

Malta Handball Association (MHA) Statute

Version Control

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1.0. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. Legal Form

1.1.1. The Malta Handball Association (hereinafter "**MHA**") is a private non-profit organisation of an associative nature established in compliance with the laws of Malta.

1.1.2. MHA shall not distribute any of its assets and/or dividends to its Members and any economic activity which it may carry out will be an ancillary activity for the purpose or in connection with assisting the Association to carry out its objectives and its mission in accordance with the provisions of this Statute.

1.1.3. The MHA shall be registered with the national sports association, the government entity regulating Maltese sports organisations, as a voluntary organisation with the government entity regulating Maltese voluntary organisations, affiliated to the Maltese Olympic Committee, by whom it is recognized as the sole representative of the sport of Handball both domestically and internationally. It shall also be affiliated to the International Handball Federation (hereinafter "**IHF**") and to the European Handball Federation (hereinafter "**EHF**") whose laws and regulations it accepts.

1.1.4. The flag, emblem & logo of the MHA shall be in the form as the Management Board may determine from time to time.

1.1.5. The headquarters of the MHA shall be at the National Swimming Pool Complex, Tal-Qroqq, Msida, or at any other premises as the Management Board may from time to time determine.

1.2. Objectives

1.2.1. The objectives of the MHA are:

a) to improve the game of handball constantly and promote, regulate and control it throughout the territory of Malta and its dependencies in the light of fair play and its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values, particularly through youth and development programmes;

b) to organise competitions of indoor and beach handball at national level;
c) to draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their enforcement;
d) to protect the interests of its Members;
e) to respect and prevent any infringement of the Statutes, regulations, and decisions of MHA, EHF and IHF, as well as the Rules of the Game, and to ensure that these are also respected by its Members;
f) to promote integrity, ethics and fair play with a view to preventing all methods or practices, such as corruption, doping or match manipulation, which might jeopardise the integrity of matches, competitions, players, officials and Members or give rise to abuse of the sport of handball;
g) to promote and strengthen good governance principles and practices at national level and encourage its Members to adopt their own good governance principles;
h) to control and supervise handball, in whatever form, at national level and to control and supervise all forms of international handball matches played throughout the territory of Malta;
i) to manage international sporting relations connected with handball;
j) where feasible, to host competitions at international and other levels;
k) to own and/or administer and/or manage sports facilities and/or any other property needed to achieve its objectives;
l) to enter into any agreement and/or any kind of partnership with other parties for the promotion and the development of handball or sports in general both locally and abroad; and
m) to do all such other things as are necessary for the attainment of the aims and objectives of the MHA.

1.3. Human rights, non-discrimination and equality, neutrality and institutional independence

1.3.1. The MHA is committed to respecting all internationally recognised human rights and shall strive to promote the protection of these rights.

1.3.2. The MHA and its Members shall be neutral in all matters of politics and religion.

1.3.3. The MHA shall remain independent, shall manage its affairs independently and shall ensure that its own affairs are not influenced by any third parties, particularly it shall avoid any form of undue political interference.

1.3.4. Discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, ability, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, wealth, birth or any other status, sexual orientation or any other reason is strictly prohibited by the MHA and its Members.

1.4. Conduct of Members, bodies, Officials and others

1.4.1. The MHA shall be recognised by all its Members and their respective members thereof, as the only body which has the sole right to organise the sport of handball in all its forms and to exercise control and discipline over handball within the territory of the Republic of Malta and which has the right of sole representation of the sport of handball both at national level and at international level.

1.4.2. All members, bodies and officials of the MHA and every person and organisation involved in the game of handball, in all its forms, in the territory of Malta is obliged to observe the Statute, regulations, directives, and decisions of the IHF, EHF, of the MHA and any other relevant statutes, as well as the principles of fair play, loyalty, integrity and sportsmanship.

1.4.3. The Members of the MHA shall not take part in legal action or any intervention by third parties (from outside the MHA) against the MHA.

1.4.4. The MHA recognises the Court of Arbitration in Lausanne, Switzerland (CAS), as the supreme jurisdictional authority to which the Association, its Members and their members thereof, may have recourse to in handball matters according to the regulations of the MHA, IHF and/or EHF. However, no individual or organisation shall resort to the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration in Lausanne, Switzerland (CAS) before exhausting all ordinary remedies, both domestic and international, which may be available to such individual or organisation.

1.5 Official languages

1.5.1. The official languages of the MHA shall be Maltese and English. Official documents and texts shall be written in any one of these languages. In the event of any divergence in the interpretation of texts in different languages, the text written in Maltese shall be authoritative.

2.0. MEMBERSHIP

2.1. Membership of the MHA

2.1.1. Membership of the MHA is open to:

a) those constituted clubs which are duly recognised and registered with the MHA, who take part in the game of handball, in all its forms and in a competitive manner, so long as they had at least one registered team in a senior MHA Competition, in the season preceding the upcoming Ordinary General Meeting;
b) any entity recognised by the MHA that may exist from time to time representing the interests of local handball referees after the Management Board has ensured and gave its approval in writing that its form, objectives and activities are in compliance with this Statute;
c) any entity recognised by the MHA that may exist from time to time representing the interests of local handball coaches after the Management Board has ensured and gave its approval in writing that its form, objectives and activities are in compliance with this Statute;
d) any entity recognised by the MHA that may exist from time to time representing the interests of local handball players after the Management Board has ensured and gave its approval in writing that its form, objectives and activities are in compliance with this Statute;
e) any entity recognised by the MHA that may exist from time to time representing the interests of women's handball after the Management Board has ensured and gave its approval in writing that its form, objectives and activities are in compliance with this Statute; and

f) any other entity which the General Meeting may determine admissible after the Management Board has ensured and gave its approval in writing that its form, objectives and activities are in compliance with this Statute.

2.1.2. In determining whether an entity's form, objectives and activities are in compliance with this Statute, the Management Board may, according to its discretion, issue further rules and regulations which determine the exact requirements that must be met for entities to become Members of the MHA, so long as such requirements do not contradict anything in this Statute.

2.1.3 Without prejudice to anything else contained in this Statute, the General Meeting shall decide whether to admit, suspend or expel a Member.

2.1.4. Membership is terminated by withdrawal, resignation or expulsion. Loss of membership does not relieve the Member from its financial obligations towards the MHA or other Members of the MHA, but leads to the loss of all rights in relation to the MHA.

2.1.5. The MHA shall ensure that all relevant stakeholders are represented within its General Meeting, particularly ensuring that the interests of women's handball shall also be adequately represented in the General Meeting.

2.2. Members' rights

2.2.1. The Members of the MHA have the following rights:

a) to take part in the General Meeting, to receive its agenda in advance, to be called to the General Meeting within the prescribed time, to exercise their rights to participate in the debates and discussions and to exercise their voting rights when such Member is prescribed a voting right according to this Statute;
b) to draw up proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Meeting;
c) to nominate candidates for the post of President, Vice President and General Secretary of the MHA;
d) to be informed of the affairs of MHA through its official bodies;
e) to take part in competitions (if applicable) and/or other sporting activities organised by the MHA; and

f) to exercise all other rights arising from the Statute and regulations of the MHA;

2.2.2. The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in the Statutes and applicable regulations of the MHA.

2.3. Members' obligations

2.3.1. The Members of the MHA have the following obligations:

a) to comply fully with the Statutes, regulations, directives and decisions of the MHA, IHF and EHF at all times and to ensure that these are also respected by its members and any of their affiliates;
b) to take part in competitions (if applicable) and other sporting activities organised by the MHA;
c) to pay any membership subscriptions as determined by the Management Board from time to time;
d) to respect the Rules of the Game as laid down by The MHA, EHF and IHF, and to ensure that these are also respected by its members through a statutory provision;
e) to adopt a statutory clause specifying that that any dispute of national dimension, arising from or related to this Statute, regulations, directives and decisions of the MHA shall be exclusively determined by the judicial organs of the MHA, to the exclusion of any ordinary court, unless expressly prohibited by the Laws of Malta;
f) to manage their affairs independently and ensure that their own affairs are not influenced by any third parties in accordance with this Statute;
g) to ensure that their bodies are either elected or appointed according to a procedure that guarantees the complete independence of the election or appointment;
h) to immediately communicate to the MHA any amendment to its statutes and regulations as well as the list of its officials who are authorised signatories with the right to enter into legally binding agreements with third parties;
i) to observe the principles of loyalty, integrity and good sporting behaviour as an expression of fair play through a statutory provision;
j) to administer a register of members which shall regularly be updated;

k) to comply fully with all other duties arising from the Statutes and other regulations of IHF, EHF, and the MHA; and

l) to administer a register of all donations received, and in this in accordance with regulations which shall become applicable from time to time.

2.3.2. Violation of the above-mentioned obligations by any Member may lead to sanctions as provided for in this Statute and any rules and regulations of the MHA.

2.3.3. Each Member of the MHA is responsible for any and all acts of the its members and its bodies, when such acts have been caused by gross negligence or wilful misconduct.

2.4. Suspension

2.4.1 The General Meeting is responsible for suspending a Member if it seriously and repeatedly violates the Statute, regulations, directives or decisions of IHF, EHF, the MHA or any other relevant and authoritative governmental or non-governmental entity regulating sports, ethics or integrity.

2.4.2. The Management Board may, however, temporarily suspend a Member that seriously and/or repeatedly violates its obligations as a Member with immediate effect. The suspension approved by the Management Board shall last until the next General Meeting, unless the Management Board has lifted it in the meantime. The suspension by the General Meeting shall be applicable for a period not exceeding two (2) years. A longer suspension shall be deemed for all intents and purposes to be a termination of membership.

2.4.3. The presence of a qualified majority (more than 70%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote is necessary for a suspension to be valid. A suspension of a Member by the General Meeting or the Management Board shall always be confirmed at the next General Meeting by a simple majority of the valid votes cast. If it is not confirmed, the suspension shall be automatically lifted.

2.4.4. A suspended Member shall lose its membership rights. Other Members may not entertain sporting contact with a suspended Member. This is without prejudice to any sanction that may be applied by any of the MHA's judicial bodies.

2.4.5. The Management Board shall be competent to lift the suspension, within a period of two (2) years from the decision imposed by itself or the General Meeting, if it is shown to its satisfaction that the member has taken all the necessary steps to rectify and ensure ongoing compliance with their serious and repeated violations of the Statute, regulations, directives or decisions of IHF, EHF and the MHA.

2.5. Expulsion or dissolution of Members

2.5.1. The General Meeting may expel a Member if it seriously and repeatedly violates the Statute, regulations, directives or decisions of IHF, EHF and the MHA.

2.5.2. The presence of a qualified majority (more than 70%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote at the General Meeting is necessary for an expulsion to be valid, and the motion for expulsion must be adopted by a three-quarter majority of the valid votes cast.

2.5.3. If a Member is expelled or dissolved, its membership to the Association shall terminate at the same time.

2.5.4. A Member shall be obliged to settle all outstanding obligations towards the MHA due up to its termination of membership within a reasonable period to be set by the Management Board.

2.6 Withdrawal of membership

2.6.1. Where a Member wishes to withdraw its membership, notice of withdrawal must reach the general secretary of the MHA no later than three (3) months before the end of the handball season, which shall be deemed to be the last local competitive handball fixture, whatever competition it may be.

2.6.2. The withdrawal shall not exonerate such Member from any obligations towards other Members and/or towards the MHA and shall not be valid until the Member wishing to withdraw has fulfilled its obligations towards the MHA and its other Members.

3.0. ORGANISATION

3.1. Bodies of the MHA

3.1.1. The General Meeting is the supreme and legislative body of the MHA.

3.1.2. The Management Board is the strategic and regulatory body of the MHA.

3.1.3. The Council is the Consultative and policy-driving body of the MHA.

3.1.4. The judicial bodies are the Disciplinary Commissioner, the Appeals Commissioner, the Protests Commissioner, and the Independent Board, as constituted under the MHA Legal Regulations.

3.1.5. Any ad hoc committees may be appointed by the Management Board, which may include but is not limited to a Competitions Committee, a Finance Committee, a Social Dialogue Committee, and any other committee that the Management Board may deem appropriate to advise and assist the Management Board in fulfilling its duties. These committees are appointed for special duties and a limited period of time. The Management Board shall appoint a chairperson and an appropriate number of members. The duties and functions of ad hoc committees are defined in special regulations approved by the Management Board. An ad hoc committee shall report directly to the Management Board.

3.1.6. The bodies shall be either elected or appointed without any undue external influence and in accordance with the procedures described in this Statute. The members of the bodies shall not have previously been found guilty of any criminal offence incompatible with the position.

3.1.7. Any member of the bodies must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interest. In particular, members of the bodies shall always be aware of and comply with, the relevant provisions of the MHA, in particular any code of ethics that may apply from time to time relating to conflicts of interest and adjust their conduct as necessary.

3.2. Dismissal of a member of a body

3.2.1. The General Meeting may dismiss a member of a body. The Management Board may also dismiss a member of a body provisionally, wherein such provisional dismissal shall be confirmed by the next General Meeting, unless the Management Board has lifted it in the meantime.

3.2.2. The motion for dismissal must be justified and the reasons for the motion shall be clearly laid out and shall be sent to the members of the Management Board and the Members of the General Meeting.

3.2.3. The member of the body in question has the right to defend himself in front of the Management Board and/or the General Assembly.

3.2.4. The motion for dismissal shall be decided by means of secret ballot at the Management Board and/or the General Assembly. For the motion to be passed, a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the valid votes cast is required.

3.2.5. The member dismissed (provisionally or not) is relieved of his functions with immediate effect.

3.3. The General Meeting

General

3.3.1. The General Meeting is a meeting at which all of the Members regularly convene. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of MHA. Only a General Meeting that is duly convened has the authority to make decisions.

3.3.2. The General Meeting shall be constituted in accordance with the principles of representative democracy.

3.3.3. The General Meeting may be ordinary or extraordinary.

3.3.4. The Chairperson, who shall be elected by the General Assembly itself to chair that specific General Meeting, shall chair the General Meeting in compliance with this Statute as well as any applicable rules and regulations.

3.3.5. The Management Board may appoint observers who take part in the General Meeting without the right to debate or to vote.

Delegates and Voting

3.3.6. The General Meeting is composed of one delegate for every Member.

3.3.7. Each Member shall appoint or elect a Delegate and a substitute. Delegates must form part of the management committee or board of the Member that they represent.

3.3.8. Each delegate has one vote in the General Meeting. Only the delegates present are entitled to vote. If more than one delegate of the same Member is present during the voting, first voting preference shall be given to the approved delegate and then to the approved substitute delegate. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.

3.3.9. The President, the Vice President, the Secretary General, the Chairperson, and the members of the Management Board, shall not be entitled to vote. However, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote in the case that an equality of votes is reached on a motion.

3.3.10. The President, the Vice President, the Secretary General and the members of the Management Board shall take part in the General Meeting without voting rights. During their terms of office, the President, the Vice President, the Secretary General and the members of the Management Board may not be appointed as delegates to the General Meeting.

Areas of authority

3.3.11. The General Meeting has the following areas of authority:

a) adopting or amending this Statute and any other regulations of the MHA;
b) electing the President, the Vice President and the Secretary General of the MHA;
c) electing the non-co-opted members of the bodies of the MHA, upon the proposal of the Management Board;
d) approving the annual financial statements and the annual report;
e) appointing auditors;
f) admitting, suspending or expelling a Member in line with this Statute;

g) dismissing a member of a body of the MHA;
h) a role in dissolving the MHA; and
i) passing decisions at the request of a Member in accordance with this Statute or passing any decision entrusted to the General Meeting in accordance with this Statute.

3.3.12. No other business, except that on the Agenda of the meeting may be transacted at meetings of the General Meeting.

Quorum

3.3.13. Decisions passed by the General Meeting shall only be valid if a majority (more than 50%) of the delegates representing the Members eligible to vote are present.

3.3.14. If a quorum is not achieved, the commencement of the meeting shall be postponed by up to an hour. If a quorum is still not achieved then, a second General Meeting shall take place within seven (7) calendar days with the same agenda.

3.3.15. A quorum is not required for the second meeting of the General Meeting unless an item on the agenda proposes the amendment of this statute, the election of the President, Vice Presidents or Secretary General, the dismissal of a member of a body of the MHA, the suspension or expulsion of a Member or the dissolution of the MHA.

3.3.16. Once it is declared that the General Meeting has been convened and composed in accordance with this Statute, the quorum shall not be influenced by delegates departing.

Decisions

3.3.17. A decision that requires a vote shall be reached by a show of hands, unless decided otherwise by the General Meeting. If a show of hands does not result in a clear majority in favour of a motion, the vote shall be taken by calling the roll in alphabetical order.

3.3.18. Unless otherwise stipulated in this Statute, a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is sufficient for a decision to be valid. Abstentions shall be disregarded when calculating the majority.

Elections

3.3.18 Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot and the candidates with the highest vote shall be elected to the office they are contesting in.

3.3.19. The President, Vice President and the Secretary General, are elected for a term of office of four (4) years. They shall be eligible for re-election in the same role for three (3) further mandates of four (4) years each, whether consecutive or not.

3.3.20. The President, Vice President and Secretary General shall not be affiliated with any Member and shall not represent any particular Member, group of Members or affiliates thereof.

3.3.21. Nominations for the filling of the posts of the President, Vice President and Secretary General, may be made by any Member of the Association at least nineteen (19) calendar days before the date scheduled for the Annual General Meeting during which elections for any such posts are due to be held, this being done in writing to the Secretary General, provided that they fulfil the relevant applicable eligibility criteria.

3.3.22. In the case that by the date of the closing of the nominations to fill in any post of the President, Vice President and Secretary General, no candidates are proposed to fill any such post, the Management Board shall be empowered to extend such date as it may deem necessary in the circumstances and in any case by not later than eight (8) calendar days before the date of the General Meeting. Where, following such an extended period, still no candidates are proposed, the position(s) concerned shall remain vacant.

3.3.23. When, during the term of office, a vacancy occurs in any of the posts of the President, Vice President and Secretary General, such vacancy shall be filled at the next General Meeting, be it ordinary or extraordinary.

3.3.24. For elections of the President, Vice President and Secretary General:

a) the names of the candidates for the filling of the above-mentioned posts shall be circulated to the Members of the MHA at least five (5) calendar days before the date of the General Meeting during which elections are due to be held;

b) upon election as the the President, Vice President or Secretary General of the MHA, where such is affiliated with any Member, s/he shall terminate such affiliation with the Member; and
c) candidates for any of the positions under this article shall be familiar with the activities of the association.

Ordinary General Meeting

3.3.25. The Ordinary General Meeting is convened once every calendar year. It is convened not earlier than three hundred and sixty five (365) calendar days since the last Ordinary General Meeting and not later than ninety (90) calendar days following the end of the handball season, which shall be deemed to be the last local competitive handball fixture, whatever competition it may be. In the absence of a handball season, the Ordinary General Meeting is convened no later than four hundred (400) calendar days after the previous Ordinary General Meeting.

3.3.26. The date and venue of the General Meeting shall be fixed by the Management Board and the Members shall be notified in writing at least thirty (30) calendar days in advance.

3.3.27. Any proposal or motion that a Member wishes to submit to the General Meeting shall be sent to the Secretary General in writing, with a brief explanation, at least fifteen (15) before the date of the General Meeting.

3.3.28. At least seven (7) calendar days before the date of the Ordinary General Meeting, the Management Board shall send to the Members the agenda, the annual report, the financial report, and any other relevant documents.

3.3.29. The Ordinary General Meeting agenda shall include the following mandatory items (in chronological order):

a) appointment of chairperson;
b) verification of the composition of the Meeting and of the Delegates entitled to vote;
c) approval of the agenda;
d) approval of the minutes of the previous Ordinary General Meeting and the minutes of any intervening Extraordinary General Meeting;
e) suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable);

f) presentation and approval of the Annual Report;

g) presentation and approval of the Financial Report;

h) votes on proposals for amendments to any of the MHA documents;

i) discussion of any motions that may have been submitted;

j) appointment of the independent and external auditors (if applicable);

k) dismissal of a member of a body of the MHA (if applicable);

l) election of the President, Vice President and Secretary General (if applicable);

m) election of the members of the bodies of the MHA; and

n) admission for membership (if applicable).

3.3.30. The General Meeting shall not take a decision on any point not included in the agenda.

3.3.31. The agenda of a General Meeting may be altered, provided a majority (50% + 1 vote) of the delegates representing the Members present at the General Meeting and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.

Extraordinary General Meeting

3.3.32. The President, acting on the advice of the Management Board, may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time.

3.3.33. The Secretary General shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting within twenty (20) days if more than one half of the Members of the MHA make such a request in writing. The request shall specify the items to be included in the agenda. For the purposes of this article, a Member which has been suspended shall not be taken into consideration.

3.3.34. Without prejudice to the foregoing, where an Ordinary General Meeting is convened or scheduled to be convened within twenty (20) calendar days from such request in the preceding article, the item(s) requested to be included shall be added to the agenda of such Ordinary General Meeting without the need to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting.

3.3.35. The Secretary General shall notify Members of the place, date and agenda at least seven (7) calendar days before the date of an Extraordinary General Meeting.

3.3.36. When an Extraordinary General Meeting is convened on the initiative of the President, acting on the advice of the Management Board, the Secretary General must draw up the agenda.

3.3.37. The agenda of an Extraordinary General Meeting may not be altered.

Miscellaneous

3.3.38. The Secretary General shall be responsible for recording the minutes at the General Meeting.

3.3.39. Decisions passed by the General Meeting shall come into effect immediately. However, any decision which may impact the form or procedure of the General Meeting shall not take place until the next General Meeting.

3.4 The Council

3.4.1. The Council shall be the consultative and policy-driving body of the MHA.

3.4.2. The Council shall be composed of:

a) the President and the Vice President;
b) delegates of each of the Members of the MHA;
c) any interested individual who forms part of the handball community who requests to be part of the Council in writing to the Secretary General; and
d) the Secretary General and the Management Board.

3.4.3. In its first Council Meeting after the preceding Ordinary General Meeting, the Council shall appoint a chairperson whose responsibility is to call for a Council meeting at least once every two (2) months and to make sure the interests of all the Members of Council are duly represented. For the avoidance of doubt, the first Council Meeting after the preceding Ordinary General Meeting must be called for by the President not later than forty (40) calendar days after such Ordinary General Meeting.

3.4.4. The President and the Vice President of the MHA may be nominated as Chairperson of the Council.

3.4.5. A Notice for a Council meeting shall be forwarded to all those entitled at least five (5) calendar days before the date of the meeting. However, whenever a Council meeting is convened with urgency at the discretion of the Chairperson, the five (5) day notice may be done away with. It still remains imperative that a notice is served on all those entitled to attend.

3.4.6. The Secretary General shall be the administrative assistant of the Chairperson and shall assist in setting the agenda of Council Meetings, booking the required venues, taking minutes, and notifying the Members of Council of any Council Meetings in accordance with this Statute.

3.4.7. It shall be the duty of the Management Board, inclusive of the President, Vice President, and General Secretary, to update the Council on all the workings of the Management Board and any policy decisions that may have been taken by the Management Board since the last Council Meeting. The Management Board, inclusive of the President, Vice President, and General Secretary, must answer truthfully and in detail, all the questions put forward by the Members of the Council during Council Meetings, unless answering such questions puts the MHA in legal jeopardy.

3.4.8. Any recommendation taken by the Council, although not binding, shall be taken seriously by the Management Board. In the case that the Management Board does not comply with a recommendation of the Council, the Members of the MHA may call for an emergency Extraordinary General Meeting in accordance with clause 3.3.33. of this Statute.

3.5 The Management Board

Composition

3.5.1 The Management Board shall be composed of the following officers:

a) The President;
b) The Vice President;
c) The General Secretary; and
d) all other persons co-opted by the above to serve on the Management Board, which may include but are not limited to the roles of Head of Finance, Technical Director, Head of Operations, Head of Administration, and Head of PR and Marketing.

The Duties of the Management Board

3.5.2. The Management Board is authorised by the General Meeting to discuss and implement all those provisions necessary to secure and increase the proper functioning of the MHA. For this purpose the Management Board is empowered to establish the committees mentioned in clause 3.1.5. of this Statute.

3.5.3. The Management Board is to ensure that any disciplinary code and ethics codes are maintained at all times.

3.5.4. It shall be the duty of the Management Board, inclusive of the President, Vice President and Secretary General to:

a) run the day-to-day affairs of the MHA in conformity with the mandate given to it by the General Meeting and in accordance with the provisions of this Statute and any other MHA document;
b) prepare the Annual Report and Financial Report to be submitted to and approved by the General Meeting;
c) pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the General Meeting or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under this Statute;
d) ensure that this Statute is applied and to adopt the executive arrangements required for its application;
e) dismiss a member of a body or to suspend a Member of the MHA provisionally until the next General Meeting;
f) to delegate tasks under its authority to other bodies;
g) to appoint observers who may take part in the General Meeting without the right to debate or to vote;
h) to suspend the game of handball either partially or entirely and to extend the periods of play even if these had already been decided upon;
i) to approve the annual budget of the MHA;
j) to deal with all such matters as may be submitted to it by the Council or the General Meeting;

k) to deal with any question relating to handball and to take the necessary decisions even if the rules and regulations of the MHA, IHF, and/or EHF are silent on the matter. In this case, the Management Board shall base its decisions on justice and righteousness; and

l) to discuss or decide upon any matter on its own motion as it may deem fit.

3.5.5. The Officers of the Management Board, shall be co-opted by the President, Vice President and Secretary General.

3.5.6. All these Officers shall remain in office for the duration of the term of the President or until the President elects to dismiss any one of such Officers from the Management Board.

Resignation or Dismissal of the President

3.5.7. The resignation or dismissal of the President will bring about the decadence of the whole Management Board. In such a situation the Secretary General of the MHA shall remain in office to see to the day-to-day administration of the MHA. The General Secretary shall within a maximum of fifteen (15) calendar days from the Resignation or Dismissal of the President convene an Extraordinary General Meeting in accordance with the rules and regulations of the MHA and shall have the specific task of electing a new President and Vice President. The new President and Vice President shall remain in office until the date in which fresh elections and new appointments would have become necessary had the previous President remained in office for the whole term.

3.5.8. The President may be dismissed following a vote of no confidence, carried with a two thirds (75%) majority of all delegates eligible to vote, in favour of dismissal, during an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for this specific reason. A request for a vote of no confidence in the President may be convened following a written request presented to the Secretary General, stating the reasons for the vote of no confidence, and signed by at least fifty per cent (50%) of the Members of MHA. The Secretary General is to convene the Extraordinary General Meeting within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of this request and shall notify all those entitled to attend and vote at least seven (7) calendar days prior. This notice may be sent by electronic means.

The Powers and Responsibilities of the Officers of the Management Board

3.5.9. In accordance with this statute the President is:

a) the Chairman of all committees of the MHA mentioned in clause 3.1.5. of this Statute, with a right to attend all meetings of such;
b) vested with the legal representation of the MHA, who shall represent the MHA before any Court of Law or in any other legal proceedings;
c) empowered to sign documents which legally bind the MHA;
d) duty bound to discuss and agree on an agenda before it is included in the notice of a meeting;
e) to preside at, and conduct the business of any meeting of which he is chairman;
f) see to it that the Statute & rules of the MHA are upheld at all times;
g) do his utmost to resolve conflicts and clarify issues;
h) represent the MHA at domestic and international fora relating to handball in all its forms and sports in general; and
i) plan the strategy of the MHA and provide leadership and direction to all its members.

3.5.9 In accordance with this statute the Vice President is:

a) to Assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and, when delegated, to act on the President's behalf in all matters;
b) duty bound to assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in the event of the President's absence, incapacity, or any other circumstance which prevents the President from fulfilling his/her functions;
c) responsible for the financial administration of the MHA taking care that all dues are collected and paid and shall be responsible for the keeping of proper books of accounts;
d) shall be responsible for the preparation of a Financial Report to be submitted for approval to the Ordinary General Meeting;
e) empowered to sign documents binding the MHA; and
f) support the resolution of internal disputes and contribute to foster unity and cohesion within the Management Board.

3.5.10 In case of resignation of the Vice President, the Management Board shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting within thirty (30) calendar days to elect a new Vice President.

3.5.11. In accordance with this statute the Secretary General is:

a) the head of the MHA's administration;
b) bound to keep minutes of the Management Board and the Council meetings;
c) to prepare an Annual Report to be read at the Ordinary General Meeting;
d) together with the President or Vice President, empowered to sign documents binding the MHA;
e) responsible for the running of all handball competitions and shall prepare the fixtures;
f) responsible for the registration of players and officials in accordance with the MHA rules and regulation; and
g) responsible for the implementation of a development programme with the aim to increase the number of handball players and clubs/teams on the island.

3.5.12. The President, Vice President and Secretary General may freely delegate their duties to the officers of the Management Board and assign to them any other additional duties that may apply from time to time depending on the needs of the MHA.

Eligibility, Ineligibility and Incompatibility

3.5.13. All those who have no criminal record and have not been suspended by either the government entity regulating Maltese sports organisations, the Maltese Olympic Committee, the MHA, or any other official body, are eligible to occupy any one of the posts on the Management Board.

3.5.14. It is not compatible for any person elected or appointed to one of the posts on the Management Board to retain any executive post he/she might have with any other national sports association/federation, with the exception of the Malta Olympic Committee (MOC) and Sport Malta.

3.5.15. A person elected or appointed on the Management Board shall not occupy more than 1 (one) office within the MHA. However, he/she may assume the administrative duties of another office.

Decisions and Voting

3.5.16. Each member of the Management Board has one vote each. The President also has a casting vote where this is applicable and necessary. Voting by proxy or by letter is not permitted.

3.5.17. The Management Board shall reach decisions by a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast.

3.5.18. Any member of the Management Board must withdraw from the debate and from taking a decision if there is any risk or possibility of a conflict of interests.

3.5.19. The decisions taken shall be recorded in the minutes.

3.5.20. The decisions taken by the Management Board shall come into effect immediately, unless the Management Board decides otherwise, and shall be binding upon all Members and their affiliates.

3.5.21. Without prejudice to clause 3.4.7. of this Statute, Members of the Management Board shall not, without the express authorisation of the President or the Management Board, divulge in any manner whatsoever any information relating to the MHA and/or the contents of any document of the MHA which has come to his knowledge or in his possession because of his office. A member of the Management Board who breaches this provision shall be guilty of breach of trust against the MHA. If the President deems that a breach of trust has occurred, he/she shall be entitled to bring before the Management Board a motion of no confidence in such a member for breach of trust. If the Management Board agrees with such a motion, the member concerned shall relinquish his office forthwith and shall not be eligible to hold any position within the MHA for three (3) years. The MHA shall have the right to claim damages against the member concerned as a result of such breach of trust.

3.5.22 Without prejudice to the preceding clause, the Members of the Management Board shall be entitled to declare their separate dissenting position to the MHA Council, following a vote taken by the Management Board. In so doing, he/she shall ascertain that he/she does not disclose or identify the members in relation to their voting on the matter and shall ensure total respect towards the discussion, the individual members, and the MHA. Such entitlement to a dissenting position shall not be construed as tantamount to a right not to be bound by the Management Board decision in question.

3.6 Judicial Bodies

3.6.1. The judicial bodies are to be composed in such a way that the members, together, have the knowledge, abilities and specialist experience that is necessary for the due completion of their tasks and duties.

3.6.2. The Judicial Bodies are made up of not less than three (3) and not more than six (6) Arbitrary Commissioners, who must be appointed by the Ordinary General Meeting.

3.6.3. From the list of Arbitrary Commissioners appointed by the Ordinary General Meeting, the President or in his absence the Vice President, shall have the authority to select and appoint Arbitrary Commissioners to take up the role of Disciplinary Commissioner, Appeals Commissioner, Protests Commissioner, or to form part of the Independent Board, on a case by case basis, as constituted under the MHA Legal Regulations or any other rules and regulations of the MHA.

3.6.4. The Arbitrary Commissioner appointed to deal with an appellant case shall not have been the Arbitrary Commissioner which adjudicated the same case at first instance.

3.6.5. The Ordinary General Meeting shall extend to the Arbitrary Commissioners those powers, rights, and functions which are necessary for them to fulfil their obligations under this Statute and any other rules or regulations of the MHA.

3.6.6. Additional Arbitrary Commissioners may be appointed by the Management Board in the case of vacancies.

3.6.7. The Secretary General shall be the administrative assistant of the Arbitrary Commissioners and shall keep him/her informed with regards to the judicial records of the parties in question during the previous three (3) calendar years, availability of video evidence and other related information as the case may be. The Secretary General shall also be responsible for the filing and communication of the decisions taken by the Arbitrary Commissioners. In the absence of the Secretary General, the President or in his absence, the Vice President, shall appoint a Member from the Management Board to replace him. The Secretary General, or any other Member of the Management Board appointed thereto shall not be in any way involved in the deliberation and/or decisions of the Arbitrary Commissioners.

4.0 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Financial Period

4.1.1 The financial year of the MHA shall end on the 30th of June of each calendar year. It is the responsibility of the Management Board to see that the finances of the MHA are administered within the parameters of the approved budgetary provisions.

4.1.2. The responsibility for the approval of the Financial Report lies with the Ordinary General Meeting.

5.0 GENDER REPRESENTATION, ANTI-DOPING AND COMPETITION MANIPULATION

5.1. Gender Representation

5.1.1. The MHA shall strive to have each gender represented by at least one of the individuals who are appointed on the Management Board.

5.2. Anti-Doping

5.2.1. The MHA and its Members shall at all times fight against the use of substances and methods prohibited by WADA or the International Sports Organisations through the adoption and implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code, thereby ensuring that the anti-doping policies and rules, membership and/or funding requirements and results management procedures conform with the World Anti-Doping Code. In so doing, the MHA will also support and be compliant with the anti-doping laws of Malta and adhere to the recommendations pursuant from the National Anti-Doping Organisation.

5.3. Competition Manipulation

5.3.1. The MHA and its Members shall at all times fight against competition manipulations through the adoption and implementation of appropriate rules and regulations, including the MHA Clubs Code of Conduct, the MHA Officials Code of Conduct and the MHA Legal Regulations.

6.0 DISSOLUTION

6.1. Dissolution of the MHA

6.1.1. Only the government entity regulating Maltese sports organisations, acting on a proposal discussed and approved by a General Meeting of the MHA is empowered to dissolve the Association.

6.1.2. A proposal for dissolution must obtain the approval of ninety percent (90%) of all the Members of the MHA with a right to vote.

6.1.2. For the purpose of this article and notwithstanding what is provided for elsewhere in this Statute, Members will only be entitled to one (1) vote each.

6.1.3. In the case of dissolution, the government entity regulating Maltese sports organisations shall be empowered to liquidate the Malta Handball Association and consequently recognize a new Association to run Handball in Malta.

7.0 FINAL PROVISIONS

7.1. Enforcement of Provisions and Arbitration

7.1.1. The Members of the MHA are duty bound to observe this statute, the laws and regulations and all the decisions of the MHA.

7.1.2. Whenever differences between Members of the MHA crop up, on matters of a purely sporting nature, and which no other body within the MHA is competent to deal with, the President, in order to settle the differences, may appoint Arbitrary Commissioners to resolve the dispute, during which the Arbitrary Commissioners shall regulate their own proceedings as they deem fit.

7.2. Amendments to this Statute

7.2.1. This statute, as approved by the General Meeting may only be amended by another General Meeting, through a motion validly submitted and upon successfully obtaining a two-thirds (75%) majority vote of all MHA Members having a right to vote and present at the beginning of the General Meeting.

7.3. Laws and Regulations

7.3.1. Without prejudice to anything else contained in this Statute, although not forming part of this statute, any rule, directive or regulation of the MHA, being freely and validly decided upon by the General Meeting is to be considered as valid and in force from the moment of its approval.

For the Malta Handball Association,

As approved on the 25th of August 2025 by the Malta Handball Association General Meeting,

Daniel Tabone
President

Av. Matthias Azzopardi
Secretary General