



## Refereeing – inside the European Handball Federation

Match officiating has always been treated as key priority by the European Handball Federation. Since its foundation in 1991, the EHF has strived to enhance performance levels at this field of activity by developing solid frameworks and focusing on strategic work, education, evaluation and the application of advanced technology.

Since the beginnings, the area of game officiating has been overseen by one of the technical commissions of the EHF, the Competitions Commission. The body, commonly referred to as “CC”, consists of a chairman and four members who are experts of different areas of handball sport. One of the members is in charge of refereeing matters. Since 2002, the Hungarian Sándor Andorka fulfils this function within the CC.



Sándor Andorka – Responsible  
for the Referees in Europe

While the Competitions Commission delivers professional criteria and strategies, the daily business is handled by the EHF Office in cooperation with the responsible CC Member.

In order to give an even greater emphasis to this particular field within the European handball sport, the EHF Congress in 2008 decided on supporting the work of the CC by founding the Technical Refereeing Committee (TRC). Former top referees and EHF delegates Carol Domenge from France, Jiri Konecny from the Czech Republic and Dragan Nachevski from FYR Macedonia have been involved in this work since 2008.

The TRC prepares proposals for the methodological work of the CC, on education courses, on further education and exams. The Chairman of the TRC and the link between this body and the CC is Sándor Andorka.



Combined IHF/EHF course 2009 St.Gallen (SUI)  
Trainer- and Referee lecturers work together



EHF course 2010 Balatonfüred (HUN)  
Training and examination for future Delegates

Thousand games a year

The European Handball Federation has the immense responsibility of nominating referees to a total of 1,000 games each season. Over 140 referee couples (50 of them are IHF-Referees too) take part in these European Cup and national team games (including a number of Younger Age Category and Masters competitions). In addition, more than 70 talented couples are active within the “Young Referee Project”.

<b>Games in Europe 2009/10</b>		<b>MEN</b>		<b>WOMEN</b>
Number of matches:		<b>Total: 999</b>		
Sum		558		441
CI		169		108
EC		239		213
Nationalteams		63		84
Junior/Youth		87		36

## Taking refereeing to the next level

Life-long learning is an important concept for referees at all levels within European handball. The absolute elite of the referees took part at the Top Referees' Seminar back in September 2009. This event served as a preparation for the EHF EURO 2010. During the seminar, the referees updated their theoretical knowledge of handball rules and they were also challenged by mental and physical trainings.

The work continued in July 2010 with an Education Seminar for the Refereeing Responsible of the European Federations which took place in Vienna, Austria. This was another occasion to deal with the latest developments inside refereeing education.



Education seminar for Referee Responsible

## Using modern technology

While the most important characteristics of top referees – such as ability of judgement, common sense, communication skills and empathy – will never change in handball, the use of advanced technology can further increase the performance quality of the match officials.



Head set use – a big help for referees  
Nordine Lazaar (FRA)  
IHF and EHF Referee

The referees of the EHF EURO 2010 in Austria used headsets for the first time ever at an EHF event. This technical aid has proved to be really useful that in the upcoming 2010/11 season, headsets will be in use at all top matches.



Referees at European Championship Men in Austria 2010

Another high-tech tool, an online video library has also been launched to assist the education of officials and lecturers. The EHF CAN completed a project of presenting over 1,700 video clips showing crucial match scenes, accessible for EHF associates.

Such a complex range of activities requires a well-organised office background and significant resources by the EHF. In addition, the contribution of refereeing experts at all levels, former referees and delegates, is instrumental in this work.

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