Project: Concept for Women Referees in Croatia
Josip Posavec - EHF Lecturer, President of Croatian Referee Association
Helena Crnojevic - EHF/IHF Referee, Vice President of Croatian Referee Association
Emina Kostecki - EHF/IHF Referee
Women’s Handball in Croatia:

✓ it is growing (amount of players, teams, success of national team)
✓ women handball players like women referees (even more than men referees)

Number of women referee couples in Croatia

✓ Premier league (men) – 1 women couple out of a total of 17 couples
✓ 1st league (w&m) – 4 women couples out of a total of 25 couples
✓ 2nd league (w&m)
  ✓ west – 3 women couples out of a total of 19 couples
  ✓ north – 2 women couples out of a total of 17 couples
  ✓ south – 1 women couple out of a total of 14 couples
✓ 3rd league (w&m)
  ✓ east – 3 women couples out of a total of 15 couples
  ✓ central – 2 women couples, one mixed out of a total of 8 couples
  ✓ south – 1 women couple out of a total of 4 couples
  ✓ north and west – 0 women couples out of a total of 19 couples

✓ The EHF is trying to have women referees on women matches and tournaments
✓ Croatia needs to follow the European and international trend
Women Referees in Croatia

DEVELOPMENT

Project: Women Referees in Croatia © 2011
The Start

✔ ....... kick-off of a “Referee Project for Women” in Croatia

I love being a referee!
The idea of the project is…

✓ ....to give young women the opportunity to see that they are able to grow into high level referees
✓ ....personal growth in a sports environment
✓ ....mental growth (becoming strong and self confident)
✓ ....being in a good physical shape constantly – participation in sport after a player career
✓ ....getting to know new aspects in life (through matches, at referees’ workshops and through interactions with other people in sport)
✓ ....social growth (respect, well recognized, being well linked to people involved in sport)
✓ ....opportunities to travel (national and international)
✓ ....making new friends
✓ ....earn some additional money
The difficulties of the project are...

- it takes time and passion
- a lot of personal effort is required
- have to maintain a physical condition (training at least 3 times a week)
- be mentally prepared (stay in contact with handball, watch at least one match per week live or on TV)
- be aware that it is a “man's world”
- it takes hard work to get respected
- be prepared for big mental stress
- need to stick to it even after a bad performance or mistakes and despite the criticism that follows
- sometimes it can be frustrating and disappointing
- lots of travelling; time-consuming
Women Referees in Croatia

Kick-off in 2011

- **PATRONS**
  - Top Women Handball Players

- **Womens Referee Concept**
  - Driven by Women
  - Experienced Referees
  - Delegates
  - Mentors
  - Young Referees (women)

- **SUPPORTER**
  - Women Supporter from national federations
  - Teams/Clubs
  - Mentors
  - Training Partner
Women Referees in Croatia

DEVELOPMENT

Womens Referee Concept

Driven by Women

Experienced Referees

Delegates

Teams/Clubs

Mentors

Mentors

Training Partner

✓ being the backup and cover them during the match
✓ give them direct feedback after the match (positive sides and mistakes)
✓ evaluate the performance
✓ give advice for future improvement

✓ following up the “new” carrier
✓ advice help
✓ improvement
✓ give them the tricks/tip’s in refereeing
✓ seeing them at least once a month at a game
✓ feedback
✓ statistics which will be reported to the head of the project

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Womens Referee Concept

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Teams/Clubs
Training Partner

✓ being the training partner of the referees
✓ agree with the teams that the referees can attend at least one training session per week and whistle the game, instead of the coach
✓ talk to them and give direct feedback
✓ build up a good relationship

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Women Referees in Croatia

DEVELOPMENT

Womens Referee Concept

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Goals

✓ ... set up two workshops
  ✓ ... invite young women who would like to become referees
  ✓ whether they are alone or already coming as a couple
✓ ... one workshop in the north and one in the south of Croatia
  ✓ cooperation with women’s teams (should be organised with their help)
✓ ... top women referee couples and delegates should be there (at least one or two couples)
✓ ... finding the right place and time
✓ ... contacting the target group
  ✓ ... 17 to 25 year old women who are willing to become referees
  ✓ ... producing of a little brochure
  ✓ ... going personally to women’s clubs (support from other women referees)
  ✓ ... contact all women coaches
✓ ... goal is to have two workshops, with at least 20 and maximum 30 women each
  ✓ ... reacting on the number of response
✓ ... Posters for the halls - let them know there is something going on
Programme suggestions

✓ ... introduction by the patron, explaining why this workshop takes place
✓ ... talk about a real carrier (of a referee couple)
✓ ... explain why they are there

Part 1

Theory
✓ Introduction
✓ Positive
✓ Negative
✓ why
✓ what
✓ when
✓ sports performance trainer
✓ ..... 

Handball:
Rules of the Game
✓ Basics
✓ Seminar room - yellow
and red cards and
whistles (as a present)
✓ first referee signals
✓ get into the hall and perform 5-
minute refereeing sessions
✓ beep test ..... 

Part 2

Part 3

How:
✓ acknowledgment - what
we have seen in the field
✓ different perspective as a
referee than as a player -
running paths
✓ hand them out rule books
✓ show them where the rule
questions are
✓ beep test level
✓ show them a project
structure
✓ give them a time schedule for
exams
✓ time schedule for training and
first real match
✓ sports performance training
(mental, body language, etc.)
✓ creating couples
To do’s in the future

✓ ....find sponsors (specialized in women's products – cosmetics, etc.)
✓ ....expose them only to women's referee clothing
✓ ....supply women referees with women's referee clothing
✓ ....shoes in cooperation with a sponsor
✓ ....promote the project through media – internet, magazines, TV matches – wherever the sponsors can get exposure
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