

**Competition Regulations
Super Handball League**



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Article 1 Scope

These Competition Regulations govern the rights, obligations and responsibilities of all parties participating in and involved in the preparation and organisation of the men's competition organised by the Royal Dutch Handball Federation (NHV) and the Royal Belgian Handball Federation (KBHB).

- Where reference is made to Super Handball League, this shall hereinafter be referred to as the 'SHL'.
- The series of matches "Super Handball League Competition" shall hereinafter be referred to as the 'Competition'.
- Where reference is made to the 'Super Handball League Board', this shall hereinafter be referred to as the 'Board'.
- Where reference is made to the "Super Handball League management", this shall hereinafter be referred to as the 'Management'.

Article 2 The Competition

1. The Competition takes place every year.
2. The official announcement of the Competition is made by the affiliated national federations: the NHV and the KBHB.
3. The Competition is organised by the Management under the supervision of the Board.
4. The matches are fixed by the Competition manager.
5. The Super Handball League activities consist of:
 - promoting the interests of the SHL as a collective, both nationally and internationally;
 - fostering 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 Handball League Competition"); and
 - the associated (semi-)final.

Article 3 Fair play

The principles of fair play must be observed by the participating clubs in all matches. Every participating club of the NHV or the KBHB that takes part in the Competition shall:

- observe the playing rules and the regulations for participation in the Competition;
- 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 that apply to the SHL (without limitation) form an integral part of the current Competition Regulations.
2. Cases not covered by these Regulations shall be decided by the Management.
3. A Board member may not take part in votes and deliberations on matters in which the Board member has a direct personal interest. In such a case, the member concerned shall refrain from any involvement.

Article 5 Tasks and responsibilities of clubs

5.1 Tasks of the clubs

1. When participating in the Competition, clubs and their members shall:
 - a) comply with the IHF, EHF and SHL regulations, including the IHF playing rules;
 - b) respect the principles of fair play as defined in the statutes of the IHF and EHF;
 - c) not harm the interests of the SHL and/or of handball in general;
 - d) accept and comply with all other obligations that the Board and Management impose or decide on behalf of or in the name of the participants in the Competition;
 - e) comply with all decisions relating to the Competition taken by the Board, the Management or any other competent body and duly communicated (via the official website or by e-mail);
 - f) observe the national safety regulations and guidelines for all matches of the Competition where the Board and Management consider this necessary;
 - g) do everything within their power, before, during and after the match, to maintain order and guarantee the personal safety of all those present. The Management may impose rules on any club to maintain order during matches, as well as appoint persons responsible for monitoring compliance with these Regulations;
 - h) protect, defend and indemnify the SHL and the Management against all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, fines, claims, actions, penalties and costs of whatever nature arising from, or attributable to, non-compliance with these SHL Competition Regulations by the participating clubs or any of their players, officials, employees or their representatives.

5.2 Responsibilities of the club

1. The clubs are legally and financially responsible to the Management with regard to their representation and the team taking part in the Competition. In particular, the clubs are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, other representatives, supporters and any person who holds a position within the club and/or performs a role during a match on behalf of the club. The clubs and/or their members may be sanctioned accordingly by their national federation.
2. The home club is responsible for safety and order before, during and after the match. The home club may be held accountable for incidents of any kind.

5.3 Additional responsibilities

1. The Management shall inform the clubs, or their representatives taking part in the Competition, of any further guidelines or decisions relating to the Competition that must be observed, and shall provide them with all relevant documents in good time.

Article 6 Marketing and media rights

1. The SHL is the owner of, 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 (matches, opening and closing ceremonies).
2. The SHL has 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 playing venues. The SHL may exercise its right to exploit these rights at its own discretion and on a universal basis. In this matter, the Management shall respect the exclusive rights of the affiliated national federation.
3. The SHL has the right, during all regular matches of the Competition, to:
 - a. During all Competition matches, a static advertising board (2 metres wide) supplied by the SHL is placed per club. If LED boarding is used, the static advertising board is replaced, and the supplied logo, including tagline, is displayed for 1 minute per 10 minutes, divided into blocks of 15 seconds.
 - b. supply a ball stand which must be placed at all SHL matches
 - c. for matches played on neutral ground (organised by the SHL), such as the final, the SHL may make use of all floor stickers and advertising space.
 - d. The clubs shall play with the ball supplied by the SHL, unless otherwise agreed between the SHL and the club.
4. If the SHL wishes to make use of its marketing rights as referred to under Article 6.3, it must inform the home club no later than three (3) weeks before the start of the match, and the Management is responsible for supplying the advertising material. The home club is responsible for the set-up and correct implementation.
5. Every club must ensure that its partners, whether commercial or not, do not make use of, or otherwise directly or indirectly make 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 own 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 names of the clubs, logos and club kit, in connection with the Competition for non-commercial purposes.
2. All participating clubs grant the SHL the right (royalty-free) to use any photograph or material (printed matter, advertisements, internet, product presentation, video, etc.) produced for/during the matches, for the promotion of the Competition and for sports development (training, education, etc.).
3. The SHL has the right to transfer the above-mentioned usage rights to a marketing partner for the same purposes.
4. Every participating club guarantees the consent of the respective players and officials as defined above. Every participating club must indemnify the SHL and its partners against any liability action by a player relating to the player's photograph. Video recordings form part of this.
5. When participating in the Competition, all clubs may make video recordings of the matches for coaching and training purposes.
6. Clubs are required to stream matches, showing the score and time, via live stream on the internet and the app. This obligation applies only to the home club. These streams must remain available on the internet for at least 12 months. The SHL determines on which platform the stream must take place.
7. Video recordings may be made by both teams, using one or more cameras. These video recordings may only be used for live streaming to the internet. When streaming official SHL matches, clubs are required to use the SHL graphic. The SHL Management shall supply this three weeks before the start of the match. The logo must appear in the top left- or right-hand corner of the screen, and/or for internal use (training and match preparation). Use of the video recordings for other purposes, including commercial exploitation, is prohibited. If there is no room for two cameras, the home club shall make the recordings. These recordings shall be made available free of charge to the visiting team. Clubs participating in the SHL may agree among themselves to share this type of video.
8. Due to space constraints in a sports hall, restrictions on video recordings may be imposed by the home clubs. Such restrictions must be agreed with the SHL Management.
9. All intellectual property rights to material recorded for such purposes must be transferred in writing to the SHL, and if the SHL so requests, a copy of all relevant recorded material must be provided to the SHL Management within the period set by the Management.

Article 8 Super Handball League sponsor/partner exclusivity

1. The exclusivity of the SHL sponsors (as such) during the SHL Competition must be respected by all clubs, members and SHL representatives taking part 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 observed by all clubs, members and SHL representatives taking part in the Competition, shall be communicated by the Management in good time before the start of the Competition or three weeks before the start of the match.
3. Failure to comply with the required measures and restrictions relating to the SHL's sponsors, or any other breach of the SHL regulations during the Competition, may be sanctioned in accordance with the regulations of the national federation to which the offender belongs. In addition, the person/club concerned may be required to compensate for any damage suffered.

Article 9 Doping

1. Doping tests may take place before, during and after the match in accordance with the 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 the event of a breach of the anti-doping rules, the Management shall initiate disciplinary proceedings against the offenders and take the appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with the legal rules of the national federation to which the team belongs. This may include the imposition of provisional measures.
4. National federations must immediately notify the SHL Management of any decision at national level to sanction a player for doping (including provisional measures and/or provisional suspension). A copy of the decision must be sent to the SHL Management. Decisions confirmed by the IHF anti-doping unit of the affiliated national federation regarding doping shall automatically be adopted by the SHL Management.

Article 10 Number of participating teams

1. The Competition is played with a predetermined number of teams.

Article 11 Automatic qualification for participation in the Competition

1. The team that finishes first in the national competition automatically qualifies for the SHL Competition of the following season.
2. A club, whether or not in a merger or cooperation arrangement, may only participate with one (1) team in the Super Handball League Competition.

Article 12 Playing periods/match dates/starting times

1. The playing period of the Competition runs from September to the end of April (or later).
2. In principle, starting times are between 16:00 and 20:30 on Saturdays and between 14:00 and 16:00 on Sundays.
3. The last two rounds of the Competition must be played on Saturday at 20:00 sharp, in order to avoid any advantage being gained from knowledge of the results of other matches. Only a live broadcast on a national public channel may be a reason to move the match to a later time.
4. The exact dates and starting time of each match depend on coordination between the Management, the clubs and, where relevant, the SHL marketing partner and the broadcaster.
5. The final decision on the dates and starting times of the matches lies with the Management.
6. The exact dates of the matches shall be communicated by the Management to the participating clubs in good time before the start of the Competition.
7. Each team must have at least eighteen (18) hours' rest between two matches played.
8. Changes to the match schedule are only possible under the conditions below;
 - a) European cup matches:
 - I. The match shall be relocated and must be played within 34 days of the original date, by agreement between the clubs concerned (approval by e-mail is sufficient) and must be confirmed by the Management;
 - II. If no agreement can be reached, the Management shall make the final decision. The starting time shall be between 20:00 and 21:00;
 - III. The match may only be moved to a later day upon a substantiated request, and requires the formal approval of the Management.
 - b) TV broadcast:

A TV broadcast may only be a reason to move the playing day and time in the event of

a live TV broadcast by a national public broadcaster, or by a private or regional broadcaster under a general agreement with the SHL. If a match qualifies for a TV broadcast, the SHL may impose further requirements on the sports hall, and a club may be required to move to a different hall than its home hall.
 - c) The unavailability of a sports hall shall never be a reason not to play the match on the originally scheduled day and time without the prior approval of the Management. The home club is responsible for finding an alternative hall.
 - d) By mutual agreement.

Matches may only be rescheduled by mutual agreement and with the consent of both parties. If the opposing club does not agree, the match shall remain on the original date and time.

Conditions:

 - I. Matches may only be rescheduled by mutual agreement. If the opposing club does not agree, the match shall not be rescheduled.
 - II. Matches must be played within 34 days of the original date.*
 - III. Matches falling in the penultimate and final round may not be rescheduled.
 - IV. Matches may not be rescheduled to a date later than the penultimate round.
 - V. A rescheduling must be reported no later than before the original kick-off time of the match via the change tool in Sportlink Club. For reschedulings entered into the change tool after Friday 16:00, telephone contact must also be made.

- VI. A rescheduling to a date earlier than the original playing date must be reported at least (four) 4 working days before the new playing date.
- VII. Requests to reschedule matches in the Super Handball League must be approved by the SHL via the change tool in Sportlink Club. Only then is a match definitively rescheduled.
- VIII. The SHL retains the right at all times to refuse a rescheduling request.
- IX. If these conditions are not met, the match shall not be rescheduled.
- e) The playing of a scheduled match may be postponed by the Management in very exceptional cases. The Management is authorised to impose additional conditions.
- 9. The Management has the right, in special cases, upon reasonable request or on its own initiative, to deviate from a scheduled match. Any costs may be charged to the party responsible for the change. These costs may include:
 - a) costs for the accommodation and subsistence of the teams and referees;
 - b) compensation for additional venue hire;
 - c) compensation for additional transport costs;
 - d) an administrative fee of a maximum of €1,000;
 - e) in the event of liability, all other duly established losses or costs.
- 10. The Management shall only support the request if this does not harm the interests of third parties.
*In the 2026/2027 season, matchdays 11 and 24 may be rescheduled by mutual agreement to a date between 9 and 31 January.
- 11. The costs of rescheduling the planned matches and/or the starting time may be charged to both clubs.

Article 13 Registration

13.1 Registration documents

1. To be eligible for participation 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 every Board member agree to comply with the SHL's regulations.
 - b) It must state one fixed postal address, e-mail address and the name of the contact person responsible for all internal correspondence with the SHL.
2. Registrations submitted after the deadline may in principle not be accepted if they adversely affect the technical preparation and conduct of the Competition and the national federation(s). Late submission of documents shall be sanctioned in accordance with the list of sanctions.

13.2 Nationality and eligibility to play

1. The matches are played as international matches. Players of a team taking part in the SHL must hold a valid player's licence from the national federation. Proof of nationality (valid passport or national identity card) is required to take part in the SHL. A player who, at the request of an SHL official, cannot produce a valid passport or national identity card or valid player's licence shall not be eligible to take part in a match. The officials concerned shall record this in the DMR, whereby the Management is informed.
2. A player who has already played for a team of a club in the Super Handball League competition may not play in the same season for the team of another club. If a team withdraws during the season, an exception may be requested from the SHL Board for players who played for that team. The Board shall then decide whether this exception is granted.

13.3 Squad list

1. The clubs must enter the list of players and team officials who will form the basis of their team during the Competition on the squad list in Sportlink Club before 1 September of the current year.
2. The list of players and team officials may contain a maximum of thirty-five (35) players. The players (35 or fewer) entered on the squad list in Sportlink Club are the only players eligible to take part in the Competition.
3. Additions, in accordance with the rules of the national federation, to the squad list in Sportlink Club are permitted throughout the competition year.
4. In the event 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 on the squad list in Sportlink Club is not limited and is not final; changes/registrations of team officials remain possible until the technical meeting before the start of the match.
6. If the official squad list is not completed in Sportlink Club within the set period, the club shall be fined accordingly.

13.4 The match report (definitive list of players and officials)

1. The match report contains the names and shirt numbers of the sixteen (16) players and five (5) team members. The match report is drawn up and submitted via the app no later than one (1) hour before the start of the match, so that it is available at the start of the technical meeting. For matches in the SHL Final Four, the deadline is one and a half hours (1.5h) before the start.
2. Only the five (5) officials on the match report may 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 not eligible to play in a match, that team shall lose the match 10-0 and shall be fined in accordance with the list of sanctions.

Article 14 Financial contribution and compensations

14.1 Financial contribution of the national federation

1. Each national federation participates in the SHL with a financial contribution of €7,500, which must be received in the SHL account before 1 July of the current year.

14.2 Club registration fee

1. To be eligible for participation in the Competition, a club must pay a registration fee of €2,600 to the SHL organisation, which must be received in the SHL account before 1 September of the current year.
2. The registration fee is paid once by the participating club for participation in all SHL activities.
3. If payment is not received by the Management by the due date, the club shall automatically be fined an amount of €1,000.
4. If the registration fee is not received within four (4) weeks of the announced deadline, the deposit for participation in the Competition shall be forfeited in favour of the SHL organisation, and the Management may:
 - a. consider all matches of the team concerned as lost until the moment the registration fee is paid;
 - 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 Club deposit payment

1. All clubs wishing to have a team take part in the Competition must pay a deposit of €2,600 as a guarantee for participation and compliance with obligations towards the SHL, which must be received in the SHL account before 1 July of the current year.
2. Fines shall be deducted from the deposit if not paid within one month. The Management may decide that, after that period, all matches of the team of a club concerned shall be considered lost if the deposit is not paid again.

Article 15 Costs

15.1 Travel costs

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

15.2 Accommodation and organisation costs of the home club

1. All costs incurred by the home club in organising a match must be borne by the home club.
2. The home club is required to arrange and provide an evening meal for the referees and the delegate after the match.
3. The meal must be provided in a separate and suitable room. The home club is responsible for making this room available.

15.3 Costs of officials

1. The SHL bears the following costs and expenses for SHL officials, based on the Management's guidelines (defined under Article 21.1), with the exception of national federation staff, referees (home club) and the delegate (national federation):
 - a. Travel costs to and from the venue (reimbursement on presentation of a receipt/proof of purchase of a ticket) based on these criteria:
 1. Travel by train/bus/boat: reimbursement of second-class return tickets for the train/bus/boat.
 2. For travel by car, €0.23 per kilometre driven may be claimed.
 3. Travel by car from the place of residence (to and from the airport or train station): may be charged at €0.23 per kilometre driven.
 - b. The subsistence costs (reasonable cost of meals and accommodation) for the duration of their duties during the matches that 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 venue may be charged at €0.23 per kilometre. Account shall be taken of: the fastest route (www.mappy.com) from the home of the referee who lives furthest from the sports hall to the sports hall.
 - b) All complaints arising from the costs charged by the referees shall be handled by the Management.
 - c) Match fee of €80 per referee.
2. The travel costs are shared among all clubs at the end of the Competition.

15.5 Costs of the delegate

1. The national federations bear the costs and expenses of the delegate.
2. The costs and expenses are paid by means of a claim.

Article 16 Insurance

16.1 General principles

1. Everyone involved in the SHL is responsible for their own insurance.

16.2 Clubs

1. The participating clubs are responsible for, and undertake to, take out 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 club

1. The home club is responsible for the insurance of all accommodation used for the Competition, including the hall, facilities and official zones. If the home club is not the owner of the hall used, it is also responsible for ensuring that the owner and/or tenant of the hall in question takes out full liability insurance, including third-party liability and property damage.
2. In addition to Articles 22.1 and 22.2, the home club organising a match must take out, at its own expense, adequate insurance (including cancellation insurance) for all risks arising from the organisation of the matches, in accordance with its responsibilities. The insurance must meet the minimum conditions laid down in the organisation agreement between the SHL and the home club and duly communicated by the SHL.

16.4 Super Handball League organisation

1. The national federations are responsible for the statutory liability, accident and health insurance of the SHL officials they appoint, 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 the Management are expressly excluded. Everyone involved in the Competition must indemnify the Board and the Management against all claims for liability in connection with the matches.

Article 17 Mandatory free access

1. Persons using an official SHL pass (officials / press / referees, etc.) have free admission (prior registration required).
2. Persons using an official press card have free access.
3. Every visiting and participating club has free passage, up to a maximum of twenty-two (22) persons per team (sixteen (16) players and six (6) officials).

Article 18 Scorekeeper/timekeeper

1. The qualified scorekeeper and the timekeeper are appointed by the home club and are under the authority of the delegate.
2. The scorekeeper and the timekeeper must hold the referee's certificate of the national federation or have completed the scorekeeper/timekeeper workshop of the national federation.
3. The scorekeeper and the timekeeper have the tasks and powers assigned to them by the IHF playing rules
4. During the match, the scorekeeper keeps the current score and goalscorers up to date via the app on the digital match report.

Article 19 Kit

19.1 Kit requirements

1. Each team must have at least one (1) light-coloured kit and one dark-coloured kit available for its court players and goalkeepers at every match. Blue and red are considered dark colours. In the case of multi-coloured shirts in one of the full kits, only one of the colours - and not the main colour - may be repeated in the other full kit. Squad numbers must be clearly visible, legible and sufficiently contrasting with the rest of the kit.
2. The goalkeepers' kit must differ in both the dark colour and the light colour of the kit from the kit for the court players.
3. The colours and photographs of the full team kits (at least one (1) light colour option and one (1) dark colour option) must be provided to the Management before the start of the Competition within the period set by it, and communicated to the other participating clubs in due course. "Promotional" illustrations of the full team kits shall not be accepted as photographs.
4. Changes requested by the Management after the clubs have sent the colours and photographs of the full team kit, in order to comply with the requirements set out herein, must be sent by the clubs concerned within the period set by the Management, and communicated to the respective clubs in due course.
5. The full team kits approved by the Management are the only ones permitted throughout the Competition.
6. The delegate may, at any match, request the visiting team to play in a different approved kit if the delegate considers that the colours of the team's prescribed kit may cause confusion.

19.2 Player numbers

1. Every player number communicated during the technical meeting must be affixed to the back and front of the shirt of the player concerned. 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 colour of the number must contrast clearly with the colour of the shirt.
2. Numbers 1 to 9 are printed as a single digit. The use of a leading zero (01, 02, etc.) is not permitted.

19.3 Additional requirements

1. During the team line-up, the entire team must wear identical clothing, either the fully approved kit during the match or tracksuits (with the exception of goalkeepers).
2. During matches:
 - a. The starting players and the goalkeepers must wear the approved kit stated on the respective kit form or requested by the delegate.
 - b. For the wearing of undergarments, compression clothing, socks and protective equipment, the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories, in their most recent edition, apply. In the event of a conflict between these IHF regulations and the SHL Competition Regulations, the IHF regulations shall prevail, unless the SHL expressly imposes stricter requirements.
 - c. The team officials on the bench must wear clothing in a clearly different colour(s) from the colour(s) of the opposing team's kit.

19.4 Advertising on player shirts

1. Subject to the restrictions set out below, advertising on player kit is permitted.
2. Advertising relating to drugs, pornography or alcohol is strictly prohibited on the kit.
3. For any advertising on the kit during a match, the provisions and restrictions set out in the regulations on clothing advertising of the national federation to which the club belongs must be observed.
4. Every representative must comply with any further advertising restrictions communicated by the Management to the participating clubs in good time before the start of the Competition.
5. The national federation must notify the Management in good time before the start of the Competition of any local restriction or prohibition on advertising.

19.5 Sleeve logos

1. Badges / SHL logos to be affixed to the right sleeves of the players' shirts shall be provided to the participating clubs in good time before the start of the Competition.
2. The participating clubs are responsible for affixing the badges / SHL logos to be affixed to the sleeves of the shirts of their team players.
3. The responsible team official(s) must ensure that the sleeve badges / SHL logos are affixed to the shirt of every player in good time before every match.

19.6 Non-compliance with the provisions

1. Non-compliance with one or more of the provisions set out above and/or the national regulations on clothing advertising may be sanctioned in accordance with the statutory regulations of the national federation to which the club belongs. In addition, the club concerned may be required to compensate for any damage incurred.
2. Non-compliance with the SHL sleeve advertising shall be penalised with a fine, and the fine shall be applied for every subsequent match after the first official notice, for as long as the non-compliance continues.

Article 20 Venues / sports halls

20.1 General provisions

1. The home club(s) organising a match is (are) responsible for the availability of the hall and its set-up in accordance with the Management's requirements.

20.2 Adhesive substances

1. The home club and the hall owners must permit the use of self-adhesive substances, including resin. If only one type of adhesive is permitted, the home club is required to make a sufficient quantity of the permitted product available to the visiting team.

20.3 Choice of hall/halls

1. The halls are proposed to the Management by the home club.
2. The Board has the right, on the Management's proposal, to reject a sports hall.
3. Subject to the foregoing, the sports halls must be set up as follows for every match:

20.4 Match table

1. A match table for four (4) persons (delegate, scorekeeper, timekeeper and speaker) must be present and placed in the sports hall.
2. The requirements prescribed by the IHF regarding the position of the match tables apply to SHL matches.

20.5 Time-keeping and scoring equipment

1. All matches must be played with the sports halls equipped with electronic time-keeping (0 to 30 minutes for each half) and a scoreboard that can be read and operated without problems from the match table. It is the official time-keeping and must be fully operational before and during the matches.

20.6 Backup clock

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

20.7 Match cards

1. a. A sufficient number of cards (A4 size), bearing the SHL logo, must be available to the scorekeeper/timekeeper for recording the numbers of temporarily excluded players and the end of the exclusion period. These cards must be placed on the match table, where they are visible and in a vertical position, clearly legible for both playing teams.
b. A sufficient number of cards (A4 size) for "injured player" must be available to the scorekeeper/timekeeper to record 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 the team's time-outs. They are handed to one of the team officials of the respective teams at the start of each half of regular playing time.

20.8 Playing surface

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

20.9 Anti-doping provision

1. An anti-doping infrastructure must be set up in all sports halls, complying with the WADA anti-doping code applicable on the date of the match.

20.10 Permitted materials in the substitution zone

1. The substitution zone is intended exclusively for eligible players and authorised team officials, in accordance with the applicable playing rules and guidelines for the substitution zone. Only materials directly related to the conduct of the match or the medical care and safety of players may be present in the substitution zone.
2. It is not permitted to place exercise bikes or other fitness and training equipment in the substitution zone, the coaching zone, or the space directly behind the team bench. The home club is responsible for compliance with this before the start of the match. The delegate is authorised to order the removal of such equipment.
3. For the presence of, and access rules for, photographers in and around the substitution zone, Article 26.8 applies.

20.11 Other

1. The home club must comply with and/or implement all other requirements relating to the organisation of the matches set and/or communicated by the Management.

Article 21 Officials

21.1 Definition

1. Officials are:
 - a) members of the Board and Management;
 - b) SHL representatives;
 - c) delegates;
 - d) referees;
 - e) staff members;
 - f) scorekeeper and timekeeper;
 - g) all other persons appointed by the Management in relation to the SHL.
2. The tasks and powers of these officials are set out in these Regulations or by individual assignment by the Management.

21.2 Code of Conduct

1. Every SHL official appointed to take part in an SHL activity must sign the SHL Code of Conduct. SHL officials are bound, during their assignment, by the regulatory obligations of the SHL Code of Conduct and the applicable SHL Regulations. Failure to sign or comply shall result in exclusion from the appointment and/or disciplinary proceedings.
2. Until the SHL Code of Conduct takes effect, officials are bound by the code of conduct set out in these Regulations and the applicable national federation regulations.

Article 22 Referees

22.1 Appointment

1. One (1) pair of referees is assigned to every match.
2. The referees are assigned by the arbitration officer, on the recommendation of the national federations.

22.2 Unavailability

1. In principle, the entire match is officiated by the same pair of referees. The referees are responsible for ensuring that the match is played in accordance with the playing rules and must sanction any offences. If one of the referees is unable to complete the match, the match shall only be continued by the other referee alone when it is not possible to make a reserve or replacement referee (pair) available.
2. When a match cannot be started or continued due to the absence or injury of appointed referees, the clubs' costs may not be claimed from the Management.

22.3 Additional reporting

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

Article 23 Delegate

23.1 Appointment

1. For every match, the arbitration officer shall appoint at least one (1) delegate, on the recommendation of the national federations.
2. In principle, delegates from the NHV are appointed for matches in the Netherlands, and delegates from the KBHB are appointed for matches in Belgium.
3. If no delegate is appointed, available or present, the national federation to which the delegate belongs shall pay a fine of €500 to the SHL, unless it is proven that there is force majeure.
4. The appointment of a delegate for the matches may be withdrawn at the Management's discretion, on the recommendation of the national federations.
5. The Management's decisions regarding the appointment of delegates for the matches are final.

23.2 Unavailability

1. Appointed delegates must notify the arbitration officer and/or the national federations without delay of any unavailability.
2. In this case, the arbitration officer and/or the referees' working group shall appoint a replacement.

23.3 General responsibility

1. The delegate represents the SHL.
2. The delegate must always carry a copy of the SHL Competition Regulations and the IHF Rules of the Game during their assignment.
3. The delegate shall monitor the conduct of the match and prevent any occurrence that may arise and that may lead to a complaint or the replaying of a match in accordance with the Competition Regulations. If necessary, the delegate shall act as a mediator.
4. The delegate guides and supports the referees and observes and assesses their performance. However, the delegate is **not** the head referee. Responsibility for the field of play lies exclusively with the referees.
5. Nonetheless, the delegate must, where necessary, interrupt the match and bring to the referees' attention any errors that may lead to a complaint to the Management. Errors in this context do not refer to decisions by the referees based on their findings of fact. Delegates may not take decisions, but may only make recommendations.
6. The delegate must always be seated at the match table in order to have a good view of the substitution zone at all times and to be able to intervene if necessary.

23.4 Reporting

1. The delegate must ensure compliance with the SHL Competition Regulations and all other regulations applicable to the SHL by all participating entities and persons.
2. If a breach of the SHL Competition Regulations or a significant incident is established, the delegates shall:
 - report such a breach and/or incident in writing to the Management (tuchtrecht@handbal.nl) immediately after the match.
3. The delegates shall report in their reports, in as much detail as possible, on any breaches/incidents before, during and after the match, such as:
 - incorrect line-up of the teams;
 - incorrect player clothing (number, publicity);
 - delay of the kick-off of the match;
 - unsporting conduct by officials, members, supporters or persons performing a role in a match on behalf of a club or national federation;
 - any other incidents.
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the absence of a remark on the match report or of a report on the incident does not preclude the initiation of disciplinary proceedings reported by the member federation.

23.5 Match report / delegate's report

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

Article 24 Super Handball League competition

24.1 Composition of the pool

1. The SHL Men is played in 2 phases.
 - a. Regular competition;
 - b. Play-offs;
 - c. Final.

24.2 Competition and promotion/relegation:

1. The matches of this pool are played with every team against all opponents in this pool (round robin system).
2. All matches of the Competition are played in two periods of thirty (2 x 30) minutes with a break of ten (10) minutes (or fifteen (15) minutes following a relevant decision by the Management). There is no extra time.
3. Two points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no points for a loss.
4. A club, whether or not in a merger or cooperation arrangement, may only take part with one (1) team in the Super Handball League.
5. The regular competition is a full competition in a single pool of 14 teams.
 - a. Teams 1 to 8 qualify for the play-off championship phase and, in principle, qualify** (see 9) for the SHL Men of the following season.
 - b. Teams 9 and 10 are, in principle, safe** (see 11) and qualify for the SHL Men of the following season.
 - c. Teams 11 to 14 qualify for the play-off relegation phase.
 - d. The SHL determines the dates and starting times of the semi-finals and finals.
6. In the play-off championship phase, the championship pool shall be played on a knock-out basis, consisting of a quarter-final based on BOT(2) matches, one semi-final match on neutral ground and one final match on neutral ground.
7. The play-off relegation phase is played on a knock-out basis, consisting of a semi-final for relegation and retention based on BOT(2) matches, and two single final matches for relegation and retention on neutral ground.
8. Play-off championship phase.

Ranking round 1.1	8	1	A
	7	2	B
	6	3	C
	5	4	D
Ranking round 1.2	1	8	A
	2	7	B
	3	6	C
	4	5	D

Semi-final Round 2.1*	Win. A/D	Win. A/D	E
	Win. B/C	Win. B/C	F

Final Round 3.1*	Win. E/F	Win. E/F	G
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***The team that finished highest in the regular competition is the home team**

9. Ranking play-off championship phase

	Win. G	No. 1
	Los. G	No. 2
based on regular competition ranking	Los. E/F	No. 3
based on regular competition ranking	Los. E/F	No. 4
based on regular competition ranking	Los. A/B/C/D	No. 5
based on regular competition ranking	Los. A/B/C/D	No. 6
based on regular competition ranking	Los. A/B/C/D	No. 7
based on regular competition ranking	Los. A/B/C/D	No. 8

10. Play-off relegation phase

Relegation Semi-final round 1.1	14	11	A
	13	12	B
Relegation Semi-final round 1.2	11	14	A
	12	13	B

Relegation Final round 2.1*	Win. A/B	Win. A/B	C
	Los. A/B	Los. A/B	D

*The team that finished highest in the regular competition is the home team.

11. Ranking play-off relegation phase

based on regular competition ranking		No. 9
based on regular competition ranking		No. 10
	Win. C	No. 11
	Los. C	No. 12
	Win. D	No. 13
	Los. D	No. 14

- Teams 9 and 10 are, in principle, safe** and qualify for the SHL Men of the following season.
- Team 11 is, in principle, safe** and qualifies for the SHL Men of the following season.
- Team 12 plays a BOT (2) against team 1, 2 or 3 of the highest national competition (see match schedule for team 12 for more information).

- d. Team 13 plays a BOT (2) against team 1 or 2 of the highest national competition (see match schedule for team 13 for more information).

12. Team 14 is directly relegated to the highest national competition

***Should the Teams that finished in positions 12, 13 & 14 all come from the same country, then: the lowest-placed team from the other country in the SHL Men shall play a BOT(2) promotion/relegation match against team 1 of the highest national competition.*

13. Match schedule BOT (2) for team 12.

1. First scenario
 - a. Team 12 plays against team 1 of the highest national competition.
 - b. The winner is awarded a place in the SHL Men of the following season.
2. Second scenario (if team 1 has already been promoted or plays against team 13)
 - a. Team 12 plays against team 2 of the highest national competition.
 - b. The winner is awarded a place in the SHL Men of the following season.
3. Third scenario (if team 2 already plays against team 13 and teams 13 and 14 come from the same country)
 - a. Team 12 plays against team 3 of the highest national competition.
 - b. The winner is awarded a place in the SHL Men of the following season.

14. Match schedule BOT (2) for team 13 in the SHL Men

1. First scenario
 - a. Team 13 plays against team 1 of the highest national competition.
 - b. The winner is awarded a place in the SHL Men of the following season.
2. Second scenario (if team 1 has already been promoted because team 14 comes from the same country)
 - a. Team 13 plays against team 2 of the highest national competition.
 - b. The winner is awarded a place in the SHL Men of the following season.

15. If the Competition cannot be played in full, the SHL Management has the right to determine the outcome of the SHL title in another way than described in Article 25.2

16. If necessary, the Management may use the final standings (in accordance with Article 25.2.4) of the regular competition to declare the team ranked highest as the winner of the SHL.

17. If the regular competition is terminated prematurely, the ranking (final standings) shall be determined at the halfway point of the number of matches scheduled in the Competition. If fewer than half the matches in the Competition have been played, the Competition shall be deemed not to have been played and no promotion and/or relegation shall take place. Where matches for promotion and/or relegation are necessary to determine the ranking, this shall now be obtained through the head-to-head result. If several teams finish level, the goal difference of the matches played between them shall apply. If the goal difference is equal, the goal average shall apply.

24.3 Start of matches

1. The match starts at the scheduled starting time, after a whistle signal from the referee. The time schedule in Article 26.4 applies to the pre-match procedure.
2. If no referee is present at the scheduled starting time, or the field of play is not available, both teams must hold themselves ready for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes to start the match after all, as soon as a competent referee or the field of play becomes available.

24.4 Match not played to completion

1. A match is not played to completion in the following cases:
 - a. if the match is terminated prematurely by one team or by both teams;
 - b. if the referee decides to do so;
 - c. if the referee is incapacitated during the match, without a substitute being willing to act as such.
 - d. for reasons other than those mentioned above.
2. The disciplinary bodies shall determine, in relevant cases, whether there is culpability for the match not being played to completion.
3. If there is culpability for a match not being played to completion, the disciplinary bodies may impose the penalties referred to in the SHL Disciplinary Regulations.
4. If the disciplinary bodies referred to consider that there is no culpability for the match not being played to completion, this shall be communicated without delay to the SHL manager and the SHL Competition and Arbitration manager.
5. The match must be replayed within 34 days on the field of play of the non-culpable club, while the culpable team shall also be penalised with two loss points. If the non-culpable team was leading by more than ten goals at the moment the match was not played to completion, the result at the moment of non-completion shall be upheld.
6. If culpability for the match not being played to completion is established in the manner set out in the third paragraph of this Article, the costs involved shall be borne by the club of the offending team. If both teams are culpable, these costs shall be shared proportionally. The determination and charging of these costs shall be carried out by the manager of the Super Handball League.

24.5 Conditions for playing to completion

1. In this Article, the term match is also understood to mean part of a match.
2. The condition set by the SHL Management for this is that the match shall always be replayed in full, unless the match was abandoned during extra time or during the taking of penalty throws in decisive matches.
3. If the SHL Management decides to refix a match not played to completion in its entirety, the warnings given and the temporary exclusions in the part of the match played shall lapse.
4. A player who has been disqualified in the part played of a match not played to completion may take part in the match to be replayed in full if he has served his penalty for his disqualification.
5. A player who has been excluded from taking part in matches may not take part in a match to be replayed in full that is played during his exclusion period.
6. The starting point for playing a match to completion shall be that the part still to be played is played, as far as possible, under the conditions that applied during the match not played to completion.
7. If the SHL Management decides to have the part of a match not played to completion still played, the warnings given and the temporary exclusions and disqualifications in the part of the match played shall remain in effect.
8. A player who has been disqualified in the part played of a match not played to completion may not take part in the remainder, even if he has served his penalty for his disqualification.
9. A player who is excluded or suspended may not take part, either actively or passively, in any (match) activity.

24.6 Level finish during and after the Competition

1. The ranking in the Competition is determined by the number of match points obtained. If the number of match points is equal, then, unless determined otherwise, the ranking set by the Management shall be determined by:
 - a. the head-to-head result (the number of match points obtained between all teams that are level);
 - b. If the head-to-head 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 equal, by a decisive match on neutral ground determined by the Management;
2. Definition:
 - a. Head-to-head result: The number of match points obtained between all teams that are level;
 - b. Goal difference: The number of goals 'for' minus the number of goals 'against', whereby the team with the highest goal difference is the winning team.
 - c. Goal average: The number of goals 'for' divided by the number of goals 'against', whereby the team with the highest goal average is the winning team.
 - d. Match quotient: The number of points obtained divided by the number of matches played, whereby the team with the highest quotient is the winning team.
4. If a decision on a match must be obtained by taking 7-metre throws, these shall be taken in the manner set out in the handball playing rules. If a decision must be obtained between more than two teams by taking 7-metre throws, these shall be taken in a manner to be determined by decision of the Management.
5. The Management is authorised to impose special requirements on the layout of the fields of play on which decisive matches are played.

24.7 BOT (Best of Two rule)

1. The team that finished highest in the Competition plays the first match away.
2. The BOT (2) matches are played in accordance with IHF rules
3. In a BOT (2) series, play is according to the Europa Cup system, meaning that an away match and a home match are played. The team with the most points after these two matches is the winner. In the event of an equal number of points, a decision shall be obtained as follows.
4. Namely:
 - a. The goal difference, if this is equal:
 - b. 7-metre throws in accordance with the procedure below.
 - i. If the taking of 7-metre throws is used to decide a match, only players who, at the end of the match, are not temporarily excluded and are not disqualified may take part (see also playing rule 4:1 paragraph 4).
 - ii. Each team designates 5 players. These players take turns, alternating with the players of the other team, each taking one 7-metre throw. The teams are not required to indicate in advance the order in which the players will take the 7-metre throws.
 - iii. Goalkeepers may be freely chosen from the group of players who are eligible to play at that moment, and there is no limit to the number of goalkeeper changes. Players may take part in the taking of 7-metre throws both as goalkeeper and as thrower.
 - iv. The referees decide which goal shall be used. The referees toss a coin before the taking of the 7-metre throws begins. The team that wins the toss may decide whether they start taking the 7-metre throws. If no decision has been reached after 5 players from each team have taken the 7-metre throws, the other team shall start taking the 7-metre throws in every subsequent series of 5 throws.

- v. In such a continuation, each team again designates 5 players. All players, or a number of players, may be the same as in the first round. This system of designating 5 players continues for as long as necessary until a decision has been reached. However, the winner shall now be determined as soon as a difference in goals arises after each team has taken an equal number of 7-metre throws.
- vi. Players may be disqualified during the taking of 7-metre throws in the event of extreme or repeated unsporting conduct (16:6e). If a player who has been designated in the group of 5 players to take a 7-metre throw is disqualified, the team must designate another player to throw.

24.8 Semi-final

1. If the result at the end of normal playing time is level, a decision shall be obtained as follows.
2. Namely:
 - a. By the taking of penalty throws. The rules for taking penalty throws are in accordance with the applicable playing rules laid down by the International Handball Federation (IHF) and as described in the procedure in Article 24.8.4b.

24.9 Final

- If the result at the end of normal playing time is level, extra time of two periods of five (2 x 5) minutes is played after a break of five (5) minutes.
- If the result at the end of the first period of extra time is still level, a further period of extra time of two times five (2x5) minutes is played, after a break of five (5) minutes.
- If the score of the match is still level after the second period of extra time, the winner is determined by the taking of penalty throws.
- The rules for taking penalty throws are in accordance with the applicable playing rules laid down by the International Handball Federation (IHF) and as described in the procedure in Article 24.8.4b.

Article 25 Technical meeting

1. A technical meeting is held one (1) hour before the start of every match in the Competition, at the location proposed by the delegate.
2. The technical meeting takes place in a separate room at the match venue. The home club is responsible for making a suitable meeting room available.
3. A technical meeting is 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.
4. Technical meetings must be attended by at least one (1) team official from each club taking part in the match concerned.
5. At the technical meeting, every club present must:
 - a. Submit its team, consisting of a maximum of sixteen (16) players and five (5) team officials.
 - b. Be able to show a valid passport, national identity card or a valid player's licence for each of the players registered as part of the team. A player who, at the request of an SHL official, cannot produce a valid passport or national identity card or valid player's licence shall not be eligible to take part in a match. The officials concerned shall record this in the DMR.
 - c. Show the full team kit. A sample of every full team kit (dark colour option and light colour option) must be shown. The full team kits of each team must be the colours reported to the SHL Management at an earlier stage (with any necessary adjustments, if applicable).

6. The full team kits of each team must be checked by the delegate during the technical meeting.
7. The match report, with the lists of players and team members registered as a team, must be checked against the players' passports or national identity cards, and must be approved by at least one (1) delegate on the match report.
8. The home club is responsible for distributing the completed match report to the press before the match.
9. The delegate coordinates and is responsible for the procedure for the official approval of the match report, assisted by the competition manager.

Article 26 Match procedures

26.1 Warm-up

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

26.2 Before the team line-up

1. Every player on the field of play for the warm-up must immediately leave the field of play at the request of the referees (no later than ten (10) minutes before kick-off).

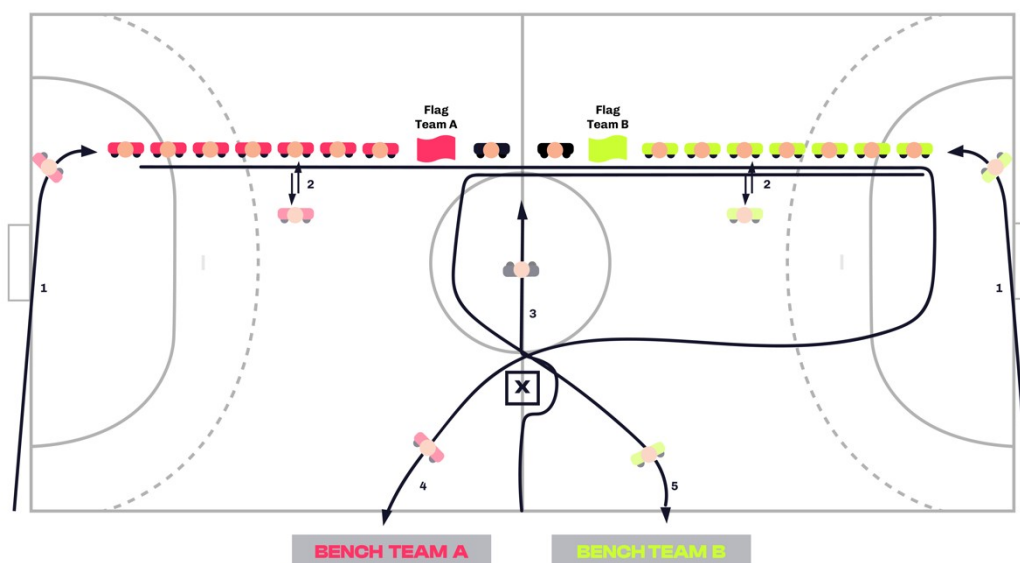
26.3 Team line-up

1. Every player of the teams must be ready for the official line-up of the teams ten (10) minutes before the start of the match.
2. Before the players enter the field of play, prior to the official team line-up, ten (10) minutes before the start, they must follow the instructions of both the referees and the floor managers and gather at the designated assembly point (a predefined corner of the field of play, discussed during the technical meeting).
3. As soon as the referees have instructed the teams to assemble, none of the players may leave the field of play.
4. The SHL tune is played for entry onto the field of play.
5. The players must enter the field of play by following their respective referee and any path formed by children. Where applicable, they must high-five the children on both sides simultaneously with both hands. The players of the team entering the field of play second must also high-five the players of the other team before taking up their positions.
6. When taking up the official team line-up, the (squad) numbers of all players must be clearly visible and shown in ascending order, for checking by the delegates. The delegate may ask a player whose squad number is not clearly visible or legible to correct this before the start of the match.

26.4 Prior to the match

Time (minutes before start)	Activity
-60:00	Field of play available for warm-up.
-10:00	End of warm-up. Teams ensure the field of play is empty and proceed to the designated spot for the pre-match procedure.
-08:00	Flag(s), any mascots, and teams ready in the corners.
-07:30	Start of official ceremony with SHL tune and entrance of the SHL flag.
-07:15	Teams walk on from the corners - preceded by the club flag. (action 1)
-06:30	Presentation of the away team. (action 2)
-05:30	Presentation of the home team. (action 2)
-04:30	Referees walk on from the match table. (action 3)
-04:30	Presentation of the referees, scorekeeper/timekeeper and delegate.
-03:30	High-fives. Away team walks past the referees and the home team (action 4), then the home team walks past the referees. (action 5)
-03:00	Fair play statement in the language of the home club and in English.
-02:30	Final preparations of the teams.
-01:00	Teams and referees get ready for the start of the match.
00:00	Start of match.

PRE-MATCH PROCEDURE



1. Further details and information on the pre-match procedure shall be provided to the teams before the start of the Competition and before every match during the technical meeting. The information provided may include changes to the schedule set out above due to the practical aspects of each venue and each match.
2. Instructions relating to the pre-match procedure given by the floor manager and/or the delegate in the sports hall for every match shall take precedence and must in any case be followed by every person involved in the pre-match procedure.
3. Every playing team and every person who causes a delay to (start-/half-time/time-out) throws of a match is liable for any damage and may be held accountable for this by the Management.
4. The speaker shall ensure that the presentation of the teams takes place in a neutral manner.

Additional points of attention:

1. **Children at the ceremony:** Accompanying children are permitted for both teams, with a preference for dividing the children as evenly as possible, but this is left to the discretion of both clubs' delegations and shall be discussed during the technical meeting.
2. **Clothing at the ceremony:** All players of the same team must wear the same clothing during the ceremony, i.e. either all in match kit or all in sweater/pullover. Goalkeepers are exempt from this rule, provided that the goalkeepers of the same team also wear the same clothing. **Note:** the (squad) numbers must be clearly visible and shown in ascending order, for checking by the delegates.
3. **Fair Play Statement:** Read out by the announcer in the local language and in English.
4. **Coinmerce boarding:** All clubs have received boarding. This must be displayed on the long side, facing the camera, so that the board always remains in view. Should there be LED boarding, Coinmerce shall be shown here instead.
5. **Ball stand:** All Clubs use the ball stand supplied by the SHL. This must be used for the match.
6. **Presentation of the teams:** Presentation of both teams by the speaker.

- 7. Handshake ceremony:** Immediately after the presentation of the teams and officials, led by the referees. After the handshake, the final preparations follow.

26.5 Procedure after the match

1. At the end of the match, the teams shall line up in a row and shake hands with each other. The referees must guide the players to carry out the handshakes in the correct manner.
2. The home club or the SHL Board reserves the right to designate a "Player of the Match" for every match of the Competition.

26.6 Match report (journalistic)

1. Every club is required to send a journalistic match report at the time and in the manner determined by the Management. The journalistic report shall record at least the course of play and the goalscorers of both teams.

26.7 Media and promotion

1. After the final matches, the SHL teams must be available for media and promotional purposes at the Management's request.

26.8 Photographers

1 General

Photographers must hold a valid accreditation. The home club is responsible for assigning accreditations to photographers of both clubs and for compliance with the provisions of this Article.

2 Permitted positions

Accredited photographers of both clubs are permitted in the following positions:

- behind the goals, within the zone designated for this purpose;
- in the stands, in the media positions designated for this purpose;
- along the sideline, outside the coaching zone, provided that safety and the conduct of the match are not impeded.

Photographers may not, at any time, be positioned behind the team benches or in the substitution zone. The field of play is prohibited at all times.

3 Designated photographer per club — access to substitution zone

Each club may register one (1) designated photographer with the delegate before the start of the match. Only this designated photographer has limited access to the immediate vicinity of the substitution zone of their own club, provided they do not impede safety, player substitutions or the orderly conduct of the match. The designated photographer is recognisably accredited and must follow the delegate's instructions at all times.

4 Other provisions

- The use of stroboscopic lights or flashes is prohibited throughout the match.
- Photographers may not influence or interrupt the match in any way.
- In the event of a breach, the delegate may deny the photographer concerned further access.

26.9 Video Replay (VR)

1. Video replay (VR) does not apply to SHL matches. The Management reserves the right to expressly permit VR for specific matches, including matches of the SHL Final Four, provided the technical infrastructure on site permits this. In that case, the rules and procedures for application shall be communicated to all parties concerned in good time in advance.

26.10 Electronic team time-out system

1. For practical reasons, the electronic team time-out system in the SHL is not yet connected everywhere to the official scoreboard system. This means that the timekeeper must immediately stop the clock when the button is pressed.
2. See the electronic team time-out system (buzzer), page 32, for more information.

Article 27 Withdrawal of a team, not playing, and similar cases

1. A club that withdraws from the Competition shall be fined in accordance with the sanctions overview. In addition, the club is required to pay the SHL compensation for additional costs arising from the withdrawal.
2. If a club withdraws from the Competition, the registration fee and the fixed deposit shall also be forfeited and shall accrue to the SHL, which does not exclude further action by the national federation to which the club belongs. In addition, it shall lose all rights to payments from the SHL.
3. If a club withdraws or is excluded during the Competition, the results of all matches it played within the SHL context shall be declared void and the points awarded declared invalid.
4. If a club that has qualified for the SHL Competition withdraws or is excluded, the SHL Management may replace it and shall decide which club takes its place, on the recommendation of the national federation concerned.
5. If a team does not start the match, or if a match is abandoned, the SHL Management shall report this to the Disciplinary Committee.

Article 28 Finally

1. All annexes form an integral part of these Regulations.
2. If an English version of these Regulations is available and there is a discrepancy in interpretation between the Dutch or English version, the Dutch version shall prevail.
3. In all cases not provided for in these Regulations, the Board may, on the recommendation of the Management, decide additionally.

Guidelines for administrative sanctions¹

1. General

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

2. Payment obligation

Failure to pay the SHL by the due dates (for amounts exceeding €1,000): fine of €500. First repeat offence: fine of €750. Any further repeat offences: fine of €1,500 and/or exclusion from participation in the SHL Competition.

3. Information about players

Providing incorrect information about a player by the player himself or by the club: report to the Disciplinary Committee

4. Ineligible player

- a. Participation of an ineligible player during a match of the Super Handball League competition: loss of the match with a score of 10-0 and a deduction of 2 match points.

5. Marketing/advertising/media/SHL sponsors

In the event of a breach of the applicable regulations and guidelines relating to:

- a. advertising set-up and use in the playing hall and related spaces: fine of €500.
- b. logos/badges on the team kit and players' sleeves: fine of €500. The players concerned may be excluded from participation in the match.
- c. Failure to livestream the match on the platform designated by the SHL: fine of €1,000.
- d. Failure to stream the match in the correct manner: fine of €500.
- e. Failure to implement SHL sponsors (the exclusivity during the SHL competition): fine of €1,250
- f. denying access to (accredited) media representatives (TV, radio, etc.): fine of €250 per person denied access.

6. Playing venue

In the event of a breach of the applicable regulations and guidelines relating to:

- a. being unable to make available the accommodation/availability of the required facilities, equipment and/or venue infrastructure in the accommodation and related spaces: fine €1,000;
- b. requirements for the playing surface: fine €1,000. Exclusion of the venue may be imposed for the remainder of the competition;
- c. placement of match banners, SHL logos, boards, table and/or flags in the sports hall and related spaces: fine €1,000;
- d. failure to have the required officials, including scorekeeper and timekeeper, and volunteers for setting up and removing the floor/advertising: fine €500;
- e. unavailability of a qualified scorekeeper and timekeeper: fine €500;
- f. failure to have a qualified announcer available during the match: fine €500;
- g. failure to follow, or incorrectly following, instructions from SHL officials regarding the match protocol, proposed procedures, by a team or person involved in the match: fine €500;
If this causes a delay before the start of the match (first half / second half): fine €500;
- h. failure to play with the ball made available by the SHL organisation and/or failure to place the ball stand: fine €1,000.

¹ With reference to Article 4, paragraph 1 of the Competition Regulations

NB:

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

The electronic team time-out system (buzzer)

INTRODUCTION - DESCRIPTION;

An electronic team time-out system (whereby each team can directly request a team time-out by pressing an electronic device) may be used in SHL competitions (instead of using the "green" team time-out cards). The button is connected to the official scoreboard system. When the button is pressed, the clock is stopped immediately. The time-out is also indicated by an audio signal ("buzzer") to ensure that all parties are aware of it. The buzzer is placed at the match table, one on the side of the substitution area of each team.

IMPLEMENTATION;

For practical reasons, the electronic team time-out system in the SHL is not yet connected everywhere to the official scoreboard system. This means that the timekeeper must immediately stop the clock when the button is pressed.

RULES;

1. If a team requests a team time-out while the other team has possession of the ball, the following penalty and decision shall apply:
 - a) A progressive penalty for the team official who requested the team time-out.
 - b) 7-metre throw for the team in possession of the ball.
 - c) The team that caused the incorrect team time-out loses one team time-out. (the total number of team time-outs is reduced by one).
2. If a team requests a team time-out while the other team has the ball and a clear scoring chance, the following penalty and decision shall apply:
 - a) A disqualification under playing rule 8:10b (red and blue card) is given to the team official who requested the team time-out by pressing the button (see, however, paragraph 9).
 - b) 7-metre throw for the team in possession of the ball.
 - c) The team that caused the incorrect team time-out loses one team time-out. (the total number of team time-outs is reduced by one).
3. If the situations described in paragraphs 1 and 2 occur in the last 30 seconds of the match, the responsible team official has the right to choose between a 7-metre throw or retaining possession of the ball. If the decision is made to restart with a free throw instead of a 7-metre throw, play is resumed from the place where the ball was at the moment of the interruption.
4. If a team requests a team time-out immediately after losing possession of the ball and it is clear that this was not intentional, the following decision shall be made:
 - a) The team that caused the incorrect team time-out loses one (1) team time-out (the total number of team time-outs is reduced by one).
 - b) A technical decision based on the situation on the field at the moment of the interruption.
5. If a team requests a team time-out while in possession of the ball and one of the following situations occurs:
 - a) A fourth (4th) team time-out has been requested;
 - b) During the last five (5) minutes of the match, a second (2nd) team time-out has been requested;
 - c) In the same half, a third (3rd) team time-out has been requested;
 - d) In extra time, a team time-out has been requested;
 - e) During the same attack, a second (2nd) team time-out has been requested;

The following decisions shall be made:

If the ball **is in play** at the moment of the interruption, the following penalty and decision shall apply:

- a) A progressive penalty for the team official who requested the team time-out by pressing the button.
- b) Play is resumed with a free throw for the other team.

If the ball **is not in play** at the moment of the interruption, the following penalty and decision shall apply:

- a) A progressive penalty for the team official who requested the team time-out (see, however, paragraph 9).
 - b) Play is resumed with the throw that was to be taken before the interruption.
 - c) In the case of 5c and 5e, the team that caused the incorrect team time-out loses one (1) team time-out (the total number of team time-outs is reduced by one).
- 6. If a situation as described in paragraph 5 occurs while the other team is in possession of the ball, the decision shall be made in accordance with playing rule 8:10b.
 - 7. If the buzzer is activated by accident, no penalty shall follow for the person who activated the buzzer. Play is resumed with the throw corresponding to the situation on the field at the moment of the interruption.
 - 8. If a player intentionally activates the buzzer, the following penalty and decision shall apply:
 - a) Personal penalty for the offending player under playing rule 4:6 or 8:10b, depending on the circumstances on the field at the moment of the interruption.
 - b) Play is resumed with a free throw for the other team if the "offending" team was in possession of the ball at the moment of the interruption, and with a 7-metre throw if the other team was in possession of the ball at the moment of the interruption.
 - c) The team that requested the incorrect team time-out loses one (1) team time-out (the total number of team time-outs shall be reduced by one).
 - 9. If the delegate(s) or the referee(s) cannot identify who caused the incorrect team time-out, the team official responsible shall receive a penalty in accordance with the penalties mentioned above.
 - 10. In the event of a technical malfunction of the device, a team official may request a team time-out by going to the match table and making the request verbally. The moment the buzzer is pressed is valid for the time of the request for the team time-out.