



# IHF Global Referee Training Programme

**15–20.12.2012 St.Gallen, Switzerland**



5 ½ new IHF couples after five days of hard work. The couples are from BIH, ESP, FRA (new partner for Reveret), GER, NOR, SUI

**Report by Roland Bürgi – PRC Member**

## Introduction:

After 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010 it was the fifth IHF Global Referee Training course (GRTP) which took place in St. Gallen, Switzerland, from 15 to 20 December 2012. This year, the examination of 5 couples, who had already passed the GRTP course successfully in Granollers 2012, was planned. The participants came from BIH, ESP, GER, NOR, SUI. The couple from FRA, which included our experienced Olympic Referee Laurant Reveret, were invited to get Reveret's new partner approved at IHF level.

The Swiss Handball Federation, together with the local women's club LC Brühl St. Gallen, hosted this course. Thanks to the Swiss Handball League (men's top league) and the SPAR Premium league (women's top league) we were able to use championship games as part of the course to test the referees during some high-quality and decisive games.

The referees were taught and supported by Roland Bürgi (PRC member), Felix Rätz (IHF lecturer) and Hanspeter Knabenhans (IHF rule expert). Manfred Prause, (PRC Chairman) was partially present to observe the Swiss couple in a match in Schaffhausen. Furthermore, we asked our top referee Laurent Reveret to hold a lecture based on his experiences.

The Swiss Handball Federation provided additional people available to support the course, they helped to organise transport and other logistical items.

The theory lectures took place in the Hotel Walhalla and the sports hall Kreuzbleiche, both in St. Gallen. Kreuzbleiche is where we also had the practical work during the games of the Stadtwerke Cup, an international women's tournament on a good level, with teams from FRA, GER, SRB, SLO, SVK and SUI. The organizer of this tournament was LC Brühl St.Gallen, the most famous name in Swiss Women's Handball.

Furthermore, and already mentioned, some additional games from the Swiss Handball League and SPAR Premium League were selected, this is where we tested all our candidates for examination to IHF level.



St.Gallen, Host-City of GRTP 2012



## Content of the GRTP course:

The following parts were taught or tested in our theory sessions. We relied heavily on video training in all lectures, with a lot of examples from men's and women's top handball:

- **Opening** (Roland Bürgi):
  - Introduction of lecturers and referees
  - Programme and organizational "rules"
  - Testing of basic English knowledge
  - Idea of GRTP and criteria to get IHF level
- **Lecture in sports hall** (Vroni Keller, coach of LC Brühl St.Gallen)
  - Warm up referees with women team: "Soft Handball"
  - Introduction of defence systems 6:0, 3:2:1, and 5:1 on the white board and with the team
  - When using which system? Technical, tactical knowledge
  - Working with different main targets in defence (getting ball, closing paths, influencing attacking behaviour, interrupting etc.)
  - What are the important things to see in the different systems from the coaches' point of view
  - Positioning and task distribution in different systems
  - Expectation from a trainer's view regarding a top referee.

Many thanks from all of us to Vroni Keller for this interesting and well prepared lecture. It gave us many inputs regarding technical/tactical thoughts and also regarding expectations towards the referees. It's always important to have the view from trainers in our referee education as well.



Team "One" Soft-Handball



Defense systems presented by Vroni Keller

Just after this hall lecture the referees had to take part in the shuttle run, all the referees passed the 9.5 mark without any problems.





- **Theoretical training:**
  - **Interpretation of rules 8:3 – 8:10 – progressive punishments (Felix Rätz)**
    - Structure 8:3-8:6 – and the criteria
    - Red with / without report
    - Last minute
    - Important things to correct: Hollywood and repeated inside defending
    - Correct blocking – but don't search for "peanuts"
    - Frontal tolerance – handball is a game with body contact
    - Give defender a chance
    - No "free throw presents"
    - Group work "Nordic battle"
    - Group work "referees topics"

IHF – RULE CHANGES 2010		Rules 8 and 16	
Fouls		Unsportsmanlike conduct	
I	8:3 Normal progressive punishment	8:7 Normal progressive punishment	
II	8:4 Direct 2-minute suspension	8:8 Direct 2-minute suspension	
III	8:5 Disqualification without report	8:9 Disqualification without report	
IV	8:6 Disqualification with report	8:10 Disqualification with report	

Roland Bürgi Edition: 2010-04-30 IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission International Handball Federation Chart 16

Preparation for World Championships 2013	
	<b>Don't search for punishments</b>
	<b>Direct 2 Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counter attack</li> <li>• Pushing in the air</li> <li>• Long holding; pulling to the floor</li> <li>• Others</li> </ul>
	<b>RED Cards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According 8:5 and 8:9</li> </ul>

Roland Bürgi Edition: 2011-07-03 IHF-Playing Rule and Referee Commission International Handball Federation Chart 8

- **Offensive Foul (Roland Bürgi)**
  - Criteria for Offensive foul
  - Wrong blocking – but don't search – effect must be visible
  - Turning into defender with shoulder
  - Pushing/holding the defender during a feint
  - Jumping with the knee against defender
  - Feint against throwing arm without enough side moving (body contact with defender)
  - Running into – jumping into, wing, gap closed or open, foul before, hollywood
  - Running into defender after passing the ball
  - Video training examples from Olympia 12



- **Rule Test**

30 questions originally from the English IHF rule catalogue  
 Most of the referees had excellent test results – except one couple who did just pass the test with the 75% minimum.

- **IHF Publication on Rules of the Game (update 2012)** (Hanspeter Knabenhans)

The new Publication 2011 including a 2012 update was presented by our IHF rule expert. The topic “last minute” was discussed in depth and Hanspeter could clarify some areas of uncertainty.



- **How a top referee prepares for a Top Event** (Lauren Reveret, IHF referee)

With a wealth of experience, Lauren detailed how important good preparation is for a top event, and demonstrated his preparation steps for it. Lauren also explained to his future colleagues how important frequent activity is during a championship, in order to maintain a high level of concentration throughout. The GRTP referees were eager to know as much as possible from Laurent – the discussion during the lecture was very fruitful. It could be a good idea to invite an active top referee to some parts of our future GRTP courses (this was also mentioned in feedback of referees).



- **Game analyses** (all observers)
 

All games were analysed with the referees directly after the game. For methodical topics and points of general interest all observers had the chance to give their input in the respective theory sessions, in front of all referees.
- **Social events** (all participants)
  - A guided tour was organised by our Swiss referees through the city centre and the old town of St. Gallen, the monastery and famous public library.
  - The official dinner of the course took place in the city centre of St. Gallen where typical Swiss Fondue was served.

### Results of the course

All the referee couples had to whistle at least two, most of them 3, games. In general we were satisfied with the performance of the referees. The feedback from the observers, from most of the clubs and the organizer of the international tournament was positive. As all of the participating couples succeeded in the shuttle run and rule test, and the performance of all couples was quite good, we were able to award all of them the IHF badge. As the Swiss couple had one match more with Manfred Prause after the closing ceremony, they will get their badge later (but they have also passed).





Therefore IHF has now the following new referees:

BIH - KONJICANIN Amar / KONJICANIN Dino  
ESP - ALVAREZ Javier / BUSTAMANTE Ion  
GER - SCHULZE Robert / TÖNNIES Tobias  
NOR - KLEVEN Havard / RAMBERG Christian  
SUI - BRUNNER Arthur / SALAH Morad (awarding IHF badge not yet done)  
FRA - PICHON Stevann (new partner of Laurent REVERET)

Congratulations to our new IHF referees in the first step of a long learning process within the IHF. We wish you all the best for your refereeing future.

### **Feedback**

The referees were asked to give feedback about the GRTP courses in general and especially the current course in St. Gallen. They were also asked to highlight areas for improvement. Three groups presented their results, which are summarized as follows:



#### **FEEDBACK GRTP COURSES IN GENERAL**

- + Good lecturers
- + Good timing
- + Longer evaluation of performances (a bad performance in short evaluation could damage changes of success)
- + Learning from other couples → sharing experience
- + Finding a common line
- + Meet new people from other countries
- The level of the games in Granollers is sometimes too low
- Different styles of handball with different level of matches

#### **FEEDBACK GRTP COURSE IN ST. GALLEN 2012**

- + Good lecturers
- + Good timing
- + Balanced program (clips, theory, group-work, own presentations)
- + Good combination between theory and practice
- + Top organization (program, accommodation, transports, theoryroom etc.)
- + Official games with high importance (no friendly games)
- + More recovering time than in Granollers
- + Same couples → good atmosphere → easy to work together
- + Exchange with experienced active referee (Laurent)
- + Lesson from a coach about their demands for referees and tactical lesson with a team
- + Language was not a barrier
- + Nice group-holding – the second time together
- + Tactical lesson (Trainer and the girls....)
- + Enough time for social event and recovery
- After the nice warm up-game with the team a second warm up before the shuttle run
- Too much recovering time? (1 couple)
- The weather ☺

## **OWN PROPOSALS FROM COURSE MEMBERS**

- The organizer should make contact with the course members concerning food
- Inviting coaches for such seminars (the lesson from Vroni Keller was a good start)
- Work with mental coaches
- Work with experts concerning body language (“work between the lines”)
- Not only European referees participating
- Keep the style of schedule from St. Gallen → allows time for forming a group

## **NEW IDEAS**

- Self practice on the court as player. For example “defense against pivot”: the referee could play as pivot or defense player to get the player’s perspective
- Physical coach for a lesson “Correct physical training for referees”
- Training sessions with a handball team
- Video clips from each couple’s matches → discussion
- Couples have to prepare a presentation before the course
- Invite new IHF referees to a WCH for a couple of day for them to feel the atmosphere

Many thanks to my fellow lecturers Felix Rätz and Hanspeter Knabenhans from the IHF, my colleagues Eddy Theiler and Andi Rüegg from the Swiss Handball Federation who did an excellent job again, and LC Brühl St.Gallen who always helped us with hall availability, transport, good food during the weekend and Vroni Keller’s hall lecture.

Finally it’s worth mentioning that it was a great group – we promised at the beginning, that we would like to work hard and take it seriously – but also a lot of fun.

Wald, 30 December 2012/ RB