



5 July 2011

Contents

- 1 Preliminary Round Groups for Women's WCh in BRA drawn
- 2 Finland wins IHF InterContinental Challenge Trophy
- 3 Olympic Handball Tournament likely to be sold out
- 4 Calendar of events

International Handball Federation
Peter Merian-Str. 23
P.O. Box
4002 Basle
Switzerland
www.ihf.info
ihf.office@ihf.info

Preliminary Round Groups for XX Women's World Championship in Brazil drawn

Host wins Pan-American Championship – Argentina, Cuba and Uruguay last qualifiers



After the Pan-American Championship generated the last three participants of the XX Women's World Championship on Saturday 2 July, a further step on the path to Brazil could be taken. Following the Pan-American Championship several personalities of the world of handball, such as PATHF President Manoel Luiz Oliveira or Brazilian's women's team coach Morten Soubak,

gathered in the municipality of the state of São Paulo, Sao Bernardo do Campo to attend the draw of the XX Women's World Championship (2 to 18 December 2011), conducted by COC (IHF Commission of Organizing and Competition) President Mr Leon Kalin and assisted by the mayors and arena representatives of the host cities and players of the qualified teams.

Those are the groups for the Preliminary Round which will be staged in São Paulo, São Bernardo do Campo, Barueri and Santos:

Group A

- Norway
- Montenegro
- Angola
- Germany
- China
- Iceland

Group C

- Romania
- France
- Brazil
- Tunisia
- Cuba
- Japan

Group B

- Russia
- Kazakhstan
- Netherlands
- Korea
- Spain
- Australia

Group D

- Sweden
- Denmark
- Croatia
- Argentina
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Uruguay

The World Championship will start with the opening match Brazil – Cuba on 2 December.

The four best-ranked teams of each group qualify for the eight-finals, the other eight teams will meet in the President's Cup. The eight-finals are followed by the quarter-finals, placement matches, semi-finals and finals.





Finland wins 1st IHF Inter-Continental Challenge Trophy

The Preliminary Round will take place from 2 to 9 December; the eight-finals and the President's Cup will follow on 11/12 December. Starting from the quarter-finals (14 December), all matches will be played in São Paulo: the semi-finals and placement matches on 16 December, and the final, the bronze final and the placement matches on 18 December.

The official match schedule of the Women's World Championship in Brazil will be published soon.

The World Champion will qualify directly for the Olympic Games 2012 in London. Generally speaking the teams ranked 2nd to 7th will qualify for the Olympic Qualification Tournaments (25 to 27 May 2012). The teams ranked 2nd to 4th are basically entitled to host one of the Olympic Qualification Tournaments. The World Champion will automatically qualify for the 2013 World Championship in Serbia.

The last three participants of the World Championship were determined at the Pan-American Championship in São Bernardo do Campo. Host Brazil took the title in a sovereign manner, winning the final against Argentina 35:16 like they did in the semi against Uruguay (40:14). As Brazil was directly qualified as the WCh host, Argentina took the highest ranked Pan-American position for the following draw. In addition both other semi finalists qualified for the World Championship. Cuba took the bronze medal by beating Uruguay 37:27. Prior to this they narrowly lost the semi-final against Argentina 41:43 after two extra time periods and a penalty shoot-out.

Finland wins 1st ever IHF InterContinental Challenge Trophy

Finland has won the 1st ever IHF InterContinental Challenge Trophy. Throughout the event, they were the most consistent team and clearly won all of their five games. Their strongly dominated their match against Australia, who nevertheless presented themselves as a team determined to win and fighting for every ball until the very end. The end result: Australia vs. Finland 21:32 (10:16).



The second match of the night (bronze medal match) was even more exciting. The host team of India, cheered by approximately 1,000 spectators in the SMS Indoor Stadium in Jaipur, tried to compete with the physically strong players of Benin who showed a convincing performance at the Inter Continental Challenge Trophy. Top scorer Akoze Romaric scored 9 goals and secured the bronze medal for Benin by 36:28 (18:12).

Mr. Miguel Roca Mas (ESP), the 1st Vice President of the International Handball Federation, awarded the trophies and the medals to the winners on behalf of the IHF.



*Huge run on the tickets for
the Olympic Handball
Tournament*



FINAL RANKINGS

1. Finland 8 pts.
2. Venezuela 6 pts.
3. Benin 4 pts.
4. India 2 pts.
5. Australia 0 pts.

ALL STAR TEAM:

Best Goalkeeper: Kristoffer Karlsson (AUS)
 Best Left Wing: Romaric Akoze (BEN)
 Best Pivot: Jose Villegas (VEN)
 Best Right Wing: Carlos La Cruz Fernandez (VEN)
 Best Left Back: Nico Ronnberg (FIN)
 Best Center Back: Benny Broman (FIN)
 Best Right Back: Shamsher Singh (IND)

Most Valuable Player: Joacim Broman (FIN)
 Top Scorer: Romaric Akoze (BEN) 31 goals

Olympic Handball Tournament likely to be sold out



A huge run on the tickets for the Olympic Handball Tournament in London: Already at the end of June, when the second selling phase, which had started in March, came to an end, more than 70 per cent of all tickets were sold. The organizers therefore assume that all handball games will be sold out. The finals of the men and women are already completely sold out, whereas tickets in all categories were left for the quarter and semi-finals. No tickets are however available any more for the first four preliminary round matchdays. The organizing committee divided the total number of 76 handball matches into 46 "sessions" to facilitate the ticket purchase for the spectators. In contrast to Beijing 2008, for example all of the eight quarter-finals for men and women are individual sessions, and tickets for the third-place play-offs can be ordered individually as well.

Handball – as already in Beijing – will be the first sport at the Olympics, as the preliminary round matchday of the women will take place on the first competition day (28 July 2012) as of 9:30. In addition the handball final of the men will also be the last decision of the Olympic Games on 12 August as of 15:00. Thus handball will be played on each of the 16 Olympic competition days. The ticket prices per session start at 20 pounds for preliminary round games up to 125 pounds for the final matches. The last tickets will be sold as of November; orders or reservations may be made through www.tickets.london2012.com.



During the Olympic Handball Tournament, six preliminary round matches each are played alternately by men and women on the respective competition days from 28 July to 6 August, followed by the women's quarter-finals in the Olympic Handball Arena on 7 August. The men's quarter-finals (8 August) and all following games until the final will be carried out in the Basketball Arena which is clearly larger.

IHF calendar of events until October 2011

Date	Place		Organizer	Event
July				
02/07		BRA	IHF	Draw for the Women's World Championship in BRA
06-11/07		OMA	IHF	Global Coaching Clinic
17-30/07		GRE	IHF	XVIII Men's Junior World Championship
August				
02-10/08		CIV	CAHB	17th Women's Junior African Nations Championship
04-14/08		NED	EHF	W19 European Championship
10-20/08		ARG	IHF	IV Men's Youth World Championship
October				
10-17/10			AHF	Women's Olympic Games Qualification
13-23/10			PATHF	Pan-American Games men and women OGQ
13-30/10	Guadalajara	MEX	PATHF	XVI Pan-American Games
17-23/10			IHF	National Team Week W
25/10-05/11			AHF	Men's Olympic Games Qualification