

Here is my feedback on Visions in handball to the seminar in Vienna:

Education Guideline book

In agreement with Sandor, I will present at the seminar how we have systematically worked with our international referees in the past four seasons with success. Hopefully it will be here several items that can be used and be part of EHF's guide in refereeing development.

Female project

Our experience with the development of female referees is to integrate them in projects with the male referees and instructors. Through that we made this the last few seasons we have developed several couples at different levels that are well motivated and that continues with officiating over time. Our experience is that female referees do not want any special treatment.

Modern tools

Positioning and movement

The WC in Sweden shows that the development of modern handball implies very big demands for the referees in order for them to have the possibility to observe all duels/situations taking place in the course of the match.

Today we notice that other sports (football/ice hockey) employ more referees on the field and technical equipment (video/head set) to cope with the development of the sport. Within a short period of time there will be national attempts with more referees (3-4) on the field to check out whether this is an answer to meeting the challenges of modern handball.

I believe we can develop the two-referee system of handball through the referees spending more time and focus on being in the right position at the right time in order to make the right decision. This is possible if referees improve their handball tactical competence by understanding where challenges might come, being able to foresee where duels/situations will occur on the field.

Today the traditional distribution of responsibility implies that the goal referee focuses on the play around 6-6.5 m and that the field referee focuses on the ball and the play out on the field. This especially leads to the goal referee having so many duels/situations without the ball to focus on, that he often does not see the first action, but often sees the 2nd or 3rd action. Then you will most likely make a bad decision. The biggest challenge for the field referee is to gain insight into the actions between attacker and defender, in addition to actions which occur after shots have been delivered.

In order to enable the referees to master this, it is necessary to be much more focused on correct positioning and on what to pursue in the education/coaching of the referees.

The enclosed sketches/photos are an attempt to visualize the challenges the goal referee and the field referee have in various situations occurring in the course of a handball match.

Video and refereeing

I believe it is important to use the video actively in the development of the referees in the future. After the World Cup in Sweden for men, I have made a selection of good, clear video clips within 10 topics in order to communicate and make visible to the referees which line we want them to be on within the different themes. Experience in the use afterwards is very positive and the referees will point out very quickly and it will be of great help to referees their development. I think this tool could be very useful in the future referees' developments. I hope these comments can be used in the preparations for the seminar and I look forward to seeing you in Vienna.

Sven-Olav Oie