



San Francisco CalHeat

Annual Report 2019-2020

San Francisco CalHeat is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and has obtained a tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Services.

Its mission is to develop, promote, educate and grow the Olympic sport of Team Handball, making it accessible to everyone in the San Francisco Bay Area, and emphasizing the ideals of fair-play, cooperation, responsibility and respect.

History

San Francisco CalHeat Team Handball Club has been active in the Bay Area for more than 35 years. The club consists of men's, women's, and youth teams that compete at the highest amateur level in the United States and Canada. The teams consist of players from age 10 to 40+ from many different cultural backgrounds, but all living in the greater San Francisco Bay Area.

SF CalHeat has a great tradition of Team Handball success at the national level in the United States. The men's team won the US National Championship in 1984, 1985, 1986, 1990, and 2019, a silver medal in 1987 and 2018, and bronze medals in 1996, 2001, and 2002. The women's team has won the gold medal in 2003 and 2006, the silver medal in 1997, 1998, 2004, and 2005, and the bronze medal in 1995 and 1996. Several former US Olympians and US National Team members have played for SF CalHeat.

For the past 26 years SF CalHeat has worked together with Centerville Junior High School in Fremont to introduce their students to the sport of Team Handball. SF CalHeat is using the gymnasium of the school for handball practices, scrimmages, clinics, and tournaments.

Until 2011 SF CalHeat has existed without much official structure, just as a dynamic group of Team Handball enthusiasts. To be able to better promote and grow the sport of Team Handball, a group of club members in 2011 took the step to incorporate SF CalHeat as a non-profit / tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The original board of directors of "San Francisco CalHeat"

consisted of President Sven Mayer, Treasurer Philippe Tracol, Secretary Jean-Marc Junique, Slave Jovanovski, and Bernward Schwarte.

Structure

After existing for many years without much formal structure, as stated above, several SF CalHeat players took the initiative, in 2011-2012, to set up SF CalHeat as a non-profit organization. The organization was incorporated, in the state of California, on August 12th, 2011. The Employer Identification Number (EIN) was received on October 19th, 2011. The Tax-exempt status was received on October 31st, 2012 from the Internal Revenue Service. The Tax-exempt status was received both on the federal and state level. The initial agent for service (a.k.a. "Principal Officer") was, and still is to this day, Jean-Marc Junique, who has joined SF CalHeat in 2000.

Activity Report

At the beginning of the season the board was composed of the following Directors and Officers: President: Bernward Schwarte; Vice-President: Jean-Marc Junique; Treasurer: Kevin Poulet; Secretary: Martin Bilello; Directors: Michelle Mensing and Danilo Rojevic.

Board of Directors

On September 4th, 2019, Heidi Smaradottir decided not to renew her seat as a board member.

Practices

SF CalHeat's active indoor season started on Monday September 5, 2019 and ended abruptly on Wednesday March 12, 2020 due to COVID-19. Despite a shortened season, we conducted nearly 100 practice sessions for our women and men athletes (approx. 200 hours of gym time). Our youth elite program only had a very limited number of practices.

Adult Indoor practices were, similarly to the previous season, conducted 3 times a week, on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings at the Gymnasium of Centerville Junior High School in Fremont, CA. This included teaching beginners Team Handball basics as well as preparing competitive teams for various tournaments.

Practices were held from 8:30 pm to 10:30 pm for the season. The head coach for the men's team was Danilo Rojevic; the head coach for the women's team was Kristina Alavanja.

SF CalHeat members again supported the intramural sports program of Centerville Junior High School by providing volunteers to coach kids during practices on Thursday nights (7:30-8:30 pm). Boys and girls were taught on half court, with a full-court game being played occasionally.

Coaching staff for the Junior High School students were: Raphael Renault, Bernward Schwarte, Padideh Dehdari, Constance Duvert, Agustina Amiconi, Kristina Alavanja, and Dulce Villarreal.

In the summer of 2019, Beach Handball practices and open games were organized every other weekend, mostly on Ocean Beach in San Francisco, under the leadership of USA Beach

San Francisco CalHeat Team Handball Club

Handball Elite Team Athlete, Women National Team Assistant Coach, and San Francisco CalHeat player Michelle Mensing. Due to COVID-19 there were no beach or grass handball practices scheduled for summer beginning in 2020.

Participation report

This year the total number of participants was 35 Women, 48 Men, and 9 Youth players during CalHeat practices and activities.

Committees

Youth Team Handball Committee

The club further expanded its youth development program. We continued our youth team handball league for the High School and Middle School levels. On the HS side participants were Sterne High School, SF CalHeat THC, Pioneer High School, Leland High School, and San Francisco THB. On the MS side, participants were Sterne School, Castillero Middle School (A & B Teams), Bret Harte Middle School, San Francisco THB, SF CalHeat THC, and Stanbridge Academy.

On September 7th, 2019 a clinic for coaches and players was hosted with more than 80 kids in attendance. The regular league games were carried out by all the teams.

The season ended in the 4th Youth California Cup on November 16th and 17th, 2019. Leland High School was crowned the High School champions with Sterne School second and San Francisco THB third. Castillero Middle School won the U14 California Cup with Bret Harte Middle School in second place and Sterne School in third.

Permanent Handball lines were painted at the courts at Bret Harte MS and Castillero MS (2 courts).

The second iteration of our SF CalHeat Youth Elite team was assembled, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic we had to cut practices short and cancelled our participation in the Canadian Youth National Tournament for 2020.

SF CalHeat was preparing to send 2 teams to the Partille Cup (international tournament in Sweden), in the B15 and B16 categories. With the B16 also going to participate at the Interamnia International Tournament in Teramo, Italy. Practices with the teams and all the travel arrangements had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

In partnership with the Montpellier HB Academy in France, we hosted our first Team Handball Winter Camp. For 3 days during the Holidays, more than 20 kids were taught by David Degouy, Montpellier HB's Assistant Coach and Academy Director, the fundamentals of Team Handball, to increase their skills and the overall level of play in the Bay Area.

Martin Bilello was appointed USATH's Regional Ambassador for the San Francisco Bay Area.

Five players from our Youth League got appointed to USATH's Youth Advisory Council: Balthazar Thevenet, Jean-Max Fawzi, Charlotte Bertrand (San Francisco THB), Anteneh Crosbie (Sterne School), and Andrew Park (Leland HS).

On July 18th a Youth Development Roundtable was organized and posted on the [USATH YouTube channel](#), Martin Bilello was the host and organizer.

Competition Committee

Our teams participated in tournaments across the nation (and in Canada): Chicago, Vancouver, Dallas, California Cup and Phoenix. We planned to send a total of four teams to the US Club Nationals, however, due to COVID-19, the event was postponed and then cancelled.

As expected, San Francisco CalHeat participated in sanctioned events counting toward the Wild Card race for the Elite Division due to the absence of a league in the U.S. West Coast.

Our club also submitted a bid to the North American & Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC) to host the 2020 NACHC Men's Club Championship. Despite support from USA Team Handball, the event was awarded to New York City Team Handball Club. Our first men's team still remained eligible to participate in the event as the US reigning champion. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, the 2020 NACHC Men's Club Championship was postponed. Ultimately, the IHF also decided to postpone the 2020 IHF Super Globe to a later date.

In February 2020, USATH transitioned all club and individual memberships to a new platform, Sport:80. All the members of our club are now cleared on the new platform and all officials, and club administrators, are Safe Sport compliant and have successfully completed a background check.

This season also marks a very important and special milestone for a longstanding member of our club. Jean-Marc Junique completed its 20th season as a player competing for San Francisco CalHeat. This is unprecedented in the history of the club. Please join us in congratulating Jean-Marc for his loyalty, dedication, service, and passion for the club.

Refereeing Committee

We organized and assigned referees for all Youth League Games and the Youth California Cup, and want to thank all the volunteers who helped support the youth program. In addition, the committee managed the referee planning and assignment for the 2020 California Cup, which included our own referees Christoph Kraemer, Kevin Poulet, Omar Bentahar and Romain Kakko-Chiloff.

Christoph Kraemer, chair of the committee, participated together with some of the referees of our club pool to the following events:

- Women's IHF Trophy - Continental Phase in Montreal, CAN with Christoph Kraemer
- M. Lipov Memorial Cup in Chicago, IL with Kevin Poulet and Christoph Kraemer

- Vancouver Cup in Vancouver, CAN with Omar Bentahar, Kevin Poulet, Christoph Kraemer, Agustina Amiconi and Constance Duvert
- Texas Cup in Dallas, TX with Kevin Poulet
- 2020 CalCup with Kevin Poulet, Christoph Kraemer, Omar Bentahar and Romain Kakko-Chiloff
- Valley of the Sun in Phoenix, AZ with Christoph Kraemer
- North American Caribbean Beach Handball Championships in Trinidad, Trinidad & Tobago with Michelle Mensing and Jephania Chen
- NorCal Beach Cup in Santa Cruz, CA with Michelle Mensing
- SoCal Beach Handball Championship in Huntington Beach, CA with Michelle Mensing

The committee, under the leadership of Christoph Kraemer, and with the support of Tugomir Butso Anusic, has continuously pushed for a more consistent development of USA Team Handball referees, including the organization of referee certification programs.

Michelle Mensing held the first ever beach handball referee introduction course in Canada, with more than 30 attendees in a virtual session, to support the Alberta Team Handball Federation in their grassroots efforts for beach handball.

Coaching Committee

There were no coaching certification programs provided by USA Team Handball in the 2019-20 season, but we hope those will be available in the future as the US federation expects more support from the International Handball Federation (IHF).

The coaching fund was renewed to offset traveling costs for Head Coaches. Benefits, such as a free or discounted membership, were also granted to youth head coaches (SF CalHeat Youth, Centerville) for their investment in the youth program.

Starting in the new season, Tina Alavanja and Danilo Rojevic will co-lead the coaching committee in an effort to further advance education among our coaches.

At the national team level, Tina Alavanja was selected as Assistant Coach for the USA Women's Youth National Team that competed at the IHF Trophy Tournament in Quebec, Canada, and Martin Bilello was selected as an Assistant Coach for the USA Men's Junior National Team that competed at the XXII Junior World Championships in Spain (July 16-28, 2019).

Beach Handball Committee

The beach handball season for SF CalHeat started with regular beach and grass handball practices in Mountain View and San Francisco. During the course of the season, 9 grass handball practices and 4 beach handball sessions were conducted. There was an increase in

grass handball activities and a relocation of the practices to the Rengstorff Park in Mountain View.

From July 10th - 15th the first North American Caribbean Beach Handball Championships were staged in Trinidad and Tobago. Athena Del Rosario participated in the tryouts for the national team and was named an alternate for the event. Jephane Chen and Michelle Mensing joined the US delegation as the first US and North American and Caribbean beach handball referees. They also became the first female referees representing the US in an international competition (indoor and beach). The pair was awarded to referee the small final of the women's competition and celebrated the success of the US mens and womens team placing first and qualifying for the 2019 World Beach Games in Qatar and 2020 World Championships in Pescara, Italy (postponed due to Covid). Part of the men's team winning the gold medal was former CalHeat player Willard Johnson.

As part of the US Beach Handball Tour, San Francisco CalHeat hosted the NorCal Beach Cup on Aug 11th, 2019 at Santa Cruz (near Boardwalk). The tournament saw 3 coed teams participating, most of the players also participate in the SF CalHeat indoor practices. The event was led by Michelle Mensing and due to plenty of food options near the court no BBQ was organized. The total number of participants reached 15 and therefore did not require the purchase of a permit or an insurance to cover the event. Given the small scale of the event there was no external participation.

At the end of August, the 13th Annual SoCal Beach Handball Championship was held in Huntington Beach, CA. Due to SF CalHeat participation in the KSI Cup in Denmark at the weekend prior, San Francisco CalHeat was only able to send one women team to the tournament, partnering with players from Idaho and Los Angeles. The team placed 4th overall in the tournament. Athena Del Rosario joined the RIP-LA beach handball team as a goalkeeper, and Michelle Mensing joined the team due to another player's injury in the final of the tournament against "Winners get sprinkles". In a major upset, RIP-LA took the title and celebrated their first gold at the championship.

From October 11-20 the World Beach Games, originally set for San Diego, were hosted in Qatar. Both Athena and Michelle were named alternates for the event and did not travel with the national teams. Michelle Mensing provided video and game analysis support for the national team coaching staff.

Michelle Mensing has been named assistant national team coach for the US Women's Beach Handball National Team on March 9, 2020, responsible for player education and video analysis.

Athena Del Rosario continues to be an active member of the US Women National Team Player Pool trying out for upcoming international events while continuing to promote the great practice environment at SF CalHeat.

CalCup Committee

The 2020 California Cup continued on a very successful track and brought a competitive lineup in both women's and men's divisions.

The committee, composed of Michelle Mensing, Christoph Kraemer, Soeren Mueller, and Danilo Rojevic, spent a lot of time on planning and organizing with the additional objective to bring more financial stability to the event. Due to some last minute team cancellations, our financials ended up slightly negative. The event was web-streamed at no cost.

Similarly to previous years, the members of the club stepped up and volunteered across a wide range of tasks. We saw 100+ hours of volunteering from the club members and a number of former club members and legends / Olympians attended the event.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the successful organization of the event! Next year will be the 15th anniversary of the CalCup.

Public Relations

A club banner was displayed in all Bay Area events (Youth, Adult, Beach) as well as external events. The banner was updated with the newest gold medal count for the men's team.

Social Media and web presence were reinforced, enlarged, and sustained for the entire season, bringing new fans, followers, and players to the club. We continued to organically grow our follower's base and engagement on Instagram (@sfcalheat) to reach nearly 1,500 followers. This makes us the 3rd largest handball-specific Instagram account in the country after USA Team Handball (7,801 followers), and New York City Team Handball Club (6,815 followers).

We partnered with USA Team Handball on a number of occasions to showcase our club activities, notably during the Youth California Cup and California Cup. These Instagram takeovers resulted in a significant increase of our social media engagement. We want to thank USA Team Handball, and Melissa Zhang for these opportunities.

During the first couple of weeks of the shelter-in-place orders, we also initiated an all-star team vote in both the men and women player categories. These initiatives resulted in disproportionate exposure (+250 followers over a two weeks time) and even attracted professionals from our sport (e.g. Duda Amorim, Kentin Mahe). We hope to repeat those in the years to come.

Practices were displayed and shared on Facebook, Meetup, and the club's website.

With the exception of the Phoenix tournament, all tournaments where SF CalHeat participated were live streamed by the PR committee. The Youth and Adult California Cups were completely covered.

Sponsoring Committee

DishDash renewed its sponsorship with a silver-level sponsorship donation (\$1500). RockTape increased its donation to \$5000, becoming a platinum sponsor, while also donating some equipment to the club, like tape, resistance bands, and foam rollers. However, due to the recent crisis caused by the coronavirus, RockTape was not able to make the second payment of \$2500. We remain in touch however for the next seasons.

SF CalHeat secured a new sponsor through the Sponsorship referral program with Waymo (referred by Giulia Guidi). Waymo, with a donation of \$5000, has become our first platinum level

sponsor. However, this has not yet been publicly announced, due to a request made by Waymo in light of the current crisis.

The volunteering program in collaboration with SF Giants Baseball that was in place last season has been cancelled since the MLB season has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

Finally, SF CalHeat signed a 4-year agreement with Hummel. This agreement makes Hummel the official SF CalHeat apparel provider. It also provides a new online SF CalHeat store, and allows the club to order Hummel equipment with a 40% discount.

Disciplinary Committee

All players signed and abided by the "Athlete Code of Conduct / Letter of Agreement". No disciplinary procedure has been opened during the 2019-20 season.

End of Season Awards

Given COVID-19 and orders to shelter-in-place across the entire Bay Area, the club did not proceed to a usual season closure and, hence, no end of season award ceremony was held.

USATH Athlete Advisory Council

On July 17th, 2020 Athena Del Rosario was elected to the USA Team Handball Athletes Advisory Council as the female representative for the general membership.

Tournaments

Partille Cup 50th Edition - Gothenburg, Sweden: July 1-6, 2019

SF CalHeat B15 was placed in Group 16 together with Hjortshøj Egå IF, IK Sävehof, Skuru IK, Frogner IL, and India Birla Pilani.

The team finished with a record of 1-1-3 in group play and placed 4th earning a spot on the B Playoffs. In that instance, the team lost its first knockout game to Lugli HF's second team by one goal. (<https://results.partillecup.com/2019/en/team/21125916>)

NorCal Beach Cup - Main Beach, Santa Cruz, CA: August 11, 2019

As part of the US Beach Handball Tour, San Francisco CalHeat hosted the NorCal Beach Cup on Aug 11th, 2019 at Santa Cruz (near Boardwalk). The tournament saw 3 coed teams participating, most of the players also participate in the SF CalHeat indoor practices.

The event was led by Michelle Mensing and due to plenty of food options near the court no BBQ was organized. The total number of participants reached 15 and therefore did not require the purchase of a permit or an insurance to cover the event. Given the small scale of the event there was no external participation.

KSI Cup - Otto Mønsted Hall, Copenhagen, Denmark: August 16-18, 2019

For the first time ever, SF CalHeat decided to participate in a friendly tournament in Europe with the goal being to reunite with our former players now residing in Europe, plus some America-based ones that would travel to compete. Thanks to the organization of Kathrine Agger we were able to compete at the KSI Cup in Denmark.

The players attending were: Constance Duvert, Isabella Denzer, Rebecka Kindeberg, Anika Mensing, Lissy Ha, Ann Ha, Antonia Bohrisch, and Kathrine Agger for the women team, and Francis Brero, Soren Mueller, Joaquin Tintore King, Remo Riedweg, Axel Axelsson, Slave Jovanovski, Thomas Namdar, Christopher Dreher, and Johannes Sittig for the men team.

The men's team won the silver medal.

SoCal Beach Handball Championship - Huntington Beach, CA: August 24-25, 2019

The tournament was hosted by the Los Angeles Team Handball Club and the US Beach Tour.

Men's division included the following teams named in order of final placement: RIP-CAGE, Manzanillo, Colima, LA Wizards, RIP-Niteroi, and Sand Storm.

Women's division included the following teams named in order of final placement: RIP-LA, Winners Get Sprinkles, Sandy Bottoms, and SF CalHeat.

San Francisco CalHeat sent one women's team placing 4th. CalHeat players were also playing for RIP-LA placing 1st.

Michael L. Memorial Cup - Chicago, IL: October 25-27, 2019

The tournament was hosted by Chicago Inter Handball. Both our men's and women's teams finished the tournament in 3rd place.

The men's division included a total of 12 teams: Houston Firehawks, Alberta Team Handball, Portland Sasquatch, NYC Team Handball Club, Chicago Inter Handball, Team Handball Ontario, Miami Inter, Minnesota Team Handball, New York Athletic Club, US Air Force Academy, Minsk (Belarus) and San Francisco CalHeat,

The women's division included a total of 4 teams: Boston Team Handball, Chicago Inter Handball, Houston Firehawks, and San Francisco CalHeat.

Vancouver Cup - Vancouver, BC (Canada): November 9-10, 2019

The women's division included the following teams: Vancouver HC, Gambit HC (Manitoba), Cascadia HC (Vancouver II), and San Francisco CalHeat. Our women's team finished undefeated and claimed the title against Cascadia HC.

This year we sent our second men's team to compete alongside Portland Sasquatch, Vancouver I & II, and Regina. San Francisco CalHeat II finished in 2nd place.

4th Youth California Cup - Fremont, CA: November 16-17, 2019

Leland High School was crowned the High School champions with Sterne School second and San Francisco THB third. Castillero Middle School won the U14 California Cup with Bret Harte Middle School in second place and Sterne School in third.

Texas Cup - Dallas, TX: December 7-8, 2019

The Texas Cup was hosted by Dallas THC. It comprised a men's and a women's tournament. Both our women's and men's teams won the competition, again!

The women's division included the following teams: Alberta Youth, Alberta Youth Elite, Houston Firehawks, and San Francisco CalHeat.

The men's division included the following teams: US Air Force Academy, Chicago Inter Handball, Dallas Team Handball Club, Houston Firehawks, Miami Inter, NYAC II, Texas A&M, and San Francisco CalHeat.

14th California Cup - Fremont, CA: January 24-26, 2020

The men's division was won by our first men's team, defeating Alberta Team Handball 22-19. San Francisco CalHeat II finished in 3rd place and claimed the bronze for the first time ever at the tournament! Lucas Kroeger claimed the MVG award, and Eloy Rubio was elected MVP and tournament top scorer (in a tie with Kraig Fischer from Alberta). The tournament included the following teams: Alberta Team Handball, Army West Point Black, Chicago Inter Handball, Los Angeles THC, San Francisco CalHeat, San Francisco CalHeat II, and US Air Force Academy.

The women's division included the following teams: Alberta Team Handball, Chicago Inter Handball, Team Rogue, San Francisco CalHeat, and San Francisco CalHeat II. Alberta Team Handball won the tournament undefeated. San Francisco CalHeat finished in 2nd place. San Francisco CalHeat II finished in 5th place.

Valley of the Sun - Phoenix, AZ: February 22-23, 2020

The annual Valley of the Sun tournament in Phoenix, AZ comprised the following men's teams: San Francisco CalHeat II, Los Angeles THC, US Air Force Academy I & II, Phoenix THC, and Alberta Jr. San Francisco CalHeat II finished in 2nd place, losing by one goal against Los Angeles THC. Zuwed Akuro was elected as the tournament Most Valuable Player (MVP).

USATH Open Club Nationals - Detroit, MI: May 8-10, 2020

Initially postponed due to COVID-19, the 2020 US Club Nationals has been officially **cancelled**. The club is still awaiting information on the impact of an uncompleted season on our teams.

NACHC Men's Club Championship - Lake Placid, NY: June 16-21, 2020

As the US reigning champion, our men's team was invited to participate in the 2020 North American & Caribbean Handball Confederation (NACHC) Men's Club Championship. This event serves as a direct qualification to the IHF Super Globe.

Given the impact of COVID-19, New York City (the host) withdrew their intent to host. Despite our interest to host as an alternate bid, no decision regarding the date and location of a possible qualification event has been made public. Recently, the International Handball Federation announced that the 2020 IHF Super Globe (Oct 6-10 in Saudi Arabia) was postponed to a later date. Our club is awaiting information from both USATH and IHF.

Financial Report

The following table contains the income and expenses for the 2019-20 fiscal year. The club does not have any tangible assets.

San Francisco CalHeat		
Income Statement - Season 2019-2020		
Income		
	Participation Fees	\$ 22,550.00
	Donations	\$ 22,006.70
	Restricted Donations	\$ 5,994.78
	Disqualified Restricted Donations	\$ 130.00
	Sponsorship	\$ 9,000.00
	Tournament Registrations	\$ 7,500.00
	Events: Misc Income	\$ 2,732.68
	Equipment: Promotional	\$ 1,215.00
	TOTAL Income	\$ 71,129.16
Expenses		
	Taxes / Legal	\$ 55.00
	USATH Club Fees	\$ 200.00
	USATH Indiv Member Fees (repaid)	\$ 4,820.00
	Tournaments Fees	\$ 4,197.38
	Events: Misc Costs	\$ 1,404.00
	Facility / Gym	\$ 7,468.66
	Equipment: Supplies	\$ 5,390.73
	Equipment: Promotional	\$ 2,307.77
	Team Travel	\$ 5,032.17
	Coaching	\$ 4,621.69
	Bank Fees	\$ 213.63
	Youth Development	\$ 8,179.52
	California Cup	\$ 7,479.41
	TOTAL Expense	\$ 51,369.96
Net Income		\$ 19,759.20