



NATIONAL REFEREE COMMITTEE

2021



USATH NATIONAL REFEREE COMMITTEE



Committee Chair:

Tugomir Anusic

Deputy Committee Chair:

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Committee Members:

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Constitutional:

Article I. Name

1.1 The committee shall be known as the USA Team Handball - National Referee Committee (USATH – NRC).

Article II. Objective and Responsibilities

1.1 The objective of the USA Team Handball - National Referee Committee is to ensure and promote that all team handball matches are officiated at the highest level through enforcing the playing rules while providing a safe and fair environment to all handball athletes.

1.2 It is the USATH - NRC's responsibility to:

- a. regulate, govern, administer and oversee all the referees and game officials matters of USA Team Handball.
- b. make the decision on referees, technical delegates, scorekeeper/timekeeper nominations on USA Team Handball sanctioned events.
- c. develop and promote quality certification opportunities for current and prospective referees, technical delegates, and game officials.
- d. improve and develop the skills of referees, technical delegates, scorekeeper/timekeeper through clinics, workshops, and training with partnerships such as the NACHC – PRC, the IHF - PRC and on its own initiatives.
- e. regulate referees, technical delegates, scorekeeper/timekeeper certification.

Article III. Operation

1.1 The USA Team Handball - National Referee Committee shall operate with the USA Team Handball which is part of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and the International Handball Federation - Playing Rules and Referee Commission (IHF – PRC).

Article IV. Administration

1.1 The USATH – NRC chairman reports to the USA Team Handball Chief Executive Officer.

1.2 The USA Team Handball - National Referee Committee shall be commissioned by its committee chairman, the deputy committee chairman, and committee members.

1.3 The composition of the USATH - NRC shall be as follows:

- a. Committee Chairman
- b. Deputy Committee Chairman
- c. Committee Members

Article V. Limitations and Inability to Serve, Conflict of Interest:

1.1 In the occasion the committee chairman is absent or unable to serve, the order of precedence for acting as chairman shall be:

- a. Deputy Committee Chair
- b. Committee Member

1.2 Any conflicts of interest by all members of the USATH - NRC shall be disclosed to the USA Team Handball Chief Executive Officer.

Article VI. Duties and Responsibilities:

1.1 The Committee Chairman:

- a. Shall preside over general business of the committee.
- b. Shall form sub-committees as is deemed necessary.
- c. Assign projects and other duties to the Deputy Committee Chair, Committee Members, and Athlete Representatives.
- d. Shall serve as Liaison Officer with any referee/game officials related matters to be dealt with the NACHC, the IHF, and any other handball organization affiliated to the IHF.

1.2 The Deputy Committee Chair:

- a. Shall assist the Committee Chairman in conducting business of the Committee.
- b. Shall be responsible for any assigned projects and duties by the Committee Chairman.
- c. Shall oversee referee and game official recruitment.

1.3 The Committee Members:

- a. Shall assist the Committee Chairman in conducting the business of the Committee.
- b. Shall be responsible for any assigned projects and duties by the Committee Chairman.
- c. Shall recruit referees and game officials.

ARTICLE VII: USA Team Handball Membership and SafeSport

1.1 All members of the USATH - NRC must have active USATH membership and SafeSport training.

1.2. All certified referees, technical delegates, and game officials must have active USATH membership and SafeSport training.

Article VIII: USATH - NRC Fairness Protocol

1.1 Referees shall not be nominated to officiate matches where such may have a negative impact on a game outcome:

- a. Example: For instance, if a referee (s) is known to have a present/past affiliation or sympathy with a particular club, such referee (s) will not be nominated to officiate that match. Furthermore, a referee (s) shall not be nominated to a match if the outcome of such, will favor or decide future opponents of a particular club that these individuals have or have had present/past affiliation or sympathy.

1.2 It is the USATH – NRC’s responsibility to collect information from referees about their affiliation; It is also the referees' responsibility to openly disclose whether he/she has or has had a club affiliation to the USATH – NRC in an honest manner.

- a. The USATH - NRC aims to collect this information on a regular basis in order to enforce Article VIII.

Article IX: USATH - NRC Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Referees, Technical Delegates, and Game Officials:

1.1 In all dealings with athletes, coaches, USA Team Handball (USATH) members, spectators, and the public in general, USATH referees and game officials shall preserve the integrity and prestige of such a role.

1.2 USATH referees and game officials shall master the International Handball Federation (IHF) Rules of the Game, all the definitions, and clarifications proposed by the Playing Rules and Referees Commission (PRC), as well as the National Referee Committee (NRC) guidelines, and shall exercise authority in an impartial and fair manner.

1.3. USATH referees and game officials shall demonstrate professionalism and respect for other referees, game officials, delegates, the event's chief referee, players, coaches, members of the media, and spectators.

1.4 USATH referees and game officials shall show physical and mental preparation to officiate matches; USATH referees and game officials shall dress neatly during the full duration of the event.

1.5 USATH referees and game officials shall not make false or misleading statements that violate the USATH's mission, the USATH - NRC's mission, the IHF's mission, or the IHF-PRC's mission, regarding their competence, qualification, and expertise.

1.6 All referees and game officials shall then hereby to agree that they:

- a. will demonstrate professionalism and competence at all times.
- b. will be impartial and fair.
- c. will make decisions with confidence.
- d. will be on time to referee games for which they were nominated and any other obligations and/or activities during an event.
- e. will respect their referee partner, other referees, and game officials during the full duration of the event.
- f. will NOT make disrespectful or critical remarks against their referee partner, game officials, USATH delegates, or any person involved directly or indirectly in the event.
- g. will NOT use offensive language or obscene gestures against another participant or individual

regardless of their engagement at the event.

- h. will NOT discriminate in any form nor take undue advantage or prejudicial treatment of any individual or group on the basis of their race, color, religion, sex, sexual preference, age, disability, national origin or any other form of discrimination.
- i. will agree to abide by the USA Team Handball – National Referee Committee Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

1.7 Referees and game officials must fully understand that if they do NOT abide by this Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, they may be sent home at their own expenses and may not be nominated to participate in future USATH-sanctioned events.

- a. Referees and game officials must also be aware that if they violate the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, they may jeopardize certification and referee status within the USATH - NRC.
- b. If referees and game officials are visiting from another country, they also agree to abide by the laws of the United States of America.

Article X: Referees/Game Officials Budget and Staggered Plan for International Referees Invitation:

1.1 The USATH - NRC is committed to working closely with the organizer of the event to accommodate the event's budget. For such cooperation, the event organizer should communicate to the USATH - NRC the following information, and any other important facts:

- a. Date and location of the event.
- b. How many teams are participating.
- c. Playing format.
- d. Number of matches.

1.2 It is absolutely prohibited for clubs, leagues, and all other handball events happening in the USA to invite international referees without consulting and receiving prior authorization from the USATH - NRC in consultation with the IHF-PRC, NACHC - PRC, as it violates paragraph statute 9 of the IHF Statutes and Regulations - Regulations for International and Continental Referees document.

[continuation] The USATH- NRC aims to give priority and opportunities to local, regional and national referees/game officials when considering candidates for nominations. However, the USATH - NRC agrees to a staggered and balanced approach where, if international referees (individuals that hold an active referee status with a handball organization other than the USATH) agree to cover their expenses, may be granted authorization to participate in events.

- a. 21/22 season 50% may be international referees.

- b. 22/23 season 25% may be international referees.
- c. 23/24 season 10% may be international referees.
- d. 24/25 and subsequent seasons at the USATH – NRC’s discretion.

1.3 NOTE: The percentage number referenced in Article X, 1.2 a-b-c-d, remains to the discretion of the USATH – NRC.

Article XI: Referees and Table Officials Guidelines

1.1 Referees must officiate matches by enforcing strictly the IHF Playing Rules book and the IHF-PRC clarifications and definitions.

1.2 For every match:

- a. two (2) certified referees shall officiate the match.
- b. one (1) certified scorekeeper and one (1) certified timekeeper.
- c. one (1) technical delegate.

1.3 Referees must wear identical USATH referee uniforms, and:

- a. Referees must wear proper and identical shoes + black socks.
- b. Referees must use black whistle (Fox 40 or EPIC CMG).
www.fox40shop.com
- c. Referees must use official disciplinary cards (Yellow, Red, and Blue).
- d. Internal communication device is strongly recommended.

1.4 **Table Officials:** USATH referees must be available to work right after the game they had officiated as part of their game fee, if noncertified timekeeper/scorekeeper is available.

1.5 For major events, trained and certified table officials must be given priorities as they are important to support the referees and to ensure that many key rules are applied properly:

- a. Note: the tasks do not just involve managing a clock and keeping track of the score. There are many other tasks and situations where knowledgeable table officials have a role. It requires rules knowledge and experience to do this job in important and hectic games. (Looking ahead to the 2028 Olympics, it should be noted that in both Los Angeles 1984 and Atlanta 1996, a dozen of table officials from USATH were trained and selected for this prestigious role in the Olympics).

1.6 Clubs should try for their own scrimmages and minor events to find members who want to acquire this experience, rather than just grabbing someone who happens to be available. (For major events, the USATH - NRC gradually expects the organizers to have trained and certified table officials.

1.7 Therefore is recommended that table Officials:

- a. Wear identical USATH gear.
- b. Have the knowledge of their roles.

Article XII: Technical Delegate

1.1 Technical delegates are the highest authority in the fair game. All USATH events, cups, tournaments, invitationals, national and collegiate championships must have a designated technical delegate.

1.2 Functions: 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 not limited to:

1.3 Before:

- a. Inspection of the playing court.
- b. Inspection of the players.
- c. Inspection of uniforms, numbers, dangerous protection, etc.
- d. Inspection of the table.
- e. Make sure public clocks or table clocks, team time out cards, injured player cards, 2 min. suspension cards are available.
- f. Check match report.
- g. Clarify any questions or concerns.

1.4 During:

- a. Oversee the substitution area, behavior of team officials, players, and spectators.
- b. Communication during the match with team officials and referees.
- c. Intervene if referees are going to make a mistake, where there are possibilities for protest.

1.5 After:

- a. Double-check the match report.
- b. Collect feedback from team officials about referees' performances.
- c. Meet with referees to share the evaluation sheet.

Article XIII: New Referee Certification

1.1 Overview

- a. The USA Team Handball - National Referee Committee (USATH - NRC) have established new criteria and certification process for team handball referees and game officials in the United States, starting in 2021. Our efforts are to identify and select the most qualified candidates for such prestigious roles.

1.2 Requirements:

- a. Physical test (shuttle run test, AKA Beep test).
- b. Theoretical test (catalogue of questions from IHF rules of the game and/or video tests).
- c. SafeSport certificate.
- d. Background screening.

- e. USATH referee membership.

1.3 Types of Certification:

LEVELS	MOST LIKELY PERFORMING AREA	EVALUATOR
USATH Referee Level 1	Local	NRC
USATH Referee Level 2	Local and Regional	NRC
USATH Referee Level 3	Local, Regional and National	NRC
USATH Continental	Continental	NACHC – PRC Chairman IFH - PRC Chairman
USATH International	International	IHF-PRC Chairman

a. USATH Referee Level 1

- 1.a. No prior practical referee experience required
- 2.a. Minimum passing score on the rules of the game exam (passing score is 60%)
- 3.a. Must attend at least **one** referee clinic annually
- 4.a. Receive mentorship from an NRC member: minimum **two** matches
- 5.a. To keep level 1 status, the referee must meet the above requirements

b. USATH Referee Level 2

- 1.a. Minimum of 1 year at level 1 plus refereed 20 matches
- 2.a. Minimum passing score on the rules of the game (passing score is 70%)
- 3.a. Pass the physical test (shuttle run test)
- 4.a. Must attend at least **two** referee clinics annually
- 5.a. Receive mentorship from an NRC member: minimum **three** matches
- 6.a. To keep level 2 status, the referee must meet the above requirements

c. USATH Referee Level 3

- 1.a. Minimum of 2 years at Level 2 plus refereed 70 matches
- 2.a. Minimum passing score on the rules of the game (passing score is 85%)
- 3.a. Pass the physical test (shuttle run test)
- 4.a. Must attend at least **three** referee clinics annually
- 5.a. Receive mentorship from an NRC member: minimum **three** matches
- 6.a. To keep level 3 status, the referee must meet the above requirements

d. USATH Continental referees - NACHC

- 1.a. The NACHC – PRC and IHF – PRC are responsible to grant continental referee status based on their evaluation.

e. USATH International Level – IHF

- 1.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).

f. Testing:

[International Handball Federation - Catalogue of Rules \(Questions\)](#)
[International Handball Federation - Catalogue of Rules \(Answers\)](#)

1.a 30 questions taken out of the question catalogue, and/or video clips

2.a Physical Test (Shuttle Run Test, AKA Beep Test) Instructions:

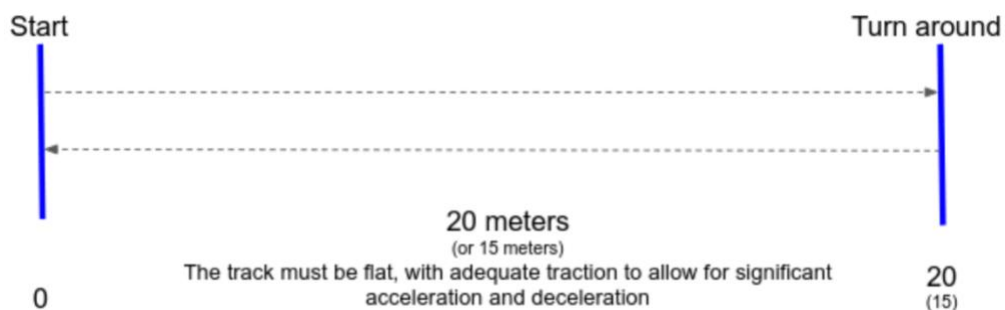
EXPLANATION: The shuttle run test is a progressive running test that assesses the physical and cardiovascular endurance of an athlete. The test is done by an individual running back and forth between 2 cones placed 20 meters (65,6 feet) apart, with an increasing beep sound. The test is over when the individual completes the required level and loops, or when he/she can no longer keep pace.

a. Materials needed for the test:

1. At least 20-meters (65.6 feet) distance for running – flat surface, suitable for running
2. Cones or markers
3. Running shoes
4. Comfortable clothes
5. Audio with beep speed ([Shuttle Run Audio](#))
6. Polar/Smart watch for heart rate monitoring (recommended)

b. Instructions:

- 1- Place cones (or markers) 20 meters (65.6 ft.) apart
- 2- Place yourself at one of the cones
- 3- Start when the audio instructions tell you to do so
- 4- Run to the opposite cone, getting there before the next beep
- 5- Wait until you hear the next beep to run to the other cone
- 6- Keep running with beeps until you can no longer keep pace or when the test is over
- 7- If you miss a beep, keep running to the other cone, turn around and try to catch up the next beep. The test is over when you fail to reach the opposite cone for two consecutive beeps
- 8- Your score is based on the level and loop you stopped and completed before missing a beep



To pass the physical test, the referees must reach the number of levels (loops) according to the table below:

Men	Women
18 – 29 years old – level 9.5 (≈77 loops)	18 – 29 years old - level seven (52 loops)
30 – 39 years old - level eight (62 loops)	30 – 39 years old - level six (42 loops)
40 – 49 years old - level seven (52 loops)	40 – 49 years old - level five (33 loops)
Above 50 years old - level six (42 loops)	Above 50 years old - level four (24 loops)

a. Additional requirements:

USATH [Membership Instructions](#)

USATH [Background Screening Instructions](#)

USATH [SafeSport Instructions](#)

CERTIFICATION CHECK LIST

- USATH Membership
- Background Screening
- SafeSport
- Rules of the game exam
- Physical test
- Attended clinics
- Match observation

1.6 Additional Information

a. 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.

b. Revocation or Removal of a Referee:

The USATH – NRC reserves the right to revoke or remove a referee’s certification and also from the roster temporarily or permanently based on a review of performance, professional and ethical conduct, and whether his/her continuation can be justified. The USATH - NRC's decision is sole and not subject to appeal.

c. Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct:

Prior to the start of an event, nominated referees will receive a copy of the USATH - NRC *Officials’ Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct*. The referees must read it thoroughly and sign it.

Article XIV. Amendments

1.1 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 USA Team Handball CEO and/or board of directors for further discussion.