



# **England Handball Association**

## **Rules and Regulations 2018.19**

Updated June 2018

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## 2 Introduction

This document outlines the rules and regulations for the 2018-19 England Handball Association season.

England Handball recognise the following leagues:

- Premier Handball League
- National League
- Regional Leagues
- University Championships
- Under-19 – National Youth Championship
- Under-16 League
- Under-14

### 2.1 Official Playing Season

The official playing season for all indoor leagues shall be from 1 September to 30 June.

Registration for the coming season opens in June and closes at the end of July for the following leagues:

- Premier Handball League
- National League
- Regional League
- Under-19 – National Youth Championship
- Under-16 League
- Under-14 League
- University Championships\*

Registration for the University championships closes in October 2018.

### 2.2 League Managers

<a href="mailto:John.Pearce@englandhandball.com">John.Pearce@englandhandball.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Premier Handball League</li><li>• National League</li><li>• National Cup/Shield</li><li>• University Championships</li></ul>
<a href="mailto:Liz.Roberts@englandhandball.com">Liz.Roberts@englandhandball.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• u14 League</li><li>• u16 League</li><li>• South East Mens and Womens Regional League</li></ul>
<a href="mailto:Matt.Durber@englandhandball.com">Matt.Durber@englandhandball.com</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• U19 League</li><li>• North Mens and Womens Regional League</li><li>• Southwest Mens and Womens Regional League</li><li>• Midlands Mens and Womens Regional League</li></ul>

### 3 Administration of the Rules

England Handball is the governing body of handball in England and shall be the final arbiter in any question that might arise through the administration of these rules and regulations. The ultimate responsibility for ensuring adherence to any regulations shall lie with the England Handball Board who shall, in the first instance, delegate such authority to the appropriate personnel and/or appropriate advisory group.

England Handball shall:

- Set and as necessary revise the rules of such leagues and competitions, with relevant reference to the Rules of Handball set out by the European Handball Association and/or the International Handball Federation.
- Set fixtures relating to such leagues and competitions.

The England Handball Board has delegated relevant authority to the Competitions Disciplinary Committee (CDC), which is responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with any Rules & Regulations for Leagues and/or Competitions set up under the jurisdiction of England Handball; and
  - Progressing action against clubs, players, coaches and officials that breach those rules
- A list of rulings of the CDC sanctions will be accessible in the public domain.

### 4 Communication

All official England Handball information to clubs will be conducted via email.

All clubs must provide two sets of contact details for their club to England Handball, collected through the online Azolve system:

- Email
- Telephone.

### 5 Amendments

The England Handball rules and Regulations are updated ahead of every season, This documents has been updates through out from 2017.18 and clubs are required to make themselves fully aware of the Rules and Regulations of England Handball.

Below you can find a list of notable amendments and additions:

- **Game Abandonment rule**
- **Appendix A – Match Day Protocol**
- **Throughout – Fines have been added to certain rules**

## 6 Fit for Purpose Criteria

Clubs competing within the England Handball leagues must meet the appropriate Fit For Purpose criteria. This criterion is the benchmark that all clubs should work towards, irrespective of league status. England Handball will work with clubs to achieve this status and clubs will be requested to provide evidence prior to the start of the season where appropriate.

In all cases the England Handball Board shall have the final say as to whether a club has achieved the standards.

The Competitions Disciplinary Committee (CDC) can apply administrative and financial sanctions if any criteria are not met, including exclusion from the Premier Handball League or National Leagues.

A club shall have the right to appeal a CDC decision. An appeal board made up of three independent and separate persons shall make up the appeal board who shall sit separately to the CDC.

### 6.1 Development/Social Leagues

Groups wishing to take part in social tournaments and informal competition should seek advice from England Handball and have signed up as an emerging club.

### 6.2 Regional Leagues

#### 6.2.1 Constitution

Clubs must be constituted and have an active board or committee.

#### 6.2.2 Administration

A club bond of £100 is payable upon signing up to the England Handball Leagues, paid via the Azolve system.

Clubs must:

- Be able to respond to league administration
- Provide a club secretary email and be able to respond in the specified time frame set out within these rules.
- Provide Details of the chairperson, secretary, treasurer and welfare officer must be provided via the online membership system.
- Attend two club-review meetings per year (either physically or using the Webex system England Handball has set up) and the club conference.
- Attend the England Handball AGM or send out a proxy prior to the AGM.
- Be able to fulfil all fixture commitments. Failure to meet fixtures can result in expulsion from the league.



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Clubs must provide a list of the following before the start of the season:

- The club's coaches with evidence of their qualification.
- The club's nominated child protection officer with evidence of qualification. (It is recommended to have attended UK Coaching's safeguarding course)
- The clubs nominated first aiders with evidence of qualification. (First Aid for Sport recommended)

A number of these can be completed online through the England Handball Azolve membership system.

### 6.2.3 Accounts

Every club must have its own bank account and be able to finance a bond that may be required by England Handball to cover any defaults. It is not permitted for a club to run its finances through the personal bank account of any of its members.

### 6.2.4 Team kit

All teams must have:

- 2 different choices of kit, which are clearly different from one another.
- Goal Keepers must have a distinguishable colour from outfield players.
- Numbers must be present on both the front and back of tops and ideally the front of shorts.

See – IHF rules for further clarification/regulations.

**A fine of £30 will apply for reports of inappropriate team kit. Inappropriate team kit will result in players not being permitted to play.**



### **6.2.5 ITC Requirements**

All foreign players or players who have played in foreign domestic leagues must have full International Transfer Certificates/Clearance in place before competing in competition.

### **6.2.6 Playing Venue**

Every club must provide the following information about the club's playing venue (if not already accounted for on the England Handball Official venue list.)

- Dimensions of court
- Run offs
- Address and Postcode
- Spectator Areas
- Changing Facilities
- Any other notable information e.g. resin use, rates of hire etc.

Every club must have a home venue suitable for matches this includes:

- Two handball goals with appropriate supports and nets.
- Visible Timer
- Visible Scoreboard
- Handball Court lines clearly visible
- Two team Benches
- Scorers' table and Chairs
- Time out cards
- Yellow, red, blue cards,
- Stop watch
- Whistle
- Towel/cloth

Please also view the England Handball hall recommendations for court sizes and grading. These recommendations can be found on the England Handball website.

### **6.2.7 Referees**

Every club must have at least two members who are qualified referees (i.e. attaining an England Handball level 1 qualification)

- These referees must be registered with the England Handball Association as the clubs referees. Teams can register more than two officials.
- Only qualified and registered referees will be permitted to take control of England Handball league fixtures.

### **6.2.8 Table officials**

Every club must have qualified (minimum of 2) table officials able to facilitate the appropriate roles for matches.

The roles are Time keeper and Scorer

A qualified table official must have completed the England Handball level 1 table official course.

## **6.3 National Leagues (South/North)**

All of the above applies plus:

### **6.3.1 Youth Development**

- Up to 2019/2020 Season:

National League clubs need to demonstrate, with evidence, that they have a sustainable junior program (Youth development at club level, formal link with a school, satellite club, youth group). Failure to demonstrate would result in end of season league relegation.

- 2019/2020 Season:

National League teams must have a youth team competing in one of the recognised England Handball Youth Leagues: under-19, under-16, under-14 (boy or girl)

### **6.3.2 Administration**

Clubs must attend:

- Two-club review meetings per year (either physically or using the Webex system England Handball has set up) and the club conference
- The England Handball AGM or send out a proxy prior to the AGM.

### **6.3.3 Cup Competition**

National League teams must compete in the England Handball National Cup. Failure to participate from round 1 will result in penalties for default and potential relegation to lower league.

## **6.4 Premier Handball League**

All of the above applies plus:

### **6.4.1 – Youth Development**

Premier Handball League clubs must have a team competing in one of the following England Handball youth competitions in either male or female:

- U14
- U16
- U19

### **6.4.2 Venue Requirements**

Premier Handball League clubs:

- Must play all their fixtures in Grade A venues.

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- Matches must have a spectator's area.
- Must have an electronic scoreboard for their matches, which includes score and time. These must be clearly visible for both teams and spectators.

**A fine of £30 for failure to have an electronic Scoreboard will be applied. This is the clubs individual responsibility regardless of venue hire.**

### 6.4.3 Coaches

Premier Handball League clubs must have level-2 qualified coaches actively delivering within their club

Clubs should liaise with the relevant England Handball personnel to get the Level 2 qualification completed within a timescale of 10/12 months from the start of the official playing season.

## 7 Memberships

There shall be found elsewhere regulations governing England Handball and these shall be in the form of Memorandum and Articles of Association (M&A).

Teams playing in approved England Handball competitions shall be affiliated to England Handball in the prescribed manner together with their players, coaches and officials. Such teams shall be eligible to participate, at the appropriate level, in England Handball approved competitions.

### 7.1 Membership

England Handball membership is open to:

- Clubs
- Schools
- Other Organisations

Such membership is obtained upon payment of the membership fee currently in force and upon completion of the registration process. This will include payment of the appropriate bond.

These clubs, schools and organisations shall be deemed to have agreed to abide by:

- The Rules and Regulations of England Handball
- England Handball's code of ethics and behaviour
- Anti-Doping Regulations wherever they may be found.
- England Handball's Disciplinary Regulations

Any club, school or organisation, which is deemed to be a member of England Handball, shall hereafter be referred to as a "club". (*The M&A provide provision for England Handball to refuse an application for membership without explanation.*)

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## 7.2 Insurance

As stated in the membership conditions registered clubs, players, coaches and officials etc, are insured through policies officially provided by England Handball.

## 7.3 Payments

All club officials shall register in the full knowledge that they are accepting the role of guarantors on behalf of the club. In respect of honouring financial commitments and, if requested by England Handball, the payment of debts whatsoever owed to England Handball by the club, its players, coaches or officials.

All payments must be made online through the Azolve club membership centre, including:

- Membership fees
- Match fees
- Tournament fees
- Referee fees
- Fines
- Cup Fees
- Club bond

These will be in the admin site and available for tracked payments.

### 7.3.1 Late payments

Where debts are to be recovered, the club shall be held liable for the recovery.

Where the payment has not been received within the prescribed seven-day timescale, the club shall be deemed to have defaulted and shall be suspended from their leagues until such time that the debt has been paid.

## 8 Team and Player Registration:

### 8.1 Players on a Team

The maximum number of players permitted to participate in an England Handball fixture is:

16 players, plus 4 non-playing officials - **Total 20**  
(All must be named on the score sheet with registration numbers)

Clubs must have enough registered players to fulfil all fixtures in all leagues. The minimum number of players per league is:

- Premier Handball League - 12
- National League - 12
- Regional League - 10
- Junior Leagues - 10

Clubs must register players two weeks prior to the start of their first match.

**A fine of £40 will apply for failure to meet this deadline, which will increase to £80 for clubs who fail to register the correct number players prior to the start of their second match.**

### 8.2 Registration

#### 8.2.1 Registration of players/officials

Each individual person participating in England Handball approved competition must be registered as a player or official with England Handball. Players shall register for a club for a period of one season.

England Handball will make available to each club a list of registered players and officials. (via the online membership/Azolve system)

- No senior player may register to play for more than one club.

However, they may register as an official as long as they are not coaching in the same league they play in.

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure conformity of this regulation. It is an offence for a club to be in breach of this rule. This regulation applies to any official (coach, physiotherapist or otherwise) for whom the intention is to be placed in the substitution area during the playing of a match.

**Players registered with a recognised overseas federation should refer to the guidance in International transfers section as well as; European Handball Federation and International Handball Federation legislation where appropriate.**

## **8.3 Time of Registration**

### **8.3.1 Players:**

- Must be registered two weeks before the start of the first match of the season, failure to do so will mean players cannot be guaranteed approval before the first match.
- Can be added throughout the season, there is no limit the number of players who can be registered.

(Players registered during the season, after the first match, must be registered/added to the Azolve system, with a fully completed profile, by Wednesday 12:00 before a scheduled fixture at the latest.)

### **8.3.2 Team Officials as players**

A person identified as a player on a match score sheet cannot be at the same time a team official.

A person/official is not permitted to play for one team and be an official for another team in the same league.

### **8.3.3 Contracted Players**

Players issued with a contract shall be bound by the rules of the EHF and IHF concerning contracted players.

## **8.4 Youth/Senior team Registration**

### **8.4.1 Clubs with no senior team**

Players registered with a youth team where the club has no senior team, may in addition register with a senior team at another club

### **8.4.2 Clubs with no youth team**

Players eligible for youth competitions may join a youth team at another club, provided their current club, with whom they are registered, does not have an appropriate youth team.

**Notes:** In the scenarios listed England Handball must be notified.

Clubs involved are required to meet together with the player, to agree on how the player's participation will be managed in the event of a clash of fixtures between the two teams. In the event of the parties involved being unable to reach an agreement, they can request the involvement of England Handball to provide advice, guidance and, if required, a final decision.

Where a club has two matches within a 24-hour period, all players may participate in both matches. However, clubs are cautioned of using players aged less than 18 years of age in such circumstances. Whilst it is not prohibited, the age and capabilities of the player(s) in question must be taken into account.

## **8.5 Multiple team registration**

### **8.5.1 2nd teams**

No club is allowed to have two teams participating in the Premier Handball League or National League South/North.

If a club, which has a team participating in one of the other England Handball Leagues already, has a team in the Premier Handball League or National League South/North, the former team cannot be promoted.

### **8.5.2 Multiple teams**

Clubs with more than one team shall designate teams 1, 2, 3 etc., in order of playing strength, with Team 1 being the highest designated team.

- By the 31st January in any season, clubs must provide a list of the 10 most used players in their first team who may not play in the second and lower teams.

Clubs, who operate a third team or more, must produce a list of 16 players who are not eligible to play in lower leagues.

### **8.5.3 Multiple teams in Regional League**

For any clubs entering two or more teams in a regional league:

- Clubs must provide a list of seven nominated players barred from playing in a lower team.
- Aside from the seven nominated players, players may play in either team. On the third time of playing in a higher team the player becomes locked to that team.



#### **8.5.4 U21 Players**

Players aged below 21 (as of the 1st of January) may play in teams with no restriction, however may not be included on the ineligible player lists. The incentive is for club teams to promote the playing of youth players. Under-21 is the category as it is the EHF and IHF last youth category in competition structure.

### **8.6 Fielding an Ineligible Player**

#### **8.6.1 Ineligible Players**

An ineligible player shall be deemed so because of one or more of the following:

- Has not completed an official registration with England Handball
- Does not possess or has not received an official registration/license
- Has completed an official registration but is found to require an International Transfer Certificate (ITC)
- Awaiting an ITC
- Is serving a current suspension (either with England Handball or another recognised federation)
- Is under the age of 16 years for Senior/Adult competition.

Players registered with a recognised overseas federation should refer to the guidance in International transfers section as well as; European Handball Federation and International Handball Federation legislation where appropriate.

#### **8.6.2 Fielding an Ineligible player/official**

Where a club is found to have fielded an ineligible player, the offending player and the club shall be liable to the following sanctions:

- Junior Leagues - 10
- A score of 10-0 awarded to the opposing team or the goal difference of the match if that is greater than 10 to the benefit of the opposing team
- The appropriate number of points will be awarded to the opposing team.
- A minimum suspension of three matches for the offending player.
- The player is ineligible to play until registered. The suspension commences once the player's registration is received and verified by England Handball.
- A £100 fine for the club

### **8.6.3 Continued fielding of ineligible players/officials**

Should a club commit the offence of fielding an ineligible player on a second occasion, the club will be subject to further sanctions at the discretion of the CDC and England Handball.

These include:

- The club being deducted up to 10 points.
- The club being fined further.
- The club being barred from European competitions and expulsion from England Handball for up to 24 months.

Registered club officials may also be prohibited from holding any representative office for up to 24 months.

### **8.6.4 Officials/Coaches**

These regulations shall also apply to club coaches/officials. A second breach of this regulation shall be considered a second offence even when committed with two different clubs.

### **8.6.5 Suspended players/officials**

Where a suspended player or official interacts with their team in a significant way during matches (for example: coaching from the stands) the matter shall be reported to the CDC for further action.

## 9 Transfers

### 9.1 National Transfers

#### 9.1.1 Transfer Deadline

Players are permitted to transfer their registration from one club to another on one occasion during the period from the start of the official playing season **until 31 January of the following calendar year**.

Players shall also have the right to register with another club before the start of the official playing season regardless of the club with which they were registered in the previous season.

At the end of the season (this shall be deemed as 30 June), non-contracted players are considered free to register with a new club for the following season subject to the player meeting the conditions to register with another club.

#### 9.1.2 Transfer process

No senior player may register to play for more than one club. However, they may register as an official as long as they are not coaching in the same league they play in.

The procedure applied to the transfer of players (contracted or not) during the period from the start of the official playing season until 31 January of the following calendar year is as follows:

Three copies (one for each club and one for England Handball) of the Domestic Transfer Request Form shall be completed by a registered official of each of the clubs concerned and by the player(s) concerned.

Completed forms shall be returned to England Handball and - provided the fee required by England Handball has been paid and that there is agreement by both clubs - the transfer shall be approved. A period of five working days shall be allowed for England Handball to process and confirm the new registrations.

**A fee of £20 shall be paid to England Handball by the club to which the player is to be transferred.**

#### 9.1.3 Transfer disputes

Where the releasing club is in dispute with a player, coach or official (e.g. a player owes money to the releasing club or has been suspended for disciplinary reasons which, in turn, has led to financial penalties imposed upon the releasing club), the releasing club must notify England Handball who may prevent a transfer until such time that the situation can be resolved.

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However, a player, coach or official shall have the right to object directly to the CDC against a club who has withheld their registration, subject to the player notifying

England Handball in writing. The CDC shall have the right to investigate the matter. The club shall notify the CDC of the following:

- Circumstances of the offence,
- The procedures employed,
- The action taken by the club,
- The appeal process accorded to the offender

## 9.2 Contracted Players

Contracted players shall only be permitted to transfer if their contract has expired or the club to which they are contracted agrees to the release of the player.

In the event of a contracted player wishing to be released from the contract to play for another club, the club to which he/she is contracted is permitted to demand a compensation fee from the receiving club, before agreeing to any release from contract.

(Note: where a player is contracted to a club, which is affiliated to another federation, the ITRs shall always be applied).

## 9.3 International Transfers

ITC's are required for all England Handball Leagues both Youth and Senior.

No International Transfer Certificate = No play

**IT IS THE CLUBS RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK  
THE REQUIREMENT FOR AN ITC**

### 9.3.1 International Transfer requirements

"International Transfer" and "International Clearance" are one and the same. For the purposes of an international transfer, there are three types of players:

- Contract players
- Non-contract (i.e. amateur) players who have played in the 24 months before the date on which a transfer is requested
- Players who have not played in the 24 months before the date on which a transfer is requested.

All clubs that have players in need of a valid ITC must obtain one and register the player with England Handball before their first match in any England Handball league.

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This applies to all overseas players regardless of:

- When they last played,
- Whether they only played for a university, or
- If they ever played in another country

This rule also applies to any player who has, after being born in another country, become a British Citizen and is not in possession of an ITC, or a British Citizen who has played in any country other than the UK.

### 9.3.2 Fees

Different fees apply to contracted and non-contracted players.

#### **A transfer fee for a contracted player is payable:**

if the transfer takes place During his/her contract, or At any time until 12 months after his/her contract has expired.

#### **A transfer fee for a non-contracted player is payable:**

If the transfer takes place at any time up until 24 months after he/she played his/her last match with the releasing club.

### 9.3.3 Students

In some cases students are able to transfer for no charge. In order to transfer for free, a non-contracted student player needs to provide an ITR and:

- A letter from both their home and exchange universities (if participating in an exchange programme)
- A letter from their English university (if coming to England for the whole duration of their studies) confirming their student status.
- A photocopy of his or her student ID(s).

At the end of their studies, such players can transfer back to the original country without paying a fee, as long as they were non-contracted players in England. A new ITC will be required when transferring back to the original country.

**Note:** in some cases the student may be subject to a transfer fee regardless of information provided. This is at the discretion of the realising federation.

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### 9.3.4 International transfer process

Clubs requiring ITC's for their players must complete and submit an International Transfer Request form to the England Handball office.

England Handball can provide the appropriate forms where required. Contact - ([transfers@englandhandball.com](mailto:transfers@englandhandball.com))

Once an ITR has been received:

- England Handball will, in turn send the ITR to the relevant National Federation.
- The said National Federation must then confirm the transfer and any appropriate information/fee/documents and send the relevant paperwork back to England Handball.
- Once received the completed ITC is forwarded to the club.
- A window of 15 days is allowed for the transfer

If there is no response from the realising National Federation the EHF/IHF will be contacted as appropriate to overrule and release the player. **The player can still not play until the official certificate is received.**

## 10 Matches

Referees shall decide not to start a game, should the requirements not be met. The home team will pay all additional costs incurred in such a situation; this includes the event of a re-match.

If the match has started the score will stand, withstanding any other disciplinary action that may be required.

For the purposes of definition, where a match "Team A vs. Team B" is played, the home team is Team A regardless of where the match is played. This definition applies to all sections of this document.

### 10.1 Playing Facilities and Conditions

#### 10.1.1 Venues

England Handball recognises the lack of appropriate venues within the UK and hence has set a category system to alleviate the problem caused by lack of venues. Teams are able to apply for dispensation for their courts based on the availability of suitable courts in the area.

Hence dispensation will be granted for venues in a lower-category dependent on the distance/availability of higher-category courts. Where higher-category courts are readily available dispensation will not be granted for lower courts in higher leagues.

All clubs must use venues listed on the England Handball venue category list.

If their venue is not on this list, the club must contact England Handball to have their court added before it is used.

The court will then be added and given a grading for usage. This must be validated and checked by an England Handball representative.

#### 10.1.2 Goals

Goals are as per IHF regulations. (3m x 2m x 1m)

Dispensation will be granted for futsal goals in regional leagues and youth leagues and upon EHA approval.

#### 10.1.3 Venue/Court regulations

Please see the England Handball Approved Venue list for confirmed court dimensions relevant to leagues.

Handball Court minimum run offs:

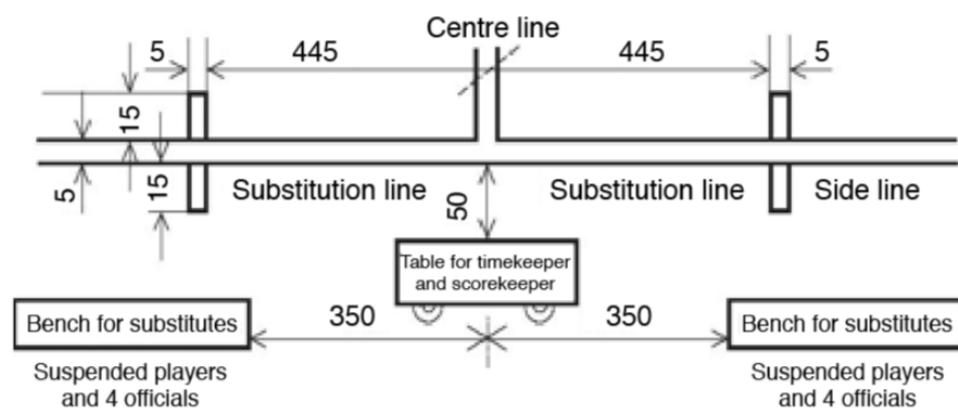
- 0.5m from the side-line.

- 1m from the base/goal line. (Where this minimum run off is not available protective equipment must be used to prevent high impacts. The distance between the goal line and the first possible obstruction should never be less than 0.5m.)

Any overhead obstruction should never be lower than seven metres from floor to obstruction Clubs must have appropriate risk assessments in place.

#### 10.1.4 The Table and Substitution Area

The Substitution area must be organised as per IHF regulations



#### 10.1.5 Timing and Scoring Devices

The home team must provide:

- Two table officials (scorer and timekeeper).
- Electronic scoreboard and timing equipment (Where this is not feasible A manual scoring system may be employed. A separate timing clock may also be employed. However, this shall be of a size, which makes it visible for coaches and team officials within the substitutes' area.)
- At least one spare stopwatch.
- An audible signalling device (horn or whistle).

**Note** - In the Premier Handball teams must have an electronic visible scoreboard, showing both score and time as per FFP.

#### 10.1.6 The Ball

##### **For senior competitions:**

Only balls approved by England Handball, EHF or IHF shall be used, IHF Regulations for ball size and weight apply

##### **For junior competitions:**

Please refer to England Handball age group regulations.



### 10.1.7 Resin

Resin may be used for all senior leagues where venues permit its usage.

- If the hall/venue ban the use of resin, then it may not be used.

Teams must communicate prior to their fixture any resin restrictions imposed by the venue.

In the event of teams using resin where it is not permitted

- Referees will swap the match ball
- Referees will report its usage

**A fine of £50 will be levied against teams that use resin where it is prohibited. The team using resin where it is prohibited will be charged any costs levied by venue provider for the removal of resin/ marks or cleaning. Where this charge is applied the £50 fine will be waived.**

### 10.1.8 Changing rooms

Where possible, there should be separate changing facilities for the referees and visiting team(s). If there are limited changing facilities in the sports hall and should the nominated home venue fall short of the specification, the club should notify the referees in advance.

### 10.1.9 Personal Equipment

Players are required to remove anything, which might conceivably cause injury to others. Examples include watches, rings, necklace, other accessories or excessive/metal braces. It may be permitted to tape it in a manner that is considered safe. The match referees must approve any such action before the match starts.

During match play, it is not permitted for any item (other than reasonable playing kit) to be on the players' person, which might cause injury to another player or referee.

Any player sustaining a blood injury should leave the court until such bleeding is staunched and the wound covered to the referees' satisfaction.

Clean items of kit should be worn if the player concerned returns to the court. It is the responsibility of each team to have spare kits in the same colour and design as those being worn available to replace any blood stained kits. This should either be without a number or with a completely different number.

#### **Glasses**

Any spectacles worn by players must meet IHF regulations. No solid frames and securely fastened.

#### **Other considerations**

At any time, there must be materials available for the drying of 'wet patches' that might occur upon the court.

## 10.2 Confirming Fixtures

### 10.2.1 Fixtures

England Handball will issue fixtures prior to the beginning of the season with a weekend date allocated to each fixture.

- Matches must be completed by the Sunday of the weekend identified.
- The deadline for registering fixtures is a minimum of four-weeks' notice.

Matches can be played on alternative dates and/or time subject to agreement by both clubs and Fixture Change of date form being submitted to the relevant England Handball League Manager.

**A fine of £20 will apply for failure to confirm fixtures in this deadline, in severe cases further financial penalties or forfeit will apply.**

### 10.2.2 Fixture Upload process

1. Fixtures must be played on their designated weekend
  - Requests for a fixture date change will only be considered for valid reasons i.e Hall availability. In this instance, a fixture date change form must be submitted to the relevant competitions manager/coordinator

**A £20 fine will apply if fixtures are moved without an approved fixture date change form being completed.**

2. Home Teams can communicate with opposition to confirm fixtures, however, this is not necessary if the fixture falls within the England Handball allocated game times for the designated weekend.

Fixture details must be uploaded by the Home team onto the website - Only then is the fixture confirmed

- The website prevents teams from uploading fixtures to the website less than 4 weeks prior to the fixture.
- Teams who fail to upload fixtures 4 weeks prior to their date will need to contact [john.pearce@englandhandball.com](mailto:john.pearce@englandhandball.com)

**A £20 fine will apply to teams attempting to upload fixtures within the 4-week window (this is not applicable to the National cup where the fixture turn around falls within the**

### **4-week window)**

3. The Home team, Away team and England Handball receive an automated confirmation email with the fixture details from [website@englandhandball.com](mailto:website@englandhandball.com) (example below). The fixture will also be visible on the England Handball website.
4. Prior to the fixture taking place (inside 2 weeks), the home team must contact the away team confirming their home kit colour and any other relevant logistics
5. Post fixture the home team must upload the scoresheet the day of its completion.

### **10.2.3 Throw off times**

These times have been set due to the travel requirements of the England Handball Leagues. However, earlier and later times may be used if agreed with the traveling team in advance and confirmed.

Games can also be arranged in mid-week or at earlier times if teams agree. England Handball must be informed for confirmation to ensure referee allocation can be accommodated.

The earliest and latest throw-off times for matches should be as follows:

#### Saturday

- Earliest 12.00
- Latest 17.00

#### Sunday

- Earliest 12.00
- Latest 16.00

Where the travel distance for the away team is less than 60 minutes then the following times of throw off may also be used:

#### Saturday

- Earliest 10.30
- Latest 18.00

#### Sunday

- Earliest 11.00
- Latest 17.00

### **10.2.4 Venue bookings and score sheet**

For all matches, the home team is responsible for booking the venue and providing the match score sheet (as per the match day protocol.)

### **10.2.5 Venue booking duration (single and multiple games)**

For a single match, a booking must have a duration of two hours:

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- 30 minutes is allocated for the team warm up (teams arriving late sacrifice their warm up time, the throw off time does not get delayed)
- 90 minutes is allocated for the fixture itself

In the case of bookings for multiple matches a booking should have a duration of two hours per match. In addition, an extra 30 minutes must be included to allow for delays e.g. a minimum duration of 6.5 hours is required if three matches are to be played.

### 10.2.6 Fixture costs

#### **Home team pays:**

All expenses related to a match, including but not limited to referees' expenses and hall hire.

#### **Visiting team:**

Is responsible for costs associated with their travel.

If multiple matches are played in a neutral venue, participating teams can agree on different methods of payments.

#### **Defaulting a fixture**

Any team withdrawing from a match shall be deemed to have defaulted and shall lose their bond which will be used to compensate the opposing team. Any remaining balances should be paid before the next match.

Defaulting teams shall be liable for:

- The cost of a two hour booking for the court concerned and
- The full cost of the referees' expenses and match fees.
- A 10-0 defeat will be recorded against them. No points shall be awarded to the defaulting team.

The defaulting team shall also be liable to submit another bond to England Handball prior to their next match and shall be suspended until the bond is paid.

### 10.2.7 Multiple Defaults

Teams who default on two occasions consecutively and/or three matches in one season shall be suspended from the Premier Handball League and National Leagues.

- The CDC will be responsible for issuing sanctions.
- All records related to the matches played by the team in question shall be removed.
- If the team has played at least half of their matches, a 10-0 victory shall be awarded to the opposing team for all the matches that remain.

### **10.2.8 Game abandonment:**

If the referees, due to unforeseen circumstances abandon a game, the game shall be subject to the following:

#### **If the game has passed half time:**

The result at the point of abandonment stands and will be the final result.

#### **If the game is abandoned before half time:**

The game shall be replayed as close to the original circumstances as possible with the players who were eligible to play at the point of the original fixture.

### **10.2.9 Postponement**

In the event of a postponement due to unforeseen circumstances, teams shall:

- Share 50% of all costs associated with the match.
- Take all reasonable steps to avoid prepaid hall time going to waste (e.g. negotiate with the venue, offer the time to other sports hall users, arrange training matches).

Teams needing to postpone matches must immediately communicate via email with the other teams and also England Handball.

### **10.2.10 Special Circumstances**

In the event of special circumstances, England Handball shall make a ruling based on the information available that may call for a match to be played on another date and/or at an alternative venue.

The process will be passed to the CDC who has the authority to:

- Order the match to be re-played at a neutral venue at some other time.
- Allocate points as is deemed appropriate.
- Rule as to whether the match is deemed postponed or forfeited and awarded to the non-withdrawing club by a score of 10-0.
- To apply sanctions as is deemed appropriate.

## **10.3 Playing of Matches**

### **10.3.1 Player checks**

So that player/official registration can be verified, players, coaches and officials must bring their completed Azolve system virtual ID card roster to every game for pre game checks.

- Coaches and Referees carry out player checks prior to the start of the fixture.

### 10.3.2 First Aid

- The home team must ensure a first aid person is available during matches (This can be from the venue staff or from the home team).
- Each team must be equipped with a first aid kit.

### 10.3.3 Team Colours (please refer to rule 4.2.4 as per FFP)

At the start of the season teams must identify their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice colours for outfield players and Goalkeepers to England Handball via the online Azolve System.

Teams must:

- Consult each other prior to matches when confirming fixture details.
- Teams must wear colours that clearly identify one team from the other.

The home team has first choice of kit colour; the visiting team shall be required to change their kit if necessary.

Where there is a perceived clash of kit colour the first named referee shall make the final decision on the necessity to change.

**A fine of £30 will apply for reports of inappropriate team kit. Inappropriate team kit will result in players not being permitted to play.**

### 10.3.4 Match Protocol

Only official score sheets may be used and it shall be the responsibility of the referees to ensure that table officials:

- Complete score sheets accurately.
- Adhere to all additional instructions.

As per the England Handball Match protocol (Appendix A), teams must ensure they follow the appropriate process for the start of matches.

**A fine of £20 for Failure to follow Match Protocol will result in a report being submitted by the referees.**

## 10.4 Reporting Scores and Match Reports

**Failure to upload score sheets with all player registration numbers will result in automatic forfeit of the fixture.**

### 10.4.1 Result upload

Results for a match in any competition must be uploaded on the day of its completion. It is the home team's responsibility to upload the result of the fixture onto the England Handball website. This must include the match

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score sheet signed by the officials/referees.

**Failure to upload match reports will result in financial punishments, England handball will be applying a 3 strikes and out policy regarding the upload of score sheets.**

**Strike 1:** Failure to upload a score sheet within the required time frame will result in a warning.

**Strike 2:** Failure to upload a score sheet within 3 days of the fixture will result in a fine of £25.

**Strike 3:** Upon the 3rd warning of failing to upload a scoresheet (1 week post fixture), the match shall be forfeit.

## 10.5 League Structure

### 10.5.1 Points Awarded

The England Handball points system is:

- 3 points for a win
- 2 points for a draw
- 1 point for a loss
- 0 points for teams that default

### 10.5.2 Teams on Equal Points

Should the situation occur that two or more clubs finish with the same number of points, their final positions shall be determined by (and in the following order):

- Goal difference
- The results of the head-to-head matches between the clubs concerned
- Goals scored
- Further matches played at neutral venue

## 11 Officiating of matches

### 11.1.1 Officials in Charge of fixtures

Two appropriately qualified and registered referees shall govern all England Handball approved matches and it shall be the responsibility of the host club to provide table officials.

In order to referee an England Handball Fixture:

- A referee must have completed at the minimum an England Handball referee course and achieved the required standard for the level of the competition concerned
- Be registered with with England Handball Referees Association via the England Handball Azolve system. (Referees can register via the England Handball website refereeing section and paying the annual membership fee.)

Referees are expected to arrive at venues at the commencement of the hall booking at the latest and shall make themselves known to the host organiser/home team.

Referees ensure the score sheet and any relevant match report is signed before being submitted.

### 11.1.2 Appointed officials

Where referees are appointed to take charge of any match that forms part of an England Handball approved competition, all IHF rules of the game are to be applied apart from those listed as excluded in this document or other relevant material.

**Excluded IHF rules:**

- IHF injured player rule

### 11.1.3 Non allocated matches

England Handball shall endeavour to appoint referees to matches. However, where this is not possible, the team deemed to be playing at home must, in the first instance, provide two appropriately qualified and registered referees from within their club.

Teams may agree to appoint one qualified referee from each club to officiate the game. However, where an agreement cannot be reached, the home team shall be responsible.



## **12 Referees' Fees and Expenses**

### **12.1 Fees and Expenses**

#### **12.1.1 Premier Handball and National Leagues**

England Handball will pay all referee expenses, following receipt of the agreed fees from clubs.

- Clubs competing in these leagues pay quarterly sums to England Handball for referees.
- The total of these instalment sums will be communicated at the start of the season.

#### **12.1.2 Regional Leagues**

The home club must pay the referees

Regional League matches can be paid either in cash or via BACS in agreement with the referees. The onus is on each home team to provide the referees with a contact (email) in order that they can submit their invoice in advance and for the home team to have the payment available. This is specifically for regional league fixtures or other friendly fixtures.

#### **12.1.3 National Cup and Shield**

Both teams pay referee costs online through the Azolve system.

- Teams will be informed of the cost of referee costs with the confirmation of fixtures. This cost includes the cost of travel expenses.

#### **12.1.4 Youth Competition**

Referee costs will be included in the cost of tournament fees in accordance with the league structure.

#### **12.1.5 Referee Payment guidance**

The cost per referee per game is:

- Premier Handball League - £25
- National Handball League - £15
- Regional League - £15
- Youth Competition - £10
- National Cup and Shield - £25

### **12.1.6 Cost and Travel Expenses**

Referees' expenses shall be calculated according to England Handball's Travel Expenses Policy.

The referees must provide an invoice for their fees and their travel expenses to the Referees Association for Premier Handball and National League fixtures. If in doubt, the home team can ask England Handball for clarification on how the fees and travel expenses were calculated.

## **13 Disqualification and Reports**

The Competitions and Disciplinary procedures document takes precedent over this document. For full information please see the appropriate articles mentioned.

It is strongly recommended that matches are video recorded, so that video evidence is available if there is a disciplinary issue.

### **13.1 Disqualification**

#### **13.1.1 Disqualification of an official/player**

Where the referees disqualify a player, coach or official, he/she is entitled to sit in the area designated for spectators.

##### *13.1.1.1 Further influence of disqualified official/player:*

Should the offender try to influence the match the referee shall order the player, coach or official concerned to leave the hall and an obligatory report of the incident is to be submitted.

This report shall be subject to a disciplinary hearing with a sanction in accordance with disciplinary sanctions.

##### *13.1.1.2 Disqualified official/player non compliance*

Where a player, coach or official refuses to leave the hall, the match shall be suspended until the referees' instruction has been carried out. The offender shall be reported to the CDC and could be suspended in accordance with the regulations.

If the offender does not leave the hall after the instruction is given, the match is to be stopped and the team to whom the offender belongs will be penalised with a 10-0 loss. If this takes more than five minutes the match can be abandoned at the discretion of the referee.

#### **13.1.2 Disqualification without report (Blue Card)**

Where, during the course of a match, a player's action leads to a direct disqualification (Red Card) with no report report to follow (i.e. player is not shown a Blue Card), no further disciplinary action shall be deemed necessary.

### **13.1.3 Disqualification with report**

Whenever a disqualification with report takes place (blue card), a report from the referees will follow.

Players disqualified with an obligatory report shall be deemed to have committed an offence that will carry an automatic suspension equal to the minimum tariff (minimum one game).

Referees shall provide a brief statement on the match report indicating the offence, the rule applied, and that blue card carries an obligatory report. The report should only explain the facts without making any further judgements or giving personal views, and should make reference to the rule(s), which they have applied.

Any obligatory report relating to red cards is completed on a match report form.

This should be emailed to the England Handball League Manager by 14:00 on the first Monday after the match.

The England Handball League Manager will send reports to the CDC by Tuesday 14:00 following the match.

According to disciplinary procedures the ban will come into immediate effect from the next official match. This will be included in the official report.

Clubs are expected to apply this from the next official match to be played. Where the referee indicates in his written report a more serious offence, England Handball will refer the report to the CDC to consider the offence.

This could result in a disciplinary hearing and the penalty being increased in accordance with the disciplinary sanctions. A player shall only have the right to appeal against the increased period of suspension but not against the automatic suspension carried by the offence.

### **13.1.4 England Handball Sphere of influence**

Any person who is registered with England Handball who is involved in an incident that occurs in England Handball's sphere of influence could be subject to disciplinary sanctions, even if they were "only" spectators when the incident occurred.

Such persons need to be clearly identified, with either photographic or video evidence.

(Note: the 'sphere of influence' shall mean any England Handball approved competition).

### **13.1.5 Violent conduct**

The CDC shall not tolerate violent conduct of any kind. England Handball will seek prosecution through the courts against any individual assaulting an England Handball referee and/or one of its officials.

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Where a person registered with England Handball is convicted of committing an assault on another player, a coach, official, referee and/or spectator, the person concerned shall be suspended in accordance with disciplinary sanctions herein.

Where required, England Handball shall also supply names of officials and/or witnesses to national authorities should legal proceeding be instigated. Where available video evidence can over take a referee report. Where disqualification is occasioned through an assault upon a referee or an England Handball official, The CDC shall decide upon the extent of the penalty.

Where such an assault is proven, a period of a period of suspension of 12 to 24 months from all England Handball approved competitions could be awarded

### **13.1.6 EHF/IHF bans/sanctions**

England Handball shall honour any disciplinary action, which might be instigated by international federations as if the offence were committed within England Handball's sphere of influence.

### **13.1.7 Club officials**

When the offender is a club official, the sanction shall be disqualification from the holding of any office within a club affiliated to England Handball or England Handball itself for the same period.

### **13.1.8 Appeals**

As stated elsewhere, a club shall have the right to appeal to England Handball in the appropriate manner. Any such appeal shall be in writing within the timescale set within the disciplinary processes and shall include a fee of £50.00 required by England Handball. Note: where the sanction is in the form of an automatic suspension, the decision of the disciplinary panel is final and no appeal should be filled.

Where a player, coach or official is suspended for a period of 12 months or more, the appellant shall have the right to apply to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.



## 14 Promotion and Relegation

Promotion and relegation is not guaranteed within the England Handball leagues. All clubs aspiring for promotion must comply with the Fit For Purpose criteria. Failure to adhere to this criterion will prevent promotion.

### 14.1 Men

#### 14.1.1 Premier Handball League

##### 14.1.1.1 Promotion to the Premier Handball League

The winner of the Premier Handball League Playoff will take the relegated teams place.

##### 14.1.1.2 Relegation from the Premier Handball League

The team-finishing bottom of the Men’s Premier Handball League will be relegated directly to the nearest National League North or South.

#### 14.1.2 National League

##### 14.1.2.1 Promotion to the National Leagues

<b>Premier Handball League Play off</b>
National League North Winner v National League South Winner

A series of play-off matches will take place to determine which of the clubs that won their regional league is promoted to the National League.

Note: Where there is more than one regional league in an area a further play off will be played to distinguish a representative to go the National League play off e.g. South East Regional League 1 v South East Regional League A.

<b>National League North Play off</b>	<b>National League South Play off</b>
Winner Midlands Regional League v Winner North Regional League	Winner South West Regional League v Winner South East Regional League

#### 14.1.2.2 Relegation from the National Leagues

The team-finishing bottom of the National League North and South will be relegated directly to the nearest Regional League.

## 14.2 Women

### 14.2.1 Premier Handball League

#### 14.2.1.1 Promotion to the Premier Handball League

The winner of each Regional league will play in a series of play offs for promotion.

<b>Premier Handball League Playoff</b>	
Winner North Regional Play off V Winner South Regional Play off	
<b>North Regional Play off</b>	<b>South Regional Play off</b>
Winner Midlands Regional League V Winner North Regional League	Winner South West Regional League V Winner South East Regional League

#### 14.2.1.2 Relegation from the Premier Handball league

The team-finishing bottom of the Women's Premier Handball League will be relegated to the closest Regional League.

## 14.3 Special Circumstance

In the event of leagues requiring more teams or structural changes to the leagues England Handball will promote and relegate teams based on Fit For Purpose Criteria.

In the event of a team not meeting fit for purpose criterion for their league, that team shall automatically be relegated and the team who were previously in the relegation position will remain in the current league.

## 15 England Handball Cup and Shield

The format and rules of these competitions will be notified to all clubs prior to the start of the season and a separate rules and regulations documents will be issued specific to the competition.

- It is mandatory for Premier Handball and National League clubs to participate in the England Handball Cup.
- Premier Handball League teams will not be permitted into the Shield
- Teams knocked out of the the first round of the National Cup will be entered into the Shield (excluding Premier Handball League teams).

## 16 European Competition Qualification

The British Handball Association Play off will determine places for European Competition between the England Handball representatives and the Scottish Handball equivalent.

Two places are available for England Handball and determined as follows:

- Premier Handball League Winner
- Premier Handball League Runner up

Qualification is not automatic and the club will have to satisfy England Handball they can meet EHF requirements. British Handball will delegate the positions of qualification.

In principle they will be:

- British Play off winner: EHF Cup
- British Play off Runner up: Challenge Cup
- 3<sup>rd</sup> British Play off: Challenge Cup
- 4<sup>th</sup> British Play off: Challenge Cup

Note: Clubs entering European Cup competitions should take particular note of their financial obligations and liabilities. England Handball will not accept financial penalties imposed by the European Handball Federation as a result of default or any other issues from English clubs.

## 17 National Teams

### 17.1 Selection

#### 17.1.1 Eligible players

All players being considered for selection must be in possession of a valid British passport. Without this, they will be excluded from selection.

Players in possession of a British passport but holding dual nationality will be considered for selection. However, if they have represented another nation in any official competition, they may be required to serve an extended period of residency before being considered.

Persons shall only be eligible for national team selection after having registered as a player with England Handball or with any other recognised federation.

Such a person should always be referred to as a "registered player".

Players are eligible for selection for national teams if they meet the criteria laid down in the IHF regulations.

However it might be incumbent for England Handball to insure such players separately.

#### 17.1.2 NGB Regulation

Regulations referring to the England and Great Britain national teams shall also apply except where otherwise stated.

#### 17.1.3 Player Release

National coaches have the right to call upon the services of registered players from clubs.

Clubs cannot refuse a player's release where the date's involved fall on official international periods as designated by the EHF/IHF.

Clubs may, however, appeal to the national coach for release of players required to attend training sessions if they feel they have overriding club commitments or, if three or more of their players, coaches and/or officials are involved. Clubs may make a request to England Handball to have matches rearranged.



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### 17.1.4 National Calendar

It shall be the duty of the England Handball to ensure that the training calendar and the official competitions calendar do not conflict and is in line with EHF/IHF international dates. However, it is accepted that a period of intensive training may be necessary shortly before the date on which the national team is to compete and, in such instance, the national team shall normally have precedent.

## 18 Appendices

### 18.1 Appendix A – Match Day protocol

#### England Handball Match Day Protocol

This document should be used for individual matches across all age groups.

(In specific tournaments/matches variations may apply)

#### 2 weeks pre Match

- Teams communicate kit colours prior to game (EHA 10.2.2, 10.3.3, 4.2.4)
- The Home team communicates any resin restrictions imposed by the facility. (EHA 10.1.7)
- It is recommended that teams communicate their playing lists **no later than 24 hours** pre game to allow printed match sheets to be produced. In case of absence of any player/official can be crossed off the sheet.

#### On the day Pre match: The Home team must

- Provide 2 qualified Table Officials – only these designated people will be allowed at the table. (IHF 17:1, 18:1, EHA 6.2.8)
- The score sheet must be prepared before arrival by the home team and must be handed to the away team upon their arrival if not already completed.
- Ensure the court, tables and equipment are set up as per IHF/EHA regulations, **Keep bags, clothing and other objects away from the benches and table officials.** (IHF 17:3, EHA 6.2.6)

#### 30 Minutes Pre Match:

- Official warm up time before the game lasts 25 minutes maximum e.g. if throw off time is 12:00 warm up time starts at 11:30 and finishes at 11:55. (An electronic scoreboard should be counting down the time to throw off.)
- 20 minutes pre game the score sheet must be completed by both teams and handed to the Referees. (This is the home teams responsibility).
- The match will not start until the score sheet is completed and checked by the referees. (EHA 10.3.1)

#### 15 Minutes Pre Match:

- A Referee checks the score sheet and player registration/ ID where necessary. (EHA 10.3.1)

#### 5 Minutes Pre Game:

- Coin toss, (10:1, 17:4)
- Both Teams must be off the court and lined up for team walk on and presentation. (This happens at all age groups)

#### Throw off:

- Only registered players and coaches may be on the team bench (IHF 4:2, EHA 8.2.1)
- Throw off time does not change for teams arriving late (teams arriving late sacrifice their warm up time, the throw off time does not get delayed)

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### Post Games

- Teams to line up in the middle of the court for final handshake
- Coaches/team officials to inform/report to referees any injuries
- Referees check and sign the score sheet (IHF 17:10, EHA 10.4.1)
- Teams nominate player of the match
- If a report follows the report box must be ticked by the either the team or referee (EHA 13)
- The home team keeps the score sheet and uploads it onto the England Handball website. (10.4.1)