

**MALTA HANDBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**COMPETITIONS' REGULATIONS**



August 2010

## **1.0 Administration**

- 1.1** The Malta Handball Association (MHA) organises all handball competitions. Laws and Regulations governing handball competitions shall be stipulated by the Council as per Chapter 7 Article 34 of the Malta Handball Statute.
- 1.2** The National Competitions shall take place between the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and the end of August of the following year.

## **2.0 Finances**

- 2.1** The following costs are to be borne by the participating clubs:

**2.1.1 Travelling costs:** The travelling costs of the entire team during the League to and from the competition site are to be borne by same.

**2.1.2 Participation fee:** Clubs taking part in the Leagues shall pay to the MHA a yearly contribution, amount of which shall be stipulated by the Council before the Competitions start. This sum shall be paid in before the Competitions commence. A club that applies for participation pays the fee and later decides not to take part forfeits payment.

**2.1.3 Accident and health insurance:** Clubs participating in the Leagues shall arrange at their own expense accident and health insurance for all its members who include officials, any technical staff and players. The MHA cannot be held responsible for accidents or illnesses during the staging of matches on the competition venues. Furthermore, the MHA advises clubs to provide for their own First Aid kit.

**2.1.4 Special regulations:** The Executive Committee may issue special financial regulations for the League.

## **2.2 Television, radio, film, video and advertising rights**

**2.2.1** Television, radio, film, video and advertising rights of all matches shall rest with the match organiser (MHA) and the venue provider. The MHA has the right to display in all matches, free of charge, advertising banners/strips of a maximum length of 5m anywhere within the range covered by TV cameras. This will belong to the major sponsor of the league competition. Other boards belonging to clubs will only be displayed once the interested parties inform the EC in writing not later than a week before the match/es involved. A club shall have the right to display two (2) boards (measurements to be specified by MHA) provided by the same. Clubs are responsible for setting up and dismantling such advertising boards. The MHA has the right to refuse any advertising boards that are in direct conflict with its main sponsor or which are not in accordance with rule 6.6.1. The MHA cannot be held liable to any damages sustained to such boards.

**2.2.2** The MHA alone has the right to confer T.V. broadcasting radio and film rights (incl. video taping) as well as publicity rights in sports centres. The organiser (MHA) may ask for a sum to be agreed upon in advance for any advertising inside the hall on behalf of the team sponsors.

**2.2.3 Video recording:** Upon application to the MHA, all clubs shall be permitted to make video recording for teaching and training purposes. Persons wishing to record a match on video/dvd or any other media who are unable to produce a permit issued by the MHA may be asked to leave the hall.

### **3.0 Technical Organisation**

**3.1 Venues:** Venues shall be proposed by the organiser (MHA) & approved after an inspection of halls, sport centres and multi-purpose gyms.

### **3.2 Rules of the game, time-keeping and supervision**

**3.2.1 Matches:** All competition matches are to be played according to International Rules of the game. Special rules may be applied by the MHA to specific competitions.

**3.2.2 Time-keeping:** All matches will be provided with an electric time-keeping apparatus which can be read without difficulty and operated from the official's table. If this is not available, other forms of equipment can be used.

**3.2.3 Supervision:** The MHA Delegate, Referees, score-keeper and time-keeper shall be appointed by the organiser.

**3.2.4 One or no referees present:** The MHA delegate or referees present may accept to referee the match. One referee may on his/her consent and by approval of the MHA Delegate officiate the match by him/herself.

### **3.3 Match system & points**

**3.3.1** Playing time: IHF Rule 2 shall apply.

**3.3.2** Points are awarded as follows:

each match won	3 points
each match draw	1 point per team
each match lost	0 points

**3.3.3** If, after all league matches are completed, two teams or more are tied in the same position having equal points then the following system is used to determine classification:

- a) Points between teams concerned
- b) Goal difference in the matches between the teams concerned

c) Greater number of plus goals in the matches between the teams concerned

If there is still a tie, the following system is used to decide between these teams:

- a) Goal difference is subtracted in all matches
- b) Greater number of plus goals in all matches
- c) Ruling by MHA EC will be sought

### **3.4 Transmission of results & final league table**

**3.4.1** It is the duty of the organiser (MHA) to inform the press & news agencies of the final results, half-time scores & any special occurrences after each match.

### **4.0 Prizes**

**4.1** League Champions and K.O. Winners will each receive up to 20 medals, a trophy for one year's keep and a miniature trophy. Runners-up in both competitions shall receive a trophy. Prizes for other competitions shall be decided upon by the EC.

**4.2** The Best Player Award shall be given in all league categories. The system used to select the best player shall be decided by the MHA Executive Committee.

**4.3** The top scorer of the senior and promotion leagues will receive a medal or trophy. If two or more players are joint first having scored the same number of goals, then each of these players will be awarded with a medal or a trophy.

**4.4** The EC may award a fair play token to any individual or team for a fair play.

**4.5** Team awards shall be presented either on the field of play or as decided by the EC.

**4.6** Individual awards shall be presented at the end of season function.

### **5.0 Doping control**

**5.1** Doping control shall be performed in accordance with the Anti-doping regulations. The Anti-doping Regulations plus attachments are an integral part of the IHF & MHA Regulations.

### **6.0 Clothing and players**

**6.1** The team must have two sets of playing clothes in contrasting colours. Playing clothes must be numbered by means of easily legible figures having a min. height of 20 cm on the back and a min height of 10 cm on the front. All numbers must be printed and range from 1 to 99.

- 6.2** A list of the first and second playing kits of each team (players and goalkeepers) shall be provided prior to the commencement of competitions. The MHA must provide all the above information to all concerned prior to the commencement of the competitions. The home team shall always wear the first kit unless otherwise agreed upon by the teams and the MHA.
- 6.3** Preferably players should wear the same numbers during the entire league.
- 6.4** If the referees consider that the clothing of the two teams is likely to cause confusion, the team listed second in the fixture list shall change its clothing to ensure a good contrast.
- 6.5 Advertising**
- 6.5.1** Advertising is allowed on players' match and training clothing.
- 6.5.2** Advertising on clothing in accordance with 7.5.1 shall not be associated with any material benefits for individual persons.
- 6.5.3** The MHA has the right to conduct its own advertising or display additional advertising at league games.
- 6.5.4** If the MHA has a main sponsor that sponsor's advertising shall be accorded preference.
- 6.6 Type of advertising**
- 6.6.1** The use of company and product names as well as brand names and product groups is allowed as long as they are not contrary to public morality. Advertising must not be of political, religious, racist or ideological nature.
- 6.6.2** Restrictions based on national legislation shall be duly observed.
- 6.6.3** The use of fluorescent paints is not permitted. This rule applies not only to advertising but also generally to the material from which sports & training clothes are made.
- 6.7 Advertising area**
- 6.7.1** Players' playing clothes must comply with the provisions of the Game Rules.
- 6.7.2** Advertising on playing clothes must not impair legibility of the players' numbers on shirts.
- 6.7.3** Players wearing irregular clothing must not be allowed access to matches, especially where shirts are concerned, these should be identical. Players substituting the goalkeeper should either wear a goalkeeper's shirt having the same player's number or a bib of contrasting colour.

## **7.0 Registration of players/Entries and active participation**

**7.1** All handball players and officials shall be required to register with the Malta Handball Association.

**7.1.1** A team may register up to 22 players. The number of players may be increased up to 22 during the playing season. U-17 players do not form part of the 22 registered by a senior team.

**7.1.2** Registered players may be replaced at any time during a playing season. The replacement must not have taken field with another club during the playing season. Such replacement forfeits payments.

**7.1.3** A team shall register up to six (6) officials that can be changed at any time during the playing season. Only up to four (4) of these officials may be listed in the official team sheet.

**7.1.4** Two passport size photos and a copy of the identity card or birth certificate of each player and official are to be submitted together with the Player's/Official's registration form.

## **7.2 Eligibility to participate**

**7.2.1** In accordance with section 8 only registered players are eligible to participate in the league.

**7.2.2** A non-registered player may participate in the National League only if s/he (or the club concerned) submits his/her application at a time stipulated by the Executive committee.

**7.2.3** Clubs should be provided with an updated list of eligible players to play in each category. This list shall be communicated to all clubs whenever it is updated.

## **7.3 Transfer of players / Players on Loan**

**7.3.1** Registered players may request to be released from their respective clubs at any time. The receiving club shall make a request on the appropriate Transfer Request Form to the releasing Club. Copy of such TRF shall reach the Malta Handball Association. The Malta Handball Association shall immediately contact releasing Club to verify whether it had received request. TRF shall be signed by both the Receiving Club and the Player.

**7.3.2** The transfer shall come into effect 10 days from request. The Malta Handball Association on behalf of the releasing Federation shall receive from receiving club or player the transfer fee as stipulated by Malta Handball Association. Fees shall be payable within 7 days from request of release. The Malta Handball Association shall transfer the amount due to the releasing club (At start of or during competitive season but never during rest period between seasons).

- 7.3.3** If payment fails to reach the Malta Handball Association within 7 days from date of request, the transfer shall be void.
- 7.3.4** If the releasing club wishes to object to the transfer of the player concerned, it must communicate its objections to the Malta Handball Association within 5 days from request of transfer. The Malta Handball Association shall consider all objections and a decision will be taken before the tenth day. A Club-Relations Board nominated by the 1<sup>st</sup> Council Meeting of the season will be set up for the purpose.
- 7.3.5** If a team decides not to take part in a competition all players of that team shall be automatically released. Only 10% of Transfer Fees shall apply and these shall be payable to Malta Handball Association.
- 7.3.6** A player may be transferred to another club on loan basis. The normal transfer procedure shall be followed. The TRF form shall be signed by the player concerned, the receiving club and the releasing club.

#### **7.4 Transfer and Loan Fees**

- 7.4.1** The Malta Handball Association shall distinguish between three categories of players

Category B: Handball players 16 years and under

Category A: Handball players 17 years and over

Category B players: Transfer fee of Lm50 shall apply

Category A players: Transfer fee as stipulated in table 7.4.2

- 7.4.2** Table showing value of players: (*see attachment*)
- 7.4.3** A player being registered by a club shall remain registered with the same club for one (1) calendar year following his/her last match. If a player stops playing for a calendar year in the local national league s/he shall be free released. There will be no obligations towards the club and the MHA.
- 7.4.4** No player can move from one club to another during the same playing season once he/she has already taken field with another club team.
- 7.4.5** A fee of Euro115 annually payable to the releasing club shall apply on players being transferred on loan basis. An added Euro25 shall apply in cases where National Team Players are transferred on loan basis. National Team Players are those who have been called since EHF Challenge Trophy 1999.
- 7.4.6** The MHA shall retain 10% of the transfer and loan fees at all times even if players are free released, except for players who stop playing for one (calendar year)
- 7.4.7** A player may be free released at any time.

**7.4.8** A suspended player shall remain registered with the same club for one (1) calendar year following the completion of his suspension period. The player's club shall pay the registration fee of the suspended player every year of his suspension.

## **7.5 Foreign players**

### **7.5.1 Regular Foreign Players**

**7.5.1.1** Foreign players (17 years and over) shall make available to the Malta Handball Association:

- a) a letter requesting the MHA to apply for the International Transfer Certificate. Until such certificate is issued (if applicable) the player concerned shall not be eligible to play in the national league.
- b) copy of passport
- c) Malta Handball Association registration form

**7.5.1.2** Registration of player shall come into effect when the International Transfer Certificate is issued.

**7.5.1.3** The MHA shall process application of International Transfer Certificate within 7 days of receipt of request. An administration fee of Euro12 shall apply.

**7.5.1.4** The MHA shall pass on to the receiving club any other charges the MHA might incur for the issuance of the International Certificate.

### **7.5.2 Foreign Players given Guest Status by MHA**

**7.5.2.1** Foreign players may also be registered as guest players, thus obtaining a Guest Status within the MHA players' registration profiles.

**7.5.2.2** Registrations are to reach the MHA office by hand by the player concerned and a club representative at least 15 days prior to his/her participation in the competitions.

**7.5.2.3** A Guest Status entitles the player to participate with a handball club in local handball competitions organized by the MHA without the need for an International Transfer Certificate to be issued. Such players may also be granted permission by the Executive Board to participate with the club in foreign competitions.

**7.5.2.4** The MHA is exempting Guest Status players from applying for the International Transfer Certificate, however, it should be clear that these players are not fully registered MHA players and hence, are not subject to local and foreign transfer regulations except for

7.4.5. They shall be free released at any time by the club and the MHA without any obligations whatsoever. Any written agreements reached between the clubs and Guest Status players shall be submitted to the MHA.

**7.5.2.5** Unless otherwise stated Guest Status players shall abide by all other regulations.

**7.5.3** Only 5 foreigners can form part of the 22 registered by one team. However, only three foreigners may be included in the team sheet at one time.

**7.5.4** A foreigner can act as a coach & be an active player in the team.

**7.5.5** Foreign players under the age of 17 are not subject to regulations under this section (7.5).

**7.5.6** An U-17 foreign player, registered by a club, who then turns seventeen will be considered as a non-foreign player and thus will not fall under regulations section (7.5).

## **7.6 Match day regulations (see IHF Rule 4)**

**7.6.1** Teams must be on court, with at least 5 players, 10 minutes before the scheduled time of the game. If one or both teams are not present on court at the start of game (scheduled time) a ten minute grace period will be respected. A W.O. will be awarded if one of the team still fails to turn up with at least 5 players after the 10 minute grace is over.

**7.6.2 TEAM SHEET:** Only players listed on team sheet are eligible to participate. Players and officials not present at the beginning of the match should not be included in the team sheet. However, the number of players on a team can be increased up to 14 at any time during the game, including overtime. This also applies to officials. The maximum number of team officials on the team sheet is 4.

**7.6.3** Players and team officials who arrive late must obtain their entitlement to participate from the officials' table.

**7.6.4** Clubs have to present a printed MHA Team-Sheet to the MHA Delegate 10 minutes before the scheduled time of the start of the match. All shirt numbers have to be written in ascending order. Team sheets must be duly filled and signed by the responsible team official.

## **8.0 Playing halls and handballs**

**8.1** League matches shall be played in halls on the playing surfaces considered appropriate by the MHA.

**8.2** Substitution area (see IHF Regulations on Substitution Area): During the matches only the players and team officials on the score sheet may be allowed to stay in the substitution area.

**8.3** League matches shall be played with balls approved by the MHA.

## **9.0 Protests and appeals**

**9.1** All protests (bearing a fee of Euro25, non-refundable) and appeals (bearing a fee of Euro50, refundable should appeal be won in 'toto'.) lodged during the league will be subject to the general provisions as provided in the Arbitration Regulations of the MHA.

## **10.0 MHA Delegates**

**10.1** The main duty of these delegates is to ensure a proper carrying out of the match. They should try to avoid any protests. An observer is, however, not a referee. The MHA Delegate does not make any decisions, he can only give recommendations. When on duty, he/she carry with him/her IHF / MHA regulations as well as the Rules of the Game.

**10.2** During the match, the officially appointed delegate shall be seated at the timekeeper's table to be able to intervene if necessary.

## **11.0 Extraordinary instances**

**11.1** For a walk-over the result will be 30-0.

**11.1.1** A team will be disqualified after the 2<sup>nd</sup> walk-over.

**11.1.2** If during the league, a team or more has already given a walk-over and at a later stage is either disqualified or decides not to continue, points and goals in favour are subtracted to bring all clubs equal.

**11.2** In case of extraordinary instances such as electricity cuts or blackouts, before or during the matches, the referees and the MHA delegate will deal with the case as it arises. They will do their utmost to have the game played.

**11.3** If the game is stopped for more than 15 minutes the game will be continued on another day. The EC shall decide when and where the game shall be continued.

**11.4** In cases where players are seriously injured the game may be interrupted by the referee for not more than 15 minutes. The game shall then continue.

## **12.0 Super Cup**

- 12.1** The Super Cup is the first competition of the season for the senior teams and it is played between the National League winners and the K.O. winners of the previous season.
- 12.2** In case the same team wins both competitions the Super Cup is played between the National League winners and K.O. finalists of the previous season.
- 12.3** All players registered with the clubs concerned are eligible to participate.

## **13.0 MHA Cup**

- 13.1** The MHA Cup follows immediately after the Super Cup and is a round robin tournament for the senior teams.
- 13.2** The EC shall decide on how many rounds the MHA Cup shall be played.
- 13.3** All players registered with the clubs concerned are eligible to participate.

## **14.0 Promotion Leagues**

- 14.1** All players (including foreigners) 19 years and under may take part in the Promotion Leagues (Ex. Players born in 1986 may participate in the Promotion Leagues 2005-2006).
- 14.2** Each Promotion League team may register five players who play in the Senior Championship League but these cannot be national team players (see 14.4) or foreigners (over 19 years of age) playing in the Senior Championship League.
- 14.3** Only two out of the five registered in 14.2 may be listed in the team sheet at one time.
- 14.4** National Team Players are those who have played for the senior national team in official matches played in the previous three seasons.
- 14.5** If a club is participating only in the promotion league then the team may consist of players 19 and over.
- 14.6** All other regulations shall apply.

## **15.0 U-17 Leagues**

- 15.1** All those players 17 years and under (including foreigners) are eligible to participate in the U-17 Leagues. (Ex. Players born in 1989 may participate in the U-16 Leagues 2005-2006).
- 15.2** U-17 players may take part in all MHA Competitions.
- 15.3** All other regulations shall apply.

## **16.0 KO Competition**

**16.1** The KO Competition is the last competition of the season for senior teams

**16.2** All players registered with the clubs concerned are eligible to participate.

Transfer Fees

Age	Basic Value	Natioanl Team Caps			Promotion Only	Playing Experience				BP Promo	Awards*		
		1 to 5	6 to 15	16+		1-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	15+ yrs		BP Senior	TS Promo	TS Senior
		<i>add</i>	<i>add</i>	<i>add</i>	<i>subtract</i>	<i>add</i>	<i>add</i>	<i>add</i>	<i>add</i>	<i>add</i>	<i>add</i>	<i>add</i>	<i>add</i>
17-21	350	25	50	100	100	25	50	75	100	25	50	25	50
22-24	400	25	50	100	150	25	50	50	100	25	50	25	50
25-27	450	25	50	100	200	25	50	50	100	25	50	25	50
28-31	500	25	50	100	250	25	50	50	100	25	50	25	50
32-35	350	25	50	100	100	25	50	50	100	25	50	25	50
36 and over	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	Nil	NIL	Nil	NIL

\*Awards during the previous season