

ENGLAND HANDBALL ASSOCIATION

RULES AND REGULATIONS

SUPER EIGHT NATIONAL LEAGUE

2012-2013 SEASON

INTRODUCTION

1. Herein are the rules governing the newly established **Super Eight National** League which shall commence in 2012-2013 season

ADMINISTRATION OF THE RULES

2. The England Handball Association is the Governing Body of Handball in England and shall be the final arbiter in any question that might arise through the administration of these Rules and Regulations. (Note: for the purpose of this Regulation, the term Handball shall be specific to the **Super Eight National League**)
3. The ultimate responsibility for ensuring adherence to any Regulations shall be the EHA Board who shall in the first instance delegate such authority to the appropriate committee and or to the appropriate Sub-Committee
4. For any England Handball competition to be approved the director of competition shall oversee the appointment of a competition committee specific to this competition from within its ranks for the aforesaid competition and determine the terms of reference for the said committee. Each club shall be entitled to one representative upon the said committee which shall meet on no less than two occasions, a meeting prior to the season to confirm format and amend approve competition regulations and a further meeting to assess progress.

MEMBERSHIP

5. There shall be found elsewhere Regulations governing England Handball Association and these shall be in the form of Memorandum and Articles of Association which govern England Handball.
6. Membership is open to all Clubs, Schools and Organisations who subscribe to the memorandum and articles of England Handball shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by the Rules and Regulations of England Handball and its code conduct and ethics, doping regulations wheresoever they may be found.
7. Membership is obtained upon payment of the Membership Fee currently in force and upon completion of the Form of Application. (**Note:** The M&A provide provision for England Handball to refuse an Application without explanation).
8. Each club shall be properly constituted, with a copy of the constitution lodged with the EHA, have 3 Principal Officers (Chair, Secretary & Treasurer), have at least 8 playing members registered and must have a bank account either in the club's name or administered through an appropriate organisation (e.g., a Students Union). It is NOT permitted for a club to run its finances through the personal bank account of any of its members.

PLAYERS LICENSE

9. Each individual player participating in competitions herein must be Registered as a player with England Handball and be in possession of a valid Players Licence. (**Note:** This Regulation shall also apply to any club coach whom it is intended shall be placed in the substitution area during the playing of a game). Registration documents shall also apply to officials. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure conformity of this regulation. It is an offence for a club to be in breach of this rule.
10. Where there is an age limit for any competition, it will be from 1st September in the current season. For all senior competitions, ALL players must be over 16 on 1st September of the current season.
11. Players shall register for a club for one season. (**Note:** Any player who might be contracted to a club for a longer period, whether for payment or otherwise shall be bound such contract until expiry to play only for that club to which he/she is contracted or until such time, by mutual agreement he/she might be released from the contract). The Club to whom any player is contracted are entitled to request and receive a reasonable fee from the club wishing to take up the contracted players Registration before the expiry of their current contract). Players issued with a contract shall be bound by the rules of the EHF and IHF concerning contracted players.
12. It is the responsibility of each club to ensure conformity of the registration regulation. It is an offence for a club to be in breach of this rule.
13. When is a player ineligible to play? An ineligible player shall deemed to be one or more of the following:
 - Does not possess or has not received an official registration/license
 - Has received an official registration but is found to require an international Transfer Certificate.
 - A player awaiting international clearance
 - Serving a current suspension whether it be in England and or abroad.
 - Under the age of 16 years

TWO CLUB PLAYERS LICENSE

14. From 1st August 2012 Players shall be allowed to register for two clubs. If a player wishes to register for two clubs the player shall abide by the regulations appertaining to the two club License.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

15. The player must complete the registration form writing the name of their first named club in the box marked "**first named club**". This shall be known as the "**primary club**". The player shall repeat the procedure by writing the name of their second named club in the box marked "**second named club**" Second named club shall be known and the "**Secondary club**"
16. A player shall not be allowed to register for second club which is competing in the same league.
17. Contracted players shall not be permitted to play for two clubs
18. **Players registering for one club only complete first named club box only!**

REGULATIONS RELATING TO PLAYERS HOLDING A TWO CLUB LICENSE

19. The primary club shall be responsible for the registration/license of the player and shall be responsible for all matters relating to their handball membership including registration, transfers and disciplinary matters.
20. A player shall not be permitted to register for a club which is competing in the same league.
21. Once a player agrees to participate for a **second named club** the player shall not be permitted to transfer to another club during the season, nor shall the player transfer or register with the second named club as their first named club for a period of 12 months (one season) from whence their registration ended which shall always be calculated from 31st July. (note: where a player is playing for the same club the aforesaid player shall be classed as playing for a primary club only and as such may register with another club without serving a 12 month embargo.
22. The aforesaid two club license player shall be allowed to register for any other club once their registration has ended which shall always be calculated from 31st July.
23. Should the second named club cease to exist. the player shall be deemed to be registered with the primary club only and as such all regulations relating to the TWO CLUB PLAYER shall be null and void.
24. Should first named club cease to exist the player's registration shall be transferred to the second club and as such all regulations relating to the TWO CLUB PLAYER shall be null and void.
25. In the event of a clash of fixtures (for the avoidance of doubt this means fixtures taking place on the same day), the primary club shall always, without exception, have first call on the player. The player shall not be permitted to play for their secondary club even if timing of matches would allow. There shall be no appeal process to this rule.
26. Should a dispute arise between the primary club and the secondary club over primacy, the primary club shall always take precedence.
27. Once a dispute occurs and a player refuses to play for the primary club, the player shall be suspended from playing until such time that he agrees to play for the primary club and the season and subsequent registration comes to an end.

REGULATIONS FOR CLUBS PARTICIPATING IN THE TWO CLUB LICENSE

28. Clubs playing in a higher league may register up to three players as second club members in any one season. (For the avoidance of doubt this means the three players may play for their primary club in the development league and for their second club which is playing in the super eight league)
29. Clubs playing in a lower league may register one player from a higher league in any one season. (For the avoidance of doubt this means that the player may play for their primary club in the Super Eight League and play for their second named club in the development league).
30. The above rules shall also apply to clubs with multiple teams playing at different levels in the league. However, it is expected that the best players shall be registered as primary club members.

31. In the event that the EHA receives a complaint suggesting abuse of the system (for the avoidance of doubt this means clubs registering their best players as Primary Club Players to play for their 2nd/3rd team in a lower league and then registering the same players as secondary players for the team in the higher league to gain an advantage). The EHA shall reserve the right to investigate this practice. If the complaint is upheld the club shall be fined £20 for each offence and the players second club registration shall be withdrawn.

OFFICIAL PLAYING SEASON

32. The Official Playing season of the Super Eight National League shall be 1st September to 31st July.

PLAYING FACILITIES

33. Each club shall be responsible for hosting (subject to court meeting league standards) games at their nominated venue during the season.
34. Each club must have a suitable home court on which to play. Ideally, these courts should be 40m x 20m with suitable outruns and with 'soft' floors. The EHA recognises the shortage of such courts in the UK at the moment. However, Clubs should endeavour to seek out new larger courts as they are built and the EHA will assist clubs attempts to get into these halls. Should the nominated home handball court not meet the 40x20m specification the club should seek approval of the home venue prior to the commencement of the season from the CC. Clubs may seek dispensation from the CC for courts with a minimum size of 34m x 20m.
35. The playing court should where possible, be placed so to have a minimum of half a metre between the side lines and walls of the building in which the game is played. Any equipment where possible forming part of the facility should be lifted clear of the floor.
36. Behind each goal line a clear space of 1 metre is required. Where such is not possible appropriate action should be taken to prevent accidents .we recommend crash mats should be placed against the wall on either side of the goal as close to the goalposts as possible. However, an area between the gaol line and the first possible obstruction should never be less that half a metre.
37. All clubs participating in the Super Eight shall be given a Portable "D" which shall be used for all home games. The club shall send at least two club members to attend training to lay and store the "D" after use.
38. Where a game is played in front of spectators and those watching are at the same floor level of the game it is recommended that a minimum of 2metre metre distance is allowed between the place of substitutes and the nearest row of spectators. Where possible however, it is recommended that a distance of three metres be allowed and if at all possible no spectating behind substitutes bench and or officials table.
39. There must always be materials for the drying of 'wet patches' which might occur upon the court at any time.
40. Any overhead obstruction should never be lower than 4 metres than the height of the players
41. Each club should have 2 team benches, an officials table with 4 chairs, a scoreboard (electronic or manual) and a visible clock (electronic or manual) available in their hall for home matches.
42. For home matches the club must also provide 2 table officials (scorer and timekeeper), 1 or 2 extra stopwatches, an audible signalling device (horn or whistle) and more than 1 official score sheet.

43. Where possible, there should be separate changing facilities for the referees and visiting team(s). If there are limited changing facilities in the Sports Hall, Should the nominated home venue fall short of the specification the club should seek approval of the home venue prior to the commencement of the season from the CC.

THE GOALS

44. The goals shall be fastened securely in such manner that they cannot fall forwards or backwards for any reason. They must be of regular pattern and in Official matches of a manufacture Approved by England Handball.
45. The back supports must always be securely in place as per manufacturer's instruction to prevent collapse, and nets should be securely fastened to prevent any entanglement by an individual.
46. The goals may be made of wood, aluminium or other such light material. The use of goals made from steel or heavy material is deprecated.
47. After use, goals should be dismantled or folded depending upon design and stored carefully.
48. The appropriate size of goal is recommended for the age group concerned. Only specifically designed goals approved by England Handball should be used for mini handball.

SUBSTITUTION AREA

49. Where possible continuous linked seating or a bench only catering for substitutes and team official only should be used in the area set aside for substitutes. A table and chairs for table officials should also be provided for player's serving a period of suspension. Where possible items on the table should be secured to prevent them flying off if accidentally hit by the ball.
50. Players must not warm up in front of the substitution area or along the sidelines.
51. Players etc in the substitution area should be in the seated position and should be positioned in such a manner that their person cannot be injured/obstructed by their disposition, for example a substitute sitting with legs outstretched must leave room to ensure a court player cannot fall over him/her.
52. All bags and any other loose items including resin must be carefully stowed/positioned to ensure court players cannot make contact with them.

TIMING DEVICES AND SCORING DEVICES

53. All matches should provide electronic score boards and timing equipment for all national and cup games. Where this is not feasible a manual scoring system may be employed. A separate timing clock may also be employed, however this shall be of a appropriate size to make it visible for coaches and team officials within the substitutes area. The CC should be notified of venues that cannot support electronic timing and scoring

THE BALL

54. The ball used in any game should be of the correct size and weight for the category of player.
55. It is strongly recommended that only balls Approved by England Handball and or EHF/IHF be used.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

56. Players wearing spectacles must have them secured by means of a strap or similar behind the head to prevent them being removed and perhaps causing injury to others.
57. Players should always be required to remove anything which might conceivably cause injury to others for example watches, rings, necklaces and any other item of jewellery. Where it might be impossible to remove a ring, then in the most exceptional of circumstances it may be permitted to tape the ring in such manner as is considered safe.
58. There must be nothing on the shoes of the players which might be considered injurious to other players.
59. Players are not allowed to play with any form of medication upon any part of their person which might cause distress/harm to another player.

INJURY

60. A first aid kit and a nominated qualified first aider Rubber gloves should be available for the treatment of bloody injuries.
61. Any player sustaining a bloody injury is obliged to leave the court until such bleeding is staunched and the wound adequately covered. New shirt should also be worn.

COMPETITION

62. The Super Eight National League shall be made up of Eight Clubs and shall operate a promotion and relegation system.
63. As stated else where all Clubs, Players, officials etc shall be insured through those policies Officially Approved by England Handball and premiums shall be paid prior to the beginning of each season. All teams playing in National Competition shall be affiliated in the prescribed manner together with their players, officials, technical officials shall be licensed by England Handball and shall be eligible to participate, at the appropriate level, in competitions organised by England Handball.
64. Clubs shall complete the appropriate registration forms and pay the appropriate fees by the agreed deadline herein and shall be liable to a £150 bond for Super Eight National League.

SUPER EIGHT NATIONAL LEAGUE MEN

65. Club registration for Super 8 League by ____ August
66. The Club must have at least 10 players registered by ____ September
67. Failure to meet deadlines shall result in a financial penalty minimum £20 which could increase to £40 for clubs registering more than two weeks late from the prescribed deadline.
68. Clubs who do not have the minimum number of players registered by the registration deadline shall also incur a financial penalty of £20.
69. The Competition Committee (CC) will issue fixtures prior to the beginning of each season by 1st September
70. All matches will be played under the rules of the International Handball Federation except where local variations to these rules (e.g., length of matches) have been agreed in advance.

71. All matches will be played on the stipulated weekend dates. Matches can be played on alternative dates subject to agreement by the two clubs day.
72. To assist travel arrangements of away teams minimum start time for a match shall be 11am and the latest throw off time shall be 4pm. However, start time may be varied by agreement.
73. Home clubs should provide calendar of their home bookings (Date and time of matches) to the EHA and Super 8 clubs as soon as is practical. However, the deadline for notifying clubs is four weeks prior to the match.
74. In the event of special circumstances being presented, The EHA shall make a ruling based on the information provided which may call for the match to be played on another day and or at a alternative venue.
75. Visiting clubs must confirm their attendance to the home club and the Competition Committee at least 2 weeks prior to the match.
76. For all matches, the home team is responsible for booking the venue for 2 hours for a single match or a minimum of 1.5 hours per match, PLUS a minimum of 30 minutes overrun time for multiple matches (example: three matches, 5 hours hall time minimum). Ideally 2 hours of hall time per match should be booked for multiple matches, to allow for unforeseen delays. All participating clubs will pay an equal share of the hall hire and, where appropriate, referees costs.
77. Any club withdrawing/defaulting from a match shall be deemed to have defaulted and shall lose their bond which will be used to compensate the opposing club, defaulting clubs shall be liable for any additional costs incurred on the match day. These shall be defined as:
 - Re-imburement of 2 x hours hall time
 - Re-imburement of 100% referee expenses and match fees
 - 2 Point deduction
78. The defaulting club shall also be liable to submit another bond to the EHA prior to their next match and shall be suspended until the bond is paid.
79. Clubs who default on two occasions consecutively and or three games in one season shall be suspended from the league and all records related to the matches played by the club in question shall be removed.
80. In the event of a postponement due to unforeseen circumstances, teams shall be liable for sharing 50% of the costs. Host clubs are expected to take all reasonable steps to avoid prepaid hall time going to waste (e.g., negotiate with sports hall, offer the time to other sports hall users, arrange training games etc.) Clubs wishing to postpone their matches MUST communicate with the home club and CC verbally.
81. For these communications, email is not acceptable. The CC will then rule as to whether the match is deemed to be postponed or awarded to the non-withdrawing club by a score of 10-0. **Note:** The EHA accepts that special circumstance may arise from time to time forcing a postponement. However, all reasonable steps should be taken to avoid this from occurring. However, Should a club seek a postponement they should first; seek agreement from the opposing club, along with a proposal for replaying the game. The clubs shall then notify the EHA. The deadline for any agreement is at least 2 weeks before game is to take place. While the EHA's shall be the final arbiter, the CC shall encourage clubs to re arrange the game.

82. The EHA shall only award points the opposing team when an agreement cannot be reached and when all reasonable steps to re-ally the game have been exhausted. The EHA's shall be the final arbiter and shall have the authority to;
- Order the game to be re-played at a neutral venue at some other time.
 - In exceptional circumstances award the game to the non defaulting team
 - Deduct points and apply sanctions to the defaulting team

THE PLAYING OF MATCHES

83. All teams shall wear numbers on both the front and back of the team shirts in the prescribed manner as per IHF regulations
84. Only official score sheets may be used and it shall be the responsibility of the host team to ensure adherence to any instructions be met.
85. In any match the competing teams shall wear colours which do not clash. Where a clash occurs the visiting team shall be required to change. If necessary the first named referee shall decide and any decision shall be final
86. Matches shall be of 2 x 30 minutes duration with stipulated breaks (can be agreed by Teams beforehand). Only Officially recognised and approved score sheets shall be used in any officially recognised competition.
87. Portable "D"s shall be used by the home club in all Super Eight Matches. Clubs failing to use the Potable D shall not be receive sponsorship monies shall be withheld and redistributed to other clubs within the league.

POINTS AWARDED - PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

88. The Super Eight National League point system shall be as follows:
 - 3 points for a win
 - 2 points for a draw
 - 1 point for a loss
 - 1 point deduction for clubs which defaults
89. Should the situation occur that two clubs finish on the same points their final positions shall be determined by:
 - Taking into account the results of the last two head to head S8L matches between the two clubs.

If the clubs still cannot be split it will be determined by;

 - Goal difference
 - Goals For
 - Goals Against
 - Should clubs still be level they will share the title
90. The Super Eight League shall operate and shall be linked to the Regional Development Leagues.
91. The club finishing in 8th place of the Super Eight National League shall be automatically relegated to the Regional Development League. Subject to meeting EHA fit for purpose standards, The vacant place shall be taken up by the club finishing in 1st placed from the development play offs which shall be determined by the a national play off between two top placed clubs in each regional development leagues.
92. The club finishing in 7th place in the Super Eight National League shall play in a "One Off Match" against the runner up in the National Play off's league. Subject to meeting the fit for

purpose standards, the winner of this game shall be promoted to the Super Eight National League with the losing club being relegated in to the regional development league.

93. However, should a club in the development league already have a team in the Super 8 League they cannot be promoted. Therefore this place shall go to the runner up and the 3rd placed team shall participate in the play off game for the remain S8L place.
94. In the event of the 1st and 2nd placed teams in the Development league play off's should not be not be eligible for promotion then the automatic relegation from the S8L shall be void.
95. In this instance the 8th placed team that would have been automatically relegated from the S8L shall participate in a play off tournament with 3rd placed team from the Development play off's and the 7th placed team from the S8L will play the 4th placed team to determine the remaining promotion place.

PLAYING AN INELIGIBLE PLAYER

96. When is a player ineligible to play? An ineligible player shall deemed to be one or more of the following:
 97. Does not possess or has not received an official registration/license
 98. Has received an official registration but is found to require an international Transfer Certificate.
 99. A player awaiting international clearance
 100. Serving a current suspension whether it be in England and or abroad.
 101. Under the age of 16 years
102. Where a club is found to have fielded a ineligible player the offending player and the club shall be liable to the following sanctions:
 103. Match score of 10-0 awarded to the opposing team and appropriate number of points awarded the opposing club.
 104. Minimum suspension of three matches for the offending player, which could be doubled if it is proved that a club knowingly played an illegal player. The suspension is deemed to commence once the players registration is verified and or until such time that his or her registration has been processed.
 105. Where an illegible player has been found not the hold a registration, the club shall be fined the value of the registration for the level of competition the player participated in.
 106. Should a club similarly commit the offence of fielding an ineligible player on a second occasion the club shall be sanctioned which could result in the club being deducted up to 10 points, fined, and barred from European competitions and could result in being expelled from membership of England Handball for a minimum period of the remaining 6 months and for up to 24 months. Club officials shall also not be permitted to hold any representative office of whatever level for a period of not less than four years. (**Note:** this Regulation shall apply also to club coaches and where a second offence may be committed with a different club such breach of the Regulations shall be considered a second offence).
107. Players registered with a recognised overseas federation Should refer to EHF and IHF international transfer regulations.

TRANSFERS

108. Players are permitted to transfer their Registration from one club to another once in the season the exception being players with a TWO CLUB license in the transfer may take place form;
- 1st August and up to the when 70% all national and or regional games have been played.
109. Players shall also have the right to sign of another club from 1st August irrespective of the registration being with another club subject to notice being given to the EHA of their intention. The Regulations which govern the transfer of players to be as follows:
- Two copies of the Official transfer Forms shall be completed by a registered Official of each of the Clubs concerned and by the player/s concerned
 - Completed Forms shall be returned to England Handball and provided the fee required by England Handball is paid and there is agreement by both clubs the transfer shall be approved. A period of fourteen days shall be allowed for England Handball to process and issue the Players Licence.
 - A fee of £5 pounds shall be paid to England Handball by the Club to which the player is to be transferred.
110. No transfers shall be permitted once 70% of the games for each league has been played.
111. Where a club is in dispute with a player(e.g. a Player has suspended by the club for a disciplinary reasons e.g. a suspension from club activities). The club may withhold the player's registration and prevent a transfer for a period of up to 30 days. or until such time that the situation can be resolved and or the club can provide evidence on monies owed to the club.
112. However A player, coach, official shall have the right to appeal direct to the EHA against a club who has withheld their registration subject to the player notifying the EHA in writing. The EHA CC&CP shall have the right to investigate the matter. The club shall notify the CC&CP of the following:
- Circumstances of the offence
 - The procedures employed
 - The action taken by the club.
 - The appeal process accorded to the offender.
113. The club shall provide evidence to support the decision of suspension/withholding of a players registration. England Handball shall have the right to adjudicates on the matter and if where applicable uphold club actions and or rescind the sanction and permit a transfer/new registration.
114. Contracted players shall only be permitted to transfer if their contract has expired or the club to whom they are contracted too agrees to the release of the player from contract
115. In the event of a 'contracted' player wishing to be released from the contract to play for another club, the club to which he/she is contracted too is permitted to demand a compensation fee from the receiving club, before agreeing to any release from contract. **(Note:** where a player is contracted to a club Affiliated to another recognised Federation the regulations of EHF/IHF concerning transfer shall always be applied.

116. At the end of a season (this shall be deemed as 31st July non-contracted players are considered free to register with a new club for the following season subject to the player meeting the conditions to register with another club.
117. Players who have transferred and have participated in knock out competition for their original club are not permitted (cup tied) to represent their new club in the same competition and in the same season.
118. All officials of Clubs/Associations etc shall register in the full knowledge that they are indeed accepting the role of guarantors on behalf of the Club/Association etc in respect of honouring financial commitment and, if requested by England Handball, the payment of debts whatsoever owed by England Handball by the Club, its players, coaches and or its officials
119. Where such debts are to be recovered the club shall be held liable for the recovery. Where the payment has not been received within the prescribed 14 day timescale the club shall be deemed to have defaulted and shall be suspended until such time that the fine and or debt has been paid.

EHA CUP

120. It shall be mandatory for all Super Eight Clubs to participate in the EHA Cup
121. For the avoidance of doubt Players with under a two club license shall be deemed to be cup-tied to their Primary Club.
122. Players belonging to clubs with multiple teams and playing under a two club license shall be deemed to be cup-tied to their Primary Club.
123. Once a player has played for a team in the cup they are deemed to be cup-tied
124. Clubs may not register new players to participate in Cup competitions after the second round has been played.
125. Playing an ineligible player shall result the offending club forfeiting the game

REPORTING SCORES AND MATCH REPORTS

126. For league and cup matches the club deemed to be at home shall be responsible for sending match reports to the EHA office. Which will then be forwarded to the relevant person (clubs will be informed of this person at the start of the season) on the day of the match. The EHA in turn will post results onto the web site and will attempt to have results appear in the National Press. The top copy of the score sheet must reach the EHA office by the Wednesday following the match. **Failure to do so shall incur a financial penalty from £10.00 to £20.00 for repeat offences.**

REFEREES AND ON COURT SANCTIONS

127. The EHA shall endeavour to appoint referees to matches. However, where this is not possible the club deemed to be playing at home shall in the first instance provide two appropriately qualified referees from within the club. **Note:** appropriately qualified referees shall mean two persons who have attended a referee's course and has achieved the required standard for the level of the competition. Clubs may agree to appoint one qualified referee from each club to officiate the game. However, where an agreement cannot be reached article the home club shall be responsible.

128. Referees and Officials of England Handball shall be empowered to ask at any time a player to produce his/her playing licence. Before the commencement of any official game, match officials shall inspect the licence of each participating player and team coach. Where it is found that a) a player has no licence, b) a licence is not valid for the season in question c) a licence has been altered, the offending club shall be reported to the CC& CP.
129. Where referees are appointed to take charge of any game which is officially recognised it must be clearly understood;
130. The Officials are deemed to have taken charge from the moment they enter the premises in or at which the game is to be played.
131. The referees remain in control until they have left the premises where the match/game was played. **NOTE:** Reporting procedures for such incidents shall be by means of a written report request England Handball to take disciplinary action against any offending player/official the extent of such action to be determined by England Handball.
132. Referees are expected to arrive at venues at the commencement of the hall booking and shall make themselves known to the host organiser/home team.
133. All England Handball approved matches shall be governed by two qualified referees and it shall be the responsibility of the host club to provide score/timekeeper who shall be not less than eighteen years of age.
134. Referees shall have the right to caution, suspend, and disqualify players and officials in accordance with the Laws of the game.
135. Whenever a disqualification takes place the referee shall provide a brief statement on the match report indicating the offence, the rule applied and confirm whether the red card is to carry an obligatory report. On court offences are defined in appendix 1.
136. Where such a report is shown on an official score sheet the club shall be deemed to have been notified for the disciplinary action and the subsequent Club shall be notified. Note: Where a referee indicates a more severe penalty the CC&CP decide whether the case should go before a disciplinary Panel. Only a Disciplinary Panel can decide to increase a sanction.
137. Referees shall be responsible for ensuring the match report is signed and the referees report of any obligatory report relating to red cards are completed on the back of the score sheet.
138. As stated elsewhere, the club shall have the right of appeal to England Handball in the appropriate manner. Any such appeal shall be in writing within the timescale set within the Disciplinary Processes and shall include the fee (£25.00) required by England Handball. Where a referee has requested a more severe penalty the CC&CP shall decide whether the case should go before a disciplinary Panel. Only a Disciplinary Panel can decide to increase a sanction.
139. Where a player, coach or an official is disqualified by the referee he/she is entitled to sit in the place of spectators. However should the offender try and influence the game the referee shall order the player, coach, official from the hall and a obligatory report of the incident submitted which shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing with a sanction of in accordance with disciplinary Sanctions.
140. Any player, coach, official who refuses to leave the hall, the game shall be suspended until the referees instruction have been carried out. The offender shall be reported to the CC&CP and could be suspended in accordance with the regulations.

141. Where during the course of a game a player is disqualified by an accumulation of three periods of two minutes the player shall be disqualified from taking any further part in the game. No further disciplinary action shall be deemed necessary.
142. Players disqualified with an obligatory report shall be deemed to have committed an offence which will carry a suspension. . Note: where the referee in his written report indicates a more serious offence England Handball will refer the report to the CC&CP to consider the offence which could result in a disciplinary hearing and the penalty being increased in accordance with the disciplinary sanctions. A player shall have the right to appeal.
143. Any player receiving a red card with an obligatory report shall serve suspension
144. In the promotion of fair play and player safety England Handball shall have the power to refer players to the disciplinary Committee for repeated disciplinary offenses: Any player disqualified on three occasions in the same season shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing to assess the risk of the offenders ability to play in a fair and safe manner. The disciplinary shall have the right to impose sanctions on the player which shall be the equivalent to the same sanctions described under extremely unsportsmanlike conduct.
145. Where a player is disqualified for spitting, the referee shall submit an obligatory report which shall be treated as Extremely Unsportsmanlike Conduct and shall be subject to a disciplinary panel hearing which shall have the power to suspend the player in accordance to the disciplinary sanctions herein.
146. The EHA shall not tolerate violent conduct of any kind. Where a player is found to have committed an assault on another player, official and or referee, spectator. The player shall be suspended in accordance with disciplinary sanctions Herein. The EHA where required shall also supply names of officials and or witnesses to national authorities should legal proceeding be instigated.
147. England Handball shall honour any such disciplinary action which might be occasioned by International Federations as if the offence were committed in the England. (Note: where disqualification is occasioned through an assault upon the referee or a EHA Official, the determination of the extent of the penalty shall be decided upon by England Handball. Where an assault is found proven could result in a minimum of 12 months suspension and for up to 24 months from participation from any form of competition shall be awarded. When the offender is a club official the sanction shall be disqualification from the holding of ANY office within a club or England Handball for the above mentioned period). The official and England Handball will also seek prosecution through the courts against any individual assaulting an EHA referee and or one of its officials' (see assaults on officials (appendix one).
148. As stated elsewhere, The club shall have the right of appeal to England Handball in the appropriate manner. Any such appeal shall be in writing within the timescale set within the Disciplinary Processes and shall include the fee (£25.00) required by England Handball. Note: where the sanction is in the form of an automatic suspension the decision of the disciplinary panel is final. Note: Where a referee has requested a more severe penalty the CC&CP shall decide whether the case should go before a disciplinary Panel. Only a Disciplinary Panel can decide to increase a sanction.
149. Where a player, official, coach is suspended for a period of no less 12 months the appellant shall have the right to apply to the Court of Arbitration.

REFERESS FEES AND EXPENSES

150. The payment of referees expenses and fees shall be made before each game. Where Referees are required to officiate more than one game their fee shall be £20.00 per game

151. Where referees are officiating only one game, their fee shall be £25.00 per game
152. Referees expenses shall be calculated in two ways;
 - (i) Car mileage - Calculated at 30 pence per mile from door to door (using post codes and Google maps to verify distance measured by the shortest distance BY;
 - (ii) Providing receipts as proof of return travel expenses by standard transport.

NOTE: Referees shall take all steps to travel in **one car** to matches to reduce costs. For the avoidance of doubt this shall mean referees taking steps to meet prior to commencing their journey or to up on route to travel in one car.

DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS

153. The EHA Competitions & Compliance Panel (CC&CP) shall have the responsibility for the disciplinary matters relating to players, officials, clubs etc where such falls under their particular sphere of influence (**Note:** team officials shall also apply, including the club and coaches, sphere of influence shall mean any EHA official competition run by the EHA).
154. In all cases where a disciplinary matter results in the punishment the club/individual etc shall always have the right to appeal. (See disciplinary and appeals process).
155. Applicants shall have the further right of appeal in specific circumstances to Arbitration. Arbitration shall be conducted through a third party organisation with experience of dealing with such cases. Such an appeal shall be sanctioned upon an appeal being received in writing, accompanied by a deposit of £300 and within seven days of the original appeal being decided upon the first instance.
156. Where the original decision is upheld, all monies shall be forfeit. Where a decision is overturned all monies deposited with England Handball shall be returned. (**Note:** Where discipline is exercised under different Regulations, for example Standing orders or for other league regulations then those Regulations shall take precedence. However, in all instances a financial deposit must be paid by. Appellants, except where Regulations elsewhere state otherwise, Appellants shall be entitled to be represented at a disciplinary hearing and shall undertake to meet any expenses incurred by the court of Arbitration).

RACISM

157. A player, coach team and or club official shall not carry out any act which is discriminatory by reason of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability. The rule applies to spectators who are deemed to be under the supervision of the home team when playing in a designated home game.

BETTING

158. A player, coach team and or club official shall not, either directly or indirectly, bet, or instruct, permit or enable any person for the Participant's benefit to bet, on the result, progress or conduct of a game or Competition in which the Participant is participating or in which the Participant has any influence, either direct or indirect .
159. A person shall not use or provide to any person any information relating to handball which the participant has by virtue of his position within the game and which is not publicly available for, or in relation to betting
160. Where a club is found to have fielded a ineligible player the offending player and the club shall be liable to the following sanctions:

161. Match score of 10-0 awarded to the opposing team and appropriate number of points awarded the opposing club.
162. Minimum suspension of three matches for the offending player, which could be doubled if it is proved that a club knowingly played an illegal player. The suspension is deemed to commence once the players registration is verified and or until such time that his or her registration has been processed.
163. Where an illegible player has been found not to hold a registration the clubs shall be fined the value of the registration for the level of competition the player participated in.
164. Should a club similarly commit the offence of fielding an ineligible player on a second occasion the club shall be sanctioned which could result in the club being expelled from membership of England Handball for a minimum period of the remaining 6 months and for up to 24 months and Club officials shall not be permitted to hold any representative office of whatever level for a period of not less than four years. (**Note:** this Regulation shall apply also to club coaches and where a second offence may be committed with a different club such breach of the Regulations shall be considered a second offence).
165. Players registered with a recognised overseas federation Should refer to EHF and IHF international transfer regulations.
166. Referees and Officials of England Handball shall be empowered to ask at any time a player to produce his/her playing licence. Before the commencement of any official game, match officials shall inspect the licence of each participating player and team coach. Where it is found that a) a player has no licence, b) a licence is not valid for the season in question c) a licence has been altered, the offending club shall be reported to the CC& CP.

EUROPEAN COMPETITION QUALIFICATION

167. Clubs qualifying for Euro competitions shall notify EHA of their intent to participate in the said competitions by the prescribed date. Further, more to save any misunderstanding in relation to the registration of players for European Competitions. Clubs must register all players competing no later than the date determined by the EHF. Further, more all international transfers should be completed before this date and verified by EHF.

NATIONAL TEAMS

168. Only players registered with clubs Affiliated to England Handball shall be eligible for selection for National Teams. (**Note:** for the purpose of this regulation, British Nationals resident abroad and registered as players with a Federation recognised by IHF shall be deemed registered with the England Handball, however it might be incumbent for the England Handball to insure such players separately.
169. Regulations referring to England and Great Britain National Teams shall also apply except where otherwise stated.
170. Players shall only be eligible for selection to National Teams when in possession of a Full Playing Licence.
171. National Coaches have the right to call upon the services of Registered Players from Affiliated Clubs. Clubs cannot refuse a players release where the dates requested fall on official international days designated by the EHF, IHF.

172. Clubs may however, appeal to the National coach for release of players required to attend training sessions if they feel they have over-riding club commitments or they may request of England Handball an alteration in their fixture programme if two or more of their players/coaches are involved.
173. It shall be the duty of the Performance Group and Competitions Committee to ensure that the training calendar and the Official Competitions Calendar do not conflict and is in line with EHF /IHF international dates. However, it is accepted that a period of intensive training may be necessary close to the time when the National Team is to compete and in such instance the National Team shall normally have precedence).
174. Players are eligible for selection to National teams if they meet the criteria laid down in the IHF regulations. (Note:: the term Registered Player should always refer to players holding a valid players licence).
175. Should a clubs have more than three players called up for international duty (this may also include the coach) a team may seek a postponement from league fixtures.

ANTI DOPING RULES, PROCEDURES AND CONTROL

176. England Handball condemns, and is totally opposed to, the use of performance enhancing drugs and doping practices in the sport of basketball and fully supports the position of the International Olympic Committee, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), UK Sport and EHF AND OR IHF against the use of banned substances and methods.
177. The use, possession and/or trafficking of banned substances, methods or the encouragement or counselling to use banned substances, or methods; and/or taking measures to mask the use of banned substances or methods by a participant in tournaments, competitions, events or fixtures over which England Handball has jurisdiction is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.
178. All players participating in the National league and cup competitions shall be liable to a doping control test. See anti-doping control policy and procedures.
179. An anti-doping rule violation shall be considered a breach of the England Handball Code of Conduct and of the England Handball Anti Doping Policy. The EHA's anti-doping policy can be found in a separate document and can be found on the EHA's website.

PUBLIC/MEDIA/INTERNET/FORUMS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN COMMENTS

180. Recognising that the Handball is increasing in popularity and that handball is a professional sport in Europe attracting TV coverage for major events such as; National League, EHA Cup, European, World and Olympic events, sponsorship interest is growing in Handball, hence, there is a need to ensure that the game is seen in the best light possible. As the sport grows, public interest will be interested to hear from Handball players, managers and others. To this end the EHA expects certain standards to be upheld in relation to public comments by participants.
181. Whilst in other sports, the most commonly associated comments are with post-match interviews it is not limited to such considerations, email public forums twitter and any other form of communication shall all be deemed to be in the public domain. By way of general guidance, the following types of public comment may lead to disciplinary charges (although this is obviously not exhaustive):
182. **Implication of bias** - where a comment implies bias by another participant.

183. **Questioning integrity** - where a comment calls into question the integrity of another participant referee and match official etc..
184. **Personal/offensive** - where a comment is personal in nature such that it causes, or may cause, offence.
185. **Detriment to the Game** - the concepts of "disrepute" and "best interests of the game" are inherently broad and cannot be precisely defined. Charges may be brought where comments cause, and/or may cause, damage to the wider interests of handball and or to the image of the Game.
186. The CC&CP is responsible for investigating such matters and deciding whether or not charges should be brought. Consideration will be given to the actual comments made (rather than any media reporting of such).
187. Where the CC&CP find that an offence has been committed the appellant shall be notified and the case shall be referred to the Disciplinary Panel for action.

BRANDING

188. All clubs competing in the "Super Eight National League" shall be comply to Branding regulations to enable the England Handball To promote the image of handball clubs shall be expected to set out the Sportshall in a set format. England Handball Shall provide a lay out prior to the commencement of the season. This shall include Portable "D"s

Appendix one

Referee decision		Disqualification (red card)	
Applicable to		Player, club official	
Classification of penalty	Examples	Sanction (min, up to)	Financial penalty
Inappropriate Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetitive complaints towards referee(s) • 3rd 2 min suspension of same player 	None	None
Unsportsmanlike Conduct Red card :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protests • Loudness • Provocative behaviour • Defending in such a way which may cause serious injury 	None	None
Seriously Unsportsmanlike Conduct Red Card with report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insults • Obscene gestures 	2 to 3 matches	None
Extremely Unsportsmanlike Conduct * Red Card with report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatening behaviour (verbal/physical) • Attempt to hit someone • Racist or discriminatory abuse 	2 to 4 matches	£20 - To be paid by the offender
Common Assault * Red Card with report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlawful use of force (Pushing, barging, Hitting, spitting...) 	3 to 8 matches	£40 - To be paid by the offender The EHA shall cooperate with any investigation and legal proceeding where applicable
Actual Bodily Harm *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repetitive acts of violence (punching 3rd party) • Assault leading to physical harm (bruise, broken tooth, finger...) 	7 matches to 36 months suspension. Which could lead possible of life ban	£70 - To be paid by the offender The EHA shall cooperate with any investigation and legal proceeding where applicable
Refusal to leave sportshall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player/coach/official refuses to leave after Red card and further instruction to leave 	3 matches and a further threat of sanction of 12 months suspension	£40 - To be paid by the offender The EHA shall cooperate with any investigation and legal proceeding where applicable

Referee decision		Disqualification (red card)	
Applicable to		Player, club official	
Classification of penalty Off court / administrative	Examples	Classification of penalty	Examples
Failure to meet the deadline for registrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club registration not completed by the deadline. • Player registrations not completed by deadline. 	£20.00 - £40.00 fine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration 3 weeks after deadline
Failure to provide details of fixture booking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of confirmed booking for matches not received by CC or club 	£10.00 - £30.00 fine fro repeat offences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sportshall booked but CC or club received confirmation, hence not referees appointed
Club withdrawing/defaulting from a match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club provides notice of withdrawal from match. • Club does not provide notice of withdrawal from match. 	Payment 2hrs hall costs 100% referees expenses 2 point deduction Forfeit of bond Payment of new bond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club provided less than two weeks notice • Club provided the required two weeks notice but booking still had to be paid for. Referees were cancelled – not cost <p>Where this is the case the club shall only pay for the costs incurred.</p> <p>Traffic jams shall not be accepted as an excuse.</p>
Non Regulation Shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No numbers on the the shirt 	Warning rro first offense £10 fine for every offence after	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers missing off front of shirts
Failure to submit match report and scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missed deadlines 	£5.00 for every deadline missed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHA cannot submit match reports or scores to news companies by their deadlines

ASSAULTS ON OFFICIALS

INTRODUCTION

This note addresses the range of potential criminal offences to which Officials may be subject on the court of Play and the issue of compensation. The note is not exhaustive and is intended to provide general guidance only. It should not be relied upon in place of specific legal advice which should always be sought where appropriate on particular incidents as they arise. Relevant criminal offences are:

- Common Assault, contrary to Section 39 Criminal Justice Act 1991;
- Threatening Behaviour, contrary to Section 4 Public Order Act 1986;
- Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm, contrary to Section 47 Offences Against Person Act (OAPA) 1861;
- Unlawful Wounding, contrary to Section 20 OAPA 1861;
- Assault occasioning Grievous Bodily Harm, contrary to Section 20 OAPA 1861;
- Unlawful Wounding or Assault occasioning Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent, contrary to Section 18 OAPA 1861;
- Racially aggravated Assaults contrary to Section 29 Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

THE OFFENCES

Common Assault

The term "Common Assault" embraces both an 'assault' and a 'battery'. Strictly speaking an assault is committed when a person intentionally or recklessly causes the victim to apprehend the immediate infliction of unlawful force. A battery is committed when a person actually inflicts unlawful force either intentionally or recklessly (i.e. contact is made).

Examples of acts which would constitute common assault on the Field of Play would be a Player pushing or barging an Official, or throwing a ball at or spitting at an Official.

Any form of accidental contact as regularly occurs would not amount to an offence. Common assault is typically charged in cases where the unlawful force is of a relatively trivial nature and has left no physical mark. The offence is triable only in the Magistrates Court and the maximum penalties are six months' imprisonment, a fine not exceeding £ 5,000, or both. Compensation is dealt with as a matter of course as part of the sentencing process. The prosecuting lawyer will usually invite the Court to make such an order but the Court should consider it in any event. In most cases modest compensation of up to £ 500 will be ordered by the Court in the victim's favour. The maximum order of a Magistrates Court is £ 5,000.

Threatening Behaviour

It is unclear whether words alone are sufficient for an offence of Common Assault. However, an alternative offence within the same bracket of seriousness is 'Threatening Behaviour'. This offence is committed if a person uses towards another person threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour, with the intention of causing the person to believe that immediate unlawful violence will be used against him. Verbal threats alone, or such threats accompanied by gestures, are sufficient to commit the offence.

The critical element in this offence is the immediacy of the threat. The threatened violence must be imminent or at least the intention must be to cause the victim to believe such violence is imminent. Empty words or gestures, where it is understood that no real threat exists, would not constitute an offence however unpleasant the language.

This is tri-able only in the Magistrates Court with the same maximum penalties and compensation provisions as for common assault.

Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm ('A.B.H.')

This offence is committed when an assault takes place (see definition at 2.1) but with the additional element that the victim suffers some physical harm. This goes beyond mere touching. Physical harm such as a bruise, a graze, a broken tooth or a broken finger, is required.

This offence embraces a wide band of factual situations. Examples might include a punch, kick or a knee to the groin, minor injuries resulting from a head butt, etc. It can be tried in the Magistrates Court or the Crown Court. The Crown Court will hear the case if a defendant player exercises the right to trial by Judge and jury, or if the Magistrates take the view that the case is too serious to be dealt by them. Upon conviction or a guilty plea in the Magistrates Court, the same sentences apply as for Common Assault. In the Crown Court this offence carries a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment and an unlimited fine. For compensation, the same considerations as set out in 2.1 apply, except that in the Crown Court there is no theoretical maximum and awards are significantly higher.

Assault Occasioning Grievous Bodily Harm ('G.B.H.') Whilst this is considered a more serious offence than A.B.H., the elements of the offence and the penalties are the same. The difference is in the nature of the injury caused.

Unlawful Wounding

A 'wound' for these purposes involves the breaking of the continuity of the skin, most obviously a cut or laceration. Unlawful Wounding requires an unlawful (i.e. not in self defence) and malicious intention to do the act which would result in the wound, foreseeing that some harm would result from the act. The approach to compensation is the same as applies in cases of A.B.H.

Assault Occasioning Grievous Bodily Harm or Wounding with Intent

This is the most serious type of assault and can only be tried in the Crown Court. It carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. This offence is committed if really serious harm or a wound is caused and the offender intended that really serious harm or the wound be caused. Use of a knife or broken glass or bottle would normally indicate intent. Substantial prison sentence follows conviction. Compensation is unlimited and will usually be ordered where the offender has financial means available.

Racially Aggravated Assault

An offence of racially-aggravated assault is committed if at the time of committing an offence of Common Assault or S.47 (A.B.H.) or S.20 (G.B.H. or wounding) or immediately before or after the offender demonstrates towards the victim hostility based on (presumed) membership of a racial group or the offence is motivated by such hostility. The offence carries the same penalties in the Magistrates Court but carries seven years imprisonment in the Crown Court.

POLICE/ CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE PRACTICE

Generally there is a reluctance on the part of the police to become involved in what they would consider to be minor infringements of the criminal law on the Field of Play. For reasons of policy (time, cost, public interest and likely outcome), the police will not be interested in investigating every incident of a technical Common Assault or Threatening Behaviour. The general view is that in the absence of any injury, such incidents are more appropriately dealt with by the football authorities applying their own disciplinary rules.

The Crown Prosecution Service ('C.P.S.')

 will only allow a case to proceed if there is a realistic prospect of conviction. This acts as a second filter on the decision to prosecute. Nevertheless, the police and the C.P.S. will not hesitate to become involved in appropriate cases – particularly where an injury has been caused and clear, consistent accounts of the incident are available from witnesses. As a general rule, the Courts take an extremely serious view of assaults on Officials. Any incident of sufficient seriousness should be reported to the police in person as soon as possible.

PRIVATE PROSECUTION

Whilst in theory it is open to any victim of a criminal offence to bring a private prosecution by applying to the local Magistrates Court to issue a summons, it hardly ever happens. It is rarely advisable as the outcome is likely to be uncertain and the proceedings time consuming and very expensive. Legal Aid is not available and if the action is unsuccessful, the private prosecutor may be liable for the defendant's costs. The police/ C.P.S. are the public body charged with the function of prosecuting criminal offences. Even if a private prosecution is embarked upon, once it reaches Crown Court, the Director of Public Prosecutions (the head of the C.P.S.) has the legal power to intervene, take the prosecution over and discontinue it. Furthermore, a defendant may often be able to exploit in court a police/C.P.S. decision not to prosecute.

CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION BOARD PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

Any official who sustains personal injury directly attributable to a crime of violence on the field of play can apply to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board (C.I.C.B.) for compensation (as can any victims of violence).

CIVIL ACTION

A civil action for damages for personal injury suffered as a result of an assault may be brought in addition to any criminal proceedings. If a civil action for damages is contemplated, specific legal advice should always be sought.

In all cases of verbal and or common/violent assaults on an official(s), England Handball take appropriate disciplinary action against the offender and will encourage officials where appropriate to involve the police and pursue a court prosecution.

England Handball Proposed Competition/ League Framework

