



International  
Handball  
Federation

# V. Regulations for IHF Competitions (Indoor Handball)

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# Table of contents

<b>I. Basic Principles</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>II. Men's and Women's World Championships</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>III. Men's Junior (U21), Men's Youth (U19), Women's Junior (U20), Women's Youth (U18) World Championships</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>IV. Olympic Qualification Tournaments</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>V. Olympic Games</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>VI. Club World Championships</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>VII. Equipment Regulations</b>	<b>90</b>

# I. Basic Principles

**Note:** For the sake of simplicity, these regulations generally use the male form of words with respect to players, officials, referees and other persons.



## Article 1

### 1. General Provisions

#### 1.1. Scope of Application

According to Art. 3 of the IHF Statutes, the International Handball Federation (IHF) shall ensure the organisation of all IHF competitions. Further, it shall also hold, on behalf of the IOC, the Olympic Handball Tournaments for men and women. This regulation is applicable with its principles for all IHF competitions, but especially for the following competitions:

- World Championships for men, women, men's juniors (U21), women's juniors (U20), men's youth (U19), women's youth (U18), qualifying rounds for World Championships and Olympic Games, Intercontinental Championships and Club World Championships.

With the exception of the Olympic Games, these competitions are hereinafter also referred to as "IHF events".

The present regulations govern the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of IHF events and Olympic Games and shall apply in connection with all other pertinent regulations.

In case of non-compliance with these regulations, the regulations concerning Penalties and Fines shall apply.

In case of staging events that are not subject to the present regulations, the IHF COC will propose corresponding regulations to be approved by the IHF Executive Committee.

#### 1.2. Applicable Regulations

All IHF Statutes and Regulations, manuals and guidelines are applicable to IHF events. For the Olympic Games, the following shall be applicable in addition to the Regulations for IHF Competitions (Indoor Handball): Olympic Results and Information Services (ORIS) Requirements Document, International Federation (IF) Manual, IOC Olympic Charter, IOC Guidelines Regarding Authorised Identifications for the corresponding Olympic Games.

### **1.3. Awarding**

The IHF Council entrusts an IHF event to a Member Federation that has applied to hold it. Further regulations and obligations as part of the bidding procedure are laid down in the corresponding IHF Bid and Event Manual.

Awarding the Olympic Games is reserved to the International Olympic Committee. Basic principles for the preparation and staging of the Olympic Handball Tournaments are laid down in the IHF Bid and Event Manual, the Olympic Results and Information Services (ORIS) Requirements Document and the International Federation (IF) Manual.

### **1.4. Duties of Participating Teams**

Teams participating in IHF events and Olympic Games agree:

- a) to comply with the IHF Statutes and Regulations, as well with the provisions of the Olympic Charter when participating at the Olympic Games and the Olympic Qualification Tournaments;
- b) to cooperate with the IHF and the organiser and to provide all requested data and information within the given deadline;
- c) to respect the principles of fairness and fair play as defined in the IHF Statutes;
- d) to comply with all competition-related decisions taken by the IHF Competition Management or any other competent body;
- e) to promote handball in its best way and to avoid any inappropriate behaviour that might harm the reputation of handball in any way;
- f) to be a role model and to stand for the ideological values of the handball family.

Further all participating teams shall respect their event-related tasks such as:

- g) announcing the requested data as published in the official announcement or in the present regulations on time (arrival, team photo, etc.);
- h) confirming that all players competing at the tournament fulfil the medical and physical conditions for participation.

### **1.5. Communication and Teams' Information**

#### **1.5.1. Contact Details**

IHF Head Office  
Peter Merian-Strasse 23  
P.O. Box  
4002 Basel  
Switzerland  
Phone: +41 61 228 90 40

Fax: +41 61 228 90 55

Email: [ihf.office@ihf.info](mailto:ihf.office@ihf.info)

### **1.5.2. Official Announcement**

Except for the Olympic Games, the IHF Head Office shall announce IHF events, with reference to the Statutes and the Regulations for IHF Competitions (Indoor Handball). This announcement will be sent to the participating federations and will contain, in large parts, information laid down in the Competitions section of the IHF Statutes and Regulations, but also more specific information about the event including all dates and deadlines which shall be respected.

### **1.5.3. IHF INFO Brochure**

With the exception of the Olympic Games, the IHF INFO brochure will be published in addition to the official announcement prior to the event and include more detailed event-related information.

### **1.5.4. Meeting with Participating Teams**

The IHF and the organiser reserve the right to hold a meeting with all participating teams. Should this be the case, this meeting will be announced in due time prior the event and a corresponding announcement will be submitted to the participating teams.

### **1.5.5. Team Guide**

For all IHF events, team guides are at the disposal of each team during the competition. They form the link between the participating team concerned, the organiser and the IHF and assist the teams in all matters. Team guides shall be able to speak English.



## **Article 2**

### **2. IHF Nominees**

#### **2.1. List of IHF Nominees**

IHF Nominees include, but are not limited to: IHF President, IHF Representatives, IHF Competition Management, IHF Event Delegates, IHF Officials, IHF Technical Delegates (timekeeper, scorekeeper), IHF Referees, IHF Fitness Coaches, IHF Medical Personnel (such as physiotherapists, etc.), IHF Analysts, IHF Disciplinary Commission, IHF Anti-Doping Unit, IHF Media, IHF Journalists, IHF Marketing, IHF Office staff members, IHF Inspection Working Group Members.

Any IHF Nominee appointed to participate in an IHF event or the Olympic Games must comply with the

applicable regulations (see I.1.2).

## **2.2. Nominations**

The IHF Nominees are announced at the latest six (6) months prior to the start of senior World Championships and the Olympic Handball Tournaments and three (3) months prior to the start of all other events.

The procedure for the daily nominations during the event is set up by the IHF Competition Management and announced during the technical meeting, at the latest.

## **2.3. Continental Qualifications for IHF Events and Olympic Games**

Continental events which serve as qualifications for IHF events and Olympic Games shall be under the supervision of the IHF. For all problems that might affect the qualification for IHF events or Olympic Games, the Competition Management of the respective event shall take a decision in agreement with the IHF Representative at the event. Further, details regarding responsibilities and tasks of IHF Representatives at continental qualifications for IHF events shall be defined by the IHF Council.

In case a Continental Confederation does not fully support or comply with the requirements and tasks of IHF Representatives, the qualification shall not be recognised as qualification for the event in question, and the IHF shall organise its own qualification event. In any case, the IHF has to confirm the results of qualifications.



# **Article 3**

## **3. Competition and Match Procedures**

### **3.1. Competition Management**

For each IHF event and the Olympic Games, a Competition Management shall be formed, which is generally chaired by the COC Chairperson. Members are the PRC Chairperson and the CCM Chairperson. In case of absence of certain members, the Executive Committee nominates replacements before the start of the competition. In case a replacement is needed during the competition, the replacement is nominated by the Executive Committee or the highest ranked IHF Representative.

The Competition Management is responsible for the orderly management of the event, in close cooperation with the organiser. It represents the first contact point for organisational issues. It gives advice and makes all the necessary decisions during the event, with the exception of disciplinary decisions. It is also responsible for the appointment of Officials, Technical Delegates and Referees.

In the venues where the Competition Management is not present the body delegates the aforementioned tasks to the responsible delegate (to be announced prior to the event, in IHF INFO if existing), who is supported by a member of the Head Office.

## **3.2. Team Registration**

### **3.2.1. Eligibility**

The eligibility of a player to participate in an IHF event is subject to the rules of the IHF Player Eligibility Code. Players competing in IHF Club World Championships shall also meet further provisions, laid down in the corresponding section (VI. 2.). Further, for the Olympic Games, all players taking part must comply with the provisions of the current IOC Olympic Charter and must be eligible to play for their national team as per IHF Regulations.

In case of any question regarding the eligibility of a player, the IHF Head Office (Legal Department) will decide if the player is entitled to participate.

#### **3.2.1.1. Nationality**

For proof of citizenship, players must present a passport of the country they will represent, which will be checked by the IHF Nominees at the technical meeting before the start of the competition. Further, the IHF Head Office examines the provisional list in accordance with IHF database.

Any player with more than one (1) nationality must have his/her eligibility confirmed by the IHF beforehand in accordance with article 6 of the IHF Player Eligibility Code.

In the registration process, the deadlines mentioned in article 6.4 of the IHF Player Eligibility Code must be duly respected or the participation of the concerned player will be subject to rejection.

#### **3.2.1.2. Age**

The minimum age of 16 is fixed for the participation in all IHF events and the Olympic Games, except the Youth World Championship where the minimum age is 15, meaning that players eligible to participate have to turn 16 or 15, respectively, on the day of their first match at the latest.

The maximum age for World Championships of the younger age categories are as follows: 21 for men's juniors, 20 for women's juniors, 19 for men's youth and 18 for women's youth. Accordingly, players who have exceeded the maximum age for their respective category in the year of the World Championship are not eligible to participate in the competition.

Overview of age limits:

	Minimum age	Maximum age
Women's Youth (U18) World Championship	15 years	18 years
Women's Junior (U20) World Championship	16 years	20 years
Men's Youth (U19) World Championship	15 years	19 years
Men's Junior (U21) World Championship	16 years	21 years

### 3.2.2. Lists

For all IHF events, the registration process consists of two phases:

- Provisional list of 35 players and 10 officials  
Even if a team has registered less than 35 players, the provisional list is final and cannot be changed once the deadline has expired.
- Definitive list of 18 players and 6 officials, taken from the provisional list. This list is not necessarily the match squad (see I.3.4.2).

The registration must include:

- Players with the following details: shirt number (between 1 and 99), surname, first name, club, date of birth, place of birth, nationality and additional nationality if applicable, gender, status (amateur, professional, player with education agreement, student), height, throwing hand, main position, number of international matches, number of goals scored in international matches, naturalised status if applicable.  
Additionally, a photo, passport copy, signed data protection form and signed code of conduct are required for each player.
- Officials with the following details: surname, first name, date of birth, nationality, gender, function within the delegation and indication of the officials (by use of letters A, B, C, D, E, F)  
The following functions must be used: head coach, assistant coach, goalkeeper coach, physiotherapist, physician, team official, and support staff.  
The letters assigned to the officials cannot be changed after the technical meeting.  
Additionally, a photo, passport copy, signed data protection form and signed code of conduct are required for each official.
- Colour of team kits and corresponding photos (see chapter VII for detailed specifications).

Teams participating in the Olympic Games shall also submit a provisional list according to IHF procedures, further requirements are laid down in the Olympic Games section (see V.1.4.1).

### 3.2.3. Late Registration

For all IHF events, if a team has registered less than the number of players allowed in the definitive list, it may register one (1) additional player during the competition.



### **3.2.4. Player and Official Replacements**

For all IHF events, each team may replace up to five (5) players at any time (e.g. each team may put in five (5) new players or may put in a player who has already been replaced once). Players may be replaced with players indicated in the provisional list only.

In case a suspended player is replaced by another player, the new player is only eligible to play after the suspension has lapsed.

Player replacements at the Olympic Games can only be done according to IOC regulations. IOC regulations in this regard have priority. Further information is laid down in the corresponding section (see V.1.4.2).

In case the composition of a team's staff changes after the deadline for submitting the provisional list, replacements of the officials may be requested until one hour before the start of the technical meeting and are subject to approval by the IHF. Furthermore, in exceptional cases the IHF may allow the replacement of up to two officials during competition on request of the NF concerned (e.g. in case of serious health issues). In case such replacement takes place, the added official takes over the identification letter of the replaced official.

### **3.2.5. Procedures**

Player' registrations, late registrations and player replacements should be done through the Player Management Platform.

- Provisional list: two (2) months prior to the event. Exact date to be announced in the official announcement.
- Definitive list: one (1) hour before the technical meeting
- Late registration and player replacement: at 9.00 am on the respective match day at the latest on the platform, a proof of citizenship (passport) shall follow one (1) hour before the match at the latest

Further, in the registration process, teams may be asked to submit additional documents through the Player Management Platform.

## **3.3. Technical Meeting**

A technical meeting with the team officials of the participating delegations, the organiser and the IHF representatives shall be held at the beginning of the tournament. In this meeting, all necessary information will be provided and organisational, technical and financial issues can be settled. Furthermore, the definitive registration lists will be approved and the uniform colours will be determined

for the preliminary round only in case of World Championships, Olympic Games and Club World Championships, and for the whole tournament in case of Olympic Qualification Tournaments. Further technical meetings may be held if required.

Representatives of all team delegations must attend the technical meeting.

### **3.4. Match Management**

#### **3.4.1. IHF Nominees**

The match shall be under the IHF Official's full supervision.

One (1) IHF Official and two (2) IHF Technical Delegates shall form the Match Management together with the timekeeper and scorekeeper appointed by the organiser, at least one (1) of whom shall be fluent in English. The announcer shall be seated near the table.

#### **3.4.2. Official Match Report**

##### **- Match squad**

A total of 16 players and up to five (5) officials per match may be entered on the official match report. Those players and officials composing the match squad have to be selected from the definitive registration list consisting of 18 players and six (6) officials through the Player Management Platform one (1) hour before the start of the match at the latest.

The match squad cannot be changed in any case once the deadline has expired.

If a team fails to submit its match squad within the stipulated deadline, the first 16 players, by numerical order, and the first five (5) officials, by letter, of the definitive list will be considered as match squad.

In case there is any suspension of players or officials, the total number of players and officials entitled to be selected in the match squad and featured in the official match report shall be reduced accordingly.

##### **- Signing of the match report**

At least 30 minutes before the start of the match, the match report shall be signed by team officials to confirm the composition of the match squad.

Immediately after the match, the match report shall be signed by team officials to confirm the information presented.

#### **3.4.3. Pre-Match Procedure**

At IHF events and Olympic Games, the pre-match procedure should respect the following:

- 40 minutes      Start of the warm-up (minimum required)
- 16 minutes      Coin toss
- 11 minutes      Teams leave the court
- 10 minutes      Walk in announcement

- 9 minutes 45 Entry of IHF flag, referees and IHF Officials on the field of play
- 9 minutes Entry and line-up of Team A and Team B
- 7 minutes 30 Introduction Team A
- 6 minutes Introduction Team B
- 4 minutes 30 Introduction referees, technical delegates and IHF Officials
- 4 minutes National anthem of Team A
- 3 minutes National anthem of Team B
- 10 seconds Countdown
- 0 Start of the match

From 40 minutes before the start of the match, or with the start of the warm-up, no other federation/team representatives and players than the ones indicated in the official match report are allowed to be on the field of play, and team officials must wear the identification letter around their neck. They shall wear it until the end of the post-match procedure.

As a principle, the team named first in the match report will stay on the bench left of the match management table for the warm-up phase, the team named second on the right side when looking from the table to the court.

For the walk in and the presentation before the start of the match, players are requested to line up in numerical order with the team captain coming first after the country's flag and all other players follow in ascending numerical order (1-99). This order needs to be maintained during the presentation of the players and the national anthems.

Alternatively, teams may set up an individual order. Should this be the case, a corresponding list needs to be submitted through the Player Management Platform, providing exact information in which order the players will line-up. The same order needs to be maintained throughout the tournament. In case of replacements, the list needs to be updated by the respective federation.

During the whole pre-match procedure, team officials listed on the match report must stay at their team's bench, players must maintain a respectful behaviour, especially during their opponent's anthem. When the national anthems are played, only players are allowed to be on the court. Team officials must stay at their bench. Flags or any other objects are not allowed.

#### **3.4.4. Post-Match Procedure**

At IHF events and Olympic Games, the procedure after match should respect the following:

- Line-up

One (1) minute maximum after the end of the match, players of both teams shall line up in the middle of their half of the court, in front of the match management table and the support table, without following a specific order.

- End of match awarding

Both teams shall maintain the line-up during the end of match awarding if applicable (see the respective article in each competition chapter).

- Handshake

The players of both teams shall walk towards the players of the other team and shake their hands.

The team officials of both teams shall shake each other's hands as well as the hands of the IHF Nominees appointed to their match, while handing over the identification letters.

Only players and team officials listed on the official match report are allowed on the field of play during the post-match procedure. Disqualified players and team officials are not allowed.

After the end of the post-match procedure, players and officials shall fulfil their media obligations if applicable (see media operations of the respective competition).

### **3.4.5. Cancellation or Discontinuation of Matches**

If the match is cancelled or discontinued, the Competition Management shall decide on further action.

### **3.4.6. Scouting System and Match Statistics**

The IHF and the organiser assure the data processing to produce all match-relevant statistics.

Teams have the right to receive the official match statistics of each IHF event match in printed or electronic form.

## **3.5. Rules of the Game**

Matches shall be played according to the Rules of the Game currently valid. The IHF has the right to approve special rules valid for its events and the Olympic Games.

In general, the following regulations are valid for IHF events and Olympic Games:

- Number of players per match

At IHF events, 16 players may be put in per match. For the Olympic Games, the number is determined by the IOC.

- Half-time break

The half-time break shall be 15 minutes.

- Team-time out

According to Rule 2:10 and Clarification 3 of the Rules of the Game each team has the right to receive a maximum of three (3) team time-outs during regular playing time but not during overtime. No more than two (2) team time-outs may be granted in each half of the regular playing time. Between two (2) team time-outs of a team, the opponent must be at least once in possession of the ball. In the last 5

minutes of the regular playing time only one (1) team time-out per team is allowed.

### **3.6. Match Facilities and Equipment**

IHF events shall exclusively be held in playing halls complying with the IHF Regulations and the respective IHF Bid and Event Manual.

#### **3.6.1. Playing Court**

At IHF competitions, the playing courts shall comply with the following requirements:

- the playing court shall have a size of 40 m x 20 m;
- only floors of the IHF partner shall be used;
- only goals of the IHF partner shall be used, in case no partner is defined, only IHF-approved goals shall be used.

#### **3.6.2. Field of Play**

The entire field of play is a flat area of 48 m x 28.5 m and is restricted by boards (neutral or used for advertisement). It includes, but is not limited to:

- the playing court;
- a safety area surrounding the playing court (4 m on the side of the team benches, 2m on the other sides);
- the substitution area with the team benches.

The IHF Substitution Area Regulations shall apply. No facilities and sport equipment (e.g. bicycles, barbells, etc.) are allowed in the substitution area during the match, warm-up included.

- the match management table;
- the support table;
- two scoreboards, ideally located behind each goal, shall display at least the participating teams, their players, the live score and the half-time score, the playing time, the remaining time of team time-outs and half-time, up to three (3) 2-minute suspensions per team and statistical data;
- the photographers benches;
- the safety net.

#### **3.6.3. Team Time-Out System**

Two (2) solutions are in use: green cards and electronic devices (team time-out button).

Green cards

Three (3) green cards, bearing the numbers 1, 2, and 3 respectively, are available for each team. The teams receive cards no. 1 and 2 in the first half of the game and the cards no. 2 and no. 3 in the second

half provided they called no more than one (1) team time-out in the first half. In case they called two (2) team time-outs in the first half, they receive only green card no. 3.

#### Electronic devices

If an IHF approved electronic system is used, each team can request the team time-out directly through pushing a button on an electronic device.

The button is directly connected to the official scoreboard system and pushing the button will directly lead to a stopping of the time. To make all parties aware of the time-out, it is also indicated by an audio signal.

### **3.6.4. Electronic Communication**

The use of any form of electronic communication by team officials is permitted where it directly relates to player welfare or safety or for tactical/coaching reasons but only small, mobile, hand-held equipment (e.g. microphone, headphones, ear-piece, smartwatch, tablet, laptop) may be used. A team official who uses unauthorised equipment or who behaves in an inappropriate manner as a result of the use of electronic or communication equipment will be dismissed from the substitution area. Excluded officials or players are not allowed to contact the team on the bench.

### **3.6.5. Balls**

Only balls of the IHF partner will be used at IHF events and the Olympic Games. For all IHF events and the Olympic Games, except IHF Club World Championships, all participating teams will receive training balls in advance to get familiar with the ball.

## **3.7. Training Sessions**

Two (2) months before the start of a Senior World Championship, or one (1) month before the start of other IHF events, the training schedule, which has been submitted by the organiser and approved by the IHF, is announced to the teams.

For the Olympic Games, the organiser is solely responsible for preparing the training schedule.

The following specifications must be strictly adhered to:

- a) Each team must be granted the same conditions and has the right to train for at least 45 minutes every day. Furthermore, all teams shall be entitled to at least one (1) training session in the playing hall prior to their first match in the respective venue. In case training in the playing hall is not possible for extraordinary reasons, the IHF Competition Management may decide.
- b) The break between the training sessions of different teams should be 5 to 10 minutes.
- c) Training sessions may be used for training matches against other teams.
- d) Water for players will be provided during the training session. Further specifications are laid

down in the respective IHF Bid and Event Manual for the IHF events.

- e) The Competition Management has the final decision-making authority on the training schedule.

For IHF events, the following specifications must also be respected:

- f) The first 10 minutes of every training session in the respective main hall shall be open to the media. The teams are free to agree on complete training slots open to the media after consultation with the media representatives. Trainings outside the main hall are closed for media in general. Exceptions are to be agreed upon between the organiser and the federations concerned. Both parties must agree.
- g) Each team must bring its own balls to the training hall. For this purpose, the training balls provided to the teams prior to the tournament and supplied by the IHF partner shall be used.
- h) During the training sessions in the main hall, TV studios are allowed to make recordings of their programmes. However, they are not entitled to specifically record a training. Further, work on infrastructure as well as cleaning and other organisational work is allowed during closed training sessions.



## Article 4

### 4. Anti-Doping

Doping tests shall be carried out according to the IHF Anti-Doping Rules (and with the guidance of the IOC and in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code and its relevant International Standards, in the case of Olympic Handball Tournaments).



## Article 5

### 5. Commercial Rights

#### 5.1. Marketing and Media Rights

For IHF events, the IHF is entitled to receive all revenues from the following areas to which it also has the exclusive rights: television, film and video exploitation, advertising at the playing halls including the arena premises and entrances. The corresponding agreements shall be made with the respective organiser.

#### 5.2. Video Recording and Match Copies

At IHF events, one (1) person per team and per venue is entitled to make video recordings for teaching and training purposes. Any person wishing to record a match must possess an accreditation card issued



by the organiser. These video recordings must not be for commercial exploitation. A special authorisation to make video recordings is not required; the organiser, however, shall issue the corresponding access authorisation. Only officially defined positions may be used for such recordings.

Further, each team shall receive a match copy free of charge after every match in which the corresponding team has participated.

### **5.3. Advertising on Sportswear**

Rights in respect of advertising on sportswear are laid down in the Regulations on Advertising.



## **Article 6**

### **6. Legal Section**

#### **6.1. Personality Rights**

All participating teams grant the IHF (and the IOC, in case of Olympic Handball Tournaments) the right to use photos and graphic materials of players and officials. Further, the IHF (and the IOC, in case of Olympic Handball Tournaments) shall have the right to use names and emblems of IHF Member Federations.

All participating teams grant the IHF (and the IOC, in case of Olympic Handball Tournaments) the right to use any kind of material produced for or at an IHF event and Olympic Handball Tournaments for the promotion of IHF events (and Olympic Handball Tournaments) and sport development projects.

The IHF shall be held harmless from any legal action coming from an individual mentioned above or a third party regarding the rights granted in this paragraph (6.1).

#### **6.2. Personal Data**

The IHF will always make its best endeavour to retrieve the consent of the participating individual in accordance with article 6.1 (a) of the General Data Protection Regulation when it comes to processing his/her personal data. This will be a part of every registration process for an IHF event.

However, each participating National Federation must ensure to warn their personnel that their data will be shared with the IHF in the scope of the National Federation's participation in an IHF event.

Should the IHF not retrieve the direct consent of a participating individual, the processing of personal data will be based on the legitimate interest of the IHF to process any needed data to ensure a smooth organisation and promotion of an IHF competition as well as to ensure that any individual is properly



registered to participate in the competition concerned. Such processing is based on article 6.1 (f) of the General Data Protection Regulation.

The IHF, its Nominees and its statistics and TV partners (when applicable) will have access to this data which will also be processed as part of the organisation of the competition. This data will be stored without time limit for archiving purposes. The data may be made publicly available in order to promote Handball (IHF Website, World Handball Magazine) and/or in order to give the public and TV viewers the best possible experience. The IHF being an International Federation, the data may be transferred to companies in Switzerland, for which the European Commission has issued an adequacy decision on the basis of Article 5 GDPR stating that Switzerland provides an adequate level of data protection, as well as to companies outside of the EU, including Egypt, for which no adequacy decision has been issued.

The IHF will never process the data in another way than the ones described above or in a way which does not fit the concept of “legitimate interest” mentioned in article 6f) of the GDPR.

As per application of the GDPR, any individual has the right to initiate a complaint with the IHF when he/she has a reasonable, good-faith belief that the IHF is not complying with the GDPR. Participants or persons to whom the personal information relates shall also have the right to obtain information and copy of it, to seek access and/or to request rectification, amendment or deletion of their data in accordance with articles 15 to 20 of the GDPR.

In order to review, correct, update or delete the data collected by the IHF, the individual concerned must contact the IHF by email or written notification to Peter Merian-Strasse 23, P.O. Box, CH 4002 Basel, Switzerland.

The IHF may require the individual sending the request to provide verification of his/her identity. Any complaint can also be addressed to the Swiss Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner (“FDPIC”) or the competent Information Commissioner in the EU (where applicable).

### **6.3. Disputes and Appeals**

Any disputes arising from the provisions of the present Regulations are subject to the IHF Legal Provisions.

#### **6.3.1. Disputes Related to a Competition Matter**

Any dispute arising during an IHF competition is subject to Article 2.1 of the IHF Legal Provisions and will be settled accordingly by the appropriate Disciplinary Commission.

Any appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Commission shall be settled by a jury as second

instance.

### **6.3.2. Disputes Related to the Present Regulations**

Any other dispute arising in relation to the provisions of these Regulations is subject to Article 2.2 of the IHF Legal Provisions and will be settled by the Arbitration Commission of the IHF.

Any appeal against a decision of the Arbitration Commission shall be settled by the Arbitration Tribunal of the IHF.



## **Article 7**

### **7. Financial Provisions for IHF Events**

The following provisions are standard provisions valid for all IHF events. Additional financial provisions are detailed in the regulations of each competition.

#### **7.1. Payments**

All payments have to be effected within the given deadline and have to be made via bank transfer. In general, no on-site payments (especially cash) are accepted unless otherwise agreed between the IHF and the parties involved.

#### **7.2. Expenses to Be Borne by the Organiser**

In general, the organiser shall bear the costs for all expenses arising within the host country in connection with the organisation of the event and implementation of the provisions of IHF Regulations and the contract signed with the IHF. Additional costs arising from measures taken by the organiser, for instance the organisation of an opening match, have to be borne by the organiser.

Further expenses to be borne by the organiser are detailed in each competition section.

Additionally, the organiser shall bear the following costs for all IHF Nominees:

- a) travel expenses from their home to the place of arrival specified by the IHF (normally place of accommodation) and for the return trip (against receipts) according to the IHF guidelines (see Financial Regulations);
- b) any costs connected to the granting of visas;
- c) all expenses arising in connection with the games within the host country;
- d) allowances (see Financial Regulations);
- e) the cost of board and lodging during their period of assignment at the IHF event.

## **7.3. Expenses to Be Borne by the Participating Teams**

### **7.3.1. Insurance**

Federations taking part in IHF events are obliged to insure all delegation members, i.e. all players and all officials, against accident and sickness at their own cost. The organiser and the IHF shall not be held liable for any accidents that occur or any sickness unless the IHF has concluded a corresponding insurance.

### **7.3.2. Additional Days**

For IHF events, the arrival day is generally one (1) day prior to the first match and the departure day one (1) day after the last match of the corresponding team.

In agreement and in coordination with the organiser, participating teams may arrive earlier or leave later with the right to use all team services, if they bear the additional costs (daily rate) themselves for all participants as fixed by the organiser – and confirmed by the IHF - and published in the official announcement, or, for younger age categories, the daily rate fixed by the Council. The option of arriving earlier or leave later is limited to three (3) days prior and two (2) days after the official event period.

Participating teams may deviate from the above provisions. In this case, they have to make corresponding arrangements at their own responsibility and costs but with the obligation to inform the IHF and the organiser accordingly.

The participating teams shall announce their date and place of arrival to the IHF and to the organiser in due time prior to the event and as laid down in the respective official announcement.

Additional days must be paid and settled directly with the organiser and not with the IHF.

## **7.4. Team Services**

Additional team services besides the provisions laid down in these regulations are subject to extra costs and agreement with the organiser.

### **7.4.1. Delegation Size**

During an IHF event, the delegation entitled to compete is composed of 24 persons; 18 players and 6 officials. Additionally, each National Federation has the right to increase its delegation to the maximum number of 30 persons. However, the organiser may decide to allow each participating team to increase the number of delegation members. The maximum limit will be communicated to the teams in the official announcement.

Costs incurred for each delegation member are borne by the participating teams or the organiser, according to the provisions laid down in each competition section.

The participating teams shall announce their delegation size (total number of players and staff members travelling with the delegation) to the IHF and the organiser in due time prior to event and as laid down in the respective official announcement. If officially registered by the corresponding National Federation and the conditions and requirements outlined by the organiser have been respected, all delegation members shall have the same rights and duties.

#### **7.4.2. Accommodation**

In general, players are accommodated in double rooms and officials in single rooms. One of the single rooms will have a bigger size to be used by the physiotherapist. Alternatively, a separate room will be offered.

Internet access free of charge shall be available in the rooms.

Rooms shall be available from 3:00 pm at the latest on arrival day and rooms shall be left on departure day by 11:00 am.

On arrival day, the first meal teams are entitled to have as part of the team services is lunch. On departure day, the last meal teams are entitled to have as part of the team services is breakfast.

Please refer to the sections of the individual events for more details.

## II. Men's and Women's World Championships



### Article 1

#### 1. Qualifications and Entries

##### 1.1. Participants

##### 1.1.1. Number of Participants

The number of participants at Men's and Women's World Championships shall be 32 teams. The IHF Council shall decide on special cases.

##### 1.1.2. Distribution of Compulsory Places and Performance Places

Organiser <sup>1</sup>	1
Reigning World Champion <sup>2</sup>	1
Performance places for the Continental Confederations Based on teams ranked 1-12 of the preceding world championship	12
Compulsory places - Africa - Asia - Europe - North America and the Caribbean - South and Central America - Oceania <sup>3</sup>	17 - 4 - 4 - 4 - 1 - 3 - 1
Wild card <sup>4</sup>	1

<sup>1</sup>All hosting federations are automatically entitled to take part in the World Championship. If there is more than one (1) organiser from the same Continental Confederation, the number of compulsory places of the respective Continental Confederation shall be reduced accordingly. If there is more than one (1) organiser and the organisers are not from the same Continental Confederation, the IHF Council shall decide about the reduction of the compulsory places, considering only the compulsory places of the Continental Confederations involved.

<sup>2</sup>The reigning World Champion automatically qualifies for the next World Championship and, as a rule, is placed first in the first performance row. In case the reigning World Champion is also hosting the next

World Championship, the Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion obtains one additional performance place.

<sup>3</sup>The compulsory place for Oceania is subject to fulfilling certain conditions (see II.1.1.3).

<sup>4</sup>The wild card shall be awarded by the IHF Council.

The distribution of the compulsory places shall be evaluated after the respective events by the IHF with the right to amend for the next-but-one event in order to ensure a high quality of World Championships.

### **1.1.3. Conditions to Receive the Compulsory and Performance Places**

In order to receive the compulsory and performance places based on the result of the preceding World Championship and the principles mentioned under II.1.1.2, the Continental Confederations shall fulfil certain conditions.

The Continental Confederation of Oceania does not have a direct compulsory place for a Continental Confederation qualification event. The Continental Confederation of Oceania is invited to participate in the Asian qualification events. The compulsory place is awarded to Oceania if the representative from Oceania is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> or higher in the Asian qualification. If Oceania fails to rank 5<sup>th</sup> or does not participate, the IHF Council will award this place as a free wild card.

For the other Continental Confederations, the following conditions apply:

- a) At least
  - four (4) teams must take part in the qualification events of Continental Confederations which have a total number of one (1) or two (2) compulsory and performance places.
  - six (6) teams must take part in the qualification events of Continental Confederations which have a total number of three (3) compulsory and performance places.
  - eight (8) teams must take part in the qualification events of Continental Confederations which have a total number of four (4) compulsory and performance places.
- b) If the total number of compulsory and performance places for a Continental Confederation is higher than four (4), the minimum number of participating teams in the qualifying round must be at least twice the number of places.
- c) In case the number of teams taking part in the qualification is less than the requirements specified in a) and b), the maximum number of places a Continental Confederation is entitled to receive is half the number of participating teams (rounded down in case of uneven number).
- d) In case of c), the following shall be applicable:
  - 1. The first place that has to be reassigned is awarded to the Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion which shall award the place in accordance with performance criteria.
    - o In case the Continental Confederation of the World Champion is the Continental

Confederation whose places have been reduced, the first place is awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> best ranked Continental Confederation at the previous World Championship.

2. If more than one place needs to be reassigned, all other places shall be awarded as wild cards by the IHF Council.
  3. The Continental Confederation gaining an additional place as mentioned in point 1 of d) shall fulfil the conditions specified in a) and b), taking into account the additional place. Otherwise, this place shall be awarded as a wild card by the IHF Council.
- e) Further, in case of d), the places to be removed shall be the lowest in the performance rows, meaning that first the compulsory places shall be removed and then the performance places of the respective Continental Confederation.

#### **1.1.4. Competitive Clause**

To participate in IHF World Championships a certain performance level of the qualified team is obligatory. In case the competitive capability of a qualified team is disputable and the difference in performance level between the country in question and the other qualified teams is too large, the IHF Council reserves the right to re-award this place as a wild card to a country that meets the corresponding competitive requirements in order to strengthen and protect the IHF World Championship product. In such cases, an in-depth analysis has to be carried out by the respective IHF Commissions (COC, CCM). In addition, the current performance as well as the IHF ranking and the performance at previous IHF events will be taken into consideration when evaluating the performance level of the respective team. Therefore, the IHF bodies will issue performance reports about all participating teams immediately after the end of the respective World Championship.

### **1.2. Qualification**

#### **1.2.1. Continental Qualifications**

The IHF owns the rights to World Championship qualifications. As laid down in the IHF Statutes, qualifying shall be through the Continental Confederations (with the exception of the organiser and the reigning World Champion) according to clearly regulated performance criteria and other necessary regulations defined by the Continental Confederations and approved by the IHF.

Continental Confederations must announce their qualification system as well as the dates to the IHF no later than 12 months before the World Championship.

Continental Confederations shall give a binding agreement to accept the places available to them three (3) months after the World Championship where the performance and compulsory places for the next event have been defined at the latest.



Upon completion of qualifications, the Continental Confederations are obliged to inform the IHF Head Office within one (1) week about the ranking, the teams qualified and the substitute nations.

### **1.2.2. Dates**

As a matter of principle, continental qualifying rounds for Men's and Women's World Championships must be completed no later than six (6) months before the start of the World Championships.

The Continental Confederations shall include their qualifying rounds in the IHF calendar. Continental championships, which are qualification events for World Championships, and/or the qualification events should be held during the IHF national team weeks defined in the IHF world calendar. In exceptional cases the IHF Executive Committee may decide about deviations therefrom.

### **1.2.3. Confirmation of Participation for Teams**

The reigning World Champion shall give a binding agreement to accept the place open to them three (3) months after the World Championship where the performance and compulsory places for the next event have been defined at the latest.

Teams participating in the qualification events are committed to participate in the respective World Championship in case qualified.

All qualified federations have to confirm their participation in Men's and Women's World Championships. Further, the participating nations shall confirm that the players of their national team enjoy good health so that they are physically fit to compete in the World Championship. For that purpose, the players to compete in the World Championship shall undergo a medical examination in advance in order to receive a certificate of health.

The confirmation of participation and health status of the players shall be submitted through the Player Management Platform.

### **1.2.4. Non-Appearance**

If a Continental Confederation does not use its performance or compulsory places, the IHF Executive Committee shall decide on the reallocation of such places.

If the team of a federation that has qualified for the World Championship does not take part, the IHF Executive Committee shall decide on a substitute nation.



### 1.3. Draw

#### 1.3.1. Performance Rows

1	World Champion	Performance Place 1	Performance Place 2	Performance Place 3	Performance Place 4	Performance Place 5	Performance Place 6	Performance Place 7
2	Performance Place 8	Performance Place 9	Performance Place 10	Performance Place 11	Performance Place 12	Organiser	Compulsory Place 1	Compulsory Place 2
3	Compulsory Place 3	Compulsory Place 4	Compulsory Place 5	Compulsory Place 6	Compulsory Place 7	Compulsory Place 8	Compulsory Place 9	Compulsory Place 10
4	Compulsory Place 11	Compulsory Place 12	Compulsory Place 13	Compulsory Place 14	Compulsory Place 15	Compulsory Place 16	Compulsory Place 17	Wild Card

The allocation of the performance and compulsory places to the Continental Confederations is done in accordance with the ranking of the Continental Confederations at the previous World Championship of the same gender.

In case the number of places for a Continental Confederation is reduced, the places to be removed shall be the lowest in the performance rows (see II.1.1.3 and II.1.2.4).

The teams will be assigned the corresponding places according to the qualifications on continental level. The Continental Confederations will inform the IHF – based on the performance criteria at their qualification – which place will be allocated to which qualified team.

As a rule, the organiser will be allocated the first place behind the performance places. Should the organiser achieve a better place as a result of the previously staged World Championship, it will be allocated the corresponding performance place. The organiser is entitled to be assigned to the respective higher continental performance place in case a better position has been reached at the continental qualification event, then it will be seeded on this performance place. In case the organiser is the reigning World Champion, it is placed first in the first performance row. In all these cases, the first place behind the performance places is then allocated to the Continental Confederation of the organiser.

In case of more than one (1) organiser, the hosting federations will be allocated the places behind the performance places if the above criteria do not apply. In this case, the order of the multiple organisers is determined based on the result of the preceding World Championship. If this is not possible, the IHF COC shall decide on the order. If the above criteria apply, the same principles shall be followed.

Further, special rights are granted to the organiser(s) in relation to the draw procedure (see II.1.3.2).

The IHF COC confirms the final allocation of qualified teams to the performance rows as announced by the Continental Confederations based on performance criteria. The draw generally takes place after completion of all continental qualifying rounds.

### **1.3.2. Procedure**

The draw, held by the IHF (COC), shall be in compliance with the performance criteria. The organiser shall have a free choice of its preliminary round group within its performance row. In this case, the organiser's performance row is drawn last, after the other rows which are drawn from the lowest to the highest.

Alternatively, the organiser may submit a request to the IHF to assign one (1) team (including the organiser's team) per group which had previously been assigned to a city. In this case, the 4<sup>th</sup> performance row is drawn first, followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the 1<sup>st</sup> row is drawn last.

In the case of more than one (1) host nation, the organiser shall assign one (1) team per group, which had previously been assigned to a city, including the teams of the host nations.

### **1.3.3. Organisation**

Technical and organisational details regarding the draw event are laid down in the IHF Bid and Event Manual.

## **1.4. Fees**

The participants have to pay a deposit and a registration fee to the IHF. Details hereto are laid down in the respective section (see II.6). If the deadlines are not met, qualification shall lapse. In such a case, article II.1.2.4 shall apply.



# **Article 2**

## **2. Competition System**

### **2.1. Dates**

Men's and Women's World Championships shall take place in odd years.

The IHF COC shall fix the exact dates of the competitions with the following periods being set:

- Men: 2<sup>nd</sup> half of January (ending 2 February at the latest)
- Women: 28 November – 22 December

The IHF Executive Committee shall finalise and confirm the dates of the tournament before the corresponding announcement is drawn up.

## 2.2. Match Scheme

### 2.2.1. Preliminary Round

Eight (8) preliminary round groups with four (4) teams each (Groups A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H) – 48 matches:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	F1	G1	H1
A2	B2	C2	D2	E2	F2	G2	H2
A3	B3	C3	D3	E3	F3	G3	H3
A4	B4	C4	D4	E4	F4	G4	H4

Day 1	1 – 3	2 – 4
Day 2	4 – 1	2 – 3
Day 3	3 – 4	1 – 2

The host nation has the right to choose the order of the group matches for its own group. In case of more than one (1) organiser, this is applicable for all host nations.

The top three (3) teams each of preliminary round groups A/B, C/D, E/F and G/H are put together in groups MRI, MRII, MRIII and MRIV of the main round, respectively.

The teams ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in preliminary round groups A, B, C, D, and E, F, G, H will compete in the President's Cup groups PCI and PCII, respectively.

### 2.2.2. Main Round

Four (4) main round groups with six (6) teams each (Groups MRI, MRII, MRIII, MRIV) – 36 matches:

MRI	MRII	MRIII	MRIV
1A	1C	1E	1G
2A	2C	2E	2G
3A	3C	3E	3G
1B	1D	1F	1H
2B	2D	2F	2H
3B	3D	3F	3H

The results that teams achieved in the preliminary group against teams who have also advanced to the main round are carried over to the main round. Therefore, teams from the same preliminary round groups will not play against each other in the main round.

Day 1	1A – 3B	1B – 2A	3A – 2B
	1C – 3D	1D – 2C	3C – 2D
	1E – 3F	1F – 2E	3E – 2F
	1G – 3H	1H – 2G	3G – 2H
Day 2	2A – 3B	2B – 1A	3A – 1B
	2C – 3D	2D – 1C	3C – 1D
	2E – 3F	2F – 1E	3E – 1F
	2G – 3H	2H – 1G	3G – 1H
Day 3	1B – 1A	2B – 2A	3B – 3A
	1D – 1C	2D – 2C	3D – 3C
	1F – 1E	2F – 2E	3F – 3E
	1H – 1G	2H – 2G	3H – 3G

The top two (2) teams of each main round group advance to the quarter-finals.

The teams ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> in each main round group are ranked 9<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> (see II.2.3).

### 2.2.3. President's Cup

Determination of places 25-32 – 16 matches:

Group phase – two (2) groups of four (4) teams:

PCI	PCII
4A	4E
4B	4F
4C	4G
4D	4H

Day 1	4A – 4B	4C – 4D
	4E – 4F	4G – 4H
Day 2	4A – 4C	4B – 4D
	4E – 4G	4F – 4H
Day 3	4D – 4A	4B – 4C
	4H – 4E	4F – 4G

Placement matches:

25/26	1PCI – 1PCII
27/28	2PCI – 2PCII
29/30	3PCI – 3PCII
31/32	4PCI – 4PCII

## 2.2.4. Quarter-Finals

Four (4) matches:

QF1	1MRI – 2MRIII
QF2	1MRIII – 2MRI
QF3	1MRII – 2MRIV
QF4	1MRIV – 2MRII

The winners advance to the semi-finals.

The losers compete for places 5-8 in years prior to the Olympic Games, otherwise they are ranked 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> according to II.2.3.

## 2.2.5. Placement Matches (Only in Years Prior to the Olympic Games)

Determination of places 5-8 – Four (4) matches:

Two (2) matches with the losers of the quarter-finals. The winners of these two (2) matches play for the

places 5/6, and the losers play for the places 7/8.

PM1	LQF1 – LQF3
PM2	LQF2 – LQF4

5/6	WPM1 – WPM2
7/8	LPM1 – LPM2

### 2.2.6. Semi-Finals

Two (2) matches:

SF1	WQF1 – WQF3
SF2	WQF2 – WQF4

The winners play for the places 1/2 (gold and silver medal), the losers play for the places 3/4 (bronze medal).

### 2.2.7. Finals

Two (2) matches:

1/2	WSF1 – WSF2
3/4	LSF1 – LSF2

## 2.3. Match Evaluation and Determination of Places

### 2.3.1. Preliminary Round, Main Round, President's Cup

The preliminary round, main round and President's Cup are played in groups. The matches shall be evaluated as follows:

- each match won = 2 points
- each match drawn = 1 point for each team
- each match lost = no points

Teams are ranked according to the total number of points gained.

For the main round, only those results from the preliminary round are taken into consideration that were

obtained against teams that also qualified for the main round. This means that points achieved as well as goals scored and conceded against these teams are carried over from the preliminary round to the main round.

If two (2) or more teams have gained the same number of points after the group matches have been completed, their ranking is decided based on the following:

- results in points between the teams concerned
- goal differences in the matches between the teams concerned
- greater number of goals scored in the matches between the teams concerned

If the teams are still equal, a decision is made between those teams with equal number of points as follows:

- goal difference is subtracted in all matches
- greater number of goals scored in all matches

If a ranking is still not possible, a drawing of lots shall decide. The IHF representative on site shall execute the drawing of lots, if possible in the presence of the responsible team officials. If the responsible team official cannot be present, another representative to be selected by the IHF shall take part.

### **2.3.2. Placement Matches, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals**

The placement matches (25-32 and 5-8 if applicable), quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals shall be played in a knock-out system.

For the placement matches of the President's Cup (25-32), in case of a draw at the end of the regular playing time, a direct 7 m shoot-out shall be used to determine a winner in accordance with rule 2:2 of the Rules of the Game.

For the other matches, overtime is played following a 5-minute break, if a match is tied at the end of the regular playing time. The overtime period consists of two (2) halves of five (5) minutes, with a 1-minute half-time break.

If the match is again tied after the first overtime period, a second period is played after a 5-minute break. This overtime period also consists of two (2) halves of five (5) minutes, with a 1-minute half-time break. Should the match still not be decided after the second overtime period, the winner is determined through a 7 m shoot-out in accordance with rule 2:2 of the Rules of the Game.

The IHF COC has the right to decide that the winner of certain matches that end in a draw will be determined through a direct 7 m shoot-out in accordance with rule 2:2 of the Rules of the Game. If this rule applies, the decision will be published in the official announcement or together with the match schedule.

### **2.3.3. Teams Ranked 9<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>**

Teams ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in each main round group will be ranked 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. Teams ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in each main round group will be ranked 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. Teams ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in each main round group will be ranked 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Teams ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in each main round group will be ranked 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.

Determination of these places is done by calculation according to the following evaluation criteria:

- a) Number of points gained.
- b) In case of equal number of points, the goal difference in the main round shall decide.
- c) In case of equal number of points and the same goal difference, the greater number of goals scored in the main round shall decide.
- d) If teams are still equal, number of points gained in the preliminary round shall be considered followed by the goal difference in the preliminary round and then the greater number of goals scored in the preliminary round.
- e) If ranking is not possible according to items a)-d), the decision shall be made by drawing lots.

### **2.3.4. Teams Ranked 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**

If placement matches 5-8 are not played, the ranking of losers of the quarter-finals is done by calculation according to the following evaluation criteria:

- a) The ranking will be done according to the places of the main round. If two (2) or more teams were ranked on the same place in the main round, the number of points gained in the main round will decide.
- b) In case of equal number of points, the goal difference in the main round shall decide.
- c) In case of equal number of points and the same goal difference, the greater number of goals scored in the main round shall decide.
- d) If teams are still equal, number of points gained in the preliminary round shall be considered followed by the goal difference in the preliminary round and then the greater number of goals scored in the preliminary round.
- e) If ranking is not possible according to items a)-d), the decision shall be made by drawing lots.

## **2.4. Match Schedule**

### **2.4.1. Establishing Principles**

A team shall not play on consecutive days, i.e. each team has at least one (1) rest day between two (2) matches.

A day with a travel duration of 4 hours and 30 minutes or less shall be considered as rest day. In case the travel duration exceeds that amount of time, an additional rest day is required, unless authorised by



a decision from the relevant IHF bodies or the IHF Head Office for special cases.

On request of media, TV or other international bodies, the IHF COC may decide on an alternative schedule, following the above-mentioned principles. For instance, an opening match could be held on day 0. A different allocation of teams to compose the main round and President's Cup groups or a different pairing of teams in the match scheme may be implemented. This allocation shall be determined before the draw and the teams shall be informed accordingly.

The throw-off times shall be fixed by the IHF in conjunction with the organiser and the TV rights holder. The IHF is the final decision-making body and reserves the right to change the throw-off times at any time if need be.

## 2.4.2. Day-by-Day Schedule

The following day-by-day schedule serves as a general guideline. Depending on the draw, the competition may start with day 1 of the preliminary round for groups E to H.

In any case, the schedule shall respect the above-mentioned principles.

Day 0	Arrival A-D				
Day 1	PR day 1 groups A-D	Arrival E-H		8	matches
Day 2	Rest day groups A-D	PR day 1 groups E-H		8	matches
Day 3	PR day 2 groups A-D	Rest day groups E-H		8	matches
Day 4	Rest day groups A-D	PR day 2 groups E-H		8	matches
Day 5	PR day 3 groups A-D	Rest day groups E-H		8	matches
Day 6	Rest day groups A-D	PR day 3 groups E-H		8	matches
Day 7	MR day 1 groups MRI-MRII	Rest day groups E-H	PC day 1 group I	8	matches
Day 8	Rest day groups MRI-MRII	MR day 1 groups MRIII-MRIV	PC day 1 group II Rest day group I	8	matches
Day 9	MR day 2 groups MRI-MRII	Rest day groups MRIII-MRIV	PC day 2 group I Rest day group II	8	matches
Day 10	Rest day groups MRI-MRII	MR day 2 groups MRIII-MRIV	PC day 2 group II Rest day group I	8	matches
Day 11	MR day 3 groups MRI-MRII	Rest day groups MRIII-MRIV	PC day 3 group I Rest day group II	8	matches
Day 12	Rest day groups MRI-MRII Departure 9-24	MR day 3 groups MRIII-MRIV	PC day 3 group II Rest day group I	8	matches
Day 13	Rest day	Rest day Departure 9-24	Rest day	0	matches
Day 14	QF1, QF2, QF3, QF4		25/26, 27/28, 29/30, 31/32	8	matches
Day 15	Rest day / Departure losers QF*		Departure 25-32	0	matches

Day 16	SF1, SF2 (PM1, PM2 if needed*)	2 (4*) matches
Day 17	Rest day	0 matches
Day 18	1/2, 3/4 (5/6, 7/8 if needed*)	2 (4*) matches
Day 19	Departure 1-4 (5-8*)	

\*In years prior to the Olympic Games, the losers of quarter-finals play placement matches 5-8.

2.4.3. Example

IHF World Championship Match Schedule (32 Teams) - Women & Men

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Day 0	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18
PRELIMINARY ROUND							MAIN ROUND & PRESIDENT'S CUP						FINAL ROUND & PLACEMENT MATCHES					
GROUP A							MRI						1-8					
A1-A3			A4-A1		A3-A4		1A-3B		2A-3B		1B-1A		QF1: 1MRI-2MRII		SF1: WQF1-WQF3		1/2: WSF1-WSF2	
A2-A4			A2-A3		A1-A2		1B-2A		2B-1A		2B-2A		QF2: 1MRIII-2MRI		SF2: WQF2-WQF4		3/4: LSF1-LSF2	
GROUP B							3A-2B		3A-1B		3B-3A		QF3: 1MRII-2MRIV		PM1*: LQF1-LQF3		5/6*: WPM1-WPM2	
B1-B3			B4-B1		B3-B4		MRII							QF4: 1MRIV-2MRII		PM2*: LQF2-LQF4		7/8*: LPM1-LPM2
B2-B4			B2-B3		B1-B2		1C-3D		2C-3D		1D-1C							
GROUP C							1D-2C		2D-1C		2D-2C							
C1-C3			C4-C1		C3-C4		3C-2D		3C-1D		3D-3C							
C2-C4			C2-C3		C1-C2		MRIII											
GROUP D							1E-3F		2E-3F		1F-1E							
D1-D3			D4-D1		D3-D4		1F-2E		2F-1E		2F-2E							
D2-D4			D2-D3		D1-D2		3E-2F		3E-1F		3F-3E							
GROUP E							MRIV											
E1-E3			E4-E1		E3-E4		1G-3H		2G-3H		1H-1G							
E2-E4			E2-E3		E1-E2		1H-2G		2H-1G		2H-2G							
GROUP F							3G-2H		3G-1H		3H-3G							
F1-F3			F4-F1		F3-F4		PCI											
F2-F4			F2-F3		F1-F2		4A-4B		4A-4C		4D-4A							
GROUP G							4C-4D		4B-4D		4B-4C							
G1-G3			G4-G1		G3-G4		PCII											
G2-G4			G2-G3		G1-G2		4E-4F		4E-4G		4H-4E							
GROUP H							4G-4H		4F-4H		4F-4G							
H1-H3			H4-H1		H3-H4													
H2-H4			H2-H3		H1-H2													
* Only in years prior to Olympic Games																		

\* Only in years prior to Olympic Games



Article 3

3. Protocol, Awards and Ceremonies

3.1. Opening and Closing Ceremonies

At Senior World Championships, opening and closing ceremonies shall take place. The teams participating in the following or preceding matches are not obliged to participate in those ceremonies. However, the organisation of those ceremonies may result in the modification of the pre-match or post-match procedures. If this should be the case, teams will be informed accordingly in the official announcement or the IHF INFO. The IHF shall confirm the concept for the opening and closing ceremonies.

3.2. Pre-Match and Post-Match Procedures

3.2.1. Pre-Match and Post-Match Procedures

Pre- and post-match procedures shall respect the principles laid down in I.3.4. The organiser may modify

these procedures as long as they still comply with those basic principles. Teams will be informed accordingly in the official announcement or the IHF INFO.

### **3.2.2. Player of the Match**

The IHF has the right to award the most valuable player in every World Championship match who shall receive the Player of the Match award. The IHF CCM (or its representatives) shall decide about the awarding of the player.

## **3.3. Medals and Trophies**

### **3.3.1. Teams Ranked 1-3**

Medals shall be awarded to the three (3) top teams as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place and World Champion (gold)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place (silver)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place (bronze)

On the podium, a total of 24 persons are allowed (players who have participated in the World Championship and team officials A-F).

All other players and officials of the teams ranked 1-3 shall also receive the corresponding medals up to a maximum number of 30 medals.

One (1) set of medals shall be preserved in the IHF Head Office archives.

### **3.3.2. Souvenir Medals**

All other teams shall receive a souvenir medal.

### **3.3.3. Trophies**

The 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team shall receive the World Champion trophy. For the Men's competition, the IHF provides the trophy which will be given to the winner for the next two years. The winner has to take over responsibility and insurance for the trophy. For the Women's competition the organiser provides a trophy that remains permanently with the winner.

The winner of the President's Cup shall also receive a trophy provided by the organiser.

### **3.4. Prize Money**

The teams ranked first to third will receive prize money. Prize money is in total USD 200,000.00. The World Champion receives USD 100,000.00, the silver medallist USD 60,000.00 and the bronze medallist USD 40,000.00.

### **3.5. End of Competition Awarding**

No other awards than the undermentioned shall be presented at Senior World Championships.

#### **3.5.1. All-Star Team**

The IHF All-star Team will be selected by the IHF CCM experts attending the World Championship and will be announced after the final.

#### **3.5.2. Top Scorer**

The player who has scored most goals during the entire World Championship tournament shall receive the IHF Top Scorer award. If two or more players have scored the same number of goals, the number of assists will be taken into account.

#### **3.5.3. Most Valuable Player**

The best player of the tournament shall receive the MVP award. The MVP will be selected by the IHF CCM experts attending the World Championship.



## **Article 4**

### **4. Team Logistics and Services**

All officially registered delegation members shall be treated equally and have the same rights including, but not limited to the undermentioned.

#### **4.1. Accommodation**

All teams are accommodated at IHF-approved hotels of international level and according to IHF requirements.

##### **4.1.1. Rooms**

As a general rule and in accordance with article I.7.4.1, nine (9) double and six (6) single rooms shall

be provided per team (24 persons; 18 players and 6 officials). The organiser shall bear the cost for 21 persons accommodated in eight (8) double and five (5) single rooms. The rooms for delegation members 22-24 have to be paid by the participating teams (see II.6).

Rooms for additional participants (up to nine (9), i.e. a delegation of 30 persons, see I.7.4.1) are guaranteed provided that the indicated deadline has been respected.

If a team arrives with less than 21 persons, which is the number of people for whom the organiser has to bear the costs, the team is only entitled to receive an adequate number of rooms according to the size of the delegation.

#### **4.1.2. Meeting Rooms**

At the team hotel, all teams have the right to use a meeting room equipped with screen, projector and flip chart. A timetable is set up by the organiser in order to book the meeting room for the times preferred. The teams are entitled to use this meeting room free of charge provided they respect the timetable.

As a general guideline each team shall have one hour per day, with the schedule set up according to the match schedule. Additional time can be requested and coordinated through the team guide.

#### **4.1.3. Catering Area**

Each team shall have a dedicated catering area in their hotel, where meals are served in a buffet format.

### **4.2. Meals and Beverages**

Teams have the right to three (3) meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. On match days, the teams are also entitled to have a light meal (pasta, rice or equivalent, meat, vegetables, yoghurts, and fruits).

Further, teams shall be provided a snack in their changing rooms for the matches, composed of fruits.

One (1) soft drink for lunch and dinner is free; water shall be available free of charge 24 hours a day.

### **4.3. Transportation**

#### **4.3.1. International**

The participating teams shall be responsible for international transportation. The IHF shall fix the official point of arrival and departure in close cooperation with the organiser.

### **4.3.2. Local**

A heated/air-conditioned bus for local transportation for competition purposes shall be available for each team from the day of arrival until the day of departure.

## **4.4. Medical Care**

At each venue, a comprehensive medical service (including 24-hour emergency) shall be available for every accredited participant.

## **4.5. Accreditation**

### **4.5.1. Categories and Access**

All delegation members shall have access to the field of play, the spectators' area and the media centre.

### **4.5.2. Executive Team Representatives**

The head of delegation and one (1) additional member (to be defined by the National Federation in advance) will receive further benefits (e.g. access to VIP zones, invitations to official receptions, etc.).

## **4.6. Tickets**

### **4.6.1. Regular Tickets**

Each team has the right to buy World Championship tickets. The amount of tickets available per team and the terms and conditions will be published in the official announcement.

### **4.6.2. VIP Tickets/Accreditations**

Further, each participating federation receives a maximum of two (2) VIP accreditation cards, including one (1) ticket per accreditation to World Championship matches of its team. The participating federations have to announce the respective persons one (1) month in advance. Unless announced in advance, they are not entitled to the named accreditation/ticket. This is in addition to II.4.5.2.

## **4.7. Visas**

All teams have the right to be guaranteed trouble free entry into the hosting country. Visa assistance shall be provided by the organiser.



# Article 5

## 5. Media Operations

### 5.1. Media Operations Management

#### 5.1.1. Media Management at the Venues

The organiser is responsible for the orderly management of all media operations related to the competition and the matches, with the support of the IHF. At each venue, a media officer from the organising committee shall be present.

Further, the IHF and the organiser will publish specific regulations for media access to areas reserved for the teams, such as team hotels.

#### 5.1.2. Media Management Within the Team

Each team must nominate a media officer to be the contact person for all media requests and issues. All media representatives of a team/National Federation must be included within the delegation as support staff. No special access to competition areas shall be granted to a media representative of a team/National Federation who is not officially listed as part of the delegation.

### 5.2. Around the Match

#### 5.2.1. Flash Zone

After the end of each match and ceremony, players and coaches of both playing teams must be available for interviews in the flash zone.

#### 5.2.2. Mixed Zone

After the end of each match and ceremony, all players and coaches of the playing teams must pass through the mixed zone and be available for interviews with accredited media.

#### 5.2.3. Post-Match Press Conference

A post-match press conference will generally take place in the press conference room approximately 15 minutes after the end of each match. The head coach and a player of each team shall attend the press conference conducted in English. The IHF Media Department will inform about special requirements on site.

## **5.3. During the Competition**

### **5.3.1. Trainings**

See I.3.7

### **5.3.2. Media Meeting(s)**

Before the start of the competition or during the competition, the IHF and/or the organiser may ask the teams' media officers to attend a media meeting.

### **5.3.3. Media Day**

During the competition, a media day may be organised. All players and officials of the teams still involved in the competition must be available to attend the media day upon request. The team media officer should help in the coordination of this activity.

## **5.4. Teams' Media Operations**

Besides the media operations detailed above, teams are entitled to organise their own media operations during the competition. For this purpose, teams may use the existing media facilities with the organiser's agreement. In any case, the IHF and the organiser must be informed of those media operations and teams shall respect possible specific guidelines issued by the organiser.



# **Article 6**

## **6. Financial Provisions**

### **6.1. Expenses to Be Borne by the Organiser**

The organiser shall bear the costs of full board and lodging for a maximum of 21 persons per federation (up to 16 players and 5 officials), accommodated in eight (8) double and five (5) single rooms, starting one (1) day before the event and finishing one (1) day after the team's last match.

### **6.2. Expenses to Be Borne by the Participating Teams**

#### **6.2.1. Registration Fee**

Federations which participate in the World Championship tournament shall pay a registration fee of CHF 1,000.00 to the IHF. The payment deadline is six (6) months before the start of the World Championship.



### **6.2.2. Fixed Deposit**

At the same time as the registration fee, all participants shall pay a deposit of CHF 10,000.00 to the IHF which will be taken on account or repaid. If a registering federation has the uncharged sum of CHF 10,000.00 on its account with the IHF, this may be used as the fixed deposit. The federation's IHF account will be credited with the relevant sum after the World Championship. If the country withdraws, the sum shall be forfeited to the benefit of the IHF.

During the World Championship, the IHF has the right to freely use the fixed deposit of each team and may use it to pay fees, fines or other financial obligations of the corresponding federation.

### **6.2.3. IHF Solidarity Fund**

Participants will make the following contributions to the IHF Solidarity Fund:

- Men: CHF 25.00 per match day and person (for 18 persons)
- Women: CHF 15.00 per match day and person (for 18 persons)

The Executive Committee shall administer the IHF Solidarity Fund whose purpose is to support national junior and youth teams and enable them to participate in World Championships.

### **6.2.4. Travel Expenses**

Travel expenses for the entire participating delegation have to be borne by the participating National Federations.

### **6.2.5. Cost of Visas**

Participants shall bear all costs in connection with obtaining necessary visas.

### **6.2.6. Additional Participants**

Delegation members 22 to 30 are considered as additional participants. The daily rate for additional participants is fixed by the organiser – and confirmed by the IHF – and will be published in the official announcement. This daily rate shall be the same as for additional days (see I.7.3.2).

All delegation members including these additional participants have the same rights and duties, in case they have been officially registered by the corresponding National Federation and the conditions and requirements outlined by the organiser have been respected, especially financial questions. In case the participating federation fails to pay the daily rate for additional participants, the IHF and the organiser will consider them to arrive with delegation of 21 persons and all arrangements shall be made accordingly.

Additional participants must be paid and settled directly with the organiser and not with the IHF.



## Article 7

### 7. Closing Comment

Should any problems arise at Men's and Women's World Championships that are not covered by the present Regulations, the Competition Management shall decide.

### III. Men's Junior (U21), Men's Youth (U19), Women's Junior (U20), Women's Youth (U18) World Championships

**Note:** In the present section the term 'World Championships' refers to the World Championships of all younger age categories, unless otherwise specified.



## Article 1

### 1. Qualifications and Entries

#### 1.1. Participants

##### 1.1.1. Number of Participants

The number of participants at World Championships shall be 32 teams. The IHF Council shall decide on special cases.

##### 1.1.2. Distribution of Compulsory Places and Performance Places

Organiser <sup>1</sup>	1
Performance places for the Continental Confederations Based on teams ranked 1-12 of the preceding world championship	12
Compulsory places - Africa - Asia - Europe - North America and the Caribbean - South and Central America - Oceania	18 - 4 - 4 - 4 - 2 - 3 - 1
IHF Trophy winner	1

<sup>1</sup>All hosting federations are automatically entitled to participate in the World Championship. If there is more than one (1) organiser from the same Continental Confederation, the number of compulsory places of the respective Continental Confederation shall be reduced accordingly. If there is more than one (1) organiser and the organisers are not from the same Continental Confederation, the IHF Council shall

decide about the reduction of the compulsory places, considering only the compulsory places of the Continental Confederations involved.

The distribution of the compulsory places shall be evaluated after the respective events by the IHF with the right to amend for the next-but-one event in order to ensure a high quality of World Championships.

### **1.1.3. Conditions to Receive the Compulsory and Performance Places**

In order to receive the compulsory and performance places based on the result of the preceding World Championship and the principles mentioned under III.1.1.2, the Continental Confederations shall fulfil the following conditions:

- a) At least
  - four (4) teams must take part in the qualification events of the Continental Confederations which have a total number of one (1) or two (2) compulsory and performance places.
  - six (6) teams must take part in the qualification events of the Continental Confederations which have a total number of three (3) compulsory and performance places.
  - eight (8) teams must take part in the qualification events of the Continental Confederations which have a total number of four (4) compulsory and performance places.
- b) If the total number of compulsory and performance places for a Continental Confederation is higher than four (4), the minimum number of participating teams in the qualifying round must be at least twice the number of places.
- c) In case the number of teams taking part in the qualification is less than the requirements specified in a) and b), the maximum number of places a Continental Confederation is entitled to receive is half the number of participating teams (rounded down in case of uneven number).
- d) In case of c), the following shall be applicable:
  - 1. The first place that has to be reassigned is awarded to the Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion which shall award the place in accordance with performance criteria.
    - o In case the Continental Confederation of the World Champion is the Continental Confederation whose places have been reduced, the first place is awarded to the 2<sup>nd</sup> best ranked Continental Confederation at the previous World Championship.
  - 2. If more than one place needs to be reassigned, all other places shall be awarded as wild cards by the IHF Council.
  - 3. The Continental Confederation gaining an additional place as mentioned in point 1 of d) shall fulfil the conditions specified in a) and b), taking into account the additional place. Otherwise, this place shall be awarded as a wild card by the IHF Council.
- e) Further, in case of d), the places to be removed shall be the lowest in the performance rows, meaning that first the compulsory places shall be removed and then the performance places of the respective Continental Confederation.

## **1.2. Qualification**

### **1.2.1. Continental Qualifications**

The IHF owns the rights to World Championship qualifications. As laid down in the IHF Statutes, qualifying shall be through the Continental Confederations (with the exception of the organiser) according to clearly regulated performance criteria and other necessary regulations defined by the Continental Confederations and approved by the IHF.

Continental Confederations must announce their qualification system as well as the dates to the IHF no later than 12 months before the World Championship.

Continental Confederations shall give a binding agreement to accept the places available to them three (3) months after the World Championship where the performance and compulsory places for the next event have been defined at the latest.

Upon completion of qualifications, the Continental Confederations are obliged to inform the IHF Head Office within one (1) week about the ranking, the teams qualified and the substitute nations.

### **1.2.2. Dates**

As a matter of principle, continental qualifying rounds must be completed no later than three (3) months before the start of the World Championship.

The Continental Confederations shall include their qualifying rounds in the IHF calendar. Continental championships, which are qualification events for World Championships, and/or the qualification events, should be held during the IHF national team weeks defined in the IHF world calendar. In exceptional cases the IHF Executive Committee may decide about deviations therefrom.

### **1.2.3. Confirmation of Participation for Teams**

Teams participating in the qualification events are committed to participate in the respective World Championship in case qualified.

All qualified federations have to confirm their participation in the World Championships. Further, the participating nations shall confirm that the players of their national team enjoy good health so that they are physically fit to compete in the World Championship. For that purpose, the players to compete in the World Championship shall undergo a medical examination in advance in order to receive a certificate of health.

The confirmation of participation and health status of the players shall be submitted through the Player

### 1.2.4. Non-Appearence

If the team of a federation that has qualified for the World Championship does not take part, the first substitute nation of the Continental Confederation in question shall take that place. If the first substitute nation does not take part, the second substitute nation shall take the place. If the second substitute nation does not take part either, the following shall apply:

- If the Continental Confederation in question is the Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion, the IHF Executive Committee shall decide.
- If the Continental Confederation in question is another Continental Confederation, the place will be allocated to the Continental Confederation of the reigning World Champion, which will then announce the substitute nation. If the first substitute nation does not take part, the second substitute nation shall take the place. If the second substitute nation does not take part either, the IHF Executive Committee shall decide.

## 1.3. Draw

### 1.3.1. Performance Rows

1	Performance Place 1	Performance Place 2	Performance Place 3	Performance Place 4	Performance Place 5	Performance Place 6	Performance Place 7	Performance Place 8
2	Performance Place 9	Performance Place 10	Performance Place 11	Performance Place 12	Organiser	Compulsory Place 1	Compulsory Place 2	Compulsory Place 3
3	Compulsory Place 4	Compulsory Place 5	Compulsory Place 6	Compulsory Place 7	Compulsory Place 8	Compulsory Place 9	Compulsory Place 10	Compulsory Place 11
4	Compulsory Place 12	Compulsory Place 13	Compulsory Place 14	Compulsory Place 15	Compulsory Place 16	Compulsory Place 17	Compulsory Place 18	IHF Trophy Winner

The allocation of the performance and compulsory places to the Continental Confederations is done in accordance with the ranking of the Continental Confederations at the previous World Championship of the same gender and category.

In case the number of places for a Continental Confederation is reduced, the places to be removed shall be the lowest in the performance rows (see III.1.1.3).

The teams will be assigned the corresponding places according to the qualifications on continental level. The Continental Confederations will inform the IHF – based on the performance criteria at their qualification – which place will be allocated to which qualified team.

As a rule, the organiser will be allocated the first place behind the performance places. Should the organiser achieve a better place as a result of the previously staged World Championship, it will be allocated the corresponding performance place. The organiser is entitled to be assigned to the respective higher continental performance place in case a better position has been reached at the continental qualification event, then it will be seeded on this performance place. In case the organiser is the reigning World Champion, it is placed first in the first performance row. In all these cases, the first place behind the performance places is then allocated to the Continental Confederation of the organiser.

In case of more than one (1) organiser, the hosting federations will be allocated the places behind the performance places if the above criteria do not apply. In this case, the order of the multiple organisers is determined based on the result of the preceding World Championship. If this is not possible, the IHF COC shall decide on the order. If the above criteria apply, the same principles shall be followed.

Further, special rights are granted to the organiser(s) in relation to the draw procedure (see III.1.3.2).

The IHF COC confirms the final allocation of qualified teams to the performance rows as announced by the Continental Confederations based on performance criteria. The draw generally takes place after completion of all continental qualifying rounds.

### **1.3.2. Procedure**

The draw, held by the IHF (COC), shall be in compliance with the performance criteria. The organiser shall have a free choice of its preliminary round group within its performance row. In this case, the organiser's performance row is drawn last, after the other rows which are drawn from the lowest to the highest.

Alternatively, the organiser may submit a request to the IHF to assign one (1) team (including the organiser's team) per group which had previously been assigned to a city. In this case, the 4<sup>th</sup> performance row is drawn first, followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the 1<sup>st</sup> row is drawn last.

In the case of more than one (1) host nation, the organiser shall assign one (1) team per group, which had previously been assigned to a city, including the teams of the host nations.

### **1.3.3. Organisation**

Technical and organisational details about the draw event are laid down in the IHF Bid and Event Manual.

## **1.4. Fees**

The participants have to pay a deposit and a registration fee to the IHF. Details hereto are laid down in



the respective section (see III.6). If the deadlines are not met, qualification shall lapse. In such a case, article III.1.2.4 shall apply.



## Article 2

### 2. Competition System

#### 2.1. Dates

The IHF COC shall fix the exact dates of the competitions with the following periods as a guideline:

Women's Youth (U18):	July/August;	taking place in even years
Women's Junior (U20):	June/July;	taking place in even years
Men's Youth (U19):	July/August;	taking place in odd years
Men's Junior (U21):	June/July;	taking place in odd years

The IHF COC will add the exact dates to the international calendar. There shall be at least one week break between the youth and junior competitions.

The IHF Executive Committee shall finalise and confirm the dates of the tournament before the corresponding announcement is drawn up. In years of Olympic and Youth Olympic Games, the event dates might be adapted according to the proposal of the IHF COC.

#### 2.2. Match Scheme

##### 2.2.1. Preliminary Round

Eight (8) preliminary round groups with four (4) teams each (Groups A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H) – 48 matches:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	F1	G1	H1
A2	B2	C2	D2	E2	F2	G2	H2
A3	B3	C3	D3	E3	F3	G3	H3
A4	B4	C4	D4	E4	F4	G4	H4

Day 1	1 – 3	2 – 4
Day 2	4 – 1	2 – 3
Day 3	3 – 4	1 – 2

The host nation has the right to choose the order of the group matches for its own group. In case of more than one (1) organiser, this is applicable for all host nations.

The top two (2) teams each of preliminary round groups A/B, C/D, E/F and G/H are put together in groups MRI, MRII, MRIII and MRIV of the main round, respectively.

The teams ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in preliminary round groups A/B, C/D, E/F and G/H will compete in the President's Cup groups PCI, PCII, PCIII and PCIV, respectively.

## 2.2.2. Main Round

Four (4) main round groups with four (4) teams each (Groups MRI, MRII, MRIII, MRIV) – 16 matches:

MRI	MRII	MRIII	MRIV
1A	1C	1E	1G
2A	2C	2E	2G
1B	1D	1F	1H
2B	2D	2F	2H

The results that teams achieved in the preliminary group against teams who have also advanced to the main round are carried over to the main round. Therefore, teams from the same preliminary round groups will not play against each other in the main round.

Day 1	1A – 2B	1B – 2A
	1C – 2D	1D – 2C
	1E – 2F	1F – 2E
	1G – 2H	1H – 2G
Day 2	1A – 1B	2A – 2B
	1C – 1D	2C – 2D
	1E – 1F	2E – 2F
	1G – 1H	2G – 2H

The top two (2) teams of each main round group advance to the quarter-finals.

The teams ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in each main round group play placement matches 9-16.

### 2.2.3. President's Cup

Determination of places 17-32 – 32 matches:

Four (4) President's Cup groups with four (4) teams each (Groups PCI, PCII, PCIII, and PCIV) – 16 matches:

PCI	PCII	PCIII	PCIV
3A	3C	3E	3G
4A	4C	4E	4G
3B	3D	3F	3H
4B	4D	4F	4H

The results that teams achieved in the preliminary group against teams who also compete in the President's Cup are carried over to the President's Cup. Therefore, teams from the same preliminary round groups will not play against each other in the President's Cup groups.

Day 1	3A – 4B	3B – 4A
	3C – 4D	3D – 4C
	3E – 4F	3F – 4E
	3G – 4H	3H – 4G
Day 2	3A – 3B	4A – 4B
	3C – 3D	4C – 4D
	3E – 3F	4E – 4F
	3G – 3H	4G – 4H

The teams ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in President's Cup groups play placement matches 17-20.

The teams ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in President's Cup groups play placement matches 21-24.

The teams ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in President's Cup groups play placement matches 25-28.

The teams ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in President's Cup groups play placement matches 29-32.

Placement matches 17-32 – 16 matches:

Two (2) matches with the teams ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the President's Cup groups – the winners of these two (2) matches play for the places 17/18 and the losers play for the places 19/20.

Two (2) matches with the teams ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the President's Cup groups – the winners of these two (2)

matches play for the places 21/22 and the losers play for the places 23/24.

Two (2) matches with the teams ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the President's Cup groups – the winners of these two (2) matches play for the places 25/26 and the losers play for the places 27/28.

Two (2) matches with the teams ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the President's Cup groups – the winners of these two (2) matches play for the places 29/30 and the losers play for the places 31/32.

PM7	1PCI – 1PCIII
PM8	1PCII – 1PCIV
PM9	2PCI – 2PCIII
PM10	2PCII – 2PCIV
PM11	3PCI – 3PCIII
PM12	3PCII – 3PCIV
PM13	4PCI – 4PCIII
PM14	4PCII – 4PCIV

17/18	WPM7 – WPM8
19/20	LPM7 – LPM8
21/22	WPM9 – WPM10
23/24	LPM9 – LPM10
25/26	WPM11 – WPM12
27/28	LPM11 – LPM12
29/30	WPM13 – WPM14
31/32	LPM13 – LPM14

#### 2.2.4. Quarter-Finals

Four (4) matches:

QF1	1MRI – 2MRIII
QF2	1MRIII – 2MRI
QF3	1MRII – 2MRIV

QF4	1MRIV – 2MRII
-----	---------------

The winners advance to the semi-finals.

The losers compete for places 5-8.

## 2.2.5. Placement Matches

Determination of places 5-8 – Four (4) matches:

Two (2) matches with the losers of the quarter-finals – the winners of these two (2) matches play for the places 5/6 and the losers play for the places 7/8.

PM1	LQF1 – LQF3
PM2	LQF2 – LQF4

5/6	WPM1 – WPM2
7/8	LPM1 – LPM2

Determination of places 9-16 – Eight (8) matches:

Two (2) matches with the teams ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the main round groups – the winners of these two (2) matches play for the places 9/10 and the losers play for the places 11/12.

Two (2) matches with the teams ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in the main round groups – the winners of these two (2) matches play for the places 13/14 and the losers play for the places 15/16.

PM3	3MRI – 3MRIII
PM4	3MRII – 3MRIV
PM5	4MRI – 4MRIII
PM6	4MRII – 4MRIV

9/10	WPM3 – WPM4
11/12	LPM3 – LPM4
13/14	WPM5 – WPM6

15/16	LPM5 – LPM6
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### 2.2.6. Semi-Finals

Two (2) matches:

SF1	WQF1 – WQF3
SF2	WQF2 – WQF4

The winners play for the places 1/2 (gold and silver medal), the losers play for the places 3/4 (bronze medal).

### 2.2.7. Finals

Two (2) matches:

1/2	WSF1 – WSF2
3/4	LSF1 – LSF2

## 2.3. Match Evaluation and Determination of Places

### 2.3.1. Preliminary Round, Main Round, President's Cup

The preliminary round, main round and President's Cup are played in groups. The matches shall be evaluated as follows:

- each match won = 2 points
- each match drawn = 1 point for each team
- each match lost = no points

Teams are ranked according to the total number of points gained.

For the main round as well as the President's Cup, only those results from the preliminary round are taken into consideration that were obtained against teams that also qualified for the main round or the President's Cup. This means that points achieved as well as goals scored and conceded against these teams are carried over from the preliminary round to the main round or the President's Cup.

If two (2) or more teams have gained the same number of points after the group matches have been completed, their ranking is decided based on the following:

- results in points between the teams concerned
- goal differences in the matches between the teams concerned

- greater number of goals scored in the matches between the teams concerned

If the teams are still equal, a decision is made between those teams with equal number of points as follows:

- goal difference is subtracted in all matches
- greater number of goals scored in all matches

If a ranking is still not possible, a drawing of lots shall decide. The IHF representative on site shall execute the drawing of lots, if possible in the presence of the responsible team officials. If the responsible team official cannot be present, another representative to be selected by the IHF shall take part.

### **2.3.2. Placement Matches, Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals**

The placement matches (5-8, 9-16, and 17-32), quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals shall be played in a knock-out system.

For the placement matches, in case of a draw at the end of the regular playing time, a direct 7 m shoot-out shall be used to determine a winner in accordance with rule 2:2 of the Rules of the Game.

For the other matches, overtime is played following a 5-minute break, if a match is tied at the end of the regular playing time. The overtime period consists of two (2) halves of five (5) minutes, with a 1-minute half-time break.

If the match is again tied after the first overtime period, a second period is played after a 5-minute break. This overtime period also consists of two (2) halves of five (5) minutes, with a 1-minute half-time break. Should the match still not be decided after the second overtime period, the winner is determined through a 7 m shoot-out in accordance with rule 2:2 of the Rules of the Game.

The IHF COC has the right to decide that the winner of certain matches that end in a draw will be determined through a direct 7 m shoot-out in accordance with rule 2:2 of the Rules of the Game. If this rule applies, the decision will be published in the official announcement or together with the match schedule.

### **2.3.3. Match Schedule**

### **2.3.4. Establishing Principles**

Every team shall have a break of at least 20 hours between the throw-off times of one match and another.

A day with a travel duration of 4 hours and 30 minutes or less shall be considered as rest day. In case the travel duration exceeds that amount of time, an additional rest day is required, unless authorised by

a decision from the relevant IHF bodies or the IHF Head Office for special cases.

On request of media, TV or other international bodies, the IHF COC may decide on an alternative schedule, following the above-mentioned principles. For instance, an opening match could be held on day 0. Different rest days in the respective groups may be determined and placement matches may be adapted to different days. A different allocation of teams to compose the main round and President's Cup groups or a different pairing of teams in the match scheme may be implemented. This allocation shall be done before the draw and the teams shall be informed accordingly.

The throw-off times shall be fixed by the IHF in conjunction with the organiser and the TV rights holder. The IHF is the final decision-making body and reserves the right to change the throw-off times at any time if need be.

### 2.3.5. Day-by-Day Schedule

The following day-by-day schedule serves as a general guideline. In any case, the schedule shall respect the above-mentioned principles.

Day 0	Arrival all teams	
Day 1	PR day 1	16 matches
Day 2	PR day 2	16 matches
Day 3	Rest day	0 matches
Day 4	PR day 3	16 matches
Day 5	Rest day	0 matches
Day 6	MR day 1                      PC day 1	16 matches
Day 7	MR day 2                      PC day 2	16 matches
Day 8	Rest day                      Rest day	0 matches
Day 9	QF1, QF2, QF3, QF4    PM3, PM4, PM5, PM6, PM7, PM8, PM9, PM10, PM11, PM12, PM13, PM14	16 matches
Day 10	SF1, SF2, PM1, PM2    9/10, 11/12, 13/14, 15/16, 17/18, 19/20, 21/22, 23/24, 25/26, 27/28, 29/30, 31/32	16 matches
Day 11	Rest day                      Departure 9-32	0 matches
Day 12	1/2, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8	4 matches
Day 13	Departure 1-8	



## 2.3.6. Example

IHF World Championship Match Schedule (32 Teams) - Younger Age Categories

Tue Day 0	Wed Day 1	Thu Day 2	Fri Day 3	Sat Day 4	Sun Day 5	Mon Day 6	Tue Day 7	Wed Day 8	Thu Day 9	Fri Day 10	Sat Day 11	Sun Day 12
PRELIMINARY ROUND					MAIN ROUND & PRESIDENT'S CUP				FINAL ROUND & PLACEMENT MATCHES			
GROUP A					MRI				1-8			
A1-A3	A4-A1			A3-A4		1A-2B	1A-1B		QF1: 1MRI-2MRIII	SF1: WQF1-WQF3		1/2: WSF1-WSF2
A2-A4	A2-A3			A1-A2		1B-2A	2A-2B		QF2: 1MRIII-2MRI	SF2: WQF2-WQF4		3/4: LSF1 - LSF2
GROUP B					MRII				QF3: 1MRII-2MRIV	PM1: LQF1-LQF3		5/6: WPM1 - WPM2
B1-B3	B4-B1			B3-B4		1C-2D	1C-1D		QF4: 1MRIV-2MRII	PM2: LQF2-LQF4		7/8: LPM1 - LPM2
B2-B4	B2-B3			B1-B2		1D-2C	2C-2D		PM 9-16			
GROUP C					MRIII				PM3: 3MRI-3MRIII	9/10: WPM3 - WPM4		
C1-C3	C4-C1			C3-C4		1E-2F	1E-1F		PM4: 3MRII-3MRIV	11/12: LPM3 - LPM4		
C2-C4	C2-C3			C1-C2		1F-2E	2E-2F		PM5: 4MRI-4MRIII	13/14: WPM5-WPM6		
GROUP D					MRIV				PM6: 4MRII-4MRIV	15/16: LPM5-LPM6		
D1-D3	D4-D1			D3-D4		1G-2H	1G-1H		PC PM 17-32			
D2-D4	D2-D3			D1-D2		1H-2G	2G-2H		PM7: 1PCI-1PCIII	17/18: WPM7-WPM8		
GROUP E					PCI				PM8: 1PCII-1PCIV	19/20: LPM7-LPM8		
E1-E3	E4-E1			E3-E4		3A-4B	3A-3B		PM9: 2PCII-2PCIII	21/22: WPM9-WPM10		
E2-E4	E2-E3			E1-E2		3B-4A	4A-4B		PM10: 2PCII-2PCIV	23/24: LPM9-LPM10		
GROUP F					PCII				PM11: 3PCI-3PCIII	25/26: WPM11-WPM12		
F1-F3	F4-F1			F3-F4		3C-4D	3C-3D		PM12: 3PCII-3PCIV	27/28: LPM11-LPM12		
F2-F4	F2-F3			F1-F2		3D-4C	4C-4D		PM13: 4PCI-4PCIII	29/30: WPM13-WPM14		
GROUP G					PCIII				PM14: 4PCII-4PCIV	31/32: LPM13-LPM14		
G1-G3	G4-G1			G3-G4		3E-4F	3E-3F					
G2-G4	G2-G3			G1-G2		3F-4E	4E-4F					
GROUP H					PCIV							
H1-H3	H4-H1			H3-H4		3G-4H	3G-3H					
H2-H4	H2-H3			H1-H2		3H-4G	4G-4H					



# Article 3

## 3. Protocol, Awards and Ceremonies

### 3.1. Opening and Closing Ceremonies

At World Championships, opening and closing ceremonies shall take place. The teams participating in the following or preceding matches are not obliged to participate in those ceremonies. However, the organisation of those ceremonies may result in the modification of the pre-match or post-match procedures. If this should be the case, teams will be informed accordingly in the official announcement or the IHF INFO. The IHF shall confirm the concept for the opening and closing ceremonies.

### 3.2. Pre-Match and Post-Match Procedures

#### 3.2.1. Pre-Match and Post-Match Procedures

Pre- and post-match procedures shall respect the principles laid down in I.3.4. The organisers may modify these procedures as long as they still comply with those basic principles. Teams will be informed accordingly in the official announcement or the IHF INFO.

### **3.2.2. Player of the Match**

The IHF has the right to award the most valuable player in every World Championship match who shall receive the Player of the Match award. The IHF CCM (or its representatives) shall decide about the awarding of the player.

## **3.3. Medals and Trophies**

### **3.3.1. Teams Ranked 1-3**

Medals shall be awarded to the three (3) top teams as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place and World Champion (gold)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place (silver)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place (bronze)

On the podium, a total of 24 persons are allowed (players who have participated in the World Championship and team officials A-F).

All other players and officials of the teams ranked 1-3 shall also receive the corresponding medals up to a maximum number of 30 medals.

One (1) set of medals shall be preserved in the IHF Head Office archives.

### **3.3.2. Souvenir Medals**

All other teams shall receive a souvenir medal.

### **3.3.3. Trophies**

The 1<sup>st</sup> ranked team shall receive the World Champion trophy provided by the organiser.

## **3.4. End of Competition Awarding**

No other awards than the undermentioned shall be presented at World Championships.

### **3.4.1. All-Star Team**

The IHF All-star Team will be selected by the IHF CCM experts attending the World Championship and will be announced after the final.

### **3.4.2. Top Scorer**

The player who has scored most goals during the entire World Championship tournament shall receive the IHF Top Scorer award. If two or more players have scored the same number of goals, the number of assists will be taken into account.

### **3.4.3. Most Valuable Player**

The best player of the tournament shall receive the MVP award. The MVP will be selected by the IHF CCM experts attending the World Championship.



## **Article 4**

### **4. Team Logistics and Services**

All officially registered delegation members shall be treated equally and have the same rights, including but not limited to the undermentioned.

#### **4.1.1. Accommodation**

All teams are accommodated at IHF-approved hotels of international level and according to IHF requirements.

#### **4.1.2. Rooms**

Nine (9) double and six (6) single rooms shall be provided per team (24 persons; 18 players and 6 officials).

Rooms for delegation members 25-30 are guaranteed provided that the indicated deadline has been respected (see I.7.4.1).

If a team arrives with less than 24 persons, it is only entitled to receive an adequate number of rooms according to the size of the delegation.

Further, participating teams that arrive with less than 24 persons have to inform the organiser within the stipulated timeframe, otherwise they have to pay the full participation fee for 24 persons (see III.6.2).

#### **4.1.3. Meeting Rooms**

At the team hotel all teams have the right to use a meeting room equipped with screen, projector and flip chart. A timetable is set up by the organiser in order to book the meeting room for the times preferred.

The teams are entitled to use this meeting room free of charge provided they respect the timetable.

As a general guideline each team shall have one hour per day, with the schedule set up according to the match schedule. Additional time can be requested and coordinated through the team guide.

#### **4.1.4. Catering Area**

Each team shall have a dedicated catering area in their hotel, where meals are served in a buffet format, if possible.

### **4.2. Meals and Beverages**

Teams have the right to three (3) meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. On match days, the teams are also entitled to have a light meal (pasta, rice or equivalent, meat, vegetables, yoghurts, and fruits).

Further, teams shall be provided a snack in their changing rooms for the matches, composed of fruits.

One (1) soft drink for lunch and dinner is free; water shall be available free of charge 24 hours a day.

### **4.3. Transportation**

#### **4.3.1. International**

The participating teams shall be responsible for international transportation. The IHF shall fix the place of arrival and departure in close cooperation with the organiser.

#### **4.3.2. Local**

A heated/air-conditioned bus for local transportation for competition purposes shall be available for each team from the day of arrival until the day of departure.

### **4.4. Medical Care**

At each venue, a comprehensive medical service (including 24-hour emergency) shall be available for every accredited participant.

### **4.5. Accreditation**

#### **4.5.1. Categories and Access**

All delegation members shall have access to the field of play, the spectators' area and the media centre.

## **4.5.2. Executive Team Representatives**

The head of delegation and one (1) additional member (to be defined by the National Federation in advance) will receive further benefits (e.g. access to VIP zones, invitations to official receptions, etc.).

## **4.6. Tickets**

### **4.6.1. Regular Tickets**

Each team has the right to buy/receive (if free of charge) World Championship tickets. The amount of tickets available per team and the terms and conditions will be published in the official announcement.

### **4.6.2. VIP Tickets/Accreditations**

Further, each participating federation receives a maximum of two (2) VIP accreditation cards, including one (1) ticket per accreditation to World Championship matches of its team. The participating federations have to announce the respective persons one (1) month in advance. Unless announced in advance, they are not entitled to the named accreditation/ticket. This is in addition to III.4.5.2.

## **4.7. Visas**

All teams have the right to be guaranteed trouble free entry into the hosting country. Visa assistance shall be provided by the organiser.



# **Article 5**

## **5. Media Operations**

### **5.1. Media Operations Management**

#### **5.1.1. Media Management at the Venues**

The organiser is responsible for the orderly management of all media operations related to the competition and the matches, with the support of the IHF.

Further, the IHF and the organiser will publish specific regulations for media access to areas reserved for the teams, such as team hotels.

#### **5.1.2. Media Management Within the Team**

Each team must nominate a media officer to be the contact person for all media requests and issues. All media representatives of a team/National Federation must be included within the delegation as support staff. No special access to competition areas shall be granted to a media representative of a

team/National Federation who is not officially listed as part of the delegation.

## **5.2. Around the Match**

### **5.2.1. Flash Zone**

After the end of each match and ceremonies, players and coaches of both playing teams must be available for interviews in the flash zone.

### **5.2.2. Mixed Zone**

After the end of each match and ceremony, all players and coaches of the playing teams must pass through the mixed zone and be available for interviews with accredited media.

### **5.2.3. Post-Match Press Conference**

Upon request, a post-match press conference may take place after the end of the match. Should this be the case, the head coach and a player of each team shall attend the press conference conducted in English.

### **5.2.4. Trainings**

See I.3.7.

### **5.2.5. Media Meeting(s)**

Before the start of the competition or during the competition, the IHF and/or the organiser may ask the teams' media officers to attend a media meeting.

## **5.3. Teams' Media Operations**

Besides the media operations detailed above, teams are entitled to organise their own media operations during the competition. For this purpose, teams may use the existing media facilities with the organiser's agreement. In any case, the IHF and the organiser must be informed of those media operations and teams shall respect possible specific guidelines issued by the organiser.



# **Article 6**

## **6. Financial Provisions**

The following expenses have to be borne by the participating teams.

## **6.1. Registration Fee**

Federations which participate in the World Championship shall pay a registration fee of CHF 500.00 to the IHF. The payment deadline is three (3) months before the start of the World Championship.

## **6.2. Participation Fee**

Federations which participate in the World Championship shall pay a participation fee per person/day (up to 30 persons see I.7.4.1). The participation fee for delegation members 1 to 24 shall be paid to the IHF, and the participation fee for delegation members 25 to 30 shall be paid to the organiser directly. The participation fee shall be determined for each World Championship individually when awarding the event based on the documents submitted by the organiser at the awarding Council.

When calculating the participation fee, the number of days is generally counted from 12 noon on the day of arrival to 12 noon on the day of departure, i.e. although the days of arrival and departure make up two (2) calendar days, they represent only one (1) fee-paying day.

## **6.3. Fixed Deposit**

At the same time as the registration fee, all participants shall pay the IHF a deposit of CHF 5,000.00 which will be taken on account or repaid. If a registering federation has the uncharged sum of CHF 5,000.00 on its account with the IHF, this may be used as the fixed deposit. The federation's IHF account will be credited with the relevant sum after the World Championship. If the country withdraws, the sum shall be forfeited to the benefit of the IHF.

During the World Championship, the IHF has the right to freely use the fixed deposit of each team and may use it to pay fees, fines or other financial obligations of the corresponding federation.

## **6.4. Travel Expenses**

Travel expenses for the entire participating delegation have to be borne by the participating National Federations.

## **6.5. Cost of Visas**

Participants shall bear all costs in connection with obtaining necessary visas.



# **Article 7**

## **7. Closing Comment**

Should any problems arise at World Championships that are not covered by the present Regulations, the Competition Management shall decide.

## IV. Olympic Qualification Tournaments



### Article 1

#### 1. Qualifications and Entries

##### 1.1. Participants

##### 1.1.1. Number of Participants

For every Olympic Games, three (3) Olympic Qualification Tournaments per gender will be held. Twelve Men's and twelve Women's teams will compete in their respective Olympic Qualification Tournaments.

##### 1.1.2. Eligibility of Teams to Participate in Olympic Qualification Tournaments

The 12 teams eligible to participate in Men's and Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments are seeded as follows:

Tournament 1	Tournament 2	Tournament 3
2 <sup>nd</sup> -ranked team	3 <sup>rd</sup> -ranked team	4 <sup>th</sup> -ranked team
7 <sup>th</sup> -ranked team	6 <sup>th</sup> -ranked team	5 <sup>th</sup> -ranked team
3 <sup>rd</sup> best continent (QS 3)	2 <sup>nd</sup> best continent (QS 2)	Best continent (QS 1)
4 <sup>th</sup> best continent (QS 4)	Best continent (QS 5)	Oceania or 2 <sup>nd</sup> best continent (QS 6)

For each gender, the ranking of the World Championship in the year before the Olympic Games is taken into account.

QS= Qualification slot for the IHF Olympic Qualification Tournament

If one (1) or more teams ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> at the preceding World Championship have already qualified for the Olympic Games at their respective continental qualification events, the team ranked 8<sup>th</sup> (or lower) at the preceding World Championship will be eligible to participate in the Olympic Qualification Tournaments and all other teams qualified from the preceding World Championship will move up one spot.

The same system shall be applied mutatis mutandis in case several eligible teams have already qualified through their continental qualification events.

QS 1 and 5 will be allocated to the highest placed Continental Confederation at the preceding World Championship. The highest ranked team (QS 1) and next highest ranked team (QS 5) at the respective continental qualification event not yet qualified and not yet selected to participate in the IHF Qualification



Tournaments will earn the corresponding qualification slot.

QS 2 to 4 are allocated to the second (QS 2), third (QS 3) and fourth (QS 4) highest placed Continental Confederations at the preceding World Championship. The highest ranked teams at the respective continental qualification event not yet qualified and not yet selected to participate in the IHF Qualification Tournaments will earn the corresponding qualification slot.

QS 6: If any team from Oceania is ranked 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> at the preceding World Championship, this qualification slot will be allocated to the highest placed NOC at the event in which Oceania can qualify and which has not yet qualified. If this is not the case, this qualification slot will be allocated to the second highest placed Continental Confederation at the preceding World Championship, in addition to QS 2. The NOC of the highest placed team at the respective continental qualification event which has not yet qualified will be allocated the qualification slot.

## **1.2. Qualifications**

### **1.2.1. Dates**

As a matter of principle, continental qualifying rounds for Olympic Qualification Tournaments must be completed no later than one (1) month before the start of the tournament.

### **1.2.2. Confirmation of Participation for Teams**

National Federations which have earned qualification to the Olympic Qualification Tournaments through their respective continental qualification events are committed to participate.

All qualified federations have to confirm their participation in Men's and Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments. Further, the participating nations shall confirm that the players of their national team enjoy good health so that they are physically fit to compete in the Olympic Qualification Tournament. For that purpose, the players to compete in the Olympic Qualification Tournament shall undergo a medical examination in advance in order to receive a health certificate.

The confirmation of participation and health status of the players shall be submitted through the Player Management Platform.

### **1.2.3. Non-Appearance**

If the team of a federation that has qualified for the Olympic Qualification Tournament does not take part, the place will be reallocated to the next best ranked National Federation at the event where the initial place to participate in the Olympic Qualification Tournament was obtained. If the next best ranked National Federation does not take part, the second next best ranked National Federation shall take the

place.

If this team does not take part either, the open place will be awarded as a wild card by the IHF Executive Committee.

If a team that has obtained QS1 or QS2 does not take part, the respective teams from QS5, QS6, will move up to the position of the team that does not take part. And the substitute nation in accordance with the above paragraph will take the place QS5, QS6.

If one (1) or more teams ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> at the preceding World Championship does not take part in the IHF Olympic Qualification Tournament, the team ranked 8<sup>th</sup> (or lower) at the preceding World Championship will be eligible to participate in the Olympic Qualification Tournaments and all other teams qualified from the preceding World Championship will move up one spot.

### 1.3. Fees

The participants have to pay a deposit and a registration fee to the IHF. Details hereto are laid down in the Financial Provisions (see IV.6). If the given deadlines are not met, eligibility to participate shall lapse. In such a case, the substitute nation nominated by the Continental Confederation shall be eligible to play.



## Article 2

### 2. Competition System

#### 2.1. Dates

The Olympic Qualification Tournaments shall be held in the period between February and two months before the start of the Olympic Games. The IHF COC shall fix the exact dates of the competitions, which will be included in the IHF event calendar.

The IHF Executive Committee shall finalise and confirm the dates of the tournament before the corresponding announcement is drawn up.

#### 2.2. Match Scheme

At each of the three (3) Olympic Qualification Tournaments, six (6) matches will be staged, and each of the four (4) participating teams will compete in three (3) matches.

Day 1	1 – 3	2 – 4
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Day 2	3 – 4	1 – 2
Day 3	4 – 1	2 – 3

### 2.3. Match Evaluation and Determination of Places

The matches shall be evaluated as follows:

- each match won = 2 points
- each match drawn = 1 point for each team
- each match lost = no points

Teams are ranked according to the total number of points gained.

If two (2) or more teams have gained the same number of points after the group matches have been completed, their ranking is based on the following:

- results in points between the teams concerned
- goal differences in the matches between the teams concerned
- greater number of goals scored in the matches between the teams concerned.

If the teams are still equal, a decision is made between those teams with equal number of points as follows:

- goal difference is subtracted in all matches
- greater number of goals scored in all matches.

If a ranking is still not possible, a drawing of lots shall decide. The IHF representative on site shall execute the drawing of lots, if possible in the presence of the responsible team officials. If the responsible team official cannot be present, another representative to be selected by the IHF shall take part.

### 2.4. Olympic Games Qualification

The teams ranked first and second at the end of each tournament earn direct qualification to the Olympic Games.

### 2.5. Match Schedule

The match schedule shall include one (1) rest day between the three (3) match days. Every team shall have a break of at least 20 hours between the throw-off times of one match and another. The throw-off times shall be fixed by the IHF in conjunction with the organiser and the TV rights holder.



## Article 3

### 3. Protocol and Awards

#### 3.1. Pre-Match and Post-Match Procedure

Pre and post-match procedures shall respect the principles laid down in I. 3.4. The organisers may modify these procedures as long as they still comply with those basic principles. Teams will be informed accordingly in the official announcement or the IHF INFO.

#### 3.2. Awards

The IHF has the right to award the most valuable player in every match of the Olympic Qualification Tournament with the Player of the Match award. The IHF CCM (or its representatives) shall decide about the awarding of the player.

No other awards than the aforementioned shall be presented during the event.



## Article 4

### 4. Team Logistics and Services

All officially registered delegation members shall be treated equally and have the same rights including, but not limited to the undermentioned.

#### 4.1. Accommodation

All teams are accommodated at IHF-approved hotels of international level and according to IHF requirements.

##### 4.1.1. Rooms

As a general rule and in accordance with article I.7.4.1, nine (9) double and six (6) single rooms shall be provided per team (24 persons; 18 players and 6 officials). The organiser shall bear the cost for 21 persons accommodated in eight (8) double and five (5) single rooms. The rooms for delegation members 22-24 have to be paid by the participating teams (see IV.6).

Rooms for additional participants (up to nine (9), i.e. a delegation of 30 persons, see I.7.4.1) are guaranteed provided that the indicated deadline has been respected.

If a team arrives with less than 21 persons, which is the number of people for whom the organiser has to bear the costs, the team is only entitled to receive an adequate number of rooms according to the

size of the delegation.

#### **4.1.2. Meeting Rooms**

At the team hotel, all teams have the right to use a meeting room equipped with screen, projector and flip chart. A timetable is set up by the organiser in order to book the meeting room for the times preferred. The teams are entitled to use this meeting room free of charge provided they respect the timetable.

As a general guideline each team shall have one hour per day, with the schedule set up according to the match schedule. Additional time can be requested and coordinated through the team guide.

#### **4.1.3. Catering Area**

Each team shall have a dedicated catering area in their hotel, where meals are served in a buffet format.

### **4.2. Meals and Beverages**

Teams have the right to three (3) meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. On match days the teams are also entitled to have a light meal (pasta, rice or equivalent, meat, vegetables, yoghurts, and fruits).

Further, teams shall be provided a snack in their changing rooms for the matches, composed of fruits.

One (1) soft drink for lunch and dinner is free; water shall be available free of charge 24 hours a day.

### **4.3. Transportation**

#### **4.3.1. International**

The participating teams shall be responsible for international transportation. The IHF shall fix the place of arrival and departure in close cooperation with the organiser.

#### **4.3.2. Local**

A heated/air-conditioned bus for local transportation for competition purposes shall be available for each team from the day of arrival until the day of departure.

### **4.4. Medical Care**

At each venue, a comprehensive medical service (including 24-hour emergency) shall be available for every accredited participant.

## **4.5. Accreditation**

### **4.5.1. Categories and Access**

All delegation members shall have access to the field of play, the spectators' area and the media centre.

### **4.5.2. Executive Team Representatives**

The head of delegation and one (1) additional member (to be defined by the National Federation in advance) will receive further benefits (e.g. access to VIP zones, invitations to official receptions, etc.).

## **4.6. Tickets**

### **4.6.1. Regular Tickets**

Each team has the right to buy tickets for Olympic Qualification Tournaments. The amount of tickets available per team and the terms and conditions will be published in the official announcement.

### **4.6.2. VIP Tickets/Accreditations**

Further, each participating federation receives a maximum of two (2) VIP accreditation cards, including one (1) ticket per accreditation to Olympic Qualification matches of its team. The participating federations have to announce the respective persons one (1) month in advance. Unless announced in advance, they are not entitled to the named accreditation/ticket. This is in addition to IV.4.5.2.

## **4.7. Visas**

All teams have the right to be guaranteed trouble free entry into the hosting country. Visa assistance shall be provided by the organiser.



# **Article 5**

## **5. Media Operations**

### **5.1. Media Operations Management**

#### **5.1.1. Media Management at the Venues**

The organiser is responsible for the orderly management of all media operations related to the competition and the matches, with the support of the IHF. At each venue, a media officer from the organising committee shall be present.

Further, the IHF and the organiser will publish specific regulations for media access to areas reserved

for the teams, such as team hotels.

### **5.1.2. Media Management Within the Team**

Each team must nominate a media officer to be the contact person for all media requests and issues. All media representatives of a team/National Federation must be included within the delegation as support staff. No special access to competition areas shall be granted to a media representative of a team/National Federation, who is not officially listed as part of the delegation.

## **5.2. Around the Match**

### **5.2.1. Flash Zone**

After the end of each match, players and coaches of both participating teams must be available for interviews in the flash zone.

### **5.2.2. Mixed Zone**

After the end of each match, all players and coaches of the participating teams must pass through the mixed zone and be available for interviews with accredited media.

### **5.2.3. Post-Match Press Conference**

A post-match press conference will generally take place in the press conference room approximately 15 minutes after the end of each match. The head coach and a player of each team shall attend the press conference conducted in English. The IHF Media Department will inform about special requirements on site.

## **5.3. During the Competition**

### **5.3.1. Trainings**

See I.3.7.

### **5.3.2. Media Meeting(s)**

Before the start of the tournament or during the tournament, the IHF and/or the organiser may ask the teams' media officers to attend a media meeting.

## **5.4. Teams' Media Operations**

Besides the media operations detailed above, teams are entitled to organise their own media operations during the competition. For this purpose, teams may use the existing media facilities with the organiser's

agreement. In any case, the IHF and the organiser must be informed of those media operations and teams shall respect possible specific guidelines issued by the organiser.



## **Article 6**

### **6. Financial Provisions**

#### **6.1. Expenses to Be Borne by the Organiser**

The organiser shall bear the costs of full board and lodging for a maximum of 21 persons per federation (up to 16 players and 5 officials), accommodated in eight (8) double and five (5) single rooms, starting one (1) day before the event and finishing one (1) day after the team's last match.

#### **6.2. Expenses to Be Borne by the Participating Teams**

##### **6.2.1. Registration Fee**

Federations which participate in Olympic Qualification Tournaments shall pay a registration fee of CHF 1,000.00 to the IHF. The payment deadline is two (2) months before the start of the tournament.

##### **6.2.2. Fixed Deposit**

At the same time as the registration fee, all participants shall pay a deposit of CHF 10,000.00 to the IHF which will be taken on account or repaid. If a registering federation has the uncharged sum of CHF 10,000.00 on its account with the IHF, this may be used as the fixed deposit. The federation's IHF account will be credited with the relevant sum after the tournament. If the country withdraws, the sum shall be forfeited to the benefit of the IHF.

During the Olympic Qualification Tournament, the IHF has the right to freely use the fixed deposit of each team and may use it to pay fees, fines or other financial obligations of the corresponding federation.

##### **6.2.3. Travel Expenses**

Travel expenses for the entire participating delegation have to be borne by the participating National Federations.

##### **6.2.4. Costs of Visas**

Participants shall bear all costs in connection with obtaining necessary visas.

##### **6.2.5. Additional Participants**

Delegation members 22 to 30 are considered as additional participants. The daily rate for additional



participants is fixed by the organiser – and confirmed by the IHF – and will be published in the official announcement. This daily rate shall be the same as for additional days (see I.7.3.2).

All delegation members including these additional participants have the same rights and duties, in case they have been officially registered by the corresponding National Federation and the conditions and requirements outlined by the organiser have been respected, especially financial questions. In case the participating federation fails to pay the daily rate for additional participants, the IHF and the organiser will consider them to arrive with a delegation of 21 persons, and all arrangements shall be made accordingly.

Additional participants must be paid and settled directly with the organiser and not with the IHF.



## **Article 7**

### **7. Closing Comment**

Should any problems arise at Men's and Women's Olympic Qualification Tournaments that are not covered by the present Regulations, the Competition Management shall decide.

## V. Olympic Games

**Note:** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) regulations or those of the organiser charged by the IOC shall apply at Olympic Handball Tournaments and shall always take precedence over the regulations of the IHF. The National Olympic Committee concerned will publish and announce them.



### Article 1

#### 1. Qualifications and Entries

##### 1.1. Participants

##### 1.1.1. Number of Participants

The number of participants in each Men's and Women's Olympic Handball Tournament shall be 12 teams.

##### 1.1.2. Quota Places

Organiser	1
Reigning World Champion	1
Continental qualifications <sup>1</sup> The best ranked team at the respective continental qualification event is eligible to take part. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Africa</li><li>- Asia</li><li>- Europe</li><li>- North America and the Caribbean and South and Central America<sup>2</sup></li></ul>	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 1</li><li>- 1</li><li>- 1</li><li>- 1</li></ul>
IHF Qualification Tournaments The two best ranked team at each tournament are eligible to take part. Tournament 1 Tournament 2 Tournament 3	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2</li><li>- 2</li><li>- 2</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup>There is not a dedicated continental qualification event for Oceania.

<sup>2</sup>One (1) place for both Continental Confederations, to be defined at Pan-American Games.

If the organiser is the World Champion, the second-ranked national team of the respective World Championship shall take the place.

In the event that the reigning World Champion (or the host nation) wins the continental qualification event, the next best ranked team of the respective continental qualification event not yet qualified will obtain a quota place.

The IHF reserves the right to amend the distribution of the quota places at any time. This might lead to further changes of the existing regulations.

## **1.2. Qualifications**

### **1.2.1. Qualification Events**

The IHF owns the rights to Olympic Games qualifications. As laid down in the IHF Statutes, qualifying shall be through the Continental Confederations (with the exception of the organiser) and the IHF Qualification Tournaments according to clearly regulated performance criteria and other necessary regulations defined by the Continental Confederations and approved by the IHF, respectively defined by the IHF. The IHF reserves the right to change the tournament mode of the IHF Qualification Tournaments at any time. This might lead to further changes of the existing regulations.

Continental Confederations must announce their qualification system as well as the dates to the IHF in accordance with the IOC requirements.

Upon completion of the qualification events, the Continental Confederations are obliged to inform the IHF Head Office within one (1) week about the ranking, the teams qualified and the substitute nations.

### **1.2.2. Dates**

As a matter of principle, continental qualifying rounds for Olympic Games must be completed no later than one (1) month before the start of the Olympic Qualification Tournaments.

### **1.2.3. Confirmation of Participation for Teams**

Teams participating in the Olympic qualification events are committed to participate in the respective Olympic Games in case qualified and at the same time acknowledge all rights and duties resulting from the qualification.

Following each qualification event, the IHF will contact the respective National Federations to confirm that they have obtained a quota place. In compliance with the Olympic Qualification System for Handball, the respective National Federations shall confirm to the IHF and the IOC through their NOCs within two weeks, if they wish to use these quota places. The same applies for the reigning World Champion.

Further, the participating nations shall confirm that the players of their national team enjoy good health so that they are physically fit to compete in the Olympic Games. For that purpose, the players to compete in the Olympic Games shall undergo a medical examination in advance in order to receive a certificate of health.

The confirmation of participation and health status of the players by the National Federations shall be submitted through the Player Management Platform.

#### 1.2.4. Non-Appearance

If the team of a federation that has qualified for the Olympic Games does not take part, the quota place will be reallocated to the next highest placed National Federation not yet qualified at the event where the initial quota place was obtained.

If the host country declines either of its allocated quota places, they will be reallocated to the Continental Confederation of the winning team of the same gender at the preceding IHF World Championship, and specifically to the best ranked National Federation at the respective continental championship that has yet to qualify.

### 1.3. Draw

#### 1.3.1. Performance Rows

1	World Champion	Team ranked first at qualification tournament 1
2	Team ranked first at qualification tournament 2	Team ranked first at qualification tournament 3
3	Team ranked second at qualification tournament 3	Team ranked second at qualification tournament 2
4	Team ranked second at qualification tournament 1	Organiser
5	Continental qualifier	Continental qualifier
6	Continental qualifier	Continental qualifier

The order of the continental qualifiers' places for the corresponding continental representatives will be

established according to the ranking of the Continental Confederations at the World Championship taking place in the year prior to the Olympic Games.

### **1.3.2. Procedure**

The draw, held by the IHF (COC), shall be in compliance with the performance criteria. The organiser shall have a free choice of its preliminary round group within its performance row that is drawn last. The other rows are drawn from bottom to top.

## **1.4. Team Registration**

### **1.4.1. Procedure**

Team registration for the Olympic Handball Tournaments consists of the following steps:

- Sport entries

Sport entries must be done through the corresponding NOC, which will also provide all required information in this regard.

- Provisional list of 35 players and 10 officials

See I.3.2.2

Players in this list have to be included in the sport entries already submitted before.

- Final registration

Final registration is done through the corresponding NOC. All teams have to select the players (number of players per team according to IOC regulations) from the 'list of 35'. Deadlines and conditions will be communicated by the NOCs.

### **1.4.2. Player Replacement**

Player replacement procedures are published by the IOC for each edition of the Olympic Games and may differ from the procedures applied at IHF events.



## **Article 2**

### **2. Competition System**

#### **2.1. Dates**

The date of the Olympic Games is fixed by the IOC and will be included in the IHF World Calendar as soon as the date is known.

#### **2.2. Match Scheme**

### 2.2.1. Preliminary Round

Two (2) preliminary round groups (Groups A and B) with six (6) teams each – 30 matches:

A	B
A1	B1
A2	B2
A3	B3
A4	B4
A5	B5
A6	B6

Day 1	1 – 4	2 – 6	3 – 5
Day 2	4 – 2	5 – 1	6 – 3
Day 3	1 – 6	2 – 3	4 – 5
Day 4	2 – 5	3 – 1	6 – 4
Day 5	5 – 6	3 – 4	1 – 2

The four (4) best placed teams in each group will advance to the quarter-finals. The teams ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in each preliminary round group will be ranked in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> places; the teams ranked 6<sup>th</sup> will be ranked in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> places (see V.2.3.3).

After the preliminary round, the competition follows a straight knockout format, with quarter-finals, semi-finals, a bronze medal match and a gold medal match.

### 2.2.2. Quarter-Finals

Four (4) matches:

QF1	1A – 4B
QF2	3B – 2A
QF3	3A – 2B
QF4	1B – 4A

The winners of the quarter-finals advance to the semi-finals. The losers will be ranked 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> (see V.2.3.4).

### 2.2.3. Semi-Finals

Two (2) matches:

SF1	WQF1 – WQF3
SF2	WQF2 – WQF4

The winners advance to the final; the losers compete for places 3/4.

### 2.2.4. Finals

Two (2) matches:

Gold Medal Match	WSF1 – WSF2
Bronze Medal Match	LSF1 – LSF2

## 2.3. Match Evaluation and Determination of Places

### 2.3.1. Preliminary Round

The preliminary round is played in groups. The matches shall be evaluated as follows:

- each match won = 2 points
- each match drawn = 1 point for each team
- each match lost = no points

Teams are ranked according to the total number of points gained.

If two (2) or more teams have gained the same number of points after the group matches have been completed, their ranking is based on the following:

- results in points between the teams concerned
- goal differences in the matches between the teams concerned
- greater number of goals scored in the matches between the teams concerned.

If the teams are still equal, a decision is made between those teams with equal number of points as follows:

- goal difference is subtracted in all matches
- greater number of goals scored in all matches.

If a ranking is still not possible, a drawing of lots shall decide. The IHF representative on site shall execute the drawing of lots, if possible in the presence of the responsible team officials. If the responsible team official cannot be present, another representative to be selected by the IHF shall take part.

### **2.3.2. Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals and Finals**

After completion of the preliminary round, the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals shall be played in a knock-out system.

Overtime is played following a 5-minute break, if a match is tied at the end of the regular playing time and a winner has to be determined. The overtime period consists of two (2) halves of five (5) minutes, with a 1-minute half-time break.

If the game is again tied after a first overtime period, a second period is played after a 5-minute break. This overtime period also consists of two (2) halves of five (5) minutes, with a 1-minute half-time break.

Should the match still not be decided after the second overtime period, with the winner is determined through a 7 m shoot-out in accordance with rule 2:2 of the Rules of the Game.

### **2.3.3. Teams Ranked 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**

The teams ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in each preliminary round group will be ranked in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> places respectively; the teams ranked 6<sup>th</sup> will be ranked in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> places respectively. Determination of these places is done by calculation according to the following evaluation criteria:

- a) Number of points gained.
- b) In case of equal number of points, the goal difference in the preliminary round shall decide.
- c) In case of equal number of points and the same goal difference, the greater number of goals scored in the preliminary round shall decide.
- d) If ranking is not possible according to items a)-c), the decision shall be made by drawing lots.

### **2.3.4. Teams Ranked 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>**

The losers of the quarter-finals will be ranked 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> respectively. This ranking is done by calculation according to the following evaluation criteria:

- a) The ranking will be done according to the places of the preliminary round. If two or more teams were ranked on the same place in the preliminary round, the number of points gained in the preliminary round will decide.
- b) In case of equal number of points, the goal difference in the preliminary round shall decide.
- c) In case of equal number of points and the same goal difference, the greater number of goals



scored in the preliminary round shall decide.

- d) If ranking is not possible according to items a)-c), the decision shall be made by drawing lots.

## 2.4. Match Schedule

### 2.4.1. Establishing Principles

The men's and women's tournaments shall be played alternately, every second day, i.e. with one day in-between each tournament's match day.

Every team shall have a break of at least 20 hours between the throw-off times of one match and another.

On request of media, TV or other international bodies, the IHF COC may decide on an alternative schedule, following the above-mentioned principles.

The throw-off times shall be fixed by the IHF in conjunction with the organiser and the Olympic Broadcasting Service.

### 2.4.2. Day-by-Day Schedule

The following day-by-day schedule serves as a general guideline. In any case, the schedule shall respect the principles above-mentioned.

Day 0	Arrival all teams	
Day 1	PR day 1 Gender A	6 matches
Day 2	Rest day Gender A	PR day 1 Gender B 6 matches
Day 3	PR day 2 Gender A	Rest day Gender B 6 matches
Day 4	Rest day Gender A	PR day 2 Gender B 6 matches
Day 5	PR day 3 Gender A	Rest day Gender B 6 matches
Day 6	Rest day Gender A	PR day 3 Gender B 6 matches
Day 7	PR day 4 Gender A	Rest day Gender B 6 matches
Day 8	Rest day Gender A	PR day 4 Gender B 6 matches
Day 9	PR day 5 Gender A	Rest day Gender B 6 matches
Day 10	Rest day Gender A	PR day 5 Gender B 6 matches
Day 11	Quarter-finals Gender A	Rest day Gender B 4 matches
Day 12	Rest day Gender A	Quarter-finals Gender B 4 matches
Day 13	Semi-finals Gender A	Rest day Gender B 2 matches
Day 14	Rest day Gender A	Semi-finals Gender B 2 matches
Day 15	Finals Gender A	Rest day Gender B 2 matches

Day 16	Finals Gender B	2 matches
Day 17	Departure	



## Article 3

### 3. Media Regulations

During the Olympic Games, media operations run in a similar way compared to IHF events with only a few differences. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) media regulations or those of the organiser charged by the IOC shall apply at Olympic Handball Tournaments and shall always take precedence over the regulations of the IHF.



## Article 4

### 4. Closing Comment

Should any problems arise at Olympic Handball Tournaments that are not covered by the present Regulations, the Competition Management shall decide. The regulations valid for other IHF senior events shall be considered as guidelines.

## VI. Club World Championships

The IHF Club World Championship is an invitational world championship for men's and women's club teams.



### Article 1

#### 1. Qualifications and Entries

##### 1.1. Participants

##### 1.1.1. Number of Participants

The number of participants at IHF Club World Championships shall be at least eight (8) teams. Each Continental Confederation, a club representing the host nation(s) as well the title holder if applicable are eligible to participate. Depending on agreements made with the host, the number of participating teams may be increased. The modifications on the competition format and matches induced by this increase shall be decided by the IHF Council and teams shall be informed accordingly.

##### 1.1.2. Distribution of Places

Organiser	1
Reigning champion The reigning champion automatically qualifies for the next IHF Club World Championship.	1
Compulsory places	6
- Africa	- 1
- Asia	- 1
- Europe	- 1
- North America and the Caribbean	- 1
- South and Central America	- 1
- Oceania	- 1

##### 1.2. Qualification

##### 1.2.1. Continental Qualifications

The IHF owns the rights to Club World Championship qualifications. For the places awarded to the Continental Confederations, as laid down in the IHF Statutes, qualifying shall be through the Continental Confederations (with the exception of the organiser and the reigning champion) according to clearly

regulated performance criteria and other necessary regulations defined by the IHF.

Upon completion of the qualification events, the Continental Confederations are obliged to inform the IHF Head Office within one (1) week about the ranking, the teams qualified and the substitute nations. The IHF will then contact the clubs concerned directly.

### **1.2.2. Dates**

As a matter of principle, continental qualifying rounds for IHF Club World Championships must be completed no later than three (3) months before the start of the event.

### **1.2.3. Confirmation of Participation for Teams**

All qualified clubs have to confirm their participation in the IHF Club World Championship. Further, the participating clubs shall confirm that the players of their team enjoy good health so that they are physically fit to compete in the IHF Club World Championship. For that purpose, the players to compete in the IHF Club World Championship shall undergo a medical examination in advance in order to receive a certificate of health.

The confirmation of participation and health status of the players shall be submitted through the Player Management Platform.

### **1.2.4. Non-Appearance**

If the team that has qualified for the IHF Club World Championship does not take part, the first substitute club of the Continental Confederation in question shall take the place. If the first substitute club does not take part, the IHF Executive Committee will decide.

## **1.3. Draw**

### **1.3.1. Performance Rows**

The IHF COC, with the support of the IHF Head Office, will prepare the performance rows and the draw procedure depending on the number of participating teams and the match scheme, taking into consideration the preceding IHF Club World Championship and general performance criteria.

### **1.3.2. Organisation**

Technical and organisational details about the draw event are laid down in the IHF Bid and Event Manual.



## Article 2

### 2. Players' Eligibility

The IHF Player Eligibility Code shall apply. All players competing in IHF Club World Championships shall meet the following provisions:

- a) The players have to be registered as amateur or professional players with the participating club's National Federation and be registered by this participating club on the provisional list (in compliance with the details required for such registration). The participating clubs must submit the provisional list consisting of 32 players one (1) month before the start of the IHF Club World Championship (the deadline for submitting the provisional list as stated in I.3.2.5 is not applicable here).
- b) If registered as professional players, a written employment contract, binding the professional players to their club, must exist.
- c) Each participating club's National Federation shall confirm to the IHF that all players registered on the provisional team list of the participating club concerned are eligible to play in the respective country and that all provisions for an orderly transfer of the players concerned have been fulfilled. The participating clubs shall submit the named confirmation together with the provisional team list before the deadline for submitting the provisional list mentioned in 2.a) above.
- d) Each participating club has the right to nominate up to three (3) additional players to the provisional list until three (3) calendar days prior to the deadline for submitting the definitive list, which is one (1) hour before the technical meeting. No change will be allowed after this deadline.
- e) For any players added to the provisional list according to 2.d), the following conditions must be met:
  1. The players must be eligible to compete for the participating club, which must be confirmed by the corresponding National Federation.
  2. In case of transferred players, the transfer process shall be finalised and confirmed by all the parties involved, the International Transfer Certificate shall have been issued by the IHF confirming the transfer within the timeframe defined in 2.d). In case of national transfers, the National Federation's confirmation of the transfer is required.

Any player transferred to one of the participating clubs within the timeframe defined in 2.d) can only be transferred again one (1) month after the last day of competition of the IHF Club World Championship.

The minimum age for players competing in IHF Club World Championships shall be 16; the maximum age shall be 35 years. Each club is entitled to nominate players who exceed this age limit in case their quality and level of performance are proven, (e.g. through participation in major top handball leagues, the EHF Champions League, or national team events such as continental or international championships). The evaluation of each provisional list will be done by the IHF Commission of Coaching and Methods.



## Article 3

### 3. Competition System

#### 3.1. Dates

The IHF COC shall fix the exact dates of the competition in accordance with the organiser. As a general rule, the event shall take place in the first phase of the season (October – December).

The IHF Executive Committee shall finalise and confirm the dates of the tournament before the corresponding announcement is drawn up.

#### 3.2. Match Scheme

Depending on the number of participating teams, group matches or a knock-out round are possible. The IHF Executive Committee shall decide about the format and teams will be informed accordingly in the official announcement.

#### 3.3. Match Evaluation and Determination of Places

The general principles of these regulations shall apply. The detailed match evaluation will be published with the official announcement and special regulations will be considered.

#### 3.4. Match Schedule

Every team shall have a break of at least 20 hours between the throw-off times of one match and another.

The throw-off times shall be fixed by the IHF in conjunction with the organiser and the TV rights holder. The IHF is the final decision-making body and reserves the right to change the throw-off times at any time if need be.



## Article 4

### 4. Protocol, Awards and Ceremonies

#### 4.1. Opening and Closing Ceremonies

At IHF Club World Championships, an opening and a closing ceremony shall take place. The teams participating in the following or preceding matches are not obliged to participate in those ceremonies.

However, the organisation of those ceremonies may result in the modification of the pre-match or post-match procedures. If this should be the case, teams will be informed accordingly in the official announcement or the IHF INFO. The IHF shall confirm the concept for the opening and closing ceremonies.

## **4.2. Pre-Match and Post-Match Procedure**

### **4.2.1. Pre-Match and Post-Match Procedure**

Pre and post-match procedures shall respect the principles laid down in I.3.4. The organisers may modify these procedures as long as they still comply with those basic principles. Teams will be informed accordingly in the official announcement or the IHF INFO.

### **4.2.2. Player of the Match**

The IHF has the right to award the most valuable player in every IHF Club World Championship match who shall receive the Player of the Match award. The IHF CCM (or its representatives) shall decide about the awarding of the player.

## **4.3. Medals and Trophies**

### **4.3.1. Teams Ranked 1-3**

Medals shall be awarded to the three (3) top teams as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place and World Champion (gold)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place (silver)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place (bronze)

On the podium, a total of 24 persons are allowed (players who have participated in the tournament and team officials A-F).

All other players and officials of the teams ranked 1-3 shall also receive the corresponding medals up to a maximum number of 30 medals.

One (1) set of medals shall be preserved in the IHF Head Office archives.

### **4.3.2. Souvenir Medals**

All other teams shall receive a souvenir medal.

### **4.3.3. Trophy**

A trophy provided by the organiser will be awarded to the IHF Club World Champion.

### **4.4. Prize Money**

The teams ranked first to third will receive prize money. Details hereto are specified in the corresponding official announcement.

### **4.5. End of Competition Awarding**

No other awards than the undermentioned shall be presented at IHF Club World Championships.

#### **4.5.1. All-Star Team**

The IHF All-star Team will be selected by the IHF CCM experts attending the IHF Club World Championship and will be announced after the final.

#### **4.5.2. Top Scorer**

The player who has scored most goals during the entire tournament shall receive the IHF Top Scorer award. If two or more players have scored the same number of goals, the number of assists will be taken into account.

#### **4.5.3. Most Valuable Player**

The best player of the tournament shall receive the MVP award. The MVP will be selected by the IHF CCM experts attending the IHF Club World Championship.



## **Article 5**

### **5. Team Logistics and Services**

All officially registered delegation members shall be treated equally and have the same rights (see I.7.4), including, but not limited to the undermentioned. All details regarding team logistics and services will be communicated with the official invitation to participate. The guidelines given in these regulations are basic provisions, and the details in the invitation or announcement are valid.

#### **5.1. Accommodation**

All teams are accommodated at IHF-approved hotels of international level and according to IHF requirements.



### **5.1.1. Rooms**

As a general rule and in accordance with article I.7.4.1, nine (9) double and six (6) single rooms shall be provided per team (24 persons; 18 players and 6 officials).

### **5.1.2. Meeting Rooms**

At the team hotel, all teams have the right to use a meeting room equipped with screen, projector and flip chart. A timetable is set up by the organiser in order to book the meeting room for the times preferred. The teams are entitled to use this meeting room free of charge provided they respect the timetable.

As a general guideline each team shall have one hour per day, with the schedule set up according to the match schedule. Additional time can be requested and coordinated through the team guide.

### **5.1.3. Catering Area**

Each team shall have a dedicated catering area in their hotel, where meals are served in a buffet format.

## **5.2. Meals and Beverages**

Teams have the right to three (3) meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. On match days, the teams are also entitled to have a light meal (pasta, rice or equivalent, meat, vegetables, yoghurts, and fruits).

Further, teams shall be provided a snack in their changing rooms for the matches, composed of fruits.

One (1) soft drink for lunch and dinner is free; water shall be available free of charge 24 hours a day.

## **5.3. Transportation**

### **5.3.1. International**

International transportation guidelines will be announced with the invitation to participate.

### **5.3.2. Local**

A heated/air-conditioned bus for local transportation for competition purposes shall be available for each team from the day of arrival until the day of departure.

## **5.4. Medical Care**

At each venue, a comprehensive medical service (including 24-hour emergency) shall be available for

every accredited participant.

## **5.5. Accreditation**

### **5.5.1. Categories and Access**

All delegation members shall have access to the field of play, the spectators' area and the media centre.

### **5.5.2. Executive Team Representative**

The head of delegation and one (1) additional member (to be defined by the club in advance) will receive further benefits (e.g. access to VIP zones, invitations to official receptions, etc.).

## **5.6. Tickets**

Each team has the right to buy IHF Club World Championship tickets. The amount of tickets available per team and the terms and conditions will be published in the official announcement.

## **5.7. Visas**

All teams have the right to be guaranteed trouble free entry into the hosting country. Visa assistance shall be provided by the organiser.



# **Article 6**

## **6. Media Operations**

The general principles of these regulations shall apply. The detailed media operations will be published with the official announcement.



# **Article 7**

## **7. Financial Provisions**

The following costs shall be borne by the organiser. Additional financial information will be announced in the official invitation to participate.

### **7.1. Travel Expenses**

The organiser will cover the travel expenses for the participating teams (for 21 persons in economy class) provided the participating teams follow the instructions and submit the required information within

the deadlines indicated in the official announcement. In case of non-compliance with the instructions or with meeting the deadlines, travel expenses might have to be charged to the corresponding team.

## **7.2. Board and Lodging**

Accommodation expenses for 21 persons per delegation are paid by the organiser. The costs for additional participants, however, have to be borne by the participating teams.

## **7.3. Visa Costs of the Delegations**

Possible visa costs of the delegations are borne by the organiser provided the participating teams submit the required documents within the deadline indicated in the official announcement to the organiser. If the deadline is not met, the claim of receiving the visa free of charge might expire.



# **Article 8**

## **8. Closing Comment**

Should any problems arise at IHF Club World Championships that are not covered by the present Regulations, the Competition Management shall decide.

## VII. Equipment Regulations



### Article 1

#### 1. General Provisions

##### 1.1. Scope of Application

The IHF Equipment Regulations apply to all matches organised under the auspices of the International Handball Federation (IHF), governing the authorisation of uniforms and accessories used by players and officials of the teams representing the Member Federations or clubs and clothing worn by referees. Also, sponsor advertising is subject to the present Equipment Regulations.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the uniform requirements may differ between the categories of IHF competitions.

The Member Federations and clubs shall be held liable for the correct implementation of the present Equipment Regulations by its players, coaches and officials.

The outlined provisions and corresponding illustrations also present guidelines for Member Federations, clubs and manufacturers in identifying and applying the different elements on sports equipment for IHF competitions.

A global and consistent equipment policy will serve for the benefit of all parties involved.

The Regulations on Protective Equipment & Accessories shall also be observed.

##### 1.2. Regulations Applicable for Olympic Games

Clothing and equipment used by athletes and other participants in the competition at the Olympic Games must comply with the documents listed below:

- IHF Rules of the Game, with particular reference to rules 4:7-4:9 (Equipment)
- IHF Statutes and Regulations, with particular reference to the IHF Equipment Regulations, where the approval procedure for players' clothing is laid down, which must be followed.
- IOC Olympic Charter: Rule 50 (Advertising, Demonstrations, Propaganda) and the Bye-law to Rule 50
- IOC Guidelines Regarding Authorised Identifications for the corresponding Olympic Games



# Article 2

## 2. Players' Uniforms

### 2.1. Basic Provisions

In general, handball uniforms shall be sportswear consisting of short-sleeve shirts or goalkeeper shirts, shorts or goalkeeper pants/shorts, socks, and shoes.

All court players of one handball team must wear identical uniforms, with the exception of the shoes.

All clothing worn by players shall be sportswear appropriate for practising the sport of handball.

Wearable technologies (integrated, for example, in vests, chest harnesses, etc.) provided by the IHF tracking partner shall be worn underneath the shirt by each player for tracking purposes if requested.

Further details regarding protective equipment and accessories are laid down in the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories.

### 2.2. Colours

#### 2.2.1. Principles

One colour should very clearly cover the majority of the shirt. The use of fluorescent colours is not permitted.

All players of one team who are used as goalkeeper must wear uniforms of the same colour. This also applies to court players who temporarily act as goalkeeper. The colour must distinguish them from the court players of both teams and the goalkeeper(s) of the opposing team.

#### 2.2.2. Number of Sets

At all IHF senior events and the Olympic Games, each team must possess three (3) differently coloured sets of players' uniforms:

- a) one set of light-coloured shirts and one set of light-coloured shorts
- b) one set of dark-coloured shirts and one set of dark-coloured shorts
- c) one set of alternatively coloured shirts
- d) three differently coloured shirts for the goalkeeper
- e) shirts for court players acting as goalkeeper in the three colours.

At Younger Age Categories events, each team must possess two (2) differently coloured sets of players' uniforms:

- a) one set of light-coloured shirts and one set of light-coloured shorts
- b) one set of dark-coloured shirts and one set of dark-coloured shorts
- c) three differently coloured shirts for the goalkeeper
- d) shirts for court players acting as goalkeeper in the two colours.

The uniform sets (defined as 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> set in order of preference if applicable) of the teams shall appear on the team list.

### **2.2.3. Implementing Rules**

In each match, one team shall wear light-coloured shirts and the other team dark-coloured shirts. The combinations of colours and design for the two teams must be clearly distinguishable from each other.

At the initial technical meeting of the IHF competition, each delegation is obliged to present the two or three differently coloured sets of uniforms.

At the initial technical meeting at the latest if not otherwise agreed, the colours have to be determined for the preliminary round only in case of World Championships, Olympic Games and Club World Championships, and for the whole tournament in case of Olympic Qualification Tournaments. The decision of colours in each match will be taken with participation of the team representatives and the IHF delegates. In case of disagreement regarding the colours, the team named first on the match report has the right to choose the colour.

The colours of players' uniforms for the matches following the preliminary round in the respective events shall be determined by the Competition Management.

## **2.3. Players' Numbers**

Players must wear clearly legible numbers, the figures must have a height of at least 20 cm on the back and 10 cm on the chest. The numbers shall be in a colour which is clearly distinguishable from the main colour of the shirt. Numbers between 1 and 99 shall be used. Numbers 1 to 9 shall be printed as single-digit numbers without a leading zero (i.e. 01, 02, etc. are not allowed).



'Temporary' goalkeepers must either wear a goalkeeper shirt with the number that they normally have as court player, or they must put on a shirt which is identical with the team's goalkeeper shirt and that has holes covered with transparent material that allow a view of the number on the front and back of the regular shirt.



During the entire IHF competition, each player must wear the same number, regardless of his/her position (goalkeeper or court player).

## 2.4. Players' Names

At all IHF events and Olympic Games, the player's surname or popular name, that is identical to the name indicated in the team list, must be displayed in clearly legible capital letters of a minimum height of 7 cm above the player's number on the back of the shirt. The names must be written in Roman letters. The teams are responsible for the application of the names.





## 2.5. Identification of Federation (Emblem, National Flag or Name of the Country)

Federations shall display the federation's emblem or the national flag at chest level on the front of the shirt. Federations are entitled to place the name of the country (in Latin letters in their national language or in English) on the back of the shirt below the player's number in the event that the federations are not using their right of placing advertising in this area.



## 2.6. Stars to Represent World Championship Titles Won

A five-pointed star shall be placed on the front of the shirt, if possible, above the federation's emblem, to show that their country has won a World Championship title in the respective category. Each star placed on the shirt shall represent one World Championship title won.



Example:



## 2.7. Approval Procedure

The players' uniforms shall be presented to the IHF in good time for examination. The teams participating in IHF events and the Olympic Games must upload photos of each complete uniform set they want to use in a certain competition to the Player Management Platform within the given deadline.

The examination of the uniforms will be carried out by the IHF Head Office. The nations are obliged to bring with them only such approved uniforms for the tournament concerned. The uniforms shall be definitely approved at the technical meeting held prior to the competition.

The teams are obliged to wear the uniforms approved for the match in question. Before the start of the match, the IHF Official and the IHF Technical Delegates shall make sure that the teams wear the uniforms approved for the match in question.

Players who wear sportswear which does not conform to the regulations shall not be permitted to play.

## 2.8. Change of Players' Uniform

If the IHF Official considers the two teams' uniforms to possibly cause confusion, the team named second in the match schedule must change its uniforms in order to ensure good contrast. Further, uniforms might also prove unsuitable for TV broadcast. Therefore, both teams shall bring all their sets to each match.

In all other cases, the Competition Management or the Official on site shall decide on the change of players' uniform.

## **2.9. Players' Clothing during Official Presentation on the Field of Play**

During the official presentation prior to the matches, uniform clothing must be consistently worn by all players of a team (all players wearing tracksuits or all players in players' uniforms or a combined solution is possible).



# **Article 3**

## **3. Team Officials' Clothing**

Team officials entered in the match report and thus allowed to be in the substitution area must wear identical sportswear or civilian clothing which distinguishes them from the players' uniforms of the opposing team. Colours which may cause confusion with the court players of the opposing team are not allowed (see Substitution Area Regulations 3).



# **Article 4**

## **4. Officials' Clothing**

### **4.1. Referees**

The referees must wear shirts whose colour clearly differs from the colours of the players' and goalkeepers' shirts. The colour of the referee shirts to be used in the match shall be fixed in the technical meeting or in the context of the choice of uniform colours.

For undergarments and head coverings, if used, the same provisions as for players shall apply. Please refer to the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories for further details.

### **4.2. Match Management**

IHF Officials and Delegates appointed to a match at IHF competitions must wear identical clothing.

### **4.3. Advertising on Officials' Clothing**

Advertising is permitted on sportswear and tracksuits used by IHF Referees, Officials and Technical Delegates at the competition venues. The type of advertising must be in compliance with the IHF Regulations on Advertising on Sportswear.

Advertising on referees' clothing and IHF officials' clothing is reserved for the IHF (with no financial participation by the Member Federations). An individual advertiser may not request the exclusive right to place advertising in a specific field.