



International  
Handball  
Federation

## **XV.**

# **Ethics Code**

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## ARTICLE 1

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### I. Definition

The following parties are subject to this Code.

- a) Federations
- b) Clubs
- c) Officials
- d) Players
- e) Match officials
- f) Players' agents
- g) Anyone with an authorisation from the IHF, in particular with regard to a match, competition or other event organised by the IHF.



## ARTICLE 2

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### II. Engagement

Any IHF member:

- shall demonstrate loyalty and respect to the sport of handball and its governing bodies, and must not perform any action that would bring discredit on the sport.
- must not get engaged in any criminal or other improper activities, neither within nor outside handball.



## ARTICLE 3

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### III. Discrimination

Officials (in its general conception), players and players' agents shall never behave in a discriminating way regarding to ethnicity, race, culture, politics, religion, gender or language.



## ARTICLE 4

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### **IV. Qualification**

A person who would like to work as an official has to show ethical respect and reliability and has to commit to adhere to the provisions of this Code before they can be nominated.



## ARTICLE 5

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### **V. Right Protection**

Officials (in its general perception), players and players' agents have to make sure during their activities that the personal rights of the persons with whom they are working and in contact with are respected and guarded.



## ARTICLE 6

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### **VI. Gifts**

Officials are not permitted to accept gifts or other benefits from third parties that exceed the average value of local cultural customs. If there are any doubts, the gifts have to be refused. Accepting money is forbidden. The officials can not participate in official events accompanied by family members at the costs of the IHF, the Continental Confederations, the National Federations, the leagues and clubs or other organisations, unless they are formally permitted to do so.



## ARTICLE 7

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### VII. Bribe

1. It is forbidden for officials to accept bribes or any gifts or other advantages that are offered, promised or sent to them in order to invite them to behave dishonestly and against the IHF Ethics Code for the advantage of a third party.
2. Officials are also prohibited from bribing third parties or from inciting others to do so in order to gain an advantage for themselves or a third party.
3. It is forbidden for officials to accept a commission or promises of commissions for making any kind of deals while they are doing their work except for cases in which the body in charge has given its permission.
4. Officials, players and players' agents are prohibited to take part directly or indirectly in gambling, betting, lotteries or other similar activities connected or related to handball matches.



## ARTICLE 8

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### VIII. Candidates Standing for IHF Election

In the light of open and democratic election processes, candidates standing for election shall observe the following principles:

- A candidate has the right to promote his candidature, which shall be subject to the provisions stated in the Ethics Code;
- The promotion of a candidate shall be in accordance with the principles of dignity and respect towards the other candidates' rights;
- Excessive expenditure is avoided in order to preserve equality between candidates;
- Candidates may not give presents or donations, or offer to grant advantages of whatever nature;
- No candidate may enter into any promise or undertaking to be performed for the direct or indirect benefit of another party;

- A candidate may produce no spoken word, written text or representation of any matter likely to harm the image of another candidate or cause him prejudice.



## ARTICLE 9

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### **IX. Basic Principles**

- The IHF shall judge the behaviour of the IHF officials independently from their function at Continental Confederation, National Federation, league or club level.
- The IHF shall also judge the behaviour of officials from Continental Confederations, National Federations, leagues and clubs as well as players and player's agents if the case of reported violation has consequences on international level (affecting several organisations) and is not judged on continental level. If a complaint is made the IHF will only judge national cases if the Continental Confederations or National Federations have not initiated the proceedings yet.
- The Ethics Commission shall judge the cases that lie in the jurisdiction of the IHF.
- Violations of the Rules of Conduct of this Code will be prosecuting in compliance with the IHF Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines.
- Appeals against decisions made by the Ethics Commission can be lodged at the Arbitration Tribunal.
- Decisions taken by the Arbitration Tribunal are final.
- The IHF Ethics Commission will primarily be in charge of dealing with cases that come under the scope of this Code of Ethics as well as the IHF Regulations concerning Penalties and Fines.
- Members of the juridical bodies of the IHF shall not take any responsibility if there are serious reasons for questioning their neutrality.

This applies in the following cases:

- 1) If the member in question is directly involved in the outcome of the case.
- 2) If the member is associated with any of the parties.
- 3) If the member has the same nationality as the party implicated (federation, club, official, player, etc.).

- 4) If the member has already dealt with the case under different circumstances.

Members against whom an objection might be raised have to immediately notify the Chairman. Each party may also raise an objection against a member. The Chairman decides in the case of a dispute.

Proceedings that involved someone against whom an objection has been raised will be considered null and void.



## ARTICLE 10

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### **X. Confidentiality**

1. The members of the juridical bodies shall ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duty remains confidential (facts of the case, contents of the discussions and decisions taken).
2. Only the contents of decisions that have been already notified to the addressees may be made public.
3. The handball parties (Executive Committee or Council members) shall not disclose information entrusted to them in confidence.



## ARTICLE 11

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### **XI. Closing Comment**

The conduct and procedural regulations of this Code were adopted by the IHF Council on 2 May 2011 and come into effect on 1 August 2011.