

# **Visions in Beach Handball**

**by**

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Only 10-11 years ago, when three of the pioneers in the area of the new game, called Beach Handball, were nominated by the E.H.F to write the Rules of the Game, I had the luck and the honor to be one of them. The other two were Ton VAN LINDER and Roger XHONOUEX. My feelings were almost the same as today and the main task was how to make the game more attractive, fast and enjoyable for the participants and the spectators. The slogan **EASY TO LEARN, EASY TO PLAY, EASY TO UNDERSTAND** was in absolute harmony with the spirit of the game.

Finally the “Rules of the game” took effect on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

Year after year and due to official and/or unofficial events with the cooperation of all the parts involved in the game, coaches, referees and players some changes on the rules were tested as “CLARIFICATIONS ON THE RULES OF THE GAME” and most of them were established since March 2010.

Now all of us have to look forward and try to find ways how to promote these new rules for the benefit of the game. I believe that now it is much easier because among us there are more experienced coaches. In addition some of the referees that after a long and successful career became lecturers I am sure they will transfer all their knowledge and experiences to the other referees.

One of them is my friend and collaborator Ioannis Meimaridis and these thoughts are a joint work after a lot of discussion.

Panos Antoniou

No one doubts that the new game called Beach handball, soon became very popular among the players, coaches, officials and fans of the sport.

The reason for this successful and rising process is that it is a fast, enjoying and spectacular game.

In order to keep it attractive, I would like to focus upon some matters I noticed after many years of an officiating career and now going on as a delegate and a lecturer.

A very important fact is that there is never enough time for referees and delegates to be familiar with the Rules and their changes before the game start.

In fact we all must try to keep high technical standards. Additionally in our calls there should be a common line between us.

So it would be nice if there were more seminar courses organized for all of us. By this way the most “problematic areas” would be analyzed.

These are the matters we would like to present you in our joint work. Our suggestions came up after a continuous cooperation with my friend and a real “beach handball worker” Panos Antoniou.

Ioannis Meimaridis

# MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

## 2 POINTERS

According to the “Rules of the Game” some goals are awarded with two points.

- Creative or spectacular goals (Rule 9:2)
- Scored by the Goalkeeper (Rule 9:6)
- Scored by a 6m-throw (Rule 9:3)

### **Creative or spectacular goals**

According to the Clarification No.1 a goal scored “in flight” or with a “spin shot” is awarded with 2 points. Until now we didn’t see any other ways of “creative or spectacular goals” or at least the referees didn’t award 2 points for such goals.

Why? We have to concentrate on the two main reasons. In our opinion the main reasons are:

- a) Perhaps scoring “in flight” or with a “spin shot” is easier for the players.
- b) The referees don’t have the courage to award only one point if the attempt of the player is not correct.

Is it really easy to score a 2 points goal? Why the great majority of the points of a team, are coming with 2 points goals?

Half of this matter depends on the referees side view. Possibly they prefer to award 2 points for almost every “spin shot” because in this way nobody is complaining. But this doesn’t help the players to increase their technical level. On the other hand it is not fair for the players who work and are more creative, to be treated in the same way as the others.

So our task both as delegates and lecturers is not only to educate the referees but to persuade them to apply a strict line according to the criteria. Especially during the high level events, where the best referees are present the common line is a MUST. And this line will come from our side. In conclusion we give clear instructions to the referees and of course clear clarifications to the Coaches.

The most important thing for us as lecturers still remains to discuss with both sides (coaches and referees) with broad mind for the benefit of our sport.

The main criteria to award 2 points for a goal scored “in flight” are:

- **The player must catch and then throw the ball when he is still in the air.**

To slap the ball when he is in flight and scores a goal is not enough to award 2 points.

The main criteria to award a 2 points goal after a “spin shot” are:

- **The foot/feet the hips and the torso of the player must be full faced at the opponent’s goal, so the spin will be approximately 360°.**

### **Scored by the Goalkeeper.**

The spirit of this rule was to give mobility to the goalkeeper of the attacking team to play as court player during the attack of his team, so 4 court players against 3 is a way to make the game more attractive and fast. Of course this included some risks when the possession of the ball goes to the defending team. (No goalkeeper in the goal e.t.c.)

The coaches took the advantage of the “extra” player and the “goalkeeper” became as “specialist” and usually the best scorer of the team. We are sure that this didn’t intend to be the spirit of the rule. But anyway it seems to be legal.

And what happened in the meanwhile? All the changes on the rules of the game (Clarifications on the rules in many events) were in favor of the attacking team, so the risks are now reduced. For example: a) the player is possible now to leave the court in the shortest way (rule 1:8a) and b) the substitute goalkeeper is allowed to await his turn to enter the court by seating or kneeling at the side line part between his team’s goal line and the goal area line (rule 1:8c)

We may possibly think that now it is time to try some things in favor of the defending team. For example to clarify that a goal scored by the goalkeeper is awarded with 2 points, only if this player was playing when his team was in defense in the previous phase of the game.

## **BEHAVIOR OF THE GOALKEEPER INSIDE AND OUTSIDE HIS GOAL AREA**

Once again our task is to give not only to the referees but also to the coaches a clear line about this very important part of the rules and the game in general, especially during the “Shoot-out” situation.

The goalkeeper is fully responsible for any contact (collision) with an opponent outside of his goal area. In this case the referee’s decision must be 6 meter-throw and disqualification of the goalkeeper.

To sum up the result of a game must depend on the performance of the players and not on the decisions of the referees.

Every player must respect the integrity, health and body of the teammates and the referee’s decisions must correspond to the principles of Fair Play!