YRP in European Handball Federation  
(YRP=Young Referee Programme)

It was in the 90ties when Jean Brihault, Vice President of the European Handball Federation (EHF) and Jan Tuik, President of the EHF Competitions Commission together with other experts had started to work with the young referees in Europe. The basic Motto was: “more practical and less theoretical work”.

Many of the newly nominated referees for the 2011 Men’s World Championship in Sweden started their international career in the EHF-YRP and went through the education steps in EHF and IHF (GRTP = Global referee Training Programme). So did the referees from CZE, ESP, FRA, GER, ROU, SRB and SWE.

Sandor Andorka (HUN), Member of the Competitions Commission (Chief of Referees) in European Handball Federation and member of the Playing Rules and Referee Commission in the International Handball Federation (IHF) together with the newly appointed EHF YRP Coordinator Henrik la Cour (DEN) created a new strategy and structure for the YRP in the current season.

Structure:

To get always the best talents out of the YRP for future continental referees or even for the IHF Global Referee Training Program (GRTP), which is a logical further step for the big talents, an overview on all the nominations and performances of the YRP referees in the last 3 years was accomplished by Sandor and Henrik. Out of these results internal rankings per country and overall programmes have been set-up and will be updated continuously. The YRP in Europe assures that only the best talents with a modern and good education in refereeing and good fitness will be selected for the future top referees on the continent and for the IHF-GRT.

The EHF-YRP contributes a lot to the successful IHF GRTP programme as a preliminary step and brings the best young talents from Europe into the IHF selection process. With the common line in teaching and with this selection in two steps we will improve refereeing step by step. With this model of collaboration between refereeing activities in Europe and in IHF both organizations will benefit by focusing for on the same “high potential” couples.
In the European YRP there is an excellent group of former top referees such as Hansson and Olsson from Sweden, Posavic from Croatia, Permuy from Spain, Hognes and Oie from Norway, Goulao from Portugal and Rätz from Switzerland among others who are nominated as lecturers/mentors several times in different tournaments all around Europe to guide these young talents. Some of these colleagues are also regularly involved in the IHF GRTP or other IHF events for referee guiding.

Currently we use the Challenge Trophies, the European Open in Sweden, youth tournaments like Prague Cup and Cell Cup in Veszprem as well as the International Schoolsport Federation World Championship. It means that referee lecturers teach the young referees in a total of over 300 games per year and evaluate their performances in a newly developed evaluation sheet especially for the YRP.

Young referees from France:
MEYER Cedric / OUDIN Jean Loup

**Strategy of YRP:**

**Level 1:**

As the EHF wants to increase the number of female referees, the EHF has changed the rules for nominating couples in the programme. The nations are only allowed to have max. one male couple on the list. They can only increase the number of couples if the next couple is a female one. If a nation has one male couple who has got the badge “EHF referee for the future” an additional male couple can be added to the list (the same holds good for female couples) – Maximum time limit in this category is 3 years – It was decided as well, that no referee couple would get the badge in their first tournament. Rule and shuttle run tests are obligatory but without any consequences in the first tournament.

**Level 2:**

All couples who have passed all exams and tests and have the necessary skills in refereeing will move on to level 2. During each event there will be obligatory shuttle run and rule tests (with consequences).

The written reports from the lecturers and the ranking system secure that the best
referees who are close to Continental status, will be nominated for more tournaments and more difficult games. Hopefully, some of those referees will move to the next stage. The maximum time limit for level 2 is also 3 years.

Level 3:

The couples who have passed all exams and tests can be nominated for a Continental Course held by the EHF. If they pass level 3 the referees are ready to be nominated for European Cup games.

For highly talented couples in the programme, the EHF has established a “FAST TRACK” to move these couples FASTER though the different levels.

Young female referees from Poland
GUTOWSKA Małgorzata / GUTOWSKA Urszula

The EHF thinks that by means of a joint education of young and talented referees by both federations (IHF and EHF) the future in refereeing will secure strong performances on court in many big tournaments all over the world.

Henrik La Cour / Sandor Andorka Nov. 2010