



# IHF Global Referee Training Programme

**15.12. – 21.12.2010, St.Gallen, Switzerland**



New IHF-referees after 5 day hard work: SWE, GRE, POL, POR

**Report from Roland Bürgi – PRC Member  
and  
some thoughts from Natasha Engberg, participant**

## Introduction:

After 2006, 2007 and 2009, the fourth IHF Global Referee Training course (GRTP) took place in St. Gallen, Switzerland, from 15 to 21 December 2010. This year the course was foreseen for training purposes of one existing IHF couple (COD), for examination of some couples who had already been twice or three times in GRTP courses and for some new couples. The Swiss Handball Federation, together with the local women's club LC Brühl St. Gallen, hosted this course where eight couples from seven nations (COD, GBR, GRE, POL, POR, SUI, SWE) took place. One young and talented couple from SUI was present as a guest couple

The aim of the GRTP is to help young talented referees to move up to IHF level after different courses and to teach existing IHF referees to improve for the future.

The referees were taught and supported by Manfred Prause, PRC President (partly present), Roland Bürgi, PRC member, Felix Rätz, lecturer and Hanspeter Knabenhans, IHF rule expert.

From Swiss Handball Federation there were additional persons available to support the course with transports and other logistics.

The theory lectures took place in the Hotel Walhalla, St. Gallen, and in the sports hall Kreuzbleiche, St. Gallen, 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 CRO, FRA, GER, HUN, SLO and SUI. Organizer of this tournament was LC Brühl St. Gallen, the most famous address in woman handball in Switzerland.



SWE shows COD the snow of St. Gallen



# STADTWERK-CUP

Furthermore some additional games from Swiss Handball League were selected, where we tested especially our candidates for examination to IHF level.

## Content of the GRTP course:

The following parts were taught or tested in our theory. In all lectures there was a main part of video training 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 together with PRC)
  - 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.



Defense systems presented by Vroni Keller



Observation of colleagues in sports hall

Just after this hall lecture the referees had to undergo the shuttle run. Except two referees who did not pass the limit of 9.5, all the other referees have passed the limit, many of them with excellent results clearly above the limit.

- **Theoretical training:**
  - **New structure of rule 8 – 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"

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

IHF – RULE CHANGES 2010 Rules 8 and 16	
Fouls	Criteria
8:6 Disqualification with report	Exclusion does not exist anymore.
If an action is classified by the referees as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• particularly reckless</li> <li>• particularly dangerous</li> <li>• premeditated or malicious, not in any way related to the game situation;</li> </ul> a written report must be submitted after the game.	
Inform "responsible team official" after decision:	
„This is a disqualification with report „	

Roland Bürgi Edition: 2010-04-30  
IHF Playing Rules and Referees Commission International Handball Federation Chart 26

- **7-m (Felix Rätz)**
  - 7m and progressive punishment = two different things to evaluate (but from same referee)
  - 7m because of clearly inside
    - No cheap 7m
    - What means "clearly stepping inside"
    - Where is the position at the first contact
    - No alibi signal
  - Video training examples from World Championship Korea
- **Rule Test (Roland Bürgi, Felix Rätz)**
  - 30 questions originally from rule catalogue IHF in English

Most of the referees had excellent test results – except for one couple who did not pass the test with 75%.
- **Video Test – progressive punishment (rule 8:3, 8:4, 8:5 or 8:6?)**
  - This newly by Roland Bürgi created test consists of 20 video clips, each showed several times and often in slow motion – many were from our IHF teaching DVD. The referees have to decide according to the new structure how to punish these situations.
  - 11 out of 16 referees reached more than 66.66% of the max. points.

- **Match analysis of ECh main round match ROU-RUS and of Swiss Handball League game Wacker Thun – BSV Bern** (participants and PRC)  
Group analysis of special topics and presentation by participants:
  - Group 1:
    - Personality, behaviour, communication
    - Steps, other technical issues
  - Group 2:
    - Progressive Punishment/line (adapted to new structure)
  - Group 3:
    - 7-m - two topics:
      - in combination with progressive punishment
      - inside defending – (not only touching the line / position at beginning of 1:1 action)
  - Group 4:
    - understanding the game / no cheap free throw / give defender a chance
    - advantage, unnecessary whistles
  - Group 5:
    - Balance: Did the referees hold the balance in the match?
      - over the whole match
      - in certain periods of the match
  
- **Steps** (Roland Bürgi)
  - Why is it important to be precise in steps?
  - How can we improve in steps?
  - What is the first step?
  - Difference between women's and men's handball?
  - Difference in moving behaviour between continents?
  - Video steps, men/women, Asian players moving behaviour



- **Various topics – video training** (Roland Bürgi)
  - Hollywood Actions
  - Moving paths – moving behaviour
  - Unnecessary interruptions – game understanding
  - Incorrect goals
  - “Kempa” or “Japanese”
  
- **Passive play** (Manfred Prause)
  - New structured criteria after warning signal
  - Bad or good moments of interruption
  - When is it not possible to show signal?
  - Video examples teaching DVD
  - Same rules are valid after signal as in the game before

**Results:**

All the referee couples had to whistle at least three, some even four games. In general we were satisfied with the performance of the referees – even though we saw couples who started strong but were less good in the following games (women’s matches).

Again we saw good improvements from our African couple from COD. As they do not have regular games in their country, it was a big help for them to have 4 matches on different levels observed.

The GBR couple showed us that their game understanding is quite good – of course they have to improve in methodical matters, but we are on a good way with them.

Furthermore we saw two talented new couples from SUI – one had the first GRTP course, the second, a rather young couple, was present as guest.

The couples who had been more than one time in GRTP were tested to get IHF level.

They all passed the necessary theoretical and fitness tests and thanks to their performance on the field, PRC awarded them the desired IHF badge during the closing ceremony.

Therefore IHF has now the following new referees:

GRE - BETHMANN Andreas / TZAFEROPOULOS Michail
POL - LESZCZYNSKI Bartosz / PIECHOTA Marcin
POR - SANTOS Duarte / FONSECA Ricardo Luis
SWE - SIEWERT DELLE Alexandra / ENGBERG Natasha

Congratulation to our new IHF referees for the first step in a long-lasting learning process within IHF. We wish you all the best for your referee future.

Finally it's worth mentioning that it was a great team – we promised at the beginning, that we would like to have a hard and serious work – but also a lot of fun. We never forget the nice songs from all over the world by the referees and the lecturers which we heard at our official evening: for example the melancholic song from Congo, the Scottish rap or the “Fidiri fidira fidiralalaa” from Switzerland.



POR-SWE co-production



COD on stage

Many thanks to my lecturer colleagues Manfred Prause, Felix Rätz and Hanspeter Knabenhans from IHF, but also to my colleagues from Swiss Handball Federation Eddy Theiler, Peter Bleuler, Andi Rüegg and Stephan Vitzthum who did again an excellent job, to LC Brühl St.Gallen who always helps us very much with hall availability, transports and good food during the weekend, including Vroni Keller's input for the hall lecture.

Wald, 23 December 2010

Roland Bürgi  
PRC Member

### Some thoughts of Natasha Engberg, participant of GRTP course in St.Gallen:

As referee in such a course, there are many thoughts and expectations that you have before going there: you want to learn, getting new experiences and of course performing well in the different tasks. I think that it was very interesting for all participants to meet each other at this course. In the group for this GRTP in St.Gallen 2010, there were referees from Great Britain, Democratic Republic of Congo, Polen, Portugal, Greece, Sweden and Switzerland. The lecturers of the course came from Germany and Switzerland.

On the first evening we had a very rewarding lesson with Vroni, the head coach of the home team Brühl St.Gallen. This lesson took place in the sports hall while her team was training. We talked mainly about different playing systems in defense and attack and of course Vroni's points of view of the game. Thank you Vroni for taking the time! After this it was time for the shuttle run and then the first day was already over. The next few days were full of lessons about 7-meters, the new rules, steps and a seminar where we referees were divided into working groups. In these groups we spoke about tasks in refereeing, good and bad experiences, the 7-meter line and the balance in the game.

On Friday the theoretical lessons were more or less done and the games could begin. The first and only game on Friday was whistled by our Polish referee colleagues. They had to go to Thun with the delegate Felix Rätz to whistle a top game in the Swiss first division of men. The rest of the referees stayed in the hotel and watched the game on TV. We were divided into groups and our task was to evaluate the referee performance. The next morning, all of us had a talk about our thoughts of the game and what we could learn from it, it was rewarding to hear different points of view. On Saturday and Sunday everyone had nice games in Stadtwerke-Cup (Brühl Cup) and in the National Swiss league. Each match was observed and I am sure that all referees can agree on that it was very educating. On Sunday the course came to an end and we had a closing ceremony. The closing ceremony was filled with happiness because of the participation but also some sadness because this adventure now was over. After this we all had a nice last night with our new found friends, when each couple sang their national anthems.

We all came with different experience, different perspectives and different goals. The one thing we had in common was the passion from refereeing and from there grew a nice team spirit. All together we learned from each other both on a "handball" level and on a personal level which will make us perform better both on the handball court and in life. With an amazing team spirit you never know what can happen! This GRTP in St.Gallen 2010 was definitely an "educating experience" which none of us will forget.



Natasha Engberg, referee SWE (left)