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APPROVED
Lithuanian Veterans Handball Association
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REGULATIONS OF THE 2026–2027 LITHUANIAN OPEN VETERANS HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. These Regulations establish the requirements for the organisation of the Lithuanian Open Veterans' Handball Championship (hereinafter – the Championship), held by the Lithuanian Veterans Handball Association (hereinafter – LRVA), including requirements relating to participants, the conduct of matches, refereeing, discipline, awards, and other matters related to the Championship.
1.2. The Championship is conducted in accordance with the rules of the game of handball of the International Handball Federation (IHF), except where these Regulations establish exceptions.

II. TEAMS, PLAYERS AND REGISTRATION

2.1. Participation and registration of teams

2.1.1. Teams from Lithuania and other countries that meet the requirements of these Regulations may participate in the Championship. Each Team must have a name and a designated Team manager.
2.1.2. Teams wishing to participate in the Championship shall submit a registration application electronically, in the manner established by LRVA, by the date set by LRVA. LRVA shall inform Team managers of the start of registration and the relevant deadlines by e-mail or other official means of communication.
2.1.3. Each Team shall pay a season fee of EUR 80 for participation in the Championship. The fee is payable during the first Stage. A Team that has not paid the season fee is not entitled to participate in the Championship.

2.2. Player age groups

2.2.1. The following age groups apply in the Lithuanian Open Veterans' Handball Championship:

- women's group – 35 years and older (two players aged 32+ and one player aged 30+);
- men's group – 33 years and older (two players aged 32+ and one player aged 30+);
- men's group – 45 years and older (two players aged 43+ and one player aged 40+).

2.2.2. A player's age is determined by year of birth. If a player reaches the age established for the relevant age group in the current calendar year, he or she is entitled to participate in the Championship in that age group, regardless of month or day of birth.

2.3. Procedure for registering and marking younger players and for awarding technical defeats

2.3.1. Younger players may be registered on a Team's application (they are marked on the application with an asterisk *), however, the number of them permitted on court at the same time may not exceed the number of younger players set for the relevant age group in point 2.2.1 of these Regulations. Younger players must wear clearly visible distinguishing bands on the arm (an adhesive tape band may also be used).
2.3.2. If the Stage organiser, the referees, or a representative of an interested Team has reasonable doubts about a player's age or identity, the player must, upon request, immediately produce a document confirming his or her identity and age.
2.3.3. If it is established that a Team has violated this age-restriction rule in only one specific match of that Stage:

- the offending Team is awarded a technical defeat in that match, with the score **0:10** (hereinafter – a technical defeat), and the opposing Team is awarded a technical victory, with the score **10:0** (hereinafter – a technical victory);
- the results of the Team's other matches in the same Stage are not annulled.

2.3.4. If it is established that a Team has violated this rule in more than one match of the same Stage, and the violations are substantiated by witness statements, photographs, video recordings or other evidence:

- the Team is awarded technical defeats in all of its matches in that Stage, and the opposing Teams are awarded technical victories accordingly;
- the Team is assigned the lowest place in that Stage and is awarded **0** points.

2.3.5. After the Stage, a meeting of Team managers is held to decide on the Team's continued participation in the Championship and its possible removal from the Championship (the decision is taken by a majority vote of the Team managers present at the meeting).

2.4. Procedure for registering and using borrowed players

2.4.1. By agreement between Teams, a Team that does not have a full roster may call on a player from another Team. A borrowed player must meet the age requirements of the relevant age group and may represent only one Team in the same Stage and the same age group.
2.4.2. If a violation of this point is established, the Team for which the player competed in violation of the Regulations is awarded a technical defeat.
2.4.3. If the violation is established in more than one match of the same Stage, the Team is awarded 0 points for that Stage.

2.5. Other conditions of participation

2.5.1. A player participating in any national league or championship may also participate in the Championship, provided that he or she meets the requirements of the relevant age group.
2.5.2. Before each Stage, the Team shall submit a named match roster to the secretariat.

2.5.3. No more than 13 players and 1 Team manager (coach) may be registered on a Team's match roster. Championship participants are themselves responsible for their state of health. They confirm this by signing the named Stage roster submitted by the Team.

III. CONDUCT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

3.1. Conduct of the Championship

3.1.1. The Championship is held in seven Stages. Each Stage takes place on a single day (on Saturdays).
3.1.2. Before the start of the Championship, Team managers shall agree on which Teams will organise the individual Stages. A new Team may organise a Stage, but this is not mandatory.
3.1.3. If a state-level state of emergency is declared, as a result of which sporting activity cannot take place, the remaining Stages of the Championship are suspended. If it is not possible to complete the Championship, final placings are determined as follows:

- if three or fewer Stages have been played, no winners are declared;
- if four Stages have been played and it is not possible to complete the Championship by 15 July, the places occupied by the Teams are announced, but no awards are presented;
- if five or more Stages have been played, final placings are determined according to the overall Championship standings. Winners are presented with awards at the nearest Stage.

3.2. Competition system

3.2.1. If there are fewer than 6 Teams in an age group, the competition is held in a single round-robin subgroup.
3.2.2. If there are fewer than 4 Teams, LRVA reserves the right not to hold the Championship in that age group, or to hold it only with the agreement of the Teams in that age group.
3.2.3. If there are 6 or more Teams, they are divided into two subgroups, in which a round-robin format is played. The winners of the subgroups play for 1st place, the Teams placed 2nd play for 3rd place, the Teams placed 3rd play for 5th place, and the Teams placed 4th play for 7th place.
3.2.4. System for dividing Teams into subgroups, where there are 6 or more Teams:
In the first Stage of the new season, Teams are divided based on the previous season's Team placements in their age groups (a Team that did not take part in the last Championship is assigned to the last subgroup positions):

- Subgroup A – places 1, 3, 5, 7, 9;
- Subgroup B – places 2, 4, 6, 8.

From the second Stage onwards, Teams are divided based on the results of the last completed Stage:

- Subgroup A – places 1, 3, 6, 8;
- Subgroup B – places 2, 4, 5, 7, 9.

3.2.5. If a Team withdraws from participating in a Stage, the remaining Teams move up to higher places based on the results of the previous Stage, and the subgroups are formed according to the established division system.

3.3. Scheduling

3.3.1. When drawing up the schedule for a Stage, the aim is to distribute match and rest time as evenly as possible among all Teams. Priority for the last matches of a subgroup is given to the Team holding a higher place in the overall Championship standings. It is recommended that the first matches be assigned to the Teams located geographically closest to the venue of the Stage.

3.4. Conduct of matches

3.4.1. Match duration is two halves of 10 minutes each. If fewer than 4 Teams take part in an age group at a Stage, match duration is two halves of 12 minutes each. Teams are entitled to one one-minute timeout per half.

3.5. Scoring of match results

3.5.1. A Team is awarded 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, and 0 points for a loss.
3.5.2. If a Team is more than 20 minutes late arriving for a match at the scheduled time (without separate notice to the Stage organiser or the opposing Team's representative), it is awarded a technical defeat.

3.6. Procedure for determining placings in a group Stage in the event of an equal number of points

3.6.1. If two or more Teams in a group score an equal number of points, their placings are determined according to the following criteria, applied in sequence.
3.6.1.1. When 2 Teams have an equal number of points, the higher place is given to the Team that:

- won the head-to-head match;
- has the better goal difference in all of the group's Stage matches;
- has scored more goals in all of the group's Stage matches;
- has conceded fewer goals in all of the group's Stage matches.

3.6.1.2. When 3 or more Teams have an equal number of points:
The standings shall be determined by creating a separate table based exclusively on the head-to-head matches between these teams (matches against other teams in the group during the same Stage shall not be taken into account). The higher position shall be awarded to the Team that, in this head-to-head table:

- has scored more points;
- has a better goal difference;
- has scored more goals;
- has conceded fewer goals.

3.6.1.3. If the positions of the teams cannot be determined after applying the head-to-head criteria, the results of all group matches played during the Stage shall be taken into account.
The higher position shall be awarded to the team that:

- has a better goal difference in all group matches of the Stage;
- has scored more goals in all group matches of the Stage;
- has conceded fewer goals in all group matches of the Stage.

3.6.1.4. If the positions of the teams still cannot be determined after applying all the above criteria, a series of 7-metre penalty throws shall be conducted between the teams that have earned an equal number of points in their head-to-head matches.

3.7. Placement matches may not end in a draw. If the score is level at the end of regular time, 7-metre throws shall be taken.

3.7.1. Rules for taking 7-metre throws:

- each Team designates 5 players who were eligible to play at the end of the match (listed on the match roster, not disqualified, and whose 2-minute suspension had ended before the final whistle). Each of these players takes 1 throw;
- goalkeepers may be substituted before each throw. Goalkeepers may take a throw, and outfield players may act as goalkeepers;
- the referees must designate the goal at which the throws are to be taken. Which Team takes the first throw is determined by a draw of lots;
- if, after the first series of throws (each Team having taken 5 throws), the score is level, a second series of throws is taken;
- in the second series, throws end once one Team gains a one-goal advantage after both Teams have taken an equal number of throws. The same players who took throws in the first series may also take part in the second series.

3.7.2. At the end of each Stage, the following points system applies:

Place	Points awarded	Place	Points awarded
I	11	VI	5
II	9	VII	4
III	8	VIII	3
IV	7	IX	2
V	6		

3.7.3. If a Team confirms its participation in a Stage but fails to appear, it is awarded minus two (-2) points in the standings for that Stage.

3.8. Overall Championship standings

3.8.1. If two or more Teams score an equal number of points in the overall Championship standings, the higher place in the overall Championship standings is determined according to the criteria set out below, applied in sequence. The higher place is given to the Team that:

- achieved more higher placings in the individual Stages of the Championship, i.e., first the number of 1st places obtained by the Teams is compared; if equal, the number of 2nd places is compared, then the number of 3rd places, and so on through all placings achieved;
- has won more head-to-head matches;
- has a better head-to-head goal difference;
- has a better goal difference in all Championship matches;
- has scored more goals in all Championship matches;
- has conceded fewer goals in all Championship matches.

If, after applying all the criteria, the Teams' placings are still not determined, they are determined by a draw of lots.

3.9. Team participating as a guest

3.9.1. If a Team playing as a guest participates in a Stage and the competition is held using a subgroup system, it plays only in the subgroup matches and does not proceed to the final matches. Such a Team may be presented with a special prize established by the Stage organiser or by LRVA.

IV. ORGANISATION OF A STAGE

4.1. Duties of the Stage organiser

4.1.1. The Stage organiser is responsible for the proper organisation and conduct of the Stage.
4.1.2. The Stage organiser must ensure proper preparation of the sports hall for competition, changing facilities for Teams and referees, the operation of the secretariat throughout all matches, and the presence of medical personnel. If medical personnel are not available, the Stage organiser must ensure a first-aid kit and cooling supplies are available in case of injury.
4.1.3. At the end of a Stage, the Stage organiser shall provide the LRVA President or an authorised representative with the following Stage documents: match protocols, final standings tables, a list of the best players, and information on red and blue cards issued to players.
4.1.4. The Stage organiser, taking into account its financial capabilities, may present awards to Teams that finish in prize-winning places, to the best players of the Stage, and may establish other additional prizes.

4.2. Requirements concerning the use of handball resin and the assurance of playing conditions

4.2.1. The decision on the use of handball resin at a particular Stage of the Championship is taken by the Stage organiser, taking into account the conditions for holding the competition and the requirements of the administration of the sports facility (hall).

4.2.2. If a Stage is held in a sports hall where the use of handball resin is prohibited, the Stage organiser must ensure at least two identical match balls are available in each sports hall: size 2 balls for women's group matches, and size 3 balls for men's group matches, so that equal playing conditions are provided for all Teams.
4.2.3. If the use of handball resin is prohibited in the sports hall, all Championship participants must comply with this prohibition.
4.2.4. If a Team or one of its participants violates the prohibition on the use of handball resin, the Team is awarded a technical defeat in the match in which the violation was established, and a fine of EUR 100 is imposed. The fine is paid to the Stage organiser and used to cover the costs of cleaning the sports hall and equipment.

V. REFEREES AND THE SECRETARIAT

5.1. Referees and the secretariat

5.1.1. A refereeing team is assigned to each match, consisting of one or two court referees and at least two secretariat staff.
5.1.2. The Stage organiser appoints referees by applying to the Lithuanian Handball Referees Association for the appointment of referees, or by arranging directly with referees.
5.1.3. The Team organising the Stage, taking into account its financial capabilities, has the right to decide whether a competition inspector will be present at the Stage's matches. The organising Team shall inform the Lithuanian Handball Referees Association in advance of the need to appoint a competition inspector.
5.1.4. The secretariat completes the match protocol, records the match time and result, controls player substitutions, and cooperates with the court referees.
5.1.5. Referees officiate matches in accordance with the applicable IHF rules of the game of handball and these Regulations.
5.1.6. The costs of the work and travel of referees and the secretariat are paid by the Stage organiser.

VI. FINANCIAL SETTLEMENTS

6.1. Financial settlements

6.1.1. Costs related to Teams' travel arrangements (travel, meal allowances, etc.) are paid by the respective Team.
6.1.2. Costs of organising a Stage, related to the rental of the sports hall, the work of referees, the secretariat and medical personnel, awards, and other needs of organising the Stage, are paid by the Stage organiser.

6.2. Stage fees

6.2.1. Each Team pays a Stage fee of EUR 250 for participation in a Stage, intended to cover the costs of renting the sports hall, referees, the secretariat, medical personnel, awards, and other Stage

organisation expenses, and additionally pays EUR 10 for each Team member taking part in the evening part of the Stage.
6.2.2. No later than 5 calendar days before the start of a Stage, the Team shall inform the Stage organiser of the expected number of participants. If the number of participants changes after this deadline, the Team must immediately inform the Stage organiser.
6.2.3. If a Team fails to notify a reduction in the number of participants in the evening part by the deadline set by the Stage organiser, it shall cover the costs incurred for unused catering services, at the price applicable per person.
6.2.4. If, after the deadline set in point **6.2.2**, a Team wishes to increase the number of participants in the evening part, such a change is possible only by prior agreement with the Stage organiser.
6.2.5. The Stage organiser, having assessed the capabilities of the catering service provider and the time remaining before the start of the Stage, has the right to refuse a request to increase the number of participants in the evening part.
6.2.6. All matters relating to the organisation of a Stage, changes in the number of participants, catering, and other organisational costs, are resolved in coordination with the Stage organiser.
6.2.7. If a Team has confirmed its participation in a Stage and gives notice of non-participation less than 5 calendar days before the start of the Stage, it must pay the Stage organiser a compensation of EUR 125.
6.2.8. A Team that has failed to fulfil the obligation set out in point 6.2.7 may not participate in the next Stage until it has paid the EUR 125 compensation.

6.3. Funds collected during the season

6.3.1. Teams' season fees, fines, and other LRVA income allocated to the Championship are used for organising the Championship, for awards at the final Stage, and for other needs necessary for LRVA's activities.

VII. CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

7.1. Championship awards

7.1.1. At the end of the Championship, LRVA presents cups to the Teams placed 1st–3rd in each age group.
7.1.2. Players of the Teams placed 1st–3rd in each age group are awarded medals. No more than 14 medals are allocated to each Team finishing in a prize-winning place.
7.1.3. LRVA and the organiser of the final Stage may establish additional team and individual awards.

VIII. DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS

8.1. Disciplinary provisions

8.1.1. Players, Team managers, and Teams may be subject to the disciplinary penalties established in these Regulations for violations thereof.
8.1.2. For a direct red card, a player shall choose one of the following sanctions: a EUR 10 fine or a one-match suspension. Until the chosen sanction has been served, the player may not participate in any match, regardless of the age group.
8.1.3. For a red and blue card, a player is fined EUR 50. If these cards are issued for aggressive physical contact with another Stage participant, a fine of EUR 100 is imposed.
8.1.4. Depending on the nature and circumstances of the violation, a player may additionally be given a suspension of one or more matches, disqualification from one Stage, or removal from the Championship. The decision is taken by a committee consisting of the LRVA President, an authorised representative, the referees who officiated the match, and the managers of the two Teams concerned.
8.1.5. The consumption of alcohol during competition is prohibited. If there are reasonable doubts that a player is participating in a match under the influence of alcohol, the Stage organiser, the match referees, or the manager of the opposing Team may require the player to be tested with a breathalyser. If intoxication is established, the player is removed from all matches on that Stage day. The Team manager is responsible for the conduct of the Team's participants.

IX. FINAL PROVISIONS

9.1. Procedure for dispute resolution and amendment of the rules

9.1.1. Matters not regulated by these Regulations are decided by the LRVA President, taking into account the results of a vote of Team managers.
9.1.2. Decisions are made using an expedited remote voting form or a remote meeting of the Championship's Team managers.
9.1.3. A decision is taken by a majority vote of the Team managers taking part in the vote.
9.1.4. These Regulations, and any amendments and supplements thereto, are approved by the LRVA President, taking into account the results of a vote of Team managers.

9.2. Final provisions

9.2.1. These Regulations enter into force on the date of their approval and remain in effect until the approval of a new version of the Regulations.

2026–2027 LITHUANIAN OPEN VETERANS' HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
SUMMARY OF FEES AND FINES

Name of fee / fine	Amount	When payable / applicable	Note
Season fee	EUR 80	During the first Stage	If unpaid, the Team may not participate in the Championship.
Stage fee	EUR 250	Before the Stage	Paid to the Stage organiser.
Evening part fee	EUR 10 / person	According to registration	Paid for each registered participant.
Compensation for late withdrawal	EUR 125	If withdrawn after the set deadline	Paid to the Stage organiser.
Fine for a straight red card	EUR 10	As per the Regulations	Or a one-match suspension.
Fine for a red and blue card	EUR 50	As per the Regulations	Additional sanctions may apply.
Fine for aggressive physical contact	EUR 100	As per the Regulations	May result in disqualification or removal from the Championship.
Fine for violating the prohibition on the use of resin	EUR 100	Upon establishing the violation	A technical defeat of 0:10 is additionally applied.
Refereeing	EUR 10 / person (per match, with 2 referees officiating) EUR 13 (per match, with 1 referee officiating)	As per the cooperation agreement	Paid to referees after the work has been completed.
Competition inspector	EUR 50 per competition venue	As per the cooperation agreement	Paid to the inspector after the work has been completed.