

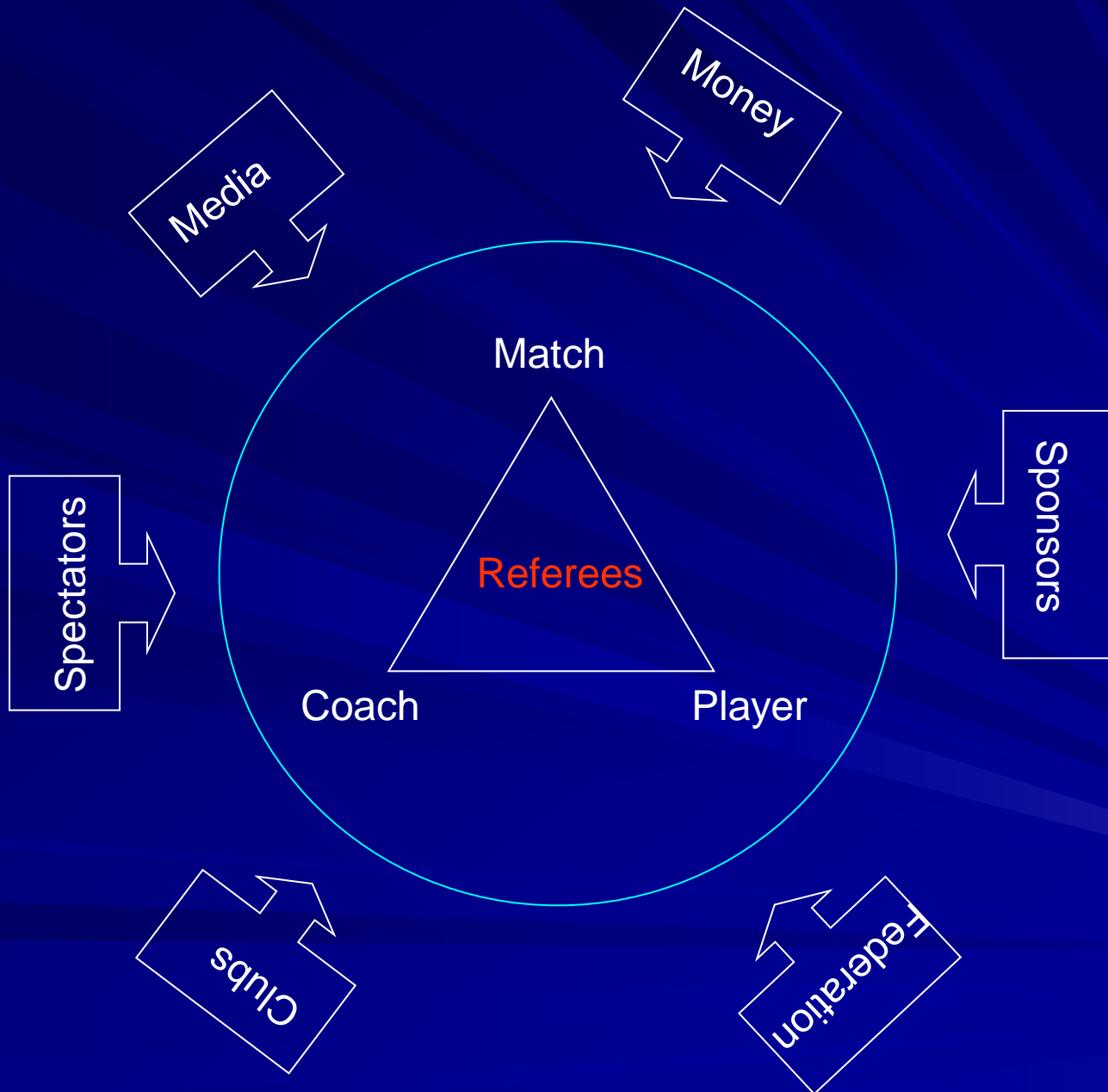
Coaches → Referees

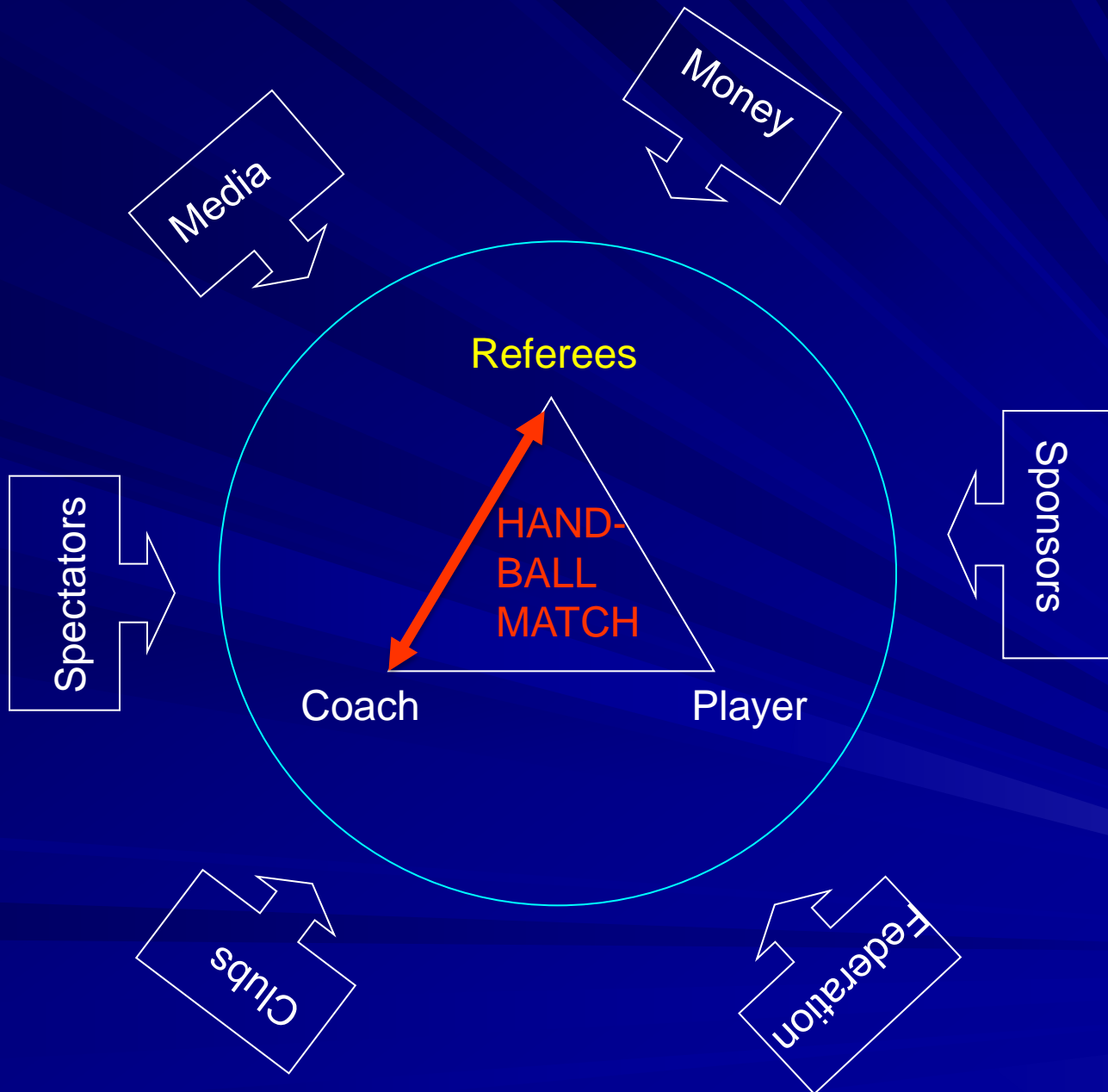
What do coaches expect from referees?



„The trouble with the referees is that they know the rules, but they don't know the game“
(Bill Shankly, football manager)

„I occasionally get birthday cards from fans. But it's often the same message. They hope it's my last.“
(Al Forman, referee)





Referees ↔ Coaches

Basic preconditions and conditions for both:

- have respect for the other person
- knowledge of the rules
- game comprehension
- good leaders
- courage to decide
- assertiveness and determination
- good role-models
- cope with stress situation
- like the job you have to do, enjoy the match (positive minded)

Referees ↔ Coaches

Different tasks and conditions during the match:

- refereeing corresponding to the rules
- refereeing according to the spirit of the game
- neutrality to players and coaches (honesty)
- calmness
- self-confidence
- high level of concentration during the match
- good cooperation with the partner
- “have a line”
- use body language
- 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 situations
- 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 (role-model)

Apart from the already mentioned universal preconditions and conditions for referees and coaches there are specific conditions which I expect from the referees :

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

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.

The results are:

- more fast breaks (counter attacks) and goals by fast throw off.
- Improvement of the power handball

The consequences for the referees are:

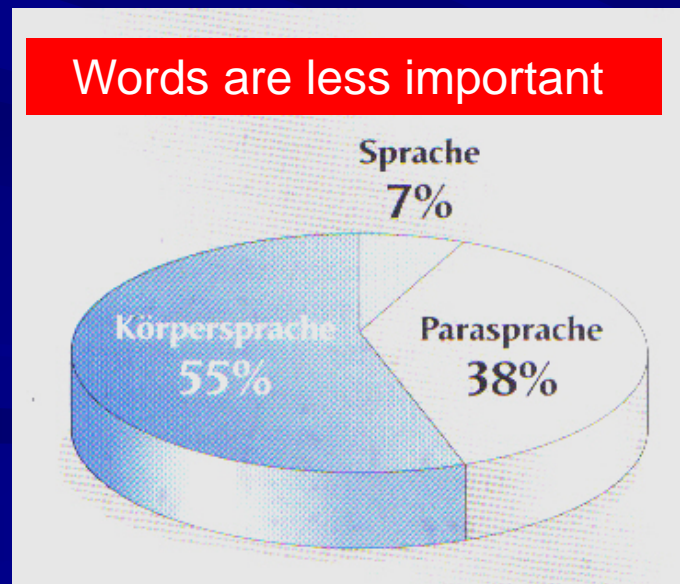
- more sprints per match, less breaks.
- more often and quicker adjustments more often change the positions to have the best perspective and don't park on a square metre.

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)



Without Words...



Communication

- 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 exaggeration 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 in some situations and therefore don't provoke him or even try to help him to reduce this stress.
- “See more, hear less.” (Manfred Prause)
- Sometimes after the match try to get a **feedback** from the coaches.

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 a 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”

„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!” and what is the “spirit of the game”.

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.

Sometimes NO CALL is the BEST CALL.





“Read the Game”

These items concern 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.

“Read the Game”

“Read the game” also means to know and to be prepared to the differences of different kinds of games:

- High level men’s matches**
- High level women’s matches**
- Youth matches**
- low level men’s matches**
- low level women’s matches**
- pupils or beginners’ matches**

The best referees -in my opinion - are the ones who are refereeing all these kind of different matches on the same high level.

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

Theodor Storm (1817-88), German Poet