

Competition Regulations

Version Control

Version	Amendments	Date
1.0	Implementation of document	02/10/2024
2.0	Addition of provision 15.3.2 (c), 16.0, and Enclosure 7	04/10/2024
3.0	Clarification of existing rules	25/08/2025
4.0	Update competitions for Season 2026-2027 Phase 1	19/07/2026
4.1	Update of regulations for Season 2026-2027 Phase 2	01/10/2026

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1.0 Administration

1.1. The Malta Handball Association (hereinafter "**MHA**") organises all local handball and beach handball competitions (hereinafter "**MHA Competitions**"). Regulations governing MHA Competitions shall be decided upon by the Management Board in consultation with the MHA Council.

1.2. The MHA Competitions shall take place between the 1st of September and the 31st of August of the following year.

1.3. Any handball or beach handball related activity organised locally by an MHA Member, affiliated club or individual shall be subject to approval by the MHA Management Board. The MHA shall receive communication of such an event by not later than thirty (30) days before the date of commencement of such an event and the MHA shall give its approval, rejection or ask for clarification in writing within 5 days.

2.0 Finances

2.1 Costs Borne by Participating Clubs

Travelling costs

2.1.1. Any travelling costs incurred by a team during national competitions, both to and from the playing venue, are to be borne by the participating Club.

Participation fee

2.1.2. Clubs taking part in MHA competitions shall pay to the MHA an affiliation fee per participating team. Participating players and officials will also be required to pay a registration fee, with such fee being charged to the respective Club that such individual is registered with.

2.1.3. The above-mentioned fees are to be determined by the MHA Management Board in consultation with the MHA Council. The fees shall be paid before the competitions commence or as stipulated in MHA invoicing, whichever is later, and shall cover the whole playing season.

2.1.4. A participating club that withdraws any team from any of the MHA Competitions before or after such MHA Competition has commenced shall forfeit all payments made. Without prejudice to the preceding, the Club shall be subject to further penalties as stipulated in the Legal Regulations or any other rules or regulations of the MHA.

2.2. Insurance

2.2.1. Clubs participating in MHA Competitions may arrange, at their own expense, accident and health insurance for its members, which may include coverage for its officials, any technical staff, and players.

2.2.2. The MHA shall not be held responsible for any accidents or illnesses directly or indirectly occurring during any of the MHA Competitions.

2.2.3. All clubs are to have at their disposal, during all MHA Competitions, a First Aid Kit. Furthermore, they are also to ascertain that at least one team official is certified in giving First Aid with the use of such kits.

2.3. Special financial regulations

The MHA Management Board may, from time to time, issue ad hoc or special financial regulations related to the method of payment for MHA Competitions.

3.0. Advertising and Media Rights

3.1. Advertising

3.1.1. Television, radio, film, video and advertising rights of all fixtures shall rest with the MHA and the venue provider. The MHA has the right to display in all matches, free of charge, advertising banners/strips of a maximum length of 5 metres anywhere within the range covered by TV cameras.

3.1.2. Other boards, strips, banners, or any other promotional materials belonging to Clubs will only be displayed once the interested parties inform the Management Board in writing by not later than seven (7) days before the fixture in which they wish to display such boards, strips, banners, or any other promotional materials.

3.1.3. A club shall have the right to display a maximum of two (2) boards, strips, banners, or any other promotional materials, measurements of which are to be specified by MHA upon the Club's request in writing, during its own matches and are to be set up at the Club's own expense. Clubs are responsible for both setting up and dismantling such boards, strips, banners, or any other promotional materials.

3.1.4. The MHA has the right to refuse any advertising boards, strips, banners, or any other promotional materials that are in direct conflict with its sponsors, or which are not in accordance with this Regulation and any other rules and regulations stipulated by the MHA, or in breach of the MHA's contractual obligations with the venue provider. The MHA cannot be held liable to any damages sustained to such boards, strips, banners, or any other promotional materials.

3.1.5. The MHA alone has the right to confer T.V. broadcasting, radio, and film rights (incl. Videotaping) as well as publicity rights in sports centres. The MHA may ask for a sum to be agreed upon in advance for any permanent advertising inside the hall on behalf of the club/team sponsors.

3.2. Media Recording

3.2.1. Upon application to the MHA, all clubs shall be permitted to take video recordings for coaching and training purposes as well as for promotional purposes. Persons recording a match or taking photographs who are unable to produce a permit issued by the MHA may be asked to leave the hall.

3.2.2. Inappropriate use of all media material included but not limited to filming and photography shall be referred to the disciplinary commissioner. Articles, photos, video clips, etc. printed or uploaded, used in any media or social media which are deemed by the MHA or any registered club as inappropriate or bring into disrepute the MHA or the sport hall shall be referred to the Disciplinary Commissioner.

3.2.3. Reports in this respect are to be made in writing following the established process for Protests as detailed in the MHA Legal Regulations and are to include relative evidence. Reports are to be addressed to the Management Board of the Association.

4.0. Technical Organisation

4.1. Venues

4.1.1. The venues to be used for any MHA Competitions and activities shall be decided upon by the Management Board after it has inspected the halls, sport centres or multi-purpose gyms, as the case may be.

4.2. Rules of the Game, Timekeeping and Supervision

Matches

4.2.1. All competition matches are to be played according to the International Rules of the game. Special rules may be applied by the MHA as it deems necessary through this document or officially released addendums and temporary revisions.

Timekeeping

4.2.2. All matches will be provided with an electric time-keeping apparatus which can be read without difficulty and operated from the official's table. If this is not available, other forms of equipment may be used.

Supervision

4.2.3. The MHA Delegate, Referees, Scorekeeper and Timekeeper shall be appointed by the MHA in any manner the Management Board deems fit.

4.3. Match system & points

Playing time

4.3.1.The normal playing time for all Senior Competitions shall be of 2 halves of thirty (30) minutes with a half-time of five (5) minutes for league competitions and ten (10) minutes for cup competitions, unless otherwise stipulated in Section 15. Playing time for Youth Categories is defined in Section 15 of these regulations.

Points

4.3.2. Points are awarded as follows, unless otherwise stipulated elsewhere in these regulations:

WIN	2 Points
DRAW	1 Point per Team
LOSS	0 Points

4.3.3. The teams' ranking in a league competition is obtained by adding up the number of points won by each team in each match.

4.3.4. Should there be equality of points during and after matches in the national leagues and other competitions played on a round robin format the ranking is determined as follows:

During the competition matches:

1. Superior goal difference from all group matches (achieved by subtraction); then
2. Higher number of goals scored in all group matches; then
3. By alphabetical order.

After completion of the competition matches:

1. Higher number of points obtained in the group matches played among the teams on equal points; then
2. Superior goal difference from the group matches played among the teams in question; then
3. Higher number of goals scored in the group matches played among the teams in question; then
4. Superior goal difference from all group matches (achieved by subtraction); then
5. Higher number of goals scored in all group matches.

4.3.5. If this procedure does not lead to a decision after completion of all competition matches, a draw must decide the ranking. The draw must be carried out by the MHA Management Board in the presence of at least one (1) representative of each team concerned.

4.4. Same Number of Goals in a Knock-Out Matches

Over Time

4.4.1. If the result stands as a draw at the end of the normal period as stated in 4.3.1 above, overtime is played following a 5-minute break as per IHF Rules of the Game (Rule 2).

4.4.2 The overtime period consists of 2 halves of 5 minutes, with 1 minute half-time break.

4.4.3 If the match is tied again after a first overtime period, a second period of overtime is played after a 5 minute break. This overtime period also has 2 halves of 5 minutes with a 1 minute half-time break.

4.4.4 If the match is still tied after the second period of overtime, the winners are determined by penalty throws.

4.5. Penalty Throw Rules

Rules on the Execution of Penalty Throws

4.5.1. Prior to the penalty throws, each team nominates five (5) unique players eligible to play at the end of the match by handing over a hand-written list with the numbers of five (5) unique players to the Delegate. Each of the nominated players shall execute one throw, alternating with their opponents. Teams may choose the order of their throwers freely.

4.5.2. The goalkeepers may be chosen freely and substituted in accordance with the IHF Rules of the Game. Goalkeepers may act as throwers as long as they are indicated in the list mentioned above.

4.5.3. The goal to be used must be decided by the referees. The referees draw lots for deciding which team throws first. The team winning the draw has the right to decide whether it wishes to throw first or second.

4.5.4. The team having scored the highest number of goals after both teams have executed their five (5) throws wins. If the match is still undecided after the first round of penalty throws, the process is repeated until a decision is reached by having one team score a penalty and the other missing their penalty within their same throw (sudden death). Whenever a set of five throws elapses without a winner, each team must nominate five further unique players who may consist of players having already thrown a penalty.

4.5.5. Players and goalkeepers eligible to play are those players on the match report who are not disqualified, excluded or suspended.

4.5.6. Serious violations of the Rules of the Game during the penalty throws will be punished by disqualification in all cases. If a court player or a goalkeeper is disqualified or injured, a substitute with playing eligibility must be nominated.

4.5.7. During each individual throw, only the player executing the throw, the defending goalkeeper and the referees are allowed to be in the respective half of the playing court.

4.5.8. In the case that the number of players eligible to play is lower than five (5), the team concerned has the right to nominate players for a second throw during the same round.

4.6. Transmission of Results and Final League Table

4.6.1. It is the duty of the MHA Management Board to inform the press and news agencies of the results, half-time scores and any special occurrences after each match.

5.0 Prizes

5.1 Senior and Junior Leagues

5.1.1. The winners of Senior League and Youth League Competitions shall each receive a trophy. Prizes for other competitions and standings shall be decided upon by the Management Board.

5.2. Most Valuable Player

5.2.1. The 'Most Valuable Player' award is an award for local players only and it shall be given in all senior league divisions.

5.3. Most Promising Player

5.3.1. The 'Most Promising Player' award shall be given in all younger age categories and is also open for non-Maltese players.

5.4. Non-Maltese Most Valuable Player

5.4.1. An award shall be given to the best performing foreign player in all senior divisions. There must be at least 5 foreign contenders for the award to be given.

5.5. All-Star Team

5.5.1. The All-Star Team award shall be open to all Maltese and Non-Maltese players taking part in the men's and women's Premier League.

5.6. Award System

5.6.1. The system used to award the winners of subsections 5.2. to 5.5. shall be determined by the Management Board in consultation with the participating clubs.

5.7. Top Scorer

5.7.1. The top scorers of the respective leagues will receive a medal or trophy, at the discretion of the MHA Management Board. If two or more players are joint first having scored the same number of goals, then each of these players will be awarded with a medal or a trophy.

5.8. Fair Play

5.8.1. The MHA Management Board shall award a fair play award to any club for fair play. The award shall be decided as per the system outlined in Enclosure 5 .

5.9. Presentation of Competition Prizes

5.9.1. It shall be the practice that competition winners shall be presented with the respective trophy and/or other awards on the field of play right after the last match team in question is participating in. Should this not be possible the MHA Management Board may decide an alternative presentation method.

5.10. Presentation of Individual Awards

5.10.1. Individual awards shall be presented at the end of season event. Should this not be possible the MHA Management Board may decide an alternative presentation method.

6.0. Doping control

6.1 Adherence to Anti-Doping Regulations

6.1.1. Doping control shall be performed in accordance with the MHA Statute, the regulations of the National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO), the International Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and any other local entity regulating doping in Malta. The Anti-Doping rules and regulations of the above-cited entities are an integral part of the MHA rules and regulations.

7.0. Attire and Players

7.1. Attire Colours

7.1.1. Each team is required to have at least one (1) full team attire in light colours and one (1) full team attire in dark colours for all MHA competition' matches.

7.2. Goalkeeper Attire

7.2.1. Goalkeepers' attire must differ from the court players' kit of both teams and from the goalkeeper kit of the opposing team, in both dark colour and light colour kit options.

7.3. Numbering

7.3.1. The players' shirt numbers must be affixed on the back and front of each player's shirt. The numbers must be clearly legible, must range from '1' to '99' and be at least 20 centimetres high on the back and at least 10 centimetres high on the front. The colour of the number must contrast clearly with the colour of the shirt.

7.4. Team Sheet

7.4.1. The players' surnames as announced in the Team Sheet may be displayed in clearly legible Latin letters of a minimum height of 10 cm on the backs of the shirts above the players' numbers.

7.5. Player Names

7.5.1. Exceptions to the above-mentioned requirements regarding players' surnames size on shirts due to long players' names must be subject to the MHA Management Board's prior approval.

7.6. Identical Names

7.6.1. In case two (2) players of the same team having identical surnames, the respective club must inform the MHA Management Board and come to an agreement about the surnames or names to be displayed on the back of their shirts in due time prior to the deadline to submit the team sheet.

7.7. Identification of Playing Attire

7.7.1. A list of the first and second playing attire of each team (players and goalkeepers) shall be provided prior to the commencement of MHA Competitions. The MHA shall provide all the above information to all concerned prior to the commencement of the competitions in a technical meeting. The home team shall always wear the first kit, unless otherwise agreed upon by the teams and the MHA.

7.8. Technical Meeting

7.8.1. For this purpose, a technical meeting organised by the MHA Management Board shall be held prior to the start of the handball season.

7.9. Preference Over Players' Number

7.9.1. Preferably players should wear the same numbers during the entire league.

7.10. Team Attire

7.10.1. Each team must have the two sets of full team kits (home and away colours) present for every match.

7.11. Request to Change Match Attire

7.11.1. If the MHA delegate and MHA referees are of the opinion that the colours of the full team attire chosen by the teams are likely to cause confusion, the guest team must use its other full team attire at the request of the MHA delegate.

7.12. Players Acting as Goalkeepers

7.12.1. Players substituting the goalkeeper should either wear a goalkeeper's shirt with the same player's number or a coloured bib of the same colour of the goalkeeper's shirt. Both front and back numbers should always remain visible.

8.0. Advertising

8.1. Type of advertising

8.1.1. The use of company and product names as well as brand names and product groups are allowed if they are not contrary to public morality. Advertising must not be political, religious, racist or ideological in nature. Restrictions based on national legislation shall be duly observed.

8.2. Advertising on Players' Attire

8.2.1. Advertising is allowed on players' matches and training attire. Advertising on attire shall not be associated with any material benefits for individual persons who are not team sponsors.

8.2.2. Players' playing clothes must comply with the provisions of the IHF Game Rules, unless specifically detailed otherwise in these regulations.

8.2.3.Advertising on playing clothes must not impair legibility of the players' numbers and/or names on shirts.

8.2.4.Players wearing irregular clothing shall not be allowed access to matches.

8.2.5. The back of the shirts above the player's number must be free of any advertising or writing. Only the surname of the player must be visible.

8.3. Advertising in Sports Hall

8.3.1. The MHA Management Board has the right to conduct its own advertising or display additional advertising at league games in accordance with these Regulations.

8.3.2. If the MHA has a main sponsor that sponsor's advertising shall be accorded preference.

9.0. Registration of Teams and Players

9.1. Registration Procedure

9.1.1. Clubs shall be required to register their respective teams with the MHA within the time period stipulated by the MHA at any given year. No late registrations beyond the communicated date shall be accepted.

9.1.2. Registration of teams shall be done through the appropriate means which may be determined by the MHA Management Board from time to time, which shall include the names of Delegates, Referees and Table Officials.

9.1.3. Teams from the same club competing in the same competition shall have different names but may retain the same sponsor before or after the team's name.

9.1.4. All handball players and officials shall be required to register with the Malta Handball Association. Registration of players shall come into effect as of the date of the respective payment or as is earlier indicated by the MHA on a case by case basis.

9.1.5. Notwithstanding anything else contained in these Regulations, a team may register up to 20 players. The number of players may be increased up to 20 during the playing season. It is permitted to reduce the number of players registered with a team by deactivating up to a maximum of three (3) players from each team during the second transfer window. Deactivated players will be considered inactive players and may be re-activated as per Clause 9.5.7.

9.1.6. The MHA shall distinguish between three (3) types of registered players:

a) Non-contract youth players
b) Non-contract senior players
c) Contract players

9.1.7. Non-Contract Youth Players, who shall be players under the age of eighteen (18), shall be registered with the club, and shall remain registered with the same club for a further one (1) calendar year following his/her last match or date of registration, whichever comes last. If a non-contract youth player stops playing for the period indicated above, he/she shall be free released.

9.1.8. Non-Contract Senior Players, who shall be players of the age of eighteen (18) and over, shall be registered with the club, and shall remain registered with the same club for a further two (2) calendar years following his/her last match or date of registration, whichever comes last. If a non-contract senior player stops playing for the period indicated above, he/she shall be free released.

9.1.9. Contract players, 18 years and over, shall be registered with the club. Their registration shall be regulated by the terms and conditions laid in the contract which shall be submitted to the MHA upon registration. Failure to notify the MHA of any such contract before any dispute or protest is submitted, shall result in the player being considered as a non-contract player by MHA wherever these regulations

are concerned. This clause in no way hinders or supersedes the validity of the contract with respect to the Laws of Malta.

9.1.10. As a standard, contracts shall include but are not limited to:

a) Duration, beginning and end date of agreement
b) Obligations of the parties involved
c) Value of player for transfer purposes before the expiry of contract
d) Signature of both parties
e) Details of parties involved including, names and surnames and ID Card numbers

9.1.11. All players who are eligible to participate in multiple categories as per Clause 15.22 shall form part of the 20 registered players only for the team participating in the lowest category they are eligible for and shall not count as part of the 20 registered players limitation for the teams participating in the higher categories, provided the latter teams are fielded by the same club.

9.1.12. Clause revoked

9.1.13. Clause revoked

9.1.14. Refer to Article 15 for player eligibility of specific competitions.

9.1.15. In the event that a club has more than one (1) team in any given competition, the club must register any individual player with one (1) team only and cannot play for the other team within the same division.

9.1.16. Clause revoked

9.1.17. A weekend will be classified as the seventy-two (72) hour period between Friday and Sunday of any given weekend. Matches played within this time frame are to be considered as within the same weekend.

9.1.18. Only up to five (5) officials may be listed in the official team sheet.

9.1.19. Officials may be active players within a club. However, officials from one club may not be officials or active players of another club. However, an official or a player from one club can be an

official of a youth category team of another club. Permission from the parent club must first be sought and granted. The MHA must also be notified and provide approval before this provision may be applied. MHA may, at its discretion, make approval contingent on additional limitations, provided it clearly provides justifications for these limitations. This does not apply to dual registered players.

9.1.20. All teams shall have at least one (1) licenced coach included in the team sheet and at least one registered official on the bench. A licenced coach may be listed as a player provided that another registered official is present on the bench. All MHA rules and regulations about Coaches shall apply and the MHA may at its discretion issue further rules about the licensing of coaches.

9.1.21. The MHA recognises contracts between clubs and their respective officials.

9.1.22. One passport size photo and a copy of the identity card, passport or birth certificate of each player and official are to be submitted together with the MHA registration form which may be applicable from time to time according to these Regulations.

9.2 Eligibility to participate

9.2.1. In accordance with section 9.1 only registered players are eligible to participate in the competitions.

9.2.2. Clubs should be provided with an updated list of eligible players to play for each team in the various categories. This list shall be communicated to all clubs from time to time. Clubs may be permitted to view the actual registration forms at a fee as may be stipulated in the MHA Fines and Fees' Annex.

9.3 Transfer of Players and Officials

9.3.1. Club members are not permitted to contact in any form other club members for transfer purposes. Should a club be interested in engaging any player or official registered with another club, it should first make an official contact with the player's/official's club and register the interest in writing through the official MHA medium, namely the MHA Web Portal or any other means as may be announced by the MHA from time to time depending on exigencies. Clubs are only allowed to contact third party players or officials directly after a period of five (5) calendar days has elapsed from receipt of interest or if the parent club gives clearance to requesting club to speak to said individual.

9.3.2. Infringements of this regulation shall be referred to the MHA Management board who shall in turn refer the case to the Disciplinary Commissioner in line with relevant regulations.

9.3.3. Officials and players are forbidden from attending training sessions or any handball played activities of other clubs prior, during or after the playing season. Special concessions may be made by the MHA upon application of both the club and the player concerned. Infringements shall also be referred to the Management board who in turn will refer the case to the Disciplinary Commissioner.

9.3.4. If any doubt arises as to a club's compliance with this regulation 9.3, The MHA Management Board shall immediately contact the releasing Club to verify the necessary facts.

9.3.5. In the case of contracted players these may be released by their Club subject to the terms and conditions of their contract.

9.3.6. The MHA shall receive from the receiving club or player the transfer fee as stipulated by MHA Management Board. Fees shall be payable within 5 calendar days from the date of transfer or within the date specified on the MHA Invoice whichever comes later. Notwithstanding anything else contained in these regulations, the MHA Management Board shall transfer the amount due to the releasing club within 30 days of the payment made by the receiving club being made to MHA or of the end of the transfer window whichever comes later.

9.3.7. If payment fails to reach the MHA within the period set in Clause 9.3.6, the transfer shall be voided.

9.3.8. If the releasing club wishes to object to the transfer of the player concerned, it must communicate its objections to the MHA within 7 calendar days of the request of transfer form reaching the releasing club. The MHA Management Board shall refer all objections to its Arbitration structures, and a decision will be taken before the 14th calendar day.

9.3.9. If a club does not take part in a competition within a category for two consecutive seasons, all players of that club's team shall be automatically free released on 01 September before the start of the second season or when it becomes reasonably clear that the club will not be participating within the same category for a second season, whichever comes later, unless in that same season the said player is eligible to play in another team within the same club. A EUR 100 administrative fee shall apply

to the receiving club in these cases and these shall be payable to MHA. Up to the day of free release as defined above, normal transfer regulations apply.

9.3.10. No player may be transferred from one club to another during the same playing season once he/she has already taken field with another club in a competition defined in these MHA Competition Regulations that season.

Merger of clubs

9.3.11. If two or more clubs merge into one club, whether retaining the name of one of the clubs or giving a new name to the club, all players belonging to all the clubs merged shall be free released as of date of the signing of the agreement between the parties concerned. The agreement shall be submitted to the MHA Management not later than one (1) week after the signing has taken place. If players previously registered with the merged clubs are subsequently registered with the newly formed club, no transfer fees are applicable and will be considered as new registrations.

Take-Over of Clubs

9.3.12. If a club takes over another club or more clubs, all players of the club/s taken over shall be free released as of the date of the signing of the agreement between the parties concerned. The agreement shall be submitted to the MHA Management Board not later than 1 week after the signing has taken place. If players previously registered with the club being taken over are subsequently registered with the club taking over, no transfer fees are applicable and will be considered as new registrations.

Change in Club Name

9.3.13. Upon receipt of a formal application the Management shall grant a club a change in name unless there is good reason to not grant such request.

Player Loans

9.3.14. A player may be transferred to another club on a loan basis. The loan shall not exceed a period of one playing season however this can be renewed for further seasons. The normal transfer procedure shall be followed.

9.3.15. Players on loan may only act as officials of the senior teams of the club they have been loaned to, except for where Clause 9.1.19 is applied.

9.4. Transfer and Loan Fees

Player Categories

9.4.1. The MHA transfer fees shall distinguish between two (2) categories of non-contracted players:

Non-Contract Senior Players	Handball Players Aged 18 and Over
Non-Contract Youth Players	Handball Players who have not attained the age of 18

9.4.2. The transfer fees as stipulated in the 'MHA Fines and Fees' Annex .

9.4.3. In case of players who have been issued an International Transfer Certificate (ITC), any expenses related to the issuance of the certificate (excluding bank charges and MHA administrative fees) shall be added to the local transfer fees, only in cases where the local transfer occurs within 3 calendar years of the ITC issue date. Proof of expenses incurred must be submitted accordingly.

9.4.4. A fee as stipulated in the 'MHA Fines and Fees' Annex payable to the releasing club shall apply on players being transferred on loan basis.

9.4.5. The MHA shall always retain a percentage of the transfer and loan fees of both contracted and non-contracted as defined in the 'MHA Fines and Fees' Annex, even if players are free released.

9.4.6. For contracted players the percentage fee shall be calculated on the declared written value of player as stipulated in the contract.

9.5. Transfer Windows

Local Transfers

9.5.1. Local transfers shall adhere to a fixed schedule with two designated periods:

a) The first Transfer Window will commence from 1st of June and terminate on the 30th of September of any given year;
b) The second Transfer Window will commence from the 16th of January and will terminate on the 15th of February of any given year.

9.5.2. A local transfer request made during any transfer window will become effective once the player's registration form is submitted, and the transfer is duly confirmed by the MHA Management Board. This may be subsequently nullified and voided as per Clause 9.3.7.

9.5.3. A local registered player who joins another Maltese club in between the two transfer windows following a transfer request, payment of transfer fees, submission of the player's registration form, and a confirmation of the transfer by the MHA Management Board becomes a player of the new club. The day when this player is eligible to play is the first day of the new transfer window.

International Transfers

9.5.4. International transfers shall adhere to a fixed schedule with two designated periods:

a) The first Transfer Window will commence from 1st of June and terminate on the 30th of September of any given year;
b) The second Transfer Window will commence from the 16th of January and will terminate on the 15th of February of any given year.

9.5.5. An international transfer request made within any transfer window will become effective once the International Transfer Certificate (ITC) is issued, any related transfer fees are paid, the player's registration form submitted, and the transfer is duly confirmed by the MHA Management Board.

9.5.6. A non-Maltese registered player who joins a Maltese club in between the two transfer windows following an ITC, payment of any transfer fees, submission of player's registration form and a confirmation of the transfer by the MHA Management Board becomes a player of the new club. The day when this player is eligible to play is the first day of the new transfer window.

Inactive Players

9.5.7. A player who is registered with a club and who is inactive, can be activated with a team of that club at any time during the season, unless specifically forbidden by other clauses in these regulations.

9.5.8. Registered but inactivated players can be transferred or loaned during the transfer windows, provided they had not been listed on a specific match team sheet of any team during that particular season.

Players on Loan

9.5.9. Players can only be loaned during the First Transfer Window which will commence from 1st of June and terminate on the 30th of September of any given year.

9.6. Non-Maltese Players

9.6.1. All non-Maltese players, as well as returning local players, who were issued an international transfer certificate to play in another country shall make available to the MHA:

a. A request to the MHA to apply for the International Transfer Certificate. Until such a certificate is issued the player concerned shall not be eligible to play in the national league;

b. Copy of passport or ID Card;

c. MHA registration form.

9.6.2. The registration of the player shall come into effect when the International Transfer Certificate is issued and MHA registration approved. The MHA may, in exceptional cases where no feedback on ITC Requests is provided within a 21 day period by the Releasing Federation or IHF/EHF, grant temporary approval to participate in competitions until an ITC is issued.

9.6.3. The MHA shall process the application of request for an International Transfer Certificates within 7 calendar days of receipt of request. An administration fee as stipulated in the 'MHA Fines and Fees'

Annex shall apply. The MHA shall also notify releasing clubs of any request for International Transfer Certificates made for players registered with the respective club within 7 calendar days of receipt of request.

9.6.4. The MHA shall pass on to the receiving club any other charges the MHA might incur for the issuance of the International Certificate. Any income obtained from international transfers of local players shall be passed on to the releasing club.

9.6.5. Teams may register a maximum of five (5) non-Maltese registered players, and a maximum of three (3) non-Maltese players eligible to play during a fixture.

9.6.6. A non-Maltese player is considered such when he/she does not satisfy any of the following conditions:

a) hold a Maltese passport;
b) is eligible to play for the Maltese National Team;
c) is a home-grown player.

9.6.7 A home-grown player is considered such when he/she has been registered with a local club and participated in MHA Competitions for two (2) full consecutive seasons as a non-contract youth player.

9.7 Dual Registrations

9.7.1. The purpose of the Handball Dual Registration Rule is two-fold: i) to provide players with additional development opportunities where their club does not offer participation in a category they are eligible for without leaving said club, ii) to safeguard the interests of all clubs involved, while providing smaller clubs a path towards growth and sustainability.

9.7.2. A player may be granted a Dual Registration when their primary club ('Mother Club') does not have a team registered in a category they are eligible for as per Clause 15 of these Competition Regulations.

9.7.3. A Dual Registration shall require:

a) Written request of the Receiving Club;
b) Written consent of the Mother Club;
c) Written acceptance of the player or, where applicable, the player's parent or legal guardian.

No Dual Registration application shall be approved by MHA without the agreement of all parties listed above.

9.7.4. A player may be dual registered only once per playing season. Registration with the Receiving Club will be automatically revoked after the last day of the playing season.

9.7.5. A dual registered player shall be eligible to play for one team and one team only of the receiving club, and this is subject to that team participating in a category that i) the player is eligible to play in as per these Competition Regulations and ii) the Mother Club is not participating in during that season.

9.7.6. A dual registered player shall be considered a full club member of their Mother Club. They may attend training sessions, matches and events of their Mother Club and may also take the role of a club official.

9.7.7. A dual registered player shall be considered as only a member of the team of the Receiving Club. They may attend training sessions and matches of that team and may not take the role of a club official.

9.7.8. For clarity, as per Clause 9.1.11, a dual registered player shall always count towards the limit of 20 players in a team as per Clause 9.1.5 when playing with the Receiving Team. Same regulations as for single registered players shall apply when playing for their Mother Club.

9.7.9. A fee dual that of a normal registration with the Mother Club shall apply to the Receiving Club.

9.7.10 The windows for dual registrations shall be the same as the transfer windows defined in Section 9.5 of these regulations. An extension up to the 31 October 2026 shall be applicable only for Season 2026 – 2027.

10.0 Match Day Regulations

Application of IHF Regulations

10.1. MHA applies the IHF Rules of the Game, in relation to any Match Day fixture.

Walkovers

10.2. Teams must be on court, with at least five (5) players, ten (10) minutes before the scheduled time of the game. If one or both teams are not present on court at the start of game a ten-minute (10) grace period will be respected. A walkover will be awarded if one of the teams still fails to turn up with at least five (5) players after the ten-minute (10) grace is over.

Team Sheet

10.3. Only players listed on the team sheet are eligible to participate. Players and officials who are not present at the beginning of the match should not be included in the team sheet. However, the number of players on a team can be increased up to 16 at any time during the match, including extra-time. This also applies to officials. The maximum number of team officials on the team sheet is five (5).

10.4. Clubs must submit an MHA Team-Sheet to the MHA Delegate at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time of the start of the match. Any changes to this line up can be carried out until throw-off provided the scorekeeper in the presence of the delegate is informed by the responsible team official. All shirt numbers must be written in ascending order. Team sheets must be submitted through the electronic system operated by MHA or in cases where MHA advises that this is not possible, hardcopy team sheets duly filled and signed by the responsible team official must be submitted.

Arriving Late

10.5. Players and team officials who arrive late must obtain permission to participate from the officials' table. Should any players or officials not be present at throw-off, the responsible team official shall inform the delegate that this player or official may be arriving late. In such cases, upon arrival, the responsible team official shall inform the delegate of the arrival and the player / official in question added to the team sheet by the responsible table official.

Leaving During a Match

10.6. All players and officials listed in the match report are not allowed to leave the playing area until the very end of the match. In cases where a player or official leaves the match prior to the very end, a note shall be made by the delegate on the match report. Disqualified players are to remain in view of the MHA delegate until the end of the match.

10.7. Match Procedure

General Procedure

10.7.1. All MHA competition matches are played in conformity with the applicable Rules of the Games distributed by the IHF subject to the following specifications:

a) Teams can play with up to sixteen (16) players

b) Only five (5) officials are eligible to be in the substitution area during the match

c) Chairs instead of benches can be installed in the substitution area

d) The requirements concerning the substitution area set-up defined in Enclosure 1 prevail

e) Each team has the right to receive a maximum of three (3) team timeouts during regular playing time. No more than two team time-outs may be granted in each half of the regular playing time. Between two team timeouts of a team, the opponent must be at least once in possession of the ball. Three cards, bearing numbers T1, T2, and T3 respectively, are available for each team. The teams receive cards bearing numbers 'T1' and 'T2' in the first half of the game and the cards no. 'T2' and no. 'T3' in the second half provided they received no more than one team time-out in the first half. In case they received two team time-outs in the first half, they will receive only card no. 'T3'. Within the last 5 minutes of the regular playing time only one team timeout per team is allowed.

   Note: This may differ in specific youth competitions if specifically defined in Clause 15 of these Competition Regulations.

Additional requirements

10.7.2. During the team line-up, the entire team must wear identical clothing, being either the approved full team kit to be worn during the match or tracksuits (except goalkeepers).

10.7.3. Players are allowed to wear undergarments if the colour is in contrast with the kits of the opposing team.

10.7.4. The team officials on the bench must wear clothing having clearly distinct colour(s) from the colour(s) of the opponent team's playing kit.

10.7.5. At the end of the match, both teams shall line-up in the middle of the court and pass by giving 'high five' as described in Enclosure 3. Players who have received a disqualification during the match are not allowed to take part in the post-match procedure.

Match report preparation

10.7.6. The match report containing the names of the players and officials of the teams as well as their respective numbers or letters is prepared by the nominated scorekeeper based on the Teams' sheet. It is checked by the MHA delegate(s).

10.7.7 Clause revoked

10.7.8. The MHA delegate coordinates and is responsible for the match report procedure before the throw-off.

Disqualification of Players and Officials (During Matches)

10.7.9. A disqualified player or official shall immediately leave the playing court. The player or official shall continue to follow the match from the stands at a place indicated by the MHA Delegate or the referee/s. All other rules shall apply.

Supporters

10.7.10. At their discretion, the Management Board may decide to allocate a specific seating area on the stands for each club. In such cases, while Club supporters are not obliged to sit and watch matches

only in the allocated area, they shall actively and demonstrably support their respective clubs only from their respective seating allocation.

Pre-Match Procedure

10.7.11. Under special circumstances, as decided by the MHA Management Board, the pre-match procedure described in Enclosure 2 may be applied.

11.0 Playing Halls and Handballs

11.1 Competition Venues

11.1.1. Competition matches shall be played in halls on the playing surfaces considered appropriate by the MHA Management Board.

11.2 Substitution Area

11.2.1. During the matches only the players and team officials on the score sheet may be allowed to stay in the substitution area.

11.3 Match Balls

11.3.1. Competition matches shall be played with balls approved by the MHA Management Board.

12.0 Protests and Appeals

12.1. All protests and appeals will be subject to the general provisions as provided in the Legal Regulations of the MHA.

13.0 MHA Officials

MHA Delegates

13.1. The main duty of the delegates is to ensure a proper carrying out of the match. They should try to avoid any protests. A delegate is, however, not a referee. The MHA Delegate does not make any decisions but can only give recommendations. When on duty, he/she carries with him/her a copy of the IHF/MHA regulations as well as the Rules of the Game.

13.2. During the match, the officially appointed delegate shall be seated at the timekeeper's table.

13.3. The system for nominating and appointing Delegates, Referees and Table-Officials are enclosed in Enclosure 4: Club Nominations for MHA officials.

14.0 Extraordinary Instances

Electrical Faults

14.1. In case of extraordinary instances such as electricity cuts or blackouts, before or during the matches, the referees and the MHA delegate will deal with the case as it arises. They will do their utmost to have the match played.

Prolonged Delays

14.2. If the match is stopped for more than 30 minutes the match will be continued on another day. The MHA Management Board shall decide when and where the match shall be continued.

Serious Injuries

14.3. In cases where players are seriously injured, the game may be interrupted by the referees for not more than 15 minutes, unless the situation cannot be remedied and resolved without a longer interruption, keeping in mind the best interests of the injured player. The game shall then continue, unless Clause 14.2 applies.

Insufficient Number of Referees

14.4. If only one of the nominated referees is present to officiate the match, the match may be officiated solely by the referee who is present, should he/she accept to do so, provided the delegate is present and in agreement. If none of the referees are present to officiate the match, or the referee and delegate are not comfortable having the match officiated by one referee, the match shall be postponed. In such cases of missing officials, irrespective of whether the match is played with one referee or not, penalties as per Enclosure 4 of these Competition Regulations may be applied.

15.0 Handball Competitions

15.1 Decision Making

15.1.1. The MHA Management Board shall decide on the playing schedule of all competitions and issue them in good time prior to the start of the playing season.

15.1.2. Only the MHA Management Board has the power to change the playing schedule.

15.1.3. The MHA Management Board shall reserve the right to change any of the hereunder Competition names under this article as they deem fit.

Senior Competitions

15.2 Men's Premier League

15.2.1. A club may register only one (1) team per club in this competition.

15.2.2. Clause revoked.

15.2.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with a minimum of three (3) rounds as decided by the management board and communicated through the fixtures.

15.2.4 Without prejudice to any other clause in these rules and regulations, the following eligibility criteria apply:

a) All senior male players defined as 21+ players as per Clause 15.22.1, provided they are not active with another team participating in the Men's Championship League;

b) All senior Non-Maltese male players defined as U21 players as per Clause 15.22.1, provided they are not active with another team participating in the Men's Championship League and subject to Clause 9.6.5;

c) All senior Maltese or Home-Grown male players defined as U21 players as per Clause 15.22.1. These players do not form part of the twenty (20) senior players allowed by one team as per Clause 9.1.5;

d) All youth male players satisfying Clause 15.22.

15.2.5 A club cannot compete in this competition without having had at least one team competing in the male youth age categories throughout the entire previous season. Such Clubs shall automatically be excluded from registering for this competition the following season. A waiver of two playing seasons shall be made in respect of newly registered clubs, while additional waivers may be granted by the MHA Management board in extraordinary circumstances.

15.3 Men's Championship League

15.3.1. A club may register more than one (1) team in this competition.

15.3.2. Clause revoked.

15.3.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with a minimum of two (2) rounds as decided by the management board and communicated through the fixtures.

15.3.4 Without prejudice to any other clause in these rules and regulations, the following eligibility criteria apply:

a) All senior male players who do not satisfy the U21 criteria as per Clause 15.22.1, provided:

i. they are not active with another team participating in the Men's Premier League; and

ii. they have not been part of Senior National Team Selections for Official EHF / IHF Indoor Handball Competitions in the previous 48 calendar months during which time they were classified as 21+ players. For clarity, if a player was classified as U21 during their inclusion in the selection, this clause will not apply.

Note: If a player was eligible to play for a Championship League team on the day of closure of acceptance of team registrations, but is later included in the final selection of the Senior National Team for an Official EHF / IHF Indoor Handball Competition, that player shall still remain eligible to continue playing for the Championship League team until the end of the season.

b) All senior Non-Maltese male players defined as U21 players as per Clause 15.22.1, provided they are not active with another team participating in the Men's Premier League and subject to Clause 9.6.5;

c) All senior Maltese or Home-Grown male players defined as U21 players as per Clause 15.22.1;

d) All youth male players satisfying Clause 15.22

15.3.5 Notwithstanding any other clause in these regulations, if a club has more than one team participating in this competition, any individual player is only eligible to play with one (1) and the same team throughout the entire season and may at no point be eligible to play for another team in the same competition, even of the same club.

For clarity, if a player is deactivated from a team as per Clause 9.1.5, they may not be activated with a different team competing in in the same league competition as the team they were deactivated from in the same season. They may however be activated in the same team.

15.4 Men's Knock-Out Cup Competition

15.4.1. The Knock-Out Cup Competition is a competition for senior teams taking part in both the Senior Men's Leagues defined in Sections 15.2 and 15.3. A club may take part in the Knock-Out Competition with more than one (1) senior team, provided the players in each team are eligible to play with that same team in their respective leagues

15.4.2. This competition shall be organized in a knock-out format with Premier League registered teams being seeded for the 1st round draw.

15.4.3. The winners of the Quarterfinal will continue to Knock-Out Cup Competition Semi-Finals. The Losers of the Quarterfinal will enter the Semi-Finals of the Louis Borg Cup.

15.5 Men's Super Cup

15.5.1. The Super Cup is a competition for senior teams, and it is played between the Men's Premier League Winner and the Men's Knock-Out Cup Winner of the previous season. This competition will not be held in Season 2026 – 2027 as this has already been played in April 2026.

15.5.2. In case the same team wins both competitions, the Super Cup is played between the Premier League Winner and the Finalists of the Knock-Out Cup.

15.5.3 Without prejudice to anything else contained in these rules and regulations, all players eligible to play in the Premier or Championship divisions are permitted to participate.

15.6 Women's Premier League

15.6.1. A club may register only one (1) team per club in this competition.

15.6.2. Clause revoked.

15.6.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with a minimum of three (3) rounds as decided by the management board and communicated through the fixtures.

15.6.4 Without prejudice to any other clause in these rules and regulations, the following eligibility criteria apply:

a) All senior female players defined as 21+ players as per Clause 15.22.1, provided they are not active with another team participating in the Women's Championship League;

b) All senior Non-Maltese female players defined as U21 players as per Clause 15.22.1, provided they are not active with another team participating in the Women's Championship League and subject to Clause 9.6.5;

c) All senior Maltese or Home-Grown female players defined as U21 players as per Clause 15.22.1. These players do not form part of the twenty (20) senior players allowed by one team as per Clause 9.1.5;

d) All youth female players satisfying Clause 15.22

15.6.5 A club cannot compete in this competition without having had at least one team competing in the female youth age categories throughout the entire previous season. Such Clubs shall automatically be excluded from registering for this competition the following season. A waiver of two playing seasons shall be made in respect of newly registered clubs, while additional waivers may be granted by the MHA Management board in extraordinary circumstances.

15.7 Women's Championship League

15.7.1. A club may register more than one (1) team in this competition.

15.7.2. Clause revoked.

15.7.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with a minimum of three (3) rounds as decided by the management board and communicated through the fixtures.

15.7.4 Without prejudice to any other clause in these rules and regulations, the following eligibility criteria apply:

a) All senior female players who do not satisfy the U21 criteria as per Clause 15.22.1, provided:

   i. they are not active with another team participating in the Women's Premier League; and

   ii. they have not been part of Senior National Team Selections for Official EHF / IHF Indoor Handball Competitions in the previous 48 calendar months during which time they were classified as 21+ players. For clarity, if a player was classified as U21 during their inclusion in the selection, this clause will not apply.

   Note: If a player was eligible to play for a Championship League team on the day of closure of acceptance of team registrations, but is later included in the final selection of the Senior National Team for an Official EHF / IHF Indoor Handball Competition, that player shall still remain eligible to continue playing for the Championship League team until the end of the season.

b) All senior Non-Maltese female players defined as U21 players as per Clause 15.22.1, provided they are not active with another team participating in the Women's Premier League and subject to Clause 9.6.5;

c) All senior Maltese or Home-Grown female players defined as U21 players as per Clause 15.22.1;

d) All youth female players satisfying Clause 15.22

15.7.5 Notwithstanding any other clause in these regulations, if a club has more than one team participating in this competition, any individual player is only eligible to play with one (1) and the same team throughout the entire season and may at no point be eligible to play for another team in the same competition, even of the same club.

For clarity, if a player is deactivated from a team as per Clause 9.1.5, they may not be activated with a different team competing in in the same league competition as the team they were deactivated from in the same season. They may however be activated in the same team.

15.8 Women's Knock-Out Cup Competition

15.8.1. The Knock-Out Cup Competition is a competition for senior teams taking part in both the Senior Women's Leagues defined in Sections 15.6 and 15.7. A club may take part in the Knock-Out Competition with more than one (1) senior team, provided the players in each team are eligible to play with that same team in their respective leagues

15.8.2. This competition shall be organized in a knock-out format with Premier League registered teams being seeded for the 1st round draw.

15.8.3. The winners of the Quarterfinal will continue to Knock-Out Cup Competition Semi-Finals. The Losers of the Quarterfinal will enter the Semi-Finals of the Louis Borg Cup.

15.9 Women's Super Cup

15.9.1. The Super Cup is a competition for senior teams, and it is played between the Women's Premier League Winner and the Women's Knock-Out Cup Winner of the previous season. This competition will not be held in Season 2026 – 2027 as this has already been played in April 2026.

15.9.2. In case the same team wins both competitions, the Super Cup is played between the Premier League Winner and the Finalists of the Knock-Out Cup.

15.9.3 Without prejudice to anything else contained in these rules and regulations, all players eligible to play in the Premier or Championship divisions are permitted to participate.

15.10 Men's and Women's Under 19 Tournaments

15.10.1. A club may register more than one (1) team in Men's Under 19 Tournaments and more than one (1) team in the Women's Under 19 Tournaments. Registration is to be confirmed prior to every tournament and is required at least 14 days before the fixture.

15.10.2 A team list shall be submitted for each tournament, with each individual player only being listed in the team sheet of one (1) team, even if the club has registered more than one (1) team for the tournament. While team composition and players' list may change from one tournament to the next, it cannot be changed within the same tournament.

15.10.3. The structure will be based on a minimum of two (2) day tournaments. Number and duration of matches in a given tournament will be determined based on the number of participating teams and at least seven (7) calendar days before the scheduled tournaments.

15.10.4. All male players defined as U19 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in the men's competition, while all female players defined as U19 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in the women's competition.

Youth Competitions

15.11 Boys' Under 17 League

15.11.1. A club may register more than one (1) team in this competition.

15.11.2. Clause revoked.

15.11.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with a minimum of three (3) rounds as decided by the management board and communicated through the fixtures.

15.11.4 The normal playing time of matches shall be that of two halves of 30 minutes with a 5-minute half-time break.

15.11.5 All male players defined as U17 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in this competition.

15.11.6 Notwithstanding any other clause in these regulations, if a club has more than one team participating in this competition, any individual player is only eligible to play with one (1) and the same

team throughout the entire season and may at no point be eligible to play for another team in the same competition, even of the same club.

For clarity, if a player is deactivated from a team as per Clause 9.1.5, they may not be activated with a different team competing in in the same league competition as the team they were deactivated from in the same season. They may however be activated in the same team.

15.11.7 Man-marking one or more individual players is not permitted, unless a full man-to-man defense system is applied. It is up to discretion of the referees to stop play whenever required and enforce this regulation.

15.12 Boys' Under 17 Cup

15.12.1. The Knock-Out Cup Competition is a competition for U17 boys' teams. A club may take part in the Cup Competition with more than one (1) team, provided the players in each team are eligible to play with that same team in their respective leagues.

15.12.2. This competition shall be organized in a knock-out format.

15.12.3 The normal playing time of matches shall be that of two halves of 30 minutes with a 10-minute half-time break.

15.12.4 Man-marking one or more individual players is not permitted, unless a full man-to-man defense system is applied. It is up to discretion of the referees to stop play whenever required and enforce this regulation.

15.13 Girls' Under 17 League

15.13.1 A club may register more than one (1) team in this competition.

15.13.2 Clause revoked.

15.13.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with a minimum of three (3) rounds as decided by the management board and communicated through the fixtures.

15.13.4 The normal playing time of matches shall be that of two halves of 30 minutes with a 5-minute half-time break.

15.13.5 All female players defined as U17 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in this competition.

15.13.6 Notwithstanding any other clause in these regulations, if a club has more than one team participating in this competition, any individual player is only eligible to play with one (1) and the same team throughout the entire season and may at no point be eligible to play for another team in the same competition, even of the same club.

For clarity, if a player is deactivated from a team as per Clause 9.1.5, they may not be activated with a different team competing in in the same league competition as the team they were deactivated from in the same season. They may however be activated in the same team.

15.13.7 Man-marking one or more individual players is not permitted, unless a full man-to-man defense system is applied. It is up to discretion of the referees to stop play whenever required and enforce this regulation.

15.14 Girls' Under 17 Cup

15.14.1. The Knock-Out Cup Competition is a competition for U17 girls' teams. A club may take part in the Cup Competition with more than one (1) team, provided the players in each team are eligible to play with that same team in their respective leagues.

15.14.2. This competition shall be organized in a knock-out format.

15.14.3 The normal playing time of matches shall be that of two halves of 30 minutes with a 10-minute half-time break.

15.14.4 Man-marking one or more individual players is not permitted, unless a full man-to-man defense system is applied. It is up to discretion of the referees to stop play whenever required and enforce this regulation.

15.15 Boys' Under 15 Cup

15.15.1. A club may register more than one (1) team in this competition, provided the players in each team are eligible to play with that same team in their respective leagues.

15.15.2. Clause revoked.

15.15.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with one round and scheduled before the commencement of the league.

15.15.4 The normal playing time of matches shall be that of three standalone periods (sets) of 15 minutes each with a 3-minute break in between periods. A maximum of one timeout per period is allowed.

15.15.5 The following defense requirements shall apply for this competition:

a) Period 1: Aggressive 6-0 Zonal Defense
b) Period 2: 5-1 or 4-2 Zonal Defense
c) Period 3: Unrestricted Defense

15.15.6 The goals scored during a period shall be kept normally, and reset to 0-0 at the start of every period. At the end of the period, set points shall be assigned as follows:

Set Result	**Set Points Awarded**
Win	2
Draw	1
Loss	0

15.15.7 At the end of the match all set points are added to award match points, however these are capped at 4. No team shall be awarded more than 4 points each match.

15.15.8 Apart from the score, any active suspension at the end of each period will also be reset at the start of the next period. However, the count of suspensions by the same player is not reset. A disqualification shall be awarded to a player at the third cumulative suspension in the match, irrespective of the period in which they were awarded. Players disqualified in any period of the match shall not participate in the remainder of that match. Any reports or disciplinary action arising from disqualifications shall follow standard protocol and procedure.

15.15.9 All male players defined as U15 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in this competition.

15.15.10 Notwithstanding any other clause in these regulations, if a club has more than one team participating in this competition, any individual player is only eligible to play with one (1) and the same team throughout the entire season and may at no point be eligible to play for another team in the same competition, even of the same club.

For clarity, if a player is deactivated from a team as per Clause 9.1.5, they may not be activated with a different team competing in in the same league competition as the team they were deactivated from in the same season. They may however be activated in the same team.

15.15.11 Man-marking one or more individual players is not permitted, unless a full man-to-man defense system is applied. It is up to discretion of the referees to stop play whenever required and enforce this regulation.

15.16 Boys' Under 15 League

15.16.1. A club may register more than one (1) team in this competition.

15.16.2. Clause revoked.

15.16.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with a minimum of two (2) rounds as decided by the management board and communicated through the fixtures.

15.16.4 The normal playing time of matches shall be that of two halves of 25 minutes with a 5-minute half-time break.

15.16.5 There shall be no restrictions on the defense requirements for this competition, except that defined by Clause 15.16.8.

15.16.6 All male players defined as U15 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in this competition.

15.16.7 Notwithstanding any other clause in these regulations, if a club has more than one team participating in this competition, any individual player is only eligible to play with one (1) and the same team throughout the entire season and may at no point be eligible to play for another team in the same competition, even of the same club.

For clarity, if a player is deactivated from a team as per Clause 9.1.5, they may not be activated with a different team competing in in the same league competition as the team they were deactivated from in the same season. They may however be activated in the same team.

15.16.8 Man-marking one or more individual players is not permitted, unless a full man-to-man defense system is applied. It is up to discretion of the referees to stop play whenever required and enforce this regulation.

15.17 Girls' Under 15 Cup

15.17.1. A club may register more than one (1) team in this competition, provided the players in each team are eligible to play with that same team in their respective leagues.

15.17.2. Clause revoked.

15.17.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with one round and scheduled before the commencement of the league.

15.17.4 The normal playing time of matches shall be that of three periods of 15 minutes each with a 3-minute break in between periods. A maximum of one timeout per period is allowed.

15.17.5 The following defense requirements shall apply for this competition:

a) Period 1: Aggressive 6-0 Zonal Defense
b) Period 2: 5-1 or 4-2 Zonal Defense
c) Period 3: Unrestricted Defense

15.17.6 The goals scored during a period shall be kept normally, and reset to 0-0 at the start of every period. At the end of the period, set points shall be assigned as follows:

Set Result	**Set Points Awarded**
Win	2
Draw	1
Loss	0

15.17.7 At the end of the match all set points are added to award match points, however these are capped at 4. No team shall be awarded more than 4 points each match.

15.17.8 Apart from the score, any active suspension at the end of each period will also be reset at the start of the next period. However, the count of suspensions by the same player is not reset. A disqualification shall be awarded to a player at the third cumulative suspension in the match, irrespective of the period in which they were awarded. Players disqualified in any period of the match shall not participate in the remainder of that match. Any reports or disciplinary action arising from disqualifications shall follow standard protocol and procedure.

15.17.9 All female players defined as U15 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in this competition.

15.17.10 Notwithstanding any other clause in these regulations, if a club has more than one team participating in this competition, any individual player is only eligible to play with one (1) and the same

team throughout the entire season and may at no point be eligible to play for another team in the same competition, even of the same club.

For clarity, if a player is deactivated from a team as per Clause 9.1.5, they may not be activated with a different team competing in in the same league competition as the team they were deactivated from in the same season. They may however be activated in the same team.

15.17.11 Man-marking one or more individual players is not permitted, unless a full man-to-man defense system is applied. It is up to discretion of the referees to stop play whenever required and enforce this regulation.

15.18 Girls' Under 15 League

15.18.1. A club may register more than one (1) team in this competition.

15.18.2. Clause revoked.

15.18.3 The competition shall be organized as a round robin format with a minimum of two (2) rounds as decided by the management board and communicated through the fixtures.

15.18.4 The normal playing time of matches shall be that of two halves of 25 minutes with a 5-minute half-time break.

15.18.5 There shall be no restrictions on the defense requirements for this competition.

15.18.6 All female players defined as U15 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in this competition.

15.18.7 Notwithstanding any other clause in these regulations, if a club has more than one team participating in this competition, any individual player is only eligible to play with one (1) and the same team throughout the entire season and may at no point be eligible to play for another team in the same competition, even of the same club.

For clarity, if a player is deactivated from a team as per Clause 9.1.5, they may not be activated with a different team competing in in the same league competition as the team they were deactivated from in the same season. They may however be activated in the same team.

15.18.8 Man-marking one or more individual players is not permitted, unless a full man-to-man defense system is applied. It is up to discretion of the referees to stop play whenever required and enforce this regulation.

Mini-Handball Festivals

15.19 Under 13 Festivals

15.19.1. A club may register more than one (1) team for these festivals.

15.19.2 A team list shall be submitted for each tournament, with each individual player only being listed in the team sheet of one (1) team, even if the club has registered more than one (1) team for the tournament. While team composition and players' list may change from one tournament to the next, it cannot be changed within the same tournament.

15.19.3. The structure will be based on a minimum of seven (7) festivals. Number and duration of matches in any given festival will be determined based on the number of participating teams and at least seven (7) calendar days before the scheduled festivals.

15.19.4. All players defined as U13 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in these events.

15.20 Under 10 Festivals

15.20.1. A club may register more than one (1) team for these festivals.

15.20.2 A team list shall be submitted for each tournament, with each individual player only being listed in the team sheet of one (1) team, even if the club has registered more than one (1) team for the

tournament. While team composition and players' list may change from one tournament to the next, it cannot be changed within the same tournament.

15.20.3. The structure will be based on a minimum of seven (7) festivals. Number and duration of matches in any given festival will be determined based on the number of participating teams and at least seven (7) calendar days before the scheduled festivals.

15.20.4. All players defined as U10 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in these events.

15.21 Under 8 Festivals

15.21.1. A club may register more than one (1) team for these festivals.

15.21.2 A team list shall be submitted for each tournament, with each individual player only being listed in the team sheet of one (1) team, even if the club has registered more than one (1) team for the tournament. While team composition and players' list may change from one tournament to the next, it cannot be changed within the same tournament.

15.21.3. The structure will be based on a minimum of seven (7) festivals. Number and duration of matches in any given festival will be determined based on the number of participating teams and at least seven (7) calendar days before the scheduled festivals.

15.21.4. All players defined as U8 players as per Clause 15.22.1 shall be eligible to participate in these events.

15.22 Age Category Eligibility

15.22.1 Players born in the years detailed in the table below shall be defined to belong to the respective age category in the first column and shall hence be eligible to participate in the respective MHA Competitions and Events:

Category	Season 2026 - 2027	Season 2027 - 2028	Season 2028 - 2029
Premier	2011 and older	2012 and older	2013 and older
Championship	2011 and older	2012 and older	2013 and older
U21	2006 - 2011	2007 - 2012	2008 - 2013
U19	2008 - 2012	2009 - 2013	2010 - 2014
U17	2010 - 2013	2011 - 2014	2012 - 2015
U15	2012 - 2015	2013 - 2016	2014 - 2017
U13	2014 - 2017	2015 - 2018	2016 - 2019
U10	2016 - 2019	2017 - 2020	2018 - 2021
U8	2018 - 2021	2019 - 2022	2020 - 2023
U6	2020 - 2022	2021 - 2023	2022 - 2024

15.22.2 Players who are up to one year younger than the minimum age defined in Clause 15.22.1 for a specific category may still be permitted to participate in competitions of that category provided the 'Consent and Liability Waiver' Form in Enclosure 7 is duly filled and signed by the legal guardian/s of the player.

15.22.3 MHA Management may grant limited exemptions for newly registered clubs in their first year of operation. Exemptions shall be limited to festivals only.

16.0 Failure to Adhere to the Applicable Points

16.1. Any failure in adherence to one (1) or more of the provisions stated in these regulations must be referred to the MHA Management Board which is empowered to issue penalties as stipulated by these Competition Regulations or the Legal Regulations as applicable.

Enclosure 1: Substitution Area Set-Up

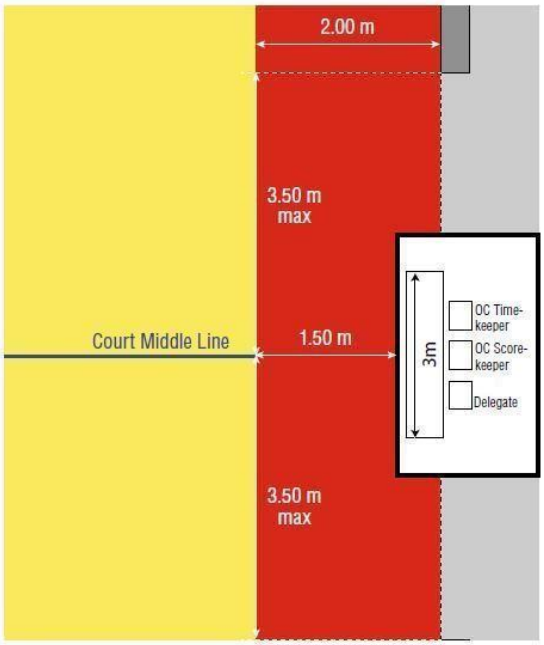
The substitution area of the playing halls hosting the MHA matches must measure: 2mx24m. Adhesive tape or any other kind of stickers may be affixed on the substitution area.

A judges' table of an approximate size of 3m x 0,75m x 0,60m must be set-up. Places at the judges' table must be reserved for the MHA delegate(s), the timekeeper and the score-keeper.

Benches or sixteen (16) chairs must be installed in the substitution area on each side of the judges' table side. Chairs must be tied together. The first chair must be placed on each side 3,5m maximum from the centre line.

Those requirements are detailed in the following graphs:

Substitution area and judges table measurements



Enclosure 2: Pre Match Procedure

Fifteen minutes before throw-off, all participants—including flags, mascots, referees, and teams—gather at the designated entry meeting point, located in a pre-defined corner of the playing hall. At this stage, no one involved in the pre-match procedure may leave the playing court area.

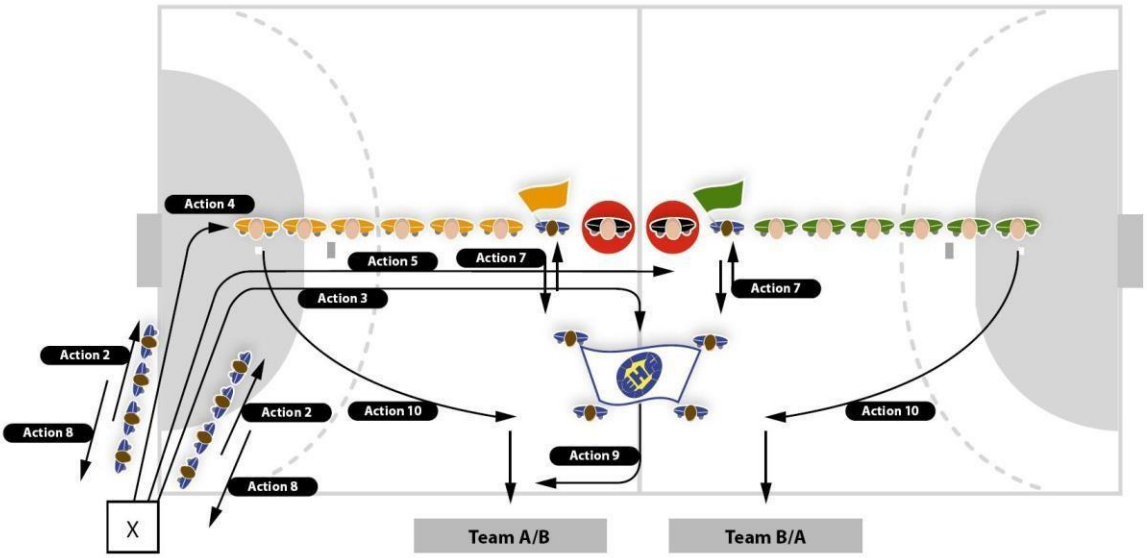
The protocol begins with four children presenting the event flag, marching in single file to the center of the court, turning toward the judges' table, and stopping five meters in front of it, with the front children kneeling.

This is followed by the team line-ups: first, Referee A enters with Team A's mascot to their right, then Team A's captain, and finally the rest of Team A. Next, Referee B enters with Team B's mascot to their left, then Team B's captain, followed by the rest of Team B. The mascots carry their respective national flags and serve as links between the referees and team captains.

Introductions are then made for Team A and its officials, Team B and its officials, and finally the referees and MHA officials, coinciding with the optional start of TV coverage. The national anthems are played in order, with each team's mascot stepping forward and turning toward their team while presenting the flag.

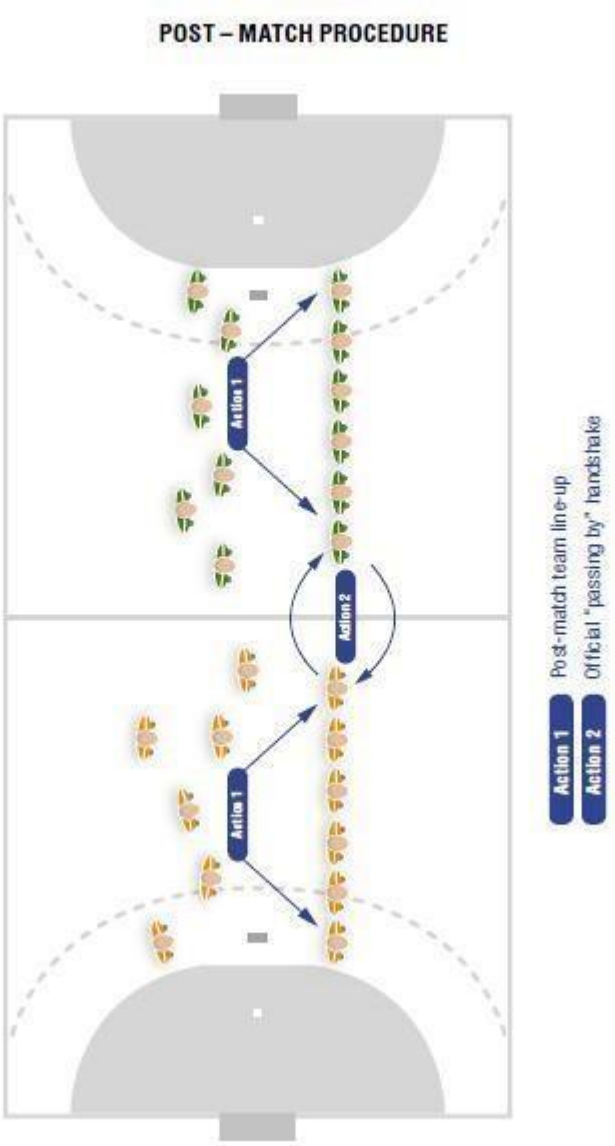
A fair play announcement follows, along with final team preparations, before the MHA delegate, supported by the floor manager, orders the throw-off.

pre-match procedure



Action 1	10′ prior to throw-off, line-up assembly at meeting point
Action 2	9′ 45″ prior to throw-off, players' escorts form a corridor in 2 lines (optional)
Action 3	EURO Championship flag presentation
Action 4	Team A/B line-up
Action 5	Team B/A line-up
Action 6	Presentation of players and officials
Action 7	National anthems of team A and B, and national flags presentation
Action 8	Exit of players' escort corridor
Action 9	Exit of EURO Championship flag mascots
Action 10	Face to face line-up (exchange of gifts / match preparation / fair play announcement)

Enclosure 3 : Post-Match Procedure



Enclosure 4: Club Nominations for MHA Officials

4.1 All clubs shall list all their active match officials as part of the Season Teams Registration Form. Additional officials may be added through the season, provided they are approved by the MHA.

4.2 MHA shall strive to fill nominations directly with registered approved match officials.

4.3 Where no nomination is possible by the MHA, the Association shall list the name of the club responsible to provide a nominee. The club shall only nominate an official from the approved list of officials as categorised and communicated from time to time by the Chief Match Officiating Officer.

4.4 The required training for table-officials as well as courses for new referees and delegates shall take place as may be decided from time to time by the MHA Management Board.

4.5 All MHA Officials are subject to any rules and regulations published by the MHA Management Board from time to time, including but not limited to the MHA Code of Ethics.

4.6 Nominations need to be made within 48 hours prior to the start of fixture. Failure to nominate an approved official at least 48 hours before will result in penalties as per Clause 4.8. Nominations may change during the 48 hours prior to a fixture provided the minimum required level of official is satisfied.

4.7 Infringement of the above are subject to the following penalties. Infringements are accumulated per club not per team and are reset at the start of every season.

	First Infringement	Second Infringement	Further Infringements
Failure of a club to nominate an approved match official within 48 hours of the fixture.	€ 50 fine	€ 100 fine	€ 200 fine
Failure of an approved match official nominated by the club to show up for a nomination	€ 200 fine	€ 500 fine	2 points + € 500 fine

For the sake of clarity, in the case of point deductions, the points are deducted from the team of the respective club participating in the competition where the referee failed to show up.

In the case where a club has more than one team playing in the same competition, points will be deducted from the team which is highest in the final standings after all the matches are played.

In the case where referees are missing during play-offs or knock-out competitions, the club will not incur any point penalty. However, fine will be doubled.

4.8 Penalties shall only be applicable provided nominations by MHA were issued at least 14 calendar days before the date of the fixture.

4.9 Penalties may be waived in cases where genuine and reasonable medical substantiation is provided. Such cases shall be referred to the Arbitration.

4.10 In cases where match officials are not present for the match at the scheduled start time, a 10 minute grace period shall be observed. After such period, the officials shall be considered a no-show.

4.11 Extraordinary instances are to be decided at the discretion of the MHA Management Board. In cases where protests are applicable, these will be dealt with as per the MHA Legal Regulations.

Enclosure 5: Fair Play Award

Fair Play Award – Points' System

The **MHA Fair Play Award** is awarded to the club with the least average score obtained after summing up all punishments (including any extraordinary instances and fair play acts) received by all men and women teams taking part in different categories and competitions for that club and dividing it by the total number of matches played. A club must have at least 5 teams taking part in MHA competitions during a season to be considered for the award. Points given for each type of punishment and an example of how the points' system works are shown hereunder:

Points System

Yellow Card: + 1 point

2 Minutes suspension: + 2 points

Red Card: + 5 points

Disqualification with Report: + 10 points

Extraordinary instances: + 30 points (examples: walk-over, team / player/s not taking part in the 'high five' at the end of the match, team abandoning a match or any other instance as decided by the management board and / or disciplinary commissioner.

Fair Play Act: - 20 points (act of sportsmanship or similar as decided by the management board)

Example:

Punishment Points

Rank Team MP YC 2Min RC DR

			Avg	Total				
1	 **France**	7	8.6	60	22	19	0	0
2	 **Croatia**	7	9.4	66	20	23	0	0
3	 **Argentina**	5	9.8	49	14	15	1	0
4	 **Denmark**	6	10.3	62	20	21	0	0
5	 **Hungary**	7	11.1	78	24	27	0	0
6	 **Korea**	5	11.2	56	14	21	0	0
7	 **Sweden**	7	11.7	82	23	27	1	0
8	 **Spain**	6	11.8	71	20	23	1	0
9	 **Iceland**	6	13.8	83	19	32	0	0
10	 **Serbia**	5	14.4	72	17	25	1	0
11	 **Great Britain**	5	15.2	76	16	25	2	0
12	 **Tunisia**	6	15.5	93	21	31	2	0

Legend

MP – Matches Played	**2Min** – 2 minutes suspension
Avg – Average Points	**RC** – Red Card
Total – Total Points	**DR** – Disqualification with report
YC – Yellow Card	

Important: In case of two or more clubs having the same average score at the end of all competitions, then their ranking is determined in the following order:

a) Least number of extraordinary instances
b) Least number of disqualifications with report
c) Least number of red cards

If this procedure does not lead to a decision, then all clubs concerned shall receive the MHA Fair Play Award.

Enclosure 6: Transfer Fees

Enclosure revoked. Transfer Fees incorporated in the ‘MHA Fines and Fees’ Annex.

Enclosure 7: Consent and Liability Waiver for Minors Participating in a Higher Age Category

Consent and Liability Waiver for Minor Participating in a Higher Age Category

I, _____ *[Full name and ID Card Number of Parent/Guardian]*, residing at _____ *[Residential Address]*, being the parent/guardian of _____ *[Full name and ID Card Number of Minor Player]*('The Athlete') born on _____, hereby grant my consent for The Athlete to participate in the _____*[State the desired category your child wishes to be playing in]* handball competition organised by the Malta Handball Association ('MHA'), despite my child being younger than the eligibility criteria (not more than one year) stated in Clause 15.22.1 of the latest revision of the 'Malta Handball Association Competition Regulations' ('The Regulations').

I understand that:

- The Athlete is participating in a higher age category than their age permits according to the regulations.
- This consent only permits The Athlete to participate in the age category if they are not more than one year younger than the eligibility criteria as per Clause 15.22.1 of the MHA Competition Regulations.
- This decision is solely mine, and I take full responsibility for it.
- The MHA and its affiliates are not liable for any injuries or ailments my child may sustain during participation in this higher age category.
- This consent is only applicable for the duration of the current season, the duration of which is set out by The Regulations.

I hereby:

- Confirm that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Acknowledge the potential risks associated with The Athlete playing in a higher age category.
- Release and discharge the MHA, its officials, members, and volunteers from any liability arising from The Athlete's participation in the higher age category.
- Agree to indemnify and hold harmless the MHA from any claims, demands, or actions arising from my child's participation.

_____ _____

Parent / Legal Guardian Signature **Date**