



En el año 2007, la Profesora Adriana Suburú publica la investigación sobre la historia del Balón Uruguayo.

Durante muchos años, varios integrantes de la Confederación Argentina de Handball (CAH), tomaron la bandera de lograr a nivel de la Federación Internacional de Handball (IHF por su sigla en inglés), el reconocimiento del deporte uruguayo como uno de los antecedentes del handball moderno.

La iniciativa surge de Juan Carlos Rennis, autor del libro *De Mano en Mano - La Historia del Handball Argentino* (2006). Rennis transmitió su inquietud a Mario Moccia (Presidente CAH) y a Carlos Ferrea (Vice CAH) quienes facilitaron los contactos internacionales. Así logró tener reuniones personales con Hassan Moustafa y con Miguel Roca, presidente y Vice de la IHF respectivamente, para informales sobre la existencia del Balón y plantearles la idea de su reconocimiento. Como consecuencia de esto, se establecería la confirmación de la CAH como decana de las federaciones nacionales. Con el visto bueno de los mismos, Rennis estableció un fluido contacto vía mail con Frank Birkefeld, quien estaba preparando "la historia oficial de la IHF". Documentación mediante se pudo demostrar la creación uruguayo y la fundación de la Federación Argentina de Balón en 1921.

En el año 2013, en el XXXIV Congreso de la IHF en Doha, Qatar, se presenta el libro "Handball. Fascinación por miles de años". En esa edición de History and Stories, se logra incluir al Balón como precedente del handball actual.

A partir de esta publicación la Confederación Argentina de Handball es la entidad federativa en actividad, más antigua del handball mundial y el partido de Balón entre Argentina y Uruguay jugado en 1923, fue el primer partido internacional de selecciones de la historia de las modalidades reconocidas. Un logro trascendente para este deporte rioplatense de creación uruguayo y proyección argentina. Inexplicablemente en su publicación, no se nombra a la Profesora Adriana Suburú como autora de la investigación, ni el nombre de Antonio Valeta como su creador.

Dos años después en el XXXV la IHF en el Congreso ordinario en noviembre de 2015 (Sochi / Rusia), la IHF publica la 2da edición de este libro, donde corrige esas omisiones. Este documento rescata las páginas de este libro.

In Sweden, G. Wallström introduced "Handboll" in Karlskrona in 1910, while in 1912 his compatriot G.H. Wahllden published the first rules of the game for outdoor games, including handball too.

Irishman Casey introduced a handball-like game called "Courtball" in America about 1870, where it caught on so well that a first championship was organized in 1919 in Los Angeles. The 70 m x 25 m sized court was divided up lengthwise into three parts. The centre of the court was not allowed to be entered and was only used to bounce the thrown ball by making it move over the goal line of the opposing team. Maybe courtball could be considered to be a forerunner of cricket...

In Czechoslovakia, a game called "Česka Hazena" enjoyed great popularity at the end of the 19th century. This game was very similar to small-field handball and was decisively shaped up by the Smichov teacher Vaclav Karas in 1905. The playing field (45 x 30 m) was divided up into three parts while the room for manoeuvre of each team's seven players was limited to certain sections of the field. However, in time, the development of "Hazena" had also been limited - to the regions of Bohemia and Moravia.

And in Ukraine there has also been a game similar to handball that was played on a small field from 1910.

In 1912, Carl Anton Wilhelm Hirschmann (Netherlands), the then Secretary General of the International Football Association, tried to introduce field handball following the rules for football. However, it was not developed further.

For the sake of clarity, it should be mentioned that different sports scientists are convinced that field handball has its origins also in Ireland - as already mentioned - and Pan America, apart from Denmark and Germany. It is put down that in 1918 in Montevideo (URU) "Uruguayan Balon" was played. The game was developed and introduced by Prof. Antonio Valeta, environmentalist and defender of naturalism, who wanted to prevent ecological damage as sometimes done by football. It is only natural for him that men handle objects, and thus also the ball, with hands and not with feet. He determined that tapping the ball and any kind of body contact was not allowed. The player ran with the ball in the hand of his outstretched arm, giving the opponent the possibility to snatch the ball without touching each other. The very same sport was played few years later in Argentina, where in 1921 the "Balon Federation" was founded.

From a gymnastics game to a competitive sport

According to the unanimous opinion of all experts and historians, the change from a gymnastics ball game to a real competitive sport occurred a few years after the above-mentioned attempts and efforts. The International Olympic

En el capítulo "Pioneers and Trailblazers (1870 – 1926) : Two babies and many fathers", hace un racconto de los juegos y deportes que antecedieron al handball actual, incluyendo el Balón de Antonio Valeta:

En aras de la claridad, cabe mencionar que diferentes científicos deportivos están convencidos que el handball de campo tiene su origen también en Irlanda y en América, además de Dinamarca y Alemania.

Se registra que en 1918 en Montevideo (URU) se jugó "Balón uruguayo". El juego fue desarrollado e introducido por Antonio Valeta, ambientalista y defensor del naturalismo, que quiso prevenir el daño que a veces hace el fútbol. Para él, es natural que los hombres manipulen objetos, y por tanto también la pelota, con las manos y no con los pies. Decidió que no estaba permitido tocar la pelota ni tener ningún tipo de contacto corporal. El jugador corría con el balón en la mano con su brazo extendido, dando al oponente la posibilidad de arrebatarse el balón sin tocarse.

El mismo deporte se jugó pocos años después en Argentina, donde en 1921 se fundó la "Federación de Balón". (página 15)

others, was subsequent IOC President Avery Brundage. The name was not incorrect, but nevertheless misleading and confusing. After all, the new IAHF consisted of a dozen sports that would soon go their own way. However: All these games were based on handball.

IAAF President Sigfrid Edström (SWE) explained the ball games' way to independence by the fact that the dissemination of handball and other ball games using both hands really called for this development.



Avery Brundage

Representatives from eleven countries (America, Denmark, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Canada, Austria, Sweden and Czechoslovakia) elected a managing committee with President Franz Lang and Secretary General Fritz Hassler (both ALL) as well as the members Brundage (USA), Crocker (CAN), Dr Schwarz (AUT) and Trantina (TCH). Three commissions were in charge of the most popular ball games, including field handball, courtball and basketball, while Karlsson from Sweden and his committee dealt with field handball.

The first handball federations

Europe's first handball federation was founded in 1925: On 25 January, the delegates launched the Austrian Handball Federation at the constituent meeting held in the main lecture hall at the Vienna University of Physical Education. - On 15 October 1921, the Argentinian Balón Federation was founded and has, since then, been continuously active for over 90 years. Therefore it can be considered as the world's oldest federation in international handball. - Though the Balón Uruguayan Federation had already been founded in 1918, they stopped their activities in the 1930s before the current Uruguayan Federation was formed in 1980.

19 members - four continents

Two years after its founding, on the occasion of the IInd IAHF Congress held on 18/19 May 1930 in Berlin, the International Amateur Handball Federation - with a leadership that remained largely unchanged - had already been composed of 19 members: The new member nations were Argentina, Egypt, Brazil, Japan, Poland, Romania, Switzerland and Hungary. Thus, the international federation that had just begun to stand on its own two feet consisted of players of different nationalities from the four continents - Africa, Asia, Panamerica and Europe.

After the formation of the international federation, when the ball games came out of the shadow of gymnastics and took an important step towards independence and international recognition, they competed with each other and within the same association for always being one step ahead.

En el marco del capítulo "The IAHF – The predecessor of the IHF (1926 – 1945): an international federation for the first time" el libro presenta la creación de la Federación Internacional de Handball Amateur fundada en 1928 con motivo de los Juegos Olímpicos de Amsterdam como la pionera en organizaciones internacionales de handball. En un recuadro especial, resalta la creación de la Federación Argentina de Balón (FAB) en 1921. Bajo el título "Las primeras federaciones de handball" escribe:

La primera federación de handball europea fue fundada en 1925. El 25 de enero, en la reunión constitutiva celebrada en la sala principal de lectura de la Universidad de Educación Física de Viena, los delegados lanzaron la Federación Austriaca de Handball. El 15 de octubre de 1921, fue fundada la Federación Argentina de Balón y, desde entonces, ha estado en actividad ininterrumpida durante 90 años. Por tanto, puede considerarse como la federación internacional de handball más antigua del mundo. Aunque la Federación de Balón Uruguayo ya se había fundado en 1918, detuvieron sus actividades en la década de 1930 antes de que se formara la actual Federación de Uruguay en 1980. (Página 19)

Esto demuestra la importancia que tiene para el Rio de la Plata el reconocimiento del Balón como antecedente del handball y que convierte a la actual Confederación Argentina de Handball en la organización más antigua. La Federación Uruguaya de Balón se creó en 1920. En 1918 fue la presentación del deporte por parte de Valeta. La actual Federación Uruguaya de Handball se funda en 1982, aprobándose sus estatutos en 1983.

national federations of the IAHF may only be composed of players who take part in the matches for idealistic reasons without any intention to make a profit (amateurs). A player who takes part in a game to make a money or cash value profit or to accept promises of this kind will be punished and will lose his amateur status. The same shall apply to those who offer or grant this kind of benefits to players... It is prohibited to claim, award or receive compensation for match arrangement or settlement.” However, that would soon change with time.

The first three years since founding of the IAHF were marked by enthusiasm and commitment, but a period of stagnation could be observed in the years 1930 to 1934. During this period, only a few things are worth mentioning: The first women's international match in field handball in 1930 (see box), the resignation of President Lang for “medical reasons” in 1931 and the cancellation of the IAHF Congress in **1932** in Los Angeles, as “there was nothing urgent to deal with” so that there was “no reason to convene Congress ...”, as reported in the IAHF yearbook.

And what was the outcome of the IIIrd Congress of the international federation held on 30 August 1934 in Stockholm (SWE)? Karl Ritter von Halt from Germany succeeded President Lang who had withdrawn from office and Willy Burmeister became the successor to the deceased President of the Technical Commission for outdoor and indoor handball Karlsson from Sweden.

The first international matches

The first men's international match on the large field was organized on 13 September **1925** in Halle an der Saale (GER) and was played between Germany and Austria (3-6). - The first women's international match in field handball was played between Germany and Austria on 7 September **1930** in Prague. After a half-time score of 1-4, Austria finally succeeded in winning by 5-4. - The first indoor handball match took place on 8 March **1935** in Copenhagen (DEN) and was played between the men's teams of Denmark and Sweden (18-12). - The first encounter in the “Uruguayan Balon” took place on 8 July 1923 in the Ferro Carril Oeste arena in Buenos Aires with Uruguay prevailing against Argentina at 7:3.

1934: Basketball going its own way

And the process of independence of the other ball games, apart from handball, that were still united under the roof of the IAHF, continued: Basketball left the federation - in all friendliness; the respective Technical Commission was dissolved; a corresponding contract was signed; the basketball federation could stand on its own two feet in future and basketball - in the same way as handball - would soon make headlines all over the world.

En un recuadro de la página 22, haciendo mención a los primeros partidos internacionales de handball a nivel de selecciones, incluye las modalidades de campo y sala en ambas ramas. Dentro de éste, es que consta el primer partido internacional de selecciones jugado con la reglamentación uruguaya en 1923, dos años antes que en Europa.

El primer partido internacional de hombres en cancha grande fue organizado el 13 de setiembre de 1925 en Halle an der Saale (GER) y fue jugado entre Alemania y Austria (3-6), el primer partido internacional femenino de handball de campo fue jugado entre Alemania y Austria el 7 de setiembre de 1930 en Praga. Después de una puntuación de 1-4 en el descanso, Austria finalmente logró ganar 5-4. El primer indoor handball match tuvo lugar el 8 de marzo de 1935 en Copenhague (DEN) y se jugó entre la selección masculina de Dinamarca y Suecia (18-12). El primer encuentro de Balón Uruguayo se llevó a cabo el 8 de julio de 1923 en el estadio de Ferrocarril Oeste en Buenos Aires con Uruguay prevaleciendo contra Argentina 7-3.

Más allá de una redacción que puede considerarse confusa, queda establecido el año 1923 como el año que se jugó el primer partido internacional de selecciones de las modalidades precedentes al handball moderno.

As the elections were only planned to take place in 1938, the delegates were dealing with other subjects, such as the financial report “concerning a property of 1547.83 Reichsmark including expenses amounting to 3400 RM with printing costs of 2500 RM.” In this context, Uruguay’s representative Rodriguez requested “that the handball rules should also be translated into Spanish as seven countries of South America are interested in handball. Moreover, Uruguay would like to gain recognition as first handball-playing country where the first handball federation was founded in 1918.”

The Congress decision on this issue was not recorded, but only the vote on the fact that an international outdoor handball competition as well as an international indoor handball tournament would be organized in 1938 to celebrate the IAHF’s tenth anniversary and to further promote the game of handball. This request was granted by the Congress that was even taking this idea a step further as reported in the history of the IHF: “On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the IAHF, the deadline for applications to stage the planned outdoor and indoor handball world championships was 1 November 1936. Especially Austria applied, but finally both world championships were organized in Germany.” As well as the Congress in that year...

1938: The beginning of the end

The first men’s world indoor championship, played between four teams, was staged on 5/ 6 February 1938 in Berlin. Thus, the first move had been made. However, outdoor handball still set the tone. This could clearly be observed at the 1st large-field WC in July of that same year. Nine participating teams, apart from the host nation, made this tournament a success, while a financial contribution to the amount of 500 Reichsmark per team made their participation in the competition more attractive. Portugal considered this financial support to be insufficient and finally did not attend the championship.

The non-participation of another team that, until then, had been considered to be one of the top field handball specialists, was a first sign of the disastrous and fatal development that was initiated by Germany and would soon spread all over the world: “Austria, that could undoubtedly have been a serious rival again, did not participate in the tournament because of the political changes in Europe. On the contrary, two Austrian players were members of Germany’s team”, wrote Günter Millermann in his “IHF history”.

For a long time, these first two world championships organized in 1938 remained the last tournaments for the time being. Politics exerted influence on sport.

This could clearly be observed at the Vth (and last) IAHF Congress on 9

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French was one of the three official IAHF languages in which the handball manual published annually is written.

En la página 24, se publican las palabras de J.J. Rodriguez extraídas del Anuario que incluye las actas del Congreso de la IAHF (Federación Internacional de Handball Amateur) creada en 1928.

La IAHF se reúne con motivo de los Juegos Olímpicos de Berlín en 1936, editando este boletín oficial.

El representante de Uruguay, Rodríguez, solicitó "que las reglas del balonmano también se traduzcan al español, ya que siete países de América del Sur están incluidos en el balonmano. Además, a Uruguay le gustaría obtener el reconocimiento como primer país jugador de handball donde se fundó la primera federación en 1918" ¹.(página 24)

Este Anuario (cuya tapa la IHF publica en la página 21) fue encontrado en Uruguay a través de la familia Valeta e incorporado a la investigación sobre la historia del Balón. En él se demuestra claramente la presencia de los delegados uruguayos en el Congreso de la IAHF, los cargos de Valeta en ese organismo internacional y el reclamo de Uruguay por la autoría del deporte.

Suponemos que este folleto incluido en esta reconstrucción histórica de la IHF consta en sus archivos. Si es así, hace muchos años que se puede registrar la presencia uruguaya en la historia del handball.

¹ En 1918 se presenta el deporte. La Federación Uruguaya de Balón se funda en 1920.

1910/1912	The Swede G. Wallström established "Handboll" in Karlskrona. His compatriot H.G. Wallden released the first rulebook, which also included handball.
1.1.1917	The Berliner Max Heiser presented to the council of women's and girls gymnastics in Berlin the rules of the game developed by himself - a lot of people describe this as the date of founding handball.
1917-1920	Carl Schelenz, lecturer at the German Sport University in Berlin, developed with the help of Heiser's handball for women the eleven-a-side-handball for men and propagated it as outdoor handball in Europe. - Schelenz is also described as the "father of the handball".
1.1.1920	Carl Diem, the principal of the German Sport University in Berlin, brought forward a motion whereupon the university officially introduced male handball in Germany, based on the rules of Schelenz.
15.10.1921	In Buenos Aires the "Argentinian Balon Federation", the first handball federation of the world is founded.
8.7.1923	The first European international match in "Balon Uruguayo" takes place in the Ferro Carril Oeste arena in Buenos Aires (ARG). Uruguay prevails against Argentina at 7:3.
25.1.1925	Foundation of the first European national handball federation in Vienna: the Austrian Handball Federation.
13.9.1925	Austria won 6:3 (3:1) against Germany in Halle/Saale (GER), the first male national team match of field handball in front of 3000 spectators.
1926	The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), which included all ball games, was planning at its August-Congress in Den Haag (NED) to withdraw those federations and instructed a commission for hand-ball games to develop international rules of the game, among others for field handball.
1.1.1927	At their conference in Amsterdam the commission accepted the German rules and confirmed them to be valid worldwide.
4.8.1928	At the VIII congress of the IAAF in Amsterdam the International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF) was founded. All ball games (basketball, volleyball, handball, courtball, rounders, netball,

En este libro de la IHF "Handball. Fascinación por miles de años" incluye al final del mismo, un raconto de la cronología de los hechos más destacados que contiene dos fechas:

- La creación de la Federación Argentina de Balón en 1921.
- El primer partido internacional de selecciones nacionales, disputado en la modalidad de campo entre Uruguay y Argentina. Hay un visible error en la redacción cuando lo pone como el primer partido europeo (página 346)

Horst Wagner: Handball 72 - Handbuch des deutschen und internationalen Handballsports (1917 bis 1972); Herausgeber: Deutscher Handball-Bund; Nürnberg (FR of Germany) 1972

World Handball Magazine, Official Organ of the International Handball Federation, Editions 1984-2013, Basle (Switzerland)

F.K. Mathys: Handball - ursprünglich den Frauen vorbehalten, in: Olympisches Feuer, issue 2, March/April 1986

Olympic Review, published by the International Olympic Committee, Lausanne (Switzerland)

International Olympic Committee: Olympic Encyclopedia Handball, Supplement to the Olympic Review, March 1986, Lausanne (Switzerland) 1986

International Handball Federation: 50 Years IHF / 100 Years Handball; Redaktion: Raymond Hahn (IHF, FRA), Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Hermann (IHF, GER), Frank Birkefeld (IHF, GER), Jochen Reinhardt (AIPS, GER), Basle (Switzerland) 1996

Women and Handball, IHF special edition for the International Olympic Committee, Basle (Switzerland) 1997

International Handball Federation: Congress Reports 2000, 2004, 2007, 2009, and 2013 Basle (Switzerland)

Erik Eggers: Wer hat Handball erfunden?, World Handball Magazine 2/2005, Basle (Switzerland) 2005

Juan Carlos Rennis: De Mano en Mano, La Historia del Handball Argentino, Confederación Argentina de Handball, Buenos Aires (Argentina) 2006

Adriana Suburu, Historia del Balon,Deporte Nacinal Uruguayo, Montevideo (Uruguay) 2007

International Handball Federation, Congress Minutes, Minutes from the meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee, 1946-2015

Al final del libro, en su bibliografía (página 361), incorpora las dos investigaciones históricas que se han hecho en Sudamérica relacionadas al Balón Uruguayo.

Página web de la Fundación Antonio Valeta

<https://www.balonuruguayo.com.uy/>