

LEGAL REGULATIONS

July 2024

Including the MHA List of Penalties and the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions

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INTRODUCTION

Article 1 - Scope of Material Application

1.1. The present Regulations shall govern the legal activities within the Malta Handball Association (MHA). Proceedings shall be conducted to penalise infringements of Regulations, including those of an administrative nature and in particular infringements committed prior to, during or after a game or while staying at a venue, and to settle disputes between members of the Handball Community including but not limited to MHA Management, Clubs, registered players, officials and supporters. Proceedings shall also be conducted to decide upon issues relating to players' transfers, national handball competitions, or to MHA activities.

1.2. The present Regulations apply supplementary to the provisions of the Statutes and other MHA Regulations. In case of inconsistency, the present Regulations shall apply, except for the application of special legal procedures provided by the Competition's Regulations.

Article 2 - Scope of Personal Application

2.1. The present Regulations apply to:

i. Clubs and their Officials;
ii. Players;
iii. MHA Officials;
iv. MHA Functionaries;
v. Identified Supporters;
vi. Spectators;
vii. All persons appointed by the MHA or clubs to exercise a function within the association, or club and/or during the organization of a match and/or on the occasion of a match and/or an MHA activity;
viii. Any other person who can be associated to the MHA or affiliated clubs and/or during the organisation of a match and/or present at the occasion of match and/or activity.

Article 3 - Definitions

The definitions and interpretations given in this section apply to the whole Legal Regulations.

3.1. **Singular terms** shall be deemed to include the plural, and masculine terms shall include the feminine.

3.2. **Club** shall mean a club that is affiliated with the MHA. For the purposes of these Regulations, a Club shall mean to include, unless otherwise specified, its players and/or committee members and/or its officials and/or their supporters and/or any other person representing the Club in any other function and/or any other person who can be associated with the Club.

3.3. A **Player** shall be any individual registered with the MHA. This definition holds both when the individual is participating in an event and also when he/she is not.

3.4. A player is considered as a **Youth Player** until he reaches the age of 18 years.

3.5. A **Club official** is a person who forms part of a Club Committee and is registered with the Malta Handball Association as a committee member. Individuals forming part of handball sections of sports clubs and forming part of sub-committees and or other board/s of a club are to be considered as Club Officials.

3.6. A **Team official** is a person whose name is written on the team list for a match (including but not limited to, coach, assistant coach, team manager and physiotherapist).

3.7. **MHA official** shall mean any Council member, any member of the Executive Committee, any member of any one of the MHA's boards, MHA employees and volunteers including coaches, delegates, referees, timekeepers, scorekeepers, and all those charged with an official function or other role. MHA Official shall also include Disciplinary Commissioners, as well as those individuals nominated by the Council or Management Board as officials for MHA activities.

3.8. **Match Official** shall include the delegate/s, referees, and table officials nominated for a match.

3.9 A spectator is any individual who does not fall into the category of player, team official, club committee member or MHA official, as defined above, and who may support any given club, whether within the precincts of the playing hall or not, and whether he is a member or not of that particular club.

3.10 **Identified Supporter** means a supporter who is either identified by the person/s making a report and named in the same report, or a spectator who is identified by the committee of his/her club before a decision on the relative case is taken by the Disciplinary Commissioner.

3.11. The **Management Board**, **Council** and **AGM** are the administrative bodies as defined by the Statute of the Malta Handball Association.

3.12. The **MHA Office** shall be composed of members of the Management Board and any other administrative officers.

3.12. **Competition** shall mean any league, knock-out or other tournament or event, including any preliminary rounds, play-offs organised by or held under the auspices of the MHA.

3.13 **Match** shall mean to include, unless otherwise specified, all matches played in a competition directly run by the MHA and includes all friendly matches which are organized by the MHA and clubs.

3.14. **Regulations:** any applicable MHA and/or EHF and/or IHF and/or SportMalta, Maltese Olympic Committee (MOC), and/or WADA / NADO Regulations, and/or Maltese Law, and/or manuals and directives, including in particular:

i. The MHA Statute
ii. The MHA Regulations for Competitions
iii. The MHA Officials' Code of Conduct
iv. The MHA Clubs' Code of Conduct
v. The MHA Children and Young Persons Safeguarding Policy
vi. The MHA Legal Regulations including the MHA List of Penalties and the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions
vii. The MHA Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act (provided in Annex 1)
viii. The MHA Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Act (provided in Annex 2)
ix. The IHF Rules of the Game – Indoor Handball
x. The IHF Rules of the Game – Beach Handball
xi. The IHF Player Eligibility Code
xii. The IHF Regulations for Transfers between Federations
xiii. The IHF Anti-Doping Rules
xiv. The EHF Anti-Doping Regulations

xv. The WADA Anti-Doping Code

xvi. The Malta Sports Act (Cap. 455) Anti-Doping Regulations 2021

The above Regulations are to be made available on the MHA official website.

In these Regulations the words “penalty” and “sanction” are considered to have the same meaning.

Article 4 – Liability of Clubs

4.1. In addition to their personal responsibility, clubs are responsible for the behaviour and actions of their players, members, officials, identified supporters, and any other person exercising a function within the club or the association and/or during the organization of a match and/or on the occasion of a match and/or an MHA activity on behalf of the club or association, within the venue or within the precincts of the venue where a match was played or was due to be played, before, during or after the end of such match and all matters relating thereto, shall be decided upon by the Arbitrary Commissioners and sanctioned according to the Regulations hereunder established and referred to as “the Regulations”.

For the purposes of this article “Precincts” shall mean wherever within the actual sports hall and surrounding area of such sports hall.

4.2. A Club shall be called upon to account for all kinds of misconduct and incidents caused by the Club even if a match, for any reason whatsoever, is subsequently declared null and void or has been discontinued or abandoned or did not take place at all and irrespective of whether the match is not deemed to be a competitive match.

Article 5 – Liability of Individuals

5.1. Individuals upon whom the MHA has jurisdiction as stated in Article 2 of these present Regulations shall be also personally answerable for all kinds of misconduct and incidents caused, or aided, or abetted by them together with the club they represent as provided for in Article 4 above, which matters shall be dealt by the Arbitrary Commissioner and sanctioned according to the Regulations.

5.2. For the purposes of these Regulations, jurisdiction is determined as at the time of the breach, act, misconduct, or incident for which a person is charged.

Article 6 - Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act, Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Act, MHA's Disclosure Policy, List of Penalties and Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions

The MHA Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act (Annex 1), The Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Act (Annex 2), the MHA's Disclosure Policy (Annex 3), the List of Penalties and the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions shall form an integral part of these Regulations.

Article 7 - Entry into Effect

7.1. The present Legal Regulations were adopted by the MHA Annual General Meeting convening on 17th July, 2024. They entered into force on 1st August, 2024.

7.2. Claims, submissions, protests, petitions, and any other request for MHA disciplinary/legal proceedings submitted to the MHA as from 1st August, 2024 shall be handled and decided upon according to the present Regulations. Claims, submissions, protests, petitions, appeals and any other request for MHA disciplinary/legal proceedings submitted to the MHA before that date shall be handled and decided upon according to the former MHA Arbitration Regulations (version 2019).

PART ONE – APPLICABLE LAW

SECTION A. LEGAL OFFENCES / DISPUTES

Article 8 - Principle

8.1. Infringements of Regulations including those of an administrative nature, unsportsmanlike conduct, facts that may bring the sport of handball and the MHA into disrepute as well as violent behaviour in and around playing halls are subject to sanction.

8.2. Disputes between handball/MHA related entities and/or individual and issues relating to MHA activities shall be decided upon according to the present Regulations, any other applicable Regulations, and the general principles of law.

8.3. Decisions and actions taken by referees on the playing court, including those based on MHA delegates' recommendations, are factual decisions and shall be final.

8.4. The right to make adjustments that may prove necessary as a result of corrections of the referees' report or, in the case of obvious error revealed by means of pertinent evidence such as reports by MHA Officials, television footage or video recordings, shall be reserved.

Article 9 - Corruption

9.1. Clubs and all related persons shall be held responsible for, directly or indirectly, making or offering bribes, kickbacks, or other payments of money or any other undue advantages, valuable presents to anyone, including officials, employees, or representatives of the MHA, any club, company, or public or international organisation, or to any other third party, for the purpose of wrongfully obtaining or retaining in any way undue advantages in connection with a match or a match result. They shall be sanctioned accordingly.

9.2. MHA Officials, contact persons or intermediaries shall be held responsible in case of accepting and/or non-reporting such acting or attempts. They shall be sanctioned accordingly.

Article 10 - Claims for Damages

10.1. Damage sustained as a result of infringements of Regulations may be recovered from the offending party by claiming damages.

10.2. Such claims shall be decided upon in the ordinary procedure.

Article 11 - Limitation of Actions

11.1. The prosecution and enforcement of all matters within the scope of material and personal application of the present Regulations shall be subject to a limitation period of two years.

11.2. As a further exception to the rule in article 11.1., prosecution and enforcement of matters relating to corruption, of issues in connection with undue influence on a match or a match result or issues falling under the frame of the Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act or the Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Act.

11.3. The prosecution and enforcement of any infringement related to anti-doping matters shall be subject to the limitation period expressly defined in the Malta Anti-Doping Regulations / WADA Anti-Doping Code.

11.4. The point of time determining the beginning of the period of limitation for the legal prosecution shall be the time when the action was committed.

11.5. The period of limitation shall be interrupted by the initiation of proceedings.

SECTION B. PENALTIES

Article 12 - Principle

Sanctions may be imposed by the appointed Commissioners in case of violation of an obligation expressly defined in the applicable Regulations and/or in the official MHA directives and communications (such as but not limited to letters, email).

Article 13 - Determination of Penalties

13.1. Except in the case of administrative sanctions (cases listed in the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions) for which the administrative/legal bodies are bound by the penalties defined in the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions, the administrative/legal bodies shall determine the type and extent of the penalties and measures to be imposed considering all the objective and subjective elements of the case as well as all mitigating and aggravating circumstances, within the frame provided in articles 14, 15, 16 and, when relevant, in the List of Penalties. If a party is not found guilty, the proceedings shall be dismissed.

13.2. Suspension can be defined in number of matches instead of time period (days/months/years) when deemed appropriate by the legal body.

13.3. Besides the penalties listed in the List of Penalties, other kind(s) of penalties defined under articles 15 and 16 hereunder may be imposed by the administrative/legal bodies according to the circumstances of the cases.

13.4. The MHA legal body may decide to impose on an individual, and/or a club sanctioned with any kind of penalties (including administrative sanctions) or measures to compensate, the additional costs and expenses and financial damages (including damages and/or fines paid to third parties) suffered by the MHA, by an individual and/or by a participating club as a result of the offences committed by the individual and/or club.

Article 14 – Recurrence

14.1. Recurrence occurs if penalties/measures imposed in a calendar year have to be imposed again within the next three years of a previous offence of a similar nature. Recurrence counts as an aggravating circumstance.

14.2. The administrative/legal bodies may increase (up to double unless expressly otherwise provided in the List of Penalties) the penalties provided in the List of Penalties and the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions in case of a recurrence of the infringement.

14.3. In case of second or more offences during the current season, sanctions are imposed as per article 53.

Article 15 – Penalties against Clubs

15.1. The MHA administrative/legal bodies may impose the one or more of the following penalties on member clubs:

i. warning;
ii. administrative/organisational measures;
iii. fines (including administrative fines);
iv. deduction of some or all points scored in the competitions concerned;
v. forfeiture;
vi. suspension from participation in national handball competitions and/or MHA activities for a number of matches or a specific period of time;
vii. exclusion from participation in future national handball competitions and/or MHA activities for a number of matches or a specific period of time;
viii. cancellation of matches;
ix. annulment or correction of the match result;
x. match replay;
xi. ban on spectators;
xii. withdrawal of a title or award;
xiii. supervision of matches.

15.2. In the event that an act which is not provided for in these Regulations is committed, and which act is nevertheless deemed a wrongful act by the body, the disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed by the Board are included in Article 15.1.

15.3. A fine shall not be less than €20 and shall not be more than €5,000.

15.4. The penalties and measures named above may be imposed individually or combined according to the gravity of the offence. For clarification's sake, in case of multiple breaches arising from the same act only the highest sanction shall apply.

Article 16 – Penalties against Individuals

16.1. The MHA administrative/legal bodies may impose the following penalties on individuals:

i. warning;
ii. suspension from participation in MHA activities and/ or national handball competitions for a number of matches or a specific period of time;
iii. temporary or permanent suspension from carrying out a function within the MHA or affiliated members;
iv. fines (including administrative fines);
v. exclusion from participation in future national handball competitions and/or MHA activities for a number of matches or a specific period of time or affiliated members;
vi. withdrawal of a title or award.

16.2. In the event that an act which is not provided for in these Regulations is committed, and which act is nevertheless a wrongful act, the disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed by the Board are included in Article 16.1.

16.3. A fine shall not be less than €50 and shall not be more than €5000.

16.4. The penalties named above may be imposed individually or combined according to the gravity of the offence. For clarification's sake, in case of multiple breaches arising from the same act only the highest sanction shall apply.

Article 17 – Suspensions

17.1. Suspensions (from participation in competition and activities and/or from carrying out a function) are pronounced to penalise in particular:

a. serious unsportsmanlike conduct;
b. assault or insult directed against referees, officials, players or spectators;
c. use of players not eligible to play or suspended;
d. unsportsmanlike conduct of teams, officials or other persons involved in the game.

17.2. Team officials who have been suspended or excluded shall not have the right to enter the playing hall on match days, and therefore shall not participate in any match preparation activity, shall not enter any official area (players' entrance, dressing rooms, playing court, playing court surrounding area, or any other area) in which the individual's team is playing, nor be in contact with players and/or officials of his club (neither directly nor via electronic means) during such period. Team officials have the obligation to enforce the principles of fair play and sportsmanship towards their opponents and the MHA officials by always adopting and displaying courteous and respectful behaviour towards them.

17.3. Other individuals who have been suspended/excluded may have the right to enter playing halls as spectators but shall not participate in any match preparation activity, shall not enter any official area (such as players' entrance, dressing rooms, playing court, playing court surrounding area, or any other area) nor be in contact with players and/or officials of their club (neither directly nor via electronic means) before, during and after the game during the period of suspension.

17.4. In case of time framed suspensions, the individual concerned is not allowed entry in any place where handball activities are being organised during his time of suspension. (see article 45.5.). In case of conflict this article shall apply.

17.5. Infringement of the conditions mentioned in articles 18.2., 18.3., and 18.4. above shall be reported by the match officials, MHA officials or club's officials and referred to the Disciplinary Commissioner.

Article 18 – Powers of the Management Board and Council

The Management Board shall have the power to:

i. submit reports on any misconduct to the Disciplinary Commissioner;
ii. impose fines and/or suspensions to National Team players for misconduct during national team events including training sessions;
iii. impose administrative fines of up to €100 for infringements in breach of MHA Competitions Regulations and or directives issued by the same;
iv. temporarily suspend individuals and / or clubs for breach of conditions pursuant to the disciplinary action given by administrative/legal bodies
v. refer matters of grave circumstances to the Council who shall nominate an Independent Board to investigate such cases and impose disciplinary action as per Article 28.

Article 19 – Application of Penalties

19.1. The administrative/legal bodies decide in the respective decision whether suspensions of players, functionaries, officials, referees, and any other individual shall apply, during the period for which they are pronounced, in respect of participation in competition at club level, at national team level, at both club and national team levels or in a specific competition only.

19.2. The point of time relevant for application of a penalty shall be the time the penalty was pronounced, unless provided otherwise by the decision.

Article 20 – Temporary Injunction

Temporary injunctions may be issued to preserve and protect parties' rights to the extent to which this is deemed necessary by the competent legal body.

Article 21 – Provisional Suspension

In the case of serious disciplinary offences, the Arbitrary Commissioner may impose a preliminary temporary suspension not exceeding three months starting from the incident date and shall cease to be into force as of the final decision including appeal.

PART TWO – PROCEDURE

SECTION A. ORGANISATION

Article 22 – Administrative Bodies

The MHA Office shall form the administrative body responsible, as first instance, for deciding upon administrative infringements punishable according to the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions.

Article 23 – Appointment and Powers of the Arbitrary Commissioners - (Legal Bodies)

23.1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the competent authority to appoint persons to serve as Arbitrary Commissioners (Legal Bodies) to deal with cases of discipline, protests, and appeals. From the list of appointed Arbitrary Commissioners, the President or in his absence, the Vice-President of the MHA shall have the authority to select and appoint Arbitrary Commissioners to deal with different cases. Only one Arbitrary Commissioner shall be selected to deal with each case of discipline, protest, and appeal. Different Commissioners for different cases may be appointed. The Arbitrary Commissioner appointed to deal with appellant cases shall not have dealt with the same case during the proceedings of the body of 1st instance. The AGM shall extend to these persons those powers, rights, and functions which it deems necessary and proper according to the Statute of the MHA and in conformity with these Regulations.

23.2. Additional arbitrary commissioners may be appointed by the Council by a simple majority.

23.3. The General Secretary of the MHA shall be the secretary of the Arbitrary Commissioner and shall keep him informed with regards to the “accused” record during the previous three calendar years, availability of video evidence and other related information as the case may be. The General Secretary shall also be responsible for the keeping and communication of the decisions taken. In the absence of the General Secretary, the President or in his absence the Vice-President of the Association shall appoint an official from the Management Board to replace him. The General Secretary shall not be in any way involved in the deliberation and/or decisions of the Arbitrary Commissioner.

Article 24 – The Disciplinary Commissioner

24.1. A Disciplinary Commissioner shall be responsible as first instance for disciplinary adjudication within the framework of the legal system of the MHA and its member clubs, i.e. for punishing violations of Regulations including those of an administrative nature not under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Bodies according to article 23, for settling disputes between handball/MHA related entities and/or individuals, and for deciding upon any other issues relating to local handball competitions and/or MHA activities, except those under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Bodies according to article 23.

24.2. If the Administrative Bodies do not decide upon an issue under their jurisdiction according to article 23 within two (2) weeks from the start of the proceedings, the Disciplinary Commissioner shall have jurisdiction and shall decide upon such issue.

Article 25 – The Protests Commissioner

A Protests Commissioner shall be responsible for disciplinary adjudication for submissions or protests initiated by the club/s within the MHA framework. for punishing violations of Regulations including those of an administrative nature not under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Bodies for deciding upon issues relating to player transfers between MHA member clubs, for settling disputes between handball/MHA related entities and/or individuals, and for deciding upon any other issues relating to local handball competitions and/or MHA activities, except those under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Bodies.

Article 26 – The Appeals Commissioner

An Appeals Commissioner shall be responsible, as second instance, for disciplinary adjudication within the framework of the MHA and its member clubs, for punishing violations of Regulations, for deciding upon issues relating to player transfers between MHA member clubs as well as upon any other issues relating to local handball competitions and/or MHA activities, and for settling disputes between handball/MHA related entities and/or individuals.

Article 27 – The Independent Board

The Management Board shall nominate an Independent Board of at least three (3) persons to investigate grave circumstances and/or allegations. This Board shall be composed of persons who are on the list of the Arbitrary Commissioners or other independent individuals. The Board shall have the power to impose penalties as per articles 15 and 16 and may also put forward recommendations to the Council. The Board shall submit its decision within one month from the appointment date. An extension of a maximum of 15 days may be requested from the Independent Board.

Article 28 – The Parties

28.1. Parties may be all physical persons or legal entities able to demonstrate a prima facie legal or factual interest in a matter.

28.2. The MHA may be a party according to article 29.1. with all related rights, including the right to initiate proceedings and to appeal decisions.

SECTION B. INITIATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Article 29 – Reports

29.1. MHA Officials have the duty to report relevant incidents, actions, failures, and violations of the Regulations to the MHA Office in writing.

29.2. If a match report with remark(s) or a delegate and / or a referees' report is submitted by a Match Official, the MHA office shall evaluate the case and decide whether to initiate or cease proceedings. A mandatory administrative fee of €25 shall apply on the club in case of initiation of proceedings.

29.3. Reports submitted shall be received by the General Secretary by email within 24 hours from the end of the game.

29.4. The report shall only contain facts and written in such way as not to include the author's own impressions on the incident.

29.5. A copy of the report shall be sent to the responsible club concerned by email within seventy two (72) hours from the end of the game

29.6. In case of reports concerning misconduct by national team players during international or friendly national team matches, the respective clubs shall be notified of the proceedings, but may not contest the report or decision of the Management Board and Council.

29.7. The date of receipt shall be taken to be that of the email date.

29.8. If any of the above is not adhered to, the report shall cease to have any effect but will be retained on file by the MHA. Such reports shall have no bearing on future disciplinary actions that involve the same subject or subjects.

Article 30 – Other Ways of Initiating Proceedings

30.1. Proceedings may be initiated by submissions or protests by a club through the Club's Secretary to the General Secretary of the MHA.

30.2. Proceedings may also be initiated when the MHA is alerted by third parties of circumstances that may constitute a disciplinary offence, a violation of the Regulations including those of an administrative nature, or an issue relating to a competition/a transfer. Such cases shall be reviewed for their relevance by the MHA Office, who may, if deemed appropriate, require the opening of legal proceedings. This applies to issues arising both with and without connection with MHA competitions.

30.3. Moreover, the MHA is entitled to institute legal proceedings before the competent legal bodies within the MHA on the basis of its own and/or other parties' observations (including media, digital or electronic recordings) after having conducted a preliminary investigation of the facts of the case.

30.4. Issues in connection with handball competitions, including activities relating thereto and persons involved therein, that do not directly lead to the institution of legal proceedings under applicable Regulations may be subject to examination and investigation by the MHA.

Article 31 – Notification

The parties shall be notified of the initiation of proceedings in writing.

SECTION C. CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS

Article 32 – Written / Oral Proceedings

32.1. As a matter of principle, proceedings shall be conducted in writing. The parties are invited to provide written statements, except in the case of administrative sanctions (cases listed in the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions) where sanctions may be imposed without statements from the parties.

32.2. Except in the case of administrative sanctions (cases listed in the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions), the legal bodies shall have the right to request the proceedings to be conducted orally and/or a hearing to take place. In that case, the parties shall be invited to be heard.

32.3. The legal bodies shall hold meetings on the first opportune time at the MHA headquarters or at any other place as decided by the management board.

32.4. It is at the legal bodies' discretion to use video evidence should this be available.

32.5. The absence of one or all of the parties during oral proceedings and/or hearings does not prevent the legal body from taking a decision.

SECTION D. DECISIONS

Article 33 – Deliberations

33.1. Decisions may be decisions on the merits, on procedural matters or decisions of dismissal.

33.2. When proceedings are conducted orally, deliberations may be held and decisions passed in the absence of the persons involved, after the parties have been heard and witnesses questioned, if applicable.

Article 34 – Form

34.1. Every decision shall be communicated to the club or clubs concerned by e-mail by the General Secretary of the MHA. All decisions are also communicated by email to all other clubs.

34.2. Except in the case of administrative sanctions (cases listed in the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions), decisions shall include the following points:

i. the legal body passing the decision;
ii. the subject matter of the proceedings;
iii. the parties' names;
iv. a brief statement of the facts;
v. the decision;
vi. the order for payment of any identified costs (if applicable);
vii. the reasons;
viii. the signature of the Chairperson of the legal body, given, if necessary, on their behalf by the person executing the document;
ix. right to appeal information. – in case of decisions taken by the Disciplinary Commissioner or Protests Commissioner.

Article 35 – Publication of Decisions

35.1. Decisions shall be published by the MHA Office.

35.2. Decisions concerning clubs and individuals shall be served on the respective member club. Member clubs shall pass on all information, documents, and decisions to the person concerned.

35.3. In cases in which this is deemed necessary or has been requested, decisions may be served directly on the club, and the person concerned.

35.4. As a matter of principle, decisions shall be served by email.

35.5. All decisions shall also be communicated by email to all clubs.

Article 36 – Enforcement

36.1. The MHA Office shall enforce the final decisions passed by the administrative and legal bodies.

36.2. Unless otherwise provided in the decision, pecuniary fines, administrative penalties, procedural costs and/or damages shall be paid and proof of payment submitted by email to the General Secretary (a) within 24 hours from the publication of the decision in case of amounts up to €500 (b) within 72 hours from the publication of the decision in case of amounts exceeding €500.

36.3. The amount of the fines, administrative penalty(ies), procedural costs and/or damages decided by the MHA administrative/legal bodies shall be increased by 20% if they are not paid by the date defined in the decision imposing the payment of such fine, penalty, costs or damages. If payment is still not made within another two weeks, the rights of the defaulting club/player/official shall be suspended, and it/he/she shall be excluded from national competitions until payment is made.

Article 37 – Recognition of Sanctions by EHF and IHF

37.1. The MHA may extend sanctions imposed by EHF and/or IHF for serious offences concerning the participation of players, Maltese clubs, and national team players in EHF and IHF competitions to MHA competitions.

37.2. Any measures/decisions taken by EHF and/or IHF in relation to doping shall be automatically recognised by the MHA.

SECTION E. SUBMISSION OF PROTESTS

Article 38 – Submissions

38.1. Protests related to a match shall be submitted within twenty-four (24) hours of end of the match concerned, together with an administrative fee of €50 which shall be transferred to the MHA bank account. Evidence that payment was made (payment order) shall be submitted with the protest.

38.2. Other submissions or protests concerning other issues may be filed by a club through the Club's Secretary to the General Secretary of the MHA. an administrative fee of €50 shall be transferred to the MHA bank account. Evidence that payment was made (payment order) shall be submitted with the submission or protest.

38.3. The protest shall include the reason/s for the protest, any evidence or material related to the protest and the names of any witnesses and their designations.

38.4. If the respective proof of payment is not submitted, the protest/submission shall be deemed invalid.

Article 39 – Procedure

39.1. As a matter of principle, proceedings shall be conducted in writing.

39.2. All parties mentioned in the protest, including if it is the case, MHA officials assisting in officiating the game concerned, shall be notified by email of the submission of such within four-eight (48) hours of receipt of notice of protest.

39.3. All parties are invited to provide written statements and any evidence to the Protests Commissioner.

39.4. The Protests Commissioner shall have the right to request the proceedings to be conducted orally and/or a hearing to take place. In that case, the parties shall be invited to be heard. The Protests Commissioner shall hold his sittings on the first opportune time at the MHA headquarters or any other place as decided by the Management Board.

39.5. In case of oral proceedings, the parties concerned, including any MHA Officials, shall be notified in writing by the General Secretary, of the day and time when to appear before the Protests Commissioner. Notification by email of the sitting shall reach the parties concerned at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time fixed for the sitting.

39.6. The parties concerned shall have the right to name up to two (2) persons attending the sitting. The names and designation of these two (2) persons shall be submitted within eighteen (18) hours of receipt of protest notice.

39.7. The Protests Commissioner may at his discretion call any other persons to testify during the sitting. Any evidence, if available, and any other related material shall be made available to the Protests Commissioner for verification.

39.8. The absence of one or all of the parties during oral proceedings and/or hearings does not prevent the legal body from taking a decision.

39.9. A protest that is officially withdrawn at least four (4) hours before the sitting takes place forfeits payment but shall not be subject to further penalties.

Article 40 – Publication of Decision

40.1. The decision of the Protests Commissioner shall be communicated via email to the parties concerned.

40.2. If a protest relating to a match or competition is deemed to be justified the Protests Commissioner shall:

i. award points to the party winning the protest, and/or
ii. deduct points to the party at fault, and/or
iii. give no points to both parties, and/or
iv. annul the result of the game and orders the game to be replayed, and/or
v. apply a fine of not more than €2000 to the party at fault

40.3. If a protest relating to other issues is deemed to be justified the Protests Commissioner shall apply the penalties included in the List of Penalties of the MHA Legal Regulations.

40.4. The decisions by the Protests Commissioner may be appealed.

SECTION F. APPEAL

Article 41 – Right of Appeal

41.1. Decisions of the Disciplinary and Protests Commissioner may be appealed to the Appeals Commissioner by the parties.

41.2. Any appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary and of the Protests Commissioner shall be received by the MHA Office by email within twenty-four (24) hours after the service of the underlying decision unless specified otherwise.

41.3. An appeal administrative fee of €50 shall be transferred to the MHA bank account at the same time the appeal is filed with the MHA Office and in any case not later than twenty-four (24) hours after the service of the underlying decision. Evidence that payment was made (payment order) shall be submitted together with the appeal.

41.4. If the appeal administrative fee is not paid within the abovementioned time limit, the appeal shall be deemed withdrawn.

41.5. In appellate proceedings the parties concerned have the right to be heard in person (online proceedings shall be considered), at their expense, if they so request in their notice of appeal. The person (or persons) directly involved in the incidents has a right to be present in appellant cases. The appellant also has the right to have his legal advisor present at the hearing. If the person (or persons) directly involved is a player, he must be accompanied by one (1) club committee member. In cases involving penalties imposed directly on clubs, the club may be represented by two (2) of its committee members.

41.6. The appeals notice shall include the names and designations of all the people attending the sitting, reasons for appeal and a list of witnesses, if any.

41.7. An appeal that is officially withdrawn at least four (4) hours before the sitting takes place shall not be subject to further penalties.

Article 42 – Procedure

42.1. The Appeals Commissioner shall hold his sittings on the first opportune time at the MHA headquarters or any other place as decided by the Management Board. In no case shall the sitting be held after the next competitive game of the reported player and or team.

42.2. The party concerned shall be notified in writing by the General Secretary, of the day and time when to appear before the Appeals Commissioner. Notification by email of the sitting shall reach the party concerned at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time fixed for the sitting.

42.3. If the appellant party fails to attend the sitting the appellant party shall be fined €100 and the decision of the body of 1st instance confirmed. The Management Board may consider waiving the fine should absence be justified, but in no case shall the sitting be adjourned for another date.

Article 43 – Service of Decision

43.1 Decisions that may be passed in appeal proceedings include confirmation, revision, or dismissal of the decision of the first instance as well as revocation and remission of the case to the body of first instance. The body in appeal shall not be bound by the parties' petition.

43.2. However, if the basis on which a decision was made was affected by grave errors including the submission of incorrect or forged documents, a revocation of the decision by which the matter was settled, reopening of the case may be sought by the parties or initiated by the MHA. The request for revocation/case reopening shall be received by the MHA Office within fifteen (15) days after the grave error was known or should have been known to the requesting party. The decision to reopen a case is taken jointly by the Arbitrary Commissioner.

43.3. The decision by the Appeals Commissioner shall be communicated via email within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the sitting.

43.4. The decision by the Appeals Commissioner is final and cannot be re-appealed.

SECTION G. PROVISIONS

Article 44 – Suspensions

44.1. All suspensions are to be in effect as from the date of the sitting except in the case of an appeal. In the case of an appeal, the suspension, if confirmed by the Appeals Commissioner, shall commence from the date of the appeal sitting.

44.2. All match suspensions correspond to that Category and Competition that the individual in question was reported unless otherwise stated by the Commissioner.

44.3. In case that a suspension of a match or a number of matches cannot be served in the same competition of the Association, as the case may be, during the same season, the suspension shall be served in the first competition of the Association as the case may be, for which the player is eligible to play during the same season of the Association, in which he has been suspended. The Super Cup, National Leagues (1st and 2nd Divisions) and KO competitions are considered as the same competition.

44.4. Match suspensions shall be extended from one season to another by the same player/individual irrespective of the category/club he is playing in the new season.

44.5. In case of time framed suspensions, the individual concerned is not allowed entry in any place where handball activities are being organised during his time of suspension. (see article 18.4.)

44.6. If a player who has been suspended for one (1) match or for a number of matches plays in a competitive match whilst he is suspended, such player shall be further suspended for another two (2) matches for every such offence.

44.7. If a player who has been suspended for a period plays in a competitive match during the period of his suspension, such player shall be further suspended for two (2) matches if he takes part in a competitive match during the period of his suspension and subsequently, he shall be suspended for four (4) matches for each and every time he takes part in a competitive match during the same period of his suspension. Such matches shall be served after the expiry of the period for which he was originally suspended.

44.8. The Commissioner shall not take into account any claim that the player and/or his Club were unaware of the original suspension or of the Regulations.

44.9. Any such further suspension shall be inflicted and shall be without any prejudice to any forfeiture of points and/or other penalties which his Club may incur or may have incurred for having made use of such a suspended player in a competitive match.

44.10. Suspensions till end of season will cease to have effect as from the date of the following AGM.

44.11. In the case of offences committed by a Player or a Club Official during friendly matches or friendly tournaments, which offences are punishable under these Regulations, then such individuals shall be punished according to these Regulations, and such suspension may also be served in the next national competitive matches(es) of the club.

Article 45 – Suspensions from all MHA Activities

45.1. For the period suspended from all MHA activities the party:

i. shall not attend a General Meeting and / or Extraordinary General meeting.
ii. shall not attend any Council meeting.
iii. shall not represent his club as an official in Disciplinary, Protests and Appeals meetings or at any other MHA organised meeting.
iv. shall not take part as a player or official in any kind of activity organised by the MHA.
v. shall not enter the premises where MHA competitions are being organised. (Premises includes sports hall, MHA offices, car park and surrounding areas)
vi. shall not hold a position or form part of a club committee/sub-committee and or club handball section if suspension is for more than six months.

Article 46 – Suspensions of a Club

46.1. When a club is suspended for a definite time from all MHA activities, the club delegate or his substitute shall be allowed to attend meetings but will lose the right to vote in a General Meeting and / or Extraordinary General Meeting and at Council meetings.

Article 47 – Suspensions of a Team

47.1. When a team is suspended for a definite time from all MHA activities, the club delegate or his substitute shall be allowed to attend meetings but will lose the right to vote in a General Meeting and / or Extraordinary General Meeting and at Council meetings.

Article 48 – Fines

48.1. Clubs are responsible for the payment of all fines also those imposed on their respective players and team officials.

48.2. Fines shall be paid prior to the next competitive game. For fines imposed during the club's last game of the season, these shall be paid within one (1) week from notice of fine.

48.3. In accordance with Article 17.1 (iv), the Management Board may temporarily suspend individuals and / or clubs from all MHA activities until all fines are settled.

Article 49 - Suspensions by Clubs

Suspensions by clubs on players/individuals of the same club shall only be recognised by the MHA if the MHA General Secretary is informed in writing by not later than seven (7) days from the date of service of the suspension. Cases of suspensions for more than 30 days shall be reported to the MHA and dealt with by the Disciplinary Commissioner.

Article 50 - Deduction of Points

Points shall be deducted only in the same competition that the participating team/club was reported in. If the deduction of points cannot be implemented in the current season, then the points shall be deducted as from the start of the following season in the same competition.

Article 51 – Suspensions from other National and International Organisations

51.1. The MHA recognises suspensions imposed by

i. the International Handball Federation
ii. the European Handball Federation
iii. SportMalta
iv. the Maltese Olympic Committee
v. NADOMALTA
vi. any other organization as agreed by the MHA Council

Article 52 - Second or More Offences during the Current Season

An individual who has committed more than one offence during the current season shall be considered as a relapser. If found guilty of a second or more offence the Disciplinary Commissioner shall either double the penalty, fine or suspension as may be in accordance with these Regulations or impose an additional fine of up to €250.

Article 53 - Amendments

53.1. These Legal Regulations may be amended from time to time by the Council as it may deem fit and necessary.

53.2. New offences or more severe penalties shall not have a retroactive effect.

ANNEX I – ANTI-CORRUPTION AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT

1.1. The Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act includes any of the following violations:

i. Corruption including bribe and offering, requesting, or receiving any undue advantages;
ii. Undue influence on a match or a match result;
iii. Any information which is likely to influence the actions of (legal) entities or persons on a long-term basis (pressure, blackmailing, threats, secrets, etc.);
iv. The receipt or acceptance of presents or gifts, except small items of remembrance;
v. Any violation of the MHA Officials' Code of Conduct or the MHA Clubs' Code of Conduct Agreement;
vi. Manipulations in connection with betting or lottery gains;
vii. The violation of the obligation to report observations in connection with corruption and unfair competition.

1.2. Any act of corruption including bribe and offering, requesting, or receiving any undue advantages shall be regarded as substantial violations of core values of the MHA, its statutes, and Regulations. Penalties and sanctions shall be imposed accordingly.

1.3. When a case of alleged corruption is reported to the MHA, the Council shall be notified within forty-eight (48) hours of such and shall meet within 14 days to nominate an Independent Board of three (3) persons to investigate the allegations. This board may be composed of persons who are not on the list of Arbitrary Commissioners.

1.4. The Board shall submit its decision within one month from the appointment date. An extension of a maximum of 15 days may be requested from the Independent Board. In cases where there is clear proof of alleged corruption the Council is to report the case as soon as possible to the police authorities.

1.5. Violations of the principles of honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of fairness as well as sportsmanlike conduct by clubs, MHA officials and/or related parties may result in a monetary fine of up to €5.000. This also applies to players, team officials and other club

members who contact in person or via social media or other any other means any match official before or after the match to influence or praise the performance of match officials.

1.6. MHA Officials submitting reports that are perceived by the Disciplinary Commissioner as maliciously false shall result in a suspension of the club and/or person concerned for up to two years and/or a pecuniary fine of between €500 and €5000.

1.7. Violations of fundamental principles of organisation, security and protection endangering the fair and uninfluenced carrying out of competitions by all parties involved shall result in a suspension of the club and/or person concerned for up to two years and/or a pecuniary fine of between €500 and €5000.

1.8. Violations of the anti-corruption and fair competition act including all related Regulations as well as comparable actions against fundamental principles of fairness and sportsmanship shall result in a suspension of the club, MHA official and/or person concerned for up to ten years and a pecuniary fine of between €2000 and €5000.

1.9. A sporting result achieved by using undue means may result in the suspension from the respective competition, medals and trophy awarded may be recalled, and titles gained may be removed.

1.10. False allegations of corruption made by a club, their officials, a player, a supporter, a parent, an MHA Official, an MHA Functionary, or any other person to exercise a function within the MHA or affiliated clubs, or any other person who can be associated to the MHA or affiliated clubs that are thoroughly disproved by the Independent Board shall result in a suspension of the guilty party concerned for a minimum of three (3) up to ten (10) years and a pecuniary fine of between €2000 and €5000.

1.11. Violations of correct reporting on any occurrences and observations in connection with corruption and undue influence shall result in a suspension of the entities and persons concerned for a minimum of three (3) up to ten years and a pecuniary fine of between €2000 and €5000.

ANNEX 2 – CODE OF CONDUCT AND SAFEGUARDING ACT

2.1. The Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Act adopts the:

i. MHA Officials Code of Conduct Agreement
ii. Clubs Code of Conduct Agreement
iii. Children and Young Persons Safeguarding Policy

2.2. The MHA Officials Code of Conduct Agreement outlines and regulates the appropriate conduct of all those acting for or under the MHA. The MHA expects all its functionaries, its personnel and all further persons in various functions and responsibilities to embrace the values, objectives, and principles of the MHA in every way, and refrain from anything that could be damaging to their attainment.

2.3. The Clubs Code of Conduct Agreement aims to ensure the highest possible standards of fairness, honesty, competition, and behaviour. It enhances protection to clubs and individuals who can be potentially affected by the actions of others. It also promotes a healthy and enjoyable environment within the Maltese handball community that thrives for development and success.

2.4. The Children and Young Persons Safeguarding Policy shows the MHA's and clubs' commitment to the safety and well-being of all children and young people who participate in our competitions/events or access our services. Creating a safe and welcoming environment, where everyone is respected and valued, is at the heart of our safeguarding policy which aims to protect children and young people from all forms of harassment, abuse, neglect, violence, or exploitation. The standards set in this Safeguarding Policy seek to provide a benchmark to support those involved in Maltese handball make informed decisions enabling them to detect and challenge practice that is potentially harmful to children.

2.5. Any club and / or individual which is found guilty of violating the principles, practices, and standards included in the three (3) documents referred to in article 2.1. above shall result in:

i. in a suspension of the entities and persons concerned for a minimum of one (1) match up to ten years;
ii. a pecuniary fine of between €50 and €5000;
iii. a deduction of not more than ten points (-10);
iv. administrative/organisational measures;
v. ban on spectators;
vi. cancellation of matches;
vii. annulment/correction of the match result;
viii. match replay;
ix. withdrawal of a title or award;
x. supervision of matches.

2.6. The penalties and measures named article 2.5. above may be imposed individually or combined according to the gravity of the offence.

2.7. The submission of the three (3) documents referred to in article 2.1. shall constitute an integrated part of a valid registration of a club for yearly MHA club competitions.

MHA Officials COC

Reference to be made to Articles 4, 5, 6 (see corruption act), 7 and 8

The rest are Guidelines and are non enforceable

MHA Clubs COC

Reference to be made to Articles

Safeguarding Policy

5.1. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of harassment, abusive behaviour and practices which are deemed totally unacceptable:

5.1.1. Unwanted behaviour, language, gestures, or invitations that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally unacceptable.

5.1.2. Practical jokes which cause awkwardness or embarrassment or may endanger a child's safety.

5.1.3. Unwanted or unnecessary physical contact including touching, hugging, kissing, patting, and pinching.

5.1.4. Forming intimate emotional, physical, or sexual relationships with children.

5.1.5. Engaging in sexually provocative games, including horseplay.

5.1.6. Engaging in rough or physical contact unless it is permitted within the rules of the game or competition.

5.1.7. Condescending, patronizing, threatening, or punishing actions which undermine self-esteem.

5.1.8. Spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others.

5.1.9. Inviting or allowing children to stay with you at your home.

5.1.10. A coach and/or other leader sharing a room alone with a child.

5.1.11. Entering children's bedrooms on trips away from home, unless in an emergency situation, or in the interest of health and safety. If it is necessary to enter rooms, knock and say that you are coming in. The door should remain open, if appropriate.

5.1.12. Allowing children to swear or use sexualised language unchallenged.

5.1.13. Allowing allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded, or not acted upon.

5.1.14. Sexual assault or physical assault.

ANNEX 3 – MHA'S DISCLOSURE POLICY

3.1. Introduction

It is the MHA's strong commitment to protect handball's fairness and integrity on and off the playing court. In this context, information provided by third persons ("Informant") may constitute valuable contributions to identify and rectify potential wrongdoings that may otherwise not surface. These persons must feel trust to come forward, which implies clear reporting, investigative, prosecution and adjudicatory channels ensuring transparency, independence, and impartiality at every stage. In the event of unexpected situation, the MHA Management Board will implement the required modifications to find a suitable solution.

3.2. Disclosure of an Alleged Misconduct

3.2.1. Disclosure

The Informant may report an alleged wrongdoing through any MHA's reporting channel.

3.2.2. Wrongdoing

A wrongdoing is any violation of MHA's Statute, Regulations, Code of Conduct, or competitions integrity which has allegedly been, is being or is likely to be committed.

3.2.3. Cooperation and Confidentiality

The Informant shall cooperate in good faith and provide reasonable and substantiated elements. His/her anonymity will be protected unless he/she decides otherwise.

3.3. Role of the General Secretary and Procedure

3.3.1. Procedure

The General Secretary receives the initial alert, acknowledges receipt, ensures the anonymity and protection of the Informant, keeps the latter informed on the investigation status and requests further information/documents if necessary.

3.3.2. Investigation

The MHA Management Board is solely responsible to investigate the allegations made by the Informant, on the basis of which he/she shall decide, in a grounded decision and in writing, whether or not to request the initiation of further proceedings with the Independent Board in accordance with the MHA Legal Regulations. The decision shall be communicated to the Informant.

Within the framework of the investigation, the Independent Board may use internal and external intelligence platforms to gather all pertinent evidence as defined in these MHA Legal Regulations and has full discretion as to how the investigation is conducted.

LIST OF PENALTIES

SECTION A. OFFENCES RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION

Provision of incorrect information about a player by the player himself/herself or by a club:

I. Fine from €500 to €2000
II. Suspension of up to 2 years

SECTION B. DISCIPLINARY OFFENCES

By a club, their officials, a player, a supporter, a parent, an MHA Official, an MHA Functionary, or any other person to exercise a function within the MHA or affiliated clubs, or any other person who can be associated to the MHA or affiliated clubs and/or during the organisation of a match and/or at the occasion of match and/or activity

B.1. Direct Disqualification

I. Suspension up to 6 matches
II. Fine: Minimum €50 up to €1000
III. If act of violence or severe unsportsmanlike conduct:
    a. Suspension up to 3 years
    b. Fine: up to €5000

B.2. Unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or after a competition and/or an MHA activity

I. Suspension up to 1 year
II. Fine: Minimum €50 up to €1000
III. If act of violence or severe unsportsmanlike conduct:
    a. Suspension up to 4 years
    b. Fine: up to €5000

B.3. Improper, menacing, intimidating conduct towards MHA Officials or opponents before, during or after a competition and/or an MHA activity / Insulting, derogatory remarks or statements that could damage the image of handball and/or of the MHA or bring it into disrepute during a press conference or in the Media, including social media

I. Deduction of not more than ten points (-10)
II. Suspension up to 2 years
III. Fine: Minimum €250 up to €3000

B.4. Punishments in case of Offences against Match Officials

If any object or part of the body makes contact with a match official the penalty awarded shall be given according to the gravity of the assault as follows:

I. If the assault is considered as a minor one where no bodily harm is caused to the official, a player shall be suspended for not less than six (6) months and not more than twelve (12) months while a club official shall be suspended for not less than one (1) year and not more than two (2) years depending on the circumstances of the case.
II. If the assault has caused bodily harm which is not of a grievous nature a player shall be suspended for three (3) years while a club official shall be suspended for four (4) years.
III. If the assault has caused grievous bodily harm as defined in the Criminal Code (Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta) both a player and a club official shall be suspended for life.

For the purposes of the above, in determining the relative sanction, the Commissioner may take into consideration a medical certificate provided by the injured party.

B.5. Failure to maintain discipline on the playing court / Inadequate protection of referees, officials, or opponent team

I. Fine: up to €5000

B.6. Fundamental violations of MHA Statutes and Competitions' Regulations

I. Fine from €500 up to €3000

B.7. Participation of a player not eligible to play or suspended

II. The participation of a player who has been suspended and/or is not eligible to play during a match of a competition organised by the MHA shall result in the match being scored as lost with the same result and in any case with 0:30 goals and points attributed to a win and the club is fined €500.

III. If this infringement is seen as a severe unsportsmanlike conduct (example: player was used intentionally to cause an advantage to a third-party club) Suspension of the club team until end of the running season may be imposed. A Fine up to €1000 and a deduction of 6 points that shall be carried forward to the following season should the team end the season on minus points.

B.8. Abandonment of a match by a club team

I. The match shall be scored as lost with the same result and in any case with 0:30 goals and points attributed to a win.

II. A deduction of points for not less than six (6) points but not more than ten (10) points

III. Suspension from the rest of the competition

IV. Suspension up to 2 seasons

V. Fine: from €1000 to €5000

VI. Payment of all damages and costs arising to the MHA.

B.9. Abandonment of a match by MHA Officials

I. The match shall be scored as lost with the same result and in any case with 0:30 goals and points associated with a win.

II. A deduction of points for not less than six (6) points but not more than ten (10) points

III. Suspension from the rest of the competition

IV. Suspension up to 2 seasons

V. Fine: from €1000 to €5000
VI. Payment of all damages and costs arising to the MHA.

It is at the Disciplinary Commissioner's discretion whether to have the match replayed, have the remaining time played or declare the match over and result to stand. In the case of a match being replayed or the remaining time played, the conditions of play will be set by the Disciplinary Commissioner, whilst the date and time of the replayed match or remaining part shall be decided by the Management Board.

B.10. Failure to play a match through a fault attributable to a club team

I. First occurrence:
    a. Fine: up to €250
    b. Payment of all damages and costs arising to the MHA.
II. Second Occurrence:
    a. Exclusion from the rest of the competition
    b. Suspension up to 2 seasons
    c. Fine: up to €500
    d. Payment of all damages and costs arising to the MHA.

B.11. Late arrival at the venue by a club team – match played

I. Fine: up to €500
II. Payment of all damages and costs arising to the MHA.

B.12. Failure to attend Awards' Presentation on court

A team's failure to attend for the presentation of awards on court shall be subject to a fine imposed by the Management Board of €300.

B.13. Disruption of presentation ceremonies

A maximum fine of three hundred euro €300 shall be imposed on a Club which is found guilty that any of its supporters and/or committee members and/or official's and/or players have disrupted an official presentation ceremony.

B.14. Offence by player under provocation

When an offence has been committed under provocation, the minimum prescribed penalty may be considered.

B.15. Offences by unidentified player or team official

When an offence is committed by an unidentified player or team official, the applicable sanction shall be borne by the team captain, provided that such an incident shall not be registered on the captain's record of conduct.

B.16. Offences and related punishments in the case of friendly matches

I. A suspension for one (1) match or for a number of matches in connection with an offence or offences committed in a friendly match, shall be served in the first competitive match or matches of the Association, as the case may be, and for which a player is eligible to play after the decision of the Commissioner.

II. A suspension for a match or for a number of matches in connection with an offence/s committed in a match of a friendly tournament shall be served in the same tournament. If the suspension cannot be served in the same tournament either because the tournament has for any reason ended or been suspended, the suspension shall be served in the first and subsequent competitive matches of the Association which is/are held after the end or suspension of such tournament.

III. A period suspension which extends beyond the end or suspension of a friendly tournament, or a lifelong suspension inflicted in connection with an offence/s committed in a match of a friendly tournament, will be applicable to the competitions of the Association.

B.17. Offence of extraordinary gravity or not contemplated in these Regulations

Any club, club/team official, player having committed any other offence which is not contemplated in these regulations and may not necessarily be deemed to have brought the game into disrepute shall be reported to the Disciplinary Commissioner and shall be liable to

I. a fine for not less than €100 but not more than €5000
II. and/or a deduction of three (3) points but not more than ten (10) points
III. and/or a suspension from any competition organised by the MHA.

SECTION C. WITHDRAWAL

Any withdrawal from the MHA competition by a registered club team shall be regarded as a forfeit and shall carry the following sanctions, additionally to the forfeit of the entry fee to the credit of the MHA.

C.1. Senior Competitions

After the official entry date of the competition:

I. Fine Minimum €450 up to €1000
II. Payment of all damages and costs arising to the MHA.

C.2. Youth Competitions

After the official entry date of the competition:

I. Fine Minimum €150 up to €500
II. Payment of all damages and costs arising to the MHA.

SECTION D. OFFENCES RELATING TO MATCH PREPARATION, ORGANISATION AND HOSTING

D.1. Security and Safety. Violation of the applicable Regulations, manuals and MHA directives regarding

I. Unsportsmanlike conduct of the public towards players, coaches, officials, fans, spectators, etc. shall be punishable by a fine up to €1000.
II. Encouraging rioting among the public shall be punishable by a fine up to €2000.
III. Throwing objects not presenting any hazard shall be punishable by a fine up to €500.
IV. Throwing objects that may inflict injury shall be punishable by a fine up to €2000.
V. Endangering spectators, officials, players, etc. in any other manner shall be punishable by a fine up to €2000; if the incident causes an interruption of the match, by a fine up to €3000 plus a ban on spectators up to 2 matches; if the incident causes the early termination of the match, by a fine up to €4000 plus a ban on spectators up to 4 home matches.
VI. If an incident causes bodily injury, a fine up to €5000 shall be imposed plus a ban on spectators from 4 to 8 matches.
VII. Invasion of the playing court by an unauthorised person shall be punishable by a fine up to €500; aggressive behaviour on the part of the invading person may raise the fine up to €1000 and lead to the imposition of a ban on spectators in up to 4 matches; and if the referees or

any of the match officials or any player of the opposing team is manhandled or physically assaulted, a fine up to €3000, the forfeiture of a maximum of two (2) points in connection with the match in question, but also a maximum of four (4) points, which the team has already gained or may gain in the competition.

VIII. Any individual causing damage to property, furniture and fixtures is liable to a fine for not less €200 but not more than €2000. If the same individual is a registered member of the MHA, the Disciplinary Commissioner shall impose an additional fine of €200 but not more than €2000. If the same individual is an MHA official, the Disciplinary Commissioner shall impose an additional fine of €200 but not more than €2000. These fines are exclusive of any expenses incurred to repair or change any damage caused by the same individual. The individual shall be considered as temporary suspended from all MHA activities until these fines are paid.

D.4. Match protocol, official ceremony procedures and/or MHA delegate instructions not followed or incorrectly implemented by any team or individual involved in an official match and/or in an official ceremony

I. Fine from €25 to €200

II. If causing a delay in the start of the match (first half time / second half time): Fine from €50 to €200

III. Team official refusing to fill in MVP sheets or similar documents whether on hard copy or electronically after the match €25

SECTION E. OFFENCES RELATING TO TRANSFERS

E.1. Players' Data

Provision of incorrect information about players' personal data in transfer cases:

I. Fine up to €500.

In recurring cases:

II. Fine up to €1000

III. Suspension of up to 2 years

E.2. Signing two or more contracts

Signing of two or more contracts for the same period by a player:

I. Fine from €3000 to €10000
II. Suspension for up to 2 years

E.3. 'Poaching' of Players and Officials

'Poaching' of players and officials as defined in MHA Competition Regulations is not permitted. Cases shall be referred to the Management Board in writing within 30 days of the alleged incident. The board shall examine the case and should there be sufficient proof of wrong doing the case shall be then referred to the Disciplinary Commissioner. The Disciplinary Commissioner shall impose a fine of €2000 on the guilty party. Half the fine shall be payable by the club found at fault and the other half shall be paid by the individual found at fault.

E.4. Announcement of New Transfers or Loans

Clubs shall not announce any new transfers or loans unless these have been approved by the MHA Office.

I. Fine of €200

E.5. Attending Training sessions and / or Other Activities of Other Clubs

Officials and players are prohibited from attending training sessions and/other activities of other clubs before, during or after a playing season unless the MHA Office has approved the loan or transfer. The Disciplinary Commissioner shall impose a fine of €500 on the guilty party. Half the fine shall be payable by the club found at fault and the other half shall be paid by the individual found at fault.

SECTION F. Doping Offences

The sanctions defined in the Malta Anti-Doping Regulations 2021 Sports Act (Cap. 455) and WADA Anti-Doping Code and any future amendments apply to all MHA competitions.

SECTION G. Corruption Offences

G.1. Forgery of documents

Forgery of documents by a club, a player:

II. Fine up to €5000
III. Suspension for up to 3 years

G.2. Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act

The sanctions defined in the Anti-Corruption and Fair Competition Act (Annex 1) shall form an integral part of the List of Penalties.

G.3. Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Act

The sanctions defined in the Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Act (Annex 2) shall form an integral part of the List of Penalties.

SECTION H: Beach-Handball Competitions

Unless otherwise provided, the present MHA List of Penalties shall also apply to beach handball competitions

SECTION I: Offences by Youth Players

I. When a player who has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years is found guilty of an offence, which is not considered to be of a serious nature, the Disciplinary Commissioner may discharge him on condition that he shall not commit another offence within a period of time stipulated by the Disciplinary Commissioner.

II. If such a player commits another offence within the conditional period of time, he shall be considered as a relapser and the penalty applicable to him shall not be awarded in its minimum.

III. If such player commits another offence after the conditional period of time has expired, such player shall not be deemed to be a relapser but shall only be sentenced in accordance with the offence. A conditional discharge may only be given once during the same season to the same player.

SECTION J: First Offence

When a player, whatever his age, is found guilty of a first offence and such offence is not deemed to be of a serious nature, the Commissioner may, after declaring such player guilty, discharge him unconditionally on the grounds that the offence is the player's first ever offence.

SECTION K: Amnesties

I. Proposals for an amnesty of a decision shall be sent to the Management Board by the guilty party not before the third year of suspension has elapsed.

II. The MHA Management Board shall present the proposal for amnesty to the Council for approval.

III. An approved amnesty can only result in a maximum of a 25% reduction of any suspension

IV. No amnesty shall be given with regards to fines or reduction in points.

V. Proposals for an amnesty, may only receive the consideration of the Council after a period of three years has elapsed from the previous amnesty to the same party.

VI. No amnesty shall be given to anybody who has been removed from the Association for reasons of corruption.

The present List of Penalties was adopted by the MHA Annual General Meeting on 17th July, 2024. It entered into force on 1st August, 2024.

MHA CATALOGUE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

A. Principles

I. Without prejudice to other MHA Regulations providing administrative sanctions, the MHA Office may impose the administrative sanctions listed hereunder.

II. The sanctions of the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions may be imposed on a club, and/or their players, officials, and representatives, only if the respective obligation was binding on them according to the applicable MHA Regulations, the MHA directives and/or the MHA official communications and if such obligation was violated.

III. If sanctions applicable to the violation of obligations set out in the MHA Regulations, MHA directives and/or MHA official communications are not expressly defined in the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions, they shall be decided in accordance with article 13.1 of the Legal Regulations and the List of Penalties.

IV. Notwithstanding the provisions contemplated hereunder, the MHA Office shall issue a warning for a first-time offence.

B. Failure to submit the following information, document(s) and/or material(s) to the MHA within the required deadline or submission in violation of the defined requirements

I. Team list submitted late and / or containing missing or wrong information and / or shirt numbers €25

II. Signed MHA Clubs' Code of Conduct €50

III. Signed MHA Officials' Code of Conduct €25

IV. Signed MHA Children and Young Persons Safeguarding Policy €50

V. Players' and officials' information sheets (including active individuals) €50

C. Choice and/or use of players' kit in violation of the applicable MHA Regulations

I. Failure to present two sets of players' kit / incorrect colour(s) of the players' kit(s) €100

II. Incorrect placement and/or size of player(s)'s number(s) and/or missing / illegible number(s) on player(s)' clothing: €20 per number.

III. Infringement of the IHF Regulations on Protective Equipment and Accessories €25

IV. A club or player shall make sure to conform with the Regulations by the following scheduled match in the same competition. Failure to do so will result with an additional fine of €50 for each occurrence.

D. Infringements pursuant to the use of media and/or advertising and/or the organisational setup of sport halls and match of the MHA Competitions Regulations

I. Television, radio, live-streaming, video, and advertising rights €50
II. Media recording permission €25
III. Inappropriate use of all media material included but not limited to filming and photography €100
IV. Infringement during pre- or post-match procedures €25

E. Failure by the required club to attend / participate in an official activity:

I. A press conference €50
II. An official competition workshop or coordination meeting €50
III. An official project workshop or coordination meeting €50
IV. An official event organised by the MHA for clubs or where a club's attendance is required €50

The present Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions was adopted by the MHA Annual General Meeting on 17th July, 2024. It entered into force on 1st August, 2024.