



AHF
REGULATIONS
for
International,
Continental,
Continental Candidates, and
Beach Handball
Referees

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1. A close and constructive collaboration between the AHF, the IHF and the member federations is a pre-requisite for a well functioning referee administration in Asia and worldwide.

1. Lists of Registration;

- 1.1 In line with the IHF Bylaws and Regulations the AHF Playing Rules and Referees commission (AHF-PRC) establishes annually the following official referee lists:
- List of IHF referees
 - List of Continental referees
 - List of Continental candidate referees
 - List of Continental Beach Handball Referees
- 1.2 The list for IHF referees includes IHF referees who are registered by their national associations and whose nomination is approved by the AHF as well as the IHF.
- 1.3 The lists for continental referees and for continental referee candidates include referees whose national federations submitted the registration to the AHF and is approved by the latter.
- 1.4 Period of validity of the official annual lists is from 1st August to 31st July of the following year.
- 1.5 Member federations have to submit the entries on the official registration forms to the AHF latest by 31st May.
- 1.6 The registration forms have to be filled in properly and completely. The registration forms have to be duly signed by the member federation. Incomplete registration forms will be disregarded.
- 1.7 AHF shall confirm the list of IHF referees of Asia and forward it to the IHF latest by 30th June.

2. List of IHF referees

- 2.1 The purpose of recognizing a group of referees as “International” and to publish annually a “List of International Referees” is to make official which referees are eligible at a given point in time to be nominated for World Championships, Olympic Games, and other IHF and top AHF events.
- 2.2 It follows that only referees who currently (or in a near future are expected to) meet these high requirements should be considered for promotion to the International level and for inclusion in the List of International Referees. (The requirements for being considered and the contents of the examinations, are contained in the separate Regulations for Official IHF Referee Courses).
- 2.3 With the proposal of the AHF to attend in IHF Global Referees Training Program (GRTP) the status of IHF referee may be achieved by continent referees after having attended and passed the IHF GRTP course/s in due process decided by the IHF. The AHF-PRC supports the talented young referees to step forward towards the GRTP even prior to being able to pass the Continental level. However, if a referee pair is included in the GRTP without yet having reached continental status, the AHF-PRC may force that such status be reached prior to testing for the IHF level.
- 2.4 IHF GRTP courses are organized and conducted under the auspices of IHF-PRC in collaboration with the AHF-PRC.
- 2.5 In principle the continent referees may attend an official IHF GRTP examination course. Nomination is to be followed in pairs and according to the performance reports and approval of AHF-PRC.

- 2.6 The limit shall be three referee IHF pairs, per nation.
- 2.7 Following his relegation, an IHF referee may be promoted again after having passed an GRTP with aim to IHF examination. In such case the IHF-PRC Regulation for GRTP must be fully accomplished.
- 2.8 The IHF referee pair must be acquainted with the English language (orally and by written), which is one of the official languages of IHF and AHF.

3. Link to the IHF Global Referee Training Program (GRTP)

- 3.1 The essential purpose of the IHF Global Referee Training Program (GRTP) is to recruit and train young, talented referees from all continents in a standardized and first-rate program that will enable these referees to progress to the “International” level and to form a pool of referees to be used for all IHF events.
- 3.2 Following the introduction of the GRTP, the List of International Referees will consist of: (i) referees who have reached the IHF level through the GRTP and (ii) referees who qualified for the International level prior to the introduction of the GRTP and fully meet the purpose enunciated as IHF Referees.

4. List of continental referees

- 4.1 With the proposal of the national federation to attend an official AHF referee examination course the status of continent referee may be achieved by each continental candidate referee after having attended and passed the continental course.

- 4.2 Continental referees examination courses are organized and conducted by the AHF-PRC.
- 4.3 Only continent candidate referees may attend an official continental referees' course. Nomination is to be followed in pairs. The national order of rank in the continent list principally should be taken into consideration.
- 4.4 The scale of the number of continental referees needed per nation shall be determined by AHF-PRC.
- 4.5 in principal the continental list per nation should be restricted by two (2) pairs, those nations who provide the young referees should be privileged to have one (1) additional pair. Both referees of this additional pair should obtain their continental status before they are 25 years old.
- 4.6 One (1) additional pair on continental list per nation shall be reserved for women referees who successfully passed the examination as continental referees in pair.
- 4.7 The AHF shall nominate the International and Continental referees for the games of AHF-Events. The AHF-PRC is principally responsible for the technical observations of referees.
- 4.8 In an annual review of the performance and potential of all International and Continental Referees, the AHF-PRC determines for each referee whether the continuation at the International and/or Continental Referee level can be justified. The AHF-PRC may decide to consult with the relevant, but the decision of the AHF-PRC is binding and not subject to appeal. A decision to remove a referee (either temporary or permanently) may not be an indication of problems; it may simply be a matter of a re-evaluation of future potential in light of a constantly changing competition.

- 4.9 All Continental referees who have reached the age of 45 years must be automatically removed from the Continental level.
- 4.10 All continental referees must be acquainted with the English language (orally and by written), which is one of the official languages of IHF and AHF.

5. List of continental candidate referees

- 5.1 Each national federation is responsible for its own continental candidate referee's list.
- 5.2 In principle, the candidate list is to be restricted to two referee pairs per nation. Each nation can have two additional places; one for the referees whose age is not exceeded the 25 years old and one for women referees.
- 5.3 Age limit of the continental candidate referee is 29 years. Qualifying birth date is 1st of August of each season.
- 5.4 All continental candidate referees must be acquainted with the English language (orally and by written), which is one of the official languages of IHF and AHF.

6. List of continental Beach Handball referees

- 6.1 The number of continental Beach Handball referees is restricted to two (2) referee pairs per nation. Each nation can have two additional places; one for the referees whose age is not exceeded the 25 years old (at the time of passing the continental Beach Handball referee course) and one for women referees.

- 6.2 The AHF-PRC shall conduct the continental Beach Handball referees courses in collaboration with IHF Beach Handball body.
- 6.3 The referee pairs who successfully pass the examinations at official AHF continental Beach Handball course, shall be registered annually by the nations on the list of continental Beach Handball referees.
- 6.4 Age limit of the continental Beach Handball referees is 50 years old. Qualifying birth date is 1st of August of each season.
- 6.5 All continental Beach Handball referees must be acquainted with the English language (orally and by written), which is one of the official languages of IHF and AHF.

7. Corporate regulations;

- 7.1 A Referee who was not successful in passing a course may participate for a second time in a course of this kind. Should he again fail to pass the course he shall principally be transferred to the lower level.
- 7.2 The current status of a referee may be prolonged from one year to the other. The level of performance required for this status must be achieved continuously in international and national matches.
- 7.3 The PRC of the AHF and IHF have the right to take referees off the relevant lists, if they do not meet the requirements of this commission any longer or if other reasons should require it. The decision of the IHF-PRC and AHF-PRC is binding and not subject to appeal.
- 7.4 The PRC of the AHF and IHF also have the right not to nominate referees, to suspend them or to take them

off the list for a certain period in the current season, If they show insufficient performances or if other reasons should require it.

7.5 The following reasons justify a loss of the status of international continental or continental Beach Handball referee respectively.

- The Referee exceeds the age limit determined in relevant category (date set is august 1st of the registration year)
- The Referee has not been nominated by his/her own association.
- The Referee is not being accepted by the PRC of AHF or IHF due to insufficient performances or other reasons.

7.6 Referees who may not register by their national federation on each list for one year could not be registered again in following years. The relative national federation takes responsibility for incorrect and incomplete registrations, missing or/and failure of the registrations in due deadlines.

7.7 In principle, all international and continental referees of Asia must carry only the AHF badge during their official assignment at AHF championships and events.

7.8 From the time when Referees are removed from the relevant lists, they are no more eligible to carry the IHF or AHF badge, needle and official logo even at the national championships and events. The national federations concerned and the referees themselves will carry the responsibility for consequences and disciplinary measures based on the AHF- Regulations for Penalties and fines.

8. Reimbursements at AHF Events

The Referees nominated by AHF will be reimbursed for the following expenses;

- The traveling costs from home to the duty destinations and the corresponding return journeys (economy class air ticket). Travel arrangements have to be reconciled with the Organizer.
- Any costs associated with acquiring visas.
- Costs for vaccinations.
- Costs for boarding and lodging.
- An allowance of US\$ 100,- per day for Championship duration and travel duration in accordance with the schedule of due championship.
- In other aspects, the financial regulations of the organizer shall comply with the AHF and IHF.

9. Regulations for IHF GRTP and AHF Referee courses

- 9.1 The official IHF- GRTP and AHF continental referee courses will be arranged as required, according to the quantity and quality of the IHF-AHF referees in the individual national associations or geographical zones.
- 9.2 In principle, the official AHF courses shall be held in English e language.
- 9.3 Only the IHF is entitled to award IHF GRTP courses in Asia with the agreement and cooperation of the AHF. The AHF continental courses shall be awarded only by the AHF with agreement and cooperation of its member federations. Terms and conditions of hosting are according to the IHF Regulations for GRTP courses.
- 9.4 An official continental referee course should only be organized if continental referees/candidates from at least three (3) national federations or associations are confirmed to participate.
- 9.5 The organizing national federation or association must provide the following working conditions to enable a continental course to be held;
 - A tournament that allows each invited pair of referees to conduct at least two games. The participating teams should be of an appropriate level (national teams, junior teams, top international clubs, etc.)
 - Suitable equipment for physical tests.
 - A seminar room for the theoretical lessons and discussions, with the necessary teaching aids (whiteboard, LCD / LED projector with Laptop connection etc.)

9.6 The organizing association shall bear the following costs for the course leader and lecturer from the IHF and the AHF;

- Travel expenses between home and the course location according to the AHF Regulations for Travel expenses, accident and medical insurance and costs associated with visas and vaccinations.
- Full board and lodging, including alcohol-free drinks
- Compensation of USD 100 for each day of travel and USD 100 for each day of their stay or the equal value in the currency of the country concerned.

9.7 The organizing association has the privilege of participating in the courses with one additional pair of referees.

9.8 Conditions for Referees taking part in the courses;

- Each member is allowed to keep a maximum number of three (3) pairs of referees on the IHF list and two (2) pairs on the AHF continental list at one time.
Accordingly, members who have less than the defined number of pairs on the IHF/AHF lists will be allowed to send candidates to the courses.
- Age limit for the participants in IHF GRTP is 32 years and 29 years for Continental courses. There is no minimum age.
- Participants shall have fluent ability over English language which is one of the official IHF/AHF languages

- Referees shall submit an attested certificate of health confirming the participant's ability to take part into top level sport. The certificate must be no more than three months old.
- 9.9 The status of International referees (IHF list) is awarded to those continental referees (AHF continental list) who have attended ~~an~~ official IHF GRTP courses and have passed the practical, theoretical and physical tests set during the courses. The IHF-PRC is responsible for all GRTP courses, examinations and final decisions.
- 9.10 The status of Continental referees (AHF list) is awarded to those continental candidate referees (AHF continental candidate list) who have attended an official AHF referee course and have passed the practical, theoretical and physical tests set during the course.

10. AHF Elite and Prospect lists

- 10.1 Every IHF referee pair of Asia may in principle achieve the status of Asian Elite.
- 10.2 The Asian Elite shall consist of 10 pairs of exclusively best-qualified IHF-referees of Asia. The prospect list shall consist of 6 referee pairs from the best Asian continental referee pairs.
- 10.3 The Elite and prospect groups are going to be nominated every year by the AHF-PRC. The nominations are based on the qualities and performances of referees who have whistled in the Asian and World Championships of the current and previous season. The prospected referee pairs should receive the special attention from AHF-PRC for promotion and development of their skills in refereeing.

10.4 In exceptional cases, 2 pairs can be nominated from one country to the Elite and/or Prospect groups.

10.5 The best IHF-pairs from Elite group shall be appointed to the IHF-PRC to be registered at the IHF Elite referees.

11. Intercontinental Referee Exchanges

11.1 If a continental or national federation wishes to request the assistance from another continent with referees for a specific continental or national level event, this assistance must be sought from the IHF Head Office through the continental federation concerned.

11.2 A request must be submitted to AHF at least 30 days prior to the start of the event for which assistance is being sought.

11.3 It should be left to the continental federation that is being asked to provide the assistance to select the referees, in consultation with the IHF. In other words, it is not appropriate to request a specific referee pair.

11.4 A continental or national federation must not contact a national federation in another continent directly. It is absolutely prohibited to contact a referee pair directly. National federations or referees receiving such prohibited inquiries are not allowed to accept an invitation and must turn the matter over to the IHF immediately.

11.5 The conditions offered to the invited referees must be fully in accordance with point 8 above.