



CLUBS CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

**Clubs, club officials, club related players, and club related persons
being in whatever way involved or associated to
all MHA Club competitions and events**

Date: 22/12/2022

INTRODUCTION

This Code of Conduct 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.

Article 1 - SCOPE

- 1.1 This Code of Conduct agreement ('Code') applies to all affiliated clubs, club officials, club related players, and club related persons (all four groups subsequently summarized as 'Clubs') being in whatever way involved or associated to all Malta Handball Association ('MHA') Club Competitions and Events.

Article 2 – PRINCIPLES

- 2.1. This Code sets out what behaviour is acceptable and unacceptable in our sport.
- 2.2. It also defines standards of practice expected from those to whom it applies.

Article 3 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MHA

- 3.1. The MHA shall promote and encourage fair play through its members.
- 3.2. The MHA shall ensure that its rules are fair, clearly understood by administrators, officials, coaches, and players, and are properly enforced.
- 3.3. The MHA shall make every effort to ensure that its rules are applied consistently and with absolute impartiality.
- 3.4. The MHA shall treat all members equally, irrespective of gender, race, religion, physical characteristics, and disabilities or impairments.
- 3.5. The MHA shall inspire administrators, officials, coaches, and players, to run and play handball with the highest standards of sportsmanship.

Article 4 – PARTICIPATION IN MHA COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

- 4.1. Clubs shall act and compete in all competitions and events with an honest effort to follow the rules and the spirit of fairness and sportsmanlike conduct. The goal of each competition is to give one's best effort while displaying honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship.
- 4.2. Clubs shall display courtesy and respect toward the opposing team, the MHA, and its officials as well as MHA Partners and other MHA related organizations and persons.
- 4.3. Clubs shall take all necessary personnel and organizational measures to ensure these requirements within reason.

Article 5 – DUE CONDUCT – ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

- 5.1. Clubs are obliged to ensure that all parties involved, especially all MHA officials are treated in an utmost neutral way and not exposed to any unwarranted situation as undue contacts.
- 5.2. Clubs shall have an impeccable conduct which includes avoiding any statements or actions before, during or after a match which may mislead an MHA official or any other persons acting on behalf of the MHA as well as any information which is likely to influence the decision making of an MHA official.
- 5.3. Clubs shall have no contact, whether verbal, non-verbal, or through online chats and messaging, with any MHA Official after a match to praise or otherwise mock his/her performance.
- 5.4. No presents or gifts shall be offered or promised to any MHA official before, during or after a match.
- 5.5. No money or anything of value shall be given to any third party, where there is reason to believe it will be passed on to anyone involved in the purpose of influencing decisions or results.

- 5.6. Clubs shall comply with all applicable national and international anti-bribery regulations.
- 5.7. Clubs must not, directly, or indirectly, make or offer bribes, kickbacks, or other payments of money or anything of value to anyone, including officials, employees, or representatives of the MHA, of any club, company, or public or international organization, 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.

Article 6 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLUB OFFICIALS

- 6.1. Club officials shall consider the wellbeing and safety of participants before the development of performance.
- 6.2. Club officials shall develop an appropriate working relationship with participants, based on mutual trust and respect.
- 6.3. Club officials shall make sure all activities are appropriate to the age, ability, and experience of those taking part.
- 6.4. Club officials shall recognise the special role they have to play in the establishment of standards by displaying consistently high standards of behaviour and appearance and promote the positive aspects of the sport (e.g., fair play).
- 6.5. Club officials shall respect the regulations and authority of the MHA and their respective Club and do not attempt to avoid or circumvent these regulations.
- 6.6. Club officials shall not do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any other person on the ground of gender, race, disability, age, religious or political belief, sexual orientation, and social background.
- 6.7. Club officials shall never exert undue influence over performers to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- 6.8. Club officials shall never condone rule violations, rough play, or the use of prohibited substances and / or methods as indicated by WADA.

- 6.9. Club officials shall not endeavour to influence the result of a competition by any action which goes against the rules and regulations, and / or within the fundamental principles of fair play.
- 6.10. Club officials shall encourage participants to value their performances and not just results.
- 6.11. Club officials shall encourage and guide participants to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.
- 6.12. Club officials shall respect the rights of MHA, their respective club and other clubs and not deliberately act in any manner intended to be to their detriment.
- 6.13. Club officials shall respect the rights of players, coaches, and match officials, and not exploit or deliberately act in a manner intended to be detrimental to them.

Article 7 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF COACHES

- 7.1. Coaches shall respect the player's rights, dignity, and worth and treat everyone equitably and sensitively, within the context of their activity and ability, regardless of gender, ethnic origin, cultural background, sexual orientation, religion, or political affiliation.
- 7.2. Coaches shall ensure there is a balance between the development of performance and the individual's social, emotional, intellectual, and physical needs.
- 7.3. Coaches shall ensure that the activities, training, and competition programmes they advocate and direct are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience, and ability of the individual players. Coaches shall never employ methods and / or practices that knowingly could involve risks, however slight, to the long-term health or physical development of their players.
- 7.4. Coaches shall ensure that players understand and abide by the rules of handball and the principles of fair play.

- 7.5. Coaches shall accept the decisions of referees, delegates, and table officials.
- 7.6. Coaches shall discourage inappropriate behaviour in training and competition.
- 7.7. Coaches shall treat opponents with due respect, both in victory and defeat, encourage their players to act similarly and prepare them to respond to success and failure in a dignified manner.
- 7.8. Coaches shall take all possible steps to prevent the game from being brought into disrepute.
- 7.9. Coaches shall never advocate or condone the use of prohibited drugs or other banned performance-enhancing substances and methods.
- 7.10. Coaches shall never attempt to manipulate the rules in order to take advantage of their players or their opponents.
- 7.11. Coaches shall keep up to speed with new coaching techniques, methods, and advice, and maintain their training and qualifications up to date.
- 7.12. Coaches shall follow and abide by the MHA Regulations for the Education of Association Handball Coaches, for the Award of Coaching Certificates and Licences and for the Control of Handball Coaches.

Article 8 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF PLAYERS

- 8.1. Players shall recognise and appreciate the efforts made by coaches, parents, administrators and match officials in providing them the opportunity to play the game and enjoy the sporting environment.
- 8.2. Players shall play by the rules and the spirit of the competition and ensure that the game is played and conducted in accordance with disciplined and sporting behaviour.
- 8.3. Players shall acknowledge it is not sufficient to rely solely upon that match officials to maintain these principles.

- 8.4. Players shall accept and observe the authority and decisions of match officials and all other disciplinary bodies.
- 8.4. Players shall represent their team and club with dignity and pride.
- 8.5. Players shall maintain focus and work hard for them and their team.
- 8.6. Players shall promote the reputation of the game by their actions and shall take all necessary steps to prevent it from being brought into disrepute.
- 8.7. Players shall never consider cheating and, in particular, do not accept or use any prohibited substances or methods as indicated by WADA in an attempt to improve individual performance.
- 8.8. Players shall always exercise reasonable self-control. Any form of abuse directed towards officials, players, or any other person, is not acceptable or permitted behaviour in our sport.
- 8.9. Players shall learn to accept success and failure, victory, and defeat, with good grace and dignity, without excessive emotional display.
- 8.10. Players shall treat all opponents and team-mates in handball as they like to be treated both in and out of the playing hall. Players shall respect the ability, rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background, or religion. Bullying and / or taking unfair advantage is prohibited and unacceptable.
- 8.11. Players shall abstain from engaging in negative or destructive discussion or postings on social media about players, coaches, spectators, officials, administrators, or other handball participants, that may be viewed as abusive, harassing, or offensive in nature.
- 8.12. Players shall remove all jewellery prior to match play and wear protective equipment and accessories that are in accordance with the IHF Rules of the Game.

Article 9 – RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPONSORS AND PROMOTERS

- 9.1. Sponsors and promoters shall recognise that the administration and organisation of all handball competitions and events is the exclusive responsibility of the MHA.
- 9.2 Sponsors and promoters shall not seek to influence unduly or improperly the outcome of a match or competition by financial or other inducements.

Article 10 – COMMUNICATION

Clubs shall ensure that this Code (and other relevant information) is provided to all club officials, club related players, and club related persons.

Article 11 –REPORTING PROCEDURE

- 11.1. All clubs, club officials, club related players, and club related persons may report any observations in connection with and/or violations of this Code to the MHA.
- 11.2. All MHA officials shall report any observations in connection with and violations of this Code to the MHA.
- 11.3. The designated persons in the MHA to whom an alleged incident may be reported are the President and the Secretary General of the MHA and such report may be submitted in writing
- 11.4. Based on such reports, proceedings before the responsible legal bodies within the MHA will be initiated accordingly.

Article 12 – DECLARATION

- 12.1. The undersigning club confirms that it will participate in MHA competitions in a correct, fair, and sportsmanlike way and it guarantees that it will not influence any competitions and officials in an undue way or try to manipulate any result. This includes undue influence, gifts, and presents, trial and acceptance of offers for manipulation and/or respective attempts in connection with the perspective of certain betting or lottery achievements.
- 12.2. With the signature below the signing club acknowledges that the Code and the related penalties in case of violations are understood and confirmed. In addition, it confirms that it will pass on the Code at hand to all parties.
- 12.3. The mutual consent regarding the Code is a basic condition for the participation of a club in any MHA Club competition and event.

By signing below, the club affirms having read and agreeing to abide by the Code. The club thus honours the letter and spirit of this Code.

THE SUBMISSION OF THIS DOCUMENT (ALLTOGETHER ELEVEN PAGES)
CONSTITUTES AN INTEGRATED PART OF A VALID REGISTRATION FOR THE MHA
CLUB COMPETITIONS SEASON 2022/2023

Name of Club: _____ **Date:** _____

Club's stamp and signature

(Signature by a person having authority to commit the club):

ADDENDUM – RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS / GUARDIANS AND SPECTATORS

1. Parents / guardians shall encourage their child to participate in sports.
2. Parents / guardians and spectators shall remember that children participate to have fun.
3. Parents / guardians shall inform the coach of any physical disability or condition that may affect the safety of their child or the safety of others.
4. Parents / guardians and spectators shall learn the rules of the game and the rules and regulations of the competition.
5. Parents / guardians shall understand the selection procedures for any representative team that their child is selected for.
6. Parents / guardians shall be a positive role model for their child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
7. Parents / guardians and spectators shall not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
8. Parents / guardians and spectators shall not encourage any behaviours or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
9. Parents / guardians shall teach their child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
10. Parents / guardians shall require their child to treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, colour, sex, gender, or ability.

11. Parents / guardians shall teach their child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that their child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
12. Parents / guardians shall praise their child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make their child feel like a winner every time.
13. Parents / guardians shall never ridicule or yell at their child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
14. Parents / guardians shall emphasise the educational aspect of participating in sports over the competitive aspect or winning at all costs.
15. Parents / guardians and spectators shall respect the officials and their authority during games or training and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the sports hall.
16. Parents / guardians and spectators shall demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and shall refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. Parents / guardians and spectators shall refrain from coaching their child or other players during games and practices unless they are one of the official coaches of the team.
18. Parents / guardians and spectators shall do their utmost to support and cheer their team and create a great unique handball atmosphere on the stands, based on the fundamental principles of good sportsmanlike behaviour and fair play.