kevin Decaux returned to lead the national team ahead of the World Cup.

Guinea's key players primarily hail from French clubs, including Livry-Gargan, Saint-Raphaël, Montpellier, PSG, Monaco, and Saran. Notable players like winger Pitre, who once played for Porto, add depth to the squad. Despite being a newcomer on the world stage, Guinea's team is well-prepared and will gain invaluable experience playing against top European teams in Group D. Every match will be an opportunity for growth and exposure.

GUINEA

GROUP D

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Amany Aonon, Averland	GK	1982.	Bruges	6/0
Camara, Mohamed Fanboy	GK	2002.	spoir Olympique	13/0
Jabea Njo, Bryan Alex	GK	1992.	Torcy	9/0
Pierre, Rubens	GK	1999.	Tremblay 4	/0
Corcher, Adjiri Yven	LW	1998.	Angers	9/34
Diakhaby Fassou, Mana	LW	2005.	Nantes	0/0
Sylla, Mohamed Lamine	LW	2001.	Espoir Olympique	19/76
Lebon, Theo	RW	1997.	Vernouillet	11/55
Camara, Luka Ibrahim	LP	2007.	Vaulx-en-Velin	0/0
Diallo, Sireoumar	LP	1999.	Uunion Sportive	11/56
Diallo, Salif	LP	1999.	Loiret	7/22
Fofana, Haphy	LP	2007.	Aiglon	0/0
Magassa, Makan	LP	1990.	Joinville	3/27
Sidibe, Modibo	LP	1998.	Elite Val d'oise	6/16
Sissoko, Sambou	LP	1991.	Neuilly en Thelle	9/24
Pitre, Jordan Florent	LB	1992.	Saint-Marcel Vernon	8/14
Baradji, Omar	CB	1998.	Uunion Sportive	17/33
Camara, Facinet	CB	1999.	Marocaine Solidarite	21/85
Toure, Boubou	CB	1994.	L'aumone	9/31
Bayo, Bassekou	RB	2002.	Espoir Olympique	15/54
Doisel, Fenotina Bryan	RB	1998.	Livry Gargan	2/28
Oulare, Kalagban	RB	2003.	Espoir Olympique	5/18
Pasquet, Lilian	RB	1996.	Pontault-Combault	11/57
Sawadogo, Victor Vendependga	RB	1987.	St Michel Cugand	5/12

HEAD COACH

Kevin Decaux

Their historic qualification was achieved by finishing fifth at the 2024 African Championship in Egypt, their best result to date. Guinea earned this spot by defeating Cameroon and Congo in the group stage.

STAR PLAYER

Pierre Rubens

Pierre Rubens, Guinea's stand-out goalkeeper, was named the best goalkeeper of the 2024 African Championship. At just 25 years old and standing 203 cm tall, Rubens has an imposing presence on the court. Once regarded as a rising star in French handball, he began his career at Montpellier, training alongside renowned goalkeepers Vincent Gérard and Nikola Portner. Rubens was part of Montpellier's team that won their last European title in Cologne.

Rubens has been described as a "wonder kid" from his early days in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, near Paris. Interestingly, he started as an outfield player in his youth before transitioning to goalkeeper. Rubens's combination of agility, height, and experience makes him a formidable force and Guinea's most reliable asset at this championship.

Known as Telenor Arena or Fornebu Arena, this venue was opened in 2009. Oslo hosted the Women's Handball World Championships in 1993 and 1999 but has never hosted a major men's handball tournament, despite Telenor Arena hosting numerous significant matches.

Oslo is the capital of Norway, with over one million residents and an area of 426 km². Situated at the edge of the Oslofjord, the city boasts a rich history. According to the "Saga of Norwegian Kings" by Snorre Sturlason, Oslo was founded by King Harald III. Archaeological findings, including Christian graves over 1,000 years old, indicate that Oslo celebrated its millennium in the year 2000. The name "Oslo" has uncertain origins; "-lo" means harbor, while "os" could mean estuary, side of a hill, or another geographical feature.

Oslo became the capital during King Haakon V's reign, who resided permanently in the city and initiated the construction of Akershus Fortress. Centuries later, during Norway's union with Denmark, Oslo lost its significance and became a provincial administrative center. The city was devastated by fire in 1624, and King Christian IV rebuilt it on a new site, renaming it Christiania. In the 19th century, following Norway's separation from Denmark, the city experienced rapid growth and regained prominence, with landmarks like the Royal Palace, Parliament, and National Theater constructed. Christiania became Kristiania in the late 19th century, reverting to Oslo in 1924.

Oslo overtook Bergen as Norway's largest city in 1850, a status it maintains today. The city spans the northern arc of the Oslofjord, with 40 islands within its boundaries. The largest, Malmøya, and 343 lakes, including Maridalsvannet, provide drinking water and natural beauty. Oslo is surrounded by green hills and mountains, creating a striking blend of urban and natural landscapes.

Unity Arena

Capacity: 15.000

OSLO

ITTE AKKURAT URBANT

FLISA TRYKKERI

Sammen skaper vi vinnere!

Flisa Trykkeri har hatt gleden av å være national supplier for håndball-VM i Oslo 2025. Som ansvarlig for venue dressing har vi sørget for at arenaene er spektakulære for dette internasjonale mesterskapet. Da er den rette stemningen satt for et storslagent arrangement. Vi ønsker deltagere og tilskuere en god opplevelse!

flisatrykkeri.no

Kåre Geir Lio

Championship focused on the development of handball all across the continent

Dear Handball Friends!
It is my pleasure to wish you all a very warm welcome to the 2025 IHF Men's Handball World Championship. From January 15th to February 2nd, as many as 26 matches will be played in the restructured and magnificent Unity Arena, including the finals on the last day.
This is the first time ever Norway is hosting the Men's IHF World Championship. In 2008, we had the sole responsibility for the EHF EURO. In 2020 we were co-hosts of the same championship together with Sweden and Austria. Now, we have the pleasure of enjoying a strong partnership with Denmark, Croatia and the IHF, ensuring the development of handball all across the continent.
The best players, officials, coaches and supporters of the handball world will visit Baerum in a celebration of everything handball represents: Unity, excitement, tense drama and sport at the highest level.

For the preliminaries and the main round, we welcome Brazil, USA, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Japan and Chile to Unity Arena. New countries will qualify for the quarter finals and the semifinals, and for the final weekend we will welcome two teams advancing through the Croatia path, ready to fight for the medals in Norway. The pinnacle on February 2nd will be a magnificent experience for everyone involved.
I am immensely proud of all the work behind the event. In Norway, we have around 700 amazing volunteers wanting to contribute to making this a championship that will go down in history.
It is with pride and humbleness that I thank the International Handball Federation for the responsibility they have given us. In the upcoming weeks, thanks to the atmosphere created from both teams, officials and spectators, I can promise you there will be plenty of opportunities to be inspired by handball.
Good luck and may the best team win!

Best regards,
Kåre Geir Lio
President of the Norwegian Handball Federation

Norsk Kylling

Champions of animal welfare

At Norsk Kylling, animal welfare is at the heart of everything we do. As the world's first large-scale producer certified under the European Chicken Commitment standard, we ensure our chickens have more space, more natural light and enriched environments for healthier, happier animals.

For champions, the best is only the beginning.

norsk-kylling.no

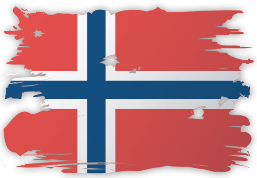
NORSK KYLLING – DYREVELFERD I VERDENSKLASSE –

ECC CERTIFIED ANIMAL WELFARE

2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP E

OSLO - NORWAY



NORWAY

PORTUGAL

BRAZIL

USA

inspired by handball

NORWAY

GROUP E

History in the competition

1958: 6th, **1961:** 7th,
1964: 11th, **1967:** 13th,
1970: 13th, **1993:** 13th,
1997: 12th, **1999:** 13th,
2001: 14th, **2005:** 7th,
2007: 13th, 2**009:** 9th,
2011: 9th, **2017:** Silver medal,
2019: Silver medal,
2021: 6th, **2023:** 6th

Medal Tally

WCh'17:	Silver
WCh'19:	Silver
EC '20:	Bronze

Norges Håndballforbund
Postboks 5000,
0840 Oslo,
Norway

From Transition to Triumph: Norway's Quest at the 2025 World Championship

Norway is one of the co-hosts of the World Championship. By hosting, they secured automatic qualification. They are currently finished fifth in the last WCh, ninth in the EC, and were quarterfinalists at the Paris Olympics. This is their 13th World Championship appearance, where they have achieved two silver medals, most recently in 2017 and 2019.

Norway belongs to the upper tier of European handball quality and has been a regular on the big stage over the past decade. The end of the previous decade marked the most successful era in the history of Norwegian men's handball. However, a generational shift followed, which was not without its difficulties. Alongside this change, head coach Christian Berge was replaced by Jonas Wille.

Myrhol, Jondal, Tangen, and Espen Hansen retired from the national team, making room for new talents led by Sander Sagosen. Sagosen, as a young player, contributed to the best Norwegian team in history. He has grown into one of Europe's top players and is the most important player for Norway today.

Norway's key players compete in Europe's strongest clubs. National champions Kolstad, participating in the Champions League, include Bergerud, Sagosen, Lyse, Sondena, Vetle Aga, and Gullerud. In the Bundesliga, Magdeburg features O'Sullivan, Leipzig has Saeveras, and Reinkind plays for Kiel. Rod wears the jersey of Hungarian powerhouse Szeged, Blonz plays for Denmark's GOG, and Barthold and Björnsen represent Aalborg. When all these players come together, they form a very competitive team. However, maintaining good health is crucial, as injuries have plagued the team in recent years, significantly impacting results.

On home soil, Norway is always a favorite. Additionally, it should be noted that the final stages of this World Championship will be played in Oslo, giving the team extra motivation. While they are not at the level of their female counterparts, hosting the World Championship for the first time in history represents a significant challenge for the men's team.

NORWAY

GROUP E

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Haug Paulsen, Robin	GK	1998.	HSV Hamburg	2/0
Heiere Drange, Sander	GK	1998.	TTH Holstenbro	8/0
Kristensen, Andre Bertshold	GK	2000.	Sporting	2/0
Bergerud, Törbjorn	GK	1994.	Kolstad	152/0
Saeveras, Kristian	GK	1996.	HC Leipzig	94/3
Barthold, Sebastian	LW	1991.	Aalborg	93/241
Blonz, Alexandre	LW	2000.	GOG	94/253
Heldal, Sindre	LW	1999.	Elverum	4/6
Pedersen, August	LW	1994.	Flensburg	4/5
Björnsen, Kristian	RW	1999.	Aalborg	206/736
Gulliksen, Fleming	RW	1996.	TTH Holstenbro	99/165
Lien, Kasper	RW	2001.	Elverum	14/21
Stankiewicz, Ebbe	RW	2002.	Sonderjyske	0/0
Sondena, Magnus	RW	1991.	Elverum	16/35
Gjerdalen, Sondre	P	1999.	Arendal	4/6
Gullerud, Magnus	P	1991.	Kolstad	197/295
Jakobsen, Henrik	P	1992.	GOG	56/51
Solstad, Thomas	P	1997.	Hannover–Burgdorf	33/64
Overby, Petter	P	1992.	THW Kiel	145/154
Aar, William	LB	1997.	TTH Holstenbro	22/17
Lyse, Simen	LB	2000.	Kolstad	24/63
Pettersen, Simen	LB	1998.	Chambery	21/32
Rönningen, Vetle	LB	1998.	Skjern	2/3
Sagosen, Sander	LB	1995.	Kolstad	174/854
Overjordet, Sander	LB	1996.	Erlangen	55/53
Grondahl, Tobias	CB	2001.	GOG	43/114
Matic, Mario	CB	1994.	AEK	5/6
O'Sullivan, Christian	CB	1991.	Magdeburg	199/297
Andersson, Patrick	RB	2004.	Elverum	2/5
Reinkind, Harald	RB	1992.	Kiel	175/386
Röd, Magnus Abelvik	RB	1997.	PICK Szeged	88/201
Setterblom, Gabriel	RB	1997.	Sonderborg	16/27
Tonnesen, Kent Robin	RB	1991.	PSG	139/347
Aga, Vetle Eck	D	1993.	Kolstad	57/4
Balstad, Lasse	D	1994.	Fredericia	12/3

HEAD COACH

WILLE Jonas Liberg

Norway belongs to the upper tier of European handball quality and has been a regular on the big stage over the past decade. The end of the previous decade marked the most successful era in the history of Norwegian men's handball.

STAR PLAYER

Sander Sagosen

The absolute star of the Norwegian team is Sander Sagosen, a player for Kolstad. At 30 years old, he has previously played for Aalborg, PSG, and Kiel. He is a left back and, when needed, a center back for the Norwegian lineup. Sagosen is an exceptional scorer who brings dynamism to every team he plays for. A player who makes the difference, Sagosen is often compared to fellow Norwegian athlete Erling Haaland. However, his biggest issue in recent years has been injuries, which have frequently kept him out of games. With or without Sagosen, Norway is not the same team.

This World Championship will be his 14th major tournament. Sagosen made his debut for the Norwegian national team in 2013. He has been named the best left back at the World Championships in 2017 and 2019.

History in the competition

1997: 19th, **2001:** 16th,
2003: 12th, **2021:** 10th,
2023: 13th

PORTUGAL

GROUP E

FEDERAÇÃO DE ANDEBOL DE PORTUGAL

Handball Federation of Portugal
Calçada da Ajuda, 63/69,
1300-006 Lisboa, Portugal

From Rising Stars to Contenders: Portugal's Journey to the World Stage

Portugal will make their sixth World Championship appearance. Their best result to date is 10th place in Egypt in 2021. At the most recent European Championship, held in Germany, Portugal finished seventh, earning a spot in the playoffs for this World Championship. In the playoffs, they convincingly defeated Bosnia and Herzegovina, winning 29:19 in Guimaraes, with a 26:26 draw in Tuzla.

Portuguese handball has been steadily improving over the past decade. The rise began with the strengthening of clubs rooted in Portuguese football, such as Porto, Benfica, and Sporting. Each of these clubs contributed to the momentum in its own way, but Porto shaped the national team's style the most under Swedish coach Magnus Andersson.

Building on these solid foundations, Paulo Pereira began creating a strong national team, gradually climbing the ranks. At the 2020 European Championship, Portugal eliminated France in the group stage, a pivotal moment in their progress. Today, they continue their ascent, bolstered by Sporting's new generation of talents like the Costa brothers and Salvador.

Portugal's roster includes key players from domestic and international leagues. Frade plays for Barcelona, Martins for Aalborg, and Cavalcanti for Melsungen. This quality lineup makes Portugal a formidable opponent.

Currently ranked seventh in Europe, their best-ever result was sixth place at the 2020 European Championship in Sweden. Carlos Resende, once a leading player, remains a significant figure in Portuguese handball history, holding records for most goals and appearances for the national team (1,444/250). At the previous World Championship, they finished 13th and were once Olympic participants in Tokyo. Alongside Norway, Portugal is the favorite to win Group E, which will be played in Oslo.

PORTUGAL

GROUP E

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Capdeville, Gustavo	GK	1997.	Benfica	54/0
Fereira, Miguel	GK	1993.	Vardar	17/3
Gaspar, Manuel	GK	1998.	Chartres	31/1
Marquez, Diogo	GK	2004.	Porto	18/0
Valerio, Diogo	GK	1999.	Maritimo	7/0
Branquinho, Diogo	LW	1994.	Sporting	94/203
Fernandez, Leonel	LW	1998.	Porto	52/101
Meireles, Goncalo	LW	1998.	Braga	0/0
Oliveira, Pedro	LW	2002.	Porto	16/19
Alves, Miguel	RW	1996.	Aguas Santas	8/20
Areia, Antonio	RW	1990.	Tremblay	99/285
Monteiro, Jenilson	RW	1998.	Limoges	4/2
Pinto, Miguel	RW	1999.	Vardar	2/11
Portela, Pedro	RW	1990.	Sporting	146/483
Borges, Alexis	P	1991.	Benfica	65/110
Brandao, Ricardo	P	2004.	Porto	7/11
Frade, Luis	P	1998.	Barcelona	72/160
Iturriza, Victor	P	1990.	Porto	46/154
Salina, Daymaro	P	1987.	Porto	75/144
Silva, Fabio	P	2001.	Benfica	7/8
Cavalcanti, Alexander	LB	1996.	Melsungen	87/110
Costa, Martim	LB	2002.	Sporting	28/111
Duarte, Gilberto	LB	1990.	AEK	126/314
Gomes, Andre	LB	1998.	Dinamo Bucuresti	59/151
Magallaes, Fabio	LB	1988.	Porto	183/351
Salvador, Salvador	LB	2001.	Sporting	29/56
Martins, Miguel	CB	1997.	Aalborg	108/243
Oliveira, Miguel	CB	2004.	Porto	0/0
Silva, Rui	CB	1993.	Porto	137/242
Sousa, Andre	CB	2002.	Braga	7/13
Vieira, Goncalo	CB	1999.	Toulouse	8/13
Costa, Francisco	RB	2005.	Sporting	30/101
Gomez, Joao	RB	2002.	Sporting	2/3
Nazare, Joaquim	RB	2001.	Skjern	18/24
Silva, Diogo	RB	1998.	Kolding	18/16

HEAD COACH

Paolo Pereira

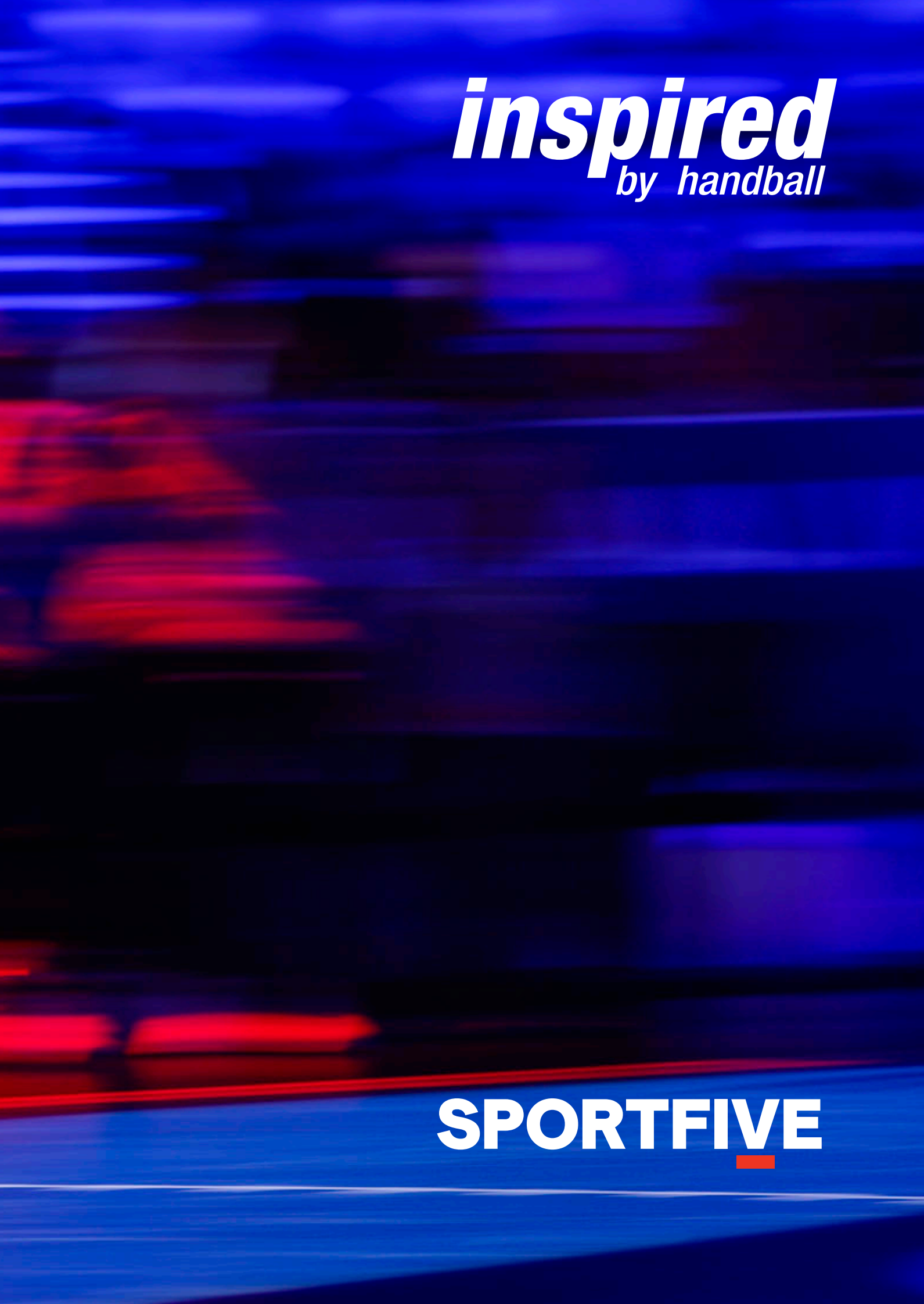
Portugal will make their 6th World Championship appearance. Their best result is 10th place in Egypt in 2021. At the most recent European Championship, held in Germany, Portugal finished seventh, earning a spot in the playoffs for this World Championship.

STAR PLAYER

Martim Costa

Martim Costa is the left back of the Portuguese national team. At just 22 years old, he is already the undisputed leader of Sporting Lisbon and highly sought after in global handball markets. Martim's brother, Francisco Costa, is often awarded MVP titles and is more spectacular with his left hand, but Martim is the true leader of this team, alongside the experienced center Rui Silva. Standing at 188 cm, he may not be exceptionally tall for a back player, but his game intelligence and ability to read plays set him apart. Martim started his career with Porto but truly flourished in Sporting. At the last European Championship in Germany, he scored 54 goals, making him the tournament's top scorer and the best left back. His father, Ricardo Costa, was also a prominent handball player and is now Sporting's coach, where both brothers play.

STARTING 7 SEVEN


inspired
by handball
SPORTFIVE

History in the competition

1995: 24th, **1997:** 24th,
1999: 16th, **2001:** 19th,
2003: 22nd, **2005:** 19th,
2007: 19th, **2009:** 21st,
2011: 21st, **2013:** 13th,
2015: 16th, **2017:** 16th,
2019: 9th, **2021:** 18th,
2023: 17th

Medal Tally

PAN AG '03:	Gold
PA Ch '06:	Gold
PAN AG '07:	Gold
PA Ch '08:	Gold
PAN AG '15:	Gold
PA Ch '16:	Gold
SCA Ch '22:	Gold
SCA Ch '24:	Gold

BRAZIL

GROUP E

Confederaçao Brasileira de Handebol
Rua Villa Cristina, 1010,
Sala 09, Treze de Julho,
49020-150 Aracaju, Sergipe,
Brazil; PO Box: Galeria Álamo,
Salas 14 e 15

Brazil's **Quest for Global Glory** in 2025

Brazil is the champion of South and Central America. In 2024, they repeated the title they won in 2022 on home soil, earning a place in the 2025 World Championship. The 2024 Championship was held in Argentina, where Brazil claimed the title with five wins in five games, including a key victory over Argentina (28:26).

Brazil will make their 17th World Championship appearance, with their best result being ninth place at the 2019 tournament in Denmark and Germany. Their highest achievement on the global stage was seventh place at the Rio 2016 Olympics, where they played as hosts.

Brazil's rise began in 2007 when Jordi Ribera, now Spain's national team coach, led the team at the World Championship in Germany. Later, two other Spanish coaches, Javier Garcia and Daniel Gordo, helped establish a strong domestic coaching structure. The team achieved their best results under Washington Nunes, who was succeeded by the current coach, Marcus Ricardo de Oliveira. This will be Oliveira's third World Championship, with previous finishes of 17th and 18th place.

Most of Brazil's key players are based in Europe, particularly in Spain. Thiagus Petrus dos Santos is a crucial defensive player for Barcelona. Granollers features Guilherme Torriani, a speedy left wing, while Bidasoa boasts pivot Matheus da Silva. Haniel Langaro is with Dinamo Bucharest, and Joao Silva, a center back, recently moved to Serbia's Vojvodina. Additionally, right back Raul Nantes plays for Egypt's Al Ahly, Africa's top club.

This experienced team plays fast, attractive handball while maintaining physical and aggressive defense, making them a challenging opponent for anyone. In this World Championship, Brazil will pose the biggest threat to Norway and Portugal in the battle for advancement to the next round in Oslo.

BRAZIL

GROUP E

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Candido, Guilerme	GK	2005.	Pinheiros	29/0
Da Rosa, Rangel	GK	1996.	Saint Raphael	51/3
Martins Nascimento, Mateus	GK	1999.	Pinheiros	4/0
Pereira dos Santos, Lucas	GK	1998.	Taubate	0/0
Tercariol, Leonardo	GK	1987.	Huesca	67/8
Kelvin, de Oliveira Baros	LW	2007.	Taubate	0/0
Dupoux, Jean Pierre	LW	1991.	Tremblay	12/41
Matos Santos, Joel Felipe	LW	2001.	Praia	0/0
Monte da Silva, Hugo Bryan	LW	2003.	Montpellier	9/23
Perin, Vinicius	LW	2005.	Taubate	0/0
Torriani, Guillherme	LW	1999.	Taubate	33/39
Da Silva, Marcos Antonio	RW	2001.	Pinheiros	0/0
Hackbarth, Rudolf	RW	1994.	Encantada	65/159
Santos Silva, Washington Luis	RW	2000.	Taubate	3/0
Bentz, Rodrigo	P	1992.	Huesca	3/0
Borges, Guilherme	P	1999.	Istres	0/0
Moraes, Rogerio	P	1994.	Melsungen	61/131
Oliveira, Edney	P	1998.	Sporting	3/9
Pinheiro da Silva, Renan	P	2005.	Pinheiros	0/0
Montes da Silva, Leandro	LB	1998.	Mudhar	0/0
Da Silva Garcia, Luis Gustavo	LB	2000.	Sinfin	0/0
Langaro, Haniel	LB	1995.	Dinamo Bucuresti	93/398
Abrahao, Leonardo	CB	1996.	Mudhar	2/3
Andrade da Silva, Gustavo	CB	1999.	Taubate	0/0
Da Silva, Joao Pedro	CB	1994.	Vojvodina	81/172
Da Silva Barros, Denis	CB	1994.	Guadalajara	0/0
Silva, Acacio	CB	1994.	Al Arabi	1 / 2
Freitras Oliveira, Tarcisio	CB	2000.	Granollers	0/0
Pacheco, Pedro	CB	1998.	Bidasoa	5/15
Lima de Carvalho, Vinicius	RB	1997.	Chartres	3/7
Suzuki, Hideki	RB	2007.	Guarulhos	0/0
Rodriguez, Gustavo	RB	1995.	Chambery	63/167
Seifert, Phillip	RB	2000.	Pinheiros Taubate	3/0

HEAD COACH

Marcus Ricardo de Oliveira

Brazil will make their 17th World Championship appearance, with their best result being ninth place at the 2019 tournament in Denmark and Germany.

STAR PLAYER

Thiagus Petrus Goncalves dos Santos

The giant from Barcelona is the most famous name in Brazilian handball. For years, his defense has been among the best in the world. Quick, tall, and aggressive, Petrus has an exceptional ability to anticipate plays.

Born 36 years ago in Ruis de Fora, near Rio de Janeiro, Petrus played for Brazil's top club, Pinheiros, for five years before moving to Spain. Since 2018, he has been with Barcelona, winning the Champions League three times and the Super Globe (the club world championship). In the 2022/23 season, he was named the best defensive player in European handball by the EHF. With Barcelona, Petrus has dominated the Spanish league, claiming 18 titles in six years. He has represented Brazil at two Olympic Games and remains a central figure in the team.

UNITED STATES

GROUP E

History in the competition

1964: 16th, **1970:** 16th,
1974: 16th, **1993:** 16th,
1995: 21st, **2001:** 24th,
2023: 20th

USA TEAM HANDBALL

USA Team Handball
1 Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO 80909, United States of America

USA Handball: Building Momentum for Los Angeles 2028

The USA received a special invitation to participate in the World Championship from the IHF, as Los Angeles will host the 2028 Olympics, where they qualify automatically as hosts. The team failed to qualify for the 2025 World Championship through the North and Central American Championship held in Mexico, where Cuba won the title. The USA finished fourth, behind Mexico and Greenland.

This will be the USA's eighth World Championship appearance, with their best result being 15th place in 1964. Interestingly, they have participated in six Olympic Games, twice as hosts, achieving their best result with sixth place in 1936.

The team is led by Robert Hedin, a legendary Swedish player from Bengt Johansson's golden generation. Hedin, an Olympic, World, and European medalist as a player, has also coached in Germany and previously led Norway's national team. He has been at the helm of the U.S. team since 2018, returning them to the World Championship stage in 2023 after a 22-year absence. At the previous tournament in Jönköping, Sweden, the USA secured their first-ever World Championship victory, defeating Morocco 29:28.

Handball has little tradition in the USA and is mostly played by immigrants. In recent years, efforts have been made to stabilize their presence on the global stage. They regularly participate in the Super Globe (the club World Championship), though they have not achieved significant success. Realistically, Group E in Oslo is too strong for them, but they hope to secure a second-ever World Championship victory in the President's Cup. With three and a half years left until Los Angeles 2028, the USA aims to progress and compete with the world's best.

UNITED STATES

GROUP E

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Merkovszky, Pal	GK	2000.	Farkasok	10/1
Otterstrom, Douglas	GK	2001.	Tyresö Handboll	2/0
Pedersen, Benjamin	GK	2004.	SZESE Györ	6/1
Wide, Grayson	GK	2004.	Upsala	7/1
Edwards, Oliver	LW	2003.	Tatabanya	0/0
Hansen, Lukas	LW	2002.	Fredericia	0/0
Hoddersen, Samuel	LW	1997.	Rodgau Nieder-Roden	35/48
Zarikos, Nikolas	LW	1998.	Benidorm	23/49
Binderis, Maximillian	RW	2000.	AIK Handboll	4/0
Campos Menendez, Rodrigo	RW	2004.	Cuatro Valles	6/20
Corning, Sean	RW	1996.	Trops Malaga	8/8
Donlin, Andrew	P	1992.	San Francisco CalHeat	40/65
Guarino, Sigurdur	P	2001.	Kopavog	0/0
Hueter, Patrick	P	1995.	Bayer Dormagen	18/60
Skorupa, Paul	P	1999.	Lübeck-Schwartau	14/0
Sršen, Domagoj	P	1990.	Metković Mehanika	16/3
Darvas, Csaba	LB	2005.	Tatabanyai	0/0
Fofana, Aboubakar	LB	1996.	Villeurbanne	110/137
Hines, Gary	LB	1984.	Langenfeld	81/709
Mc Cauley, Maksim	LB	2005.	Kristianstad	8/25
Chan Blanco, Alexandre	CB	1993.	Cisne	10/40
Edwards, Benjamin	CB	2006.	BFKA Veszprem	12/72
Hueter, Ian	CB	1997.	Bayer Dormagen	32/80
Hunyadi, Daniel	CB	2003.	Ferencvarosi	0/0
Briffe, Benjamin	RB	1987.	New York THC	0/0
Brunvold, Martin	RB	2006.	Fyllingen	12/60
Morawski, Tristan	RB	2005.	Pogon Szczecin	10/0
Stromberg, Jonas	RB	2001.	Lugi	12/20

HEAD COACH

Robert Hedin

This will be the USA's eighth World Championship appearance, with their best result being 15th place in 1964. Interestingly, they have participated in six Olympic Games, twice as hosts

STAR PLAYER

Aboubakar Fofana

The star of the U.S. team is Aboubakar Fofana, a 198 cm tall left back who plays for Valence in France's second division. Fofana is a prolific scorer, best remembered for his game-winning goal in the final 20 seconds against Morocco at the 2023 World Championship, securing the USA's historic first victory.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, Fofana moved to France with his mother at age eight, where he began playing handball, though soccer and basketball initially took precedence. Encouraged by a school coach, Fofana chose handball. Though he has held French citizenship since 2018, he opted to represent the USA to showcase his talent internationally.

Fofana started his professional career with Nancy, followed by stints with Angers, Dutch club Volendam, Villeurbanne, and now Valence. He missed the qualification tournament in Mexico, a significant setback for coach Hedin.

STARTING 7 SEVEN

NORWAY

Kristian Bjørnsen

01 Norway has undergone a rejuvenation process in the last two tournaments. How satisfied are you with the results from the last World Championship and the Paris Olympics?

In the last couple of years, we've had some new players join the team. They have taken responsibility from day one and helped us renew a little bit. However,it takes time to implement new players, and we need time to improve. Hopefully, we will flourish in January. We are not satisfied with the results lately, especially in the Euros. We played some good games in the Olympics, but we wanted to play for medals, and we simply were not good enough.

02 How challenging is it to manage the high expectations of Norwegian handball fans? Do the remarkable achievements of the Norwegian Women's national team add extra pressure?

We love the expectations that come with sports! Expectations often come with results, so I guess they aren't extremely high right now. The remarkable achievements of the Norwegian women have been an inspiration rather than pressure. We struggle to improve and hopefully we will get a little bit closer to them moving forward!

07 Could you share your all-time best 7 players?
This is a hard one, but I will pick from the players who have already retired and who I got the chance to play with or against:

- GK: Arpad Sterbik
- LW: Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson
- LB/PM: Mikkel Hansen
- LB/PM: Nikola Karabatic
- RB: Kiril Lazarov
- RW: Luc Abalo
- LP: Bjarte Myrhol

03 How have you been coping with the demanding schedule over the past few years, particularly with the additional burden of the Olympics last year, which significantly increased the number of games?

There has been a lot of handball games the last few years! We really need to take care of the players and the sport we all love so much. The result is sadly a lot of injuries due to a high number of hard games over time. As a player, it's important to rest and have the chance to train well over time. It has been harder to achieve that in the last couple of years.

04 Who do you see as a potential dark horse in the 2025 World Championship tournament?

I think Portugal has a really interesting team this WCh, so they are my guess!

05 This tournament also marks the start of a new Olympic cycle, which will culminate in Los Angeles. How do you view handball's progression within this context?

We are moving into a period with a lot to play for. I think the speed of the game of handball will continue to develop. We will see many goals per game and a lot of good handball.

06 Could you share your thoughts on your group in the 2025 World Championship and potential opponents in the Main Round? Do you have any expectations for the other three Main Round groups?

I think we have some good teams in our group. Brazil and Portugal have some interesting players that can win games by themselves. And maybe USA will show us some magic?
The Main Round is always hard, so it's important to bring some extra points into that round. The teams who are in shape and keep the energy high, will have an advantage.
There will be many tight games with a lot of good teams, but as always, I think Denmark and France will be the ones to beat if you want to win the championship.

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2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP F

OSLO - NORWAY

SWEDEN

SPAIN

JAPAN

CHILE

inspired by handball

History in the competition

1938: Bronze medal, **1954:** Winners, **1958:** Winners, **1961:** Bronze medal, **1964:** Silver medal, **1967:** 5th, **1970:** 6th, **1974:** 10th, **1978:** 8th, **1982:** 11th, **1986:** 4th, **1990:** Winners, **1993:** Bronze medal, **1995:** Bronze medal, **1997:** Silver medal, **1999:** Winners, **2001:** Silver medal, **2013:** 13th, **2005:** 11th, **2009:** 7th, **2011:** 4th, **2015:** 10th, **2017:** 6th, **2019:** 5th, **2021:** Silver medal, **2023:** 4th

SWEDEN

GROUP F

Medal Tally

EC '24:	Bronze
EC '22:	Gold
WCH '21:	Silver
EC '18:	Silver
OG '12:	Silver
EC '02:	Gold
WCH '01:	Silver
OG '00:	Silver
EC '00:	Gold
WCH '99:	Gold
EC '98:	Gold
WCH '97:	Silver
OG '96:	Silver
WCH '95:	Bronze
EC '94:	Gold
WCH '93:	Bronze
OG '92:	Silver
WCH '90:	Gold
WCH '64:	Silver
WCH '61:	Bronze
WCH '58:	Gold
WCH '54:	Gold
WCH '38:	Bronze

Svenska Handbollförbundet Visit
Idrottens Hus, Skansbrogatan 7, Stockholm, Sweden;
Post: P.O. Box 11016, SE-100 61 Stockholm, Sweden; Delivery: Östgötagatan 98D, SE-116 64 Stockholm, Sweden.

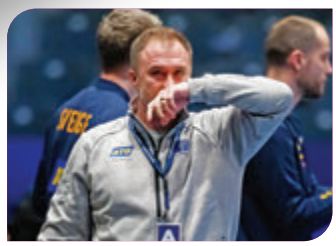
Consistency and Strength: Sweden's Path to Podium in 2025

Currently ranked third in Europe and fourth globally, Sweden recently competed in the Paris Olympics, securing fourth place. They qualified for this World Championship by finishing fourth in the last European Championship, as the top three earned automatic qualification. Since Denmark, as the reigning world champion, had already secured their place, Sweden's fourth-place finish in Cologne was sufficient for entry. Over the course of the 29 World Championships held so far, Sweden has missed only two editions—in 2007 (Germany) and 2013 (Spain).

Following the Paris Olympics, Sweden experienced a coaching change. Norwegian Glen Solberg stepped down, and the reins were handed to Michael Apelgren, the current coach of Hungary's Szeged, which competes in the Champions League. While the coaching staff has changed, the core group of players remains consistent. This continuity offers Sweden a solid advantage, as their squad comprises experienced and highly skilled players who are integral members of Europe's strongest clubs.

In goal, Sweden boasts a dynamic duo: veteran Andreas Palicka and rising talent Thobias Thulin. The team is led by exceptional playmakers Jim Gottfridsson and Felix Claar, with the latter recovering from an injury that could potentially hinder Sweden's campaign if he is unable to participate. The team's hallmark 6-0 defense remains their cornerstone, anchored by standout players such as Jonathan Carlsbogard (Barcelona's left back) and Max Darj (Füchse Berlin). This robust defense, coupled with outstanding goalkeeping, strengthens their wing play.

However, the absence of Jerry Tolbring on the left wing is a significant loss. Nevertheless, Hampus Wanne, who plays for Barcelona, is a capable replacement. Sweden remains a formidable force in international handball, showcasing unparalleled consistency and quality.



HEAD COACH

Michael Apelgren

SWEDEN

GROUP F

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Appelgren, Mikael	GK	1989.	RN Löwen	101/2
Johannesson, Peter	GK	1992.	GOG	28/2
Norsten, Fabian	GK	2000.	Aalborg	5/0
Palicka, Andreas	GK	1986.	Paris Saint-Germain	166/19
Mellegard, Emil	LW	1997.	HØJ Handbold	22/29
Pellas, Lucas	LW	1995.	Montpellier	78/251
Wanne, Hampus	LW	1993.	Barcelona	104/425
Wigmark, Oliver	RW	1997.	Hammarby	0/0
Persson, Isak	RW	2000.	Magdeburg	9/14
Karlsson, Sebastian	RW	1995.	Montpellier	23/70
Pettersson, Daniel	RW	1992.	Magdeburg	93/209
Fernebrand, Linus	LW	1994.	Ystads	0/0
Mellegard, Emil	LW	1997.	HØJ Handbold	22/29
Pellas, Lucas	LW	1995.	Montpellier	78/251
Wanne, Hampus	LW	1993.	Barcelona	104/425
Wigmark, Oliver	RW	1997.	Hammarby	0/0
Persson, Isak	RW	2000.	Magdeburg	9/14
Karlsson, Sebastian	RW	1995.	Montpellier	23/70
Pettersson, Daniel	RW	1992.	Magdeburg	93/209
Ekberg, Niklas	RW	1988.	Ystads	210/841
Bergendahl, Oscar	P	1995.	Magdeburg	63/100
Darj, Max	P	1991.	Füchse Berlin	125/149
Jurmala Aström, Ludvig	P	1999.	Göppingen	2/0
Möller, Felix	P	2002.	Aalborg	21/23
Nilsson, Andreas	P	1990.	Onereds	154/350
Brolin, Pontus	LB	2000.	Sävehof	1/0
Carlsbogard, Jonathan	LB	1995.	Barcelona	77/152
Davidsson, Gustav	LB	1999.	RN Löwen	2/0
Forsell Schefvert, Olle	LB	1993.	RN Löwen	5/3
Jeppsson, Simon	LB	1995.	Kolstad	61/108
Johansson, Eric	LB	2000.	Kiel	38/101
Nilsson, Lukas	LB	1996.	Aalborg	74/187
Wallinius, Karl	LB	1999.	Esbjerg	37/43
Claar, Felix	CB	1997.	Magdeburg	78/208
Edvardsson, Jonathan	CB	1997.	Hannover-Burgdorf	27/18
Gottfridsson, Jim	CB	1992.	Flensburg-Handewitt	162/514
Hallbäck, Ludvig	CB	2000.	Göppingen	2/1
Lagergren, Albin	RB	1992.	Magdeburg	118/351
Sandell, Lukas	RB	1997.	Telekom Veszprem	64/158
Svensson Aspenbäck	RB	2000.	Holstebro	2/3
Thurin, Jack	RB	1999.	Aalborg	11/17

Sweden stands alongside France as one of the most decorated teams in the history of the World Handball Championships, with an impressive collection of 12 medals. This year marks their 27th participation in the competition.

STAR PLAYER

Jim Gottfridsson

Among a pool of extraordinary talent, Jim Gottfridsson stands out as Sweden's brightest star. A brilliant playmaker for German club Flensburg, Gottfridsson is the undisputed leader of the Swedish squad.

The 33-year-old began his career in his hometown of Ystad and made his national team debut in 2012. Since 2013, he has donned the Flensburg jersey, where he won the Champions League in his first season. His career highlights include being crowned MVP of the Bundesliga in 2021. and earning recognition as the best playmaker at the 2021. World Championship in Egypt, where Sweden secured silver. That same year, he finished as the runner-up in the World Handball Player of the Year vote, just behind Denmark's Niklas Landin. He is the true successor to Sweden's legendary generation led by Bengt Johansson.

History in the competition

1958: 12th, **1974:** 13th, **1978:** 10th, **1982:** 8th, **1986:** 5th, **1990:** 5th, **1993:** 5th, **1995:** 11th, **1997:** 7th, **1999:** 4th, **2001:** 5th, **2003:** 4th, **2005:** Winners, **2007:** 7th, **2009:** 13th, **2011:** Bronze medal, **2013:** Winners, **2015:** 4th, 2**017:** 5th, **2019:** 7th, **2021:** Bronze medal, **2023:** Bronze medal

Medal Tally

OG '24:	Bronze
WCH '23:	Bronze
EC '22:	Silver
WCH '21:	Bronze
OG '20:	Bronze
EC '20:	Gold
EC '18:	Gold
EC '16:	Silver
EC '14:	Bronze
WCH '13:	Gold
WCH '11:	Bronze
OG '08:	Bronze
EC '06:	Silver
OG '00:	Bronze
EC '00:	Bronze
EC '98:	Silver
OG '96:	Bronze
EC '96:	Silver
WCH '95:	Gold

SPAIN

GROUP E

Royal Spanish Handball Federation
Calle Ferraz 16 2nd Floor,
28008 Madrid, Spain

Tactical Excellence: Spain's New Generation Eyes World Glory

Spain arrives at its 23rd World Championship, having endured an uncharacteristically difficult qualification. Despite their reputation, they were eliminated in the first round of the European Championship in Germany, a rare setback for a team that came into the tournament as reigning silver medalists. Forced into the playoffs, they faced a tough opponent in Serbia. A narrow one-goal aggregate victory—32:28 at home and a 22:25 loss in Novi Sad—secured their ticket to the tournament.

Spain is a two-time world champion and has been a mainstay in the World Championship since 1974. Known for their distinctive style, Spanish handball is often emulated, and their coaching expertise is regarded as the best in Europe. A new generation of talent has emerged from this system, recently crowned junior European champions and previously winning cadet world and European titles. These accomplishments lay a strong foundation for Spain's future, even as key players like Joan Cañellas, Jorge Maqueda, and Gonzalo Pérez de Vargas approach the twilight of their careers.

Led by Jordi Ribera since 2016, Spain's methodical and tactical approach remains their greatest strength. Ribera's calm demeanor and systematic coaching ensure they remain one of the most tactically sound teams in the world.

SPAIN

GROUP E

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Corrales Rodal, Rodrigo	GK	1991.	Telekom Veszprem	139/4
Biosca Garcia, Ignacio	GK	1995.	Nantes	9/1
Hernandez Ferrer, Sergey	GK	1995.	Magdeburg	56/11
Perez De Vargas Moreno, Gonzalo	GK	1991.	Barcelona	188/18
Rodriguez Lario, Roberto	GK	2000.	Granollers	6/0
Arino Bengoechea, Aitor	LW	1992.	Barcelona	89/156
Barrufet Torrebejano, Ian	LW	2004.	Melsungen	0/0
Fernandez Jimenez, Daniel	LW	2001.	Stuttgart	46/157
Sanchez Migallon Naranjo, Miguel	LW	1995.	Benfica	58/35
Fernandez Perez, Angel	LW	1988.	Torrelavega	129/373
Alvarez Dominguez, Carlos	RW	2003.	Ademar Leon	2/6
Gomez Abello, Aleix	RW	1997.	Barcelona	92/371
Odriozola Yeregui, Kauldi	RW	1997.	Nantes	70/194
Sole Sala, Ferran	RW	1992.	PSG	110/418
Serdio Guntin, Abel	P	1994.	Wisla Plock	51/101
Pecina Tome, Ignacio	P	1988.	Chambery	60/27
Rodriguez Moreno, Javier	P	2002.	Barcelona	14/24
Romero Holguin, Victor	P	2004.	Granollers	2/1
Martinez Lobato, Alvaro	P	1999.	Valladolid	0/0
Guardiola Villaplana, Gedeon	P	1984.	Nava	204/240
Dujshebaev Dovichebaeva, Daniel	LB	1997.	Bl Kielce	97/216
Nevado Gil, Mario	LB	2002.	Nava	0/0
Nieto Marcos, Asier	LB	1997.	Bidasoa	6/14
Garcia Robledo, Antonio	LB	1984.	Granollers	103/205
Casado Marcelo, Agustin	CB	1996.	Telekom Veszprem	57/149
Suarez Diaz, Natan	CB	1998.	Sporting	0/0
Tarrafeta Serrano, Ian	CB	1999.	PAUC	56/131
Castillo Oliveras, Ferran	CB	2004.	Granollers	0/0
Cikusa I Jelicic, Petar	CB	2005.	Barcelona	5/8
Gurri Aregay, Jan	CB	2002.	Sporting	10/12
Nieto Marcos, Gorka	CB	2002.	Bidasoa	0/0
Cikusa I Jelicic, Djordje	RB	2005.	Montpellier	5/12
Diocou Sumare, Mamadou Lamine	RB	2000.	Porto	0/0
Dujshebaev Dovichebaeva, Alex	RB	1992.	Bl Kielce	161/470
Garciandia Alustiza, Imanol	RB	1995.	Pick Szeged	61/154

HEAD COACH

Jordi Ribera

Spain arrives at its 23rd World Championship, having endured an uncharacteristically difficult qualification. Despite their reputation, they were eliminated in the first round of the European Championship in Germany,

STAR PLAYER

Alex Dujshebaev

The Dujshebaev dynasty has reshaped Spanish handball. From Talant's rise as a player and coach in Santander and Ciudad Real to his sons Alex and Dani, both current national team members, the family has left an indelible mark on the sport. Alex, a left-handed player, is particularly vital to Spain's system. The 32-year-old, who plays for Kielce under his father's coaching, is renowned for his shooting, creativity, and ability to step up in crucial moments.

Despite battling injuries, Alex remains irreplaceable for Spain. He has been instrumental in Spain's back-to-back European Championship victories and was named the best right back at the recent World Championship in Sweden and Poland. His versatility and composure make him a cornerstone of Ribera's squad.

STARTING 7 SEVEN

History in the competition

1961: 12th, **1964:** 16th,
1967: 11th, **1970:** 10th,
1974: 12th, **1978:** 12th,
1982: 14th, **1990:** 15th,
1995: 23rd, **1997:** 15th,
2005: 16th, 2011: 16th,
2017: 22nd, **2019:** 24th,
2021: 18th

Medal Tally

ACH '77: Gold

JAPAN

GROUP F

JHL

Japan Sport Olympic
Square 6F, 4-2
Kasumigaoka-machi,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160 0013,
Japan

Japan's Dynamic Rise: Blending Speed with Strategy

Japan is making its 17th appearance at the World Championship. Their best result to date remains a 10th-place finish in 1970 in France. Absent from the previous World Championship, they did participate in the Paris Olympics, where they finished 11th. Although they failed to reach the quarterfinals and did not earn a single point, they ranked above Argentina due to a better goal difference.

Japan secured their place in this World Championship by finishing second at the Asian Championship in Bahrain. They lost 24:30 to Qatar in the final but left notable teams like Bahrain, Kuwait, Korea, and Iran behind in the standings.

Japanese handball has been heavily influenced by European coaching expertise. After six transformative years under Dagur Sigurdsson, who guided them to the Paris Olympics, the team briefly had Carlos Ortega, Barcelona's current coach, at the helm. Now led by Spanish tactician Tony Gerona, a former Serbia national team coach, Japan continues to play a modern, fast-paced game. Sigurdsson's tenure established the foundation for this dynamic style, and Gerona's goal is to lead Japan to a third consecutive Olympic appearance, this time in Los Angeles.

Speed and aggressiveness are the hallmarks of Japan's game, though they can also be their greatest challenge, as maintaining control over such intensity is difficult. Gerona's task will be to balance these traits and refine the team's tactical discipline.

Japan enters the World Championship without two key players: Yatsushira, who was previously the engine of their play, and pivot Yoshida, who plays for French club Nantes. The only player on the roster currently competing outside of Japan is left-handed Tokuda, who plays in Qatar.

JAPAN

GROUP F

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Iwashita, Yuta	GK	1991.	Zeekstar Tokyo	33/1
Kawashima, Go	GK	2001.	Toyota Miyagi	2/0
Nakamura, Takumi	GK	1996.	Toyoda Nagoya	43/1
Okamoto, Daisuke	GK	1995.	Toyota Kariya	16/0
Saka, Motoki	GK	1995.	Osaki Saitama	59/5
Yano, Seito	LW	1999.	Toyoda Nagoya	2/2
Takano, Sota	LW	1998.	Toyota Kariya	39/30
Ishida, Tomoki	LW	2000.	Toyota Miyagi	2/10
Sugioka, Naoki	LW	1994.	Toyota Kariya	74/145
Hanaoka, Hiroto	RW	2001.	Alvamos Osaka	0/0
Motoki, Hiroki	RW	1992.	Zeekstar Tokyo	126/359
Nakata, Kota	RW	1999.	Toyota Saga	2/9
Sakurai, Tomoya	RW	1999.	Toyota Kariya	9/10
Ichihara, Soya	P	1999.	Toyoda Nagoya	2/1
Nakaoki, Nikita	P	2004.	Nippon SSU	0/0
Tamakawa, Hiroyasu	P	1995.	Zeekstar Tokyo	95/89
Tashiro, Shoma	P	2000.	Daido Steel	6/9
Yamaguci, Yuki	P	1997.	Toyoda Nagoya	4/0
Tominaga, Seiya	LB	2000.	Toyota Kariya	13/29
Yamaguchi, Naoki	LB	2000.	Toyota Saga	0/0
Toi, Kaito	LB	1998.	Toyoda Nagoya	4/3
Izumoto, Shin	LB	2002.	Chuo University	21/53
Kobata, Raiki	LB	2001.	Toyota Kariya	0/0
Mizumachi, Kotaro	LB	1995.	Toyoda Nagoya	22/40
Baig, Adam Yuki	LB	1999.	Zeekstar Tokyo	87/205
Yoshino, Tatsuki	LB	1994.	Toyota Kariya	82/276
Fujisaka, Naoki	CB	2002.	Nippon SSU	7/31
Irei, Uta	CB	2001.	Zeekstar Tokyo	2/7
Kani, Daiki	CB	2000.	Daido Steel	14/47
Kitazume, Asumi	CB	1996.	Toyota Kariya	28/25
Arase, Ren	RB	2002.	Osaka	0/0
Ishimine, Shu	RB	2000.	Toyoda Nagoya	2/2
Nakamura, Tsubasa	RB	1999.	Zeekstar Tokyo	4/3
Tokuda, Shinnosuke	RB	1995.	Al Duhail	101/312
Tokuda, Rennosuke	RB	1998.	Alvamos Osaka	24/44

HEAD COACH

Tony Gerona

Japan secured their place in this World Championship by finishing second at the Asian Championship in Bahrain. They lost to Qatar in the final but left teams like Bahrain, Kuwait, Korea, and Iran behind in the standings.

STAR PLAYER

Naoki Fujisaka

In the absence of key players like the excellent playmaker Yatsushira and pivot Yoshida, who were crucial at the Paris Olympics, one player stepping into the spotlight is the dynamic and fiery playmaker, Naoki Fujisaka. Exceptionally fast and incisive, Fujisaka dictates Japan's high-paced game and possesses a dangerous shot, even though tall opposing defenses tend to dominate around him.

At just 22 years old, Fujisaka is still playing domestically for Nippon Club. Fujisaka is a key asset for Japan as they aim to build on their strong performances.

Fujisaka's handball idol is Croatian player Luka Cindrić. Notably, Fujisaka, as one of Japan's youngest players at the Paris Olympics, scored 25 goals, including an impressive 7-goal performance against Spain.

History in the competition

2011: 22nd, **2013:** 23rd,
2015: 23rd, **2017:** 21st,
2019: 16th, **2021:** 27th,
2023: 26th

CHILE

GROUP F

Federacion Chilena de Handball
Ramon Cruz 1176,
Office 505 Nunoa, 7760566
Santiago de Chile, Chile

Chile's Handball Ascent:
A Generation Defining an Era

Chile earned a spot in the 2025 World Championship by clinching bronze at the South and Central America Championship, held in Buenos Aires. They accumulated seven points across five matches, matching second-place Argentina but finishing behind due to goal difference. Brazil claimed the title.

This marks Chile's eighth appearance at the World Championship. Their best performance remains a 16th-place finish in 2019. Chile debuted at the World Championship in 2011 in Sweden and has since been a consistent participant, solidifying their position alongside Brazil and Argentina as leaders of South American handball.

Chile's rise began under Mateo Garralda, a former Spanish national team star, who coached the squad for six years. Following his departure, the team remained under Spanish influence, with legendary pivot Aitor Etxaburu now at the helm. Known for his playing days with Irun's Bidasoa, a former Champions League finalist, Etxaburu has shaped Chile into a physically strong and disciplined team. Key players include Esteban Salinas, a 12-year veteran of the Spanish league; the Feutchmann Erwin and Rodrigo Salinas, a standout left-hander also active in Spain.

This generation, widely considered Chile's best, has left an indelible mark on South American handball. However, the challenge remains to nurture successors to ensure their continued presence on the world stage.

CHILE

GROUP F

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Oliva, Rene	GK	1987.	Ovalle	7/0
Menanteau, Esteban	GK	2003.	Cordillera	0/0
Garcia, Felipe	GK	1993.	Zamora	73/4
Gonzalez, Vicente	GK	1999.	Rubiera	34/0
Latorre, Francisco	GK	2005.	Met Club F	0/0
Arancibia, Diego	LW	1998.	Siebengebirge	0/0
Aedo, Rodrigo	LW	2000.	USAB Santiago	0/0
Calleja, Benjamin	LW	1990.	Aguilas	40/16
Salgado, Danilo	LW	1998.	Pozuelo De Calatrava	0/0
Carrasco, Ronaldo	RW	1997.	Ciudad De Algeciras	0/0
Ahumada, Francisco	RW	2001.	Nava	7/25
Scaramelli, Luciano	RW	2002.	Coversano	0/0
Pavez, Sebastian	RW	1996.	DPV Kutral	0/0
Barrios, Benjamin	P	2003.	Cordillera	0/0
Frelij, Javier	P	1991.	Ovalle	85/108
Ilesca, Benjamin	P	2000.	Galdar Gran Canaria	14/10
Salinas, Esteban	P	1992.	Bidasoa	100/369
Aguilera, Simon	LB	1997.	Galdar Gran Canaria	0/0
Codina, Aaron	LB	1999.	Sassari	23/31
Donoso, Victor	LB	1990.	Topolcany	85/66
Feuchtmann, Erwin	LB	1990.	Fenix Toulouse	93/515
Moreno, Samuel	LB	2004.	Cordillera 7/16	
Sovino, Javier	LB	2004.	Italiano Balonmano	7/29
Delgado, Arian	CB	2001.	Nacional de Maipu	12/12
Flores, Luciano	CB	1994.	Deportivo M.V. De La Victoria	0/0
Paya, Matias	CB	2000.	Sinfin	7/8
Oyarzun, Cristobal	CB	2004.	SantoNa	0/0
Moll, Cristian	CB	1993.	San Juan	50/35
Ayala, Daniel	RB	1995.	Social Union Santiago	54/92
Cabrera, Maximiliano	RB	1999.	Deportes	0/0
Castillo, Fernando	RB	2006.	Ovalle	7/38
Gonzalez, Nicolas	RB	2001.	SantoNa	0/0
Mesias, Joshua	RB	2002.	Karlskrona	0/0
Salinas, Rodrigo	RB	1989.	Bidasoa	122/425
Valenzuela, Emilio	RB	1999.	Bolanos	0/0

HEAD COACH

Aitor Etxaburu

Chile earned a spot in the 2025 World Championship by clinching bronze at the South and Central America Championship, held in Buenos Aires.

STAR PLAYER

Erwin Feutchmann

The Feutchmann family has been central to Chilean handball. Their German surname reflects their roots, with siblings Erwin and Emil still representing Chile, while their brother Harald and sister Inga are retired.

Erwin, the 35-year-old leader of the Chilean team, hails from Punta Arenas. A left back with a rich career, he has played for numerous European clubs, including Puertollano, Aranda, Ademar León, and Toulouse. With a towering 190 cm frame, Erwin has consistently been Chile's top scorer, earning accolades at the 2019 Pan American Championship in Lima and the 2022 South and Central America Championship in Recife. His presence was instrumental in Chile's qualification for the 2025 World Championship.

Arena Zagreb

Capacity: 15.200

The arena was opened specifically for the 2009 Men's Handball World Championship. It also hosted the Women's Euro 2014 and the Men's Euro 2018. It serves as the home court for Zagreb's Champions League matches.

Zagreb is the capital and largest city of Croatia. As the country's capital, it holds a special territorial, administrative, and self-governing status. The wider metropolitan area is home to over a million residents.

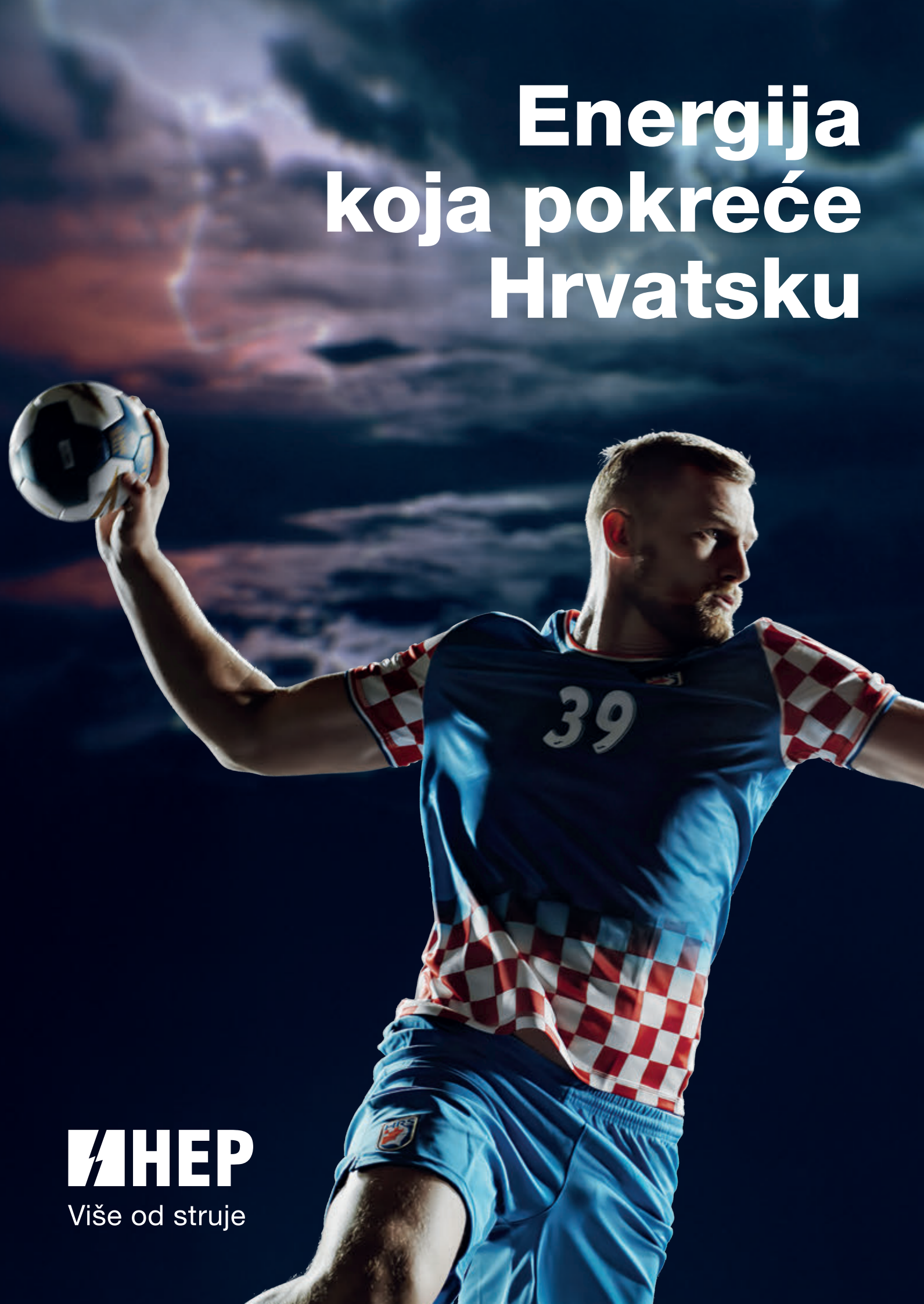
Historically, Zagreb grew from two settlements on neighboring hills, Gradec and Kaptol, which now form the historical center (Upper Town and part of Lower Town). The city is situated on the southwestern edge of the Pannonian Plain, at an average altitude of 122 meters, at the southern slopes of Medvednica, on both the left and right banks of the Sava River. Zagreb's location, where Alpine, Dinaric, Adriatic, and Pannonian regions converge, has made it a bridge between Central Europe and the Adriatic. It is the only capital city in the world that begins with the letter Z.

Alongside Vienna, it is one of the few European capitals with its own wine road, opened in 2009. It is also the only European capital with a ski resort.

As Croatia's largest city, Zagreb is the cultural, scientific, economic, and administrative center of the Republic of Croatia and the surrounding county. It is also the seat of the Archdiocese of Zagreb. Thanks to its role as the country's main transportation hub, its long-standing industrial tradition, and its scientific and research institutions, Zagreb is the most economically developed city in Croatia. Its favorable geographic position places it at the crossroads of routes between Central and Southeastern Europe and the Adriatic Sea.

Zagreb has a temperate continental climate. Summers are hot and dry, with average temperatures of 20°C, while winters are cold, with average temperatures of 1°C. The city's key industries include the production of electrical appliances, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and food. Public transportation in Zagreb includes a network of trams, buses, suburban trains, and taxis, primarily operated by the Zagreb Electric Tram (ZET).

MEN'S EHF EURO 2018 HANDBALL


Energija
koja pokreće
Hrvatsku
39
HEP
Više od struje

2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP G

ZAGREB - CROATIA

SLOVENIA

ICELAND

CUBA

CAPE VERDE

inspired by handball

SLOVENIA

GROUP G

History in the competition

1995: 18th, **2001:** 17th, **2003:** 11th, **2005:** 12th, **2007:** 10th, **2013:** 4th, **2015:** 8th, **2017:** Bronze medal, **2021:** 9th, **2023:** 10th

Medal Tally

WCH '17: Bronze

RZS
ROKOMETNA ZVEZA SLOVENIJE

Rokometna Zveza Slovenije
Leskoskova 9e p.p. 535, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Strength and Strategy: Slovenia's Quest for World Championship Success

Slovenia is making its 11th appearance at the World Championship in men's handball. They placed sixth at the last European Championship in Germany, earning a spot in the playoffs for the 2025 World Championship. In a dramatic two-leg playoff, Slovenia edged out Switzerland. After losing at home (26:27), they claimed a 34:33 victory in the return leg in Winterthur, advancing only after a tense penalty shootout.

Slovenia's greatest achievement came at the 2017 World Championship in France, where they won bronze under coach Veselin Vujović by defeating Croatia in the third-place match. At the last World Championship, they finished 10th, were 6th at the last European Championship, and reached the semifinals at the Paris Olympics, although they missed out on a medal after losing to Spain.

Led by coach Uroš Zorman, now in his third year, Slovenia remains one of Europe's top teams. They have two defining features. First, their game revolves around three standout players who operate at the highest level of global handball: Blaž Janc, Domen Makuc, and Aleks Vlah. This trio adds a unique flair to their style of play. Second, Slovenia performs at its best only when at full strength, which means having their defensive core—Mačkovšek, Blagotišek, and Gaber—fully available. These three, alongside their goalkeepers, form the backbone of Zorman's squad.

Slovenia is a rising team with improving results in recent years. Playing on what will essentially feel like home turf in Zagreb, Croatia, they are expected to enjoy strong support from their fans. In a group that includes Iceland, Slovenia is the top favorite, making their head-to-head clash a pivotal encounter. The critical factor for Slovenia is staying fully fit, as they lack a deep roster, and any missing players significantly impact their performance.

SLOVENIA

GROUP G

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Ferlin, Klemen	GK	1989.	Kielce	84/2
Kastelic, Urh	GK	1996.	Lemgo	58/7
Lesjak, Urban	GK	1990.	Trimo Trebnje	97/0
Vujović, Miljan	GK	2000.	Stuttgart	10/0
Baznik, Jože	GK	1993.	PAUC	22/2
Knavs, Uroš	LW	1996.	Ribnica	0/0
Kodrin, Tilen	LW	1994.	Gummersbach	97/169
Mazej, Tadej	LW	1998.	Celje PL	30/21
Slatinek Jovičić, Staš	LW	2000.	Slovan	36/71
Marguč, Gal	RW	1996.	Nexe	6/24
Novak, Domen	RW	1998.	Wetzlar	50/90
Janc,Blaz	RW	1996.	Barcelona	113/422
Cokan, Tim	RW	2001.	Wisla Plock	7/13
Blagotinšek Blaž	P	1994.	Flensburg Handewitt	146/252
Kavčić, Miha	P	1998.	Vojvodina	3/0
Žabic, Stefan	P	1999.	Slovan	11/6
Suholežnik, Matic	P	1995.	Saran	65/50
Horžen, Kristjan	P	1999.	Gummersbach	54/78
Kavčić, Aleks	LB	1996.	Zagreb	14/23
Henigman, Nik	LB	1995.	Chartres Metropole	84/115
Milićević, Uroš	LB	1999.	Celje PL	4/3
Mačkovšek, Borut	LB	1992.	PICK Szeged	153/402
Mlivić, Tarik	LB	2003.	Slovan	0/0
Malus, Jaka	LB	1996.	Slovan	11/9
Vlah,Aleks	LB	1997.	Aalborg	56/234
Tajnik, Domen	CB	2000.	Eurofarm Pelister	4/3
Zarabec, Miha	CB	1991.	Wisla Plock	114/236
Ovniček, Rok	CB	1995.	Nantes	53/68
Makuc, Domen	CB	2000.	Barcelona	24/66
Bombač Dean	CB	1989.	Györ ETO-UNI	140/302
Janc,Mitja	CB	2003.	Wisla Plock	3/1
Cehte, Nejc	RB	1992.	Eurofarm Pelister	79/142
Dolenec, Jure	RB	1988.	Nexe	206/716
Grošelj, Matic	RB	1997.	Chartres Metropole	15/19
Kljun, Tadej	RB	2001.	Füredi	9/13

HEAD COACH

Uroš Zorman

Slovenia is a rising team with improving results in recent years. Playing on what will essentially feel like home turf in Zagreb, Croatia, they are expected to enjoy strong support from their fans.

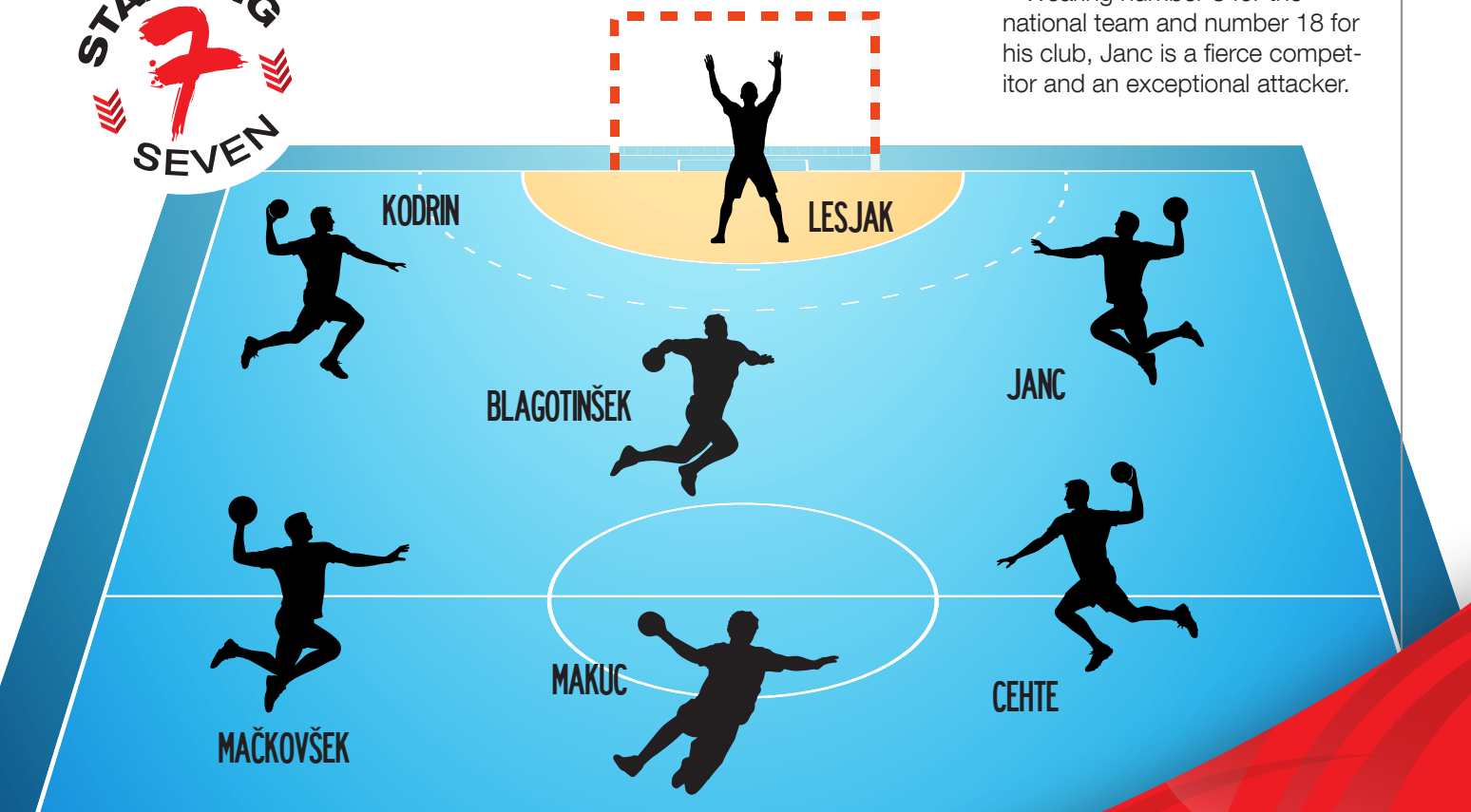
STAR PLAYER

Blaž Janc

The 28-year-old Blaž Janc, born in Brežice on the Slovenian-Croatian border, is currently Slovenia's biggest handball star. He started his career in Sevnica, progressed to powerhouse Celje, continued in Kielce, and now plays for Barcelona, where he has won three Champions League titles. Janc was part of the bronze-winning team at the 2017 World Championship in France. At the recent Paris Olympics, he was named the tournament's best right wing, and in 2020, he was awarded the same honor at the European Championship. Janc played in his first Olympics in Rio de Janeiro before turning 20. Now in his 14th Champions League season, he holds a personal record of 77 goals from his days at Celje.

Wearing number 8 for the national team and number 18 for his club, Janc is a fierce competitor and an exceptional attacker.

STARTING 7 SEVEN



ICELAND

GROUP E

History in the competition

1958: 10th, **1961:** 6th,
1964: 9th, **1970:** 11th,
1974: 14th, **1978:** 13th,
1986: 6th, **1990:** 10th,
1993: 8th, **1995:** 14th,
1997: 5th, **2001:** 11th,
2003: 7th, **2005:** 15th,
2007: 8th, **2011:** 6th,
2013: 12th, **2015:** 11th,
2017: 14th, **2019:** 11th,
2021: 20th, **2023:** 12th

Medal Tally

EC '10:	Bronze
OG '08:	Silver

Icelandic Handball Federation
Engjavegur 6,
104 Reykjavik, Iceland

A New Era for Iceland: Talent and Tradition in 2025

Iceland qualified for the World Championship with a commanding playoff victory over Estonia. They dominated both matches, winning the first leg 50:25 in Reykjavik and the second 37:24 in Tallinn. This will be their 23rd World Championship appearance, with their debut dating back to 1958 in East Germany. Their best result remains a fifth-place finish in Japan in 1997. They did not qualify for the Paris Olympics and are currently ranked 12th globally and 10th in Europe.

Iceland's greatest successes came under Gudmundur Gudmundsson, who led them to an Olympic silver medal in Beijing and a bronze medal at the European Championship in Austria two years later. Iceland's longevity as a top handball nation is remarkable given the country's small size and limited resources. Their enduring presence at the highest level is a testament to a well-developed and continuously innovative system.

Now coached by former playmaker Snorri Gudjonsson, this will be his first World Championship as head coach. He debuted with a 10th-place finish at the European Championship in Germany.

Iceland's game is characterized by speed, but not in the typical Scandinavian style. Their approach also emphasizes control and strong defense. With Gudmundsson's departure, they are forming a new team, largely composed of players from the world's top leagues. Key figures include goalkeeper Viktor Hallgrimsson, wings Gudjonsson and Ellisson, and backcourt players like Gisli Kristjansson, Aron Pálmarsson, Viggo Sigurdsson. This combination of talent ensures that Iceland remains a dangerous opponent in any tournament.

ICELAND

GROUP E

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Gustavsson, Björgvin Pall	GK	1985.	Valur	273/24
Hallgrimsson, Viktor Gisli	GK	2000.	Wisla Plock	60/1
Steinsson, Isak	GK	2005.	Drammen	0/0
Björgvinsson, Agust Eli	GK	1995.	Ribe Esbjerg	52/3
Andresson, Daniel Freyr	GK	1989.	Hafnarfjardur	2/0
Elisson, Bjarki Mar	LW	1990.	Telekom Veszprem	118/401
Gautason, Dagur	LW	2000.	Arendal	0/0
Valencia, Stiven Tobar	LW	2000.	Benfica	17/18
Thorkelsson, Orri Freyr	LW	1999.	Sporting	16/41
Rikhardsson,Odinn Thor	RW	1997.	Schaffhausen	42/130
Gudjonsson, Sigvaldi Björn	RW	1994.	Kolstad	76/214
Birgisson, Birgir Mar	RW	1998.	Hafnarfjardu	0/0
Arnarsson, Arnar Freyr	P	1996.	Melsungen	100/101
Gislason, Ymir Örn	P	1997.	Göppingen	92/36
Johannsson, Sveinn	P	1999.	Kolstad	14/24
Gislason, Tjörvi Tyr	P	2000.	Bergischer	0/0
Vidarsson, Ellidi Snaer	P	1998.	Gummersbach	50/109
Gunnarsson, Thorsteinn Leo	LB	2002.	Porto	5/10
Ingasson, Daniel Thor	LB	1995.	Balingen-Weilstetten	39/11
Olafsson, Einar Thorstein	LB	2001.	Fredericia	14/5
Palmarsson, Aron	LB	1990.	Telekom Veszprem	177/674
Runarsson, Andri Mar	LB	2002.	Leipzig	2/0
Stefansson, Reynir Thor	LB	2005.	Fram	0/0
Asgeirsson, Elvar	LB	1994.	Ribe Esbjerg	21/24
Smarason, Janus Dadi	CB	1995.	PICK Szeged	86/146
Thrastarson, Haukur	CB	2001.	Dinamo Bucuresti	35/50
Oskarsson, Benedikt Gunnar	CB	2002.	Kolstad	3/0
Jonsson, Elvar Örn	CB	1997.	Melsungen	79/183
Kristjansson, Gisli Thorgeir	CB	1999.	Magdeburg	62/139
Andrason, Johannes Berg	RB	2003.	Hafnarfjardur	0/0
Einarsson, Teitur Örn	RB	1998.	Gummersbach	36/36
Kristjansson, Viggo	RB	1993.	Leipzig	59/165
Kristjansson, Kristjan Örn	RB	1997.	Skanderborg	33/61
Magnusson, Omar Ingi	RB	1997.	Magdeburg	88/317
Oskarsson, Arnor Snaer	RB	2000.	Kolstad	2/0

HEAD COACH

Snorri Gudjonsson

Iceland's game is characterized by speed, but not in the typical Scandinavian style. Their approach also emphasizes control and strong defense.

STAR PLAYER

Gisli Kristjansson

Gisli Kristjansson, a 25-year-old from Reykjavik, is Iceland's biggest star and a key player for Germany's Magdeburg. The son of former Icelandic handball great Kristjan Arason and Iceland's Minister of Education, Katrin Gunnarsdottir, Kristjansson began his career in Hafnarfjordur, spent two years with Kiel, and joined Magdeburg in 2020. With Magdeburg, he reached the European summit, earning MVP honors at the final tournament. He debuted for the national team before turning 18.

Kristjansson has won the Super Globe twice with Magdeburg, was named the best player in the German Bundesliga in 2022/23, and has already collected three Bundesliga titles, two European League championships, and a Champions League trophy. In 2023, he was named Iceland's Sportsman of the Year.

History in the competition

1982: 13th, **1986:** 15th,
1990: 14th, **1995:** 13th,
1997: 14th, **1999:** 8th,
2009: 20th

Medal Tally

CA&C Championship '24:	Gold
IHF ENC '19:	Gold
CA&C Games '18:	Gold
CA&C Championship '18:	Gold
Pan American Champ. '98:	Gold
Pan American Champ. '96:	Gold
Pan American Champ. '94:	Gold
Pan American Champ. '89:	Gold
Pan American Champ.'85:	Gold
Pan American Champ. '83:	Gold
Pan American Champ. '81:	Gold
Pan American Champ. '80:	Gold

CUBA

GROUP F

Federación Cubana de Balonmano
Via Blanca 12458 e/ Ave Boyeros y Primelles. Cerro, Ciudad Deportiva (Coliseo) INDER Nivel Central, Domicilio postal 10 600 La Habana, Cuba

Cuba's Handball Comeback: Returning to the World Stage After 16 Year

Cuba is a country with a rich handball tradition, having produced many exceptional players who have achieved great success in Europe. Among them, legendary shooter Julian Duranona still holds the record for the most appearances (270) in the national jersey and later represented Iceland. Rolando Urios Fonseca, a brilliant pivot, went on to play for Spain, while Carlo Perez and Ivo Diaz represented Hungary. The late goalkeeper Vladimir Rivero also played for Spain, while Frankis Carol and Rafael Capote now represent Qatar.

Cuba is the champion of North America and the Caribbean, earning a spot in the 2025 World Championship. They won the tournament held in Mexico with a perfect record of six victories, culminating in a dominant 36:21 win over Mexico in the final.

This marks Cuba's eighth participation in the World Championship, returning after a 16-year absence since their last appearance in 2009, which was also held in Croatia. Their best result came in 1999 in Egypt, where they placed 8th, with Rolando Urios leading the scoring charts with 57 goals. Cuba has also competed in the Olympics twice, in Moscow '80 and Sydney '00.

The team is led by 40-year-old coach Jover Jorge Hernandez Miranda. Their biggest challenge is assembling the full squad, which often determines their competitiveness on the world stage. This makes it difficult to predict how well they will fare against group favorites Iceland and Slovenia. Cuba's core players are based in Europe. For example, shooters Hanser Rodriguez, Angel Rivero, and Ronaldo Almeida play for Vardar (Macedonia), La Rioja (Spain), and Ivry (France), respectively. Left wing Frank Cordies represents Spain's Huesca, goalkeepers Adan Martinez plays in Croatia (Čakovec), while the 202 cm tall and physically imposing Magnol Suarez guards the net for Mallorca in Spain. Pivot Eduardo Valiente competes for Spain's Romo. Cuba consistently produces outstanding handball talents, but their performance heavily depends on the composition of their roster.

CUBA

GROUP F

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Negret Semanat, Esniel	GK	2003.	Santiago de Cuba	0/0
Calzado Martinez, Adan Armando	GK	1998.	Čakovec	15/3
Diaz Gonzalez, Edmanuel	GK	2001.	Matanzas	15/2
Suarez Fis, Magnol	GK	1994.	Mallorca	32/6
Vazquez Laballi, Maiko Antono	LW	2003.	Sporting	20/61
Quinones Herrera, Michael Ernesto	LW	1997.	Artemisa	0/0
Rodriguez Rodriguez, Hanser Michel	LW	2000.	Vardar	36/74
Cordies Castillo, Frank Enrique	LW	2000.	Huesca	27/105
Freddy, Lafontan Alvarez	LW	2005.	Porto	5/5
Garcia Rivera, Dariel	LW	1996.	Bidasoa	21/36
Gonzales Gonzales, Reylan	LW	2004.	Avanca/Bioria	0/0
Dawnking Sandoval, Victor	RW	2001.	Maritimo da Madeira	10/21
Miniet Perez, Osmani	RW	2006.	Artemisa	0/0
Valiente Sarria, Eduardo Rayner	P	1991.	Eskubaloia 2	0/31
Ramos Madrigal, Claudio Leandro	P	1998.	Puente Genil	15/38
Hechavarria Vilchies, Josue Antonio	P	2005.	La Habana	0/0
Hernandez Brito, Omar Lazaro	P	2005.	La Habana	0/0
Luis Guerra, Jorge Abraham	P	2005.	Avanca/Bioria	0/0
Imeida Duquezne, Ronaldo Hiriam	LB	2002.	Ivry	35/85
Rivero Noris, Angel Jesus	LB	1992.	Logrono	32/120
Mora Castillo, Lisvan	CB	2002.	Villa Clara	10/17
Cordies Castillo, Samuel Alejandro	CB	2002.	Huesca	25/77
Martinez Selles, Christopher Jesus	CB	2000.	Braga	15/28
Garcia Abreu, Adonis Jesus	RB	1993.	Ciudad Real	33/66
Quintero Moreno, Francisco	RB	2000.	Pinar del Rio	0/0

HEAD COACH

Martinez Cuesta

Cuba is the champion of North America and the Caribbean, earning a spot in the 2025 World Championship. They won the tournament held in Mexico with a perfect record of six victories

STAR PLAYER

Hanser Miguel Rodriguez

Hanser Miguel Rodriguez, a 24-year-old left back or wing from Havana, is the leader of this Cuban team. He currently plays for Macedonian powerhouse Vardar. At the last IHF Emerging Nations Championship held in Bulgaria, Rodriguez was named MVP after Cuba won gold. Scoring 27 goals, he was Cuba's top scorer in the tournament. Rodriguez arrived in Europe at 18, beginning his career in Portugal with Sporting, where he debuted in European competitions, followed by stints with Braga and Portimonense.

Standing at 191 cm, Rodriguez is known for his explosive athleticism and represents the continuation of Cuba's tradition of producing powerful players. This season, he has been showcasing his skills with Vardar in the European League.

STARTING 7 SEVEN

CAPE VERDE

GROUP F

History in the competition

2021: 32nd, **2023:** 23rd

Federaçao Caboverdiana de Andebol
Pavilhão Desportivo
Vavá Duarte, B.P. 411 A,
Praia, Santiago,
Republic of Cape Verde

Cape Verde's Handball Rise: A New Force in Africa

Cape Verde's handball team is the fourth-best in Africa. At the last African Championship in Egypt, they reached the semifinals but missed out on a medal. They lost to Algeria in the semis (26:32) and to Tunisia in the bronze-medal match (28:35). However, their fourth-place finish was enough to secure qualification for their third consecutive World Championship. In 2023, they achieved their best result, finishing 23rd globally, improving upon their 32nd-place debut in 2021 in Egypt, where they were forced to withdraw due to COVID-19. Their silver medal from the 2022 African Championship, where they lost to Egypt in the final, remains their greatest achievement in handball history.

The mastermind behind these achievements is Serbian coach Ljubomir Obradović, who has led the team since 2021. Obradović, an experienced coach with a storied career in Serbia, Montenegro, and Portugal, took over a national team that had never competed on the global stage. Drawing from players competing in Europe and complementing them with domestic talent, Obradović built a team that has become a rising force in African handball. Cape Verde caught global attention at the last World Championship by defeating Uruguay and advancing to the second round. The new coach is Jorge Rito.

Cape Verde's top players hail from strong Portuguese clubs. Notably, pivot Paolo Moreno, named Africa's best circle runner, plays for Benfica, where teammate Leandro Semedo also shines. Left wing Gil Pina represents Belenenses, while pivot Bruno Landim plays for Vitória, and right back Marcelino Andrade competes for Varzim. This team comprises players who grew up in a European handball environment, giving them an edge on the international stage.

CAPE VERDE

GROUP F

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Goncalves, Edmilson	GK	1993.	Boa Hora	13/1
Fernandes, Elcio	GK	1996.	Burgos	16/0
Fernandes, Bruno Miguel	GK	2001.	Independente Torrense	3/0
Fonseca, Edmar	GK	2004.	Sao Domingos	0/0
Correia, Gilson	LW	1995.	Diekirch	13/1
Pereira, Alexandre	LW	1994.	Belenenses	20/2
Spinola, Cristiam	LW	2004.	Fruto Girassol da Varzea	0/0
Varela, Malvino	RW	2003.	Graciosa de Tarrafal	0/0
Furtado, Admilson Estaliny	RW	1995.	Iknattspyrnufelagid Hördur	22/18
Graca, Vagner	P	2001.	Fruto Girassol da Varzea	0/0
Moreno, Paulo	P	1992.	Chartres	10/28
Santos, Ivo	P	1992.	Bergischer	28/1
Araujo, Edmilson	LB	1994.	Istres	6/12
Fortes, Luis	LB	2006.	Sao Domingos	0/0
Rocha, Anderson	LB	1999.	Camerano	0/0
Pina, Delcio	LB	1992.	Madeira	40/31
Furtado, Gualther	CB	1995.	Cisne	31/21
Semedo, Leandro	CB	1994.	Kuwait Sporting Club	47/19
Sousa, Isaias	CB	2003.	Associacao Asa Stars	0/0
Garcia Ribeiro, Edmilson	RB	1998.	Avanca/Bioria	0/0
Landim, Bruno	RB	1993.	Al-Taraji	24/24
Ramos Rocha, Hafsteinn	RB	2000.	Throttafelagid Grotta	0/0
Andrade, Rafael	RB	1996.	Vitoria	34/0

HEAD COACH

Jorge Rito

Cape Verde's handball team is the fourth-best in Africa. At the last African Championship in Egypt, they reached the semifinals but missed out on a medal.

STAR PLAYER

Leandro Semedo

Leandro Semedo Elias Borges Silva, a 29-year-old from Praia, is Cape Verde's standout player. In 2014, at age 20, he moved to Portugal, spending six years with Porto before stints in Spain with Anaitasuna and Ademar León. He returned to Portugal in 2022, joining Benfica, and now plays for Kuwait SC.

Semedo, a left back known for his exceptional jumping ability, stands out despite being only 192 cm tall for his position. He debuted for the national team in 2021 against Hungary. Remarkably, that was Cape Verde's only match in that tournament, as they withdrew due to COVID-19. Semedo gained attention for his strong criticism of the IHF's handling of the situation.

At the 2022 African Championship, where Cape Verde won silver, Semedo was named the best center back.

CROATIA

Ivan Martinović

01 After the last World Championship in Sweden, Croatia got a new coach and is undergoing a generational shift, with your generation, which was second in the world at the youth level, coming to the forefront. Are you satisfied with how this is developing, and were you satisfied with your performance at the Paris Olympics?

Yes, of course, I'm satisfied. I think we have a particularly good mix of young players who are hungry and eager to show what they can do and experienced players who have a lot of experience and are among the best in the world. Right now, we are all playing in top clubs where each player gets significant playing time. Now is the time to find that rhythm and quality of handball we showed in Hannover during the Olympic qualifiers with the new coach. Regarding the Olympics, I'm partly satisfied because we qualified, but I'm also disappointed because we didn't make it out of the group stage or achieve better results. We had much higher expectations. As for my performance, I think there's always room for improvement.

02 How much do public expectations and the fact that Croatia hasn't won a World Championship medal since 2013 in Spain weigh on and pressure you?

That's simply part of sports, and I think you can't achieve good results without pressure. I try to channel that sporting pressure into positive energy and enjoy what I do.

07 Choose your all-time favorite world handball starting seven.

- Goalkeeper: Niklas Landin
- Right Wing: Hans Lindberg
- Right Back: Dika Mem
- Center Back: Ivano Balić
- Left Back: Domagoj Duvnjak
- Left Wing: Uwe Gensheimer
- Pivot: Igor Vori

03 How demanding is the handball schedule year after year? Last year included the Olympics on top of everything, which is a lot of games and not easy to endure.

Every player in the German Bundesliga knows it's not easy to endure an entire season. This is now my seventh season in Germany, so I know what to expect. You need to take full advantage of club resources like physiotherapists, treatments, nutrition plans, and personalized programs for your body.

04 Which teams do you see as potential surprises at the 2025 World Championship?

I would say Portugal or Norway. I think they have very high-quality players who play fast and modern handball. Most of them play in the same clubs, so they know each other well and can use that to their advantage at the World Championship.

05 The new Olympic cycle leading up to the Los Angeles Games has begun. How do you see handball developing in this period?

Los Angeles is still far away, but I think handball will continue to develop globally. We've already seen in the qualifiers for the European Championship that there are no more easy matches and that you need to take every opponent seriously.

06 Please comment on your group and potential opponents in the second round of the World Championship. How do you see the outcomes in the other three parts of the draw?

I think it's a very serious group, and the first match against Bahrain is crucial for building confidence. Recently, we played Argentina in Oslo and won 20:19. We know what to expect from them, and I'm confident our coach will prepare us very well for that match. Our third match is against Egypt, and we have unfinished business with them from the last World Championship. I believe that will be a big motivation for us to finish first in the group this time. In the second round, we'll likely face Slovenia and Iceland. We want to show that we are the better team, especially in front of our home crowd.

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2025 29th IHF MEN'S HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP H

ZAGREB - CROATIA

EGYPT

CROATIA

ARGENTINA

BAHREIN

inspired by handball

History in the competition

1964: 15th, **1993:** 12th,
1995: 6th, **1997:** 6th,
1999: 7th, **2001:** 4th,
2003: 15th, **2005:** 14th,
2007: 17th, **2009:** 14th,
2011: 14th, **2013:** 16th,
2015: 14th, **2017:** 13th,
2019: 8th, **2021:** 7th,
2023: 7th

Medal Tally

AC '24:	Gold
AG '23:	Gold
AC '22:	Gold
AC '20:	Gold
AC '16:	Gold
AG '15:	Gold
AG '11:	Gold
AC '08:	Gold
AG '07:	Gold
AC '04:	Gold
AG '03:	Gold
AC '00:	Gold
AG '95:	Gold
AC '92:	Gold
AG '91:	Gold
AC '91:	Gold
AG '65:	Gold

EGYPT

GROUP H

Egyptian Handball Federation
El Estade El Bahary St.,
Nasr City, 11411 Cairo, Egypt

From African Supremacy to World Ambitions: Egypt's 2025 Campaign

Egypt is the reigning champion of Africa and, as such, secured its place in the 2025 World Championship. The tournament, where they clinched gold, was held in Egypt, with the host team winning all six matches. In the final, they comfortably defeated Algeria 29:21.

This marks Egypt's 18th appearance in the World Championship. Their best achievement came in 2001 when they finished fourth in France, becoming the first African team to reach the semifinals. They came close to a world medal again at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, finishing fourth. Egypt has been crowned African champions nine times and has won the African Games eight times.

With Serbian coach Zoran Živković, Egypt achieved its greatest World Championship result. Under Croatian coach Irfan Smajlagić, they competed in the Beijing Olympics. The era of Spanish coaches began with David Davis and Roberto García Parrondo and now continues with Juan Carlos Pastor, who led Spain to the 2005 World Championship title.

This is an extremely powerful and strong team, ranked 7th in the last World Championship and 5th in the recent Paris Olympics. Egypt's strength lies in its mix of domestic stars from clubs like Al Ahly (coached by Danish tactician Madsen and featuring players like El Masry, Adel, and Abdou) and Zamalek (with El Wakil, Yosri, and Tarek) and elite players in top European clubs. Among them are the brilliant shooters Yahia Omar (PSG) and Ahmed Hesham (Montpellier), winger Mohammad Sanad (Nîmes), and Yehia Elderaa (Veszprém). Goalkeeper Abdelrahman Aly shines in Benfica, while Ali Zein has had spells with Barcelona and Bucharest. This is a well-constructed team, following the Spanish system that has brought them recent success.

EGYPT

GROUP H

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Homayed, Abdelrahman	GK	2000.	Al Ahli	7/0
Ibrahim, Mohamed	GK	1992.	Al Ahli	0/0
Hendawy, Karim	GK	1998.	Zamalek	181/2
Eltayar, Mohamed	GK	1996.	HSV Hamburg	59/1
Aly, Mohamed	GK	1992.	Sporting	21/0
Elwakil, Omar	LW	1988.	Zamalek	230/315
Masoud, Belal	LW	2004.	Al Ahli	0/0
Nafea, Ahmed	LW	1997.	Vojvodina	5/32
Reda, Mazen	LW	2001.	Zamalek	3/2
Lashin, Mohamed	RB	2001.	Al Ahli	0/0
Yousri, Akram	RW	1994.	Zamalek	54/152
Emad, Mohamed	RW	2004.	Talaea Geish Club	0/0
Hassan, Omar	RW	1998.	Al Ahli	0/0
Sanad, Mohammad	RW	1991.	USAM Nimes	177/430
Adel, Ahmed	P	1994.	Al Ahli	33/53
Sherif, Omar	P	2002.	Al Ahli	0/0
Taghian, Ahmed	P	2004.	Talaea Geish Club	0/0
Tarek, Mohamed	P	2002.	Zamalek	6/2
Walid, Khaled	P	1998.	Besiktas	6/2
Abdelwahed, Yasser	P	2000.	Al Ahli	0/0
Elmasry, Ibrahim	P	1989.	Al Ahli	274/84
Abdou, Abdelrahman	LB	1996.	Al Ahli	21/25
Hesham, Ahmed	LB	2000.	Montpellier	64/94
Magdy, Mohamed	LB	1999.	Al Ahli	11/3
Sherif, Nabil	LB	2001.	Al Ahli Club	0/0
Zein, Al	LB	1990.	CS Dinamo Bucuresti	316/480
Khairi, Ahmed	CB	1994.	Al Ahli	20/21
Sameh, Ahmed	CB	2002.	Zamalek	0/0
Hany, Seif	CB	2000.	Al Ahli	0/0
Hashad, Ziad	CB	2004.	Zamalek	0/0
Elderaa, Seif	CB	1998.	Limoges	64/113
Abdelhak, Mohab	RB	2003.	USAM Nimes	40/49
Mahmud, Gamal	RB	2000.	Al Noor Saudi	11/35
Omar, Yahia	RB	1997.	Paris Saint-Germain	68/252
Ramadan, Mohsen	RB	1998.	Al Ahli	46/88

HEAD COACH

Juan Carlos Pastor

Egypt is the reigning champion of Africa and, as such, secured its place in the 2025 World Championship. The tournament, where they clinched gold, was held in Egypt.

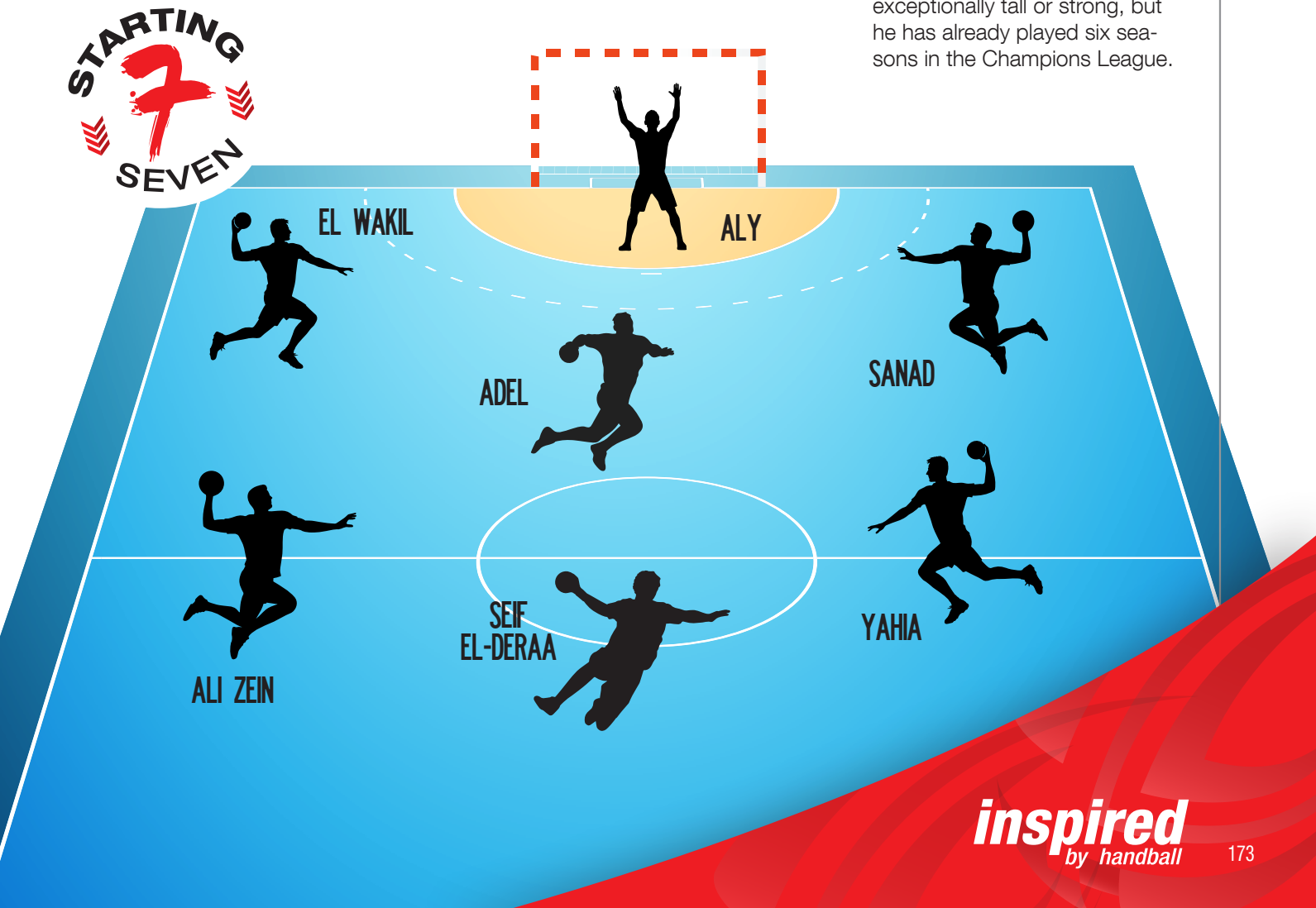
STAR PLAYER

Yahia Omar

The outstanding left-hander, wearing jersey number 5, was born 27 years ago in Giza, renowned for its pyramids. He started his journey with Gezira and later reached new heights with Zamalek in Cairo. Six years ago, he moved to Europe, excelling with Veszprém in Hungary, and this season joined the French powerhouse PSG.

Agile, quick, and possessing a powerful shot, Omar is the successor to Ahmed El-Ahmar, Egypt's greatest handball player. He was named the best right back in Africa and MVP of the most recent African Championship, where Egypt won gold. He also claimed the title of best right back at the Tokyo Olympics.

Standing at 195 cm, Yahia isn't exceptionally tall or strong, but he has already played six seasons in the Champions League.



CROATIA

GROUP H

History in the competition

1995: 2nd, **1997:** 13th,
1999: 10th, **2001:** 9th,
2003: Winners,
2005: Silver medal,
2007: 7th, **2009:** Silver medal,
2011: 5th,
2013: Bronze medal,
2015: 6th, **2017:** 4th,
2019: 6th, **2021:** 15th,
2023: 9th

Medal Tally

EC '20:	Silver
EC '16:	Bronze
WCH '13:	Bronze
OG '12:	Bronze
EC '12:	Bronze
EC '10:	Silver
WCH '09:	Silver
EC '08:	Silver
WCH '05:	Silver
OG '04:	Gold
WCH '03:	Gold
OG '96:	Gold
WCH '95:	Silver
EC '94:	Bronze

HRVATSKI RUKOMETNI SAVEZ
CROATIAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

Croatian Handball Federation
Metalčeva 5,
10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Croatia's Handball Heritage: Hosting Glory in 2025

Since its independence, the team has participated in every European and World Championship to date. This marks their 16th appearance in the World Championship, with their greatest success coming in 2003 in Portugal. That year, under the guidance of Lino Červar and a golden generation of players including Balić, Metličić, Lacković, Džomba, Kaleb, Dominiković, Vori, Šola, and Losert, Croatia won the world title. Alongside their two Olympic golds from Atlanta '96 and Athens '04, this stands as the pinnacle of Croatian handball history.

Croatia's last medal was won at the 2020 European Championship in Sweden, where they secured silver. Since then, they have been absent from the podium.

Following the conclusion of the previous European Championship, Icelandic coach Dagur Sigurdsson replaced Goran Perkovac as head coach. Sigurdsson, who led Germany to the European Championship title in 2016, had spent many years coaching in Japan before taking the helm of Croatia. He made an excellent start in the Paris Olympics qualifiers but fell short of the ultimate goal. This World Championship, hosted on home soil, presents a significant challenge.

Young players are gradually maturing and stepping into key roles in the national team. This process, while necessary, has been accompanied by growing pains. To ease the transition, the team relies on experienced veterans, led by long-time captain Domagoj Duvnjak. One critical area yet to be solidified is defense, traditionally Croatia's strongest asset. The departures of defensive stalwarts Jakov Gojun and Željko Musa have left gaps that need addressing. Sigurdsson has a talented squad at his disposal, including an exceptional young goalkeeping duo in Kuzmanović and Mandić, attacking stars like Ivan Martinović and Mario Šoštarić, and a playmaking maestro in Luka Cindrić, who represents Veszprém, one of Europe's top handball clubs. Translating this potential into results will be the ultimate test for Sigurdsson and his team.

CROATIA

GROUP H

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Kuzmanović, Dominik	GK	2002.	Gummersbach	28/1
Mandić, Matej	GK	2002.	Zagreb	30/0
Meštrić, Sandro	GK	1996.	Kielce	1/0
Pešić, Ivan	GK	1989.	Nantes	66/1
Špikić, Matija	GK	1996.	Eisenach	0/0
Mandić, David	LW	1997.	Melsungen	57/141
Jelinić, Marin	LW	1996.	PICK Szeged	40/102
Mihić, Lovro	LW	1994.	Wisla Plock	69/102
Mileta, Fran	RW	2000.	Vojvodina	7/7
Turčić, Filip	RW	1998.	Sesvete	0/0
Šoštarić, Mario	RW	1992.	PICK Szeged	27/110
Glavaš, Filip	RW	1997.	Zagreb	42/133
Grahovac, Nikola	P	1998.	Telekom Veszprem	22/10
Šušnja, Leon	P	1993.	Wisla Plock	23/22
Šimić, Josip	P	2000.	Potsdam	0/0
Šipić, Marin	P	1996.	Kriens-Luzern	77/143
Načinović, Veron	P	2000.	Montpellier	38/84
Pribetić, Gianfranco	P	2000.	Stuttgart	4/3
Jaganjac, Halil	LB	1998.	RN Löwen	36/75
Lučin, Tin	CB	1999.	Nexe	39/96
Mamić, Marko	LB	1994.	Leipzig	89/123
Češko, Diano	LB	2004.	Izviđač	0/0
Šarac, Josip	LB	1998.	Göppingen	39/42
Srna, Zvonimir	LB	1998.	Zagreb	35/83
Moslavac, Luka	LB	1998.	Nexe	0/0
Karačić, Igor	CB	1988.	Kielce	124/303
Cindrić, Luka	CB	1993.	Telekom Veszprem	119/339
Duvnjak, Domagoj	CB	1988.	THW Kiel	263/785
Pavlović, Ivano	CB	2003.	Zagreb	1 /1
Vistorop, Filip	CB	1998.	Eisenach	7/11
Gavrić, Davor	CB	2000.	Zagreb	0/0
Klarica, Luka Lovre	RB	2001.	Zagreb	33/78
Maraš, Mateo	RB	2000.	Tatabanya	27/40
Martinović, Patrik	RB	2000.	Kadetten Schaffhausen	0/0
Martinović, Ivan	RB	1998.	RN Löwen	51/233

HEAD COACH

Dagur Sigurdsson

Croatia is one of the host nations of the World Championship, automatically qualifying for the tournament. Croatia remains one of the most successful national teams globally in recent years.

STAR PLAYER

Ivan Martinović

Ivan Martinović is one of Croatia's biggest strengths, a right back who was named MVP of the 2019 Junior World Championship, where Croatia secured a silver medal.

Born in Vienna, Martinović began his career with Fivers, a local club, at age 15. After three years, he moved to Germany to compete in the Bundesliga, widely regarded as the world's strongest league. His first stop was a year with Gummersbach, followed by three years in Hannover and two years in Melsungen. This season, he joined Rhein-Neckar Löwen.

Martinović debuted for Croatia in 2019 during a friendly match against Germany in Hannover-Martinović is a leader of the new generation of Croatian handball players, a group eagerly awaiting a breakthrough on the global stage. His speed and ability to score goals with ease are truly impressive.

ARGENTINA

GROUP H

History in the competition

1997: 22nd, **1999:** 21st,
2001: 15th, **2003:** 17th,
2005: 18th, **2007:** 16th,
2009: 18th, **2011:** 12th,
2013: 18th, **2015:** 12th,
2017: 18th, **2019:** 17th,
2021: 11th, **2023:** 19th

Medal Tally

PAN AG '23:	Gold
SAG '22:	Gold
S&CAC '20:	Gold
PAN AG '19:	Gold
PAN AC '18:	Gold
PAN AC '14:	Gold
PAN AC '12:	Gold
PAN AC '10:	Gold
SAG '06:	Gold
PAN AC '04:	Gold
PAN AC '02:	Gold
SAG '02:	Gold
PAN AC '00:	Gold

CAH
HANDBALL
ARGENTINA

Confederacion Argentina de Handball
Av. Miguel B. Sanchez
1050, 1428 Buenos Aires,
Argentina

New Era, Same Spirit: Argentina's Quest for Success in 2025

Argentina is the second-strongest team in South America after Brazil and enters the World Championship in that capacity. This marks their 15th consecutive appearance in the tournament since their debut in Japan in 1997.

Argentina has consistently been a part of the international stage, including the Olympic Games, where they first competed in London in 2012. Currently ranked 19th globally based on their last championship finish, they placed 12th in the most recent Olympic Games. Their best result in the World Championship came in 2021, when they finished 11th in Egypt. One of their most memorable moments was a victory over Croatia at the 2003 World Championship in Portugal, the same tournament Croatia went on to win.

Legendary pivot Gonzalo Carou holds the record for most appearances with 204 matches, while right back Federico Pizarro is the all-time leading scorer with 610 goals. After the Paris Olympics, Guillermo Milano was replaced as head coach by Rodolfo Jung, signaling a new era for the team.

Despite this change, Argentina continues to rely on experienced players like 37-year-old Pizarro, goalkeeper Leonel Maciel, playmaker Diego Simonet, and left wing Federico Fernández, all of whom remain key contributors despite being over 35. The emergence of younger talents such as middle backs Bono and Cami, right back Moyano, and left back Parker offers hope for the future. Argentina has also been investing in youth development under Jung's leadership, ensuring a steady pipeline of talent. Diego Simonet's performance is questionable.

The primary goal for Argentina in this World Championship is to advance to the second round, a task made challenging by their inclusion in a group with Egypt and Croatia. Although the team's age may pose difficulties in a long tournament, Argentina is capable of upsetting any opponent in a single match.

ARGENTINA

GROUP H

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Maciel, Leonel Carlos Sergio	GK	1989.	Bidasoa	140/17
Forlino, Couly Agustin	GK	1997.	Zamora	12/2
Mendieta, Tomas Lautaro	GK	1998.	Alicante	2/0
Giovanola, Santiago Agustin	GK	1999.	Ciudad Real	2/0
Vazquez, Palmieri Fausto	GK	2001.	Carril Oeste	0/0
Villarreal, Juan Ignacio	GK	2000.	Malaga	7/0
Lombardi, Francisco Andres	LW	1995.	Guadalajara	31/100
Benacedo, Ramiro	LW	2002.	Colegio Ward	7/22
Rodriguez, Nicolas	LW	2004.	Villa Ballester	12/51
Cangiani, Facundo Nicolas	RW	1991.	Torrelavega	59/84
Martinez, Ramiro	RW	1995.	Benidorm	65/166
Robledo, Lautaro	RW	2002.	Nava	10/38
Saco, Juan Reynaldo	RW	2002.	Triana	10/28
Fischer, Guillermo Jose	P	1996.	Villa De Aranda	63/51
Kelm, Ezequiel	P	2002.	Sporting	0/0
Minguez, Pablo Emauel	P	1998.	Eppan	0/0
Moscariello, Lucas Dario	P	1992.	Benidorm	115/246
Mourino, Gaston Alberto	P	1994	Constanta	82/128
Barcelo, Garcia Santiago	LB	2002.	Cuenca	19/28
Casanova, Fabrizio	LB	1993.	Burgos	8/13
Canete, Tomas Valentin	LB	1999.	Brixen	2/2
Gull, Juan Federico	LB	2004.	Pinheiros	27/75
Torossian, Bautista Alejandro	LB	2006.	Zamora	5/18
Aravena, Joaquin	CB	2000.	Villa Ballester	0/0
Ceccardi, Juan Bautista	CB	2002.	Brixen	5/0
Bono, Nicolas	CB	1997.	Istres	32/53
Jung, Martin Nicolas	CB	2002.	Ivry	9/23
Martinez, Cami Pedro	CB	1999.	Sporting	68/140
Simonet, Diego Esteban	CB	1989.	Montpellier	144/450
Simonet, Pablo Ariel	CB	1992.	Puente Genil	159/359
Aizen, Lucas	RB	1998.	Puente Genil	24/39
Basualdo, Mauricio	RB	1999.	Eivissa	4/7
Andres, Gabriel	RB	1996.	Granollers	36/85
Saud, Sulak Federico Tomas	RB	1998.	Lanús Oeste	0/0
Vega, Agustin	RB	1997.	Villa De Aranda	0/0

HEAD COACH

Rodolfo Jung

The primary goal for Argentina in this World Championship is to advance to the second round, a task made challenging by their inclusion in a group with Egypt and Croatia.

STAR PLAYER

Leo Maciel

Handball has its own Leo. He is Leo Maciel, a goalkeeper who is currently the most renowned player in a significantly rejuvenated Argentina squad. Maciel is 36 years old and the oldest member of today's Argentine team, having made his first World Championship appearance in 2019.

He started his career in Argentina, wearing the jersey of local clubs Dorrego and SAG. At the age of 21, he ventured to Spain, where he built the majority of his career. Over four years at the small club, he built such a reputation that he was signed by the biggest name in the sport—Barcelona. His strong performances led him to his first stint outside Spain, with Sporting Lisbon, and at the beginning of this season, he returned to Spain to play for Bidasoa in Irún. Quick and not particularly tall, Maciel is a goalkeeper who reads the game and players exceptionally well.

STARTING 7 SEVEN

History in the competition

2011: 23rd, **2017:** 23rd,
2019: 20th, **2021:** 21st,
2023: 16th

BAHREIN

GROUP H

Bahrain Handball Federation
Building: 25, Road: Ahmed Bin Ali Khanoo Street 6, Block: 337, Umm Al-Hassam, Manama, Bahrain or P.O. Box 26126, MANAMA, Bahrain

From Tokyo to the World: Bahrain's Handball Ascent

Bahrain is Asia's third-best team, earning a spot in the 2025 World Championship by hosting and excelling in the Asian Championship. This marks Bahrain's sixth appearance in the World Championship, though it would have been their seventh had they not been disqualified from the 2015 edition in Qatar despite qualifying. Their best performance was a 16th-place finish at the 2023 World Championship in Sweden and Poland.

Bahrain's most significant achievement on the world stage was qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics, where they reached the quarterfinals and finished in 8th place.

The team is coached by Aron Kristjansson, a former Icelandic national player with extensive coaching experience. He has worked in Denmark (with clubs like Skjern, Kolding, and Aalborg), Germany (Hannover), and led Iceland for four years. Kristjansson has been at Bahrain's helm since 2018, with a brief interlude when fellow Icelander Gudmundur Gudmundsson temporarily took over. His Icelandic roots heavily influence Bahrain's playing style, making them a unique team in their region. Unlike other Gulf teams that rely on naturalized players, Bahrain's roster is composed entirely of homegrown talent, making their accomplishments even more remarkable.

The team captain, Husain Al-Sayyad, boasts an astonishing record of 449 matches and 1,133 goals for Bahrain. While seasoned veterans like Al-Sayyad continue to lead, the team is also introducing promising young players such as playmaker Mohamed Mohamed and dynamic right wing Ahmed Jalal. Bahrain proved their mettle during the Tokyo Olympic qualifiers in Qatar, defeating the host nation in the semifinals and Korea in the final to secure their Olympic debut.

BAHREIN

GROUP H

PLAYER	POSITION	BIRTH.	CLUB	M/G
Ali, Mohamed	GK	1989.	Al-Najma	240/15
Almadani, Ali	GK	2004.	Al-Ettifaq	11/2
Alshuwaikh, Qasim	GK	1998.	Al-Shabab	53/5
Isa, Hesham	GK	2003.	Aldair	26/15
Mahfoodh, Husain	GK	2001.	Al-Ahli	42/5
Alsamahiji, Hasan	LW	1991.	Al-Najma	95/270
Alheddi, Abdulrahman	LW	2000.	Bahrain Club	0/0
Alasheeri, Ali	LW	2002.	Aldair	15/30
Alhayki, Mustafa	RW	2002.	Al Ahli	5/3
Ali, Husain	RW	2001.	Al-Dair	5/1
Fadhul, Ahmed	RW	1998.	Al-Najma	88/180
Qambar, Qasim	RW	2001.	Al-Ahli	36/56
Alfalahi, Sayed Mahmood	P	2004.	Tobli	10/15
Ali, Mohamed	P	1987.	Al-Najma	118/87
Eid, Ali	P	1991.	Al-Ahli	88/165
Mohamed, Ali	P	2002.	Al-Ettifaq	22/25
Rabia, Mohamed	LB	2003.	Al-Ahli	30/35
Madan, Hasan	LB	1996.	Aldair	66/51
Alzaimoor, Abdulla	LB	1998.	Al-Najma	51/65
Farsan, Jaffar	LB	2004.	Al-Tadhamon	20/45
Kadhem, Ahmed	LB	2003.	Al-Shabab	10/12
Ali, Abdulla	LB	1999.	Al Ahli	67/35
Abdulkarim, Abdulla	LB	2002.	Al-Shabab	10/9
Mohamed, Mahmood	LB	1999.	Al-Ahli	39/30
Ali, Ali Merza	LB	1988.	Al-Ahli	184/397
Ali, Ahmed	CB	1999.	Al-Tadhamun	40/70
Mohamed, Mohamed	CB	2001.	Khaleej Club	76/144
Almaqabi, Ahmed	CB	1994.	Al-Najma	84/114
Alsayyad, Husain	CB	1988.	Khaleej Club	360/960
Alzaimoor, Mujtaba	CB	2000.	Al-Najma	26/44
Saleh, Husain	CB	2003.	Tobli	6/3
Abdulla, Ali Redha	RB	2002.	Al-Tadhamon	15/35
Ahmed, Mohamed	RB	1993.	Al-Najma	203/126
Ali, Hasan	RB	1998.	Al-Najma	30/25
Khamis, Jasim	RB	2002.	Al-Shabab	11/5

HEAD COACH

Aron Kristjansson

Bahrain's most significant achievement on the world stage was qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics, where they reached the quarterfinals and finished in 8th place.

STAR PLAYER

Mohamed Mohamed

Full name Mohamed Habib Naser Mohamed, this 23-year-old center back represents Bahrain's next generation of handball stars. A member of Al-Najma in Manama, Mohamed debuted at the Tokyo Olympics, where Bahrain achieved their best result to date. Despite being under 20 at the time, Kristjansson recognized his potential and entrusted him with significant responsibility.

Mohamed is exceptionally quick, effective, and fearless. Wearing jersey number 95, he has already earned nearly 10 caps for Bahrain's national team and has two medals to his name—a silver from the 2022 Saudi Arabian Championship and a bronze from Bahrain's home tournament in 2023.

At the 2023 World Championship, Mohamed scored 26 goals in six matches, marking an impressive debut. Alongside captain Al-Sayyad, he was one of Bahrain's top scorers, signaling a bright future for the young playmaker.

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