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International  
Handball  
Federation

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de Handball



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To  
European Handball Federation

Basle, 18 March 2010

## Rules of the Game 2010

Dear Handball Friends,

Thank you very much for your letter of 11 March 2010 regarding the 2010 Rules of the Games. We discussed the points you mentioned, unfortunately we do not have the possibility of making any considerable change at this stage because the adoption procedure has been completed.

Of course, we will hand over all pending issues to our working group on Rules changes 2014. Nevertheless we have tried to immediately implement some points, which are minor issues. In any case we will keep in contact with you to discuss the points in depth.

In the following we would like to provide some quick answers or comments concerning the points mentioned:

1. *The substitution area set-up with 14 chairs (14 players and 4 team officials) requires an 11m "red marked" coaching zone, with 16 chairs (16 players – currently in test phase and 4 officials) 12m of coaching zone. If the 1st chair has to be positioned 3.5m from the centre line the whole coaching zone would reach 14.5m in length to extend 15.5m into each half of the court – is that what we really want?*

Nothing has been changed in the 2010 Rules regarding these distances. The distance of 3.5 m had already been part of the 2005 Rulebook and there is no limit at the end of the bench/chairs. A strictly marked coaching zone is not foreseen in the Rules in order to be more flexible at lower level but it could be easily implemented in the regulations of championships.

2. *Furthermore a coach who wants to control multiple substitutions of his players (e.g. substitute two attackers for two defenders at the same time) in truth has 1m of "permitted acting space", right?*



As regards the substitutions it will be clearer because the replacing players have free space and therefore it is easier to control the changes. In any case we have to learn from experience regarding this change.

3. *The use of 16 players in 2010 EHF Euro in AUT as well as the 2009/2010 EHF Champions League season as a test has been highly appreciated by the top teams. That would be still in contradiction to rule 4:1 that has remained unchanged. In this respect a competent discussion should take place with regard to top level handball.*

This test is an internal EHF decision. We do not have any official request, report or result of this test. Therefore we cannot discuss this point at this stage

4. *An extension of the number of officials from 4 to 5 that has been requested by many top teams seems to be difficult with regard to the previously mentioned points.*

We agree that this could be a problem with space but we do not see any necessity.

5. *A minimum distance of 50 cm between the side line and the judges table seems to be obsolete in big arenas and in contradiction to TV requirements (main TV camera angle to catch the side line in the substitution area). It should be 1-2m!*

That is no problem because it is a minimum distance and therefore we can easily accept 1-2m. In any case such TV- or marketing-related demands should be governed by the championship regulations and not the Rulebook.

6. *A clearer definition of the surrounding area of the playing court would be beneficial for marketing and set-up requirements in big arenas where top competitions are played. The same holds good for a clear definition that the "in goal area" belongs to the surrounding area because of marketing reasons (floor advertising).*

We fully agree. In any case such TV- or marketing-related demands should be governed by championship regulations and not the Rulebook.

7. *An obligation for teams to have 2 sets of dresses of the same color available (one bright and one dark version of the respective color) would be beneficial at top level competitions, too.*

We fully agree. In any case such TV- or marketing-related demands should be governed by championship regulations and not the Rulebook.

8. *The obligation for the referees to report in connection with the rules 8:6 and 8:10 have been extremely enhanced after cancelling the "exclusion" (many experts are still against)*

*from the rules of the game. This will lead to a huge and stress workload in administering disciplinary measures for the appointed authorities during World Championships and Euro Events with regard to the timeframe available. In our opinion this is in contradiction to the planned separation of officiating requirements and disciplinary cases/measures after the matches in a top level handball championship/competition, not talking about the danger of many more interventions. Today legal matters are more and more exploited by the protagonists in handball.*

We followed and totally agreed with the European Handball Federation's proposal regarding the cancellation of "exclusion" and thus this issue came as a complete surprise.

Rules 8:6 and 8:10 have been changed to serve as a replacement of the former exclusion. We do not expect more work for the legal bodies but we must have the possibility to punish particularly dangerous actions and extremely unsportsmanlike conduct. On the other hand we do not want to have general punishments for a normal disqualification.

9. *The term "team/substitution bench" is not a proper one for top level handball anymore, since chairs are used instead. Therefore it should be replaced by "substitution chairs".*

At lower level we have still benches but your proposal is correct, we will immediately change it into "substitution bench/chairs"

10. *In the 2010 IHF Rules of the Game the terms "delegate", "technical delegate" and "official delegate" can be found. There should be one commonly accepted term for this function.*

That is correct. We will change it immediately into "delegate".

11. *The graphical drawings should be adapted likewise (e.g.: chairs, distances as mentioned under item 1).*

We will try to do so.

12. *The EHF Technical Delegation thinks that some necessary amendments and adaptations have to be made for international top competition regulations that are in accordance with the 2010 IHF Rules of the Game and accepted when implementing them in order to facilitate an efficient and modern event management, serving the needs of TV, media and professional event partners (e.g.: stats provider and marketing partners). Therefore we kindly ask the IHF PRC to regard the EHF input as a constructive contribution and to consider/discuss the above-mentioned catalogue of issues with particular reference to International top level handball in terms of a proper event management/marketing and offcourt officiating.*

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We agree but as already mentioned above this rather concerns the regulations and not the 2010 Rules of the Game which are applicable at all handball levels.

In any case we are open to further discuss the mentioned issues and will have your ideas considered by the new working group for the 2014 Rules edition.

Thank you again for your contribution.

Best regards,

INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'M. Prause' and the second is 'Am. Khalifa'.

Manfred Prause  
PRC President

Amal Khalifa  
Managing Director

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