

## **2015 European Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament Playing Rules / Regulations**

The rules and regulations for Wheelchair Handball basically follow the IHF rules of the Game.

### **1. Basics**

#### **1.1. The Game:**

Wheelchair Handball is played by two teams of 5 players plus 1 goalkeeper each. The aim of each team is to score goals and to prevent the other team from scoring.

Wheelchair Handball shall be based on the Fair Play spirit.

#### **1.2. The Team**

A team delegation consists of max. 15 persons including max. 12 players.

Minimum 3 female players shall be part of the team. Minimum one female player has to be on the court during the match. No classification is defined for this Championship. Therefore everybody is allowed to play without limitation.

#### **1.3. Goal:**

The standard Handball goal 3x2m will be used for the Wheelchair Handball Championship.

#### **1.4. Regulations**

Winner of the match: The team that has scored more goals at the end of playing time shall be determined the winner.

2 points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no point for a defeat.

Winner of the Tournament: The Tournament will be played according to the round-robin-system (each team playing each opponent) followed by the final match (team ranked one vs. team ranked two) and the match 3 / 4 (team ranked three vs team ranked four).

If two or more teams are equal on points their ranking is determined as follows:

- a) Higher number of points obtained in the matches played amongst the teams in question
- b) Superior goal difference from the matches played amongst the teams in question
- c) Higher number of goals scored in the matches played amongst the teams in question
- d) Superior goal difference from all matches
- e) Higher number of goals scored in all group matches

Match 3 / 4 and Final Match (k.o. system):

Overtime is played, following a 5-minute break, if a game is tied at the end of the regular playing time and a winner has to be determined. The overtime period consists of 2 halves of 5 minutes, with a 1-minute half-time break.

If the game is still tied a 7-meter-throwing as tie-breaker to decide a winner shall be played following the procedure in "IHF Rules of the Game" 2:2

### **2. The Court**

The court and line system are identical to the general Handball court: 40 metres long and 20 metres wide

### **3. Playing Time**

Matches will be played with two halves of 20 minutes each.

The half-time break will be 10 minutes.

Each team has the right to receive one 1-minute team time-out in each half of the regular playing time. The team requesting a team time-out must be in the possession of the ball. 2 team time-outs (one team time-out in each half) are granted.

### **4. The Ball**

The Tournament will be played with balls size 2 following the official IHF measures.

### **5. Team / Equipment**

#### **5.1. The Team**

Each team shall consist of 12 players (min. 3 female players). Not more than 5 players plus 1 goalkeeper (min. one female player or goalkeeper) shall be present on the court at the same time. The remaining players are substitutes.

The Goalkeeper must be on the court at all times throughout the duration of the game.

#### **5.2. Equipment**

The wheelchairs shall be constructed in a safe and fair way without any risk for the player himself, his team colleagues or the opponent team. A wheelchair can be banned from the game if there is any concern about its safety or fairness (referee decision).

### **6. Playing the Ball**

It is permitted to

- throw, catch, stop, push or hit the ball by using hands, arms, head and torso,
- hold the ball for a maximum of 3 seconds,
- push the wheelchair and dribble the ball,
- place the ball on the lap (not between the knees) while pushing the wheelchair one or two times (not longer),
- to guard the opponent (with or without ball) by using arms and hands as long as the opponent has enough time and distance to react and no danger is present.
- block or force away an opponent with arms or hands, wheelchair (when player is not in great speed)
- enter the goal area or cross the side-lines without the ball after a shot or after being pushed when not causing an advantage doing so; the player has to leave the goal area as soon and fast as possible.

It is not permitted to

- after the ball has been controlled, to touch it more than once, unless it has touched the floor, another player, or the goal in the meantime (13:1a); however, touching it more than once is not penalized, if the player is „fumbling“ the ball, i.e., failing to control it when trying to catch or stop it;
- restrain or hold (uniform, wheelchair), push into an opponent,
- endanger an opponent
- enter the goal area with the ball under control (as player)
- cross the side-line with the ball under control (the wheelchair has to be IN the field partly)

## 7. Violations

Violations shall be handled according to the IHF Rules of the Game:

- Suspension (2 minutes)
- Disqualification

It is permitted

- to use an open hand to play the ball out of the hand of another player;
- to use bent arms to make body contact with an opponent, and to monitor and follow him in this way;
- to use one's trunk to block the opponent, in a struggle for positions;

It is not permitted to

- to pull or hit the ball out of the hands of the opponent
- to block the opponent with arms, hand, legs, or to use any part of the body to displace him or push him away; this includes a dangerous use of the elbow, both as a starting position and in motion;
- to hold an opponent (body or uniform), even if he remains free to continue the play;

### Fouls that warrant a personal punishment under Rules 8:3-6

8:3 Fouls, where the action is mainly or exclusively aimed at the body of the opponent, must lead to a personal punishment. This means that, in addition to a free-throw or 7-meter-throw, at least the foul is to be punished progressively, beginning with a warning (16:1), then with 2-minute suspensions (16:3b) and disqualification (16:6d).

### Fouls that warrant an immediate 2-minute suspension

8:4 For certain fouls, the punishment is a direct 2-minute suspension, regardless of whether the player had received a warning earlier.

This applies especially for such fouls where the guilty player disregards the danger to the opponent (see also 8:5 and 8:6);

Taking into account the decision-making criteria under 8:3, such fouls could for instance be:

- fouls that are committed with high intensity or against an opponent who is "driving" fast;
- holding on to the opponent for a long time, or pulling him down;
- fouls against the head, throat or neck;
- hard hitting against the torso or throwing arm;
- attempting to make the opponent lose body control
- driving the wheelchair in great speed into an opponent

### Fouls that warrant a disqualification

A player who is attacking an opponent in a way that is dangerous to his health is to be disqualified (16:6a). The special danger to the opponent's health follows from the high intensity of the foul or from the fact that the opponent is completely unprepared for the foul and therefore cannot protect himself (see Rule 8:5 Comment).

In addition to the criteria of 8:3 and 8:4, the following decision-making criteria also apply:

- the actual loss of body control while running or jumping, or during a throwing action;
- a particularly aggressive action against a part of the body of the opponent, especially face, throat or neck; (the intensity of the body contact);
- the reckless attitude demonstrated by the guilty player when committing the foul.

A disqualification of a player or team official is always for the entire remainder of the playing time.

For details please see IHF Rules of the game  
The referees shall use the international hand signals.

The referees will give special attention to the safety of all players as well as to fairness.  
For safety reasons the referees will not whistle directly on the playing court but shall officiate from the sideline and goal line (see diagram 2):

Diagram 2: Referee position

## **8. Protests & Appeals**

### Protests

- The EHF delegate has the right and the obligation to act as juridical body of first instance with regard to any protest related to matches of the Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament.
- Any protest regarding any of the Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament matches shall be handed over in writing to the responsible EHF delegate within one (1) hour after the end of the relevant match.  
Moreover a protest fee of € 1,000 shall be paid by the claimant to the EHF. Such amount shall be paid directly to the EHF delegate or shall be transferred to the EHF bank account at the same time the protest is handed over. A written proof of payment of the protest fee provided within the aforementioned deadline shall be deemed sufficient.
- If the protest is fully granted, the protest fee is refunded to the claimant; otherwise it is forfeited to the credit of the EHF.
- The reasons for the protest as well as any relevant statement and document shall be submitted in writing to the responsible EHF delegate by the claimant in one of the three official EHF languages no later than 9.00 am local time the day after the relevant match.
- The EHF delegate takes a decision on the protest which may include inter alia disqualification of players or teams no later than 12.00 pm (noon) local time the day after the relevant match. Such decision is announced to the relevant parties.

### Appeals

- Any decision taken by an EHF delegate according to the aforementioned provisions may be appealed to the EHF Court of Appeal, acting through an Ad Hoc Commission.
- An appeal against a decision of an EHF delegate shall be filed with the EHF Office and shall be requested to the EHF delegate in writing no later than 8.00 pm local time the same day the EHF delegate decision is announced to the relevant parties.
- Moreover an appeal fee of € 1,000 shall be paid by the appellant to the EHF. Such amount shall be paid directly to the EHF delegate or shall be transferred to the EHF bank account at the same time the appeal is filed/requested. A written proof of payment of the appeal fee provided within the aforementioned deadline shall be deemed sufficient.
- If the appeal is fully granted, the appeal fee is refunded to the appellant; otherwise it is forfeited to the credit of the EHF.
- The appeal request is transferred to the EHF Court of Appeal Ad Hoc Commission. The Ad Hoc Commission takes a decision by simple majority following an express written procedure no later than 12.00 pm (noon) local time the day following the filing of the appeal. Such decision is communicated in writing to the relevant parties.



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- The EHF Court of Appeal Ad Hoc Commission consists of three (3) members of the EHF Court of Appeal nominated by the President of the EHF Court of Appeal before the beginning of the respective tournaments.
- They may be challenged in accordance with the EHF Legal Regulations.
- The EHF delegate having decided on the protest at first instance shall not be part of the Ad Hoc Commission examining the protest in appeal.
- The Ad Hoc Commission members are not present at the relevant venues.

#### EHF regulations infringements / disciplinary cases

- If deemed appropriate by the EHF to ensure the proper running of the EHF Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament and/or respect of the applicable regulations during the EHF Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament, violations of the present regulations and/or other EHF regulations applicable to Wheelchair Handball Nations' Tournament by any team, delegation, individual and/or EHF Officials as well as direct disqualification cases are examined, decided upon and sanctioned by the EHF delegate and the EHF Court of Appeal Ad Hoc Commission (in appeal) following an express procedure.
- In those cases, the deadlines defined here above are not applicable.
- The provisions of the EHF Legal Regulations, the EHF List of Penalties and the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions apply for all administrative, legal and disciplinary offences committed by the teams, individuals and/or EHF Officials, unless the present regulations stipulate otherwise.