



International  
Handball  
Federation

## **a) Ball Regulations**

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Note. Special technical specifications for handballs are currently being developed



## ARTICLE 1

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### I. General Principles

These Regulations are to define the IHF criteria for handballs which have to be met. In addition, the criteria concerned apply for the handball to be provided with the IHF seal of approval.



## ARTICLE 2

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### II. Technical Specifications for Handballs

#### 2.1. Technical requirements according to Rule 3 of the Rules of the Game

1. The handballs shall be produced of a leather or plastic casing. They must be round and the outer material must not be shiny or smooth.
2. The following three different categories of handballs shall apply:

##### a) Handballs played with resin

The following ball sizes (i.e. circumference and weight) shall be used for the different age categories:

- 58 to 60 cm in circumference and 425 to 475 g in weight (IHF size 3) for men's senior and youth (aged 16 and older) players
- 54 to 56 cm in circumference and 325 to 375 g in weight (IHF size 2) for women's senior, women's youth (aged 14 and older) and men's youth (aged 12 to 16) players
- 50 to 52 cm in circumference and 290 to 330 g in weight (IHF size 1) for women's youth (aged 8 to 14) and men's youth (aged 8 to 12) players

##### b) Handballs played without resin

The following ball sizes (i.e. circumference and weight) shall be used for the different age categories:

- 55.5 to 57.5 cm in circumference and 400 to 425 g in weight (IHF size 3) for men's senior and youth (aged 16 and older) players
- 51.5 to 53.5 cm in circumference and 300 to 325 g in weight (IHF size 2) for women's senior, women's youth (aged 14 and older) and men's youth (aged 12 to 16) players

- 49 to 51 cm in circumference and 290 to 315 g in weight (IHF size 1) for women's youth (aged 8 to 14) and men's youth (aged 8 to 12) players

**c) Handballs for beginners**

For beginners, different handballs may be used:

- 46 to 48 cm in circumference and 255 to 280 g in weight (IHF size 0) for children (aged 8 and younger) or beginners of different age groups
- 44 to 46 cm in circumference and 165 to 190 g in weight (size 00) for children or other beginners
- 46 to 48 cm in circumference and 190 to 225 g in weight (non-inflatable squeeze balls) for children or other beginners
- 46 to 48 cm in circumference and 190 to 225 g in weight (non-inflatable sponge balls)

**Note.** During use the handballs must retain their weight, shape and bouncing capacity.



**ARTICLE 3**

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**III. Special Specifications of Leather Handballs**

1. Leather balls must be made of high quality full-grained chrome leather. After tanning, the leather must:
  - have a high tensile and breaking strength (approximately 95kg/cm<sup>2</sup>)
  - be soft and supple to the touch
  - have fault-free and resistant grains and seams which exclude all risk of injury and do not fray or split.
2. The leather ball shall consist of at least 32 panels.
3. Fully synthetic sewing threads shall be used.
4. The bladders are made of latex or a similar, equivalent material with a stretching capacity of at least 600%.
5. The valve system of the bladder must be simple and effective to use.



**ARTICLE 4**

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**IV. Special Specifications of Plastic Handballs**

Ball casings or bladders made of plastic must be a fully equivalent substitute for a leather casing or rubber bladder in every respect.



## ARTICLE 5

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### V. IHF Seal of Approval

#### 5.1. Awarding the IHF seal of approval

1. The IHF seal of approval may be awarded upon application to any ball manufacturer if the manufacturer fulfils the technical and financial requirements.
2. The application shall be made in writing, with the necessary technical documentation, in English, French or German to the IHF Head Office.
3. To allow the technical requirements to be checked, at least five balls of each type of ball shall be sent, free of charge, to the IHF together with the application.
4. A testing fee shall be charged for the inspection.
5. The IHF reserves the right to withdraw the seal of approval for balls if technical defects identified on subsequent retesting are not eliminated or if financial commitments made are not fulfilled.
6. The place of jurisdiction is Basle/Switzerland.

#### 5.2. Identification of IHF approved balls

IHF approved balls must be clearly printed, in colour, with the official IHF logo (3.5cm high) and the designation 'IHF Approved Ball'.

IHF Approved Ball



IHF  
Approved  
Ball

#### 5.3. Use of IHF approved balls

1. Only balls with the IHF seal of approval may be used at official IHF competitions.
2. A list of ball manufacturers with the IHF seal of approval is kept by the IHF Head Office and is available free of charge



**VI. Licence Fee**

1. On payment of the licence fee, the manufacturer gains the right to affix the IHF seal of approval to balls of the tested and approved type. The licence takes the form of a contract drawn up by the IHF Head Office.
2. The licence fee shall be paid annually in Swiss francs and, on conclusion of the contract, it shall be paid immediately for the current contractual year. For all subsequent years, it shall be paid by one month prior to the expiration of the contractual year.
3. The contract shall be extended by tacit agreement if the contracting parties do not exercise their right of termination.
4. If one of the contracting parties is no longer interested in awarding or using the IHF seal of approval, it shall notify the other party by registered post, at least three months prior to the expiration of the contractual year. If notice of the termination is not received in good time, the contract shall be valid for a further year.

Appendix 1



TEST FORM FOR HANDBALLS

Manufacturer: ..... Article: .....

	Data:	Circumference in cm.	Weight in g.
New:	.....	.....	.....
After use:	.....	.....	.....
Bouncing properties:	.....		

Notes to Articles 2 and 3 of the IHF Ball Regulations:

2.1.1: .....

2.1.2: .....

3.1: .....

3.2: .....

3.4: .....

3.5: .....

Remarks concerning the awarding of the IHF seal of approval: .....

.....  
.....

.....  
Place / Date

.....  
Name / Signature of examiner

**Appendix 2**



**SPECIMEN CONTRACT  
- BALLS -**

*Since English is the IHF's first official language, contracts are only composed in English.*

**CONTRACT**

between the

**INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION**, hereinafter named 'IHF',

with its Head Office at  
Peter Merian-Strasse 23  
P.O. Box  
CH-4002 Basle  
Switzerland

and represented by

.....

and

.....

hereinafter named 'Ball Manufacturer',

with its headquarters in

.....  
.....  
.....

and represented by

.....



§ 1 Subject of the contract

The IHF shall grant the Ball Manufacturer

the IHF seal of approval for handballs

and, in accordance with the IHF Ball Regulations,

the right to imprint the balls it produces  
as mentioned under § 2 with the clear coloured imprint,  
containing the IHF logo (3.5cm high) and  
the designation 'IHF Approved Ball':

**IHF Approved Ball**



**IHF  
Approved  
Ball**

The stipulations in the IHF's current Ball Regulations, which form an integral part of this contract and which both parties to the contract recognise in full, shall be authoritative.

§ 2 Specification of ball types

The rights listed under § 1 shall be granted to the following ball types exclusively:

.....

Should the Ball Manufacturer require the rights listed under § 1 for further of its products, an additional or amended contract shall be necessary.

§ 3 Licence fee

According to a decision of the IHF Executive Committee the annual licence fee has been set at

CHF..... (Swiss francs)

for the first contractual year.

The licence fee for the first contractual year, from ..... to ..... is payable upon the contract's conclusion. For all subsequent years it shall be paid by one month prior to the expiration of the contractual year into the following IHF bank account:

Account holder: Internationale Handball Federation  
Bank name: Raiffeisenbank Birsig Genossenschaft  
Bank address: Hauptstrasse 16; CH-4104 Oberwil

BIC/Swift: RAIFCH22774

CHF account number: 51859.40

IBAN: CH07 8077 4000 0051 8594 0

On payment of the licence fee, the Ball Manufacturer gains the right to affix the official IHF seal of approval to balls of the tested and approved type(s).

At the time that annual payment is made, the Ball Manufacturer shall notify the IHF in confidence of the previous year's production figures for the individual ball types as mentioned under § 2 of this contract. The IHF is obliged not to make this figure known to any third parties except the members of the Executive Committee.

#### § 4 IHF logo

A sample of the IHF logo shall be provided to the Ball Manufacturer, if necessary, at the time the contract comes into force.

#### § 5 Duration of contract

This contract shall be valid until further notice, at the earliest from .....

The contract shall be considered automatically renewed for another contractual year unless the Ball Manufacturer (or the IHF) exercises its rights pursuant to § 6.

#### § 6 Termination of contract

The contract shall terminate according to the IHF Ball Regulations. The same right shall apply to the IHF.

#### § 7 IHF's duty to provide information

The IHF is obliged to indicate to its affiliated Member Federations at least once a year the existence of all balls mentioned in this contract, and recommend their use.

#### § 8 Advertising

The Ball Manufacturer shall have the right to advertise sporadically or regularly in the IHF World Handball Magazine, in return for a contribution to printing costs.

§ 9 Place of jurisdiction

The place of jurisdiction shall be Basle, Switzerland, where the IHF Head Office is located. This contract shall be drawn up in duplicate.

This contract shall come into effect immediately upon signing by the two parties.

Place and date .....

**INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL FEDERATION**

Signature .....

Name .....

Function .....

**Ball Manufacturer**

Signature .....

Name .....

Function .....