



**International  
Handball  
Federation**

**XII.  
Regulations  
for Official IHF  
Referee Courses**

Edition : December 2007



- 1.** With the introduction of the IHF Global Referee Training Program (GRTP), all examinations and promotions of referees for the 'International Referee' status take place within the context of the GRTP.
  - 1.1.** The examinations of referees for the International Referee status may take place during the regular training and testing events of the GRTP or through a specifically scheduled examination event.
  - 1.2.** No promotions to the IHF level may take place outside the GRTP.
- 2.** Only referees who are participants in the GRTP and currently recognized as 'Continental Referees' may undergo examinations for promotion to the International Referee status.
- 3.** In principle, nominations of referees for examination for the International Referee status are the prerogative of the IHF/PRC, more specifically through the PRC members primarily responsible for the GRTP.
  - 3.1.** The continental federations are consulted, through their representatives on the IHF/PRC, at the time an IHF examination is proposed, but they have no decision-making authority as the GRTP participants are under the jurisdiction of the IHF/PRC. However, if a referee is included in the GRTP without yet having reached Continental status, a continental federation may require that such status be reached prior to testing for the IHF level.
- 4.** In line with the policies for the GRTP and for the nomination to IHF events, the normal maximum age for referees to undergo examination for the International Referee status is 35. There is no minimum age.
  - 4.1.** The IHF/PRC reserves the right to make minor exceptions in unusual circumstances, taking into account, for instance, the age of the referee's normal partner and the desire to maintain an optimal representation in terms of gender and geography.

- 5.** The IHF/PRC is responsible for the organization of all examinations, as necessary in collaboration with the organizers of tournaments or matches used in connection with the examinations (e.g., continental federations, national federations or clubs).
- 6.** The function of instructors and assessors is normally reserved for IHF/PRC members, together with colleagues from the IHF/CCM and the IHF/MC.
- 6.1.** The IHF/PRC may allow the inclusion of official lecturers affiliated with the three Commissions.
- 7.** The teaching and testing will primarily take place in English, but accommodations will be made as necessary for speakers of the other official IHF languages. Each candidate must be fully proficient in an official IHF language.
- 8.** The contents of the examinations will be closely aligned with the curriculum for the GRTP and will have a broad coverage.
- 8.1.** The matches used for the examinations must be of sufficiently high quality for their purpose, preferably at the senior level and normally competition matches (not exhibitions).
- 8.2.** The testing will include aspects such as rules knowledge, awareness of current rules interpretations, understanding of technical and tactical aspects of handball, practical aspects of court behaviour (work distribution, movements), leadership skills, decision-making ability, communications and language skills.
- 8.3.** This testing will take the form of written or oral examinations, interviews and practical tests, in addition to observations from the match performances.
- 8.4.** The physical testing will focus on endurance, speed, agility and coordination. Cognitive skills will be tested. Medical fitness will be reviewed.

- 9.** The overall results of the examinations, as established by IHF/PRC on the basis of the verdict of the instructors/assessors used in each case, cannot be appealed. Referees who fail an examination will normally not receive a second opportunity, unless the IHF/PRC determines that there have been special mitigating circumstances (typically injury or illness, or if a referee passes all other tests but needs to improve language skills).
  
- 10.** The financial responsibility for the organization of an examination rests with the IHF. However, as regards travel costs for the participating referees, the respective national federations are in principle responsible.





