



International Handball Federation

I. Bylaws

Edition: September 2007

Table of contents

| | Page |
|---|------|
| I. Name, composition, domicile | 3 |
| II. Purpose | 4 |
| III. Membership | 6 |
| IV. IHF bodies | 9 |
| V. Finances | 21 |
| VI. Official languages, correspondence, announcements and publications | 22 |
| VII. International events | 23 |
| VIII. Rules of the Game | 26 |
| IX. Representatives, officials, technical delegates, referees | 27 |
| X. IHF adjudicating bodies | 29 |
| XI. Dissolution of the IHF | 32 |
| Appendix: Overview of binding IHF Regulations, Stipulations, Decrees and List of Duties | 33 |

I. Name, composition, domicile

Article 1

- (1) The International Handball Federation (IHF) is a non-profit legal entity disposing of all the means to reach its objectives.
- (2) The International Olympic Committee recognises the IHF as the sole representative of international handball.
- (3) Name and logo (stylised letters IHF on a circle) of the International Handball Federation are legally registered.

Article 2

- (1) The IHF is composed of the national handball federations on which it has bestowed recognition and which control handball in their state.
- (2) Only one federation per country shall be entitled to IHF membership.

Article 3

- (1) The IHF's domicile shall be Basle (Switzerland).
- (2) Any proposal to move the domicile shall be subject to a Congress resolution based on a two-thirds majority of those members present and entitled to vote.
- (3) The IHF shall be subject to Swiss law. Basle shall be the place of jurisdiction.

II. Purpose

Article 4

- (1) The IHF shall lead, develop and promote handball around the world.
- (2) It shall ensure
 - that its business is transacted pursuant to the Bylaws and Regulations
 - that international regulations are written and observed according to clear legal principle
 - the execution of all IHF competitions (Olympic Games, World Championships, qualifications which have not been allocated to continental federations, World Cups) and the tasks this entails (regulations, lists of duties, exclusive responsibility for media work, marketing and sponsorship)
 - the organisation of all IHF events
 - the promotion of new member federations
 - the promotion of coaches and referees
 - the promotion of junior players
 - the promotion of mini-handball and beach handball
 - the promotion of handball in general
- (3) The IHF alone is entitled to utilise in any manner the events (competitions, symposia and teaching events) named in Article 27 (1 and 2), in particular by marketing advertising and marketing rights, TV rights and other electronic, visual and printed media rights.
- (4) The IHF shall issue Bylaws, Regulations and official Rules of the Game for all forms of handball, for relations among national member federations and shall regulate its rights and obligations towards its member federations. It shall regulate its relations with other national and international associations, organisations and institutions.

Article 5

With its activities, the IHF shall contribute to the promotion and strengthening of friendship and mutual understanding among athletes throughout the world with the maintenance of peace, the most important prerequisite for the existence of sport, being the main objective.

Article 6

- (1) The IHF tolerates no discrimination on the basis of race, creed or political orientation.
- (2) Organisers of official IHF events (competitions, Congresses, conventions, training seminars, symposia, etc.) shall be compelled to make a declaration to that effect before the IHF allocates the event.
- (3) Teams shall not boycott official IHF competitions or refuse referees for reasons of race, creed or political orientation. Violation of this article shall result in suspension, by the IHF Council, of the member federation or team concerned.

Article 7

The IHF shall be committed to fairness in sports and prohibit any attempts at unfair performance improvement. The prevention of any use of doping shall be a special concern.

Current IOC and WADA doping regulations shall form part of the IHF Bylaws and Regulations.

Regulations concerning doping shall be the subject of a special body of regulations which shall include mention of the appropriate sanctions.

III. Membership

Article 8

- (1) The Congress alone shall grant membership.
- (2) National federations applying for membership in the IHF should submit their bylaws, eligibility code, rules of the game and proof that they organise matches to the IHF no later than six months before the next Congress.
- (3) Upon examining the material and consulting with the continental federation concerned, the Council may grant provisional admission to membership. The next Congress shall decide on definite membership.
- (4) Candidates for membership may not be present during the vote. Immediately after membership is awarded, the federation concerned shall have a Congress seat and a vote.
- (5) The newly admitted national federation must pay, within 30 days of admission, the membership fee for the current calendar year as laid down in the Financial Regulations (XXIV). Failure to do so shall result in the application of Articles 21(2) and 12(2)c of the Bylaws.

Article 9

- (1) As a rule, the national federations shall form continental federations, based on geographical location. The IHF and the continental federations concerned shall together adjudicate in exceptional cases.
- (2) IHF membership is mandatory for participation in the Olympic Games, international championships and competitions held by the IHF. Only members have the right to organise these competitions.

Article 10

- (1) The IHF shall not officially recognise any subgroups except for the continental federations. However, such groups may function within the continental federations' stipulations and with their permission.
- (2) Sections or clubs which are part of an IHF member federation shall not join another IHF member federation without the former's explicit consent.

Article 11

- (1) Continental federations shall be recognised when they have at least five member federations.
- (2) The IHF recognises the following continental federations:
 - a) Asian Handball Federation (AHF)
 - b) African Handball Confederation (CAHB)
 - c) European Handball Federation (EHF)
 - d) Oceania Handball Federation (OHF)
 - e) Pan-American Team Handball Federation (PATHF)
- (3) The continental federations have the following rights and duties:
 - a) Recognition of the binding character of IHF Bylaws, Regulations and resolutions
 - b) Cooperation with the IHF concerning international competitions and handball generally
 - c) Selecting, in good time, participants for the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cups, according to IHF stipulations
 - d) Holding their own continental championships and cup competitions
 - e) Holding their own international competitions, particularly for children and young people and for beach handball
 - f) Drawing up their own list of referees (continental referees)
 - g) Recruiting new members for the IHF
 - h) Electing candidates of the continental federation to the IHF Council and Commissions, pursuant to Articles 11 (4 and 5), 14 (7) and 15 (1-4 and 7) of these Bylaws
 - i) Guaranteeing, in the interests of world handball, regular, responsible cooperation by members elected or appointed to the IHF Council, the Executive Committee and Commissions
 - k) Constituting commissions which shall cooperate closely with the corresponding IHF Commissions

- l) Making use of every opportunity to promote handball in their continent (including organisation of training courses, symposia, seminars)
 - m) Creating all bodies needed to fulfil the duties of a continental federation
 - n) Right to put motions to the Congress
 - o) Mutually exchanging resolutions and information with the IHF
- (4) Whenever possible, continental federation elections shall be scheduled to precede IHF elections.
- (5) The Congress shall confirm continental federation candidates to the IHF Council. The Council shall confirm continental federation candidates to the Commissions. A new candidate shall be proposed by the continental federation concerned in case Congress or Council respectively should refuse confirmation.

Article 12

- (1) At the Executive Committee's request, the IHF Council can warn and/or penalise member federations which have violated IHF Bylaws. Warnings shall be made in writing, and all member federations shall be informed at the same time.
The highest fine that can be imposed shall be CHF 10.000,-
- (2) IHF membership shall be forfeited
- a) for violations of the Bylaws or IHF resolutions, by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the Congress
 - b) if the member concerned no longer has the character of a national federation, by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the Congress
 - c) if the Council cancels it because the prescribed fees have not been paid, at the earliest six months after their due date.
- (3) A member federation wishing to resign its IHF membership must inform the IHF accordingly, by registered letter.
The resignation shall become effective three months after the IHF has received the letter of resignation.

IV. IHF bodies

Article 13

- (1) The highest IHF body shall be the Congress.
- (2) The Council and the Executive Committee are the IHF executive bodies.
- (3) The Head Office shall be the IHF's professional executive and administrative body, under the leadership of the Executive Committee.
- (4) The permanent Commissions and working groups shall be the Executive Committee's technical bodies.
- (5) The supervisory body and the IHF auditors shall check financial matters.
- (6) The Arbitration Commission (first level of authority) and the Arbitration Tribunal (second level of authority) shall be the IHF's legal authorities.

Article 14

- (1) Ordinary Congresses shall take place every two years (uneven years) directly after the Men's World Championship. Each ordinary Congress shall determine the place and date of the following ordinary Congress.
- (2) IHF bodies shall be elected every four years, at Congresses taking place the year after the Olympic Summer Games.
Any elections necessary to fill vacancies shall be held at the next Ordinary IHF Congress.
- (3) The Council may convene extraordinary Congresses.
The Council shall convene an extraordinary Congress upon the written request of a simple majority of member federations or Council members.
Extraordinary Congresses must be convened within three months of receipt of the request.
- (4) Each member federation shall possess one vote at the Congress. The federation may take part in the Congress with three delegates, whose names shall be given to the Head Office in writing before the start of the Congress.
The delegates shall be members of the federation and authorised to represent the federation concerned. Should this not be the case, participation shall be limited to observer status.
No-one shall represent more than one federation.
The Congress is quorate if at least 51% of the IHF member federations are present.

- (5) Only member federations that have met their financial obligations towards the IHF are entitled to vote at the Congress. At the start of the Congress decisions in that respect shall be announced as a part of the roll call and determination of number of votes.
- (6) Conditions for convening a Congress:
- a) The Council shall convene ordinary Congresses no later than four months in advance.
The dates of Congresses shall be announced nine months in advance.
The Council shall publish the agenda no later than six weeks in advance.
- b) The Council shall convene extraordinary Congresses no later than two months in advance.
The Council shall publish the agenda no later than three weeks in advance.
- (7) The agenda of a Congress during which elections are usually held shall include the following points:
1. Opening of the Congress
 2. Roll call and determination of number of votes
 3. Election of two examiners of the minutes
 4. Determination of the orderly convocation of Congress
 5. Adoption of the minutes of the preceding Congress
 6. President's report
 7. Financial and auditors' report
 8. Discharge
 9. Treatment of election-related Bylaw motions submitted to the Congress
 10. Elections and confirmations:
 - a) Election of the IHF President
 - b) Election of the IHF 1st Vice-President
 - c) Confirmation of Vice-Presidents from the continents
 - d) Election of the Secretary General
 - e) Election of the Treasurer

- f) Election of the President of the Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)
 - g) Election of the President of the Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)
 - h) Election of the President of the Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)
 - i) Election of the President of the Medical Commission (MC)
 - k) Election of the President of the Commission for Promotion and Public Relations (CPP)
 - l) Confirmation of the Council members from the continents
 - m) Election of a Council member to the Executive Committee
 - n) Election of the Chairman of the Arbitration Tribunal and of the 10 members
 - o) Election of the Chairman of the Arbitration Commission and of the 10 members
 - p) Confirmation of the supervisory body
 - q) Election of two IHF auditors and one substitute auditor
11. Motions to the Congress
 12. Report on changes to the Rules and Regulations ratified by the Council
 13. Confirmation of the IHF programme of activities
 14. Setting membership fees and approval of the budget
 15. Awarding of events which are not subject to a Council decision
 16. Scheduling time and place of the next Congress
 17. Membership admissions
 18. Miscellaneous
 19. Close of the Congress
- (8) The agenda of Congresses without elections shall be adjusted accordingly.

- (9) Member federations, continental federations, the Council and the Executive Committee may submit motions and applications to host IHF events to the Congress. They shall be made in writing in English, German and French together with rationales, to the Head Office. Should a motion or an application not be submitted in all three languages, the Head Office shall arrange the necessary translations. They shall be submitted to the Head Office:
- a) no later than five months prior to the Congress in the case of ordinary Congresses and
 - b) no later than two months prior to the Congress in the case of extraordinary Congresses.
- (10) Motions submitted past the deadline or while the Congress is in progress require a two-thirds majority vote of the Congress to be heard. Excluded from this provision shall be Bylaw amendments and applications to hold IHF events.
- (11) Motions concerning one continent only shall be referred back to the continental federation concerned. A simple majority vote of the Congress shall determine whether a motion concerns only one continent.
- (12) Motions to the Council concerning changes to the Rules of the Game shall be submitted in time, for inclusion on the agenda of Congresses taking place the year after the Olympic Winter Games.
- (13) The IHF President or his deputy shall be Congress chairman.
- (14) As a rule, voting shall be by open ballot. Voting by secret ballot shall be subject to a delegate's request.
Decisions are made by simple majority. In the case of equality of votes, the voting process shall be repeated. If a motion fails to reach a majority in a repeat vote, it shall be rejected.
- (15) Elections require an absolute majority of votes present. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of offices, voting shall be by secret ballot.
If no candidate obtains an absolute majority, a run-off election shall be held between the two candidates who obtained the largest number of votes in the first ballot. In the second ballot, a simple majority shall decide. In the case of a tie, the voting process shall be repeated.

In the case of joint elections, candidates are elected in the order of the number of votes obtained. If two or more candidates tie for last place, voting for those candidates shall be repeated.

Every candidate shall be standing for only one position within the IHF.

- (16) A two-thirds majority of delegates present and entitled to vote shall decide on changes to the Bylaws.
- (17) Congress resolutions affecting the IHF and its member federations shall come into force three months after the motion is carried.
The Congress may determine an earlier or later effectiveness date for carried motions.
- (18) Official Congress languages are English, German and French. For Congress participants simultaneous translations into Arabic, Russian and Spanish shall also be assured.
- (19) The Secretary General shall be responsible for keeping Congress minutes. Minutes confirmed by the examiners of the minutes shall be handed to Council members and member federations no later than two months after the Congress.
Objections must be made within four weeks.
The minutes shall be adopted at the next Congress.

Article 15

- (1) The Council consists of the following members:
 - President
 - 1st Vice-President
 - five continental Vice-Presidents
 - Secretary General
 - Treasurer
 - five Commission presidents
 - five continental Council members
- (2) Each continental federation may nominate one Vice-President. If the continental federation has at least fifteen members, it may nominate an additional Council member for the continent who shall be confirmed by the Congress.

- (3) The term of office of Council members shall be four years. Re-election is possible.

Nominations may be submitted by the Council, the Executive Committee and by member federations. First-time candidates may be nominated by the respective member federation only.

These nominations shall be submitted to the Head Office in writing, no later than three months before the start of the Congress.

The continental representatives in the Council shall be proposed by their respective continental federation no later than 24 hours before the start of the Congress.

- (4) Council members
- shall not exercise several IHF functions in parallel
 - shall be available for IHF duties for at least twelve days each year.
- (5) Newly elected members shall take office immediately after their election by the Congress or, when filling vacancies during an electoral period, according to a Council directive to that effect.
- (6) Retiring Council members shall hand over all necessary documents no later than three months after the elections.
- (7) Upon withdrawal of a continental representative from the Council (Vice-President or Council member), the continental federation in question can propose a substitute member, who shall be appointed by the Council until the next Congress.
- (8) Council duties:
- a) Decision-making outside the Congress's competence or decisions which, according to these Bylaws, are transferred to other bodies
 - b) Ensuring that Congress and Executive Committee resolutions are adhered to
 - c) Confirmation of the representatives elected by the continents and appointment of the other Commission members according to proposals from the Commission presidents concerned
 - d) Deciding on important financial matters within budget constraints, and approving Commission budgets at their request

- e) Submitting its own motions to the Congress
 - f) Dealing with administrative and technical motions to the Congress and making recommendations
 - g) Deciding on proposals on the Rules of the Game
 - h) Confirming regulations (see appendix) and proposals on changing them
 - i) Receiving activity reports from the Commissions and deciding on their motions
 - k) Forming working groups to deal with specific tasks
 - l) Granting provisional admission of new member federations
 - m) Awarding Men's and Women's World Championships
Awarding other IHF events upon being delegated to do so by the Congress and at the Executive Committee's request
 - n) Requesting the Congress to award honours
 - o) Activities during IHF events in respect of representative, administrative and technical matters
 - p) Representing the IHF at other international organisations and at international sports events outside the IHF
- (9) The Council shall convene at least twice a year.
All participants shall be in receipt of the documents being the basis for the decision-making process at least 30 days prior to the Council meeting.
The participants of the Council meeting, the continental federations and national federations shall be in receipt of the minutes of the Council meetings within 30 days after the respective meeting.
- (10) The simple majority shall apply for Council votes. In the case of equality of votes, the President's vote shall decide.
- (11) In case of urgent business, the President may seek to make resolutions and decisions by mail between Council meetings.

- (12) The President shall represent the IHF whenever required and he shall head Congresses as well as Council and Executive Committee meetings.
He shall, in particular, represent the IHF in court as plaintiff or as defendant, or in financial matters.
In his absence the 1st or any other Vice-President nominated by him shall exercise the President's powers, without special authorisation.
- (13) The 1st Vice-President shall represent the President in his absence, with all his rights and duties.
If the President should retire before his period of office expires, the 1st Vice-President shall be the acting head of the IHF until the next elections.
- (14) After the President and the 1st Vice-President, the Vice-Presidents shall be responsible in all matters pertaining to the IHF on their continent.
The President may charge them with representing him in certain tasks, as required.
- (15) The tasks of Council members shall be regulated by the standing orders, which shall be passed by the Council.

Article 16

- (1) The Executive Committee consists of the following members:
- President
 - 1st Vice-President
 - Secretary General
 - Treasurer
 - two Council members elected by the Council
- (2) The Executive Committee shall lead the IHF as the executive body elected by the Congress, fulfilling the IHF's Bylaws and in compliance with the responsibilities of the other elected bodies.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall be in charge of all the activities of the IHF, leading the Head Office, the Commissions and also the working groups.
- (4) The Executive Committee shall take the decisions on the establishment of working groups, nominations, financial and contractual matters, including all decisions concerning the Head Office and staff.
- (5) The Executive Committee shall represent the IHF in all international organisations and international sports events.

- (6) The President shall represent the IHF in all sports, legal, public and financial activities, leading the Executive Committee, and the other bodies related to it.
- (7) The first Vice-President shall represent the President in his absence with all his rights and duties without special authorisation.
- (8) The Secretary General shall represent the Executive Committee in the international sports bodies, by delegation of the President, coordinating all the activities, Commissions and working groups concerning the organisation of sports events.
- (9) The Treasurer shall prepare and control the budget. He shall be responsible for the accounts of the IHF, with the support of the Head Office.
- (10) The Executive Committee shall convene every two months and when necessary, deciding by simple majority. In case of equal number of votes, the President shall decide.
- (11) By proposal of the President, the Executive Committee may suspend and provisionally substitute any member of the Commissions and working groups.
- (12) The members of the Executive Committee shall not exercise any other functions in any other official handball body in the continental federations.
- (13) The Executive Committee has the right to submit proposals and motions to the Congress. It can also submit nominations for the re-election of members.

Article 17

- (1) The following five permanent Commissions are technical IHF bodies with the following specific tasks:
 - Commission of Organising and Competition (COC)
 - Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC)
 - Commission of Coaching and Methods (CCM)
 - Medical Commission (MC)
 - Commission for Promotion and Public Relations (CPP).
- (2) The Commissions consist of the presidents elected by the Congress and members appointed by the Council.

- (3) Seven members shall be appointed to the COC, PRC, CCM, MC and CPP. Each Commission must have a representative from each continent, on the condition that this continent has at least 15 member federations.
- (4) If a Commission president should retire before his period of office expires, the Council shall appoint a new president until the next Congress who shall possess the same rights as his predecessor.
- (5) The Council shall appoint the Commission members for a period of four years. The appointments are based on the representatives chosen by the continental federations, candidates proposed by the member federations, and recommendations from the respective Commission president.

The Commissions shall act according to the Council's instructions.

Within the four-year plan previously approved they have freedom of action.

New Commission members may be appointed only with the written approval of their member federation.

Each Commission may include only one representative from any member federation.

The criteria for Council members laid down in Article 15 (4) apply equally when appointing Commission members.

If necessary, the Council may dismiss a member. Should a Commission member be dismissed or retire before his period of office expires, the Council shall, on the recommendation of the respective Commission president, appoint a successor.

- (6) The following tasks shall be incumbent upon the Commission of Organising and Competition:
 - Organising the IHF's competitions according to the Bylaws
 - Drawing up regulations for the Olympic handball tournaments, World Championships and other IHF competitions
 - Drawing up an international calendar of events
 - Collaborating with the Disciplinary Commission
 - Instructing and supporting the respective commissions or persons responsible in the continental federations above all in compiling the basic documents required for handball (technical installations, competitions, announcements, guidelines)
 - Preparing intercontinental matches

- (7) The following tasks shall be incumbent upon the Playing Rules and Referees Commission:
- Participating in the drawing up and changing of the Rules of the Game and explanatory notes and dealing with proposals on the Rules
 - Holding IHF symposia
 - Selecting, training, deploying and monitoring international referees
 - Issuing international referee identification
 - Training and recognising instructors
 - Drawing up IHF referee lists, which have to be confirmed by the Executive Committee
 - Collaborating with the Disciplinary Commission
 - Instructing and supporting the respective commissions or persons responsible in the continental federations
- (8) The following tasks shall be incumbent upon the Commission of Coaching and Methods:
- Analysing international games and tournaments and drawing up proposals on the future content, organisation and structure of handball
 - Holding IHF symposia in its own field
 - Compiling teaching materials and holding basic and advanced training courses for coaches
 - Training and deploying international coaches
 - Nominating world selection teams
 - Recognising and training instructors
 - Promoting schools handball (together with the CPP)
 - Dealing with changes to the Rules and submitting them to the Executive Committee
 - Collaborating with the Disciplinary Commission
 - Instructing and supporting the respective commissions or persons responsible in the continental federations
- (9) The following tasks shall be incumbent upon the Medical Commission:
- Drawing up and enforcing the IHF Anti-Doping Regulations
 - Making doping checks
 - Initiating the exchange of experience on sports medicine and participating in international medical symposia
 - Drawing up publications and teaching programmes particularly to prevent sports injuries and damage
 - Collaborating with the Disciplinary Commission as a substitute member
 - Instructing and supporting the respective commissions or persons responsible in the continental federations

- (10) The following tasks shall be incumbent upon the Commission for Promotion and Public Relations:
- Evaluating of the development programme and of development aid for the continental and member federations
 - Supporting the Executive Committee on the design of IHF public relations (media, publications and Internet)
 - Compiling a catalogue of IHF literature, films, videos, pictures and posters and expanding the library where necessary
 - Preparing, coordinating and producing teaching and promotional material
 - Promoting beach handball
 - Promoting mini-handball
 - Promoting schools handball (together with the CCM)
 - Holding training courses for officials and sports teachers
 - Recognizing and training instructors for officials training
 - Collaborating with the Disciplinary Commission as a substitute member
 - Instructing and supporting the respective commissions or persons responsible in the continental federations

Article 18

The IHF Council and the Executive Committee can convene working groups if the bodies consider them necessary to deal with specific matters for a limited period.

Article 19

- (1) The Head Office headed by the Managing Director shall be the IHF's permanent administrative body.
- (2) The Head Office shall work on the basis of standing orders as approved by the Council.

V. Finances

Article 20

- (1) The IHF's financial year shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December.
- (2) Official currency is the Swiss franc (CHF). The current foreign exchange rates at the Zurich financial centre shall apply.
- (3) The Treasurer shall draw up the budget and submit it to the Council for approval and to the Congress for confirmation.
- (4) The annual accounts and the reports from the supervisory body and the IHF auditors shall be submitted to the Congress for resolution.

Article 21

- (1) The annual membership fee for member federations decided by the Congress shall be valid for a period of two years. It must be paid annually by 31 March (credited in Basle).
- (2) The Council may temporarily suspend the rights of members in arrears with their financial obligations.
- (3) The Executive Committee can temporarily reduce or waive fees and dues for member federations suffering from foreign exchange or currency difficulties. It must report the fact to the Council.

Article 22

All details of the IHF's financial matters are laid down in the Financial Regulations, which shall be approved by the Council.

Article 23

The IHF's books shall be audited by the supervisory body confirmed by the Congress, a firm of chartered accountants registered at the IHF's domicile, and the IHF auditors.

Article 24

Financial liability is limited to the IHF's assets. Member federations, elected officials and employed staff shall not be liable.

Article 25

In order to optimise its economic efficiency the IHF is authorised to have the Council found a marketing AG, a wholly-owned IHF subsidiary operating under survey of the Executive Committee.

VI. Official languages, correspondence, announcements and publications

Article 26

- (1) The official languages of the IHF shall be English, German and French. In case of any discrepancy, the English text shall prevail. Correspondence between the IHF and the members shall be conducted in these languages.
- (2) Every member federation shall inform the Head Office of the names and precise addresses of those persons in charge of official correspondence with the IHF and its member federations.
- (3) The Council and/or the Executive Committee shall decide on official IHF publications.

VII. International events

Article 27

- (1) The IHF shall have the exclusive right to hold World Championships for men, women, men's juniors, women's juniors, men's and women's youth and in beach handball as well as Olympic tournaments and World Cups for club teams and national teams.
- (2) The IHF shall be responsible for holding symposia, courses and training courses.
- (3) The relevant continental federation shall have the right to hold continental qualifying matches for the competitions pursuant to Article 27 (1).
- (4) The IHF shall, by Congress or Council resolution, entrust each international event to a member federation that has applied to hold it.
- (5) Should there be no application to hold a particular IHF event at the Congress, then the Council may be given the right to award the event.
- (6) IHF events may be awarded to one applicant only, who fulfils the following conditions:
 - Presentation of a proper budget countersigned by the member federation's executive board, including participation fee.
 - Written agreement to assume all organiser's costs as laid down in the IHF Regulations.
 - Written agreement to fulfil all organiser's duties as laid down (see List of Duties for Official IHF Championships (VI) and Media Regulations (XVI)).

The applicant may include a number of member federations in the organisation of the event. The rights and duties shall be laid down in writing.
- (7) At least one year before the awarding Congress the Council shall publish the list of duties including the current minimum quality standards and also the financial preconditions for the IHF and the local organiser. The list of duties shall also include the necessary application form for the applying member federation.

- (8) At least six month before the awarding Congress the applicant for the bidding procedure shall send a fully completed current application form which has been signed by the highest authority of the member federation. The applicant may include more than one member federation.
- (9) The Council with help from the staff in the Head Office shall examine carefully and completely the applicants' bidding proposal in order to decide whether the application fulfils the quality standards and levels. If this is the case the Council shall chose two candidates to continue the bidding process in the Congress. The Council shall inform the Congress, without any ranking, of the two applicants at least six weeks before the start of the awarding Congress. The Congress shall make the final decision.
- (10) Deadlines and financial conditions set by the Council as well as the corresponding list of duties shall apply to World Championships for men and women.

Article 28

- (1) The ceremony at the opening and closing celebrations of international IHF events is stipulated in the List of Duties for Official IHF Competitions (VI).
- (2) Victory ceremonies at international championships shall include the winning team's national anthem being played. The flags of the first three teams shall be hoisted.
They shall receive medals (gold, silver, bronze).

Article 29

- (1) In international handball, international, association and club matches shall be played.
- (2) An international match is a game between the national teams of two IHF member federations, where the teams shall bear the name of their state. Team members must be citizens of the respective country. This shall also apply to tournaments with national teams.

One month after an international match or tournament at the latest the association entrusted with its organisation shall report the match result, the names and first names of the referees and players of both teams as well as the number of spectators to the IHF on the official form for this purpose. If this report is not made in due time, a fine of CHF 100.– shall be levied per month or part of a month. The total fine shall be payable immediately.

- (3) An international association match is a game between two sub-associations belonging to different IHF member federations. It may take place only when both IHF member federations involved have granted permission.
- (4) An international club match is a game between two clubs belonging to different IHF member federations. Both IHF member federations to which the clubs belong must approve. The member federations responsible shall inform each other when they have granted permission to a club making such a request, or if they should hear that such a match has taken place without their approval.

Article 30

Eligibility to play in international matches (between national teams, association or club teams) is laid down in the Player Eligibility Code (III).

The Regulations for Transfer between Federations (IV) shall be binding when a player transfers from one national federation to another.

Both of the above Regulations shall be laid down by the Congress in separate Regulations.

VIII. Rules of the Game

Article 31

- (1) All IHF member federations shall be obliged to play handball according to the Rules of the Game approved by the Council. With the PRC's agreement, a member federation may, for a limited period, play according to modified rules in order to try them out.
- (2) Once they have been passed by the Council, changes to the Rules of the Game shall be announced at the Congress taking place the year after the Olympic Summer Games, and reported to all member federations by the Head Office. They shall be published by 1 April of the following year and come into force on 1 August of the same year.
- (3) IHF member federations shall be responsible for quickly making known the changes within their federation. They shall be entitled to declare that changes to the Rules of the Game already announced shall immediately become valid within their federation.

IX. Representatives, officials, technical delegates, referees

Article 32

- (1) In exercising its rights and fulfilling its duties as well as supporting and supervising the organiser, the IHF shall engage representatives, officials, technical delegates and referees at World Championships, Olympic Games (including the necessary qualifying matches) and at the World Cup for club teams and national teams.
- (2) All financial and organisational input required shall be borne by the organiser.
- (3) The number of officials and technical delegates to be engaged shall be laid down by the Council according to a formula also containing the number of technical delegates to be provided by the IHF Commissions.

Article 33

- (1) Representatives, officials and technical delegates shall be nominated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council.
- (2) As the highest-ranking agents of the IHF at IHF events, the representatives shall be responsible for all official contact, possibly including press conferences and heading the jury, in the country where the competition is held.
- (3) The officials engaged are the on-site IHF agents vis-a-vis the organiser. They shall supervise the matches and the work of the Match Management.
- (4) The duties of the technical delegates are laid down in the Guidelines for the Work of Technical Delegates.

Article 34

- (1) Referees for official IHF championships, Olympic Games, the World Cup and for international matches held under the responsibility of the IHF shall be nominated by the IHF's PRC. They must be listed in the official IHF referee lists.

- (2) The official IHF referee lists shall be compiled by the Head Office on the basis of reports from the member federations that have been checked by the PRC.
- (3) Member federations shall submit a list of referees who can be considered for international matches between national teams and others, by 31 May of each year, to the continental federation which shall return the lists on the prescribed forms by 30 June of each year to the Head Office.
- (4) Every organiser of an international event is obliged to invite the referees in good time, and to inform the respective member federation in writing.

X. IHF adjudicating bodies

Article 35

In the case of disputes concerning these Bylaws or the regulations and resolutions of IHF bodies, officials and players and the member federations to which they belong shall be subject exclusively to the sports jurisdiction of the IHF's statutory adjudicating bodies.

Article 36

- (1) The Disciplinary Commission and the jury shall adjudicate disputes arising from international events.
- (2) A protest can be lodged against decisions and occurrences at international events on and off the courts up to one hour after the finish with a simultaneous payment of CHF 500.–. In the first instance the Disciplinary Commission shall have the power to decide.
- (3) The Disciplinary Commission consists of a chairman and three members appointed by the Council in good time for each IHF event. Three of its members shall have the power to decide.
- (4) In the Disciplinary Commission any member belonging to the association involved in a dispute shall not be present during deliberations.
- (5) Should two or more members of the Disciplinary Commission be absent, the IHF President or a deputy named by him shall delegate the appropriate Council members to the Disciplinary Commission.
- (6) It is possible to appeal to the jury against a Disciplinary Commission decision up to two hours after receipt of the written decision. The appeal shall be submitted together with payment of the appeal fee of CHF 1,500.–. As the second level of authority, the decision of the jury shall be final.
- (7) The jury shall consist of the highest IHF representative present and two officials or technical delegates who are not members of the Disciplinary Commission nor of one of the associations involved.
- (8) Should a protest or an appeal be rejected or withdrawn, the fee shall be forfeited to the IHF. Should a protest or an appeal be allowed, the fee shall be reimbursed.
- (9) Further provisions are set down in the IHF Legal Regulations.

Article 37

- (1) In the case of disputes arising out of international events, in business matters or between IHF member federations, the Arbitration Commission and the Arbitration Tribunal shall become active.
- (2) The Arbitration Commission consists of a chairman and 10 members elected by the Congress. Each continental federation shall have at least one member among the 10 Arbitration Commission members. Members of the Arbitration Commission must not hold any other office within the IHF or the continental federations. They must have proved themselves suitable for this specific task through their knowledge and experience.
- (3) During negotiations the Arbitration Commission shall work with its chairman and two of its members. Any member belonging to one of the federations involved shall not be nominated.
- (4) An appeal to the Arbitration Commission requires the simultaneous payment of CHF 5,000.– to the Head Office.
- (5) An appeal against the decision of the Arbitration Commission may be made to the Arbitration Tribunal against payment of CHF 10,000.– to the Head Office.
- (6) The Arbitration Tribunal consists of a chairman and 10 members elected by the Congress. Each continental federation shall have at least one member among the 10 Arbitration Tribunal members. Members of the Arbitration Tribunal must not hold any other office within the IHF or the continental federations. They must have proved themselves suitable for this specific task through their knowledge and experience.
- (7) During negotiations the Arbitration Tribunal shall work with its chairman and two of its members. Any member belonging to one of the federations involved shall not be nominated.
- (8) As the second level of authority, the decision of the Arbitration Tribunal shall be final.
- (9) For the activities of the Arbitration Commission and the Arbitration Tribunal, the actual costs and expenses of the proceedings, including personnel costs, shall be invoiced in addition to fees mentioned under 37(4) and 37(5).

- (10) Should an appeal or recourse be rejected or withdrawn, the appellant shall forfeit the fee to the IHF and be liable for the costs of the proceedings.
Should an appeal or recourse be allowed, the IHF shall waive the fee and the costs of the proceedings.
- (11) If the chairman of the Arbitration Commission or the Arbitration Tribunal should retire before his period of office expires, the Council may appoint a commissary chairman pending the election of a new chairman at the next Congress.
Should a member of one of the two bodies retire, the Council shall, on the recommendation of the respective chairman, appoint a successor.
- (12) Further provisions are set down in the IHF Legal Regulations.

Article 38

The Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) may be called upon in exceptional cases (problems arising in connection with doping abuse, complaints from individual athletes).

XI. Dissolution of the IHF

Article 39

Only a three-quarters majority of the members present and entitled to vote at a Congress may dissolve the IHF. The motion to dissolve the IHF must have been sent together with the agenda for the Congress to all IHF member federations.

Article 40

In the event that the IHF shall be dissolved, the Congress shall decide on the use of its assets and settle any financial obligations. The assets may be used only for the purpose of non-profit-making sport.

Appendix

Overview of binding IHF Regulations, Stipulations, Decrees and List of Duties

| | Decision by | Implementation by |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|
| I. Bylaws | Congress | Council |
| II. Legal Provisions | Congress | Council |
| III. Player Eligibility Code | Congress | Council |
| IV. Regulations for Transfer between Federations | Congress | Council |
| V. Regulations for IHF Competitions | Council | COC |
| VI. List of Duties for Official IHF Competitions | Council | COC |
| VII. Guidelines for the Work of Technical Delegates | Council | COC |
| VIII. Match Reports a) Indoor handball b) Beach handball | Council | COC |
| IX. Rules of the Game a) Indoor handball b) Beach handball | Council | PRC |
| X. – | – | – |
| XI. Regulations for International and Continental Referees | Council | PRC |
| XII. Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses | Council | PRC |
| XIII. Technical Regulations a) Ball Regulations b) Goal Regulations c) Floor Regulations | Council | COC, CCM, PRC |
| XIV. Anti-Doping Regulations | Council | MC |
| XV. Regulations for Sex Tests | (abolished) | |

| | | |
|---|---------|-------------|
| XVI. Media Regulations | Council | CCP |
| XVII. Regulations on Advertising | Council | Head Office |
| XVIII. Regulations for IHF Symposia | Council | PRC, CCM |
| XIX. Regulations Concerning Penalties and Fines | Council | Head Office |
| XX. Standard Contract | Council | Head Office |
| XXI. Regulations for Awards | Council | Head Office |
| XXII. Standing Orders for the Council and Commissions | Council | Head Office |
| XXIII. Standing Orders for the Head Office | Council | Head Office |
| XXIV. Financial Regulations | Council | Treasurer |

