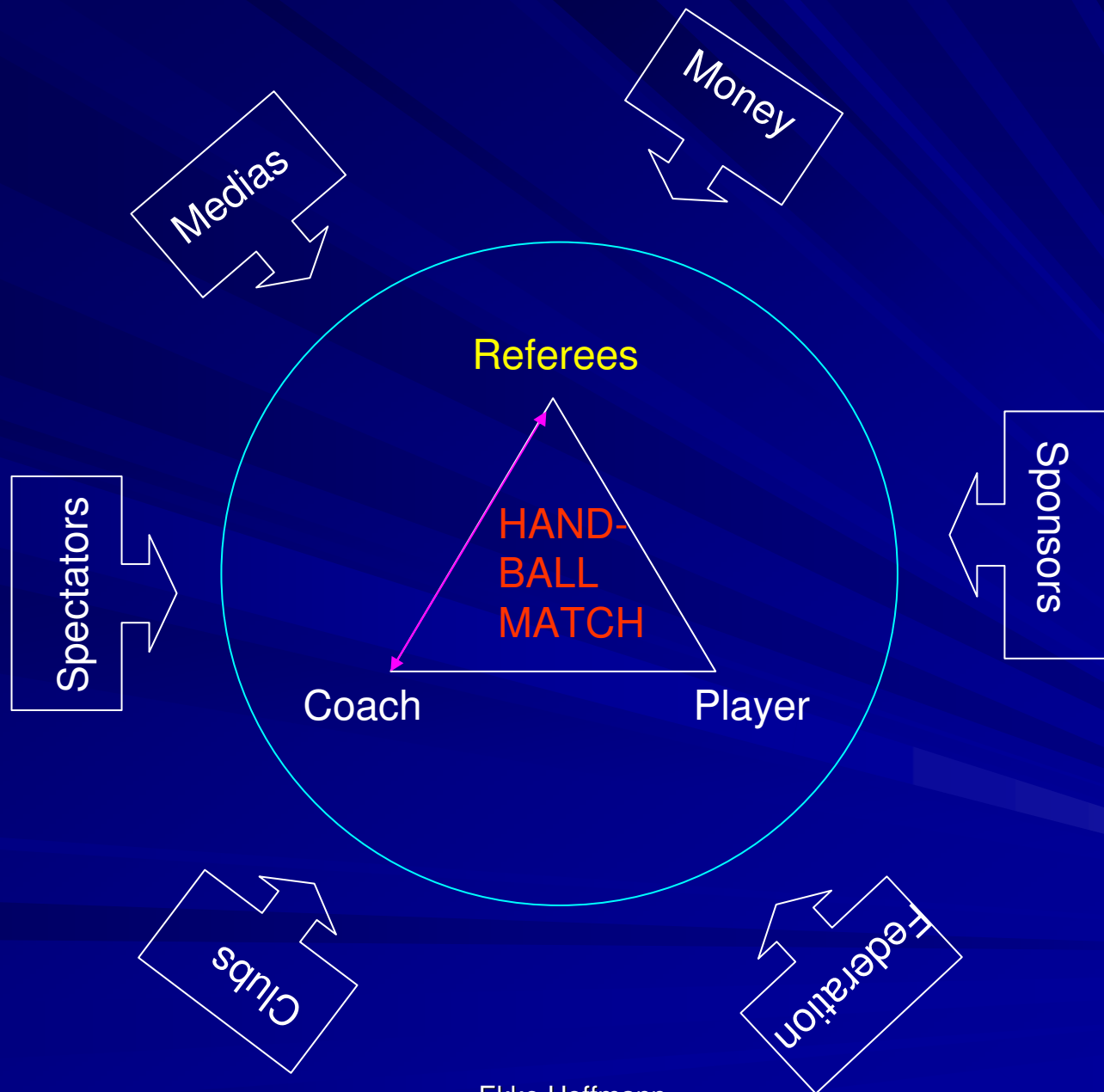


# Coaches → Referees

What do coaches expect from referees?



Ekke Hoffmann



# Referees ↔ Coaches

**Basic preconditions and condition for both:**

- **have respect for the other person**
- **knowledge of the rules**
- **knowledge of techniques and tactics**
- **cope with stress situation**
- **like the job you have to do, enjoy the match (positive minded)**

# Referees ↔ Coaches

## Different tasks and condition during the match:

- refereeing corresponding to the rules
- neutrality to players and coaches
- calmness
- self-confidence
- high level of concentration during the match
- good cooperation with the partner
- “have a line”

- observing and analysing the own team and the other team
- emotion and support for the own team (subjectivity)
- calmness and clear tactical decisions corresponding to the situation
- attempts to sway the referees' decisions (to make the most of the weakness of the referees)
- the way of acting (conduct) must always be a good example for players and spectators

**Apart from the already mentioned universal precondition and condition for referees and coaches there are specific condition which I expect from the referees :**

- Physical fitness**
- Communication**
- Have a line and hold the line**
- the ability “to read the game”**



# Physical Fitness

The last 5 years, Handball has become faster and faster ( faster passes and more attacks per match). The reasons are:

- the change of the rules (fast throw off)
- more flexibility in the defence systems (more offensive behaviour also in defensive defence system like 6:0; more individually aggressive and anticipating behaviour). The results are:
  - more fast breaks (counter attacks) and goals by fast throw off.
  - Improvement of the power handball (“high speed” handball):  
1st wave (counter attack); 2nd wave (enlarged counter attack); 3rd wave (tactical means of attack with high pressure and speed without any preparation like position play).

The consequences for the referees are:

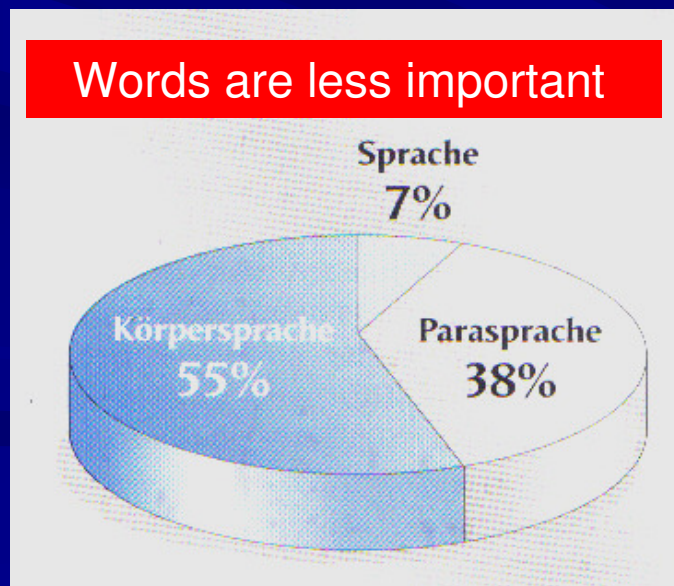
- more sprints per match, less breaks
- more often and quicker adjustments (defence/attack/defence/attack, but also individual tactical means/ group tactical means as well as different and fast passes or throws from different positions and different situations)

# Communication

Communicate means “to send and to receive information”, it doesn’t mean “discuss”.

We have 3 possibilities to communicate:

- by language (words),
- by body language (posture, figure, gestures, facial expression),
- by paralanguage (how you say something: volume, voice)



Ekke Hoffmann

Without Words...



Ekke Hoffmann



## Have a line and hold this line

„Right or wrong, it's my country“ (Churchill)

“Right or wrong, it's the referees line.” This is a disaster!

The advantage of referees' line is that the coach and the player have the possibility to adapt to this line. If there is no line the problems for the referees will increase from the beginning to the end. The reproach from both teams for having manipulated the match is often the result.

Most often situations referees have problems with a clear line are:

- steps
- progressive punishment
- offensive fault

## “Read the Game”

- Communication begins before the match, when the referees enter the hall (warming up, greet the officials of both teams “hand-shakes” and greet the delegates)
- carry out the administrative matters seriously but without exaggerating
- during the match don’t react hectically, but clearly.
- in difficult situations give clear signs or clear and short explanations to players, coaches or spectators, but don’t discuss.
- You know you are the most powerful part in the match, but don’t use your power if it is not really necessary (only if your authority is attacked or the match is disturbed intensively by coaches or players).
- You know that the coach has a high level of stress, that he feels his powerlessness and therefore don’t provoke him or even try to help him to reduce this bad feeling.
- Some time after the match try to get a **feedback** from the coaches. Listen to the arguments, put questions if these arguments are not exact and too general, but don’t excuse or discuss before you had time to think about it.

## “Read the Game”

„Rules are important, but Handball is more than rules and therefore it is not only important that each participant of a match knows the rules but he has also to know “what handball is!”.

A referee has not only to decide “right or wrong” after an action,  
he should be able

to anticipate the possible action before it happened.

He must be prepared on all possible eventualities in a special tactical situation then he can observe the details, wrong or right techniques and behaviour if they are corresponding to the rules or interpretations or not. Therefore he needs good knowledge about handball and not only about rules.



Hoffmann





Hoffmann



## **“Read the Game”**

**This argument concerns all situations in Handball which are decided - more or less - subjectively by referees:**

- 7m**
- progressive punishment**
- passive play**
- attacker fault (offensive fault)**

**These situations are often in conjunction with the change of tactics during the match.**

- For example from 6:0 defence to 3:2:1 defence**
- numerical superiority or inferiority in defence or offence**
- pressing of the playmaker or shooter with blocking, feinting and s. o.**

**The referees have to notice this change and they have to know what consequences this change may have for the match, for the behaviour of the players and the rules. Perhaps now they have to be focused on other details than before.**

Authority and confidence are  
damaged by nothing else more than  
by the feeling to be treated unjustly.

Theodor Storm (1817-88), German Poet