



Rules and Regulations



Edition 1: April 2026

1. INTRODUCTION

NextGen Handball Europe is an international youth handball tournament bringing together clubs from across Europe in a professionally organized and inclusive competition environment.

The event is designed to provide young players with:

- high-quality international competition
- valuable sporting experience
- cultural exchange and friendship
- development through fair play and teamwork

All competitions are organized according to these Rules and Regulations, together with the official **IHF Rules of the Game – Indoor Handball**.

Any matter not specifically regulated in this document will be decided according to the **International Handball Federation (IHF) rules** and the decisions of the **NextGen Handball Europe Technical Committee**.

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The tournament is organized by the NextGen Handball Europe Organizing Committee.

The competition is open to all registered handball clubs.

The main objectives of these regulations are:

- ensure fair and transparent competition
- define participation conditions
- outline the competition system
- regulate technical and sporting rules
- establish procedures for disciplinary actions and appeals

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to make necessary adjustments to the competition format if required due to the number of registered teams or organizational circumstances.

All participants must follow these Rules and Regulations.

3. COMPETITION CATEGORIES

The tournament includes the following age categories:

GIRLS:

U12 – players born 2015 and 2016

U14 – players born 2013 and 2014

U16 – players born 2011 and 2012

BOYS:

U13 – players born 2014 and 2015

U15 – players born 2012 and 2013

Younger players may participate in older age categories upon approval of the Technical Committee.

4. TEAM COMPOSITION

Each team may consist of:

- up to **16 players**
- **2–4 coaches / team officials**

Maximum delegation size: **20 persons per team**

All players must be officially registered with the team before the start of the competition.

5. ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

Participation is open to all handball clubs.

By registering for the tournament, teams confirm that:

- all players meet the age requirements

- participants are medically fit to compete
- players are insured for sports participation
- the team accepts the tournament rules

Players under the age of 18 must have parental or guardian consent to participate.

The organizers are not responsible for injuries or health issues occurring during the tournament.

6. COMPETITION REGULATIONS

Group Stage:	Each category includes 16 teams divided into 4 groups of 4 teams. Each team plays 3 group matches.
Elimination Phase:	Top two teams advance to Main Quarterfinals (1–8 places). Third and fourth teams play Placement Quarterfinals (9–16 places). Every team continues to play until the final ranking is determined.
Minimum matches guaranteed per team:	6 matches guaranteed per team.
Match Duration:	Girls U12 / Boys U13 – 2 x 15 minutes Girls U14 / Boys U15 – 2 x 15 minutes Girls U16 – 2 x 15 minutes Halftime break: 5 minutes
Point System	Win – 2 points Draw – 1 point Loss – 0 points If two or more teams are tied, ranking is determined by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Points in matches between tied teams 2. Goal difference in matches between tied teams 3. Goals scored in matches between tied teams 4. Overall goal difference

	<p>5. Total goals scored</p> <p>6. Fair play ranking</p> <p>7. Drawing of lots</p>
Knockout Matches:	If a knockout match ends in a draw, the winner is determined by a 7-meter shootout according to IHF procedures.
Sport rules:	<p>All matches are played according to the IHF Rules of the Game – Indoor Handball.</p> <p>Any competition-specific adaptations (match duration, tournament structure, etc.) are defined in these regulations.</p> <p>For all technical matters not included in this document, the official IHF rules apply.</p>
Team Equipment:	<p>Teams must wear numbered jerseys and matching uniforms.</p> <p>If two teams have similar colors, the team listed as away team must change jerseys or wear bibs provided by the organizer.</p> <p>Players may not wear equipment that could endanger other players.</p>
Awards:	<p>Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded in each category.</p> <p>Individual awards include MVP, Best Goalkeeper, Best Scorer and Fair Play Team.</p> <p>All participants receive a participation certificate.</p>
Protests and Appeals:	<p>Any protest must be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in written form • within 30 minutes after the match • by the team leader <p>The protest must be submitted to the Tournament Technical Committee.</p> <p>The decision of the Technical Committee is final.</p>
Media Rights:	Photos and videos from the tournament may be used by the organizer for promotional purposes.

The Technical Committee is responsible for interpretation of these rules.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT

All participants must respect:

- opponents
- referees
- officials
- spectators
- tournament staff

Any form of:

- unsportsmanlike behaviour
- verbal or physical abuse
- discrimination or racism

may result in disciplinary action or disqualification.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to impose sanctions.

8. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

TECHNICAL REGULATIONS consist of:

Applicable Rules - Match Officials - Match Ball -
Team Bench - Warm up - Player Substitutions -
Team Time out - Player Equipment - Disciplinary
Sanctions - Match Forfeit - Injuries and Medical
Assistance - Technical Committee - Fair Play &
Respect - Video & Live Streaming Rights



8.1. Applicable Rules

All matters not specifically regulated in this document will be decided according to the **IHF Rules of the Game** and the decision of the **NextGen Handball Europe Technical Committee**.

8.2. Match Officials

All matches will be officiated by:

- officially appointed **handball referees**
- **timekeeper and scorekeeper**

The referees are appointed by the **NextGen Technical Committee**.

All referee decisions during matches are **final**.

8.3. Match Ball

Official match balls will be provided by the organizer.

Ball size by category:

Girls U12 / Girls U14

Size 1

Boys U13 / Boys U15

Size 1

Girls U16

Size 2

8.4. Team Bench

A maximum of **4 team officials** may be seated on the team bench.

Only the following persons are allowed in the bench area:

- players
- coaches
- registered team officials

All persons on the bench must be **officially accredited**.

8.5. Warm-up

Teams must be present in the sports hall **at least 30 minutes before the match**.

Warm-up time on the court before the match:

5–10 minutes depending on the competition schedule.

8.6. Player Substitutions

Substitutions are allowed according to the **IHF substitution rules**.

Rolling substitutions are allowed throughout the match.

All substitutions must be performed through the **substitution area**.

Incorrect substitution may result in a **2-minute suspension**.

8.7. Team Time-out

Each team is allowed:

1 team time-out per half

Duration:

1 minute

Team officials must request the time-out through the official procedure with the timekeeper.

8.8. Player Equipment

Players must wear:

- numbered jerseys (numbers 1–99)
- shorts
- sports shoes suitable for indoor surfaces

Goalkeepers must wear a **distinctive color** different from both teams.

Jewelry and dangerous equipment are **not allowed**.

8.9. Disciplinary Sanctions

Sanctions follow the official **IHF disciplinary system**:

- warning (yellow card)
- 2-minute suspension
- disqualification (red card)

A player receiving a **red card** may face additional sanctions decided by the **Technical Committee**.

Serious unsporting behavior may result in:

- suspension
- disqualification of the player
- disqualification of the team in extreme cases

8.10. Match Forfeit

A match will be declared a **forfeit** if:

- a team does not appear within **10 minutes after the scheduled start**
- a team has fewer than **5 players available**

The result will be registered as **10 : 0** for the opposing team.

8.11. Injuries and Medical Assistance

Basic medical assistance and First aid (on call) will be available during all matches.

Each team is responsible for medical insurance of players.

The organizer is not responsible for injuries occurring during the competition.

8.12. Technical Committee

The NextGen Handball Europe **Technical Committee** is responsible for:

- interpretation of rules
- match supervision
- disciplinary decisions
- resolving disputes

Decisions of the Technical Committee are **final**.

8.13. Fair Play & Respect

All participants must respect the principles of fair play, sportsmanship and mutual respect.

8.14. Video & Live Streaming Rights

The organizer reserves the right to record, broadcast or live stream matches for promotional and media purposes.