

ENGLAND HANDBALL ASSOCIATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS

National League Rules and Regulations

Updated 2011

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1.0.0 MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 Membership is obtained upon payment of the Membership Fee currently in force and upon completion of the Form of Application. (**Note:** The the M & A provide provision for England Handball to refuse an Application without explanation). Constitution
- 1.4 Each club shall be properly constituted, with a copy of the constitution lodged with the EHA, have 3 Principal Officers (Chair, Secretary & Treasurer) 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.

2.0 ADMINISTRATION OF THE RULES

- 2.1 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 the Rules and Regulations. (Note: for the purpose of this Regulation, the term Handball shall be the generic heading to include Men, Ladies (Women), In the administration of the Regulations, all Clubs must be cognisant with any Regulation which will apply to them including any Rules which are to be applied for individual competition (**Note:** this applies for example to a league, having its own Regulations governing the conduct of teams, players and officials etc).
- 2.2 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-Committees
- 2.3 For any England Handball competition to be approved the director of competition shall oversee the appointment of a competition committee from within its ranks for the aforesaid competition to decide on the rules and regulations for the competition they represent. Each club shall be entitled to one representative upon the aforesaid 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.

3.0.0 DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS

- 3.1 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 official shall also apply, including the club and coaches, sphere of influence shall mean any EHA official competition run by the EHA).
- 3.2 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).
- 3.3 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 such being in writing and accompanied by a deposit of £300 and within seven days of the original appeal being decided upon the first instance.
- 3.4 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 another 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).

4.0.0 OFFICIAL PLAYING SEASON

- 4.1 The Official Playing season of England Handball shall be from 1st September to 31st August this takes account of the all adaptations of the game such as Beach Handball which is primarily played in the summer.
- 4.2 The Competition Committee (CC) will issue fixtures prior to the beginning of each season by 1st September.

5.0.0 PLAYING FACILITIES

- 5.1 Each club shall be responsible for hosting games at their host venue at least once (if not twice per year) per season.

- 5.2 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. Clubs should endeavour to seek out new larger courts as they are built and the EHA will assist as it can in 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. All clubs shall where appropriate have at least one home game at their designated venue.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 Behind each goal line a clear space of 1 metre is required. Where such is not possible two 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 goal line and the first possible obstruction should never be less than half a metre.
- 5.6 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 one metre distance is allowed between the place of substitutes and the foremost row of spectators. Where possible however, it is recommended that a distance of three metres be allowed.
- 5.7 There must always be materials for the drying of 'wet patches' which might occur upon the court at any time.
- 5.8 Any overhead obstruction should never be lower than 4 metres than the height of the players
- 5.9 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.
- 5.10 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.
- 5.11 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.

6.0 THE GOALS

- 6.1 The goals shall be fastened securely in such manner that they cannot fall forwards for any reason. They must be of regular pattern and in Official matches of a manufacture Approved by England Handball.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 After use, goals should be dismantled or folded depending upon design and stored carefully.
- 6.5 The appropriate size of goal is recommended for the age group concerned. Only those specifically designed goal approved by England Handball should be used for mini handball.

7.0 SUBSTITUTION AREA

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. Players must not warm up in front of the substitution area or along the sidelines.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. All bags and any other loose items including resin must be carefully stowed/positioned to ensure court players cannot make contact with them.

8.0 TIMING DEVICES AND SCORING DEVICES

- 8.1. 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

9.0 THE BALL

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

10.0 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

- 10.1. 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.
- 10.2. 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.
- 10.3. There must be nothing on the shoes of the players which might be considered injurious to other players.
- 10.4. 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.

10.0 INJURY

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

11.0 COMPETITION

11.1 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 subject the club completing and payment of the appropriate registration forms and fees by the agreed deadline herein:

National League division One -Men and Women

Club registration by 1st August

Player registration by 1st September

11.2 Failure to meet the deadline shall result in a financial penalty minimum £25 to £100 for repeat offenses

11.3 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.

11.4 All matches will be played on the stipulated weekend dates. Sunday shall be the designated day, unless agreement is reached in advance by the competition committee and the visiting club(s). In the event of failure to agree the EHA's CC shall revert to the original stipulation herein.

11.5 Special circumstances- 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.

11.6 Visiting club (or clubs) must confirm their attendance to the home club and the Competition Committee at least 2 weeks prior to the match.

11.7 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.

11.9 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

The defaulting club shall also be liable to submit another bond to the EHA prior to their next match

11.10 Clubs who default on two occasions shall be suspended from the league and all records related to the matches played by the club in question shall be removed.

11.11 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. 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.

- 11.12 The EHA shall only award points the opposing team when an agreement cannot be reached and when all reasonable steps to reply 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

12.0 THE PLAYING OF MATCHES & UNIFORMS

- 11.13 All teams shall wear numbers on both the front and back of the team shirts in the prescribed manner as per IHF regulations
- 11.14 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.
- 11.15 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
- 11.16 Matches shall be of 2 x 30 minutes duration with ten minute break. Only Officially recognised and approved score sheets shall be used in any officially recognised competition.

13.0 POINTS AWARDED -

- 13.1 For National league division one the following points shall be awarded:

- 3 points for a win
- 2 points for a draw
- 1 point for a loss
- 2 point deduction for clubs which defaults

14.0 NATIONAL PLAY OFFS

- 14.1 Teams finishing in third place in their respective northern and southern leagues shall go forward to play in a national play off league.
- 14.2 The team finishing 1st in northern and southern leagues carry over 2 points from there respective northern and southern league matches.
- 14.3 Teams finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively shall carry no points forward into the national play off's.
- 14.4 Teams from the north and shall play the southern teams only and visa versa for the south. Teams shall therefore play 6 matches in all, three at home and three away.
- 14.5. Points awarded shall be as follows:
- 3 points for a win
 - 2 points for a draw
 - 1 point for a loss
 - 2 point deduction for clubs which defaults
- 14.6 National League champions shall be crowned utilising the following criteria
- Highest number of points
 - Goals difference
 - Goals for
 - Goals against
 - Winner of last Head to head game. Note this shall be decided by last competitive game whether is be from a regional game and or as part of the national play Off's.

15.0 CUP MATCHES

- 15.1 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.
- 15.2 All matches will be played on the stipulated weekend dates, unless agreed in advance by the CC and the visiting club(s). In the event of failure to agree, the CC will make a ruling based on the information provided.
- 15.3 The first round shall be organised in a group phase. Depending on the size of entry the group phase shall consist of 3 to 4 clubs in each group
- 15.4 The groups shall be decided by a ballot, which shall be organised in the following format; First 3 - 4 named clubs drawn shall be group one, Second 3 - 4 clubs shall be named Group 2 etc. until all clubs are allocated.
- 15.5 Each club shall be entitled to organise at least one home game in the first round group phase.
- 15.6 All sportshall, referee's cost in the group phase shall be shared by clubs.
- 15.7 In the event of there not being enough clubs to warrant a first round group phase, England Handball shall have the authority to revert to first two clubs drawn clubs shall play each other.
- 15.8 England Handball shall have the authority by virtue of the draw to give clubs through the luck of the draw a bye in to the next round in order to regularise the competition format.
- 15.8 The first name to be drawn shall be deemed to be the home team and shall have the right to choose the venue for matches to be played.
- 15.9 In the event of home and away fixtures, the home club must confirm the fixture to the visiting club and the Chair of the CC (email is acceptable) at least 2 weeks prior to the match (including venue directions, start time) The visiting club (or clubs) must confirm their attendance to the home club and the Chair of the CC at least 1 week prior to the match.
- 15.10 The club drawn first shall be 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 extra time and or unforeseen delays. s will pay an equal share of the hall hire and appropriate referees costs.
- 15.11 All participating clubs competing in cup competitions shall share matches costs equally for matches except where the away teams travel exceeds 150 mile round trip to and from the opposing teams home ground. The distance shall be determined by the measuring the distance travelled from their designated home courts using Google Maps. In this instance the home club shall be responsible for the payment of sportshall time, the referees travel expenses and 50% of the referees match fee, the other 50% shall be paid by the opposing team.
- 15.12 Should a team fail to turn up or fail to make the required payments to the home club on the day shall be deemed to have defaulted on its responsibilities and shall lose the bond and shall be liable for any additional costs incurred. The EHA shall have the power to discipline clubs for defaulting and shall to seek recoup any outstanding payments on behalf of the host club.
- 15.13 Any club accepted in to the cup and then decides to withdraw from a match shall be deemed to have defaulted and shall lose their bond could be fully liable their share of the match day costs.
- 15.14 A club deemed to have defaulted shall be informed by letter confirming the default notice and the amount to be paid.

- 15.15 The Club shall have 14 days to pay the compensation. Failure to do so within the required timescale shall result in the club and its registered players being suspended from all competitions and or friendly matches until outstanding payments are recouped. Club and players insurance may also be suspended.
- 15.15 Where it is decided that a match must have a winner and upon the expiry of normal time the scores are equal a period of extra time consisting of two halves of five minutes without a break shall be played.
- 15.16 Where at the end of this time the scores are still equal a further two periods of five minutes without break shall be played, in both instances the teams change ends upon completion of the first period of 5 minutes. Where upon completion of the second period of extra time a winner be not declared, A penalty shoot out shall occur.
- 15.17 Matches shall normally be of 2 x 30 minutes duration with ten minute break (Note: except where local variations may apply which is agreed by all parties and the CC. Only Officially recognised and approved score sheets shall be used in any officially recognised competition.

16.0 REPORTING SCORES AND MATCH REPORTS

- 16.1 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.**

17.0 REFEREES AND ON COURT SANCTIONS

- 17.1 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.
- 17.2 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.
- 17.3 Where referees are appointed to take charge of any game which is officially recognised it must be clearly understood;
- (i) 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.
 - (ii) The referees remain in control until they have left the premises where the match game was played.
 - (iii) 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 £15.00 per game
 - (iv) Where referees are officiating only one game, their fee shall be £20.00 per game
 - (V) Referees expenses shall be calculated in two ways;
- 17.4 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.
- 17.5 Providing receipts as proof of return travel expenses by standard transport.
- 17.6 Before a game the Officials may caution or disqualify players and officials from participation. 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.

- 17.7 Referees are expected to arrive at venues at the commencement of the hall booking. And shall make themselves known to the host organiser.
- 17.8 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.
- 17.9 Referees shall have the right to caution, suspend, and disqualify players and officials in accordance with the Laws of the game.
- 17.10 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.
- 17.11 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 sanction which shall be automatically applied. Note: Where a referee has requested 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.
- 17.12 As stated elsewhere, the club shall be 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.
- 17.13 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 carry an automatic two match suspension).
- 17.14 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 for a period up to of 12 months.
- 17.15 Where during the course of a game a player is disqualified by an accumulation of three periods of two minutes no further disciplinary action shall be deemed necessary. However, as stated elsewhere, under the totting up rule where a player is similarly disqualified on a second occasion in the same season shall be automatically disqualified for one match.
- 17.16 Players disqualified with an obligatory report shall automatically be subject to a 2 match suspension. Note: where the referee in his written report feels that the offence warrants a more severe punishment he may request England Handball refer the report to the CC&CP to consider the offence more seriously and could result in a disciplinary hearing and the penalty being increased. A player in this instance shall have the right to appeal.
- 17.17 In the promotion of fair play England Handball shall apply a totting up rule for all disqualifications:
- 17.18 Any player disqualified on two occasions in the same season shall receive a one match automatic suspension with not right to appeal. The suspension if necessary can be carried over into a new season.
- 17.19 Any player receiving a red card with an obligatory report shall serve a minimum of a two match ban.
- 17.20 For every subsequent red card with an obligatory report received by the same player in the same season shall automatically be subject to a disciplinary panel hearing. Upon which the disciplinary

panel shall have the authority to apply an increased suspension of up to 12 months for repeated serious misconduct offenses.

- 17.21 Where a player is disqualified for spitting, or worse, the referee shall submit an obligatory report which shall be treated as serious violent conduct, and receive an automatic two match suspension and will be subject to a disciplinary panel hearing which shall have the power to increase the suspension for to up to 12 months.
- 17.22 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 for a minimum of 6months and for up to 24 months. The EHA shall also where required supply names of officials and or witnesses to national authorise should legal proceeding be instigated.
- 17.23 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 or when the offender is a club official disqualification from the holding of ANY office within a club or England Handball for the same period shall apply). 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)).
- 17.24 As stated elsewhere, The club shall have the 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.
- 17.25 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.

18.0 RACISM

- 18.1 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 under the supervision of the home team when playing in a designated home game.

19.0 BETTING

- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 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.

20.0 PLAYERS

- 20.1 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.
- 20.2 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.
- 20.3 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.
- 20.4 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.
- 20.5 When is a player ineligible to play? An ineligible player shall deem 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
- 20.5 Where a club is found to have fielded a ineligible player the offending player and the club shall be liable to the following sanctions:
- 20.6 Match score of 10 -0 awarded to the opposing team and appropriate number of points awarded the opposing club.
- 20.7 Minimum suspension of three matches 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).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.
- 20.8 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.
- 20.9 Should a club similarly commit the offence of fielding an ineligible player on a second occasion the
- 20.10 Players registered with a recognised overseas federation Should refer to EHF and IHf international transfer regulations.
- 20.11 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.

21.0 TRANSFERS

- 21.1 Players are permitted to transfer their Registration from one club to another on one occasion per season. The Regulations which govern the transfer of players to be as follows:
- 21.2 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
- 21.3 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.
- 21.4 A fee of 25 pounds shall be paid to England Handball by the Club to which the player is to be transferred.
- 21.5 No transfer of players son shall be permitted after the date of 28th February has passed.
- 21.6 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.
- 21.7 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 in
 - The action taken by the club.
 - The players , coach , official's right of appeal process.
- 21.8 The club shall provide any evidence to support the decision of suspension, with holding of their registration. England Handball shall have the right to adjudicates on the matter and if where applicable uphold clubs actions and or rescind the sanction and permit the transfer.
- 21.9 Contracted players shall only be permitted to transfer if their contract has expired or the club to whom they are contracted agrees to the release of the player from contract
- 21.10 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.
- 21.11 At the end of a season non-contracted players are considered free to register with a new club for the following season.
- 21.12 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.
- 21.13 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

- 21.14 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.

22.0 NATIONAL TEAMS

- 22.1 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.
- 22.2 Regulations referring to England and Great Britain National Teams shall also apply except where otherwise stated.
- 22.3 Players shall only be eligible for selection to National Teams when in possession of a Full Playing Licence.
- 22.4 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.
- 22.5 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 are involved.
- 22.6 shall be the duty of the responsibility 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).
- 22.7 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).

23.0 ANTI DOPING RULES, PROCEDURES AND CONTROL

- 23.1 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.
- 23.2 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.
- 23.3 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.
- 23.4 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.

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

- 23.1 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.

- 23.1 Whilst in other sports, the most commonly associated comments are with post-match interviews it is not limited to such considerations. By way of general guidance, the following types of public comment may lead to disciplinary charges (although this is obviously not exhaustive):

Implication of bias - where a comment implies bias by another participant.

Questioning integrity - where a comment calls into question the integrity of another participant referee and match official etc..

Personal/offensive - where a comment is personal in nature such that it causes, or may cause, offence.

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.

- 23.2 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).
- 23.3 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.

24.0 BRANDING

- 24.1 whilst Branding cannot be enforced, 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.

Appendix
Penalty On Court - Tariffs

Referee decision		Disqualification (red card)	
Applicable to		Player, club official	
Classification of penalty on court	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 	<p>None</p> <p>1match suspension for two disqualification in one season</p>	None
Unsportsmanlike Conduct Red card with report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protests • Loudness • Provocative behaviour 	<p>2 match automatic suspension.</p> <p>This will increase for by one match for every subsequent suspension awarded in the season under the totting up rule.</p>	None
Seriously Unsportsmanlike Conduct Red Card with report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insults • Obscene gestures 	<p>2 match automatic suspension which could be increased to 4 matches. This will increase by one match for every subsequent suspension awarded in the season under the totting up rule</p>	<p>£10 - To be paid by the offender</p> <p>A disciplinary Panel can increase penalties to 12 month suspension</p>
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 	<p>2 match automatic suspension which could be increased to 4 matches. This will increase by one match for every s subsequent suspension awarded in the season under the totting up rule</p>	<p>£10 - To be paid by the offender</p> <p>A disciplinary Panel can increase penalties to 12 month suspension</p>
Common Assault * Red Card with report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlawful use of force (Pushing, barging, Hitting, spitting...) 	<p>4 match automatic suspension which could be increased to 8 matches. . This will increases for by 2 match for every subsequent suspension awarded in the season under the totting up rule</p>	<p>£20 To be paid by the offender</p> <p>The EHA shall cooperate with any investigation and legal proceeding where applicable</p>
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...) 	<p>8 match automatic suspension which could be increased to 24 months suspension.</p> <p>(NB: Possibility of life ban)</p>	<p>£50, increased by £10 for each additional match ban.</p> <p>The EHA shall cooperate with any investigation and legal proceeding where applicable</p>

Classification of penalty on court	Examples	Sanction (min, up to)	Financial penalty
Failing to meet deadlines	• Late membership entry to competition	none	£25.00 - £100 for repeat offences
	• Late match reports	None	
Failing to sign official match documents	• Failing to sign a match report		• £15.00 – 25.000 for every subsequent offense
	• Withdrawing from a leagues match competition	• Point deduction	• Re-imbusement of 2 x hours hall time • Re-imbusement of 100% referee expenses and match fees • Suspension for the league for 2 nd offense • Repayment of bond
Non regulation shirts	• No numbers on the front of shirts	• 1 Points deduction for third offense	• £10.00 -£15 for every consecutive match
Failure to provide official match documentation	• Missing player licenses		• 5.00 – 10.00 for every consecutive match
	• Ineligible player participating in a game • No registration	• 3 match suspension • 2 points deduction	• Fine equivalent to registration fee
Spectator infringements	• Racist or discriminatory abuse • Throwing objects • Encroaching on to the court	• 2- 4 Point deduction	• £20-50 paid by the club • (Possible suspension from all competition)
Betting infringement	• Directly betting directly or indirectly on their own team • Providing information to a third party • To provide Insider information to a third party (from another person and then to pass this on)	• Registration suspended from 24 months to possible life suspension.	• £150 fine to be paid by the offender.
<p>In the pursuance of fair play and upon where these rules may not cover an incident which warrants investigation and the disciplinary action the CC&CP and disciplinary panel shall have the right to assess and apply a sanction/penalty against a player, coach, official, club and spectators as they as appropriate to the incident. The appellants shall have the right to appeal subject to the appropriate fees and deadlines being met..</p>			