

**Welcome address by the Minister of Sport of the Russian Federation to the participants, organisers and guests of the IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships – 2018**

On behalf of the Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation and my own behalf, I am glad to greet the participants, organisers and guests of the IHF Men's and Women's Beach Handball World Championships – 2018 in Kazan!

Russia is always committed to the organisation of the sports competitions in the country and provides the participants and guests with the best possible conditions. The Beach Handball World Championships – 2018 will become a record-breaking competition in terms of the number of participants. It is the inaugural World Championships featuring 16 men's and 16 women's teams. I am confident that the competitions will be exciting and spectacular, will create the atmosphere of a sports festival and give a new impulse to the development of the beach handball. I wish the athletes to display team spirit and will to win as well as positive emotions and unforgettable impressions to the spectators!

**Pavel Kolobkov  
Minister of Sport of  
the Russian Federation**