

EHF

EUROPEAN HANDBALL
FEDERATION



W19 EHF CHAMPIONSHIP (Georgia)

YAC Qualitative Analysis



W19 EHF CHAMPIONSHIP

GEORGIA • 12–20 JULY 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The W19 EHF Championship 2025 Georgia qualitative summary provides an analysis of the performance of the 10 participating teams and players who competed at the tournament from 12 to 20 July 2025.

This report combines EHF statistics with video analysis, highlighting tactical aspects, attack/ defence systems, transition play and individual performances.

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TOURNAMENT – FACTS & FIGURES

- 10 teams competed in the W19 EHF Championship in two groups
- the four best teams qualified for the semi-finals (Slovakia, Ukraine, Italy and Belgium)
- the two bottom teams (Georgia, Bulgaria) played a placement match for places 9-10 and the other four teams (Israel, Great Britain, Kosovo and Luxembourg) met in cross matches for the 5-8 ranking
- 1,772 goals were scored in 30 games, an average of 57.1 goals per game
- Ukraine were the top goal scorers with 255 goals (64.7 per cent)
- Israel only managed to convert 49.8 per cent of their attempts, scoring only 198 goals
- Ukraine also committed the lowest number of turnovers (63), while Luxembourg had the highest number with 80, followed by Bulgaria (78), Belgium (77) and Great Britain (76)

TEAM PERFORMANCE — OVERVIEW



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Ukraine and Slovakia were clearly ahead physically and tactically. Italy's mature playing style made them a semi-final candidate. Other teams often relied on individual strengths, with varied defensive experiments rarely producing sustained success.

- Ukraine: champions, unbeaten, dominant back court and compact but agile defence. Clearly the most advanced team, combining strong individual performance with clear concept in defence and attack
- Slovakia: best defensive record with good goalkeeping and a robust squad, which helped them to power through less athletic and strong teams
- Italy: active defence, strong goalkeeper play, modern offensive concepts with clever isolation and usage of mismatches
- Kosovo: small but athletic back court with many 1:1 breakthroughs, which lead them to the second best shot efficiency (62.7 per cent), only trailing Ukraine (64.9 per cent)
- Luxembourg: two strong back court players in Laura Ciufoli (left back) and Anne Mopibo Mbuluku (right back), with a consequent match plan based on defence, exposing poor wing performance
- Belgium: relied heavily on individual play in attack, and tried several defensive schemes
- Great Britain: Grace Concar (centre back) and Daniella Savidge King (right/left back) carried the team in attack, while the defence was agile, but not competitive enough yet
- Bulgaria: Melina Spasova (left back) and Stela Skachkova (centre back) drove the attack, but the defence were too inconsistent
- Georgia: started as one of the few teams with an more open defensive scheme but lacked overall skill to matchup with the more advanced teams
- Israel: used the most variations on defence and showed promising tactics in attack. Individually still improving

MATCHES & PLAYERS — FACTS



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- the age category for the tournament was 2006/2007
- the top three scorers were Melina Spasova (Bulgaria) with 54 goals, Laura Ciufoli (Luxembourg) with 47 goals, and Michaela Lukacínová (Slovakia) and Vanessa Lakatos (Ukraine), both with 39 goals
- the top three most efficient shooters who attempted more than 30 shots were Viktoriia Malovana (Ukraine, 80 per cent), Yade Put (Belgium, 74 per cent) and Liubov Rosokha (Ukraine, 68 per cent)

COACHES

- There were three female head coaches at the championship: Liliia Horilska (Ukraine), Natasja Kivit (Belgium) and Tina Welter (Luxembourg)
- Great Britain's Luke Jennings (30) was the youngest coach in the field

DEFENCE GENERAL ASPECTS

- Slovakia's compact 6-0 was unmatched numbers-wise. They led the field in forced errors (turnovers, steals, blocks) as well as in overall goalkeeping
- Kosovo surprised with a strong rating despite fewer resources
- Ukraine were by far the most robust and aggressive team on defence, using clever traps and fouls to provoke mistakes, while lacking a top goalkeeping performance

Team	Rank	Goals conceded	Goals conceded per 50 defences
Ukraine	1	139	19.50
Slovakia	2	129	18.10
Italy	3	155	19.57
Belgium	4	180	22.84

DEFENCE SYSTEMS

- 6-0 base for almost all teams.
- hybrid 5-1, 3-2-1, 3-3 or the coverage/marketing of single players used mostly when trailing
- Georgia played a 3-2-1 to start the game versus Great Britain and tried a 5+1 defence versus Bulgaria
- Israel were the most active team switching defensive schemes

DEFENCE TACTICAL ASPECTS

- 6-0 zone defence with:
 - aggressive half defenders
 - crossing defenders
 - forcing attackers' fouls
 - wing defenders closing gap

- Offensive defence:
 - crossing defenders
 - forcing attackers' fouls
 - wing defenders closing gap

- Superiority in defence:
 - hunting the opponent

DEFENCE TOGETHER WITH GOALKEEPER

- Best goalkeeper teams in terms of save efficiency:
 1. Slovakia – 36.5 per cent
 2. Italy – 35.4 per cent
 3. Kosovo – 34.0 per cent
 4. Luxembourg – 33.9 per cent

Margherita Danti (Italy) delivered match-winning saves in the game for bronze versus Belgium, making 16 saves from 42 shots (38 per cent), 14 saves (37 per cent) in the semi-final defeat to Slovakia, and another crucial 13 saves for 38 per cent in the comeback win versus Georgia.

ATTACK GENERAL ASPECTS

- At the W19 EHF Championship 2025, 1,692 goals were scored from 2,948 shots (57 per cent per cent). Ukraine had the best attack with 26.1 goals scored per 50 possessions, followed by Slovakia with 23.7 and Belgium with 22.2.

ATTACK TECHNICAL ASPECTS

- Technical skilled players could make a difference
- Combination 11 videos attack individual

ATTACK TACTICAL ASPECTS

- Most teams tried to isolate defenders by:
 - line cross
 - wing cross
- An obvious trend in attack in all age categories:
 - sending in a second line players predominantly from the back position, but sometimes from the wing
 - Fake wing transition

ATTACK TRANSITION DEFENCE — TOGETHER WITH THE GOALKEEPER

- Due to a high number of forced errors, many teams scored on easy fast break opportunities:
 - good saves showed great precision
 - fast throw off



PROFILE OF THE MODERN PLAYER

The duo of left back Vanessa Lakatosh and centre back Liubov Rosokha from Ukraine were well trained. Rosokha was incredible in 1v1 and had amazing playmaking instincts, often being the smartest player on the field. In combination with Lakatosh's shooting power and technique, they combined for 54 field goals with 65 per cent efficiency.

CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS



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- Ukraine were superior in attack efficiency and had great balance between offence and defence
- Slovakia had the best defence together with top goalkeeping
- Italy made it to the semi-final thanks to individual qualities and modern offensive schemes

ALL-STAR TEAM

The All-star Team was based on votes.

GOALKEEPER



Margherita Danti

RIGHT WING



Chiara Priolo

LEFT WING



Nina Letková

LINE PLAYER



Yade Put

LEFT BACK



Vanessa Lakatosh

BEST DEFENDER



Anastasiia Parkhomenko

CENTRE BACK



Liubov Rosokha

MVP



Liubov Rosokha

RIGHT BACK



Anne Mopibo Mbuluku



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