

**Welcome address of the Kazan
Mayor Ilsur Metshin
to the participants of the Beach
Handball World Championships**

Dear friends,

On behalf of all citizens of Kazan and my own behalf, I am glad to welcome you at the IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships – 2018!

Kazan with its 1,000-year history and multinational traditions has many times become the host of various large-scale sporting events. All of them have given a huge impetus to the social and economic development of the city and gained world attention to the Republic of Tatarstan and its capital.

It is the inaugural edition of the Beach Handball World Championships for Russia, but this sport is well known to us, as it was included in the sports programme of the 2017 All-Russian Beach Games in Kazan.

Dynamic and spectacular beach games constantly spark strong interest, acquaint the youth with a healthy lifestyle and give an opportunity to be a part of the sports festival.

I firmly believe that the days spent in our hospitable city will be filled with good impressions, enjoyable events and will be remembered for the kindness and cordiality of Kazan citizens.

I wish the best of luck in your sporting achievements, and may the competitions be the time of your success and great victories!

**Ilsur Metshin
Mayor of Kazan**