1. General conditions:

SVK Handball Federation was a well prepered host for this event. All EHF Officials were accommodated in City Hotel Bratislava which offered good communication possibilities among all participants. The quality of the rooms and meals was good. The transportation and rest day program as well as the reception at the major were also well organised! Thank you for everything to Mr. Derfenyi and his crew!

2. Preparation and experiences on Officials’ Conference:

Preparation work in „traditional“ working system:
One month prior to the championship all participating nations and EHF Officials received the following material:
- Main problem cases on rules interpretation
- ECh SWE 2006 DVD clips
- Rules’ interpretation letter
- Advices to the team officials and EHF Officials
- „Homework“ on four different topics

Officials’ Conference: Too many topics, a lot of information for the participants. Our proposal for the future: Less theoretical information and more practical advices, shorter opening meeting, focusing only on major problem cases.

3. Experiences on the competition system:

Not only on the senior players are under high pressure (many matches in short period)! In the final phase of the ECh a lot of players were not anymore in good conditions, not enough time for rehabilitation!
4. Experiences on rules' interpretation:

Sportsmanlike behaviour – progressive punishment: Matches under full control requested; the referees showed clear determination to keep the matches under control and use of the correct punishments according the action of the player. After the third playing day we used the opportunity to explain to our referees how dangerous the brutality is and that this needs more courage to pull out the red card.

Experiences on 7 m-s: In recent time in SWE there was a tendency to give too many 7 m-s not according the rule 14:1 and clarification 8 – the definition of a “clear” scoring chance!

Offensive faults: In movements forward – generally good decisions; but in movements sidewards – a lot of unclear decisions. The defenders were often surprised that their opponents were in their basic position; often collusions took place.

The support by DVD scenes which were produced by Robert Kleiner was a great help for us!

5. Theoretical tests by the referees:

Two different kinds of tests:
30 questions from IHF rules’ catalogue – minimum request was 75 % of correct answers! Only few referees were below this level. See enclosure.
10 sentences from rules – all participants did good job!

6. Physical test:

Nearly all the referees were well prepared. Only 3 referees have a lack in physical condition.

7. Referee performances:

The teams used the modern tactical elements: A lot of attacks, high risk, fast counter attacks, quick throw offs!
Permanent concentration, perfect contact with the partner, good positioning, quick movements and good condition are the basic criterias of good referee performances!
Generally a lot of good performances and only very few weak performances! Main problems in weak performances were the not constant level – two times good and the third time weaker! The evaluation talks with the referees were held in „short“ version directly after the match; in the next morning in the referees’ meeting open talks for all participants and after the meetings individual talks with the respective referees.

The „new“ observation sheet was used in each match!
8. Cooperation and task distribution among the officials:

Very good team and good support for young referees; a lot of experiences and a good feeling to teach the referees; former top referees – good explanation of rules; they gave many good practical advices!

All former referees were nominated as observers and also as supervisors in ECh matches – both jobs have to be fulfilled! Therefore this was a good opportunity for practising; on the other hand more delegates means more different advices to the referees! Among the EHF Officials there was a good teamwork – also on the table!

9. Knowledge of language:

All referees were able to communicate in a satisfactory level in English – one of the RUS and SVK need development!

Special thanks to my colleagues – to Nadine Biehl, Jozef Ambrus and Frantisek Taborsky – for a good teamwork!

Good Cooperation – Good Atmosphere – Successful Championship!!!

20 July 2007 Andorka Sándor