



PRESS RELEASE

Germany-wide castings kick off the 2018/19 THW-YOUNGstar season - registrations possible starting immediately

Fresh ideas and a new concept give impetus to the young talents promotion concept initiated by the star petrol stations. Even the third time, talented young handballers can look forward to training and the professional feeling close to THW Kiel.

Kiel, 16 July 2018. The start is on: Starting immediately, young handballers from all over Germany can apply for this year's THW-YOUNGstar, a unique concept for the promotion of young handball players created by star petrol stations. In the 2018/19 season, participants aged between 10 and 15 can again look forward to demanding and promoting handball training during the multi-stage competition as well as unique experiences associated with the German record champion, THW Kiel. The THW-YOUNGstar winner can look forward to a several-month handball scholarship with the "Zebras" with contact to the star mentor players Andreas Wolff and Patrick Wiencek.

Proven concept extended to include regional castings (Stage 1)

Over the past two years, more than 200 applications per season have demonstrated the enormous interest of handball kids in this innovative talent competition. In order to give even more children the opportunity to apply to the first of a total of five selection stages, the proven concept will be extended by four preliminary castings (step 1) in the regional urban areas of Hamburg, Dusseldorf (Meerbusch), Leipzig (Eilenburg) and Stuttgart (Sindelfingen). 60 starting positions per event are available for which passionate young players can apply. The official platform www.young.star.de is now online until September 2nd. By filling in a personal player profile, all enthusiastic young handball talents will come one step closer to their personal dream of the THW-YOUNGstar. The athletic content of the castings includes measurable handball exercises and competitions. They ultimately decide which ten talents per location will make it to the next round.

In addition, there will be 20 kids who are passionate for their favourite sport and really catch the eye of the trainers of the handball camp in the autumn events (Stage 1). They have the opportunity to play themselves in the foreground in 25 Germany-wide camps supported by star from the middle of September until early November. Who will manage to catch the attention of the trainers at games as well as individual and team competitions?

The further selection process (stages 2-5)

In the second stage, the day camps in North-Rhine/Westphalia, Berlin and Hamburg, 20 selected, talented kids and teenagers will each compete for a place in the weekend camp in Kiel. Individual training and two exciting days in the home of the German record champion THW Kiel await the kids in the third stage. The remaining talents will come together in a "star week of excellence" and experience first-hand what it means to live and train as a



professional handball player. Finally, in the last phase, an expert jury will choose the THW-YOUNGstar of the season 2018/2019. The winner can look forward to a unique handball scholarship in the environment of THW Kiel and contact with mentor players Andreas Wolff and Patrick Wiencek.

Lots of anticipation among the initiators

Mannhard Bech, founder of the handball camp and former professional of THW Kiel is looking forward to the start of the third THW-YOUNGstar season. "The star petrol stations, THW Kiel and the handball camp have proven in the past years that they can provide young talent a unique opportunity with THW-YOUNGstar. I am confident that we will also be able to promote many children and youth in our camps this season as well."

Wieslaw Milkiewicz, Managing Director and Press Spokesman of the petrol station brand agrees: "With the regional castings, we have created a new opportunity this year to inspire even more young handball players for THW-YOUNGstar. We are also looking forward to the new locations in Sindelfingen, Eilenburg and Meerbusch. Moreover, I wish all of the children lots of fun participating, and I cross my fingers that they can realise their dream of becoming handball professionals."

Thorsten Storm, Manager of THW Kiel adds, "We are pleased to accompany THW-YOUNGstar again this season. The concept once again promises lots of excitement and makes it possible for all participants to have unforgettable experiences with THW Kiel."

The previous years' winners are helping participants to looking forward to the new season

Two who know what it feels like to become a THW-YOUNGstar are Filip Wawrzniak and Matteo Mastrocola. 15-year-old Filip from Wroclaw in Poland won the premiere of the young talents competition in 2017 and caught the attention of famous youth academies in Poland and Germany as a result of his scholarship. For Matteo, the exciting time in Kiel is not over yet. In July and August, the talented centre back from Radolfzell near Lake Constance will return to the Kiel Fjord for two further attendance phases. He recommends all applicants of the new season: "Believe in your strengths and simply do what you enjoy most - playing handball."

You can find further information on THW-YOUNGstar on the official website of the project at www.young.star.de.

For further information and questions about the young talent promotion concept THW-YOUNGstar, please contact:

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star – a powerful brand from ORLEN Deutschland GmbH

star is the petrol station brand of ORLEN Deutschland GmbH, which has been operating over 580 petrol stations in the northern half of Germany since 2003. The company, which is based in Elmshorn near Hamburg, is part of the Polish oil and petrochemicals group, PKN ORLEN SA, which is the largest enterprise in central eastern Europe, with an annual turnover of EUR 23 billion in 2017.

PKN ORLEN SA is listed in Warsaw and London and is represented on the petrol station market in Eastern and Central Europe with a total of 2,800 petrol stations in Poland, Czech Republic, Germany and Lithuania. In recent years, major investments have been made in Lithuania and the Czech Republic to bring the group a step closer to its goal of becoming the leading oil company in Central Europe.

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THW Kiel Handball-Bundesliga GmbH & Co. KG

THW Kiel is the most successful and best-known German handball team of the past two decades. The “Zebras” have won the German championship 20 times, more than any other team. The team from Kiel has also won the DHB Cup nine times, which is also a record. And no German team has won the European “top class”, the Champions League, more often than THW Kiel. The team from Kiel has triumphed three times in this most important club competition in the world. “Tradition lives through sport” is the motto of THW Kiel, which promotes and encourages talents through intensive work with youngsters. For THW, for Kiel and for handball in Germany.

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HANDBALL-CAMP

Handball-Camp is a brand of CommEvent Management GmbH, based in Kiel. Founded in 2003, the agency is Europe's largest provider of handball camps, with more than 5,000 participants per year in more than 200 locations. Skilled camp trainers and almost 20 permanent employees plan, organise and implement the events. Founder Mannhard Bech was a player at THW Kiel and the German handball national team.

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