



**Competition Regulations**  
**including the Catalogue of Administrative Sanctions**

## **Article 1**      **Scope**

These Competition Regulations regulate the rights, obligations and responsibilities of all parties that participate in and are involved in the preparation and organization of the competition for men organized by the Dutch Handball Association (NHV) and the Royal Belgian Handball Association (KBHB).

- Where reference is made to BENE-League Handball, it is hereinafter referred to as 'BNL'
- The series of matches "BENE-League Handball" is hereinafter referred to as "competition".
- Where reference is made to 'BENE-League Supervisory Board', it is hereinafter referred to as 'SB'.
- Where reference is made to "BENE-League management" is hereinafter referred to as "management".

## **Article 2**      **The competition**

1. The competition takes place every year.
2. The official announcement of the competition is made by the affiliated national association: the NHV and the KBHB.
3. The competition is organized by the management under the supervision of the Supervisory Board.
4. The matches are determined by the competition manager.
5. The BENE-League activities consist of:
  - organizing the competition (the "BENE-League Handball Competition"); and
  - then the Final Four (the "BENE-League Handball Final Four")<sup>1</sup>.

## **Article 3**      **Fair play**

The principles of fair play must be observed by the participating associations in all competitions. Every participating association of the NHV or the KBHB, which participates in the BENE-League competition, must:

- observe the rules of the game and the regulations for participating in the competition;
- respect all participants (players, officials, spectators, media representatives, etc.);
- promote the spirit of sportsmanship and pursue the cultural mission.

## **Article 4**      **Application of regulations**

1. All IHF, EHF and BNL regulations, manuals, guidelines and circulars applicable to the BNL (without limitation) form an integral part of the present competition regulations.
2. Cases not covered by these regulations are determined by the Supervisory Board.
3. A member of the Supervisory Board may not participate in voting and deliberations on matters in which the member of the Supervisory Board has a direct personal interest. In this case, the member concerned will refrain from interfering.

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<sup>1</sup> Final Four means: the two semi-final matches, number 1 vs. number 4 and number 3 vs. number 4 in the final ranking, followed by the match of the two winners of the semi-final.

## **Article 5 Tasks and responsibilities of associations**

### **5.1 Tasks of the associations**

1. When participating in the competition, the associations and their members must:
  - a. to abide by the IHF and BNL regulations, including IHF Rules;
  - b. respect the principles of fair play as defined in the statutes of the EHF;
  - c. not to harm the interests of the BNL and/or of handball in general;
  - d. accept and perform all other obligations that the RvT enters into or decides on behalf of or on behalf of the participants in the competition;
  - e. Comply with all competition decisions taken by the SB, management or any other competent body and duly communicated (via the official website or by email);
  - f. observe national safety regulations and guidelines for all competitions in the competition if deemed necessary by the SB;
  - g. obligated to do everything in their power before, during and after the match to maintain order and ensure the personal safety of all those present. The SB can impose rules on each association to maintain order during matches, as well as appoint persons who are responsible for monitoring compliance with these regulations;
  - h. protect, defend and indemnify the SB against all liabilities, obligations, losses, damages, fines, claims, actions, fines and costs of any kind arising out of or attributable to the non-compliance with these BNL Competition Rules by the participating clubs or any of their players, officials, employees or their representatives.

### **5.2 Responsibilities of the association**

1. The associations are legally and financially responsible to the SB with regard to their representation and the team participating in the competition. In particular, the associations are responsible for the conduct of their players, officials, other representatives, supporters and of any person who holds a position in the association and/or performs a function during a match on behalf of the association. The associations and/or their members may be penalized accordingly by their national association.
2. The home club is responsible for safety and order before, during and after the game. The home club can be held accountable for incidents of any kind.

### **5.3 Additional Responsibilities**

1. The management informs the associations, respectively its representatives participating in the competition, of any further guidelines or decisions regarding the competition that must be observed and provides them with all relevant documents in a timely manner.

## **Article 6 Marketing and media rights**

1. The Supervisory Board owns and has sole rights to exploit the marketing and media rights, including the television, radio, film, DVD, internet, multimedia, 3G, 4G and publicity rights of the BNL and all related activities (competition, opening and closing ceremonies).
2. The Supervisory Board has the exclusive right to grant television, radio, internet and multimedia broadcasting rights and film rights (incl. DVD) with regard to the BNL and advertising rights in the BNL's gaming rooms. The Supervisory Board may exercise its right to exploit these rights in its sole discretion and on a universal basis. In this case, the Supervisory Board respects the exclusive rights of the affiliated national association.
3. The SB has the right to use up to 1/3 of the advertising space on the floor (4 sticker positions of which the middle circle) and around the field during all matches of the competition and Final 4 for free within the range covered by the TV cameras. When using

rotating panels this means one rotation in three, when using LED or LCD boarding this means 1 minute in 3. 1

4. If the SB wishes to make use of its marketing rights as stated under Article 6.3. it must inform the home club at the latest three (3) weeks before the start of the match and management is responsible for the delivery of the advertising material. The home club is responsible for the line-up and correct execution.
5. Each association must ensure that its partners, whether commercial or not, do not use or otherwise make direct or indirect use of marketing or media rights of the BNL without the express prior consent of the Supervisory Board, which in its sole discretion may be granted or withheld.
6. The Supervisory Board recognizes the affiliated associations as the main interface to the public broadcasters (NOS, VRT, RTBF) sportbeat and/or local television and will not contact the latter without the prior consent/presence of the affiliated associations.

### **6.1 Obligations**

1. All participating associations grant the RvT the right (free of royalties) to use photos and graphics of players and officials, as well as the names of the associations, logos and club uniform in the context of the competition for non-commercial purposes.
2. All participating associations grant the RvT the right (free of royalties) to use any photo, any material (printed matter, advertisements, internet, product presentation, video etc.) produced before/during the competitions for competition promotions and for sports development (training, education, etc.).
3. The Supervisory Board has the right to transfer these above-mentioned user rights to a marketing partner for the same purposes.
4. Each participating association guarantees the consent of the respective players and officials as defined above. Each participating association must indemnify the SB and its partners from any liability action by a player with regard to the player's photo. Video registrations are part of this.
5. When participating in the competition, all clubs are allowed to make video recordings of the matches for teaching and training purposes.
6. Associations are obliged to stream matches via livestream on the internet. This obligation only applies to the home playing club. These streams must remain available on the internet for at least 12 months.
7. Video recordings can be made by both teams, using one or more cameras. These video recordings may only be used for live streaming to the internet, the BNL logo must appear in the top left or right corner of the screen, and/or for internal use (training and competition preparation). The use of the video recordings for other purposes, including commercial exploitation, is prohibited. If there is no room for two cameras, the home club will make recordings. These recordings are made available to the visiting team free of charge. Associations participating in the BENE-League can mutually agree to share these kinds of videos.
8. Due to space limitations in a sports hall, the home playing associations may impose restrictions on the video recordings. Such restrictions must be agreed with the BNL management/SB.

9. All intellectual property rights in the material recorded for such purposes must be transferred in writing to the RvT and if the RvT so requests, a copy of all relevant filmed material must be provided to the RvT within the time limit set by the RvT. After the match, the home clubs must ensure that the TV host provides the management with DVDs of matches determined by the BNL free of charge.

#### **Article 7 BENE-League Handball sponsors/Partners exclusivity**

1. The exclusivity of the BNL sponsors (as such) during the BNL competition must be respected by all associations, members, BNL representatives participating in the competition.
2. The names and respective categories of products/services of the BNL partners and sponsors, as well as the necessary measures and restrictions to be taken by all associations, members, BNL representatives participating in the competition, will be notified by management in due course. the start of the competition.
3. Failure to comply with the required measures and restrictions regarding the BNL sponsors or any other form of violation of the BNL rules during the competition may be penalized in accordance with the regulations of the national association of which the offender is a part. In addition, the person/association concerned may be obliged to compensate all damage suffered.

#### **Article 8 Doping**

1. Testing may take place before, during and after competition in accordance with IHF and National Anti-Doping Regulations.
2. The IHF and National Anti-Doping Rules, their Annexes and the WADA Anti-Doping Code, including the List of Prohibited Substances, are an integral part of these BNL Rules.
3. In the event of an anti-doping rule violation, management will initiate disciplinary proceedings against the violators and take appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the laws of the national association to which the team belongs. This may include the imposition of interim measures.
4. National associations must immediately notify BNL management of any decision at the national level to penalize a player for doping (including injunctive relief and/or injunction). A copy of the decision must be sent to BNL management. The decisions of the affiliated national association regarding doping, confirmed by the IHF Anti-Doping Unit, will automatically be adopted by the Supervisory Board.

#### **Article 9 Number of participating teams**

1. The competition is played with a predetermined number of teams.

#### **Article 10 Automatic Qualification for Participation in the Competition**

1. The teams that finish first in the national competition will automatically qualify for the next season's BNL competition, subject to restrictions that (may) be imposed by the Licensing Commission of the national association.
2. An association, whether or not in a merger or partnership, can only participate in the BENE-League competition with one (1) team.

## **Article 11 Play periods/match dates/start times**

1. The competition season is from September to the end of April (or later).
2. In principle, the starting times on Saturday are between 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm and on Sunday between 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm.
3. The last two rounds of the competition are compulsorily played on Saturdays at 8:00 PM sharp, to avoid advantages in playing while knowing the result of other matches. Only the Live broadcast on a national public channel can be a cause of moving to a later moment.
4. The exact dates and start time of each match are subject to coordination between management, associations and, if relevant, the BNL marketing partner and television.
5. The final decision on the dates and start time of the matches rests with the management.
6. The exact dates of the competitions will be communicated to the participating associations by the management in good time before the start of the competition.
7. Each team must have at least eighteen (18) hours of rest between two matches played.
8. Changes to the playing calendar are only possible under the conditions below;
  - a. European Cup matches:
    1. The competition will be moved, to a midweek competition, in the period between (2) weeks before or two (2) weeks after the scheduled competition, by agreement between the concerned associations (approval by e-mail is sufficient) and must be confirmed by management;
    2. If no agreement can be reached, management will make the final decision. Start time is between 8 pm and 9 pm;
    3. The match can only be rescheduled for a later day upon a motivated request, and requires formal management approval.
  - b. TV broadcast:

A TV broadcast can only be a reason to shift the match day and time in case of a live TV broadcast by a national public broadcaster, or by a private or regional broadcaster under a general agreement with the BNL.
  - c. The unavailability of a sports hall will never be a reason for not participating in the match to play on the originally scheduled day and time without the prior management approval. The home club is responsible for finding another sports hall.
  - d. By mutual agreement.

Matches can be moved by mutual agreement and only by mutual consent. If the opponent does not agree, the match will remain on the original date and time.

Requirements:

    1. Matches must be played within (four) 4 rounds of competition from the original date.
    2. Matches that fall in the penultimate and last round of play may not be moved.
    3. Matches may not be moved to a date later than the penultimate round of play.
    4. A move must be reported no later than (four) 4 working days before the original match date by email to [mj.de.koning@handbal.nl](mailto:mj.de.koning@handbal.nl)
    5. Relocation to a date earlier than the original playing date must be notified at least (four) 4 working days before the start of the new playing date.
    6. Requests for rescheduling matches in the BENE-League must always be approved by management.
    7. Management reserves the right to reject a change request at all times.
    8. If these conditions are not met, the match will not be rescheduled.

- e. The playing of a scheduled match may be postponed by the Management in very special cases. The management is authorized to set additional conditions.
9. Management reserves the right to deviate from a fixed match in special cases, upon reasonable request or on its own initiative. Any charges may be imposed on the party responsible for the difference. These costs may include:
  - a. costs for the accommodation and costs of the teams and the referees;
  - b. compensation for additional rental of locations;
  - c. compensation for additional transport costs;
  - d. An administrative fee of a maximum of €1,000;
  - e. in case of liability, any other duly determined losses or expenses.
10. Management only underlines the request if the Supervisory Board is of the opinion that this does not harm the interests of third parties.
11. The costs for moving the scheduled matches and/or the starting time can be charged to both associations.
12. The official schedule is part of these regulations and will be available no later than 1 June.

## **Article 12      Registration**

### **12.1      Registration Documents**

1. To be eligible to participate in the competition, the association must meet the following criteria:
  - a. It must confirm in writing that the association itself, its players and officials and each board member agree to respect the regulations of the BNL.
  - b. It must complete the official entry documents to be received by management within the time frame set by management and to be communicated to all clubs in due course.
  - c. It must provide one permanent postal address, e-mail address and name of the contact person responsible for all internal correspondence in the BNL.
2. Entries submitted after the specified period cannot in principle be accepted if they adversely affect the technical preparation and conduct of the competition and the national association(s). Late transmission of documents will be penalized according to the list of sanctions.

### **12.2      Nationality and Eligibility to Play**

1. The matches are played as international matches. Players of a team that participates in the BNL must have a valid player license from the national association. Proof of nationality (valid passport or national identity card) is required to participate in the BNL. A player who cannot present a valid passport or national identity card or player's license at the request of a BNL official will not be eligible to participate in a match. Concerned officials make a note of this in the DWF, so that management is informed.
2. A player who has already played for a team of an association in the BENE-League competition may not play for the team of another association in the same season.

### **12.3 Team assignment**

1. The associations must submit the list of the players and team officials ("Official Squad List") who will form the basis of their team during the competition in writing to the national association and the BNL management before September 1 of the current year.
2. The list of players and team officials may contain a maximum of thirty-five (35) players ("Official Squad"). The players (35 or less) on the Official Squad List are the only players eligible to participate in the competition.
3. Additions, in accordance with the rules of the national federation, to the Official Squad List are allowed throughout the competition year.
4. In case of an international transfer, proof of the ITC application must be submitted at least three (3) matches before the end of the regular competition.
5. The number of team officers in the Official Squad List is not limited and is not final; changes/registrations of team officials are still possible until the technical meeting and the start of the competition.
6. The following information must be submitted along with the official team list:
  - a. Number of each of the players listed (from 1 to 99).
  - b. First name, last name, date of birth, national association membership number and passport / national identity card number.
  - c. Colors of the first and second full kit (dark color kit / light color kit), clearly stating the colors of the shirts and shorts and the colors of the first and second kit for the goalkeepers.
  - d. Photo of the first and second full team kit (players and goalkeeper kit; original kit for use during competition).
  - e. The first names, surnames and position of the team officials.
7. If the official team list is not received by management and national associations within the deadline, the club will be fined accordingly and the first twenty-eight (28) (or fewer) players on the provisional list of players and team officials of the team, considered by management to be the definitive official team list of this club.

### **12.4 The scoresheet (final list of players and officials)**

1. The scoresheet shall contain the names and jersey numbers of the sixteen (16) players and four (4) team members. The score sheet is drawn up and handed over to the BNL observer and the referees one (1) hour before the start of the game during the technical meeting. The number of players can be topped up up to one hour before the start of the match.
2. Only the four (4) officials of the scoresheet can sit on the substitution bench.

### **12.5 Participation of suspended and/or ineligible players**

1. When a team uses a player who is suspended and/or ineligible to play in a match, that team will lose the match 10-0 and will be fined (see sanction list)

## **Article 13 Financial contribution and allowances**

### **13.1 Financial contribution national association**

1. Each national association participates in the BNL with a financial contribution of € 7.500,-- which must be received on the BNL account before 1 July of the current year.

### **13.2 Registration fee associations**

1. In order to be eligible for participation in the competition, an association must pay a registration amount of € 2,500 to the BNL organization, which must be received on the BNL account before September 1 of the current year.
2. The registration fee is paid once by the participating association for participation in all activities of the BENE-League.
3. If the payment is not received by the management on the due date, the association will be automatically fined an amount of € 1,000.
4. If the entry fee is not received within four (4) weeks after the announced deadline, the deposit for participation in the competition will be lost in favor of the BNL organization and management can:
  - a. consider all matches of concerned team lost until the moment of payment of the registration fee;
  - b. exclude the team from participating in the competition;
  - c. disqualify the team from competition for a maximum of five (5) years.

### **13.3 Deposit payment associations**

1. All associations that want a team to participate in the competition must pay a deposit of € 2,500 as a guarantee for the participation and the fulfillment of obligations to the BNL, which must be paid into the BNL account before July 1 of the current year. are received.
2. Fines will be deducted from the deposit if it is not paid within one month. The management may decide that after that period the concerned team of an association all matches will be considered as lost, if the deposit is not paid again.

### **13.4 Remaining Funds**

1. If funds remain at the end of the competition after final approval of the budget by the Supervisory Board, 30% of those funds will remain with the organization of the BNL to cover the costs for the following year or the investment.
2. The remaining 70% will be refunded to the associations and national associations before 1 July. The associations and the Supervisory Board have decided to jointly deploy these resources for purposes yet to be determined.

## **Article 14 Costs**

### **14.1 Travel expenses**

1. The associations must organize and pay for the travel to and from the playing location themselves.

### **14.2 Accommodation and organization costs playing association**

1. All costs incurred by the home club to organize a match must be borne by the home club.
2. The home club is obliged to provide a meal after the game for the visiting club for a maximum of 22 people and for the referees and the deputy. Otherwise, it will be determined by mutual consent of the teams, the referees and the deputy. All extra persons will be charged to the visiting club by the home club. The visiting club must inform the home club at least 48 hours in advance about the number of additional persons. The club playing at home must inform the visiting club within 24 hours of the price per additional person if this price is higher than € 15,-- pp.

### **14.3 Official fees**

1. The BNL shall bear the following costs and expenses for BNL officials, based on management guidelines (definition under Article 22.1) with the exception of National Association staff, umpires (home association) and deputy (national association):
  1. Travel expenses to and from the venue (reimbursement upon presentation of a receipt/proof of ticket purchase) based on these criteria:
    1. Travel by train/bus/boat: Reimbursement of return tickets in second class for the train/bus/boat.
    2. For travel by car, € 0.19 per kilometer driven can be claimed.
    3. Traveling by car from the place of residence (to and from the airport or train station): can be charged with € 0.19 per kilometer driven.
  2. The accommodation costs (reasonable cost of meals and lodging) for the duration of their work during the competitions, which require an extended stay.

### **14.4 Fees referees**

1. The home club must bear the following costs and expenses of the BNL referee:
  - a. Travel costs to and from the place of play may be charged at €0.19 per kilometer. The following will be taken into account: the fastest route ([www.mappy.com](http://www.mappy.com)) from the home of the umpire who lives furthest from the arcade to the arcade.
  - b. All complaints arising out of fees charged by the umpires will be dealt with by management.
  - c. Competition costs of €80 per referee.
2. The travel costs will be shared with all associations at the end of the competition.

### **14.5 Delegates costs**

1. The national associations shall bear the costs and expenses of the observer.
2. The costs and expenses are paid by means of a declaration.

## **Article 15 Insurance**

### **15.1 General principles**

1. Everyone involved in the BNL is responsible for his or her own insurance.

### **15.2 Associations**

1. The participating associations are responsible for and undertake to obtain all necessary and adequate insurance, including accident and health insurance, for their board members, including players, technical personnel and employees, at their own expense for the entire duration of the competition.

### **15.3 Home playing association**

1. The home club is responsible for insuring all accommodations used for the competition including hall, facilities and official areas. If the home club is/are not the owner of the hall used, they are also responsible for ensuring that the owner and/or tenant of the hall in question takes out full liability insurance, including third party liability and damage to property.
2. In addition to Articles 21.1 and 21.2, the home association organizing a match must, at its own expense, take out adequate insurance (including cancellation insurance) for all risks arising from the organization of the matches, in accordance with their responsibilities. The

insurance must meet the minimum conditions laid down in the organization agreement between the BNL and the home playing association and communicated accordingly by the BNL.

#### **15.4 BENE-League Handball organization**

1. The National Associations is/are responsible for the civil liability, accident and health insurance of the BNL officials appointed by them for the duration of their duties.

#### **15.5 Further requirements**

1. All insurance policies must cover the entire period of the competition, including the preparatory and post-competition phase.
2. Claims for damages against the Supervisory Board are expressly excluded. Anyone involved in the competition must indemnify the SB and management from all claims of liability in connection with the competitions.

#### **Article 16 Entrance fee**

1. During the semi-final matches and the final match, the home association has the right to charge an entrance fee in consultation with the BENE-League organization. The playing finalist is entitled to a minimum of 30% of the tickets of the total entrance capacity.
2. Persons using an official BNL pass (officials / press / referees, etc.) have free access (register in advance).
3. Persons using an official press card have free access.

#### **Article 17 Mandatory free access**

1. During the semi-final matches and the final match, the home association is/is obliged to grant free access to:
  - a. Persons using an official BNL federation pass (officials/Press/other persons);
  - b. Persons using an official press card issued by a competent national authority; an example of the identity card will be provided by the management to the associations before the start of the competition.
  - c. Each visiting and participating association, up to a maximum of twenty-two (22) persons per team (sixteen (16) players and six (6) officials).

#### **Article 18 Rules**

##### **18.1 Regulations**

1. Matches will be played in accordance with the applicable Laws of the Game issued by the IHF, subject to the following specifications:
  - a. Teams can play with a maximum of sixteen (16) players.

##### **18.2 Secretary/timekeeper**

1. The qualified secretary and the timekeeper shall be appointed by the home club and shall be under the authority of the deputy.
2. The secretary and the timekeeper must be in possession of the national association referee's diploma or have attended the national association secretary/timekeeper workshop.
3. The secretary and the timekeeper have the duties and powers assigned to them by the IHF rules of the Game.

## **Article 19 Uniform**

### **19.1 Kit Requirements**

1. Each team must carry at least one (1) set of uniforms in light colors and one set of uniforms in dark colors for each match for their field players and goalkeepers. Blue and red are considered dark colors. In the case of multi-colored shirts in one of the full kits, only one of the colors - and not the main color - can be repeated in the other full kit.
2. The goalkeeper's set must be different from the fielder's set in both the dark color and the light color of the set.
3. The colors and photos of the full team kits (at least one (1) light color option and one (1) dark color option) must be provided to management before the start of the competition within the time period specified by it and in due course to the other participating associations will be notified. "Advertising" illustrations of the full team uniforms are not accepted as photos.
4. Changes requested by the management after the sending of the colors and photos of the full team uniform by the associations, in order to meet the requirements stated herein, must be sent by the concerned associations within the time limit set by the management and be communicated to the respective associations in due course.
5. Full team uniforms approved by management are the only ones allowed throughout the competition.
6. The delegate may request the visiting team to play in a different approved uniform at any match if the deputy considers that the colors of the team's prescribed uniform may cause confusion.

### **19.2 Player Numbers**

1. Each player number communicated during the technical meeting must be placed on the back and the front of the shirt of the relevant player. The number must be clearly legible, must range from 1 to 99 and must be at least 20 cm high on the back and at least 10 cm high on the front. The color of the number must contrast clearly with the color of the shirt.

### **19.3 Additional requirements**

1. During the team formation, the entire team must wear identical clothing, either the fully approved uniform during the match or training suits (excluding goalkeepers).
2. During the matches:
  - a. The starting players and goalkeepers must wear the approved uniform specified in the respective uniform list or requested by the deputy. Each player's last name and number must appear on their shirts.
  - b. Players may wear thermal trousers as long as the color is the same as that of the shorts.
  - c. The team officials on the bench must wear clothing of a distinctly different color(s) from the color(s) of the opponent's uniform.

#### **19.4 Advertising on player's shirt**

1. Subject to the restrictions set forth below, advertising on player kit is permitted.
2. Advertising related to drugs, pornography or alcohol is strictly prohibited on the uniform.
3. Any advertising on the uniform during a match must respect the provisions and restrictions laid down in the clothing advertising regulations of the national association to which the association belongs.
4. Each representative must comply with all further advertising restrictions that the SB communicates to the participating associations in good time before the start of the competition.
5. The National Association must notify management of any local restriction or ban on advertising in good time before the start of the competition.

#### **19.5 Sleeve logos**

1. Badges / BNL logos to be applied to the right shirt sleeves of the players will be provided to the participating associations in good time before the start of the competition.
2. The participating associations are responsible for affixing the badges / BNL logos that are applied to the sleeves of the shirts of their team players.
3. The responsible team official(s) must ensure that the sleeve badges / BNL logos are applied to each player's shirt in good time before each match.

#### **19.6 Non-compliance with the provisions**

1. Failure to comply with one or more of the above provisions and/or with the national regulations on advertising on clothing may be fined in accordance with the legal regulations of the national association to which the association belongs. In addition, the relevant association may be obliged to compensate all damage incurred.
2. Non-compliance with the BNL sleeve advertisement will be punished with a fine, and the fine will be applied for each subsequent match after the first official notification, as long as the non-compliance lasts.

### **Article 20 Locations / sports halls**

#### **20.1 General provisions**

1. The club(s) playing at home that organizes (organize) a match is (are) responsible for the availability of the hall and the arrangement according to the requirements of the Supervisory Board.

#### **20.2 Adhesives**

1. The club playing at home and the hall owners must allow the use of adhesives, including resin. If only one type of glue is allowed, the home club is obliged to make a sufficient quantity of the permitted product available to the visiting team.

#### **20.3 Choice of hall(s)**

1. The halls are nominated by the home players to the management.
2. The Supervisory Board has the right, on the proposal of the management, to refuse a sports hall.
3. Subject to the foregoing, the sports halls must be arranged for each match as follows:

#### **20.4 Competition table**

1. A competition table for four (4) persons (delegate, secretary, timekeeper and speaker) must be present and placed in the sports hall.
2. The requirements prescribed by the IHF with regard to the position with regard to the competition tables apply to BNL competitions.

#### **20.5 Time registration and scoring equipment**

1. For all matches, the sports halls must be equipped with an electric time registration (0 to 30 minutes for each half) and scoreboard that can be easily read and operated from the competition table. It is the official time registration and must be fully operational before and during the matches.

#### **20.6 Spare clock**

1. As a backup, a large clock (approx. 25 cm in diameter) with minute and second hands must be available on the competition table.

#### **20.7 Match Cards**

1. a. There must be a sufficient number of cards (size A4), provided with the BNL logo in be available to the secretary/timekeeper to record the numbers of the temporarily banned players and the end of the exclusion period. These cards must be placed on the scorer's table, where they are visible and in a vertical position, clearly legible to both playing teams.  
b. A sufficient number of cards (size A4) for "injured player" must be at the disposal of the secretary/timekeeper to record the number of the injured player who must remain off the playing court during three attacks by his team.
2. Two sets of three green cards with "T1, T2 and T3" in large letters must be at the disposal of the timekeeper for the team's time-outs. They are handed over to one of the team officials of the respective teams at the beginning of each half of regular time.

#### **20.8 Play floor**

1. A specific handball floor may be requested by the management for TV broadcasts.

#### **20.9 Anti-Doping Provision**

1. An anti-doping infrastructure must be set up in all sports halls that complies with the WADA Anti-Doping Code in effect on the date of the competition.

#### **20.10 Other**

1. The home club must comply with and/or implement all other requirements with regard to the organization of the matches that have been determined and/or communicated by the management.

## **Article 21 Officials**

### **21.1 Definition**

1. Officials are:
  - a. members of the Supervisory Board;
  - b. BNL representatives;
  - c. Delegates
  - d. referees;
  - e. employees;
  - f. all other persons appointed by the Supervisory Board or the management in relation to the BNL.
2. The duties and powers of these officers are established by the Supervisory Board in these regulations or with each individual designation.

### **21.2 Code of Conduct**

1. Any BNL Official appointed to participate in a BNL activity must sign the BNL Code of Conduct. During their assignment, BNL officials are bound by the regulatory obligations of the BNL Code of Conduct and the applicable BNL Regulations.

## **Article 22 Referees**

### **22.1 Nomination**

1. One (1) referee pair is assigned for each match.
2. The umpires are nominated by the arbitration officer, on the recommendation of the management team of umpires.

### **22.2 Not available**

1. If one of the umpires is ill or due to circumstances unavailable before or during a match and is unable to conduct the match, the arbitration officer of the management will decide on the replacement on the recommendation of the working group of umpires. Such decision is final and no complaint against the person or nationality of the referee is allowed.
2. When a match is not started or cannot be continued, due to the absence or injury of a referee appointed by the management, the costs of the clubs cannot be claimed from the SB.

### **22.3 Additional reporting**

1. In case of direct disqualifications or incidents, the referee must write an additional detailed report and send it to management (tuchtrecht@handbal.nl) immediately after the game is over.
2. The referees report in as much detail as possible about any incidents before, during and after the match, such as:
  - misconduct by players leading to immediate disqualification;
  - unsportsmanlike conduct by officials, members, supporters or persons acting on behalf of an association or national association during a match;
  - all other incidents.
3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the lack of notification of an incident shall not prevent national associations or management from initiating proceedings.

## **Article 23 Delegate**

### **23.1 Nomination**

1. For each match, the arbitration officer of the management, on the recommendation of the working group of umpires, appoints at least one (1) delegate.
2. In principle, the delegates of the NHV are appointed for the competitions in the Netherlands and the delegates of the KBHB are nominated for the competitions in Belgium.
3. If no delegate is nominated, is available or is present, the national association to which the delegate belongs will pay a fine of € 500,-- to the BNL, unless it is proven that force majeure has occurred.
4. The nomination of a delegate for the matches may be revoked at the discretion of management on the recommendation of the Referees' Working Group.
5. The decisions of the management regarding the appointment of delegates for the competitions are final.

### **23.2 Not available**

1. The nominated delegates must immediately inform the arbitration officer or the referees working group of any unavailability.
2. In this case, the arbitration officer of the management or the referees working group appoints a replacement.

### **23.3 General responsibility**

1. The delegate represents the BNL.
2. The delegate must always carry a copy of the BNL Competition Rules and the IHF Rules of the Game with him during his deployment.
3. The delegate monitors the course of the match and prevents any event that may occur that could lead to a complaint or replay of a match in accordance with the Competition Rules. If necessary, the delegate acts as a mediator.
4. The delegate guides and supports the referees and observes and assesses their performance. However, the delegate is not a chief referee. Responsibility for the playing field rests solely with the umpires.
5. Nevertheless, the delegate shall, if necessary, stop the match and bring any errors which may lead to a complaint to management to the attention of the officials. Errors referred to in this context do not refer to decisions of the referees based on their fact finding. The delegates are not allowed to make decisions, but only make recommendations.
6. The delegate must always be seated at the scorer's table to have a clear view of the substitution area at all times and to intervene if necessary.

### **23.4 Reporting**

1. The delegate must ensure compliance with the BNL Competition Rules and all other regulations applicable to the BNL by all participating entities and persons.
2. If a violation of the BNL Competition Rules or a major incident is found, the delegates must:
  - report such a violation and/or incident in writing to management (tuchtrecht@handbal.nl) immediately after the match.
3. The delegates report in their reports in as much detail as possible about any violations/incidents before, during and after the match, such as:

- incorrect team line-up;
  - incorrect player clothing (number, publicity);
  - delay of the start of the match;
  - unsportsmanlike conduct by officials, members, supporters or persons acting on behalf of an association or national association in a competition;
  - all other incidents.
4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the absence of a comment on the scoresheet or of a report on the incident shall not prevent the initiation of disciplinary proceedings by the member federation.

### **23.5 Match sheet / delegate report**

1. The delegate is ultimately responsible for the scoresheet and the observer's report.
2. The delegate must ensure that the scoresheet is confirmed by an official of each playing team before the start of the game.

## **Article 24 BENE-League Handball Competition**

### **24.1 Group composition**

1. The competition is played in a pool.

### **24.2 Competition schedule**

1. The matches of this pool are played with each team, against all opponents in this pool (Round Robin system).
2. All matches of the competition are played in two times thirty (2 x 30) minutes with a break of ten (10) minutes (or fifteen (15) minutes after a relevant decision by the RvT. There is no extra time.
3. Two points are awarded for a win, one point for a draw and no point for a defeat.

### **24.3 Start of matches**

1. The teams must report to the referee five minutes before the scheduled start time and the game must start at the specified time after the referee's whistle signal.
2. If no referee is present at the scheduled start time or the field of play is not available to start the game, both teams must stand ready for a maximum of fifteen minutes to start the game, if and as soon as an authorized referee or the field of play becomes available.

### **24.4 Not completing a match**

1. A match will not be completed in the following cases:
  - a. if the match is ended prematurely by one or both teams;
  - b. if the referee so decides;
  - c. if during the match the referee is out of action without a substitute being prepared to act as such.
  - d. for reasons other than those mentioned above.
2. The disciplinary bodies determine where appropriate whether there is culpability for not completing the match. I
3. f there is culpability for not playing a match, the disciplinary bodies can impose the penalties specified in the BENE-League Disciplinary Regulations.

4. If the disciplinary bodies as mentioned are of the opinion that there is no culpability for not completing a match, the manager of the BENE-League as well as the Competition and Arbitration manager of the BENE-League will be notified of this without delay.
5. The match must be re-scheduled within four weeks (4) on the court of the not guilty association, while the guilty team is also penalized with two loss points. If the not-faulty team has scored more than ten goals difference in its favor at the time of non-completion, the result at the time of non-completion is maintained.
6. If culpability has been established for not completing the match in the manner stipulated in the third paragraph of this article, the costs associated with this will be borne by the association of the offending team. If both teams are at fault, these costs will be divided equally. These costs are determined and charged by the manager of the BENE-League.

#### **24.5 Play conditions**

1. In this article, the term competition also includes part of a competition.
2. The condition set by the BENE-League Board of Trustees for this is that the match must be replayed in its entirety at all times, unless the match has been stopped during extra time or when penalty kicks are taken in deciding matches.
3. If the Supervisory Board of the BENE-League decides to redetermine a match that has not been completed in its entirety, the warnings given and the temporary suspensions in the played part of the match not completed will lapse.
4. A player who has been disqualified in the played portion of an unfinished match may take part in the match to be replayed in its entirety if he has served his penalty for being disqualified.
5. A player who has been banned from participating in matches may not participate in a wholly replayable match played during his ineligibility period.
6. The starting point for the completion of a match will be that the part to be played later will be played as much as possible under the conditions that applied during the match that was not completed.
7. If the Board of Trustees of the BENE-League decides to allow the unplayed part of an unfinished match to be played, the warnings given, the suspensions and disqualifications in the played part of the unplayed match will remain in effect.
8. A player who is disqualified in the played portion of an unfinished match may not participate in the remainder, even if he has served his penalty for being disqualified.
9. A suspended player may neither actively nor passively participate in any (competition) activity.

#### **24.6 Draw a tie during and after the competition**

1. If two or more teams finish tied in the competition and after the competition has ended, the ranking will be determined as follows:
  - a. Highest number of points in all matches;
  - b. Result between the tied teams.
  - c. If several teams are tied, the goal difference of the mutually played matches (result of the number of goals scored (minus) number of goals against) applies;
  - d. Goal difference in all matches (the highest ranked team has the highest result in goals scored (minus) goals conceded);
  - e. Higher number of goals scored in all matches (the highest ranked team has the highest number of goals scored);

- f. The drawing of lots is carried out by the competition director, if possible in the presence of the responsible team officials.

#### **24.7 Final Four (places 1 to 4)**

1. The teams that finish first, second, third and fourth in the final ranking in the competition automatically qualify for playing semi-final matches as well as the winners of these, the final. The BENE-League organization determines the dates and starting times of the semi-finals.
2. If the competition cannot be played in full, the management of the BNL has the right to organize the battle for the BENE-League title in a different way than described in articles 24.4.4 and 24.4.5.
3. If necessary, management can use the final standings (in accordance with Article 24.7) of the regular competition to declare the highest placed team in the ranking as the winner of the BNL.
4. In the semi-finals team 1 against 4 and team 2 against 3.

#### **24.8 Same number of goals in semi-final and final**

1. The matches are played in two times thirty (2 x 30) minutes with a break of ten (10) minutes. Or fifteen (15) minutes at the final match, as a result of a decision by management or the observer for TV purposes.
2. **a. Semi-final BOT (Best Of Two arrangement)**
  - The highest finished team in the BENE-League competition plays the first match;
  - The BOT (2) matches are played in accordance with IHF regulations;
  - A BOT (2) series is played according to the European Cup system, which means that there is an away and a home match. The team with the most points after these two matches is the winner. In case of an equal number of points, a decision is reached as follows.
    - a. the goals difference, if equal;
    - b. the number of goals scored in the away match.

If tied, i.e. only if the result of both matches is the same (but a different winner), then a decision will be made as follows:

- a. each side clears five (5) players entitled to play, who alternately take a 7-meter throw with the opponent. The team itself determines the order of taking penalty throws.
- b. If no decision has been made by then, the procedure referred to under a follows again, on the understanding that a decision is made immediately after the number of throws is equal and one of the two teams has scored more goals than the other. The team that has bowled second in the first series starts the remaining 7-meter throws. This order applies to the remaining 7-meter throws. All players or some players may be the same as in the first round. This system of designating 5 players continues until a decision has been made.

Explanation:

1. Temporarily banned and disqualified players are not eligible for taking the 7-meter throws, if they were still banned at the end of the game.
2. The referees determine the target at which the throws are taken.
3. Prior to phase a., the team that starts will be determined by drawing lots.

## 2. **b. Final**

- If the result ends in a tie at the end of normal playing time, an overtime of two five (2 x 5) minutes will be played after a five (5) minute break.
- If the result is still tied at the end of the first overtime, after a five (5) minute break, an overtime of two five (2x5) minutes will be played.
- If the game is still tied after the second extra period, the winner will be determined by taking penalty throws.
- The rules for the execution of penalty throws are in accordance with the applicable Laws of the Game established by the International Handball Federation (IHF).
  - a. Each side designates five (5) players entitled to play, who alternately take a 7-meter throw with the opponent. Each team determines the order of taking the throws.
  - b. If no decision has been made by then, the procedure referred to under a follows again, on the understanding that a decision is made immediately after the number of throws is equal and one of the two teams has scored more goals than the other. The team that has bowled second in the first series starts the remaining 7-meter throws. This order applies to the remaining 7-meter throws. All players or some players may be the same as in the first round. This system of designating 5 players continues until a decision has been made.

Explanation:

1. Temporarily banned and disqualified players are not eligible for taking the 7-meter throws, if they were still banned at the end of the game.
2. The referees determine the target at which the throws are taken.
3. Prior to phase 1, it will be determined by drawing which team starts.

## **24.9 Early termination of competition**

1. If the competition is ended early, the ranking (final score) will be determined at half the number of scheduled matches in the competition. If less than half of the matches have been played in the competition, the competition will be considered not played and no promotion and/or relegation will take place.

Where matches for promotion and/or relegation are necessary to determine the ranking, this is obtained by the head-to-head result. If several teams are tied, the goal difference of the mutually played matches will apply. If goal difference is equal, the goal average.

## **Article 25 Technical discussion**

1. A technical meeting will be held one (1) hour before the start of each competition in the competition at the venue proposed by the delegate.
2. A technical meeting will be held one and a half hours (1.5) before the start of the semi-final match and final in the BNL Final Four at the location announced by the delegate.
3. Technical discussions must be attended by at least one (1) team official from each association participating in the relevant competition.
4. In the technical meeting, each association present must:
  - a. Relinquish his team consisting of a maximum of sixteen (16) players of the twenty-eight (28) Official Squad List players and four (4) team officials.
  - b. Show a valid passport, national ID card or a valid player license for each of the players listed as part of the team.

- c. how the full team uniform. A copy of each full team kit (option dark color and light color option) must be shown. The full team uniforms of each team must be the colors that have been assigned to the BNL at an earlier stage management have been specified (with appropriate adjustments, if applicable).
5. The complete team uniforms of each team must be checked by the observer during the technical meeting.
6. The scoresheet containing the lists of players and team members registered as a team must be checked against the player's passports or national ID cards, and must be approved by at least one (1) observer on the scoresheet.
7. The home club is responsible for distributing the completed match form to the press before the match.
8. The delegate coordinates and is responsible for the procedure of official approval of the scoresheet, assisted by the competition manager.

## **Article 26 Competition procedures**

### **26.1 Warm-up**

1. Approximately forty-five (45) minutes before the start of a match, the playing field is made available to the players of the two playing teams for warm-up and game practice.

### **26.2 For the formation of the teams**

1. Any player who is on the field of play for the warm-up must immediately leave the field of play at the request of the officials (not later than ten (10) minutes before the throw-off).  
26.3 Team formation
2. Each player of the teams must be ready for the official line-up of the teams ten (10) minutes before the start of the match. Before entering the field of play prior to the official team line-up ten (10) minutes before the start, the players must follow the instructions of both the officials and the floor managers and must assemble at the designated assembly point (predefined corner of the playing field).
3. Once the referees have instructed the teams to assemble, none of the players may leave the field of play.
4. The players must enter the field of play by following the respective referee and any path formed by children. In that case, they must hit high-fives with both hands at the same time with the children on both sides. The players of the team that comes second on the playing court must also shake hands with the players of the opposing team before taking their line-up.

### **26.4 Before the match**

1. The detailed pre-match procedure schedule of the BENE-League matches is the following:
  - 8:00 Flag, mascots, referees, teams ready at the point of entry; Player guidance (children) out of the tunnel
  - 07:00 Team A . line-up
  - 06.30 Team B line-up
  - 06:00 Introducing Team A - players and officials
  - 06:00 Introducing Team B - players and officials
  - 03:00 Introducing the Referees, Secretary/Timekeeper and delegate
  - No national anthems are played

- 02:00 Final match preparations of the teams
  - Indication of start of match by observer
2. Further details and information on the pre-match procedure will be provided to the teams before the start of the competition and before each match during the technical meeting. The information provided may include changes to the schedule stated under Article 19.7 due to the practicalities of each venue and each match.
  3. Instructions regarding the pre-match procedure given by the floor manager and/or the deputy in the sports hall before each match take precedence and must in any case be followed by any person involved in the pre-match procedure.
  4. Any playing team and any person who causes a delay in (start/half-time/timeout) throws of a match is liable for any damage and may be held accountable for this by management.
  5. The speaker ensures that the presentation of the teams takes place in a neutral manner.

#### **26.5 Procedure after the match (not during the fight against the coronavirus)**

1. Immediately after the end of a match, the players must perform an informal handshake with the opposing team's players and the team officials shall perform an informal handshake with the opposing team officials.

#### **26.6 Match Report**

1. Each club is required to send a journalistic match report in the time and manner determined by management. The journalistic report at least mentions the course of the game and the scorers of both teams.

#### **26.7 Media and promotion**

1. After the final match, the winner of the BNL must be available for media and promotional purposes at the request of management.

#### **26.8 Association photographer**

1. Every association has a club photographer.
2. The photos of each match must be posted on a specific club website.

#### **Article 27 Trophy**

1. The winner of the BENE-League competition will receive a trophy from the RvT. The trophy remains with the BENE-League, which remains the owner at all times. The winner will receive a copy of the trophy at all times.
2. The other participant in the final of the BENE-League competition will receive a trophy from the RvT in a different form than the winner's trophy. The trophy remains in the possession of the relevant association at all times.

#### **Article 28 Withdrawal from team, no play and similar cases**

1. The association that withdraws from the competition will be fined in accordance with the sanction overview. In addition, the association is obliged to pay the BNL compensation for additional costs arising from the withdrawal.
2. In addition, if an association withdraws from the competition, the entry fee and the fixed deposit will be forfeited and will accrue to the BNL, which does not exclude further action by the national association to which the association belongs. In addition, it loses all rights to payments from the BNL.

3. If an association withdraws or is excluded during the competition, the results of all matches played by it within the BNL context will be declared null and void and the awarded points will be declared invalid.
4. If an association that has qualified for the BNL competition withdraws or is expelled, the BNL management may replace it and decide which association will take that place on the recommendation of the respective national association.
5. If a team does not start the match or if a match is discontinued, the BNL management will report this to the Disciplinary Committee.

**Article 29 Finally**

1. All appendices form an integral part of these regulations.
2. If an English version of these regulations is available and there is a discrepancy in the interpretation between the Dutch or English version, the Dutch version will prevail.
3. The basic version of these regulations was adopted by all participants in the BNL and came into effect on 20 August 2014. It can be amended by decision of the Supervisory Board, as long as it does not conflict with the contract establishing the BENE-League between the National Federation, and any changes should be properly communicated. The regulations were last amended by the Supervisory Board on September 1, 2022 and will come into effect on the same date.
4. In all cases not provided for in the regulations, the Supervisory Board may additionally decide.

## Administrative Sanctions Guidelines<sup>2</sup>

### 1. General

Failure to provide the required information and/or document(s) to the BENE-League within the set terms: fine of € 250,--

### 2. Payment obligation

Failure to pay the BENE-League on the due dates (for amounts higher than € 1.000): fine of € 500,--. First repetition of violation: fine of € 750,--. Possible further repetitions: fine of € 1.500,-- and/or exclusion from participation in the BENE-League competition.

### 3. Information about players

Providing incorrect information about a player by the player himself or by the association: declaration to disciplinary committee

### 4. Ineligible Player

1. The participation of an ineligible player during a match of the BENE-League competition: loss of the match by 10-0 and 2 match points deducted.

### 5. Marketing/Advertising/Media

Violation of the applicable regulations and guidelines regarding:

- a. advertising arrangement and use in the arcade and related areas: fine of €500,--.
- b. logo/badges on the team uniform and sleeves of players: fine of € 500,--. Exclusion of relevant players from participation in the competition if necessary.
- c. (inter)national TV signal production: fine of € 1.250,--.
- d. not granting access to (accredited) media representatives (TV, radio, etc.): fine of € 250,-- per person who has been refused access.

### 6. Play Location

Violation of the applicable regulations and guidelines regarding:

- a. not being able to use the accommodation/availability of the required facilities, equipment and/or location infrastructure in the accommodation and related areas: fine of € 1.000,--;
- b. requirements for the playing floor: € 1.000,-- fine. Exclusion of location, may be imposed in the further continuation of the competition;
- c. placement of competition banners, BNL logos, signs, table and/or flags in the sports hall and related areas: fine of € 1.000,--;
- d. not having the required officials, including secretary and timekeeper, and volunteers for setting up and removing the floor/advertising: fine € 500,--
- e. the unavailability of a qualified secretary and timekeeper: fine € 500,--;
- f. not having a qualified announcer during the match: fine € 500,--;
- g. failure to follow instructions from BENE-League Handball officials with regard to the match protocol, proposed procedures by a team or person involved in the match: fine € 500,--; if this causes a delay before the start of the match (first half / second half): € 500 fine;
- h. not live streaming a home match on the internet and/or not making this match available on the internet for the next 12 months: fine € 500,-- per match.

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<sup>2</sup> With reference to Article 4, paragraph 1 of the Competition Regulations