



**International
Handball
Federation**

Selection of Technical Officials and Referees (Beach Handball)



Introduction

The International Handball Federation (IHF) aims to appoint the most competent, experienced and well-prepared beach handball referees and technical delegates for its beach handball competitions.

The nomination process combines objective performance evaluation, long-term development through structured education and continuous monitoring, as well as geographical and gender representation to ensure the highest officiating standards while supporting the sustainable global development of beach handball.

Beach handball is a dynamic discipline with specific technical, tactical and regulatory characteristics.

Therefore, officials are expected not only to demonstrate an excellent knowledge of the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball but also to consistently apply them with confidence, accuracy, teamwork and game awareness in a fast-paced environment.

The responsibility for the education, assessment and nomination of beach handball referees and technical delegates lies with the Officiating Department of the IHF Beach Handball Working Group (BHWG) which carries out these activities in accordance with the applicable IHF Regulations.

Through transparent selection procedures, structured education programmes, continuous performance monitoring and targeted development initiatives, the IHF aims to ensure that every nomination reflects excellence, integrity, consistency and professionalism.

Particular emphasis is placed on creating sustainable development pathways for talented young referees, increasing the representation of female referee couples and technical officials, and promoting equal opportunities within the international officiating community. By combining education, mentoring, performance management and strategic planning, the IHF seeks to build a diverse, highly qualified, and future-oriented community of international officials capable of meeting the demands of the highest level of beach handball and contributing to the global growth and recognition of the sport.

1. Preconditions to Become an IHF Beach Handball Referee or Technical Delegate

Referees

- A referee couple must hold continental beach handball referee status, recognised by their respective Continental Confederation.
- In general, a minimum of two years' experience at the continental level is required.
- The referees must be under the age of 40 at the time of their first nomination for an IHF beach handball competition.
- Candidates must have demonstrated their potential through successful participation and performance in continental beach handball competitions, IHF Beach Handball Global Tour events or IHF Beach Handball Youth World Championships.
- Referees must show consistent performance, good understanding of the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball, physical fitness, and the ability to manage matches at international level.

Technical Delegates

- Technical delegates must hold continental status and be actively involved in beach handball in their own country.
- A fast-track procedure may be applied for former IHF beach handball referees when their experience and qualifications justify an accelerated process.

2. Pathway to Becoming an IHF Beach Handball Referee

The IHF has a comprehensive beach handball referee pathway aimed at creating identification, education, and progression of referees worldwide.

The process is not defined by rigid regulations. Instead, it is based on best practices developed through the evolution of beach handball, the experience gained at international level as well as consistent, highly positive feedback.

The system establishes a transparent and merit-based pathway from national refereeing to international appointments, guaranteeing equal opportunities for talented referee couples from all continents while maintaining the highest standards of fairness, consistency and excellence.

It is based on a long-term approach combining education, practical experience, performance evaluation and continuous support.

Through this strategic initiative, the IHF seeks to further enhance the quality, professionalism, and global standards of beach handball officiating by creating a sustainable pipeline of highly qualified international referees capable of meeting the demands of future World Championships and multi-sport events.

The pathway consists of the following three levels:

- Level 1 – Emerging Beach Handball Referees
- Level 2 – IHF Developing Beach Handball Referees
- Level 3 – IHF Elite Beach Handball Referees

Level 1 – Emerging Beach Handball Referees

IHF Member Federations are invited to nominate promising referee couples who meet clearly defined selection criteria, including technical competence, physical fitness, thorough knowledge of the IHF Rules of the Game for Beach Handball, effective communication skills, teamwork, and consistently positive performance assessments at national level.

Selected referees, under the guidance of the BHWG Officiating Department, participate in educational seminars, online learning activities, video analysis sessions and practical mentoring opportunities during development competitions.

The Continental Confederations play a key role in the selection process and are actively involved in the development programme.

Level 2 – IHF Developing Beach Handball Referees

The pathway focuses on identifying and developing young and talented continental referees who demonstrate a good understanding of the game, strong decision-making abilities, physical fitness, and commitment to continuous improvement with the potential to progress to the international level.

In cooperation with Continental Confederations and IHF experts, the IHF implements a structured mentoring system where experienced international beach handball referees and experts support the development of younger referee couples.

The goal is to create a new generation of referees with a common officiating philosophy and a consistent interpretation of the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball.

Through individual guidance, referees receive specific feedback regarding their decision-making, application of the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball, positioning, cooperation, communication and match management.

The mentoring process includes video analysis, post-match discussions, performance reviews, and the creation of individual development plans.

This approach allows referees to understand their strengths, identify areas for improvement, and prepare effectively for higher-level international appointments.

Level 3 – IHF Elite Beach Handball Referees

This programme is designed for referees who already have experience and demonstrate the potential to progress within the international pathway.

The main focus is on improving consistency, advanced rule interpretation, and the ability to manage complex match situations.

Particular attention is given to communication skills, player management, teamwork between referees, and the ability to maintain control during high-pressure situations.

The programme includes advanced video analysis sessions, critical situation reviews, decision-making exercises, development of leadership skills, written tests and feedback meetings with IHF beach handball experts.

Elite beach handball referees are continuously monitored through observer reports, technical evaluations, fitness assessments and knowledge tests.

The goal is to prepare the referees for major competitions, including IHF Beach Handball World Championships and other multi-sports and elite events.

In addition, elite beach handball referees are encouraged to contribute to the development of younger officials by acting as role models, educators and mentors within the international refereeing community.

3. Development Projects

Development Programme for Female Beach Handball Referee Couples

The IHF places strong emphasis on increasing the participation and development of female referees in beach handball through a dedicated development programme.

The objective is to create a clear pathway for the recruitment, education and promotion of female referee couples at international level.

Participants receive specialised education, continuous mentoring and opportunities to gain international experience through development competitions and selected IHF events.

Their progress is monitored through performance evaluations, technical feedback and individual development plans.

The programme aims to establish a stronger presence of female referee couples capable of officiating at the highest level of international beach handball competitions.

To date, this programme has led to female referee couples officiating men's finals at IHF Beach Handball World Championships and The World Games.

Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation System

IHF referee development is supported by a structured monitoring and evaluation system.

Referee performance is assessed through match observations, video analysis, written examinations, physical evaluations and feedback from IHF experts and delegates.

Each referee couple receives clear recommendations for improvement and guidance throughout their development pathway.

Through this continuous process, the IHF ensures that referee development remains dynamic, objective

and aligned with the international growth of beach handball.

4. Preconditions for Nomination to an IHF Beach Handball Event

To be nominated to an IHF beach handball competition, referees must meet a number of objective performance requirements.

These requirements include:

- fulfilment of the IHF fitness requirements by achieving the required performance standards in the relevant fitness tests;
- fulfilment of the IHF rules knowledge requirements by achieving the required score in the relevant written rules tests;
- positive performance evaluations;
- demonstrated consistency over a longer period of time.

The referees' knowledge of the Rules of the Game for Beach Handball and physical fitness are verified before each major event.

5. Nomination Process for IHF Beach Handball World Championships

Administrative Process

The list of nominated referees and technical delegates is proposed by the BHWG Officiating Department and approved by the IHF Executive Committee.

Reserve officials are also nominated to ensure operational continuity in case replacements should become necessary.

Following approval, the referees, technical delegates and their respective National Federations and Continental Confederations receive official notifications, after which the nominations are published by the IHF.

Nomination Principles and Selection Criteria

The nomination process aims to achieve a balance between sporting excellence and long-term development of international refereeing.

The primary criterion remains the quality and consistency of performance.

Referee nominations are based on objective evaluations, taking into consideration the ability to deliver high-level performances under international competition conditions.

In addition, the following factors are considered:

- neutrality
- international experience
- age considerations (particularly in case of younger age category events)
- geographical representation
- gender representation

The IHF aims to ensure that all continents are appropriately represented among match officials while maintaining the highest possible officiating standards.

6. Monitoring and Performance Feedback

Throughout each beach handball competition, experts of the BHWG evaluate both referees and technical officials using qualitative and quantitative assessment criteria.

Following each event, a written evaluation report is prepared for each referee couple and technical

official, highlighting their strengths, areas for improvement and key priorities for future development.

These evaluations form an integral part of the nomination process for future IHF beach handball competitions and ensure that continuous development, performance monitoring and improvement remain an essential part of an official's international career pathway.