Report on Referee Matters

I. General Conditions

Innsbruck / Austria was a well prepared host. All officials – representatives, delegates, referees – were accommodated in the same hotel what improved the communication possibilities and created a very good atmosphere among all participants.

Transportation and rest days program were organised on Senior ECh level. During our stay on each second day we had good conditions for physical training, too! Possibility of video analyses on the day after the matches – discussions on difficult and complex situations – this is the correct way in developing of referee performances and also for a common line.

II. Preparation of the Mini Course and major topics

Basically on the positive experience of 2006 ECh SUI:

- One month prior to the start the teams and officials received DVD with the major problem cases of 2006 ECh SUI.

- Interactive seminar on interpretation of rules: Each referee couple received one topic for working out and explained it at the common meeting. The topics were as follows:

  - Cooperation / task distribution during the tournament (REF/DEL)
  - The new playing style of the pivot players
  - Passive play – special situations
  - Progressive punishment – build up strategy, suitable punishments
  - Provocations “Theatre – Hollywood Actions”

All the presentations were perfectly prepared and very valuable.

In the preparatory stage - Mini Course - there was a special effort to find a “common line” – generally understanding the tactic and strategy of modern handball, adaptation to the fair-play, kept under control the games. For coaches we organised a meeting prior to the championship concerning useful information about the referee guidelines.
III. Trends in Handball and major experiences in last year

Fast, attractive games, lots of action and body contact, smaller group actions (fast break); accordingly we focused on the same topics in the preparation of the referees and delegates as in SUI:

1.) The general progressive line:
   a. Defensive behaviour not only in frontal position, counter-attack situations
   b. Actions against the health of opponent

2.) Actions at the goal area line
   a. Quick movement from wing position
   b. Offensive block on line inside goal area

3.) Provoking play
   a. On playing court
   b. Substitution area

4.) Cooperation referee, delegates during the match

IV. Experiences on rules interpretation

Many teams often used the fast throw-off, quick moving and good position for referee useful – we trained this on first and second day at our physical training.

Static positioning was replaced by quick movement forwards and sidewards, too. Defender were often surprised that their opponents were in front of their basic position and often collusion took place with both players moving strongly. Attacker or defender foul? The video clips were a great help for us because they showed us what is correct and what not.

Progressive punishments: The referees showed clear determination to keep the matches under control with the use of yellow cards and immediately 2’ suspensions in unfair situations. Our colleagues were successful in progressive punishment and especially with disqualification: “They have the courage in dangerous actions pulling out the red card” – hitting or chopping against head, neck or using an elbow!

In recent time there was an unfortunately tendency to be too generous with 7m decision due to the defender position inside the 6 meter line. Video studies have shown what is correct and what is incorrect; in a good cooperation it is important to give information to the defenders first – please do not work on line or inside and in repeated situation progressive punishment. Clear defending and active work inside – 7m!

V. Conclusion

More and more the job of a referee goes beyond correct rule interpretations and understanding of tactic! Team work and moving, positioning become more and more important. Concentration up to the last second is important because the teams were often on same level and each goal had big importance.

All 10 couples did during the championship a perfect job and we have really valuable referees.

Supervisors and observers:
   - Very good team, all the time good cooperation
- Former top referees – they are idols for the young referees and especially in practical work. They gave many, many good advices. For the future this is the right way – nominate ex-referees for younger age category competitions.
- Good team work also on the tables!

Theoretical test:
- Two different kind of test: 15 sentences from rules – generally good results
- 30 questions from the IHF rules catalogue – with good results but few referees were less okay (ISL, AZE)

Physical test:
- Cooper test: All participants well prepared and successful!
- Shuttle run: Level 8 minimum, generally good!

My proposal: For the future it is necessary to test the referees prior to the Senior European Championships by shuttle run, too (also at Senior EChs).

Knowledge of language:
All referees were able to communicate in satisfactory level – AZE REF need improvement. Generally: Good referee performances – good cooperation – good atmosphere - successful championship !!

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For the report: Andorka
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