

# CSM CONSTANTA vs YSTADS IF

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## Foreword EHF President

**Dear handball friends,**

### **The fight for glory starts with 32 teams**

Three German teams and one Portuguese club have lifted the EHF European League trophy since the competition's launch in 2020 and each edition has brought even more action than the one before. Fans have always been at the heart of handball and with their support, the EHF European League is ready to claim back Tuesday nights, as the countdown to the group matches has reached its end.

Last season culminated with the thrilling EHF Finals Men 2024 in Barclays Arena, Hamburg, where Flensburg proved to be the toughest out of the 32 teams that took the start in the competition. The fans stayed close to the action with the help of the extended TV coverage, the live streaming on EHFTV and the exclusive sneak-peeks on our social media channels.

For the second year in a row, the group matches features 32 teams distributed in eight groups, with the matches starting in October 2024. Only half of the participants will progress to the EHF European League main round, which starts in February 2025. The strongest teams will continue the route to the trophy through the play-offs, the quarter-finals and, ultimately, the EHF Finals Men 2025 on 24/25 May.

After an intense qualification round that concluded at the beginning of September, 10 teams filled in the remaining spots in the groups and are now ready to fight among the best. Some of the notable teams that take the start in the 2024/25 season are THW Kiel, the EHF FINAL4 2024 bronze medallists, former EHF Champions League winners Montpellier Handball and defending champions Flensburg. With top teams taking the main stage in the EHF European League Men, hard work and dedication will make a difference on the path to success, and our seasonal campaign slogan illustrates this: ALL IN – Greatness is earned.

We look forward to another thrilling season in the EHF European League Men!

Enjoy the matches!

Yours in sport,

**Michael Wiederer**  
**EHF President**



Ne așteaptă o toamnă bogată! CSM Constanța culege roadele investiției în performanță și le propune iubitorilor de sport un regal european la Sala Sporturilor!

Trei echipe de la CSM Constanța în frunte cu cea de handbal vor evolua în grupele unor competiții continentale de top iar fanii lor vor avea posibilitatea de a vedea meciuri unul și unul la Constanța! Sunt roadele unui proiect crescut organic, cu multă muncă, un proiect care s-a transformat într-o poveste de succes, CSM Constanța fiind, la această oră, singurul club din România care are trei echipe calificate în grupele cupelor europene!

Handbaliștii noștri încep o nouă aventură europeană, direct în faza grupelor EHF European League, grație evoluției de excepție din sezonul precedent. Bidasoa Irun (Spania), Chrobry Glogow (Polonia) și Ystads IF (Suedia) sunt adversarele din Grupa D, pe care CSM Constanța trebuie să le depășească pentru a accede în Main Round-ul competiției.

Emulația extraordinară creată a făcut ca în ultimii ani tot mai mulți copii să vină la baschet și handbal. Iar juniorii noștri au performat tot mai mult, inclusiv prin calificări la turneele finale.

Un sezon pe care îl luăm ca pe o provocare unică pe care CSM Constanța a atins-o în premieră și din care încearcă să obțină cât mai mult.

Sezonul abia începe! Ne așteaptă o călătorie dificilă, dar frumoasă. Avem nevoie de tribune pline în această toamnă la meciurile echipelor noastre! Haideți să umplem Sala Sporturilor! Hai, Constanța!

**Andrei Talpeș, Președinte CSM Constanța**





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GROUP D



### Club contact

#### Club Address

CSM Constanta  
Str. Alexandr S. Puskin, no.13  
900664 Constanta  
Romania

 [csmconstanta.ro](http://csmconstanta.ro)

 [constantacsm](https://www.facebook.com/constantacsm)



–

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### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
GK shirt: light blue

#### Dark

Player shirt: blue  
Player short: blue  
GK shirt: black



### Playing hall

#### Simona Amanar Sports Hall Constanta

B.dul Tomis Nr. 102-104  
900178 Constanta,  
Romania  
Capacity: 2,994

# CSM CONSTANTA



Last season, CSM Constanta qualified for the group matches of for the first time through a dramatic penalty shootout win in the qualification round against Fraikin BM. Granollers. They progressed through to the main round, where their campaign ended.

The Romanian side reached second place in the domestic league last season, their best result since 2018/19. They are currently coached by George Buricea, who is also the Romania men's national team coach, and rely on a Romanian core, with players he knows best.

- **this is the eighth season in European competitions for Constanta, but only the third in the group phase of the second-tier European competition**
- **finished second in the Romanian league last season, their best performance in the last five years**
- **Constanta's coach, George Buricea, enters his fourth consecutive season on the team's bench, having been a former player for the Romanian side**
- **in the past season, Constanta made it to the main round and won four of the 10 matches they played**

Constanta's ambitions for 2024/25 are high. They have retained most of their core, with only three players leaving and three players joining, meaning the team's chemistry and depth are unaffected.

Team captain Ionut Nistor: "The previous season was our best one. Although we obtained much more than we had hoped for, the feeling we had in the end was the that we could have done better in several occasions, especially against the super teams, like Fuchse Berlin. When you shock the competition eliminating a former finalist like Granollers on their home ground and make a competitive round against the winners Fuchse, this can boost your motivation to want more."



# ROSTER

GK  
12



**CHILIANU**  
ALEXANDRU GABRIEL

GK  
88



**CRISTEA**  
ANTONIO

GK  
1



**RUSU**  
DUMITRU VLĂDUȚ

GK  
16



**VASILE**  
DAN LUCIAN

RB  
13



**ALIOKHIN**  
MIKALAI

LW  
7



**ANDREI**  
ALEXANDRU GEORGE

LB  
17



**BUZLE**  
IOSIF ANDREI

CB  
14



**CĂBUT**  
CĂLIN MIHAI

LB  
8



**CHIKVANI**  
IRAKLI

CB  
20



**DRĂGAN**  
ANDREI VALERIU

LB  
10



**ILIE**  
GABRIEL CRISTIAN

LB  
34



**KOMOGOROV**  
VITALY

LP  
22



**LOURINO**  
GASTÓN ALBERTO

LP  
23



**NIKOLIC**  
ZORAN

RW  
5



**NISTOR**  
IONUȚ

LW  
33



**RAVNIC**  
VALENTINO

RW  
31



**STANKOVIC**  
STRAHINJA

RW  
3



**ȘTEFAN**  
RAREȘ ANDREI

LP  
24



**SZÁSZ**  
ANDRÁS

RB  
27



**UNGUREANU**  
NICOLAE CRISTIAN

COACH



**BURICEA**  
GEORGE



## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 5

Main round (1): 2023/24

Qualification (3): 2020/21, 2021/22; 2022/23

### Other

#### EHF Cup

Semi-finals (1): 2013/14

#### EHF Cup Winners' Cup

Semi-finals (1): 2005/06

Quarter-finals (2): 2006/07, 2008/09

#### EHF Challenge Cup

Semi-finals (1): 2003/04

**Romanian league:** 9 titles (2004, 2006, 2007, 2009-2014)

**Romanian cup:** 7 titles (2006, 2011-14, 2018, 2023)





## GEORGE BURICEA

Coach

- started playing handball when he was 15 years old but he also dabbled in athletics
- played for Constanta and Steaua București as a left wing
- reached the EHF Cup Finals with CSM Constanta in 2014, won 10 Romanian league titles as a player
- took over the head coach position in 2022, having been an assistant for two seasons for Constanta
- since 2024, he is also the head coach of the Romania men's national team

## ARRIVALS

Andrei Buzle (Granollers/ESP)  
Nicolae Cristian Ungureanu (Steaua/ROU)  
András Szász (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)

## DEPARTURES

Daniel Andrei Susanu (Buzău/ROU, on loan)  
Liviu Caba (CSM Bucuresti/ROU)  
Marin Vegar (Nexe/CRO)



## DAN VASILE

 @dannivasile\_

### Goalkeeper

- arrived at Constanta in 2017 as a Romanian youth international; has always played for the club except for half a year on loan at CSM Fagaras
- won the Romanian cup in his first season with Constanta, and again in 2022/23
- has played in Europe's second-tier club competition each season since 2017/18
- was part of the Romanian squad for the Men's EHF EURO 2024 in Germany



## VALENTINO RAVNIC

 @valentinoravnic33

### Left wing

- Croatian international, who started his senior career at Zagreb in 2017 after emerging from their youth academy
- played five seasons with Zagreb before moving abroad and joining Constanta in 2022
- scored a personal best 36 goals for Constanta in the EL 2023/24 season
- played for Croatia at the EHF EURO in 2020 and 2022



## VITALY KOMOGOROV

### Left back

- experienced Russian international, who arrived at Constanta from Tatabánya in 2020
- best left back of the season in Romania in 2018 and 2019, when he played for Dinamo
- started professional career in Volgograd; left Russia for the first time in 2015 to play for Nantes in France; played the EHF Cup final with Nantes in 2016
- his height and power turn him into a key player for Constanta both sides of the court



## VALERIU ANDREI DRAGAN

### Centre back

- considered one of the most talented players in Romania
- signed for Constanta in 2021 when he was 22
- started playing handball at his local club, in Sfântu Gheorghe, then spent five years at CSM Bacău before signing for Constanta
- played for Romania at EHF EURO 2024, his debut at a major tournament







GROUP D



**Club contact**

**Club Address**

Ytads IF HF  
Box 21  
27121 Ystad  
Sweden



yif.se



YIFhandboll



@YIFhandboll



@yifhandboll

**Kit colours**

**Light**

Player shirt: white  
Player short: blue  
GK shirt: light blue

**Dark**

Player shirt: blue  
Player short: blue  
GK shirt: black



**Playing hall**

**Ystad Arena**

Industrigatan 10  
27180 Ystad  
Sweden  
Capacity: 2,369

# YSTADS IF HF



Ystads IF HF have now reached the group phase of the EHF European League for the second time in the club's history, after obtaining a hard-fought aggregate win against Marítimo da Madeira Andebol/SAD in qualification (72:66).

In 2022/23 — the first time they featured in the group matches — Ystad went all the way to the Last 16, but were denied a quarter-final ticket by Kadetten Schaffhausen. This year, they hope to replicate that success, but it's going to be a challenging task in group D.























- **their best European success was finishing the EHF European Cup 2020/21 as runners-up, after losing against AEK Athens HC in the final**
- **Denmark's Kristian Olsen and Norway's Carl Colin Tønnesen are their only non-Swedish players**
- **EHF Champions League winner Niclas Ekberg left THW Kiel after 12 years to return to his hometown and join Ystads' roster for 2024/25**
- **Ystad are one of the two Swedish teams in the competition this season, alongside domestic champions IK Sävehof**

The team's roster offers a unique mix of youth and experience and the addition of star player Niclas Ekberg will definitely bring leverage to Ystad's play.

The element of stability comes from coach Oscar Carlén, who has been at the helm for the past four years. But the question is — can Ystad go one step further on the European stage?

Team captain Jakob Nygren: "It will be a big motivation for the team to be back in the EHF European League again. It will also be a big motivation to fight for the gold in the Swedish league after the defeat in the final last season. We are looking forward to all the matches and it will be a new experience to face them all."

# ROSTER

<div><div>GK 12</div><div></div><div><div>HÅKANSSON VIGGO</div></div></div>	<div><div>GK 16</div><div></div><div><div>HVENFELT ERIK</div></div></div>	<div><div>GK 1</div><div></div><div><div>LINDEN ALEXANDER</div></div></div>	<div><div>RB 5</div><div></div><div><div>ANDERSSON KIM</div></div></div>	<div><div>RW 18</div><div></div><div><div>EKBERG NICLAS</div></div></div>
<div><div>LW 9</div><div></div><div><div>FERNEBRAND LINUS</div></div></div>	<div><div>LB 29</div><div></div><div><div>HULTBERG LIAM</div></div></div>	<div><div>LB 3</div><div></div><div><div>JOELSSON OSKAR</div></div></div>	<div><div>RW 19</div><div></div><div><div>LANDIN ALFRED</div></div></div>	<div><div>CB 32</div><div></div><div><div>LINDSKOG ANDERSSON JULIUS</div></div></div>
<div><div>LP 22</div><div></div><div><div>LINDSTRÖM CARL</div></div></div>	<div><div>LP 2</div><div></div><div><div>MANSSON ANTON</div></div></div>	<div><div>CB 17</div><div></div><div><div>MARTENSSON HOLGER</div></div></div>	<div><div>LP 11</div><div></div><div><div>NILSSON LOWE</div></div></div>	<div><div>RB 6</div><div></div><div><div>NYGREN JAKOB</div></div></div>
<div><div>RB 10</div><div></div><div><div>OLSEN KRISTIAN</div></div></div>	<div><div>LW 20</div><div></div><div><div>PERSSON NILS</div></div></div>	<div><div>CB 51</div><div></div><div><div>SEIFERT MELVIN</div></div></div>	<div><div>LB 4</div><div></div><div><div>STENMALM PHILIP</div></div></div>	<div><div>RB 7</div><div></div><div><div>TØNNESEN CARL COLIN</div></div></div>
<div><div>LP 14</div><div></div><div><div>WILTHORN JONATHAN</div></div></div>	<div><div>COACH</div><div></div><div><div>CARLEN OSCAR</div></div></div>			



## PAST ACHIEVEMENTS

### EHF European League

Participations (incl. 2024/25): 4

Last 16 (1): 2022/23

Qualification (2): 2021/22, 2023/24

### Other

#### EHF Cup

Group phase (1): 2015/16

#### EHF European Cup

Final (1): 2020/21

#### EHF Challenge Cup

Last 16 (1): 2003/04

**Swedish league:** 3 titles (1976, 1992, 2022)

**Swedish cup:** 4 titles (1978, 1981, 1984, 1992)





## OSCAR CARLÉN

Coach

- former Swedish international, who retired at age 25 after suffering from multiple knee injuries
- has only played for three clubs in his career — Ystads IF, and SG Flensburg-Handewitt and HSV Hamburg in Germany
- was also part of the Swedish national team and played at the EHF EURO 2008 and 2009 WCh
- came back to Ystad as an assistant coach in 2017 and became head coach in 2020
- one of his former teammates is currently playing for Ystad: 42-year-old right back Kim Andersson

## ARRIVALS

Kristian Olsen (Nordsjælland/DEN)  
Oskar Andersson (Lödde/SWE)  
Niclas Ekberg (Kiel/GER)

## DEPARTURES

Jonathan Svensson (Fredericia/DEN)  
Hampus Karlsson (AMO/SWE)  
Ebbe Stankiewicz (SönderjyskE/DEN)  
Elliot Stenmalm (Kristianstad/SWE)  
Jonathan Andersson (IFK Ystad/SWE)





## PHILIP STENMALM

 @stenmalm

### Left back

- returned to Ystad in 2021, after playing for Logroño, Kolding, PAUC, and Plock
- named best defender of the Swedish league in 2023/24
- represented Sweden at EHF EURO 2016, Rio 2016 Olympics, and 2017 WCh
- his brother Elliot is also a professional handball player, who has joined IFK Kristianstad this season



## JULIUS LINDSKOG ANDERSSON

 @juliuslindskogandersson

### Centre back

- joined Ystad in 2021, has extended his contract until 2027
- scored the winning penalty which brought Ystad the Swedish domestic championship in 2022, ending a 30-year title drought for the club
- was named MVP of the second German division in 2019/20 when playing for Ferndorf
- son of former Swedish international Robert Andersson



## KIM ANDERSSON

### Centre back

- three-time CL winner, and at 42 by far the most experienced player in Ystad's squad
- spent seven years at Kiel, where he won the CL in 2007, 2010 and 2012
- after his stint in Kiel, he moved for three years to KIF Kolding, but returned to Sweden in 2015, signing for Ystad
- All-star right back at EHF EURO 2008; also won silver at London 2012 Olympics
- was named the Swedish Player of the Year in 2007, 2008, and 2012

CL: 2007, 2010, 2012  
OG: S 2012



## NICLAS EKBERG

 @ekbergniclas18

### Right wing

- Ystad-born player, who returned to his home team in 2024 after 12 years in Kiel; had immediate impact for the club with 19 goals in their EL 2024/25 qualification
- became Kiel's all-time top scorer during the 2021/22 season, passing Filip Jicha
- CL top scorer with 85 goals and All-star right wing in Kiel's golden 2019/20 season
- Swedish international, part of the team that won the EHF EURO 2022

CL: 2020; EC: 2019  
OG: S 2012; EURO: G 2022





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ZIZIN  
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“ Suntem la debutul în EHF European League, care ne găsește cu cel puțin șase meciuri disputate în campionatul intern. E cel mai bun moment să ne măsurăm nivelul de joc cu echipele de top din Europa, să punem în practică ceea ce am acumulat până la acest moment. Meciul cu Ystads va fi unul extrem de dificil, au în componența lor jucători cu experiență care au jucat la cel mai înalt nivel! Noi suntem gata să primim orice provocare și mai mult ca sigur că publicul constănțean de-abia așteaptă atmosfera unui meci de o asemenea intensitate, un meci spectacol, atât în teren cât și în tribune!

**George Buricea, Antrenor Principal**



“ Suntem pregătiți pentru primul meci european al sezonului. Am avut un început de sezon fără pauză, cu meciuri bune și o fereastră la Națională iar toate acestea ne-au ținut conectați la joc. Am încredere în echipa noastră și știu că toată lumea e nerăbdătoare pentru acest nou sezon european. Va fi unul lung iar faptul că debutăm pe teren propriu, în fața propriilor fani, este perfect. Sunt încrezător că vom face un meci bun, vom încerca să afișăm cel mai înalt nivel de handbal al nostru, cu sprijinul propriilor fani!

**Ionuț Nistor, Căpitan de Echipă**





Spectacolul cupelor europene revine, din 8 octombrie, la Sala Sporturilor! Handbaliștii de la CSM Constanța joacă, pentru al doilea an la rând, în grupele EHF European League, a doua în topul competițiilor inter-cluburi de pe continent, după Champions League. Vicecampionii României debutează în Grupa D contra suedezilor de la Ystads IF HF, echipă care a trecut de Madeira în calificări și va evolua pentru a doua oară în EHF European League. Prima dată, în sezonul 2022/2023, Ystads IF a ajuns în optimile de finală. De trei ori campioană a Suediei în aproape 100 de ani de istorie, echipa din Ystad a atins cea mai bună performanță europeană în 2021, când a jucat finala EHF European Cup, cu AEK Atena. Aflat la comanda echipei din 2020, antrenorul Oscar Carlen dispune de un lot care îmbină tinerețea cu experiența, dar și de un super-star, în persoana lui Niclas Ekberg (extremă dreapta, 36 de ani), care s-a întors la echipa din orașul său natal, după 12 ani petrecuți la THW Kiel! Ekberg este câștigător al Ligii Campionilor în 2020, vicecampion olimpic în 2012 și campion european în 2022 cu naționala Suediei! Decanul de vârstă și experiență, fostul adversar al Constanței din anii 2000, Kim Andersson (inter dreapta, centru, 42 de ani), este triplu câștigător al Ligii Campionilor cu THW Kiel și vicecampion olimpic cu Suedia în 2012! De urmărit la adversari și fostul internațional suedez Philip Stenmalm (32 de ani, inter stânga), desemnat cel mai bun apărător al ligii suedeze în sezonul 2023/2024, și Julius Lindskog Andersson (30 de ani, centru), unul dintre jucătorii cheie ai echipei. CSM Constanța speră să fructifice experiența câștigată în sezonul precedent, când a atins faza principală a competiției. A mai trecut un an peste “îngerul păzitor” al porții noastre, Dani Vasile, peste interul stânga Vitaly Komogorov, brațul devastator de la 9 metri, peste vitezistul Valentino Ravnice, dar și peste tânărul Andrei Drăgan, unul dintre coordonatorii atacurilor noastre. Atu-urile echipei antrenate de George Buricea și Ionuț Pușcașu sunt omogenitatea lotului, care păstrează nucleul de bază din ultimele sezoane, determinarea cu care abordează meciurile tari din Europa și publicul senzațional de la Sala Sporturilor. De la care așteptăm să fie, din nou, al optulea jucător al echipei! Haideți să umplem tribunele, pentru prima victorie europeană din acest sezon! Marți, 8 octombrie, de la ora 19.45! Hai, Constanța!



VS



MARȚI - 8 OCTOMBRIE

**ORA 19:45**

SALA SPORTURILOR - CONSTANȚA





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