



USA
TEAM HANDBALL
COMPETITION RULE BOOK
(Draft for public review – 8/5/08)

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PO Box 581486
Salt Lake City, UT 84158

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Mission

The Mission of the USA Team Handball (USATH) shall be to develop, promote, educate and grow the sport of Team Handball at all levels in the United States and to enable United States athletes to achieve sustained competitive excellence to win medals in international and Olympic competition

Foreword

The USA Team Handball (USATH) Rule Book establishes rules that regulate all team handball structures, organizations and activities in the USA. There are some forms (attachments) that are integral part of these Rules at the end of this book. This Rule Book contains more stringent guidelines for club(s) and players than may have existed in the past. It is hoped that these rules that will increase competition, accelerate the development of the sport and preserve playing opportunities for all players.

Definitions

1. **Active Team.** A team that competes in at least on two (2) USATH sanctioned Events in their own Region in one season
2. **Category A** (US Citizen). Any individual that has USA citizenship (sufficient proof is USA passport or birth certificate)
3. **Category B** (US Legal Resident). Any individual legally residing in the USA (Green Card or resident visa valid 6+ months)
4. **Category C** (Non Residents). Anyone legally in the USA (tourist visa) but does not have resident status.
5. **Club.** An organization of team handball players that actively works towards the development of the sport; and coordinates the participation of one or more teams in USA Team Handball sanctioned competition.
6. **Event.** A USA Team Handball sanctioned match, tournament, clinic (coaches, players, referees, etc.), certification course, tryout, camp, etc.
7. **Event Director.** One individual in a leadership capacity within a Local Organization who has ultimately decision-making authority for their particular Event.
8. **League.** Club competition with at least 4 clubs participating.
9. **Local Organizing Committee (LOC).** An organization of individuals that work together to host, promote and/or execute USATH sanctioned Events.
10. **Medical Personnel. Certified** medical professional possessing M.D., A.T.C., P.T., EMT certification
11. **Mid-Season Break.** The time between Christmas Day until the second Friday in the New Year.
12. **Roster.** The list of players on the game sheet for a specific game.
13. **Team.** A group of at least 5 players (team handball) or 4 players (beach handball) that compete in a USA Team Handball sanctioned match and/or tournament.
14. **Season.** The USA Team Handball Season begins on the Tuesday after Labor Day and ends on Labor Day of the following year.
15. **Tournament.** An event, usually over more than one day, with two or more USA Team Handball sanctioned matches.

ARTICLE I – Rules of the Game

Section 1 – Application of Rules

The USATH Rule Book applies to all USATH sanctioned events in USA. USATH, as member of the International Handball Federation (IHF), will apply all of handball rules specified in the IHF Rules of the Game (valid at that time) in all USATH events, except:

- a) when otherwise specifically addressed in these Rules
- b) when specifically approved, in writing, by Technical Director of USATH, for specific event or purpose.

Section 2 – Exemption procedure

Local Organizing Committee (LOC) shall request from USATH, in writing, at least 90 days before start of event, any exception(s) to IHF Rules of the Game. USATH shall answer with approval or denial in 14 days after receiving such requests. If there are any proposed rule changes or exclusions for the event, they must be included on the Event Sanction Form and they must be approved before an event is sanctioned.

Section 3 – Copies of the USATH Rules

Copies of IHF Rules of the Game and USATH Rule Book can be found at www.usateamhandball.org. Hard copies are available through USATH, for a fee to be determined by the USATH.

ARTICLE II Code of Conduct

Section 1 – Application of Code

All participants (including players, coaches, referees, event organizers and volunteers) in USATH sanctioned events are considered ambassadors of the game and, as such, need to adhere to these rules. All participants in USATH events need to sign Code of Conduct (see attachment “A”), before they can take on a role in any capacity within USATH - sanctioned event. As such, they shall not engage in behavior that is detrimental to the game or the growth of the sport in the United States.

Section 2 – Authorities to implement the Rules and Code

- A. During any match occurring in a USATH sanctioned event, the referees are the ultimate disciplinary authority. Their authority extends to warm-ups, actual game play, time-outs and halftime.
- B. In between games, but during the course of a USATH sanctioned event, the Local Organizing Committee (the “LOC”) is the ultimate disciplinary authority (or Disciplinary Committee established under guidance of LOC).
- C. At all other times, USATH shall be the disciplinary authority.

During an Event, any person serving as the disciplinary authority, within the time frame of his/her rights is allowed to take action on all participants and spectators. These actions include but are not limited to: assignment of red cards, removal of a person from an Event, removal of a person from an entire tournament, disqualification of a team from the tournament. They may do so in accordance with any provision in this Rule Book.

Section 3 - Unacceptable behavior during the event

A. This Rule Book defines as unacceptable behavior:

- a) use of offensive language - generally as a disparaging remark to an opposing player or toward a referee, or even as an expression of frustration or self-admonishment. This includes any act that is reasonably likely to threaten, disparage, vilify, offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate another person or group based on race, gender, religion, national or ethnic origin or sexual orientation.
- b) questioning/disputing of the referee's decision. This applies equally to disqualifications (red cards) and unsuccessful appeals as to the judgment of referee decisions regarding 9-meters, 2-minute penalties, penalty shots, etc.
- c) the excessive number of appeals, primarily aimed at pressuring and intimidating the referees into a favorable decision.
- d) failure to obey referee instructions and/or to leave the court promptly upon being penalized by a referee
- e) abuse of equipment (e.g. kicking a ball, spiking the ball, removing his / her shirt, etc...)
- f) improper conduct and/or failure to exit the gym without delay after a player has been assigned a red card. Failure to do so can often inflame the situation and lead to a more serious altercation. It is the responsibility of everyone involved with USATH sanctioned events, including club officials, team captains, coaches and especially the players; to ensure a return to the levels of conduct and sportsmanship traditionally inherent in the game

- B. During a team handball game, the captain and the head coach are the only individual permitted to address the referees. They must do so in a respectful manner. The captain and coach are responsible at all times for ensuring that play is conducted within the spirit of the game as well as within the provisions of this Rule Book. Players must not show dissent at the referee's decision(s).

ARTICLE III – Participant Registration, Eligibility and Classification

Section 1 – Participant registration

All participants shall register on the official USATH website at www.usateamhandball.org and designate her Participant Category. All participants must be classified no later than beginning of the competition season. In the registration packet, a player must register as part of a Club and Region.

Section 2 - Player eligibility

Player may change clubs during a season, but only upon submission of a written letter (or via www.usateamhandball.org) to USATH. Once he/she is cleared to play, he/she may represent a team from his/her Club.

Section 3 – Participant categories

An important goal of USATH is to grow the sport among individuals who are eligible to play for U.S. National teams at the Youth, Junior and Senior levels or represent USA as Officials in International Events. Therefore, this Rule Book significantly revises eligibility guidelines for Participants in USATH sanctioned Events.

USATH will recognize three categories of participants:

- a) Category A: US Citizen
- b) Category B: US Legal Resident
- c) Category C: Non Residents

A participant can change his classification at any point during the season, provided he shows the proper documentation and is cleared to play by USATH. Upon submitting all verification papers, a player must submit his yearly fee at the same time. The yearly fee will be determined and announced by the Technical Director. Any violation of any portion of this Article may result in the assignment of a red card by the referees, or expulsion from a tournament by the Event Director.

ARTICLE IV – Club Regulations and Standards

Section 1 – Club

All clubs must register at www.usateamhandball.org. Each club must designate a club official who will provide USATH with his personal contact info, club name, club mailing address and club email address. During registration, each club must designate the region it will compete in. A Club Official must report any player additions to their roster with USATH as soon as new players sign with their club.

Prior to any USATH sanctioned Event (Regional League, Regional Qualification Tournament or National Championship), Club must submit a roster with no LESS than 50% of players from Category A; and no MORE than 3 players from Category C. All Clubs must be compliant at the beginning of, and throughout, each competition season.

Section 2 – Player transfer

A player may sign up at any time during the playing season; however, they will not be cleared to play until their category status has been certified by the USATH Technical Director.

- a) Every player must register with one Club and can play for only one Team (in case one Club has more than one Team to compete).
- b) If the player wishes to switch Teams within the same Club, he must submit his request in writing to USATH, signed by both the player and the team official. A player may start playing with a new Team as soon as his registration with the new Team is certified by the USATH Technical Director.
- c) If a player wishes to change Clubs, he/she can do it in during the Midseason Break or at any time after National Championship (in that category – Man, Woman, Junior, Youth) and prior to the beginning of the subsequent season.

Section 3 - Certification of Clubs

All clubs must be organized and structured correctly to be recognized by the USATH.

To be certified by USATH, a Club must fulfill the following requirements:

- a) Be incorporated in their state of operation (not-for-profit 501 C-3 status is recommended)
- b) Designate a specific Club Official as liaison with USATH
- c) Have at least one active Team
- d) Have at least one USATH certified Coach and Referee
- e) Be current with payment of Membership Dues to USATH (to be posted prior to each season at www.usateamhandball.org)

Section 4 – Certification requirements

To request certification by USATH Club needs to submit following documents:

- a) Certification application (provided by USATH)
- b) Articles of Incorporation or Company
- c) Contact information for Club Official
- d) Names of USATH-registered club members comprising at least one active team
- e) Names of certified Coach(es) and Referee(s)
- f) Membership Dues

The Club must submit all required paperwork to USATH 60 days before participating in any USATH sanctioned event.

Section 5 – Dues structure

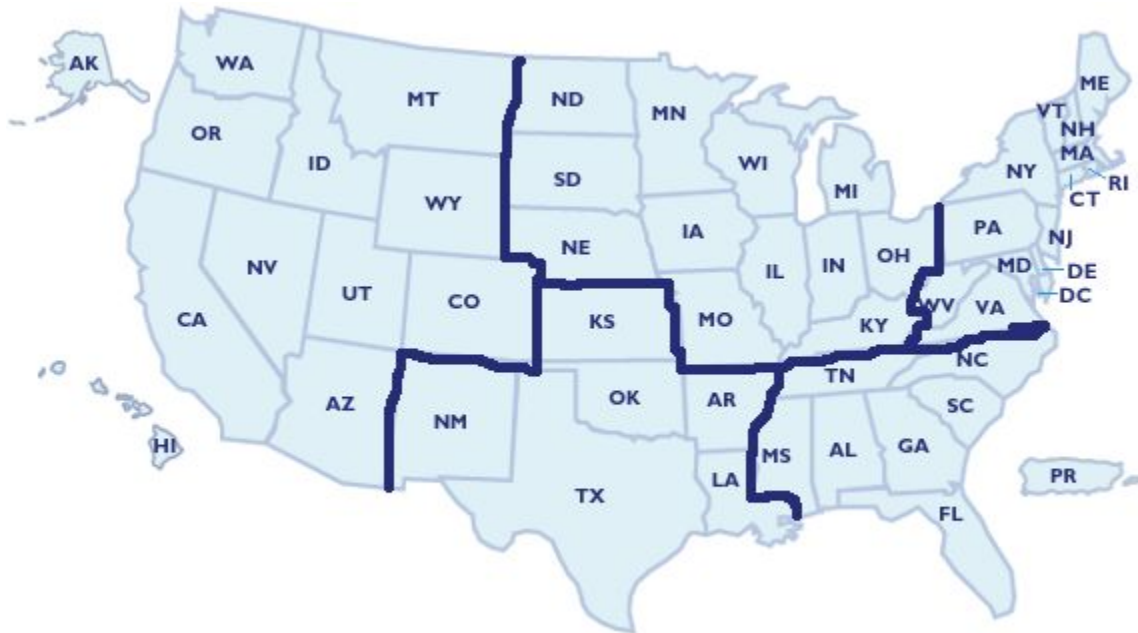
In order to stimulate the growth of the sport, a Club dues shall be inversely proportional to the number of certified coaches, referees and teams that it has. (The more you have, the less you pay.)

All active members of a USATH-certified Club, including colleges and schools, must pay USATH Membership Dues.

ARTICLE V - USATH Regional Structure, Qualifiers and Leagues

Section 1 – Regions

There will be five Regions for USATH Handball competition and classification purposes, as outlined in the diagram below:



- a) The MIDWEST Region (MWR) will be comprised of 12 states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

- b) The SOUTHWEST Region (SWR) will be comprised of 6 states: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas
- c) The WEST Region (WR) will be comprised of 12 states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.
- d) The NORTHEAST Region (NER) will be comprised of DC Washington and 13 states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.
- e) The SOUTHEAST Region (SER) will be comprised of 7 States: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Each Region should have the competition league with designated website and information about playing schedule, participating teams, league news and results.

Section 2 – USATH Regional Qualification Tournament

Each region shall have a Regional Qualification Tournament, to determine its entrants into the USATH National Championships.–The USATH Technical Director is ultimately responsible for the determination of the tournament format, playing pools and schedule for all Regional Qualification Tournaments. The USATH Technical Director shall announce the dates for the Regional Qualification Tournaments no later than January 1 of the Competition Season. All Regional Qualification Tournaments must end no later than fifteen (15) days before the start of the US National Championships.

Section 3 – Team Eligibility

For a Club to enter a Team into a Regional Qualification Tournament, said Club must be in full compliance with this Rule Book seven (7) days prior to the start of the Regional Qualification Tournament. A Team is eligible only for the Regional Qualification Tournament in the region where the Club is registered. All players that are legitimately on a Team roster are eligible to represent that team in the Regional Qualification Tournament, with the exception of players that have transferred within sixty (60) days of the start of the Regional Qualification Tournament.

Section 4 - Regional Leagues

Each region should have its regional league. Regional leagues will abide by the regulations set forth by Regional Director and approved by USATH Technical Director. USATH Rule book will be followed except when specifically approved, in writing, by Technical Director of USATH, for specific event or purpose.

ARTICLE VI - USATH National Championships

Section 1 - USATH National Club Championship Bids

The USATH Technical Director shall announce the number of bids to be awarded to each Region prior to the start of the season.

USATH National Club Championship shall be an 8-team competition with:

- a) Five (5) Automatic bids and;
- b) Three (3) Supplemental bids.

Section 2 – Automatic bids for USATH Club National Championship

The champion of each Regional League, provided that said League abides by regulations set forth in Article V of the Rule Book, shall automatically qualify for the National Championship.

If a region does not have a League, then the Automatic bid shall be received by the winner of the Regional Qualification Tournament.

Section 3 – Supplemental bids for USATH Club National Championship

The first Supplemental bid shall be awarded to the defending National Champion.

The second Supplemental bid will be awarded to the host region.

- a) If a USATH-certified Club submits a bid to USATH and is recognized as the host and LOC for the National Championship, the Club shall receive the Supplemental bid for one of its teams. If the host club qualifies as the Regional Automatic bid, the Supplemental bid shall default to Section 3(b).
- b) In the event the LOC is not a USATH-certified Club, the Supplemental bid shall go to the highest-finishing team in the Regional Qualification Tournament. If the highest-finishing team is also the Regional League champion, then the second-place team shall receive the Supplemental bid.

The third Supplemental bid shall be awarded to the Region with the highest average performance from the previous year's National Championship.

No single region may earn more than two (2) supplemental bids. In the event that the first and second supplemental bids are awarded to the same regions, the third bid shall be awarded to the next strongest region from previous National Championship.

Any changes to the National Club Championship qualification format shall be determined and announced by the USATH Technical Director prior to the Season.

ARTICLE VII - USATH sanctioned Events involving only domestic Clubs (teams)

Section 1- Eligibility

Any USATH registered Club or other LOC may apply to have an event sanctioned.

Section 2 – Sanctioning Requirements

To be considered for sanctioning, the registered club must provide the following:

- a) Completed and signed Application for Sanction
- b) Copy of Event Organizer's Current USATH Membership
- c) Copy of Team Entry Form

- d) Copy of General Information Sheet
- e) Copy of Waiver and Release form, Emergency Transportation form and Photo Release form
- f) Administrative Fee (to be posted prior to season at www.usateamhandball.org)
- g) Completed Application for Insurance (if applicable).

All applications for the sanctioning of an event by USATH must be submitted no later than 90 days before the start of the event in order to be considered by the USATH office and Technical Director.

Section 3 - Sanctioning process

An event will be considered Sanctioned and eligible for USATH supplemental General Liability Insurance when the administrative fee has been received and the documentation listed in Section 2 (a-g) has been determined by the USATH Technical Director to be in full compliance.

A final copy of the entry form, as well as any corrected forms that are distributed to the public must be submitted to USATH for its files. The applicant agrees to abide by all terms and conditions for sanctioned events. These terms and conditions are listed below. They will be provided once again to organizers when the sanction is issued.

Section 4 – Sanctioning certificate

USATH issues sanctions for team handball Events. For all intents and purposes, a sanction is a confirmation that insurance applies. A Local Organizing Committee (LOC) shall be responsible for coordination and execution of the Event and USATH is not responsible for the coordination of the Event, including the directing, policing, or overseeing the individual operations and procedures of these events. It is understood that each site is different and presents unique problems concerning administration, officiating, courts, equipment, competitors, and divisions, etc.

Section 5 – Participation in Sanctioned Events

- a) All participants of USATH sanctioned events must be members of USATH. Membership must be obtained prior to the event through the National Office. Under no circumstance is anyone permitted to compete if he/she is not an active member of USATH.
- b) Procedures must be established by LOC to check membership of all participants. USATH shall provide a listing of current members to the Event Director prior to the start of the Event.
- c) If a member is not listed on this register then they will not be allowed to participate unless they purchase a membership prior to the start of the event. In the case of a disputed membership, the individual must still purchase a new membership at the event. The staff representative for membership should write DISPUTED on this membership form and submit it with the rest of the membership forms. New membership applications must be sent along with disputed memberships to USATH no later than one week after the completion of the event.

Section 6 – Sanctioned Events forms

It is the intent of USATH to provide forms at www.usateamhandball.org that will allow Events, Clubs and Individuals to sign and submit forms upon registering with USATH. As a back up, LOC must provide hard copies of the following with their applications:

- a) A properly designed **Team Entry form** must be devised for the event (example provided by USATH).
- b) A copy of a **Waiver and Release form** must be submitted with the sanctioning application for the Event to be approved, including a standard **Warning, Waiver and Release of Liability clause** approved by USATH (see attachment “B”).
- c) An **Emergency Transportation form** must be executed by all participants including players, coaches, officials, volunteers, etc. In the case of minors, it must be signed by both the minor and their parents or legal guardians. This form must include provisions and procedures in case the participant is unconscious or is incapable of making a decision regarding his or her transportation to an emergency care facility. (see attachment “C”)
- d) A **Photo Release form** (see attachment “B”) must also be executed for the tournament.
- e) A **Venue Safety Inspection form** must be completed by the Event Director.

Section 7 – Rules applied in Sanctioned event

IHF Rules of the game are to be followed for all Sanctioned Events, unless otherwise specifically approved, in writing, by Technical Director of USATH.

Section 8 – Medical Personnel and Procedures

- a) An athletic trainer or other certified medical personnel must be in attendance at all sanctioned events. A medical area with a first aid kit and ice must also be provided at all events. All medical personnel and event staff should have the phone number for the local medical facility and emergency transportation. Additionally, routes to local emergency care must be identified in advance and a transportation vehicle must be identified in advance if it is not a professional transport company.
- b) An emergency medical procedure must be established. Phone numbers for police, fire, and medical transport must be given to all event staff and must be posted near all telephones. In addition, maps and directions to such medical facilities must be prepared and be available from the Event Director and the Head of the Event Medical Team.

Section 9 – Officials at sanctioned event

Only coaches and referee that are certified by USATH may be used for sanctioned events. Referee arrangements may be facilitated by contacting the National Office and the USATH Technical Director.

Section 10 – Safety Inspection

A venue safety inspection must be completed prior to, during (daily) and after a USATH sanctioned event. The Event Director is responsible for checking the venue for potential safety hazards. If any hazards are found they are to be reported to the venue management. In the case where safety hazards cannot be removed all participants must be made aware through announcement, signage and any other method to insure the safety of all participants. A venue safety inspection form must be completed by the Event Director and submitted along with the event results to the National Office. Failure to comply with this requirement can lead to exclusion from eligibility for USATH sanctioned events.

Section 11 – Additional Equipment for sanctioned event

- a) Each contest area (court) must be equipped with scoreboards (manual or mechanical) that are visible to the spectators facing the scoring tables. Scoring tables must be equipped with stopwatches, match report, pencils, pens, makers, additional referee cards, inflator needles, an air pump (preferably electric), two-minute penalty sheets, Referee Red Card Reports and extra handballs.
- b) Scoring tables and team benches should be restricted areas, meaning that only team members and event officials are allowed in these areas at all times including non-game times. Spectators and other persons are not allowed to sit on team benches during matches.

Section 12 – Procedure after the Event

- a) One week after the completion of the event, an Event Report must be completed and filed with the National Office. Failure to submit this information in a timely manner may result in a decision by USATH not to sanction any future events.
- b) Items that must be submitted include:
 1. Completed Event Report
 2. Completed Injury Report
 3. Completed Venue Safety Inspection Report
 4. New and Disputed Memberships along with dues

Section 13 – Responsible person at sanctioned event

The individual signing the Event Application (recommended Event Director), with his/her signature is the ultimate person responsible for the tournament compliance with all the provisions in this Article. In the event senior USATH leadership (staff or volunteer) cannot be at an event, the LOC must identify Event Director who will be in charge and accountable.

Section 14 – Violation(s)

All disciplinary action taken for violations of this Article must be approved by the USATH Technical Director. All conflicts resulting from the interpretation of this Article can only be resolved by the USATH Technical Director.

All the guidelines established in this Article constitute minimum standards for USATH sanctioned Events. Any action taken by the Event Director to improve or enhance the quality of the event and provide a greater level of safety for the participants and spectators is encouraged. Additional questions or details may be directed at the USATH National Office or by visiting the USATH website at www.usateamhandball.org.

ARTICLE VIII - USATH sanctioned Events involving international Club / National team

Section 1- Eligibility

Any organization (LOC) or person wishing to promote a match involving one or more foreign teams must first apply to USA Team Handball to receive sanctioning for such a match. Once the application process has been completed, USATH shall promptly review such requests. USATH shall grant such sanction unless it determines that holding or sponsoring the international competition would be detrimental to the best interest of the sport.

Section 2 – Application process

Completed application along with the application fee (fee structure to be posted at www.usateamhandball.org) must be received by USATH ninety (90) days prior to the first scheduled match accompanied by:

- A. Non-Refundable Application Fee:
 - a. for each foreign non-professional team for each visit to the US (regardless of how many games are played)
 - b. for each foreign professional team for each game to be played in the US.
- B. Late Application Fee* if application is submitted less than the required minimum days
- C. Insurance certificate
- D. Copy of the rules regarding the organization of the tournament. USATH must approve these rules before the final approval is made.
- E. Venue Confirmation - a letter from the venue confirming that the facility is on hold for the date of the event.
- F. Letters from the participating teams confirming their participation in the event.

All applications must include phone number, fax number and e-mail address to be processed. Mail all materials to USATH. Payments must be in the form of a certified, cashier's check, or money order payable to USA Team Handball.

Section 3 – Approval of application

If the Federation does not disapprove the completed application within fifteen (15) days, it will be deemed conditionally approved. The fifteen (15) day period does not commence until all items indicated above have been submitted.

Section 4 – USATH fees

The following shall be paid to the USATH within sixty (60) days of each International Match or International Tournament:

- a. Seven percent (7%) of the gross gate receipts of matches involving one foreign team, but not less than \$500.
- b. Ten (10%) of the gross gate receipts of matches involving two foreign teams, but not less than \$750.
- c. Thirteen percent (13%) of the first \$200,000 and fifteen percent (15%) of the balance of gross gate receipts after the first \$200,000, but not less than \$1500, of matches involving a National Team.
- d. In any International Tournament where more than fifty percent (50%) of the participating clubs are affiliated to the USATH, the applicable percentage of gross gate receipts shall be seven percent (7%), but not less than \$500. If fifty percent (50%) or more of teams are foreign, then the applicable percentage shall be ten percent (10%).

Section 5 – Financial report

A properly completed USATH Financial Report on the appropriate forms signed by Promoter, along with the itemized venue accounting shall be forwarded to the USATH with the applicable percentage payment. This financial report is due to the USATH within thirty (30) days of any International Match or International Tournament. Any game promoter failing to submit a timely financial report (along with any monies due) will be fined \$100 per day for every day beyond the deadline by which the report is to be received. The USATH reserves its right to request a venue accounting directly from venue authorities. In this event, the game promoter must notify venue authorities that the USATH is authorized to receive such accounting directly.

ARTICLE IX – Complaint(s)

Section 1 – Complaint procedure (Game)

If any individual wishes to file to a complaint regarding the actions of any Member (coach, player, referee, team official, etc.) during a USATH sanctioned Game, such complaint must be filed within one hour of the conclusion of the Game to the LOC.

Section 2 – Complaint procedure (Other)

If any individual wishes to file to a complaint regarding the actions of any Member (coach, player, referee, team official, etc.) outside of a Game, such complaint must be filed within seven (7) days to USA Team Handball.

As soon as the formal written complaint is received, the person or club will be receiving an official letter from USATH to notify of a pending disciplinary action. The letter will be given to or sent to the official club address registered by the club at the USATH club signup page.

- a) USATH Technical Director shall have review the complaint and make a recommendation for sanction or other action to the USATH General Manager within fifteen (15) days.
- b) The USATH General Manager shall review the findings of Technical Director, and support, alter or overrule the recommendation within five (5) days. The decision shall be posted at www.usateamhandball.org and go into effect immediately.
- c) The individual or club shall have seven (7) days to appeal again to the USATH Board of Directors (BOD). BOD shall send the appeal to the USATH Judiciary Committee of USATH, which will not have been involved in the case, to review the case and either support, alter or overrule the recommendation. USATH Judiciary Committee shall deliver its decision within fifteen (15) days.

- d) All USATH Judiciary Committee decisions are final, and cases that are denied for appeal cannot be reopened.

Section 3 – Enforcing sanctions and upholding USATH decisions

It is the responsibility of the USATH Technical Director to uphold all the decisions and sanctions levied by the USATH, including the USATH President and/or Judiciary Committees. The USATH Technical Director may rely on all other entities of USA Team Handball in order to enforce these sanctions.

ARTICLE X – Sanctions and Violations

Section 1 – Red card

A Red card (not 3x2 minutes) assigned to a participant during a USATH sanctioned match results in disqualification for the rest of the match, and at least one-game suspension for the next USATH sanctioned event match, even if it doesn't occur in the same tournament. Event Director must send report signed by the Official that gave the Red Card and Event Director to be reviewed by USATH Technical Director. Per the discretion of the USATH Technical Director, the participant and/or Club may be subject to additional sanction. The player MUST be listed on the roster of his team's next game.

Section 2 – Forfeit of the game

All scheduled games must be played, i.e. all teams must ensure that they do not forfeit any games they are expected to participate in. Forfeiting a game in a USATH sanctioned Event is considered a serious violation of this Rule Book, and may result in a sanction.

Section 3 – Violation(s)

- 1) For all intents and purposes, all violations of this Rule Book result in the assignment of a strike to the participant (player, coach, club official or club) that commits the violation.
- 2) Any violation by a member of club will result in the assignment of a strike to that individual and may result a strike to the club he/she represents.
- 3) Violations that cannot be attributed directly to any person but to a Club will result in the assignment of a strike to said Club.
- 4) A forfeit for any USATH sanctioned event will result in the assignment of a strike to the Club responsible for the forfeit.

Any single violation may result in immediate disciplinary action. This will occur if a written notice is given to or sent to USATH Technical Director for:

- a) an incident occurring on the playing court, documented and signed jointly by the Referee and the Event Director;
- b) an incident occurring outside of the playing court but during a tournament, documented and signed by the Event Director;
- c) a formal complaint and deeming that the violation requires immediate disciplinary action.

Section 4 – Sanction(s)

Once a person or a club has accumulated three undisciplined strikes, or has committed a violation that requires immediate disciplinary action, said person or club is subject to disciplinary sanctions by USATH in accordance with ARTICLE XII, Section 3.

ARTICLE XI - Miscellaneous Topics

Section 1 - Duties of the USATH Technical Director

- a) The USATH Technical Director manages and oversees the USATH Club National Championships, including the selection of the host site.
 - a. The time and location of the announcement, along with the deadlines for submitting the bids from each region, will be determined at an appropriate time by the USATH Technical Director.
 - b. All decisions of the USATH Technical Director regarding Organization of USATH National Championships are implemented through the members of the National Championships Local Organizing Committee (NCLOC).
- b) The USATH Technical Director serves as a liaison with USATH Governing and Judiciary Committees. This is of particular importance in determining entry fees for the events that are under the organizational authority of USATH. These Events include but are not limited to:
 - 1) USATH Club National Championships (Senior, Junior, Youth)
 - 2) USATH Collegiate National Championships;
 - 3) USATH Regional Qualification Tournaments;
 - 4) USATH sanctioned international event.
- c) The USATH Technical Director serves as the first disciplinary level as prescribed by Article IX of this Rule Book.

Section 2 – Broadcasting rights

USATH retains all broadcast rights (television, internet and all forms of new media) to USATH sanctioned Events. Any organization wishing to broadcast any sanctioned Event must indicate their intentions upon applying to USATH for said Event. Broadcasting a USATH event without the express written consent of USATH may result in a fine of \$1,000 or more and possible suspension.

Section 3 – Ticketed event

If admission fees are charged, a schedule of ticket prices, the location of the venue and seating capacity must be submitted upon request to the USATH. Failure to adhere to such request may result in the denial of the application for sanctioning.

Section 4 – Event sponsor

No sponsor, promoter, LOC or Event Director shall make any public announcement suggesting or implying that an event has been sanctioned by USATH, before written permission has been granted by the USATH. Any individual in violation of this rule shall be fined a minimum of \$1,000.00.

ARTICLE XII - Amendments, conflicts, interpretations and additional sanctions

Section 1 - Amendments

Changes to this Rule Book may only be made by the USATH Technical Director, with the approval of the USATH General Manager and the USATH President. Any Changes or Addendums shall be published and made available to the general membership at www.usateamhandball.org.

Section 2 - Conflicts or interpretation

Any conflicts or interpretation issues resulting from this Rule Book shall be resolved and published by the USATH Technical Director. The USATH Technical Director shall submit such changes in writing; and such document shall be added as an addendum to this Rule Book.

Section 3 – Additional Sanctions

For any violation of any portion of this Rule Book, person or club is subject to disciplinary sanctions by USATH that include but are not limited to, fines, suspensions, revocation of USATH Membership and lifetime bans from any USATH sanctioned Event.

ARTICLE XIII - Effective Date and Transition

This Rule Book is scheduled to go into effect on September 2nd, 2008 and shall be published at www.usateamhandball.org. The USATH Technical Director shall submit a timetable for gradual and full compliance by all persons and groups involved with USA Team Handball.