



NATIONAL REFEREE COMMITTEE
CONSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Revision	Date approved
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Article I - Name

- I.1. The committee shall be known as the USA Team Handball - National Referee Committee.
- I.2. The Abbreviation of the USA Team Handball – National Referee Committee shall be “USATH – NRC” and/or “NRC”.

Article II - Objective and Responsibilities

- II.1. The objective of the NRC is to ensure and promote that all handball (both indoor and beach) matches are officiated at the highest level through enforcing the playing rules while providing a safe and fair environment to all handball athletes.
- II.2. It is the NRC’s responsibility to:
 - II.2.a. regulate and oversee all the officiating and management of referee, technical delegates, and timekeeper/scorekeeper of USA Team Handball;
 - II.2.b. nominate referees for all USA Team Handball sanctioned events;
 - II.2.c. nominate technical delegates and scorekeepers/timekeepers for all USA Team Handball sanctioned events;
 - II.2.d. approve nomination of referee candidates for continental certification and their participation at these competitions;
 - II.2.e. recruit, develop, promote, and grant certification for prospective referee candidates;
 - II.2.f. maintain and provide educational programs for current referees, technical delegates, and timekeeper/scorekeeper on the current rules, their interpretation, and trends, through clinics, workshops, and training from partners such as the IHF - PRC or of its own initiative;
 - II.2.g. inform and clarify to club members, coaches, and fans, on concerns regarding the interpretation and application of the rules of the games and their current trends in USATH sanctioned events;
 - II.2.h. prepare a budget for all referee-related activities for submission to the Audit and Compensation Committee during an annual budget review;
 - II.2.i. temporarily suspend a certified referee of USATH from further participation in sanctioned events. In addition, if suspended referees currently hold a continental and/or international certification, they will be prohibited from representing USA Team Handball and the United States in continental and international competitions. The NRC may also refer the concerned party to the Judicial Committee for permanent suspension if it sees fit to do so.

Article III - Operation and Rules of the Game

- III.1. The NRC shall operate under USA Team Handball, the National Governing Body of Team Handball in the United States as recognized by the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee.
- III.2. The NRC will enforce and follow the most current IHF Rules of the Game, their interpretation, and trends.

Article IV - Structure of the NRC and Administration

- IV.1. The composition of the NRC shall be as follows:
 - IV.1.a. committee chair, appointed by the USATH board of directors;
 - IV.1.b. committee member, elected for a four (4) year term by a majority vote of current referees;
 - IV.1.c. committee member, elected for a four (4) year term by a majority vote of current referees;
 - IV.1.d. board of directors representative, appointed by the board of directors, and revisited on an annual basis to ensure continued engagement;
 - IV.1.e. athlete representative, appointed for a four (4) year term by the Athlete Advisory Committee (AAC);
 - IV.1.f. athlete representative, appointed for a four (4) year term by the AAC.
- IV.2. The board of directors may choose to set a term limit for the committee chair, or schedule an annual performance review to determine the chair's continued suitability for the role.
- IV.3. The USATH CEO or appointed staff member shall oversee the election of the referee representatives using the active membership database. During the first election cycle, seat IV.1.c shall be elected for a two (2) year term in order to establish an offset in term limits.
- IV.4. The AAC may choose to limit the first nominee to hold seat IV.1.f to a two (2) year term in order to establish an offset in term limits.
- IV.5. As the leader of a specialty committee, the NRC chair should have a solid understanding of both the role of a referee, and the key stakeholders of the NRC, such as the IHF, the NACHC, and the USATH community. For such, the Chair appointment is done by the Board of Directors, with free consultation with USATH staff and community members.

Article V - Limitations and Inability to Serve, Conflict of Interest

- V.1. The NRC should elect a deputy chair at the start of every new term. In the event the NRC chair is in need to be absent or unable to serve, the deputy chair may act as interim chair, with the associated leadership and reporting duties;
- V.2. All members of the NRC must sign and abide by USATH's conflict of interest policy.

Article VI - Duties, Responsibilities, and Authority

- VI.1. The Committee Chair:
 - VI.1.a. shall preside over the general business of the committee and prepare quarterly reports to the Board of Directors; additional reporting may be requested on an as needed basis;
 - VI.1.b. shall form sub-committees and working groups as is deemed necessary.
 - VI.1.c. shall assign projects, responsibilities, grant authority/decision-making, and other duties to the other Committee Members;
 - VI.1.d. be the liaison officer with any IHF or IHF-affiliated (e.g. NACHC) referee governing body;
- VI.2. The deputy committee chair and other committee members:
 - VI.2.a. shall assist the committee chair in conducting business of the committee, including any projects, responsibilities and duties assigned by the committee chair.
 - VI.2.b. shall act as representatives of the committee at USATH sanctioned events.

Article VII - USATH Membership and SafeSport compliance

- VII.1. All members of the NRC must have an active USATH membership, current background check and SafeSport training at the time of appointment and throughout their tenure.
- VII.2. All certified referees and technical delegates must have an active USATH referee membership, current background check and SafeSport training during the entire season.

Article VIII - USATH - NRC Fairness Protocol

- VIII.1. Referees and technical delegates may not be considered to conduct matches where such may have a negative impact on a game outcome based on past affiliation with clubs. Sole discretion is given to the event's chief referee.
- VIII.2. It is each referee's responsibility to openly disclose whether any current or previous club affiliation to the NRC in an honest manner. However, it is the NRC's responsibility to collect information from referees about their affiliation.

Article IX - USATH - NRC Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Referees, Technical Delegates, and Volunteers; Referees Disclosure and Responsibilities

- IX.1. The NRC and the officials shall abide by the Ted Stevens Act, in line with USA Team Handball's affiliation with the Olympic movement.
- IX.2. In all dealings with athletes, coaches, USATH members, spectators, and the public in general, USATH referees, technical delegates, and volunteers shall preserve the integrity and prestige of such a role. Be on time for nominations and any other obligations and/or activities during an event.
- IX.3. USATH referees and officials shall master the IHF Rules of the Game, all the definitions, and clarifications proposed by the Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC), as well as the NRC guidelines, and shall exercise authority in an impartial and fair manner.
- IX.4. USATH referees and officials shall demonstrate professionalism, respect, and ethical conduct towards the standing committee, other referees, officials, the event's chief referee, players, coaches, members of the media, and spectators. USATH referees and officials will NOT make disrespectful, false or critical remarks against their referee partner, other referees, USATH technical delegates, or any person involved directly or indirectly in the event.
- IX.5. USATH referees and officials shall show physical and mental preparation to officiate matches; USATH referees and officials shall dress professionally when engaged with matches and training activities. USATH referees and officials will NOT use offensive language or obscene gestures against another participant or individual regardless of their engagement at an event.
- IX.6. USATH referees and officials shall not make false or misleading statements that violate USATH's mission, the USATH - NRC's mission, the IHF's mission, or the IHF - PRC's mission, regarding their regulations, authority, competence, qualification, expertise, pronounce any defamatory remarks against referees, officials, the event's chief referee, players, coaches, members of the media, and spectators.
- IX.7. Referees and technical delegates must abide by this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct at the beginning of each season, acknowledging that they fully comprehend that if they do NOT abide by it, they may be subject to disciplinary action.

Article X - Regulations for Continental and International Referees

- X.1. The USATH - NRC is responsible for nominating referee candidates to be promoted to continental referee status (NACHC):
- X.1.a. The USATH – NRC will only grant recommendations for referee candidates to receive continental certification to candidates that have maintained a level 3 referee certification for a minimum of 3 years;
 - X.1.b. the referee candidates must show outstanding performances that justify their recommendation for continental level, in addition to physical and theoretical preparedness;
 - X.1.c. continental referee candidates must demonstrate a continuous intention to occupy this role for a significant period as it is imperative for USA Team Handball to always have certified continental referees available for nominations. Current and prospective continental referees (and candidates) are ultimately representing the United States and USA Team Handball at the continental level.
 - X.1.d. referees must not occupy certification or be candidates with any other national or continental federation;
 - X.1.e. continental referees (or candidates) must be U.S. Citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents.
- X.2. USATH referees at the international level (IHF):
- X.2.a. Referees can be promoted to international referee status only through successful participation in an official IHF examination, and/or through the GRTP invitation (4.1 - Regulations for International and Continental Referees – IHF) as stated in the IHF's statutes. Additional information can be found on the IHF's website under the Statutes & Regulations tab.
 - X.2.b. International referees must demonstrate a continuous intention to occupy this role for a significant period as it is imperative for the USA Team Handball to always have international referees available for nominations. Current and prospective international referees (and USATH IHF candidates) are ultimately representing the United States and USA Team Handball at the international level. Referees must not occupy certification or be candidates with any other national or continental federation, and for such, international referees (or candidates) must be U.S. Citizens or Lawful Permanent Residents.
- X.3. USATH technical delegates at the continental and international level (NACHC/IHF):
- X.3.a. Technical delegates can receive nomination to be promoted to continental status only through successful participation in an official USATH technical delegates examination. Experience as a former referee will be considered.
 - X.3.b. Continental and international technical delegates must demonstrate a continuous intention to occupy this role for a significant period as it is imperative for USATH to always have continental and international technical delegates available for nominations. Current and prospective continental/international technical delegates are ultimately representing the United States and USA Team Handball at the international level.
 - X.3.c. Technical delegates must not occupy certification or be candidates with any other national or continental federation.
- X.4. Referees/technical delegates, current or candidates must disclose any invitation received to participate in continental/international competitions to the NRC. Referees/technical delegates must obtain authorization from the NRC to be allowed to take part in these events. The NRC will consider whether referees/technical delegates are well positioned to take part in these events by physical preparedness, performances and by being in good standing and appropriate ethical behavior within USA Team Handball. This will include

compliance with Article IX. USATH-certified referees/technical delegates, regardless of their level, are considered ambassadors of the game and their representation abroad is not limited to their performances, but also the representation of USA Team Handball as an organization.

- X.5. Failure to disclose such invitations, or participation in any continental/international events without prior authorization from the NRC, will result in a recommendation to the Judicial Committee that may suspend their referee/technical delegate certification, making them ineligible to represent USATH and the United States in continental and international competitions. The NRC will follow up in the form of formal communication with the involved organizations.
- X.6. The NRC will send a yearly list of referees and technical delegates allowed to take part in continental NACHC events, stating which continental referees and technical delegates are in good standing with all requirements set forth by the NRC to be nominated for such competitions.

Article XI - Referees/Officials Nominations

- XI.1. The NRC is ultimately responsible for nominating referees for any USATH-sanctioned match (also stated in the USATH Competition Rule Book under IV.05 Participation in Sanctioned Events - (ii) officiating requirements - C).
- XI.2. All certified levels will be considered equally.
- XI.3. It is prohibited for clubs, leagues, and all other USATH sanctioned handball events happening in the United States to invite any referees from abroad (i.e. national, continental, and international referees) without consulting and receiving prior authorization from the USATH - NRC in consultation with the concerned handball federation, the IHF - PRC, the NACHC - PRC, as it violates paragraph statute 9 of the IHF Statutes and Regulations - Regulations for International and Continental Referees document.

Article XII - Officiating Requirements and Referee Rankings

- XII.1. Each match must be officiated by two (2) USATH-certified referees, except for games where the NRC is observing referee candidates as part of their training/certification process. However, all individuals refereeing or working the match must be USATH members in good standing with valid SafeSport training and background check.
- XII.2. Each match should, if possible, also involve a USATH-certified technical delegate to oversee timekeeping and scorekeeping. This individual must be a USATH member in good standing with valid SafeSport training and background check.

Article XIII - Additional Technical Delegates Information

- XIII.1. Technical delegates are the highest authority in the fair game. The NRC will make efforts to have all USATH events, cups, tournaments, invitationals, and national and collegiate championships with a designated technical delegate. Where not possible, the referee chief of the event may be appointed to occupy that role.
- XIII.2. Delegates are facilitators to the referees as they oversee actions before, during, and after the match. These officials must have extensive and efficient knowledge of handball and serve as the referees' mentor on and off the court, which may include but is not limited to:
- XIII.3. Before:
- XIII.3.a. Inspection of the playing court;
 - XIII.3.b. Inspection of the players uniforms, protective gear, and numbers;
 - XIII.3.c. Make sure public clocks or table clocks, team time-out cards, injured player cards, 2 min. suspension cards are available;
 - XIII.3.d. Check the match report;
 - XIII.3.e. Clarify any questions or concerns.
- XIII.4. During:
- XIII.4.a. Oversee the substitution area, and behavior of team officials, players, and spectators;
 - XIII.4.b. Communicate during the match with team officials and referees;
 - XIII.4.c. Intervene if referees are going to make a mistake, where there are possibilities for protest.
- XIII.5. After:
- XIII.5.a. Double-check the match report;
 - XIII.5.b. Collect feedback from team officials about referees' performance;
 - XIII.5.c. Meet with referees to share the evaluation sheet.

Article XIV - Referee Certification

- XIV.1. Overview: the USATH - NRC has established the following criteria and certification process for team handball referees and game officials in the United States. The efforts are to identify and select the most qualified candidates for such prestigious roles.
- XIV.2. Requirements:
- XIV.2.a. Physical test (shuttle run test, AKA Beep test);
 - XIV.2.b. Rules test (catalog of questions from IHF rules of the game and/or video tests);
 - XIV.2.c. SafeSport certificate;
 - XIV.2.d. Background screening;
 - XIV.2.e. USATH referee membership;
 - XIV.2.f. Adequate Performance;
 - XIV.2.g. Ethical and Professional Behavior.



XIV.3. Types of Certification:

LEVELS	AREA OF PERFORMANCE	REQUIREMENTS
USATH Level 1	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No prior practical referee experience is required • Attend Referee Level 1 Course • Minimum passing score on the rules of the game exam (passing score is 70%) • Must attend at least one referee clinic annually • Receive mentorship from an NRC member: minimum two matches • To keep level 1 status, the referee must meet the above requirements
USATH Level 2	Local, Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 1 year at level 1 plus refereed 20 matches • Minimum passing score on the rules of the game (passing score is 75%) • Pass the physical test (shuttle run test) • Must attend at least two referee clinics annually • Receive mentorship from an NRC member: minimum of three matches • To keep level 2 status, the referee must meet the above requirements
USATH Level 3	National Championships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 2 years at Level 2 plus refereed 70 matches • Minimum passing score on the rules of the game (passing score is 85%) • Pass the physical test (shuttle run test) • Must attend at least three referee clinics annually • Receive mentorship from an NRC member: minimum of three matches • To keep level 3 status, the referee must meet the above requirements
Continental (NACHC)	Continental Competitions	Refer to Article X
International (IHF)	International Competitions	Refer to Article X



XIV.4. Physical test passing levels:

	MEN	WOMEN
Level 1	5.5	4.5
Level 2	7.5	6.5
Level 3	9.5	8.5
Continental	<i>as established by NACHC</i>	<i>as established by NACHC</i>
International	<i>as established by IHF</i>	<i>as established by IHF</i>

Article XV - Waiver, Removal of Referees and Technical Delegates

- XV.1. Waiver: one of the essential duties of the USATH - NRC is to recruit and train prospective referee candidates. For this reason, the USATH - NRC reserves the right to waive certification requirements on the basis of a referee's talent, age, technical and theoretical knowledge, and/or experiences where appropriate.
- XV.2. Revocation or Removal of a Referee and Technical Delegates: the USATH – NRC reserves the right to revoke a referee’s certification and remove them from the roster temporarily based on a review of performance, professional and ethical conduct, and whether his/her continuation can be justified. If it feels it is appropriate, the NRC may petition the Judicial Committee for permanent certification removal.

Article XVI - Amendments

- XVI.1. To add, alter or remove an amendment of this constitution shall require a discussion and justification within the USATH - NRC committee and brought forward in a formal letter to the USATH board of directors for further discussion.

Article XVII - Working Groups and Subcommittees

- XVII.1. Currently established subcommittees:
 - XVII.1.a. USA Beach Handball Referee Committee (may have its own regulations)