

## Competition regulations

### Article 1 Scope

These Competition Regulations regulate the rights, duties and responsibilities of all parties participating and involved in the preparation and organisation of the men's Super League Handball organised by the Dutch Handball Association (NHV) and the Royal Belgian Handball Association (KBHB).

- Wherever reference is made to Super League Handball, it is hereinafter referred to as 'SHL'.
- The series of matches 'Super League Handball Competition' is hereinafter referred to as 'competition'.
- Wherever reference is made to 'Board Super League Handball', it is hereinafter referred to as 'Board'.
- Wherever reference is made to 'Super League Handball management' it is hereinafter referred to as 'management'.

### Article 2 The competition

1. The competition takes place every year.  
The official announcement of the competition is made by the affiliated national federations: the NHV and the KBHB.
2. The competition is organised by the management under the supervision of the board.
3. The competitions are determined by the competition leader.
4. The Super League Handball activities consist of:
  - promoting the interests of the SHL as a collective, both nationally and internationally;
  - promoting mutual cooperation and knowledge sharing between the SHL clubs, for example by organising knowledge sessions and platforms;
  - positioning and profiling the SHL (inter)nationally as an attractive competition;
  - commercially exploiting the SHL;
  - organising the competition (the 'Super League Handball Competition'); and
  - concluding the (semi) finals.

### Article 3 Fair play

The principles of fair play must be observed by participating clubs in all matches. Each participating club of the NHV or KBHB, participating in the competition, must:

- observe the rules of the game and the competition participation rules;
- respect all participants (players, officials, spectators, media representatives, etc.);
- promote the spirit of sportsmanship and pursue the cultural mission.

### Article 4 Application of regulations

1. All IHF, EHF and SHL regulations, manuals, guidelines and circulars applicable to the SHL (without limitation) shall form an integral part of the present Competition Rules.
2. Cases not covered by these regulations will be decided by the management.
3. A member of the Board may not participate in votes and deliberations on matters in which the member of the Board has a direct personal interest. The member concerned will refrain from interference in this case.

## **Article 5 Duties and responsibilities of clubs**

### **5.1 Duties of clubs**

1. When participating in the competition, clubs and its members shall:
  - a. comply with the IHF, EHF and SHL regulations, including IHF playing rules;
  - b. respect the principles of fair-play as defined in the Statutes of the IHF and EHF;
  - c. not to prejudice the interests of the SHL and/or handball in general;
  - d. to accept and comply with all other obligations that the Board and Management enter into or decide on behalf of or on behalf of the participants in the competition;
  - e. comply with all decisions relating to the competition taken by the board, management or any other authorised body and duly communicated (via the official website or by e-mail);
  - f. comply with national safety regulations and guidelines for all matches of the competition if deemed necessary by the board and management;
  - g. obliged to do everything in their power before, during and after the competition to maintain order and ensure the personal safety of all those present. The management may impose rules on any club to maintain order during matches, as well as appointing persons in charge of monitoring compliance with these regulations;
  - h. protect, defend and indemnify the SHL and management against all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, fines, claims, actions, penalties and costs of any nature whatsoever arising out of, or attributable to, any failure to comply with these SHL Competition Rules by participating clubs or any of their players, officials, employees or their representatives.

### **5.2 Responsibilities of the club**

1. Clubs are legally and financially responsible to management in relation to their representation and the team participating in the competition. In particular, clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, other representatives, supporters and of any person holding a position in the club and/or performing a function during a match on behalf of the club. Clubs and/or their members may be penalised accordingly by their national association.
2. The home playing club is responsible for security and order before, during and after the match. The home playing club may be held accountable for incidents of any kind.

### **5.3 Additional responsibilities**

1. The management shall inform the clubs, respectively its representatives participating in the competition, of any further guidelines or decisions relating to the competition to be observed and shall provide them with all relevant documents in a timely manner.

## **Article 6 Marketing and media rights**

1. The SHL owns and has the sole right to exploit the marketing and media rights, including the television, radio, film, internet, multimedia, 3G, 4G and publicity rights of the SHL and all related activities (competition, opening and closing ceremonies).
2. The SHL shall have the exclusive right to grant television, radio, internet and multimedia broadcasting rights and film rights relating to the SHL and advertising rights in the SHL's venues. The SHL may exercise its right to exploit these rights at its discretion and on a universal basis. Management respects the exclusive rights of the affiliated national league in this matter.

3. The SHL has the right to use 4 free to 1/3 of the advertising space on the floor (4 sticker positions of which the middle circle) and around the pitch during all matches of the competition and (semi) finals within the range covered by the TV cameras. When using rotating panels, this means one rotation out of three, when using LED or LCD boarding it means 1 minute out of 3.
4. If the SHL wishes to make use of its marketing rights as mentioned under Article 6.3, it must inform the home playing club at least three (3) weeks before the start of the match and the management is responsible for the delivery of the advertising material. The home playing club is responsible for the set-up and correct execution.
5. Each club must ensure that its partners, commercial or otherwise, do not use or otherwise make direct or indirect use of marketing or media rights of the SHL without the express prior consent of the management, which may be granted or withheld at its discretion.

#### **Article 7      Obligations**

1. All participating clubs grant the SHL the right (royalty-free) to use photographs and graphic material of players and officials, as well as the clubs' names, logos and club livery in the context of the competition for non-commercial purposes.
2. All participating clubs grant the SHL the right (royalty-free) to use any photograph, any material (print, advertising, internet, product presentation, video, etc.) produced before/during the matches for promotions of the competition and for sports development (training, education, etc.).
3. The SHL has the right to transfer these above-mentioned usage rights to a marketing partner for the same purposes.
4. Each participating club guarantees the consent of the respective players and officials as defined above. Each participating club must indemnify the SHL and its partners against any liability action by a player in relation to the player's photograph. Video recordings are part of this.
5. When participating in the competition, all clubs may make video recordings of the matches for teaching and training purposes.
6. Clubs are obliged to stream matches via livestream on the internet and the app. This obligation only applies to the home playing club. These streams must remain available on the internet for at least 12 months. In doing so, the SHL determines which platform to stream to.
7. Video recordings can be made by both teams, using one or more cameras. These video recordings may only be used for live streaming to the internet. While streaming official SHL matches, clubs are required to use the graphic of the SHL. The management the SHL provides these three weeks before the match starts. The logo should appear at the top left or right of the screen, and/or for internal use (training and match preparation). The use of the video recordings for other purposes, including commercial exploitation, is prohibited. If there is no room for two cameras, the home playing club will make recordings. These recordings will be made available to the visiting team free of charge. Clubs participating in the SHL may agree among themselves to share such videos.
8. Due to space limitations in a sports hall, restrictions on video recordings may be imposed by the home playing clubs. Such restrictions should be agreed with the SHL management.
9. All intellectual property rights for the material recorded for such purposes must be transferred in writing to the SHL and, if requested by the SHL, a copy of all relevant filmed material must be provided to the SHL management within the time limit set by the management.



#### **Article 8 Super League Handball sponsors/partners exclusivity**

1. The exclusivity of the SHL sponsors (as such) during the SHL competition, must be respected by all clubs, members, SHL representatives participating in the competition.
2. The names and respective categories of products/services of the SHL partners and sponsors, as well as the necessary measures and restrictions to be taken by all clubs, members, SHL representatives participating in the competition shall be communicated by the management in due course before the commencement of the competition or three weeks before the start of the competition.
3. Failure to comply with the required measures and restrictions regarding SHL sponsors or any other form of violation of SHL regulations during the competition may be punished in accordance with the regulations of the national league of which the offender is a member. In addition, the person/club concerned may be required to compensate all damages suffered.

#### **Article 9 Doping**

1. Doping controls may take place before, during and after the competition in accordance with IHF and national anti-doping regulations.
2. The IHF and National Anti-Doping Regulations, their annexes and the WADA Anti-Doping Code, including the list of prohibited substances, form an integral part of these SHL Regulations.
3. In case of anti-doping rule violations, management will initiate disciplinary proceedings against the violators and take appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with the legal rules of the national federation to which the team belongs. This may include the imposition of interim measures.
4. National federations must immediately inform SHL management of any decision at national level to sanction a player for doping (including provisional measures and/or provisional exclusion). A copy of the decision must be sent to SHL management. Doping decisions confirmed by the IHF Anti-Doping Unit by the affiliated national federation will automatically be notified by SHL management.

#### **Article 10 Number of participating teams**

1. The competition shall be played with a predetermined number of teams.

#### **Article 11 Automatic qualification for participation in the competition**

1. The teams that finish first in the national competition shall automatically qualify for the SHL competition of the following season.
2. A club, whether in merger or partnership or not, can only participate in the Super League Handball Competition with one (1) team.

#### **Article 12 Playing periods/match dates/starting times**

1. The playing period of the league is from September to the end of April (or later).
2. In principle, the starting times on Saturdays are between 16:00 - 20:30 hour and on Sundays between 14:00 - 16:00 hour.
3. The last two rounds of the competition are compulsorily played on Saturday at 8pm sharp, to avoid advantages in playing while knowing the result of other matches. Only Live broadcast on a national public channel can be a cause of moving to a later time.
4. The exact dates and starting time of each match will depend on coordination between management, clubs and, where relevant, the SHL marketing partner and television.
5. The final decision on the dates and start time of matches rests with the management.

6. The exact dates of the matches will be communicated to the participating clubs by the management in good time before the start of the competition.
7. Each team must have at least eighteen (18) hours of rest between two matches played.
8. Changes in the playing calendar are possible only on the conditions **below**;
  - a. European Cup matches:
    - I. The match will be rescheduled, to a midweek match, in the period between (2) weeks before or two (2) weeks after the scheduled match, by agreement between the clubs involved (e-mail approval is sufficient) and must be confirmed by management;
    - II. If no agreement can be reached, the management will make the final decision. Start time is between 8pm and 9pm;
    - III. The match can only be moved to a later day on a justified request, and needs the formal approval of management.
  - b. TV broadcast:
 

A TV broadcast can only be a reason to reschedule the match day and time in case of a live TV broadcast by a national public broadcaster, or by a private or regional broadcaster under a general agreement with the SHL.
  - c. The unavailability of a sports hall will never be a reason for not playing the match on the originally set day and time without the prior approval of the management. The home playing club is responsible for finding another sports hall.
  - d. By mutual agreement.
 

Matches can be moved by mutual agreement and only by mutual consent. If the opponent does not agree, the match will remain on the original date and time.

Conditions:

    - I. Matches must be played within (four) 4 league rounds of the original date.
    - II. Matches falling in the penultimate and last round of play may not be rescheduled.
    - III. Matches may not be moved to a date later than the penultimate round of play.
    - IV. A move must be notified by email to [mj.de.koning@handbal.nl](mailto:mj.de.koning@handbal.nl) no later than (four) 4 working days before the original match date.
    - V. Relocation to a date earlier than the original playing date must be reported at least (four) 4 working days before the start of the new playing date.
    - VI. Requests to move Super League Handball matches must always be approved by management.
    - VII. Management retains the right to reject a change request at all times.
    - VIII. If these conditions are not met, the match will not be rescheduled.
  - e. The playing of an established match may be postponed by the management in very special cases. The management is authorised to impose additional conditions.
9. The management has the right to deviate from a fixed match in special cases, upon reasonable request or on its own initiative. Any costs may be imposed on the party responsible for the deviation. Such costs may include:
  - a. costs of accommodation and board for teams and referees;
  - b. compensation for additional venue hire;
  - c. compensation for additional transport costs;
  - d. An administrative fee of up to €1,000;
  - e. in case of liability, any other duly established loss or cost.
10. Management shall support the request only if it does not harm the interests of third parties.

11. The costs of moving the scheduled matches and/or the starting time may be charged to both clubs.

## **Article 13 Registration**

### **13.1 Registration documents**

1. To be eligible to participate in the competition, the club must meet the following criteria:
  - a. It must confirm in writing that the club itself, its players and officials and each board member agree to abide by the rules of the SHL.
  - b. It must provide a single permanent postal address, e-mail address and name of the contact person responsible for all internal correspondence in the SHL.
2. In principle, entries submitted after the deadline set cannot be accepted if they adversely affect the technical preparation and execution of the competition and the National League(s). Late submission of documents will be fined according to the list of penalties.

### **13.2 Nationality and entitled to play**

1. Matches are played as being international matches. Players of a team participating in the SHL must hold a valid player's licence from the national association. Proof of nationality (valid passport or national identity card) is required for participation in the SHL. A player who cannot produce a valid passport or national identity card or valid player's licence at the request of an SHL official is not eligible to participate in a match. Relevant officials will make a note of this in the DWF, informing the management.
2. A player who has already played for a club's team in the Super League Handball competition may not play for another club's team in the same season.

### **13.3 Team assignment**

1. Clubs must submit in writing the list of players and team officials ('Official Squad List') who will form the basis of their team during the competition to the National League and SHL management by 1 September of the current year.
2. The list of players and team officials may include a maximum of thirty-five (35) players ('Official Squad'). The players (35 or less) on the Official Squad List are the only players eligible to participate in the competition.
3. Additions, in accordance with the rules of the National Association, to the Official Squad List are permitted throughout the competition year.
4. In case of an international transfer, proof of the ITC application must be submitted at least three (3) matches before the end of the regular competition.
5. The number of team officials in the Official Squad List is not limited and is not final; changes/registrations of team officials are still possible until the technical meeting the start of the competition.
6. The following information must be submitted together with the Official Squad List:
  - a. Number of each of the players listed (from 1 to 99).
  - b. First name, surname, date of birth, national association membership number and passport/national identity card number.
  - c. Colours of the first and second full kits (dark colour kit / light colour kit), clearly indicating the colours of the shirts and shorts and the colours of the first and second kits for the goalkeepers.

- d. Photo of the first and second full team tenues (players and goalkeepers' tenues; original tenues for use during the competition).
  - e. The first names, surnames and position of the team officials.
7. If the official team list is not received by the management and the National Federations within the stipulated deadline, the club shall be fined accordingly and the first twenty-eight (28) (or less) players included in the provisional list of players and team officials of the team shall be considered by the management as the final official team list of this club.

#### **13.4 The match sheet (final player and official list)**

1. The match sheet contains the names and back numbers of the sixteen (16) players and four (4) team members. The match sheet is prepared and handed over to the SHL delegate and the referees one (1) hour before the start of the match during the technical meeting. The number of players may be supplemented up to one hour before the start of the match.
2. Only the four (4) officials on the match sheet can sit on the substitutes' bench.

#### **13.5 Participation of suspended and/or ineligible players**

1. If a team uses a player who is suspended or excluded and/or ineligible to play in a match, that team will lose the match 10-0 and be fined in accordance with the sanction list.

### **Article 14 Financial contribution and fees**

#### **14.1 Financial contribution national association**

1. Each national league shall participate in the SHL with a financial contribution of €7,500, to be received in the SHL account before 1 July of the current year.

#### **14.2 Entry fee clubs**

1. To be eligible to participate in the competition, a club must pay an entry fee of €2,500 to the SHL organisation, which must be received in the SHL account before 1 September of the current year.
2. The entry fee is paid once by the participating club for participation in all activities of the SHL.
3. If the payment is not received by the management on the due date, the club will be automatically fined €1,000.
4. If the entry fee is not received within four (4) weeks after the announced deadline, the deposit for participation in the competition will be lost in favour of the SHL organisation and the management may:
  - a. consider all matches of the team concerned as lost until payment of the entry fee;
  - b. exclude the team from participation in the competition;
  - c. exclude the team from participation in the competition for a maximum of five (5) years.

#### **14.3 Deposit payment clubs**

1. All clubs wishing a team to participate in the competition must pay a deposit of €2,500 as a guarantee of participation and fulfilment of obligations to the SHL, to be received in the SHL account before 1 July of the current year.
2. Fines will be deducted from the deposit if not paid within one month. The management may decide that after that period, all matches of a club's team concerned will be considered lost if the deposit is not re-paid.

#### **14.4 Remaining funds**

1. If funds remain after the end of the competition after final approval of the budget by the management, 30% of those funds shall remain with the SHL organisation to cover the next year's costs or investment.
2. The remaining 70% will be returned to the clubs and national associations before 1 July. The clubs, board and management have decided to use these funds jointly for purposes yet to be determined.

### **Article 15 Expenses**

#### **15.1 Travel costs**

1. Clubs must organise and pay for travel to and from the playing venue themselves.

#### **15.2 Accommodation and organisation costs home playing club**

1. All costs incurred by the home playing club to organise a match must be borne by the home playing club.
2. The home playing club is obliged to provide and provide an evening meal after the match for the visiting club for a maximum of 22 people and for the referees and delegate. By mutual agreement between the teams, the referees and the delegate, it will be decided otherwise. All additional persons will be charged by the home playing club to the visiting club. The visiting club must inform the home playing club of the number of extra persons at least 48 hours in advance. The home playing club must inform the visiting club within 24 hours of the price per additional person if this price exceeds €15,-- p.p.

#### **15.3 Officials' costs**

1. The SHL shall bear the following costs and expenses for SHL officials, based on management guidelines (definition under Article 22.1) with the exception of national association employees, referees (home club) and delegates (national association):
  - a. Travel expenses to and from the venue (reimbursement upon presentation of a receipt/proof of ticket purchase) based on these criteria:
    1. Travel by train/bus/boat: Reimbursement of return tickets in second class for the train/bus/boat.
    2. For traveling by car, €0.23 per kilometer driven can be declared.
    3. Traveling by car from your place of residence (to and from the airport or train station): can be charged € 0.23 per kilometer driven.
  - b. The subsistence costs (reasonable costs of meals and accommodation) for the duration of their work during the competitions, which require an extended stay.

#### **15.4 Referee costs**

1. The home club must bear the following costs and expenses of the SHL referee:
  - a. Travel costs to and from the place of play may be charged at €0.23 per kilometer. The following will be taken into account: the fastest route ([www.mappy.com](http://www.mappy.com)) from the home of the referee who lives furthest from the arcade to the arcade.
  - b. All complaints arising from the fees charged by the referees will be dealt with by management.
  - c. Match costs of €80 per referee.
2. Travel costs will be shared with all clubs at the end of the competition.



#### **15.5 Delegate Costs**

1. The national associations shall bear the costs and expenses of the delegate.
2. The costs and expenses are paid by means of a declaration.

### **Article 16 Insurance**

#### **16.1 General Principles**

1. Everyone involved with SHL is responsible for his or her own insurance.

#### **16.2 Clubs**

1. The participating clubs are responsible for and undertake to obtain all necessary and adequate insurance, including accident and health insurance, for their board members, including players, technical staff and employees, at their own expense for the entire duration of the competition.

#### **16.3 Home playing club**

1. The home club is responsible for the insurance of all accommodation used for the competition including hall, facilities and official areas. If the home club is/are not the owner of the venue used, they are also responsible for ensuring that the owner and/or tenant of the venue in question takes out full liability insurance, including third party liability and damage to property.
2. In addition to Articles 22.1 and 22.2, the home club organizing a match must, at its own expense, take out adequate insurance (including cancellation insurance) for all risks arising from the organization of the matches, in accordance with their responsibilities. The insurance must meet the minimum conditions set out in the organizational agreement between the SHL and the home club and communicated accordingly by the SHL.

#### **16.4 Super League Handball organization**

1. The national associations are responsible for the legal liability, accident and health insurance of the SHL officials appointed by them for the duration of their duties.

#### **16.5 Further Requirements**

1. All insurance must cover the entire period of the competition, including the preparation and post-competition phases.
2. Claims for damages against the board and management are expressly excluded. Anyone involved in the competition must indemnify the board and management from any claims of liability in connection with the competitions.

### **Article 17 Entrance fee**

1. During the semi-final matches and the final match, the home club has the right to charge an entrance fee in consultation with the SHL organization. The playing finalist is entitled to at least 30% of the tickets of the total admission capacity.
2. Persons using an official SHL pass (officials / press / referees, etc.) have free entry (register in advance).
3. Persons using an official press card have free access.



## **Article 18 Mandatory free access**

1. During the semi-final matches and the final match, the home club is/is obliged to grant free access to:
  - a. Persons using an official SHL association pass (officials/Press/other persons);
  - b. Persons using an official press card issued by a competent national authority; a sample of the ID card will be provided by management to the clubs before the start of the competition.
  - c. Each visiting and participating club, up to a maximum of twenty-two (22) persons per team (sixteen (16) players and six (6) officials).

## **Article 19 Rules**

### **19.1 Regulations**

1. Matches will be played in accordance with the applicable Rules issued by the IHF, taking into account the following specifications:
  - a. Teams can play with a maximum of sixteen (16) players.

### **19.2 Secretary/timekeeper**

1. The qualified secretary and timekeeper are appointed by the home club and are under the authority of the delegate.
2. The secretary and the timekeeper must be in possession of the referee's diploma from the national association or have completed the secretary/timekeeper workshop of the national association.
3. The secretary and the timekeeper have the duties and powers assigned to them by the IHF Rules.

## **Article 20 Uniform**

### **20.1 Kit Requirements**

1. Each team must have at least one (1) set of uniforms in light colors and one set of uniforms in dark colors for its field players and goalkeepers for each match. Blue and red are considered dark colors. In the case of multi-coloured shirts in one of the full kits, only one of the colors - and not the main color - can be repeated in the other full kit.
2. The goalkeeper's set must differ from the field players' set in both the dark color and the light color of the set.
3. The colors and photographs of the complete team kits (at least one (1) light color option and one (1) dark color option) must be provided to the management within the time limit set before the start of the competition and in due course to the other participating clubs will be notified. "Advertising" illustrations of the full team uniforms will not be accepted as photographs.
4. Any changes requested by management following the sending of the colors and photographs of the full team kit by the clubs, to comply with the requirements herein, shall be sent by the clubs concerned within the time period set by the management and will be communicated to the respective clubs in due course.
5. The full team uniforms approved by management are the only ones permitted throughout the competition.
6. The delegate may request the visiting team to play in a different approved uniform at any match if the delegate considers that the colors of the team's prescribed uniform may cause confusion.

## **20.2 Player Numbers**

1. Each player number announced at the technical meeting must be placed on the back and front of the player's shirt. The number must be clearly legible, must range from 1 to 99 and must be at least 20 cm high on the back and at least 10 cm high on the front. The color of the number must clearly contrast with the color of the shirt.

## **20.3 Additional requirements**

1. During team formation, the entire team must wear identical clothing, either the fully approved uniform to be worn during the match or training suits (except goalkeepers).
2. During the matches:
  - a. The starting players and the goalkeepers must wear the approved uniform stated in the respective uniform statement or requested by the delegate. Each player's last name and number must appear on their shirts.
  - b. Players may wear thermal trousers as long as the color is the same as the shorts.
  - c. The team officials on the bench must wear clothing of a clearly different color(s) than the color(s) of the opponent's kit.

## **20.4 Advertising on player shirt**

1. Subject to the restrictions stated below, advertising on player uniforms is permitted.
2. Advertising regarding drugs, pornography or alcohol is strictly prohibited on the uniform.
3. Any advertising on the kit during a match must comply with the provisions and restrictions laid down in the regulations on advertising on clothing of the national association to which the club belongs.
4. Each representative must comply with any further advertising restrictions that management communicates to the participating associations in good time before the start of the competition.
5. The national association must inform the management in good time before the start of the competition of any local restriction or ban on advertising.

## **20.5 Logos for sleeves**

1. Badges / SHL logos to be placed on the right shirt sleeves of the players will be provided to the participating clubs in good time before the start of the competition.
2. Participating clubs are responsible for attaching the badges/SHL logos to be placed on the sleeves of their team players' shirts.
3. The responsible team official(s) must ensure that the sleeve badges / SHL logos are placed on each player's jersey in a timely manner before each match.

## **20.6 Failure to comply with the provisions**

1. Failure to comply with one or more of the above provisions and/or with the national regulations on advertising on clothing may be fined in accordance with the legal regulations of the national association to which the club belongs. In addition, the club in question may be obliged to compensate all damage incurred.
2. Failure to comply with the SHL sleeve notice will be punishable by a fine, and the fine will be applied for each subsequent match after the first official notice for as long as the non-compliance continues.

## **Article 21      Locations / sports halls**

### **21.1      General provisions**

1. The home club(s) organizing a match is (are) responsible for the availability of the hall and its layout according to management requirements.

### **21.2      Adhesives**

1. The home club and the hall owners must allow the use of adhesive materials, including resin. If only one type of glue is permitted, the home club is obliged to make sufficient quantity of the permitted product available to the visiting team.

### **21.3      Choice of hall(s).**

1. The halls are nominated to the management by the home player.
2. The board has the right to refuse a sports hall on the proposal of the management.
3. Subject to the foregoing, the sports halls must be equipped as follows for each competition:

### **21.4      Match table**

1. A competition table for four (4) people (delegate, secretary, timekeeper and speaker) must be present and placed in the sports hall.
2. The requirements prescribed by the IHF regarding position in relation to the competition tables apply to SHL competitions.

### **21.5      Time registration and scoring equipment**

1. For all competitions, the sports halls must be equipped with an electric time registration (0 to 30 minutes for each half) and scoreboard that can be read and operated without problems from the competition table. It is the official time registration and must be fully operational before and during the competitions.

### **21.6      Reserve clock**

1. As a backup, a large clock (approx. 25 cm in diameter) with minute and second hands must be available on the competition table

### **21.7      Match Tickets**

1. a. There must be a sufficient number of cards (A4 format) bearing the SHL logo be available to the secretary/timekeeper for recording the numbers of the temporarily excluded players and the end of the exclusion period. These cards must be placed on the scorer's table where they are visible and in a vertical position, clearly readable by both playing teams.  
b. A sufficient number of cards (size A4) for "injured player" must be available of the secretary/timekeeper to note the number of the injured player who must remain off the field of play during three attacks by his team. 2. Two sets of three green cards with "T1, T2 and T3" in large letters must be available to the timekeeper for team time-outs. They are handed over to one of the team officials of the respective teams at the start of each half of regular playing time.



#### **21.8 Playing floor**

1. For TV broadcasts, management may request a specific handball floor.

#### **21.9 Anti-Doping Provision**

1. An anti-doping infrastructure that complies with the WADA Anti-Doping Code applicable on the date of the competition must be established in all sports halls.

#### **21.10 Other**

1. The home club must comply with and/or implement all other requirements relating to the organization of the matches that have been determined and/or communicated by the management.

### **Article 22 Officials**

#### **22.1 Definition**

1. Officials are:
  - a. members of the board and management;
  - b. SHL representatives;
  - c. delegates;
  - d. referees;
  - e. employees;
  - f. all other persons appointed by management in relation to SHL.
2. The duties and powers of these officers are determined in these regulations or with each individual appointment by management.

#### **22.2 Code of Conduct**

1. Every SHL official appointed to participate in an SHL activity must sign the SHL Code of Conduct. During their assignment, SHL officials are bound by the regulatory obligations of the SHL Code of Conduct and the applicable SHL Regulations.

### **Article 23 Referees**

#### **23.1 Nomination**

1. One (1) referee pair will be assigned to each.
2. The referees are nominated by the arbitration employee, on the recommendation of the referee working group.

#### **23.2 Not available**

1. If one of the referees is ill or is unavailable due to circumstances before or during a match and is unable to officiate the match, the arbitration employee will decide on the replacement on the recommendation of the referee working group. Such decision is final and no complaint against the person or nationality of the referee is permitted.
2. If a match does not start or cannot be continued due to the absence or injury of a referee appointed by the arbitration employee, the clubs' costs cannot be claimed from the management.

### **23.3 Additional reporting**

1. In the event of direct disqualifications or incidents, the referee must write an additional detailed report in accordance with the Disciplinary Regulations and send it to the management (tuchtrecht@handbal.nl) immediately after the match.
2. The referees report in as much detail as possible in their report about any incidents before, during and after the match, such as:
  - player misconduct leading to immediate disqualification;
  - unsportsmanlike behavior of officials, members, supporters or persons performing a function on behalf of a club or national association during a match;
  - all other incidents.
3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the absence of an incident report shall not prevent national associations or management from initiating proceedings.

## **Article 24 Delegate**

### **24.1 Nomination**

1. For each match, the arbitration employee appoints at least one (1) delegate on the recommendation of the referee working group.
2. In principle, the delegates of the NHV are appointed for the competitions in the Netherlands and the delegates of the KBHB are appointed for the competitions in Belgium.
3. If no delegate is appointed, available or present, the national association to which the delegate belongs will pay a fine of €500 to the SHL, unless it is proven that there is force majeure.
4. The appointment of an delegate for the matches may be withdrawn at the discretion of the management on the recommendation of the referees working group.
5. The management's decisions regarding the appointment of delegates for the matches are final.

### **24.2 Not available**

1. The nominated delegates must immediately inform the arbitration employee or the referee working group of any unavailability.
2. In this case, the arbitration employee or the referee working group will appoint a replacement.

### **24.3 General Responsibility**

1. The delegate represents the SHL.
2. The delegate must always have a copy of the SHL Competition Rules and the IHF Rules of the Game with him during his deployment.
3. The delegate monitors the conduct of the match and prevents any event that may occur that could lead to a complaint or replay of a match in accordance with the Competition Rules. If necessary, the delegate acts as a mediator.
4. The delegate guides and supports the referees and observes and assesses their performance. However, the delegate is not the main referee. The responsibility for the playing field lies solely with the referees.
5. Nevertheless, the delegate must stop the match if necessary and bring to the attention of the referees any errors that could lead to a complaint to management. Errors referred to in this context do not refer to decisions made by the referees based on their findings of fact. The delegates are not allowed to make decisions, but only make recommendations.

6. The delegate must always sit at the competition table in order to have a good view of the substitution area at all times and to be able to intervene if necessary.

#### **24.4 Reporting**

1. The delegate must monitor compliance with the SHL Competition Rules and all other regulations applicable to SHL by all participating entities and individuals.
2. If a violation of the SHL Competition Rules or a major incident is observed, delegates must:
  - report such a violation and/or incident in writing to the management (tuchtrecht@handbal.nl) immediately after the match.
3. The delegates report in their reports in as much detail as possible about any violations/incidents before, during and after the match, such as:
  - incorrect line-up of the teams;
  - incorrect player clothing (number, publicity);
  - delay of the starting throw of the match;
  - unsportsmanlike conduct by officials, members, supporters or persons performing a function in a match on behalf of a club or national association;
  - all other incidents.
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the absence of a comment on the competition form or a report on the incident does not prevent the member federation from initiating a disciplinary procedure.

#### **24.5 Competition form / delegate report**

1. The delegate is ultimately responsible for the scoresheet and delegate's report.
2. The delegate must ensure that the score sheet is confirmed by an official of each playing team before the start of the match.

### **Article 25 Super League Handball competition**

#### **25.1 Schedule composition**

1. The competition is played in a group.

#### **25.2 Competition schedule**

1. The matches of this pool are played with each team, against all opponents in this pool (Round Robin system).
2. All matches in the competition will be played in two thirty (2 x 30) minute increments with a break of ten (10) minutes (or fifteen (15) minutes following a management decision. There will be no extra time.
3. Two points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no point for a defeat.

#### **25.3 Start of matches**

1. The teams must report to the referee five minutes before the scheduled starting time and must start the match at the scheduled starting time after a whistle from the referee.
2. If no referee is present at the set starting time or the playing field is not available to start the match, both teams must remain ready for a maximum of fifteen minutes to start the match, if and as soon as an authorized referee or the playing field becomes available.

#### **25.4 Not completing a match**

1. A match will not be completed in the following cases:
  - a. if the match is ended prematurely by one team or by both teams;
  - b. if the referee so decides;
  - c. if the referee is absent during the match, without a substitute being prepared to act as such.
  - d. due to causes other than those mentioned above.
2. The disciplinary bodies will determine, where appropriate, whether there is culpability for not completing the match.
3. If there is culpability for not completing a match, the disciplinary bodies can impose the penalties stated in the SHL Disciplinary Regulations.
4. If the disciplinary bodies as mentioned are of the opinion that there is no culpability for not completing a match, this will be communicated without delay to the manager of the SHL as well as the Competition and Arbitration manager of the SHL.
5. The match must be rescheduled within four weeks (4) on the playing field of the non-guilty club, while the guilty team will also be penalized with two loss points. If the non-guilty team has scored a difference of more than ten goals in its favor at the time the match is not completed, the result at the time the match is not completed will be upheld.
6. If culpability is established for not completing the match in the manner specified in the third paragraph of this article, the costs associated with this will be borne by the club of the offending team. If both teams are at fault, these costs will be divided equally. These costs are determined and charged by the SHL manager.

#### **25.5 Playing Conditions**

1. In this article, the term competition also includes part of a competition.
2. The condition set by the management of the SHL is that the match will always be replayed in its entirety, unless the match is stopped during extra time or when penalty throws are taken in decider matches.
3. If the management of the SHL decides to reschedule a match that has not been completed in its entirety, the warnings given and the temporary exclusions in the played part of the match that has not been completed will be cancelled.
4. A player who has been disqualified in the played part of a match not completed may take part in the match to be replayed in its entirety if he has served the penalty for his disqualification.
5. A player who has been excluded from participating in matches may not participate in a match to be replayed in its entirety that is played during his exclusion period.
6. The starting point when completing a match will be that the part to be played later will be played as much as possible under the conditions that applied during the match that was not completed.
7. If the management of the SHL decides to allow the unplayed part of an uncompleted match to be played, the warnings, temporary exclusions and disqualifications given in the played part of the uncompleted match will remain in effect.
8. A player who has been disqualified in the played part of an uncompleted match may not participate in the remainder of the match, even if he has served the penalty for his disqualification.
9. A player who has been excluded or suspended may neither actively nor passively participate in any (competitive) activity.



#### **25.6 Tied ends during and after the competition**

1. The ranking in the competition is determined by the number of competition points achieved. If the number of competition points is the same, then, unless in the ranking established by the management, this will be determined by:
  - a. the mutual result (the number of competition points achieved between all teams that are equal);
  - b. If the mutual result is equal, by the goal difference over all matches in the competition;
  - c. if the goal difference is equal, by the goal average;
  - d. if the goal average is the same, by a decision match on neutral ground determined by the management;
2. For a won match, the winning team receives two match points. In the event of a draw, each team receives a match point. The losing team will not receive any match points for a lost match.
3. Definition:
  - a. Mutual result: The number of competition points achieved between all teams that are tied;
  - b. Goal difference: The number of goals 'for' minus the number of goals 'against', with the team with the highest goal difference being the winning team.
  - c. Goal average: Divide the number of goals scored 'for' by the number of goals scored 'against', with the team with the highest goal average being the winning team.
  - d. Match Quotient: Divide the number of points scored by the number of matches played, with the team with the highest quotient being the winning team.
4. If a match decision must be reached by taking 7-meter throws, these will be taken in the manner specified in the handball rules. In the event that a decision must be reached between more than two teams by taking 7-meter throws, these will be taken in a manner to be determined by management decision.
5. The management is authorized to impose special requirements on the layout of the playing fields on which decisive matches are played.

#### **25.7 (Semi)finals (places 1 to 4) Play-offs**

1. The teams that finish first, second, third and fourth in the final ranking in the competition automatically qualify for playing semi-final matches as well as the winners, the final. The SHL determines the dates and starting times of the semi-finals.
2. If the competition cannot be played in full, the management of the SHL has the right to organize the battle for the SHL title in a manner other than that described in articles 25.4.4 and 25.4.5.
3. If necessary, management may use the final standings (in accordance with Article 25.7) of the regular competition to declare the highest team in the rankings the winner of the SHL. 4. In the semi-finals, team 1 plays against 4 and team 2 against 3.

#### **25.8 Same number of goals in the semi-final and final**

1. The matches will be played in two times of thirty (2 x 30) minutes with a rest break of ten (10) minutes. Or fifteen (15) minutes at the final match, as a result of a decision by management or by the delegate for TV purposes.

## **2. A. Semi-final BOT (Best Of Two scheme)**

- a. The highest finishing team in the competition plays the first match away.
- b. The BOT (2) matches are played in accordance with IHF rules
- c. A BOT (2) series is played according to the European Cup system, which means that an away and a home match are played. The team with the most points after these two matches is the winner. If there is an equal number of points, a decision will be made as follows.
- d. To know:
  - The goal difference, if this is equal:
  - 7-meter throws in accordance with the procedure below.
  - If taking 7-meter throws is used to decide a match, only players who have not been temporarily excluded and not disqualified at the end of the match may participate (see also Rule 4:1 paragraph 4).
  - Each team appoints 5 players. These players alternately take one 7-meter throw with the players of the other team. The teams are not obliged to indicate in advance the order in which the players will take the 7-meter throws.
  - Goalkeepers may be freely selected from the group of players who are currently eligible to play and goalkeepers may be changed without restriction. Players may participate as a goalkeeper and as a thrower while taking the 7-meter throws.
  - The referees decide which goal will be used. The referees take a toss before starting to take the 7-meter throws. The team that wins the toss may indicate whether they will start taking the 7-meter throws. If no decision has been made yet, after 5 players from each team have taken the 7-meter throws, with each subsequent series of 5 throws the other team will start taking 7-meter throws.
  - In such a follow-up, each team again appoints 5 players. All players or some of the players may be the same as in the first round. This system of appointing 5 players continues until a decision has been made. However, the winner is now determined as soon as a difference in goals arises after each team has taken the same number of 7-meter throws.
  - Players may be disqualified during the 7-meter throws in case of extreme or repeated unsportsmanlike behavior (16:6e). If a player designated in the group of 5 players to take a 7-meter throw is disqualified, the team must designate another player to throw.

## **2. B. Final**

- If the result is tied at the end of normal playing time, an extra period of two five (2 x 5) minutes will be played after a break of five (5) minutes.
- If the result is still tied at the end of the first extra period, an extra period of two five (2x5) minutes will be played after a break of five (5) minutes.
- If the match is still tied after the second extra period, the winner will be determined by penalty shootout.
- The rules for the administration of penalty throws are in accordance with the applicable Laws established by the International Handball Federation (IHF) and as described in Article 25.8.2d.

#### **25.9 Early termination of competition**

1. If the competition is ended early, the ranking (final score) will be determined at half the number of scheduled matches in the competition. If less than half of the matches have been played in the competition, the competition will be considered not played and no promotion and/or relegation will take place. Where competitions for promotion and/or relegation are necessary to determine the ranking, this is obtained by the mutual result. If several teams finish equal, the goal difference of the matches played between them applies. If goal difference is equal, the goal average.

#### **Article 26 Technical discussion**

1. A technical discussion will be held one (1) hour before the start of each match in the competition at the location proposed by the delegate.
2. A technical discussion will be held one and a half hours (1.5) before the start of the semi-final match and final in the SHL Final Four at the location announced by the delegate.
3. Technical discussions must be attended by at least one (1) team official from each club participating in the relevant competition.
4. In the technical discussion, each club present must:
  - a. Submit his team consisting of a maximum of sixteen (16) players out of twenty-eight (28) players from the Official Squad List and four (4) team officials.
  - b. Present a valid passport, national identity card or a valid player's license for each of the players listed as part of the team.
  - c. Showing the full team kit. One copy of each full team kit (option dark color and light color option) must be shown. The full team uniforms each team's colors must be those that were previously assigned to the SHL management have been specified (with appropriate adjustments, if applicable).
5. The complete team uniforms of each team must be checked by the delegate during the technical discussion.
6. The scoresheet containing the lists of players and team members registered as a team must be checked against the players' passports or national identity cards and approved by at least one (1) delegate on the scoresheet.
7. The home club is responsible for distributing the completed match form to the press before the match. 8.
8. The delegate coordinates and is responsible for the procedure of official approval of the scoresheet, assisted by the competition director.

#### **Article 27 Match Procedures**

##### **27.1 Warming-up**

1. Approximately forty-five (45) minutes before the start of a match, the playing field will be made available to the players of the two playing teams for warm-up and game exercises.

##### **27.2 For the formation of the teams**

1. Any player on the field of play for warm-up must immediately leave the field of play at the request of the officials (at least ten (10) minutes before the throw-off).

### **27.3 Team formation**

1. Each player of the teams must be ready for the official team line-up ten (10) minutes before the start of the match.
2. Before entering the field of play prior to the official team line-up, ten (10) minutes before the start, the players must follow the instructions of both the referees and the floor managers and gather at the designated assembly point (pre-defined corner of the playing field).
3. Once the referees have instructed the teams to assemble, none of the players may leave the field of play.
4. Before entering the playing field, the tune SHL is played.
5. The players must enter the playing field by following the respective referee and any path formed by children. In that case, they must high-five the children on both sides simultaneously with both hands. The players of the team that enters the field second must also shake hands with the players of the other team before taking their positions.

### **27.4 Before the match**

1. The detailed pre-match procedure schedule of the SHL matches is as follows:
  - 8:00 Flag, mascots, referees, teams ready at the point of entry; Player guidance (children) out of the tunnel
  - 07:00 Line-up of Team A
  - 06.30 Line-up of Team B
  - 06:00 Introduction of Team A - players and officials
  - 06:00 Introduction of Team B - players and officials
  - 03:00 Introduction of the referees, secretary/timekeeper and delegate - No national anthems are played.
  - 02:00 Final match preparations of the teams
  - Indication of start of competition by delegate
2. Further details and information on the pre-match procedure will be provided to the teams before the start of the competition and before each match during the technical meeting. The information provided may include changes to the schedule stated under Article 19.7 due to the practical aspects of each venue and each match.
3. Instructions regarding the pre-match procedure given by the floor manager and/or the sports hall delegate before each match have priority and must in any case be followed by every person involved in the pre-match procedure.
4. Each playing team and each person who causes a delay in (starting/half-time/timeout) throws of a match is liable for any damage and can be held accountable by the management.
5. The speaker ensures that the teams' presentation takes place in a neutral manner.

### **27.5 Procedure after the match**

1. Immediately after the conclusion of a match, the players shall perform an informal handshake with the opposing team officials and the team officials shall perform an informal handshake with the opposing team officials.

#### **27.6 Match report**

1. Each club is obliged to send a journalistic match report at the time and in the manner determined by the management. The journalistic report at least mentions the course of the game and the goalscorers of both teams.

#### **27.7 Media and promotion**

1. After the final match, the SHL winner must be available for media and promotional purposes at the request of management.

#### **27.8 Club photographer**

1. Every club has a club photographer
2. Photos from each match must be posted on a specific club website.

#### **Article 28 Trophy**

1. The winner of the SHL competition will receive a trophy on behalf of or from the chairman of the board. The trophy remains with the SHL, which retains ownership at all times. The winner will always receive a copy of the trophy.
2. The other participant in the final of the SHL competition will receive a trophy on behalf of or from the chairman of the board in a different form than the winner's trophy. The trophy remains in the possession of the relevant club at all times.

#### **Article 29 Withdrawal of team, no play and similar cases**

1. The club that withdraws from the competition will be fined in accordance with the sanctions overview. In addition, the club is obliged to pay the SHL compensation for additional costs resulting from the withdrawal.
2. If a club withdraws from the competition, the entry fee and the lump sum deposit will also be forfeited and will belong to the SHL, which does not preclude further action by the national association to which the club belongs. In addition, she loses all rights to payments from SHL.
3. If a club withdraws or is excluded from the competition, the results of all matches played by it within the SHL context will be annulled and the points awarded will be declared invalid.
4. If a club that has qualified for the SHL competition withdraws or is excluded, the SHL management may replace it and decide which club will take that place, on the recommendation of the relevant national association.
5. If a team does not start the match or if a match is abandoned, the SHL management will report this to the Disciplinary Committee.

#### **Article 30 Finally**

1. All appendices are an integral part of these regulations.
2. If an English version of these regulations is available and there is a discrepancy in the interpretation between the Dutch or English version, the Dutch version will prevail.
3. The basic version of these regulations was adopted by all participants in the SHL and entered into force on August 20, 2014. It may be amended by decision of the board, on the recommendation of management, as long as it does not conflict with the contract until establishment of the SHL between the national association, and any changes must be properly communicated. The regulations were last amended by the Board on August 30, 2024 and will come into effect on the same date.



4. In all cases not provided for in the regulations, the board, on the recommendation of the management, can make additional decisions.

#### **Guidelines for administrative sanctions**

### **1. General Failure**

To provide the required information and/or document(s) to the Super Handball League (hereinafter: SHL) within the specified periods: fine of € 250.

### **2. Payment obligation**

Failure to pay SHL on the due dates (amounts exceeding €1,000): fine of €500. First repeat violation: fine of €750. Any further repetitions: fine of € 1,500 and/or exclusion from participation in the SHL competition.

### **3. Player information**

Providing incorrect information about a player by the player himself or by the club: report to disciplinary committee

### **4. Ineligible player**

The participation of an ineligible player during a match of the Super League Handball competition: loss of the match 10-0 and 2 match points deducted.

### **5. Marketing/Advertising/Media/SHL Sponsoring**

In case of violation of the applicable regulations and guidelines regarding:

- advertising setup and use in the arcade and related areas: fine of €500.
- logo/badges on the team uniform and players' sleeves: fine of €500. Possibly excluding the players in question from participating in the match.
- Failure to stream the match live on the platform specified by the SHL: fine € 1,000.
- Failure to stream the match correctly: fine €500.
- Failure to implement SHL sponsors (the exclusivity during the SHL competition): fine of € 1,250
- not granting access to (accredited) media representatives (TV, radio, etc.): fine of € 250 per person to whom access is refused.

### **6. Play location**

In case of violation of the applicable regulations and guidelines regarding:

- inability to have access to the accommodation/availability of the required facilities, equipment and/or location infrastructure in the accommodation and related areas: fine of € 1,000;
- requirements for the playing floor: fine € 1,000. Exclusion from location, which can be imposed in the further continuation of the competition;
- placement of competition banners, SHL logos, signs, table and/or flags in the sports hall and related areas: fine € 1,000;
- not having the required officials, including secretary and timekeeper, and volunteers for setting up and removing the floor/advertising: fine €500;
- the unavailability of a qualified secretary and timekeeper: fine €500;
- not having a qualified announcer during the match: fine €500;
- failure or failure to correctly follow instructions from SHL officials regarding the competition protocol, proposed procedures by a team or person involved in the competition: fine €500; If this causes a delay before the start of the match (first half / second half): fine €500;
- failure to play with the ball made available by the SHL organization and/or failure to place the ball stand: fine € 1,000.

**NB:**

The above fines apply, unless otherwise agreed between club(s) and management and confirmed in writing by management.