

**The England Handball Association**

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# **ENGLAND HANDBALL ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS 2017/18**



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## 1 Introduction

This document outlines the rules and regulations for the 2017-18 England Handball Association season.

England Handball recognise the following leagues:

- **Premier Handball League**
- **National League**
- **Regional Leagues**
- **University Championships**
- **Under-19 – National Youth Championship**
- **Under-16 League**
- **Under-14**

## 2. Official Playing Season

- 1) The official playing season for all indoor leagues shall be from 1 September to 30 June.
- 2) Registration for the coming season opens on 26 June and closes on 29 July for the following leagues:
  - Premier Handball League
  - National League
  - Regional League
  - Under-19 – National Youth Championship
  - Under-16 League
  - University Championships

Under-14 registration for the 2017/18 season will be open until 1 December 2017 for a January start date.

### **3 Administration of the Rules**

- 1) The England Handball is the governing body of handball in England and shall be the final arbiter in any question that might arise through the administration of these rules and regulations.
- 2) The ultimate responsibility for ensuring adherence to any regulations shall lie with the England Handball Board who shall, in the first instance, delegate such authority to the appropriate committee and/or to the appropriate sub-committee.
- 3) The England Handball Board has delegated relevant authority to the Competitions & Events Group (C&EG). This group is responsible for working with, and advising the England Handball professional staff, to support effective management and operational of the league structures.

All England Handball approved competitions shall be governed by this committee, which shall:

- a) Set and, as necessary, revise the rules of such leagues and competitions, with relevant reference to the Rules of Handball set out by the European Handball Association and/or the International Handball Federation
  - b) Set fixtures relating to such leagues and competitions
  - c) A list of C&EG members will be accessible in the public domain. As well as documentation of any relevant decisions.
- 4) The England Handball Board has delegated relevant authority to the Competitions Disciplinary Committee (CDC), which is responsible for:
- a) Ensuring compliance with any Rules & Regulations for Leagues and/or Competitions set up under the jurisdiction of England Handball; and
  - b) Progressing action against clubs, players, coaches and officials that breach those rules. A list of CDC members should be accessible in the public domain as well as rulings of the CDC sanctions.

## 4 Fit for Purpose Criteria

Clubs competing within the England Handball leagues must meet the appropriate Fit For Purpose criteria.

This criterion is the benchmark that all clubs should work towards, irrespective of league status. Clubs will be requested to provide evidence prior to the start of the season where appropriate.

England Handball will work with clubs to achieve this status. In all cases the England Handball Board shall:

- a) Have the final say as to whether a club has achieved the standards above and
- b) The Competitions Disciplinary Committee (CDC), can apply administrative and financial sanctions if any criteria are not met, including exclusion from the Premier Handball league or National Leagues.

A club shall have the right to appeal a CDC decision. An appeal board made up of three persons, with an independent chairman normally hears appeals. The body of the appeal board includes the England Handball non-executive director (Membership & Disciplinary) and other members selected from a list of previous players/managers/referees not related to the club in question.

### 4.1 Development/Social Leagues

- 1) Groups wishing to take part in social tournaments and informal competition should seek advice from England Handball and have signed up as an emerging club.

### 4.2 Regional Leagues

- 1) Clubs must be constituted and have an active board or committee and must be able to provide club's AGM minutes upon request.
- 2) Clubs must have the appropriate administrative standards in place to be able to respond to league administration.

Clubs must provide two clear points of contact and be able to respond in the specified time frame set out within these rules.

Details of the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and welfare officer must be provided via the online membership system.

**All official England Handball information to clubs will be conducted via email.**

**All clubs must provide two sets of contact details for their club to England Handball:**

- a) Email**
- b) Telephone.**

- 3) Every club must have its own bank account and be able to finance a bond that may be required by England Handball to cover any defaults. It is not permitted for a club to run its finances through the personal bank account of any of its members.
- 4) Every club must be able to fulfil all fixture commitments. Failure to meet fixtures can result in expulsion from the league.
- 5) All foreign players or players who have played in foreign domestic leagues must have full International Transfer Certificates/Clearance in place before competing in competition.
- 6) Every club must provide the following information about the club's playing venue
  - Dimensions of court
  - Run offs
  - Address and Postcode
  - Spectator Areas
  - Changing Facilities
  - Any other notable information
- 7) Every club must have a home venue suitable for matches this includes:
  - Two handball goals with appropriate supports and nets.
  - Visible Timer
  - Visible Scoreboard
  - Handball Court lines clearly visible
  - Two team Benches
  - Scorers' table and Chairs

Please also view the England Handball Hall recommendations for court sizes and grading

These recommendations can be found on the England Handball website.

**Note: Referees shall decide not to start, or to abandon a game, should the requirements not be met. All additional costs incurred in such a situation will be paid by the home team. This includes the event of a re-match.**

**If the match has started the score will stand, withstanding if any other disciplinary action is required.)**

- 8) The home team must ensure a first aid person is available during matches (This can be from the venue staff or from the home team). Each team must be equipped with a first aid kit.
- 9) Clubs must attend two club-review meetings per year (either physically or using the Webex system England Handball has set up) and the club conference.
- 10) Clubs must attend the England Handball AGM or send out a proxy prior to the AGM.
- 11) Clubs must provide a list of the following before the start of the season:
  - The club's coaches with evidence of their qualification.
  - The club's nominated child protection officer with evidence of qualification. (It is recommended to have attended UK Coaching's safeguarding course)
  - The clubs nominated first aiders with evidence of qualification. (First aid for Sport recommended)

### **4.3 - ENGLAND HANDBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE (South/North)**

**All of the above applies plus:**

- 1) Up to 2019/2020 Season:** National League clubs need to demonstrate with evidence that they have a sustainable junior program (Youth development at club level, formal link with a school, satellite club, youth group). Failure to demonstrate would result in end of season league relegation.
- 2) 2019/2020 Season:** National League teams must have a youth team competing in a recognised England Handball youth League: under-19, under-16, under-14 (boy or girl)
- 3)** Clubs must attend two-club review meetings per year (either physically or using the Webex system England Handball has set up) and the club conference. A fine of £30 for non-attendance will apply.
- 4)** National League teams must compete in the England Handball National Cup. Failure to participate from round 1 will result in penalties for default and potential relegation to lower league.



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- 5)** Clubs must attend the England Handball AGM or send out a proxy prior to the AGM. A fine of £50 for non- attendance or no proxy vote submitted will apply.

## 4.4 Premier Handball League

### All of the above applies plus:

- 1) Premier Handball League clubs must have a team competing in an England Handball youth competition – under- 14, under- 16 or under- 19 male/female.
- 2) Premier Handball League clubs must play their home matches in **Grade A venues**. This includes any venue they wish to use during that season for official competition.
- 3) Premier Handball League matches must have a spectator's area.
- 4) Premier Handball League Clubs must have an electronic scoreboard for their matches, which includes score and time. These must be clearly visible for both teams and spectators.

Premier Handball League clubs must have level-2 qualified coaches actively delivering within their club

## **4.5 Premier Handball and National League Recommendations**

Premier Handball League and National League clubs are strongly reminded and encouraged to:

- Arrange their home matches in the appropriate grade facility.
- England Handball recognises the lack of appropriate venues within the UK and hence has set a category system to alleviate the lack of appropriate venues. As new courts become available this list will be updated and the grading system will be addressed.
- Have their coaches acquire qualifications. Level 2 should, and will become the norm for coaches (in line with European Handball Requirements).
- Clubs should liaise with the relevant England Handball personnel to get the qualification completed within a timescale of 10/12 months from the start of the official playing season 2017.
- It is appropriate for clubs to be aware of spectators and have areas designated for this.

## **4.6 - Sanctions**

Failure to meet the Fit For Purpose criteria will result in sanctions for the areas not met ranging from financial penalties to automatic relegation dependent on severity at the discretion of the Competition Disciplinary Committee.

## 5 Membership and Competition

- 1) There shall be found elsewhere regulations governing England Handball and these shall be in the form of Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A).
- 2) England handball membership is open to:
  - Clubs
  - Schools
  - Other Organisations

Who subscribe to the M&A of England Handball.

These clubs, school and organisations shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by:

- The Rules and Regulations of England Handball
- England Handball's code of ethics and behaviour
- Anti-Doping Regulations wherever they may be found.
- England Handball's Disciplinary Regulations

Any club, school or organisation, which is deemed to be a member of England Handball shall hereafter be referred to as a "club".

- 3) **Such membership is obtained upon payment of the membership fee currently in force and upon completion of the registration process. This will include payment of the appropriate bond.**

The M&A provide provision for England Handball to refuse an application for membership without explanation.

- 4) As stated in the membership conditions registered:
  - Clubs
  - Players
  - Coaches
  - Officials etc.

Shall be insured through those policies officially provided by England Handball.

- 5) Teams playing in approved England Handball competitions shall be affiliated to England Handball in the prescribed manner together with their players, coaches and officials. Such teams shall be eligible to participate, at the appropriate level, in England Handball approved competitions.
- 6) No club is allowed to have **two** teams participating in the Premier Handball League or National League South/North.

- If a club, which has a team participating in one of the other England Handball Leagues already, has a team in the Premier Handball League or National League South/North, the former team cannot be promoted.
- 7) All club officials shall register in the full knowledge that they are accepting the role of guarantors on behalf of the club.

In respect of honouring financial commitment and, if requested by England Handball, the payment of debts whatsoever owed to England Handball by the club, its players, coaches or officials.

- Where such debts are to be recovered, the club shall be held liable for the recovery.
- Where the payment has not been received within the prescribed **seven-day timescale**, the club shall be deemed to have defaulted and shall be suspended from their leagues until such time that the debt has been paid.

## Payments

All payments must be online through the Azolve club membership centre These are:

- Match fees
- Tournament fees
- Referee fees
- Fines
- Cup Fees

These will be in the admin site and available for tracked payments.

## 6 Registration of players:

- 1) The minimum age of players in adult leagues is 16.
- 2) The appropriate number of players must be registered two weeks before the start of the first match of the season.

Failure to do so will mean players cannot be guaranteed approval before the first match.

Players can be added through out the season accordingly.

- 3) Each individual person participating in England Handball approved competition must be registered as a player with England Handball.
  - This regulation shall also apply to any coach or official for whom the intention is to be placed in the substitution area during the playing of a match.
  - It is the responsibility of each club to ensure conformity of this regulation. It is an offence for a club to be in breach of this rule. England Handball will make available to each club a list of registered players and officials.
- 4) Players shall register for a club for a period of one season.
  - Players issued with a contract shall be bound by the rules of the EHF and IHF concerning contracted players.
  - It is the responsibility of each club to ensure conformity to the registration regulations. It is an offence for a club to be in breach of this rule.
- 5) Players registered with an under-18 team where the club has no senior team, may also register with a senior team from another club.
  - Provided that club does not have a junior team

### Notes:

In this scenario the clubs involved are required to meet together with the player, to agree on how the player's participation will be managed in the event of a clash of fixtures between the two teams. In the event of the parties involved being unable to reach an agreement, they can request the involvement of England Handball to provide advice, guidance and, if required, a final decision.

Where a club has two matches within a 24-hour period, all players may participate in both matches. However, clubs are cautioned of using players aged less than 18 years of age in such circumstances. Whilst it is not prohibited, the age and capabilities of the player(s) in question must be taken into account.

- 6) A person identified as a player on the official score sheet cannot be at the same time a team official in the same league.

## 6.1 Multiple team registration

- 1) Clubs with more than one team shall designate teams 1, 2, 3 etc., in order of playing strength. Team 1 being the highest designated team.

From 1 January in any season, the club must provide a list of 10 most used players in their first team who may not play in the second and lower teams.

**Exemption is granted to players aged below 21 (as of the 1 of January) who may be part of that list. They can still play in either team.**

- **The incentive is for club teams to promote the playing of youth players**
  - **Under-21 is the category as it is the EHF and IHF last youth category in competition structure.**
- 2) Clubs with more than one team shall designate teams 1, 2, 3 etc., in order of playing strength. Team 1 being the highest designated team.
    - a) Clubs in the Premier Handball League and National Leagues with more than one team may use players from their list in either team up until 31 December.
    - b) From the 1 January in any season, the club must provide a list of 10 players who may not play in the second team.
    - c) Clubs, who operate a third team or more, must produce a list of 16 players who are not eligible to play in lower leagues.
    - d) For any clubs entering two or more teams in a regional league:
      - Clubs must provide a list of seven nominated players barred from playing in a lower team.
      - Aside from the seven nominated players, players may play in either team. However, on the third time of playing in a higher team the player becomes locked to that team.

## 6.2 - Fielding an Ineligible Player

- 1) An ineligible player shall be deemed so because of one or more of the following:
  - a) Has not completed an official registration with England Handball
  - b) Does not possess or has not received an official registration/license

- c) Has completed an official registration but found to require an International Transfer Certificate (ITC)
  - d) Awaiting an ITC
  - e) Is serving a current suspension (either with England Handball or another recognised federation)
  - f) Is under the age of 16 years.
- 2) Where a club is found to have fielded an ineligible player, the offending player and the club shall be liable to the following sanctions:
- a) A score of 10-0 awarded to the opposing team or the goal difference of the match if that is greater than 10 to the benefit of the opposing team. In addition the appropriate number of points will be awarded to the opposing team by the CDC.
  - b) A minimum suspension of three matches for the offending player.
    - The player is ineligible to play until registered. The suspension commences once the player's registration is received and verified by England Handball.
  - c) A £100 fine for the club
- 3) Should a club commit the offence of fielding an ineligible player on a second occasion, the club will be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the CDC and England Handball. These include:
- The club being deducted up to 10 points
  - The club being fined further
  - The club being barred from European competitions and expulsion from England Handball for up to 24 months.
  - Registered club officials may also be prohibited from holding any representative office for up to 24 months.

This regulation shall also apply to club coaches. A second breach of this regulation shall be considered a second offence even when committed with two different clubs.

- 4) Players registered with a recognised overseas federation should refer to the guidance in International transfers section as well as; European Handball Federation and International Handball Federation legislation where appropriate.
- 5) Whilst we will always encourage all club members to support their team; where a suspended player or official interacts with their team in a significant way during matches (for example: coaching from the stands) the matter shall be reported to



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the CDC for further actions.

## 6.3 - National Transfers

- 6) Players are permitted to transfer their registration from one club to another on one occasion during the period from the start of the official playing season until 31 January of the following calendar year.
- 7) Players shall also have the right to register with another club before the start of the official playing season regardless of the club with which they were registered in the previous season.
- 8) The procedure applied to the transfer of players (contracted or not) during the period from the start of the official playing season until 31 January of the following calendar year is as follows:
  - Three copies (one for each club and one for England Handball) of the Domestic Transfer Request Form shall be completed by a registered official of each of the clubs concerned and by the player(s) concerned.
  - Completed forms shall be returned to England Handball and - provided the fee required by England Handball has been paid and that there is agreement by both clubs - the transfer shall be approved. A period of five working days shall be allowed for England Handball to process and confirm the new registrations.
  - A fee of £20 shall be paid to England Handball by the club to which the player is to be transferred.
- 9) Where the releasing club is in dispute with a player, coach or official (e.g. a player owes money to the releasing club or has been suspended for disciplinary reasons which, in turn, has led to financial penalties imposed upon the releasing club), the releasing club must notify England Handball who may prevent a transfer until such time that the situation can be resolved. However, a player, coach or official shall have the right to object directly to the CDC against a club who has withheld their registration, subject to the player notifying England Handball in writing. The CDC shall have the right to investigate the matter. The club shall notify the CDC of the following:
  - a) Circumstances of the offence
  - b) The procedures employed
  - c) The action taken by the club and
  - d) The appeal process accorded to the offender.
- 10) Contracted players shall only be permitted to transfer if their contract has expired or the club to which they are contracted agrees to the release of the player.
- 11) In the event of a contracted player wishing to be released from the contract to

play for another club, the club to which he/she is contracted is permitted to demand a compensation fee from the receiving club, before agreeing to any release from contract. (Note: where a player is contracted to a club which is affiliated to another federation, the ITRs shall always be applied).

- 12) At the end of the season (this shall be deemed as 30 June), non-contracted players are considered free to register with a new club for the following season subject to the player meeting the conditions to register with another club.
- 13) Once a player has played in the National Cup or Shield they are ineligible to play for another club in that season. Regardless of national transfers, the player is cup-tied.
- 14) No senior player may register to play for more than one club. However, they may register as an official as long as they are not coaching in the same league they play in.

## 6.4 International Transfers

### Guidance

#### **Please see the Fit For Purpose criteria for league ITC requirements**

“International Transfer” and “International Clearance” are one and the same. For the purposes of an international transfer, there are three types of players:

- Contract players
  - Non-contract (i.e. amateur) players who have played in the 24 months before the date on which a transfer is requested
  - Players who have not played in the 24 months before the date on which a transfer is requested.
- 1) All clubs that have players in need of a valid ITC must obtain one and register the player with England Handball before their first match in the England Handball league.

This applies to all overseas players regardless of:

- a) When they last played
- b) Whether they only played for a university
- c) If they ever played in another country

This rule also applies to

- a) Any player who has, after being born in another country, become a British Citizen and is not in possession of an ITC

- b) A British Citizen who has played in any country other than the UK

## Fees

- 2) Different fees apply to contracted and non-contracted players.

A transfer fee for a **contracted** player is payable if the transfer takes place

- During his/her contract
- At any time until 12 months after his/her contract has expired.

A transfer fee for a **non-contracted** player is payable

- If the transfer takes place at any time up until 24 months after he/she played his/her last match with the releasing club.

## Students

- 3) In some cases students are able to transfer for no charge. In order to transfer for free, a **non-contracted student** players needs to provide an ITR and:
- A letter from both their home and exchange universities (if participating in an exchange programme) and a letter from their English university (if coming to England for the whole duration of their studies) confirming their student status.
  - A photocopy of his or her student ID(s). At the end of their studies, such players can transfer back to the original country without paying a fee, as long as they were non-contracted players in England. A new ITC will be required when transferring back to the original country.

**Note in some cases the student may be subject to a transfer fee regardless of information provided. This is at the discretion of the realising federation.**

## Regulations

- 4) **No International Transfer Certificate = No play**
- 5) Clubs requiring ITC's for their players must complete and submit an International Transfer Request form to the England Handball office. England Handball can provide the appropriate forms where required.
- Contact - ([angela.deakin@englandhandball.com](mailto:angela.deakin@englandhandball.com))

Once an ITR has been received England Handball will, in turn, send the ITR to the relevant National Federation.

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The said National Federation must then confirm the transfer and any appropriate information/fee/documents and send the relevant paperwork back to England Handball.

Once received the completed ITC is forwarded to the club.

A window of 15 days is allowed for the transfer

If there is no response from the realising National Federation the EHF or IHF will be contacted as appropriate to overrule and release the player. **An ITC is still required.**

## 7 Playing Facilities and Conditions

England Handball recognises the lack of appropriate venues within the UK and hence has set a category system to alleviate the problem caused by lack of venues. Teams are able to apply for dispensation for their courts based on the availability of suitable courts in the area.

Hence dispensation will be granted for venues in a lower-category dependent on the distance/availability of higher-category courts. Where higher-category courts are readily available dispensation will not be granted for lower courts in higher leagues.

### 1) All clubs must use venues listed on the England Handball venue category list.

- If their venue is not on this list, the club must contact the competitions and events manager to have their court added before it is used.
- The court will then be added and given a grading for usage.
- This must be validated and checked by an England Handball representative.

### 2) The minimum run off around the court is: 0.5m from the side-line and 1m from the base/goal line

where this minimum run off is not available protective equipment must be used to prevent high impacts.

- Clubs must have appropriate risk assessments in place.
- However, the distance between the goal line and the first possible obstruction should never be less than 0.5m.

### 3) At any time, there must materials available for the drying of 'wet patches' that might occur upon the court.

### 4) Any overhead obstruction should never be lower than seven metres from floor to obstruction.

### 5) Where possible, there should be separate changing facilities for the referees and visiting team(s). If there are limited changing facilities in the sports hall and should the nominated home venue fall short of the specification, the club must seek approval of the home venue prior to the commencement of the season from the Competitions & Events Group.

## 7.1 The Goals

- 1) Goals are as per IHF regulations.
  - Dispensation will be granted for futsal goals in regional leagues.

## 7.2 The Table and Substitution Area

- 1) The Substitution area must be organised as per IHF regulations

### 7.2 - Timing and Scoring Devices

- 1) The home team must provide. Two table officials (scorer and timekeeper). At least one spare stopwatch. An audible signalling device (horn or whistle). The match referees must bring at least one unused score sheet.

**Note:** for the purposes of definition, where a match "Team A vs. Team B" is played, the home team is Team A regardless of where the match is played. This definition applies to all sections of this document.

- 2) The home team should provide an electronic scoreboard and timing equipment.

Where this is not feasible

- A manual scoring system may be employed.
- A separate timing clock may also be employed. However, this shall be of a size, which makes it visible for coaches and team officials within the substitutes' area.

**Note** - In the Premier Handball teams must have an electronic visible scoreboard, showing both score and time as per FFP.

### 7.4 - The Ball

- 1) Only balls approved by England Handball, EHF or IHF shall be used.
- 2) IHF Regulations for ball size and weight apply:
  - For junior competition please refer to England Handball age group regulations.

### 7.5 - Resin

- 1) Resin may be used where venues permit its usage.

- If the hall/venue ban the use of resin, then it may **not** be used

## **7.6 - Personal Equipment**

- 1) Any spectacles worn by players must be secured in such a manner that they cannot be removed or cause injury to others during match play.
  - Any non-sporting spectacles or spectacles which are not secured by means of a loop or band around the head must be removed.
  - Failure to do this will mean that the player can participate only without their glasses or will be refused permission to participate.
- 2) Players are required to remove anything which might conceivably cause injury to others. Examples include watches, rings, necklaces etc. It may be permitted to tape it in a manner that is considered safe. The match referees must approve any such action before the match starts.
- 3) During match play, it is not permitted for any item (other than reasonable playing kit) to be on the players' person, which might cause injury to another player or referee.
- 4) Any player sustaining a blood injury should leave the court until such bleeding is staunched and the wound covered to the referees' satisfaction.
  - Clean items of kit should be worn if the player concerned returns to the court. It is the responsibility of each team to have spare kits in the same colour and design as those being worn available to replace any blood-stained kits.
  - This should either be without a number or with a completely different number.



## 8 - Leagues

- 1) All England Handball matches must be played under the rules of the IHF with the following exceptions
  - **Court Dimensions** – as specified in England Handball’s court criteria list
  - **IHF injured player rule** – Specifically players receiving treatment having to leave the court.
- 2) Clubs must have enough registered players to fulfil **all** fixtures in all leagues. The minimum number of players per league are:
  - Premier Handball League - 16
  - National League – 14
  - Regional - 14

Clubs must register players two weeks prior to the start of their first match.

Failure to meet this deadline shall result in a financial penalty of £40, which will increase to £80 for clubs who fail to register the correct number players prior to the start of their second match.

- 3) New registrations during the season must be uploaded by the Wednesday, before the match they are intended to play.

### 8.1 - Confirming Fixtures

- 1) The C&EG will issue fixtures prior to the beginning of the season with a date allocated to each fixture.
  - Matches must be completed by the Sunday of the weekend identified
  - Matches can be played on alternative dates and/or time subject to agreement by both clubs and approval by the C+E Group. Such an agreement must be made at a minimum four weeks before the original fixture date
- 2) Clubs must register their Home fixtures via their England Handball Admin portal on the England Handball website.

The deadline for registering fixtures is a minimum of four-weeks’ notice.

Failure to confirm fixtures in this deadline will result in financial penalties and in severe cases forfeit.
- 3) Visiting clubs must confirm their attendance and kit colour to the home club at least two weeks prior to the match **via email**. No response here

means acknowledgement.

4) The earliest and latest throw-off times for matches should be as follows:

- Saturday
  - Earliest 12.00
  - Latest 17.00
- Sunday
  - Earliest 12.00
  - Latest 16.00

These times have been set due to the travel requirements of the England Handball Leagues.

However, earlier and later times may be used if agreed with the traveling team in advance. However the Competitions and Events manager must be contacted.

Also where the travel distance for the away team is less than 60 minutes then the following times of throw of may also be used:

- Saturday
  - Earliest 10.30
  - Latest 18.00
- Sunday
  - Earliest 11.00
  - Latest 17.00

Games can also be arranged in mid-week if teams agree. However the competitions and events manager must be informed for confirmation.

- 5) For all matches, the home team is responsible for booking the venue and providing a score sheet.
- a) For a single match, a booking must have duration of two hours.
  - b) In the case of bookings for multiple matches a booking should have duration of two hours per match. In addition, an extra 30 minutes must be included to allow for delays e.g. a minimum duration of 6.5 hours is required if three matches are to be played.
- 6) It shall be the home team's duty to pay all expenses related to a match, including but not limited to referees' expenses and hall hire.

- The visiting team is responsible for costs associated with their travel.
  - If multiple matches are played in a neutral venue, participating teams can agree on different methods of payments.
- 7) Any team withdrawing from a match shall be deemed to have defaulted and shall lose their bond which will be used to compensate the opposing team. Any remaining balances should be paid before the next match. Defaulting teams shall be liable for
- a) The cost of a two hour booking for the court concerned and
  - b) The full cost of the referees' expenses and match fees.
  - c) A 10-0 defeat will be recorded against them. No points shall be awarded to the defaulting team.
- 8) The defaulting team shall also be liable to submit another bond to England Handball prior to their next match and shall be suspended until the bond is paid
- 9) Teams who default on two occasions consecutively and/or three matches in one season shall be suspended from the Premier Handball League and National Leagues.
- The CDC will be responsible for issuing sanctions.
  - All records related to the matches played by the team in question shall be removed.
  - If the team has played at least half of their matches, a 10-0 victory shall be awarded to the opposing team for all the matches that remain.
- 10) In the event of a postponement due to unforeseen circumstances, teams shall:
- Share 50% of all costs associated with the match.
  - Take all reasonable steps to avoid prepaid hall time going to waste (e.g. negotiate with the venue, offer the time to other sports hall users, arrange training matches).
  - In the event of special circumstances, the C&EG shall make a ruling based on the information available that may call for a match to be played on another date and/or at an alternative venue.
- 11) Teams needing to postpone matches must immediately communicate via email with the other teams and also the C&EG.
- 12) In the event of matches being forfeit or unable to be re-scheduled. The process will be passed to the CDC who have the authority to:
- a) Order the match to be re-played at a neutral venue at some other

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time

- b) Allocate points as is deemed appropriate

The CDC will be able to rule as to whether the match is deemed postponed or forfeited and awarded to the non-withdrawing club by a score of 10-0.

The CDC will have authority to apply sanctions as is deemed appropriate.

## 8.2 - The Playing of Matches

- 1) All players shall wear numbers on both the front and back of their shirts in the prescribed manner as per IHF regulations.
  - Where referees note there have been breaches of this rule, the C&E group shall be informed and potential sanctions passed to the CDC. This may result in punishment by England Handball
- 2) Only official score sheets may be used and it shall be the responsibility of the referees to ensure that table officials to:
  - Complete score sheets accurately
  - Adhere to all additional instructions
- 3) Teams must wear colours that clearly identify one team from the other.
  - The home team has first choice of kit colour
  - The visiting team shall be required to change their kit if necessary.
  - Where required the first named referee shall make the final decision.
  - At the start of the season teams must identify their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice colours for outfield players and Goalkeepers to the competition and events manager.

Teams must consult each other prior to matches when confirming fixture details.

## 8.3 - Points Awarded

The England Handball points system is:

- 3 points for a win
  - 2 points for a draw
  - 1 point for a loss
  - 0 points for teams that default
- 1) Should the situation occur that two or more clubs finish with the same number of points, their final positions shall be determined by (and in the following order):
    - a) Goal difference
    - b) The results of the head-to-head matches between the clubs concerned
    - c) Goals scored
    - d) Further matches played at a neutral venue.

## 8.4 - Reporting Scores and Match Reports

- 1) It is the **home** team's responsibility to upload the result of the fixture onto the England Handball website.

This must include the match score sheet signed by the officials.

Failure to upload match reports will result in financial punishments

Failure to upload score sheets with player registration numbers will result in the match being forfeited.

### **Premier Handball Clubs and National League Clubs**

- Must upload their fixture the day of its completion

### **Regional League clubs**

- Must upload their result by Monday 20:00



## 9 Promotion and Relegation

Promotion and relegation is not guaranteed within the England Handball leagues. All clubs aspiring for promotion must comply with the Fit For Purpose criteria. Failure to adhere to this criterion will prevent promotion.

### 9.1 – Men

#### Premier Handball League

1. The team-finishing bottom of the Men’s Premier Handball League will be relegated directly to the nearest National League North or South.

The winner of the Premier Handball League Playoff will take the relegated teams place.

#### Premier Handball League Play off:

Winner National league North vs Winner National League South

#### National League

2. The team-finishing bottom of the National League North and South will be relegated directly to the nearest Regional League.

A series of play-off matches will take place to determine which of the clubs that won their regional league is promoted to the National League.

<b>National League North Play off</b>	<b>National League South Play off</b>
Winner Midlands Regional League V Winner North Regional League	Winner South West Regional League V Winner South East Regional League

Where there is more than one regional league in an area a further play off will be played to distinguish a representative to go the National League play off e.g.

**South East Play off:** South East Regional League 1 v South East Regional League A



## 9.2 - Women

3. The team finishing bottom of the Women's Premier Handball League will be relegated to the closest Regional League.

The winner of each Regional league will play in a series of play offs for promotion.

<b>Premier Handball League Playoff</b>	
<b>Winner North</b> <b>V</b> <b>Winner South</b>	
Winner Midlands Regional League <b>V</b> Winner North Regional League	Winner South West Regional League <b>V</b> Winner South East Regional League

## 9.3 Relegation

- 1) The bottom placed team of the league will be automatically relegated to their nearest lower league, where applicable.

## 10 - England Handball Cup and Shield

The format and rules of these competitions will be notified to all clubs prior to the start of the season.

1. It is mandatory for Premier Handball and National League clubs to participate in the England Handball Cup.
2. New players may only play in the National Cup competitions if they have been registered and ITC'd by the 31 January.
3. Premier Handball League teams will not be permitted into the shield
4. Teams knocked out of the the first round of the National Cup will be entered into the Shield (excluding Premier Handball League teams)



## 11 - European Competition Qualification

1. The following England Handball competitions provide a route to European competition;
  - England Handball National Cup Winners: EHF Challenge Cup
  - British Handball League Cup Winners: EHF Cup
    - The British Handball league cup is the play off between the English Premier Handball League winners and the Scottish equivalent.
2. Qualification is not automatic and the club will have to satisfy England Handball they can meet EHF requirements.
3. Clubs entering European Cup competitions should take particular note of their financial obligations and liabilities. England Handball will **not** accept financial penalties imposed by the European Handball Federation as a result of default or any other issues from English clubs.

## 12 - Referees

### 12.1 - Appointment

1. Two officials must referee all senior England Handball league matches.
2. Where referees are appointed to take charge of any match that forms part of an England Handball approved competition, all IHF rules of the game are to be applied apart from those listed as excluded.
3. Referees ensure the scoresheet and any relevant match report is signed before being submitted.
4. England Handball shall endeavour to appoint referees to matches. However, where this is not possible, the team deemed to be playing at home must, in the first instance, provide two appropriately qualified referees from within their club.
  - Appropriately qualified referees shall mean two persons who have attended an England Handball referee's course at the minimum, and achieved the required standard for the level of the competition concerned.
  - Teams may agree to appoint one qualified referee from each club to officiate the game. However, where an agreement cannot be reached, the home team shall be responsible.

### 12.2 - Player Checks

1. So that registration can be verified, players, coaches and officials must, where possible, be in possession of approved photographic identification whilst participating in England Handball approved competitions. This can be a;
  - Passport,
  - National identification card
  - Driving licence (a provisional or a full licence)
  - An armed forces identification card
  - Any identification card, which bears a "Pass" hologram along with a photograph of the carrier.
2. Referees are expected to arrive at venues at the commencement of the hall booking at the latest and shall make themselves known to the host organiser/home team.
3. Two qualified referees shall govern all England Handball approved matches and it shall be the responsibility of the host club to provide score and timekeeper.

## 12.3 Disqualification and Reports

1. It is strongly recommended that matches are video recorded, so that video evidence is available if there is a disciplinary issue.
2. Where, during the course of a match, a player's action leads to a direct disqualification (Red Card) with no report report to follow (i.e. player is not shown a Blue Card), no further disciplinary action shall be deemed necessary.
3. Whenever a disqualification with report takes place (blue card), a report will follow.
  - They shall provide a brief statement on the match report indicating the offence, the rule applied, and that the red card carries an obligatory report.
  - The referees should only explain the facts without making any further judgements or giving personal views, and should make reference to the rule(s), which they have applied.

Any obligatory report relating to red cards is completed on the back of the score sheet.

- Referees must send reports by email to the England Handball office by 14:00 on the first Monday after the match.
  - The England Handball Competition and Events Manager will send reports to the CDC by Tuesday 14:00 following the match.
- 4) Players disqualified with an obligatory report shall be deemed to have committed an offence that will carry an automatic suspension equal to the minimum tariff (minimum one game).

According to disciplinary procedures the ban will come into immediate effect from the next official match. This will be included in the official report.

- By signing the scoresheet, clubs are acknowledging the notification of the automatic ban and will be expected to apply this from the next official match to be played.

Where the referee indicates in his written report a more serious offence, England Handball will refer the report to the CDC to consider the offence.

This could result in a disciplinary hearing and the penalty being increased in accordance with the disciplinary sanctions. A player shall only have the right to appeal against the increased period of suspension but not against the automatic suspension carried by the offence).

- 5) Where the referees disqualify a player, coach or official, he/she is entitled

to sit in the area designated for spectators.

- Should the offender try to influence the match, the referee shall order the; player, coach or official concerned to leave the hall and an obligatory report of the incident is to be submitted. This report shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing with a sanction in accordance with disciplinary sanctions.
  - Where a player, coach or official refuses to leave the hall, the match shall be suspended until the referees' instruction has been carried out. The offender shall be reported to the C&EG and CDC and could be suspended in accordance with the regulations.
  - If the offender does not leave the hall after the instruction is given, the match is to be stopped and the team to whom the offender belongs will be penalised with a 10-0 loss. If this takes more than five minutes the match can be abandoned at the discretion of the referee.
- 6) Any person who is registered with England Handball who is involved in an incident that occurs in England Handball's sphere of influence could be subject to disciplinary sanctions, even if they were "only" spectators when the incident occurred. Such persons need to be clearly identified. (Note: the 'sphere of influence' shall mean any England handball approved competition).

The CDC shall not tolerate violent conduct of any kind.

- Where a person registered with England Handball is convicted of committing an assault on another player, a coach, official, referee and/or/spectator, the person concerned shall be suspended in accordance with disciplinary sanctions herein.
  - Where required, England Handball shall also supply names of officials and/or witnesses to national authorities should legal proceeding be instigated. Where available video evidence can over take a referee report.
  - Where disqualification is occasioned through an assault upon a referee or an England Handball official, the extent of the penalty shall be decided upon by England Handball.
  - Where such an assault is proven, a period of a period of suspension of 12 to 24 months from all England Handball approved competitions could be awarded
- 7) England Handball shall honour any disciplinary action, which might be instigated by international federations as if the offence were committed within England Handball's sphere of influence.
- 8) When the offender is a club official, the sanction shall be disqualification

from the holding of any office within a club affiliated to England Handball or England Handball itself for the same period.

- England Handball will seek prosecution through the courts against any individual assaulting an England Handball referee and/or one of its officials
- 9) As stated elsewhere, a club shall have the right to appeal to England Handball in the appropriate manner. Any such appeal shall be in writing within the timescale set within the disciplinary processes and shall include a fee of £50.00 required by England Handball. **Note:** where the sanction is in the form of an automatic suspension, the decision of the disciplinary panel is final and no appeal should be filled.
- 10) Where a player, coach or official is suspended for a period of 12 months or more, the appellant shall have the right to apply to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

## **12.4 - Referees' Fees and Expenses**

### **Premier Handball League and National Leagues**

The England Handball will pay all referee expenses.

Clubs competing in these leagues pay quarterly sums to the England Handball Association for referees.

- The total of these instalment sums will be communicated at the start of the season.

### **Regional Leagues**

The home club must pay referees in cash in these leagues before the start of the game.

### **National Cup and Shield**

- Both teams pay referee costs online through the Azolve system.
- Teams will be informed of the cost of referee costs with the confirmation of fixtures. This cost includes the cost of travel expenses

## **Youth Competition**

Referee costs will be included in the cost of tournament fees in accordance with the league structure.

## **Referee Payment guidance**

The cost per referee per game is:

- Premier Handball League - £25
- National Handball League - £15
- Regional League - £15
- Youth Competition - £10
- National Cup and Shield - £25

## **Cost and Travel Expenses**

- 11) Referees' expenses shall be calculated according to England Handball's Travel Expenses Policy.
- 12) The referees must provide an invoice for their fees and their travel expenses. If in doubt, the home team can ask England Handball for clarification on how the fees and travel expenses were calculated. The onus is on each home team to provide the referees with a contact (email) in order that they can submit their invoice in advance and for the home team to have the payment available.

## 13 National Teams

- 13) Only players registered with clubs affiliated to England Handball shall be eligible for selection for national teams.

For the purpose of this regulation, British Citizens resident abroad and registered as players with a recognised federation shall be deemed to be registered with England Handball.

However it might be incumbent for England Handball to insure such players separately.

All players being considered for selection must be in possession of a valid British passport. Without this, they will be excluded from selection. Players in possession of a British passport but holding dual nationality will be considered for selection. However, if they have represented another nation in any official competition, they may be required to serve an extended period of residency before being considered.

- 14) Regulations referring to the England and Great Britain national teams shall also apply except where otherwise stated.

- 15) Persons shall only be eligible for national team selection after having registered as a player with England Handball or with any other recognised federation. **Note: such a person should always be referred to as a "registered player".**

- 16) National coaches have the right to call upon the services of registered players from clubs affiliated to England Handball.

- Clubs cannot refuse a player's release where the date's involved fall on official international periods as designated by the EHF/IHF.
- Clubs may, however, appeal to the national coach for release of players required to attend training sessions if they feel they have overriding club commitments or, if three or more of their players, coaches and/or officials are involved. Clubs may make a request to the England Handball to have matches rearranged.

- 17) It shall be the duty of the C&EG and the Performance & National Team Group (P&NTG) to ensure that the training calendar and the official competitions calendar do not conflict and is in line with EHF/IHF international dates. However, it is accepted that a period of intensive training may be necessary shortly before the date on which the national team is to compete and, in such instance, the national team shall normally have precedence.

- 18) Players are eligible for selection for national teams if they meet the criteria laid down in the IHF regulations.