

# MALTA HANDBALL ASSOCIATION

## ARBITRATION REGULATIONS



August 2010

## **1.0 DEFINITIONS**

### **1.1 Singular/Plural – Males/Females**

Where singular is mentioned, is to be understood also to apply for plural and where males are mentioned it is to be understood also to apply for females.

### **1.2 Club**

A club is a constituted body or any other entity, which is affiliated formally to the Malta Handball Association.

### **1.3 Player**

A player is that person who is registered with the Malta Handball Association and his/her name is written on the official score sheet of the game.

### **1.4 Youth Player**

A player is considered as a Youth Player until he/she reaches the age of 17 years.

### **1.5 Team/Club Official**

Team/Club official is a person who forms part of a Club Committee and is registered with the Malta Handball Association as a committee member as per MHA Registration Form issued by the MHA. Persons whose name is written on the team list for a game (including, coach and, assistant coach) are to be considered as Team/Club Officials. Individuals forming part of Handball sections of sports clubs and forming part of sub-committees and or other board/s of a club are to be considered as Team/Club Officials.

### **1.6 Medical**

A qualified medical and/or paramedical person shall be allowed to sit on the bench on presentation of a document indicating that he is a doctor or paramedic.

### **1.7 MHA Officials**

MHA officials are the elected officers of the Association. The appointed Directors, Board members nominated and approved by the President's Council or Executive Council, Commissioners, Referees, Table Officials and Secretariat members.

## **1.8 Supporter**

Supporter is an individual who gives his support to a particular club whether he is a member or not of that particular club.

## **1.9 Individual**

Individual/s are players, team/club official, team followers and supporters.

## **1.10 Party**

Party stands for team, club, player, supporter and any other individual.

## **1.11 Malta Handball Association**

MHA stands for Malta Handball Association.

## **1.12 President's Council**

PC stands for President's Council

## **1.13 Executive Committee**

EC stands for Executive Committee

## **2.0 PROCEDURES**

### **2.1 Disciplinary Commissioners**

The MHA Council shall appoint Disciplinary Commissioners. It shall extend to him/her all those powers, rights and functions, which it deems necessary and proper according to the Statute of the MHA, within the Code of Discipline forming part of this Chapter.

### **2.2 The Executive Committee**

The EC may appoint or impeach other persons as Disciplinary Commissioners. All that applies in Art 2.1 shall apply to these other Commissioners.

### **2.3 The Commissioner**

The Disciplinary Commissioner is competent to hear and decide all cases of Discipline in all competitions of the Association, cases regarding players called to form part of the National team's selections, cases regarding the behaviour of spectators during matches, and any other disciplinary cases referred to him by the President's Council and or Executive Committee. Reports are to be in writing.

### **2.4 Disciplinary Commissioner's Secretary**

The General Secretary of the MHA shall be the Secretary to the Disciplinary Commissioner and will keep the Commissioner informed with regards to the "accused" record since the beginning of the disciplinary board in 1995 or since records are available. The Secretary will also be responsible for the keeping of the decisions taken.

### **2.5 Disciplinary Commissioner Secretary's Duties**

The Secretary shall not be in any way involved in the deliberation and/or decisions of the Disciplinary Sitings.

### **2.6 The Secretary of the Disciplinary Commissioner**

The Secretary shall be neither a practicing referee, nor a registered player nor a person connected in any way or another with an MHA club.

## **2.7 Reporting Procedure**

- i) Whenever a game official or MHA official reports a player/coach/team/club etc. he shall forward his report within 24 hours from the termination of the relative game.
- ii) The report shall only contain facts and written in such way as not to include the official's own impressions on the incident.
- iii) The report shall be forwarded to the Secretary General of the Association or his representative.
- iv) The Secretary/Delegate of the club concerned if applicable, is to be served/provided with a copy of the report, posted, faxed or e-mailed, within 48 hours from the termination of the game.
- v) The date of receipt shall be taken to be that of the post-mark, email date or fax report.
- vi) If any of the above is not compiled with, the report shall cease to have any effect in term of DC but will be retained on file by the MHA.
- vii) Whenever a club official, coach or player wishes to report incidents occurring during, before or immediately after a game. He/she shall do so in writing to the Secretary General by not later than 24 hours after the termination of the game.

## **2.8 Disciplinary Meetings**

The Disciplinary Commissioner shall hold his sittings on the first opportune time at the MHA headquarters or any other place as decided by the PC. In no case shall the sitting be held after the next competitive game of the reported player/club.

## **2.9 List of Decisions**

- i) This list of decisions shall be notified to the affiliated club telephonically or by e-mail and also communicated to all other clubs by email.
- ii) For games played during the weekend, this list shall be communicated by the following Wednesday 1900hrs. For games played during the week the hearing will be held the following week and the penalties imposed shall apply thereof.

## **2.10 Appeals**

- i) A club/official/individual shall have the right to appeal against the decision of the DC in writing within 24 hours of receiving the disciplinary decision by paying a deposit of Euro50.
- ii) In appellate proceedings the parties concerned have the right to be heard in person, at their expense, if they so request in their notice of appeal.
- iii) The Appeals decision shall be communicated to the club concerned by Friday 2300hrs.

## **3.0 SUSPENSIONS**

### **3.1 Suspensions**

All suspensions are to be in effect as from the date of the board sitting except in the case of an appeal. The Disciplinary Commissioner shall specify clearly the period of suspension. All game suspensions correspond to that CATEGORY that the player/individual in question was reported unless otherwise stated by the DC. When a game/s suspension is given in tournaments or friendlies organised (officiated by an MHA official) by the MHA and not fully affected due to termination of such tournament, the suspension is to be changed into a fine of Euro50 per game. Game suspensions shall be extended from one season to another by the same player/individual irrespective of the category/club he is playing in the new season. In the case of an appeal, the suspension if confirmed by the Disciplinary Board will commence from the date of the appeal sitting.

### **3.2 Suspensions up to/until end of season**

When a player/individual is suspended up to/until the end of season, the termination date of the suspension shall be the last competitive game of the season.

### **3.3 Suspensions from all MHA activities**

For the period suspended from all MHA activities the party:

- a) Shall not attend a General Meeting or and Extraordinary General meeting.
- b) Shall not attend an Executive Council meeting.
- c) Shall not represent his club as an official in Disciplinary, Protests and Appeals board meetings or at any other MHA organised meeting.
- d) Shall not take part as a player or official in any kind of activity organised by the MHA.
- e) Shall not enter the premises where MHA competitions are being organised. (Premises includes handball court, MHA offices, car park and surrounding areas)
- f) Shall not form part of a club committee/sub-committee and or club handball section. This applies suspension is for more than six months

### **3.4 Club suspensions from MHA activities**

When a club is suspended for a definite time from all MHA activities, the club delegate or his substitute shall still be considered as a club delegate but will lose the right to vote in a General Meeting and or Extraordinary General Meeting and also at the Executive Council meetings.

### **3.5 Suspensions by Clubs**

Suspensions by clubs on players/individuals of the same club shall only be recognised by the MHA if the Secretary General is informed in writing by not later than seven (7) days from the date of the suspension. Cases of suspensions for more than 30 days are to be reported to the MHA and dealt with by the Disciplinary Commissioner.

## **4.0 RELAPSER**

### **4.1 Second or more offence during the last calendar year**

When a player/individual club/team commits more than one offence during the preceding calendar year commencing from the date of the report (e.g. report dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010, past year starting from 18<sup>th</sup> April 2009) the penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Commissioner shall be double the penalty as found guilty as per this Disciplinary Code.

## **5.0           LIABILITY**

### **5.1    Liability of Clubs**

Clubs shall be responsible for the behaviour of their players, committee members, other officials and their supporters. Thus a Club shall be called to account for all kinds of misconduct and incidents caused by such persons.

### **5.2    Liabilities of Individuals**

Notwithstanding regulation 4.1 and 4.2 of the Disciplinary Code, individuals upon whom the MHA has jurisdiction shall be personally answerable for all kinds of misconduct and incidents caused or aided.

## **6.0 GENERAL**

### **6.1 Offence by Team/Club committee member**

Any team/Club committee member or other official found guilty of an offence shall be penalised according to these rules provided that such offence is to be considered of a higher degree.

### **6.2 Deductions of points**

Points are to be deducted only in the same competition that the participating team/club was reported. If the deduction of points cannot be implemented in the current season due to league being in the final playoff stages, then the points shall be deducted as from the start of the following league.

### **6.3 Fines**

Fines shall be paid prior to the next competitive game. Individuals/teams/clubs shall continue to be temporary suspended from all MHA activities until all fines are settled.

### **6.4 Damages to property, equipment, furniture and fixtures and dues**

Apart from the penalties stipulated in these rules, individuals/team/club found guilty of having incurred any damages to property, equipment, furniture and fixtures, shall be liable to pay for the expenses. Until these damages are paid, individuals/team/club shall be considered as temporary suspended from all MHA activities. Temporary suspensions shall also apply to dues.

### **6.5 Other penalties**

Any offence that is not contemplated in these rules shall be meted out in line with this Disciplinary Code or in case of very serious offence referred to the President's Council for further consideration and action.

### **6.6 Powers of the President's Council**

The President's Council shall have the power to deal with all offences committed against the rules and interest of the MHA referred to by the Disciplinary Commissioner or by any of the elected members, in accordance with the procedure hereunder established and shall have the power to issue those penalties against the party found guilty as approved by the President's Council.

## **6.7 Hearing procedures**

The party charged with any violation and/or misconduct, shall be notified in writing by the Secretary General, of such charge or alleged misconduct and of the day and time when to appear before the President's Council. The above-mentioned information shall reach the party concerned at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time fixed for the hearing. If the party charged fails to attend such hearing the President's Council shall investigate and decide as it may deem fit in the circumstances. The President's Council may, at its discretion, however adjourn the case for another date. The President's Council has also the power to suspend the party involved indefinitely pending the hearing of the case.

## **6.8 Penalties that may be awarded by the President's Council**

In the event of any Team/Club, player, supporter or individual/s being proved, to the satisfaction of the President's Council, to have been guilty of any violations of the MHA rules and regulations, or of any other misconduct, the President's Council shall have the power to penalise the offender with the removal from the MHA and or/with suspension for a defined period and/or with a fine, or with any such penalty as the President's Council may deem fit. This may include also suspended sentences. The President's Council shall have the power to impose more than one penalty for the same offence.

## **6.9 Appeals**

The right of appeal against the decision of the President's Council shall only be granted subject to permission obtained beforehand from the President's Council.

## **6.10 Area of jurisdiction**

Provisions contemplated in this Disciplinary Code shall apply from the moment anyone of the MHA officials shall arrive at the locality and its vicinity where the match is to be played and shall continue to apply until the departure of the MHA officials from the locality where the match has been played. The Disciplinary Commissioner is empowered to establish whether the offence took place in the vicinity or not.

## **6.11 Amendments to the Disciplinary Code**

These rules may be revised and approved at an AGM or an EGM

## **7.0 PENALTIES**

### **7.1 Any player found guilty of the following offences**

- A uses violently any objects and hits with it/them shall be disciplined according to Category 3.**
- B uses violently any part of his body to hit shall be disciplined according to Category 3.**
- C attempts to commit what is stipulated in sub-articles (A) and (B) of this article shall be disciplined according to Category 4**
- D spits at shall be disciplined according to Category 4**
- E behaves aggressively and/or adopts a fighting attitude against shall be disciplined according to Category 5**
- F threatening shall be disciplined according to Category 5**
- G insulting shall be disciplined according to Category 7**
- H passing remarks or gesticulating in an offensive or obscene manner and / or using vulgar or obscene language shall be disciplined according to Category 8**

**NB For H: If the gesture is by way of an insult, what is contemplated in sub-article (G) above, shall apply.**

- I use the same acts of violence contemplated in sub-article (A) and (B) above but during the actual time of his playing the ball, or his opponent playing the ball will be disciplined according to Category 7**

### **7.2 Offence of extraordinary gravity**

When in the opinion of the Disciplinary Commissioner the offence contemplated in Article 7:1 (A) to (I) is of an extraordinary gravity or warrants a penalty harsher than those the contemplated he shall suspend the player indefinitely and refer the case with his recommendations to the President's Council for endorsement.

### **7.3 Offences by player under provocation**

When an offence has been committed under provocation, the minimum prescribed penalty shall be considered.

#### **7.4 Player bringing the game into disrepute**

Any player or team official having committed any other offence, which is not contemplated in this Disciplinary Code but calculated to bring the game into disrepute, is liable to be disciplined according to Category 8.

#### **7.5 Effects of suspension of player**

A player's suspension automatically bars him from acting as Team/Club official, coach, assistant coach, manager or team follower during matches in the same league/category he was reported.

#### **7.6 Team/Club Official or Team Follower found guilty of: -**

- A uses violently any objects and hits with it/them shall be disciplined according to Category 2.**
- B uses violently any part of his body to hit shall be disciplined according to Category 2.**
- C attempts to commit what is stipulated in sub-articles (A) and (B) of this article shall be disciplined according to Category 3.**
- D spits at shall be disciplined according to Category 3.**
- E behaves aggressively and/or adopts a fighting attitude against shall be disciplined according to Category 4.**
- F threatening shall be disciplined according to Category 4.**
- G insulting shall be disciplined according to Category 4.**
- H passing remarks or gesticulating in an offensive or obscene manner and or using vulgar or obscene language towards shall be disciplined according to Category 5.**

**NB For H: If the gesture is by way of an insult, what is contemplated in sub-article (G) above may be applied.**

#### **7.7 Creating trouble among spectators**

Any player, team/club official or club committee member who is inciting and/or generally causing trouble among spectators by his attitude/misconduct shall be disciplined according to Category 6.

## **7.8 Trouble by supporters**

Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of their supporters on those days and those times when they are playing.

- i) Clubs whose supporters are found guilty of invading the court shall be fined the sum of Euro100.
- ii) Clubs whose supporters are found guilty of fighting shall be liable to a fine for not less than Euro100 but not more than Euro400.
- iii) Clubs whose supporters are found guilty of swearing, using obscene or vulgar language or insulting or passing derogatory remarks shall be fined the sum of Euro50.
- iv) Clubs whose supporters are found guilty of causing damage to property, furniture and fixtures are liable to a fine for not less Euro100 but not more than Euro1000. These fines are exclusive of any expenses incurred to repair or change any damage caused by the same supporters.
- v) Clubs whose supporters are found guilty of manhandling any MHA Official, Team/Club Official, players or any other individual are liable to a fine for not less than Euro100 but not more than Euro1000 and / or a suspension from the any League/Competition and or deduction of not more than ten points (-10).

## **7.9 Clubs bringing the game into disrepute**

Any club having committed any other offence which is not contemplated in this Disciplinary Code but is also deemed to have brought the game into disrepute shall be liable to a fine for not less than Euro250 but not more than Euro2500 and / or a deduction of two points but not more than ten (-10) points and or a suspension from any competition organised by the MHA.

## **7.10 Teams/Clubs leaving the court before end of game**

Any club who leaves the court before the termination of a game is liable to a fine for not less than Euro500 but not more than Euro3000 and / or for a deduction of points for not less than two (-2) points but not more than ten (-10) points and or suspension from the League and or other Competition and or suspension till the end of season and or relegated to a lower division. When relegation is not possible the team will start the following season league with minus four (-4) points. Deduction of points may be carried forward to the following season.

## **7.11 Offence by Team/Club Officials – CLARIFICATION**

A coach, assistant coach, manager, team follower and or team/club official's suspension will automatically bar him from sitting on the bench during his team/club commitments during his

period of suspension. Any team/club official having committed any other offence, which is not contemplated in these rules, shall be liable to be disciplined according to Category 8 unless the PC decides otherwise.

#### **7.12 Disqualified Players/Coaches/Team Officials not leaving the Premises**

Players, coaches and/or team officials disqualified during a game and found guilty of not adhering to IHF rules of the game are to be suspended for 5 games and his/her team will lose the game 30 – 0 in case the team of the defaulter wins the game.

The Commissioner may in accordance with the gravity of the incidents, impose a fine of not more than Euro250 in addition to the above.

Suspended officials are not allowed to enter any place where handball activities are organised by the MHA.

#### **7.13 Disqualified Players**

Players directly disqualified during the last minute of the game (not as a consequence of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2min suspension) will automatically be suspended for the next game.

## **8.0 OTHERS**

### **8.1 Offence by youth players**

When a youth player is found guilty of an offence, which is not considered to be of a serious nature, the Commissioner may discharge him on condition that he shall not commit another offence within a period of time stipulated by the DC. If such a player commits another offence within the conditional period of time, he shall be considered as a relapser and the penalty applicable to him shall not be awarded in its minimum. If such player commits another offence after the conditional period of time has expired, such player shall not be deemed to be a relapser but shall only be sentenced in accordance with the offence. A conditional discharge may only be given once during the same season to the same player

### **8.2 First offences**

When a player, whatever his age, is found guilty of a minor offence, this being his first report, the Commissioner can give a conditional discharge for a period of time.

## **9.0 CASES OF CORRUPTION**

### **9.1 Corruption**

When a case of alleged corruption is reported to the MHA, the President's Council will nominate a board of inquiry consisting of not more than five persons to investigate the allegations. This board shall submit its report within two months from the appointment date and must recommend any disciplinary to be taken against all those involved. Such recommendations must be approved at a President's Council meeting called to discuss such report. In cases where there is clear proof of alleged corruption the President's Council is to report the case as soon as possible to the police authorities.

## **10.0 DOPING**

### **10.1 Doping**

When a player is found guilty of making use of illegal substance he shall automatically be suspended for a minimum of two years and any other penalty that the Disciplinary Commissioner may recommend and subsequently approved by the President's Council.

## 11.0 AMNESTIES

### 11.1 Amnesty Proposal

Proposals for an amnesty, may only receive the consideration of the President's Council after a period of two years has elapsed from the previous amnesty.

### 11.2 No Amnesty Given

No amnesty shall be given with regards to fines.

### 11.3 No Amnesty

No amnesty shall be given to anybody who has been removed from the Association for reasons of corruption.

## PENALTY TABLE

								OFFENSE BY	
CAT	AGAINST		AGAINST		AGAINST		Additional	PLAYER	TEAM/CLUB
from	MHA OFFICIAL		PLAYER/COACH		OTHERS		Penalty	COACH	OFFICIAL
Code	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Optional		FOLLOWER
1	1 year	Indefinitely	9 months	Indefinitely	9 months	Indefinitely	<€1165		
2	6 months	5 years	6 months	3 year	3 months	1 year	<€465		Uses Objects/Body
3	3 months	5 years	1 month	1 year	1 month	6 months	<€230	Uses Objects/Body	Attempts/Spits
4	2 months	2 years	4 games	20 games	2 games	10 games	<€230	Attempts/Spits	Aggressive/Threatens/Insulting
5	1 month	1 year	2 games	10 games	1 game	5 games	<€120	Aggressive/Threatens	Obscene/Others
6	5 games	10 games	2 games	10 games	1 game	5 games	<€60	Supporters Trouble	Supporters Trouble
7	2 games	10 games	1 games	10 games	1 games	5 games	<€60	Insulting	
8	Reprimand	<MTL100	Reprimand	<MTL75	Reprimand	<MTL50	<2 games	Obscene/Others	