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**Recommended by
Lasse Boesen**

Street Handball - the game everybody can play

Street Handball is a completely new, fun and educational game that basically is similar to traditional handball – but not quite. The game has its own rules and is also inspired by other well-known ball games like basketball.

You don't need a gym, a sketched court or a special surface to play Street Handball. The game can be played inside as well as outside – in the schoolyard, in the garden, in the street or at the car park. – yes, everywhere actually. All you need is a sports bag with a ball, a fold-out goal and a set of lines placed following a template.

The special soft ball is very easy to control, and the game can therefore take place across age, level and gender with focus on communication, respect, equality and fair play. There is no referee in the game, so the players must manage the progress of the match by themselves. Everybody can play Street Handball since there are no requirements regarding technical skills, handball experience or body size.



All difficult elements from regular handball have been adjusted or removed:

- The softness and the size of the ball make it easy to catch and harmless to play with.
- The goal area is small and edged, so there are better angles to shoot from.
- No physical contact – tackles are not allowed.
- You play with one goal.
- Constant powerplay when in ball possession gives opportunity for attempts all the time.
- No permanent positions. Everybody can be a goalkeeper or a wing.
- All age groups and genders can play in the same match.
- Few and simple rules.

A very special ball

An important part of Street Handball is the special developed green ball. It is extremely soft, easy to compress, and therefore easy to control and comfortable to catch. The ball is made of an extremely hardwearing synthetic leather material on the outside and a special type of fibres on the inside. It is therefore suitable for playing on surfaces like asphalt and stony driveways. The ball is perfect for everybody for having fun and serves as a learning ball for children and youngsters. It comes in children size with a circumference of 42 cm and adult size of 47 cm. The producer is the Danish company SELECT SPORT, which is the world's best in that field, and who throughout many years has supplied balls to some of the world's best teams and not least for all World Championships and Olympic Games.



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A stylized, handwritten signature of Lasse Boesen in black ink.

Other equipment Besides the ball, the Street Handball set consists of a fold-out goal and a court template that both easily can fit into a sports bag. With the template, the court can quickly be drawn, marked or taped onto the ground.



SELECT
player's choice



Important

This is the basic set of rules but feel free to change them as well as the measurements for the goal area according to your purpose.

The people behind Street Handball

Street Handball has been developed by Ole Bruun Andersen, Torben Sørensen and Lasse Boesen, who all have a background in the world of handball. Together, they have developed the game in order to maintain handball in the schools and hoping to teach children and youngsters about the social values that lies in the sport. With Street Handball, children can play handball – even if they haven't got a gym at their disposal.

For further information go to www.streethandball.org. Here you can watch videos of play in action and learn more about the game.



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Description of Street Handball Organization

The history of Team Handball in short

Team handball was invented in Northern Europe in the late 19th century. But as far back as medieval France and amongst the Inuit's of Greenland records tell of handball-like games. However the rules and structures of the game were not established until Danish public school teacher Holger Nielsen drew up a set of rules in 1906. Nielsen – a gym teacher – used the rules in his Physical Education Classes. However Germany was the first nation to truly organize competitive Team Handball and the first international men's game between Germany and Belgium was played in Germany in 1925. Five years later the first female international game was played between Germany and Austria. In 1936 the game was introduced as a discipline at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. Back then the game was played outdoors, but in the following decades the game flourished as an indoor activity. At the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich the game remerged as team handball - now an indoor sport. Today the international Finals of team handball enjoy great popularity in Europe. But despite the popularity, handball is practically never played outside the organized frames of the handball clubs. This is presumably because team handball is dependant on a sports centre, a set of standardized goals, balls and the correct lines on the playing area. Renting a sports centre is a costly affair and often it is not even an option. To newcomers the rules often appear complicated and the physical nature of the game even intimidating. These aspects and many more have the undesirable side effect that it deters numerous potential players even from trying team handball and make the game appeal mainly to athletes. Street Handball Organisation was created to solve these challenges!

A new game with a mission

Street Handball Organization (SHO) is an autonomous non-political and financially independent organisation which is solely guided by a set of values.

The team behind SHO is Lasse Boesen of the Danish national team and the German Handball Bundesliga club SG Flensburg Handewitt and former elite trainers and players Ole B. Andersen and Torben Sorensen.

In 2008 the trio meet to develop a new team handball game with the right ingredients consisting of the framework, values and activities to spread the game of team handball and reaching out to the young people that normally would not be attracted to the game. To achieve this goal it is SHO's belief that the public schools play a key part. By introducing handball at an early age through the schools we hope to secure and develop the multiplicity of the game.

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Team handball has its origins in the public schools and in short we created Street Handball with the purpose of bringing team handball back as sport played in the public schools focusing on movement, playfulness and good experiences for all of the participants.

We feel that we can achieve this by outlining a clear set of approaches and values to the game and the activities. Street Handball should be a game where:

- **Everyone is welcome – where age, gender or even motor skills and previous experience are insignificant.**
- **Location is not an issue – The game can be played outdoors, indoors and on all surfaces ranging from grass to rough asphalt.**
- **Equipment is kept to a minimum – basically all you need to play is the special ball.**
- **No organization is needed – a game that can be played without a referee, coach or a specific amount of players.**



The Street Handball

It quickly became clear to SHO that the biggest challenge was to create a ball which allowed people to play together despite age or even gender. SHO wanted to develop a ball that you could "feel" in your hand. We wanted a ball that would fit children of very different motor skills. A goal we achieved after more than six months of development when we found the ball of our dreams. An assignment that was only solved through a successful cooperation with one of the best handball producers in the world SELECT. In the process their extensive knowledge in the field of creating and developing balls played a decisive role. Together we developed a ball where the content, a form of synthetic wool, keeps water and moist out and makes the ball soft and easy to squeeze. The special surface of the ball makes it easy to grip and control. All of these qualities make the green ball essential to all successful Street Handball activities.

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The rules and framework

Basic rules (appendix 1)

- Play fair
- No physical contact.
- No dribbling
- No more than 3 steps with the ball.
- Goalkeeper is an extra field player during attack.
- No referee. Each judgement is made through dialogue between the players.

The purpose of Street Handball

SHOs purpose is to promote play, movement and physical activity. Our focus is particularly on children and young people who are yet to discover the joy of an active life.

SHO acts from the idea of sport-for-all. The long-range goal is to be health promoting and give the participants tools to solve conflicts through Street Handball activities. These activities are designed to strengthen the individual's self-confidence and their social skills.

The core values of the game create a common ground for all activity where communication, solidarity, equality and fairplay are essential.

The Street-Environment and the Street-Culture is an important tool to catch the interest of children and young people. SHO wishes to operate nationally and internationally to create a global Street Handball Community.

Mission and vision

*Our **mission** is that Street Handball will be played in all schoolyards.*

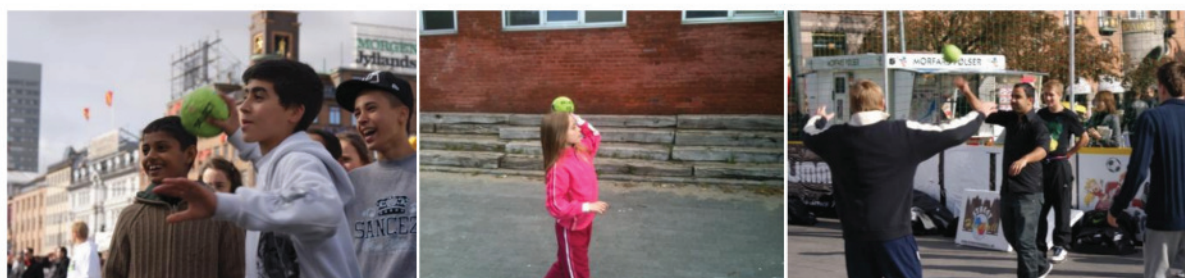
*Our **vision** is to integrate Street Handball as a part of the Physical Education classes in schools.*

Our objective

- Street Handball should aid in developing social responsibility from one participant to another. Street Handball is a game for everybody and focuses on play and the good experience rather than competition.
- Street Handball should be a visible part of the physical exercise of children both in the organized part of school and in everyday life.

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- Street Handball wishes to develop partnerships between unions, organisations, municipalities, foundations, businesses, schools, institutions, associations. By doing this we wish to promote joint ownership between all who are involved in the task of:
 - Motivating children and young people with different cultural and social backgrounds to an increased participation in physical exercise.
 - To increase the amount of children playing team handball in the public schools.
 - To have a positive impact on the lifestyle and habits of children concerning play, health, motor skills, creativity, responsibility and equality.



The triangle-strategy

Partnership and cooperation

When Street Handball Organization (SHO) is involved in concepts and projects we work on the basis of a strategy where we form partnerships with unions, interest groups, companies and foundations on the matter of developing and implementing Street Handball worldwide. We call this *the triangle strategy*.

The triangle-strategy and the philosophy behind the strategy is that three different units cooperate in the task of organising and financing Street Handball projects in the public schools. By doing this we aid in the recruitment of handball players to the organised part of handball represented by the clubs.

In the following the process is described.

- SHO forms partnerships with and aids in forming partnerships with: Federations, local municipalities, interest organisations, companies and foundations which have the means to finance, educate, administrate and manage projects.

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- A cooperation implies that the:

Public school, institution or day care has to oblige to the education of their teachers in the values of Street Handball. They are also obligated to implement projects and concepts in the physical education classes and in the breaks between classes.

- SHO will deliver:

Materials such as balls, goals and a login to a homepage where they can find inspiration and exchange experiences will be given to the teachers when they have completed their education in the values of Street Handball.

- The role of the clubs

Clubs, sports organisations and “street-environments” play an important role in managing the implementation in the schools and in creating initiatives which can bridge the gap between the youth in the unorganised environment and the youth in the organised world of sports.

The philosophy of the triangle-strategy is:

- To create common values of equality and commitment to the mission of SHO.
- To remove the dependency of one or a few individuals in the task to achieve the SHO mission and thereby creating sustainability for Street Handball on the longer run.
- To formalise the cooperation between all parties and thereby creating shared ownership.

Why should SHO be involved in creating partnerships?

- SHO is a non-political and financially independent organisation which is solely based on a value system and a mission to bring handball back as a game played in the public schools.
- SHO has the experience and a model for partnerships which is based on other norms and values than it is common in traditional handball as we focus on playfulness, social responsibility, well-being and creating a joy for exercise and playing handball.
- SHO has the manpower, the determination and the commitment to develop handball in the countries where the sport is facing fierce competition from other sports and poor playing conditions.

Concepts and projects

Street Handball Organization creates partnerships and cooperates on national and international level. The concepts and projects which are developed on a national level are tailored with regard to culture, traditions and possibilities of the specific country. The concepts on an international level revolve around the globalization of Street Handball and on breaking down the geographical borders of countries and develop a Street Handball Community based on Street Handball Organizations values and approaches.

The International Street Handball Community

The International Street Handball Community has been created so that the schools and clubs which offers and develops Street Handball areas away from the traditional handball framework. By doing this Street Handball Organization wishes to bring Street Handball and traditional team handball in general into new and different environments. This is done by arranging drop-by activities with a wide appeal and without demands of memberships or other obligations. The locations of Street Handball Areas can be found on www.streethandball.org as well as the dates of drop-by activities.



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How to play

- Street Handball is a team sport played by 4-8 players. But no more than four players can play on each team at the same time. A substitution can only be made when a team has possession of the ball.
- Street Handball is played to one goal.
- During an attack the goalkeeper from the offensive team plays as an extra field player causing the defence to be outnumbered.
- Before a goal scoring attempt can be made a member of the offensive team needs to bring the ball past a marker in the opposing end of the goal.

Movement with the ball

- A new attack can only begin when all offensive players are behind the middle line (10 meters from the goal).

Intercepting the ball

- A defensive player can only intercept the ball when it is in "free play". This means that no physical contact is allowed when trying to intercept the ball.

The penalty zone

- The first defensive player in the penalty zone is the goalkeeper for the rest of the attack.

Important:

This is the basic set of rules, but it is important to state that the players are free to change them according to their purpose.

Street Handball – the game everybody can play everywhere

Invented by Ole Bruun Andersen, Torben Sorensen and Lasse Boesen, Street Handball is the ultimate integrative game. Together they have developed the game in order to establish and maintain handball in the schools and hoping to teach children and youngsters about the social values lying in the team game.

Street Handball is a new fun and educational game that is very close to the traditional handball but is also inspired by other team games. With Street Handball everybody can play a team handball game – even if there is no gym at disposal. The game can be played everywhere; indoors as well as outdoors you just need minimal space and a starter kit consisting of some few specific items.

Everybody can play Street Handball across age, gender, level of skills or culture since the focus of the game is directed upon fair play, equality, respect and communication. There are absolutely no requirements defined in terms of handball skills, tactical knowledge, body size or any physical motor traits. Children are supposed to play with their parents or grandparents, boys and girls in mixed teams as well as adults together with youngsters of all gender since all elements of physical confrontation have been removed from the game as tackles are not allowed and physical contact has to be avoided. The extremely soft ball does not allow the dribble so everybody is forced to pass on the ball and collective play takes the command.

This can be achieved because of constant powerplay of the offense team and the fact that there are no positions fixed for any of the players. Basically there is no referee in the game like in Frisbee Ultimate and the players do have to manage the flow of the game. You can play the game just for love but if you want to score points and play friendly tournaments just refer to the basic rules in the following. Of course the position of a referee can be installed and it makes sense in specific situations.

The starter kit

This package comes in a medium size sport bag and consists of

2 balls – they come with a circumference of 44 cm of very soft non toxic material very adequate for kids to learn how to catch, throw and control a ball without dribble.

1 goal – the inflatable 2.40 x 1.60 goal will pop up within less than one minute and will take two minutes to fold away. The construction and the material of the goal eliminate any risk of injury of the players.

1 start line – a 4m rope to simplify the marking of the goal area and to mark the start line during the game.

1 package of sidewalk chalk – for marking the goal area.

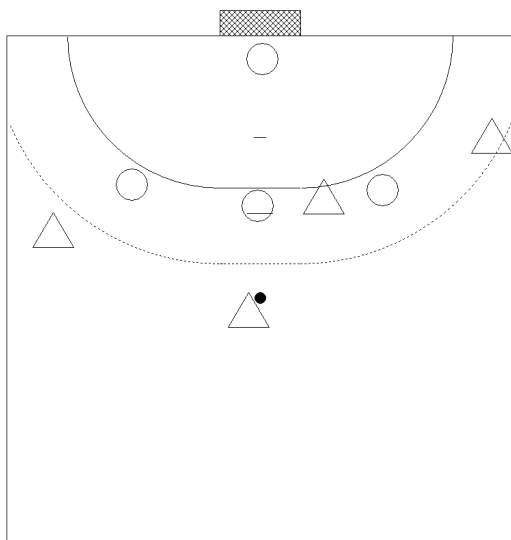
6 rubber plates in bright blue colour – to mark the goal area in cases when you cannot use chalk.

1 laminated info-page – describing the philosophy and the basic rules of the game.

Street Handball – Basic Rules

It has to be clear that the following are recommendations based upon various testing with students of the Vienna Academy for Sports and the Sports Institute of Vienna University. The recommendations are dedicated to school teachers and coaches of beginner's teams to give them a frame of how to implement the game.

However, everybody is free to alter the rules according to different requirement of room, players and the equipment available.



Pitch:

Goal 1.60 x 2.40 (Mini Handball)

Goal area 4m quarter circle + straight line

Start line 4m line placed 8m from goal

Teams 4v4

Ball 44cm circumference not bouncing ball

Basic rules:

It is a 4v4 game to score points.

The teams consist of 4 players each; any of the defending team is allowed to act as a goalkeeper. Every regular shot scores 1 point, creative or artistic shots score 2 points.

The team reaching a score of 11 points first wins the set.

The match is played best of three sets.

No body contact, play the **free ball** only. 3 steps in 3 sec with holding the ball allowed.

The ball can be played with every part of the body except lower leg and foot.

No penalty shot in case of denying a scoring chance by any rule violation – direct score of 2 points.

With every **turnover** the ball winning team has to bring the **ball behind the start line** before aiming for the goal (a rebound is not a turnover).

Dr. W. Pollany

Member MC / EHF (Education and Training)

February 2011