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Vienna, April 6, 2012

DECISION

EHF Court of Handball

First Instance**Pre-match procedure**2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League
Group phase matches (Group B)**EHF Court of Handball consisting of:**

- **Rui Coelho** / POR - Chairman
- **Jolanta Jankeviciene** / LTU
- **Viktor Konoplyastyy** / UKR

Decision short wording:

A fine of €2.000 (two thousand Euros) is imposed on MKB Veszprém KC on a suspended basis with a probation period starting from the date of the present decision until June 30, 2014, for violation of the 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League Regulations provisions regarding pre-match procedure.

Dear handball friends,

The issue at hand has been considered by the EHF Court of Handball. Based on the statements of the parties involved, the documents provided and the EHF applicable regulations, the following decision has been made.

Statement of facts:

1. The Hungarian club MKB Veszprém KC participated in the group phase of the 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League in group B. During this competition phase, MKB Veszprém KC organised the following matches in Veszprém, Hungary:

- MKB Veszprém KC vs. Bjerringbro – Silkeborg on October 8, 2011
- MKB Veszprém KC vs. Chekhovskie Medvedi on October 22, 2011
- MKB Veszprém KC vs. Füchse Berlin on November 27, 2011
- MKB Veszprém KC vs. KS Vive Targi Kielce on February 11, 2012
- MKB Veszprém KC vs. BM Atletico Madrid on February 25, 2012

2. On February 21, 2011, EHF Marketing GmbH (EHFM) informed the EHF, on the basis of the report of the marketing supervisor of the match MKB Veszprém KC vs. KS Vive Targi Kielce, that MKB Veszprém KC started the pre-match procedure three minutes too early as defined in the 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League Regulations.

3. On February 29, 2012, the EHF officially requested the EHF Court of Handball to initiate proceedings against MKB Veszprém KC. The EHF claimed that MKB Veszprém KC infringed the provisions of the 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League Regulations regarding the pre-match procedure in the frame of all EHF Men's Champions League matches hosted by the club. The EHF specified that during the first four home matches, the procedure had been systematically started earlier than the schedule defined in the regulations, which had had for consequence that the competition anthem was not live broadcast. For their last group phase match, the EHF explained that due to a strict supervision of the procedure by the marketing supervisor, the pre-match procedure had started on time; however the match throw-off had been delayed with fifty seconds on the time initially planned as the club waited for the spectators' to sing the national anthem after the teams' line-up and handshakes.

4. On March 2, 2012, the EHF Court of Handball officially informed the parties of the opening of legal proceedings against MKB Veszprém KC based on the EHF claim. An official statement from MKB Veszprém KC was requested.

5. On March 6, 2012, MKB Veszprém KC sent a statement to the EHF Court of Handball, which can be summarised as follows:

- The club knows the regulations of the EHF Men's Champions League and acknowledges that it has to comply with them. In this case, there is no intentional behaviour from the club.

- Initially the competition anthem was played three minutes prior to the throw-off of the matches as defined in the regulations; however the matches then started with delay due to the singing of the national anthem by the fans.

- The club has tried at several occasions to inform their fans that it is not allowed to sing the national anthem in the club events; however a part of them do not accept it, all the more since in some other sports in Hungary it is compulsory to play the national anthem.

- The club has tried since many years to find an appropriate solution to the problem of the pre-match procedure. Nevertheless no solution has been found until now; MKB Veszprém KC therefore requires the help of the EHF and its authorities.

- MKB Veszprém KC would like the EHF to impose on the club a warning, which could be used to inform the fans via its publication. The decision should be fair taking into consideration the circumstances of the case, the will of the club to cooperate and the fact that MKB Veszprém KC has always done its best to organise Champions League matches in accordance with the regulations.

- MKB Veszprém KC will do its best to solve this problem definitively in the future.

6. On March 13, 2012, the parties were informed about the composition of the EHF Court of Handball panel that would decide on the case.

7. No further statement, document or otherwise information was provided to the EHF Court of Handball within the defined deadline.

Decisional grounds:

1. In registering to participate in an official EHF club competition, a club agrees to abide by all rules and regulations applicable to this specific competition.

2. Article 3.1.1, Chapter XI of the 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League Regulations states:

"Rundown

The official VELUX EHF Champions League ceremony shall start exactly 3 minutes before the match (starting of the international feed).

[...] The following basic rundown which starts 10 minutes before the throw off can be adapted to local arrangements:

10:00 - 03:00 End of warm up – individual presentation

03:00 Beginning of the official ceremony / Playing of official anthem, players line-up

01:00 Ending of opening ceremony (handshake); Fair Play text (in local and English version by announcer)

00:30 Players get ready for the throw-off

00:00 Throw-off (start-up signal of EHF delegate)"

3. Based on the statements of the parties and the documents provided to the EHF Court of Handball panel, it is confirmed that the club MKB Veszprém KC started the official entry ceremony of most of its EHF Champions League group phase home matches earlier than three minutes prior to the throw-off.

4. No document or information brought to the attention of the EHF Court of Handball panel show that the club MKB Veszprém KC was granted by the EHF or by the EHF Marketing GmbH an exception to the rule defined in 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League Regulations and was authorised beforehand to start the entry ceremony of the EHF Champions League matches earlier than three minute prior to the matches throw-off.

5. The EHF Court of Handball panel finds therefore that MKB Veszprém KC violated the aforementioned provision of the 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League Regulations.

6. In evaluating the circumstances of the case, the EHF Court of Handball panel considers the following elements as aggravating circumstances:

7. The non compliance with the pre-match procedure schedule defined in the respective competition regulations damages the image of the competition. The start of the international TV transmissions of the EHF Men's Champions League matches is coordinated well in advance with the pre-defined timing of the pre-match procedure. Consequently for each of the matches where the procedure started more than three minutes prior to the throw-off, the international TV transmissions started after the beginning of the pre-match procedure and in particular after the EHF Champions anthem had been played; such anthem, part of the competition corporate identity, was therefore not broadcast.

8. On the other hand, the following elements are considered as mitigating circumstances:

9. As no complaint was filed regarding the pre-match procedure during this season before the last group phase match hosted by MKB Veszprém KC and as the club has not been sanctioned for a similar infringement during the last seasons, the infringement is considered as a first infringement of this kind by the EHF Court of Handball panel.

10. Pursuant to article D.4 of the List of Penalties a fine from €500 to €5.000 may be imposed on a club for "*official ceremony procedures not followed or incorrectly implemented*".

11. In view of the foregoing, pursuant to article 6.1, 12.1 and 14.1 of the EHF Legal Regulations, the EHF Court of Handball panel decides to impose a fine of € 2.000 to the club MKB Veszprém KC for violation of the 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League Regulations provision regarding pre-match procedure.

12. The EHF Court of Handball panel has been informed by the EHF that during the EHF Men's Champions League last 16 match MKB Veszprém KC vs. Reale Ademar Leon hosted by the Hungarian club on March 25, 2012, the pre-match procedure was organised in accordance with the schedule defined in the 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League Regulations. The EHF Court of Handball panel notes therefore that a solution to the issue mentioned by MKB Veszprém KC has been found.

13. On the basis of this information, the EHF Court of Handball considers that article 17 of the EHF Legal Regulations is applicable to the case at stake. The €2.000 fine is therefore imposed on a suspended basis with a probation period until June 30, 2014. The panel is convinced that the objective of the decision, to ensure the respect by the club of the competition regulations regarding pre-match procedure on a long-term basis, may be equally reached in this way.

Decision:

A fine of €2.000 (two thousand Euros) is imposed on MKB Veszprém KC on a suspended basis with a probation period starting from the date of the present decision until June 30, 2014, for violation of the 2011/2012 EHF Men's Champions League Regulations provisions regarding pre-match procedure.

The payment of the €2.000 fine is suspended until June 30, 2014.

Should MKB Veszprém KC be sanctioned for a similar infringement (violation of the competitions regulations regarding match protocol and official ceremony procedures) during the aforementioned probation period, MKB Veszprém KC shall be required to pay the fine. Otherwise, the fine will be lifted at the end of the probation period.

Right to appeal:

According to article 39 of the EHF Legal Regulations, decision of the EHF Court of Handball may be appealed to the EHF Court of Appeal by the parties within **seven (7) days** following the written notification of the present decision, **i.e. until April 13, 2012**. A written statement of appeal shall be sent to the EHF office by fax or email (attention: Maelle Grimaud / 0043 180 151 149 / grimaud@eurohandball.com) and an appeal fee of €1.000 shall be transferred to the EHF bank account within the aforementioned deadline. If the appeal fee is not received on the EHF bank account within the required deadline, the appeal will be deemed withdrawn.


EHF account: Bank Austria, Am Hof 2, 1010 Vienna, Austria; Bank code: 12000; Account n°:00 640 000 204; SWIFT: BKAUATWW; IBAN: AT 46 12000 0006 4000 0204.

**EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION
Court of Handball**

Rui Coelho- Chairman
signed

Jolanta Jankeviciene
signed

Viktor Konoplyastyy
signed


Maelle Grimaud
For the correct execution
EHF Office- Legal Management

Cc: HUN, EXEC, CC, CoH, CoA