

Welcome to the 2017 USA Team Handball Open Championships May 19 - 21, 2017 in Myrtle Beach, SC

Myrtle Beach Sports Center
Team arrival Thursday, May 18, 2017

The 2017 USATH Open Championships will be held in Myrtle Beach, SC. Competition will take place in Men's Elite, Men's Open and Women's Open Divisions. USATH is working with the Clemson University Team Handball Club and the Myrtle Beach Regional Sports Alliance to form the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

COMPETITION VENUE: We will conduct competition in the Myrtle Beach Sports Center at 2115 Farlow Street, Myrtle Beach, SC. The Center will have 4 regulation courts of high quality **wooden floors**. There will be a designated stretching area. **Ball throwing will need to be limited to warm-up on your game court.**

OTHER HOTELS

There is **no** Stay to Play this year. **All hotels are "first come, first served" – do not wait too long to book:** There are many, many hotels in the area and it will be important to book early as Myrtle Beach is a popular tourist destination. There are many hotel properties along the beach front and this is generally about a 1/2 mile from the venue. There is a Sheraton that is about a three minute walk to the venue and there is a very large area called Broadway that has multiple hotels, restaurants, a family amusement park, aquarium, zip lines and four live Broadway show theaters – this too is about 1/2 mile from the venue.

CONCESSIONS: The Sports Center and its vendors will be serving food at the event all three days of the competition - one-stop for all your hot and cold meals, beverages, snacks, and deserts. **Outside food and drinks are prohibited in the Sports Center.** Please note that the Sports Center is graciously providing Gatorade and water free to all coaches and competitors. The plan is to have coolers next to each team bench for easy access.

AIR TRAVEL: Myrtle Beach is serviced by Myrtle Beach International Airport. Other airports in the area are Charlotte, NC International Airport (3 1/2 hours); Charleston, SC International Airport (2+ hours). As United Airlines is the official airline of the USA Team Handball, feel free to use the United Airlines Olympic Desk at 1-800-841-0460 or www.united.com. For preferred rates use promotional code UO 42 (Letters U and O) at 1 – 800 841 0460.

ANTI DOPING: This event will be subject to Doping Control Procedures as administered by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA). Therefore, all players may be subject to random testing procedures, similar to those experienced in past years at any time during the competition. Please remember that Doping Control Testing (conducted by the USADA) may take place after the consolation and medal rounds/finals on Sunday. **Please book your return flights accordingly.** Doping Control has become a focal point for all sports in the USA and we need to be compliant with the demands of this important matter.

SafeSport: USATH is a member of the Center for SafeSport. This is mandated for all member National Governing Bodies of the U.S. Olympic Committee. As such, all participating team coaches, team managers, team officials, referees and staff will be required to show proof that they have passed a free on-line tutorial as offered by the U.S. Olympic Committee. This tutorial deals with situations that involve sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying and other situations. The purpose of completing the tutorial is to raise everyone's awareness so as to create a safe sport environment for all participants. **To access the on-line tutorial go to www.safesport.org and select: Take the Training. Once the tutorial is completed successfully, there is an opportunity to print out a passing certificate.**

TECHNICAL MEETING: There will be a **Technical Meeting Thursday, May 18 at the Sports Center.** It is mandatory that each team has a representative present at this meeting to coordinate final rules and details for this event, including uniform colors for matches [**PLEASE BRING ONE UNIFORM OF EACH COLOR & BOTH GOALKEEPER JERSEYS**]. Missing the roll call of the clubs at the beginning of the meeting will constitute a formal absence. **Failure to send a representative will result in forfeiture of your Performance Bond.** There will be no exceptions.

COMPETITION FORMAT: The 2017 USATH Club Championships will be contested according to procedures outlined in the USATH Rule Book (Revised in August 2013). However, based on the number of teams qualified and registered for each division, USATH Competition Committee reserves the right to: (a) modify the competition format, (b) make the decision of ranking, seeding, drawing or any other way to place teams in Pools, (c) adapt Rules of the Game to fit the competition's timetable. Group placement and seeding are not a science and every attempt will be made by the Competition Committee to assure that the process is as fair as possible.

TABLE OFFICIALS: Again, we hope to have enough volunteers from the local community to serve for table duty for any given match. If volunteers are not available, the backup plan will be that each team provides one player, coach or staff member for the game following their game. Should only one player be needed for table duty following a game, the individual who will serve in that capacity will come from the winning team. Failure to satisfy a table duty assignment will be a Performance Bond issue.

TRAINERS: Certified Athletic Trainers will provide their professional services at the Sports Center for all scheduled hours of competition. **Please bring your own medical tape and there will be an effort to provide this service but it is not guaranteed depending on the needs of the situation at the time.** If you need taping, we will ask that you arrive at their medical station **at least one hour before** game time.

PARTICIPATION FEES AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Please read it carefully as there are some new requirements this year that must be met for your registration to be complete.

USA TEAMS \$750.00

FOREIGN TEAMS \$850.00

The full amount **per team** (check payable to USA Team Handball) is due before or on **April 1** to confirm your participation in the tournament after which time a **\$200 LATE FEE** will be added for any registration accepted past the due date, if space is still available. Mail check to:

Ms. Jan O'Shea
1649 State Hwy 235
Greene, NY 13778

NOTE: EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION [USA Teams only] for \$650.00 is available only until MARCH 1, 2017.

(Make Check payable to USA Team Handball) and **[POSTMARKED No Later Than MARCH 1, 2017]** to:

Ms. Jan O'Shea
1649 State Highway 235
Greene, NY 13778

1. A refundable **Performance Bond** of \$300 per team, payable to USA Team Handball, *must be submitted during the Technical Meeting* on May 18th to be able to compete.
2. A refundable **Sportsmanship Bond** of \$300 per team, payable to USA Team Handball, *must also be submitted at the Technical Meeting*. Both bonds will be kept in escrow and returned back to the team if no team member or team official is disqualified (with the exception of a third "yellow card") or excluded for unsporting conduct and/or verbal/physical assault to players, coaches or referees. Please refer to the Tournament Sanctioning Guide and USATH Competition Rulebook for all details.
3. **Please prepare and submit two SEPARATE checks for your Performance Bond (\$300) and your Sportsmanship Bond (\$300).**
4. Registration is now open.

WITHDRAWAL: SHOULD YOU NEED TO WITHDRAW FOR WHATEVER REASON, MAKE SURE THAT YOU NOTIFY me by PHONE at (607 656 9106) AND **send a follow-up email** to: janoshea@aol.com. However, once you register 50% of your participation fee becomes non-refundable.

FORMS: All USATH athlete/coach/referee individuals, as well as, team/club membership registration and dues must be completed and paid on-line through Top Score at usateamhandball.usetopscore.com This takes care of signing all waiver documents.

If a participant is under 18 years of age, parents or legal guardians must sign off on all forms. A coach or team official is NOT permitted to assume this authority for the under age athlete. This policy will be strictly enforced!

Onsite individual registration will not be available or accepted.

ROSTERS: A **preliminary roster** form [allows for 20 player names] is required via email, no later than **April 1st**. A template blank roster form is attached.

Please submit your final rosters in the attached format for ease in checking memberships.

If your roster is set – sending the roster early would really help us.

Please send to:

Chris Morgan at: ccm@usateamhandball.org

Patrick Jalabert at: Patrick.chicagointer@gmail.com

And yours truly at: janoshea@aol.com

This will allow for the Competition Committee to begin reviewing for relative roster strength, preparing match report files, and crosschecking USATH membership database.

Final rosters are due on May 1st, 2016.

ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGES may be made to rosters after that date except for player injuries or family emergencies that are clearly valid and/or medically verified.

NOTE: USATH alerts all team contacts/coaches that if they have two teams in their club to begin now to find a second coach. The reason for this new requirement is that last year we had way too many changes to the schedule based upon requests from clubs to remove game conflicts due to coaching conflicts. We were literally adjusting the game schedule the day before the Thursday Technical Meeting. And even then there will still be conflicts & complaints. After the Competition Committee does bracketing and draws, we will begin to develop **one schedule** and **will not** make adjustments due to coaching conflicts.

Each team can bring a maximum of 16 players per team to compete in the championships.

A maximum of 16 players may play in each game and sit, dressed in team's uniforms, on the bench plus **up to four (4) officials** who also must be listed in the match report. **This has been abused in the past but will be reinforced this year!**

For Men's Elite Division [minimum roster](#) to participate as a Team = 12 players

For Men's & Women's Open Division [minimum roster](#) to participate as a Team = 10 players.

A player can only play for one team throughout the Championships.

No player will be allowed to compete until clearance from USA Team Handball Registration Director during team check-in/registration. That decision is final and not subject to any appeals. **Participation of any ineligible player(s) in any game will result in the entire team's immediate disqualification from the Championships.**

ELIGIBILITY: All teams participating in the 2017 Open Championships must adhere strictly to all rules set forth in the USATH Competition Rulebook edition (revised in August 2013) posted on <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball/Resources/Clubs/USATH-Competition-Rulebook>. Specifically, all individual players and clubs must be registered/paid members of USA Team Handball. Divisions will be gender specific – meaning no females can play in any of the male divisions and no males can play in the female division.

There may be foreign teams participating in any one Division. **We will still recognize 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in each Division that represent USA registered team.** Foreign club teams are welcome and encouraged to enter but must meet local residence eligibility rules and additional requirements set forth in USATH Rule Book, Article IX, and Section 13. Please go to <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Team-Handball/Resources/Clubs/USATH-Competition-Rulebook> and page 25 for full details.

- **TEAM CHECK-IN: Thursday, MAY 18 Team check-in will be between 1:00 pm to 10:00 pm [BUT CLOSED FROM 730 – 930 PM due to Coaches Technical Mtg] at the Sports Center.** It is mandatory that each team have a representative present at this meeting to coordinate final rules and details for this event, including uniform colors for matches. Missing the roll call of the clubs at the beginning of the meeting will constitute a formal absence. **Failure to send a representative will result in forfeiture of your Performance Bond.** There will be no exceptions.

- A refundable **Performance Bond of \$300 per team**, payable to USA Team Handball, *must be submitted at the start of the Technical Meeting* on May 12th to be able to compete.
- A refundable **Sportsmanship Bond of \$300 per team**, payable to USA Team Handball, *must also be submitted at the start of the Technical Meeting.* Both bonds will be kept in escrow and returned back to the team if no team member or team official is disqualified (with the exception of a third 2 min suspension) or excluded for unsporting conduct and/or verbal/physical assault to players, coaches or referees. Please refer to the Tournament Sanctioning Guide and USATH Competition Rulebook for all details.

Please prepare and submit two separate checks for your Performance Bond (\$300) and your Sportsmanship Bond (\$300) as you enter the Meeting Room.

To Register follow these three simple steps

1. **Step 1:** Please submit your registration fees, (**check payable to USA Team Handball**) and mailed to:

Ms. Jan O'Shea
1649 State Hwy 235
Greene, NY 13778

Step 2: Email your team's PRELIMINARY ROSTER, no later than **April 1**, to Patrick Jalabert at Patrick.chicagointer@gmail.com and myself at janoshea@aol.com. Please ensure it is as accurate as possible. Template blank roster form is attached.

Step 3: Please bring **Performance** and **Sportsmanship Bonds** to the Technical Meeting on Thursday 05/18/17. Bonds will be returned to teams that comply with all rules, regulations and procedures of the 2017 Open Championships no later than two (2) weeks after the event.

UNIFORMS: All teams must follow IHF rules regarding uniforms. Failure to do so shall result in forfeiture of Performance Bond. Make sure that you become familiar with all related official rules and pay special attention to the following:

Rule 4:7 – All the court players on a team must wear identical uniforms. The combinations of colors and design for the two teams must be clearly distinguishable from each other. *All players used in the goalkeeper position on a team must wear the same color, a color that distinguishes them from the court players of both teams and the goalkeeper(s) of the opposing team (17:3).*

Note: Identical means identical including the uniforms' fabrics, color, shade, pattern, brand, etc. We will fully enforce this detail.

Rule 4:8 – The players must wear numbers that are at least 20cm high in the back of the shirt and at least 10cm in the front. The numbers used are generally from 1-20 but new rules allow for numbers from 1-99. The color of the numbers must clearly contrast with the color and design of the shirt.

Note: No numbers can be drawn or taped to the uniforms. Any and all violations of the uniforms standards will result in the loss of your Performance Bond.

COURT PLAYER/GOALKEEPER: A question came up last year whether a court player can be assigned 2 different numbers – one as a court player and the other as goalkeeper – the answer is: **Two numbers for the same player will NOT be permitted.**

TICKETS: Tickets may be sold for the event. Teams will be provided credentials for accessing the venue. Keep it with you at all times. **There will be performance bond issues for those not using this process properly.**

STICKUM:

Everyone in the Championships needs to be good citizens and realize the potential costs of clean up [cleaning solution, towels, human effort, time] are enormous.

Here is the Policy:

Here is the policy:

Water base resin ONLY will be allowed: Select and Trimona carry this type of resin Absolutely NO reservoirs anywhere on your person, uniform, shoes, etc.

NO Stickum on the score table or on any team chairs

VIOLATORS risk losing a portion of or their entire Bond and will be required to clean the court they were found to be in violation on at the end of that day.

USA TEAM HANDBALL NATIONAL TEAM TRYOUTS:

The Championships will serve as an official tryout for players interested in inclusion in our National Team (NT) programming and considered for NT Residency Program. Male candidates should fill out **Player Information Card** (see attachment) **and** notify Coach Javier Garcia Cuesta at email: jgarciacuesta@yahoo.com . Female candidates should email Player Information Card to Christian@usateamhandball.org no later than May 5, 2017. Only those who do so will be formally evaluated during the competition. **PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH ALL YOUR PLAYERS.**

USA TEAM HANDBALL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY: Details shall be announced in advance once they are confirmed but it will be held on either Friday or Saturday. **Please make plans to join us for an interactive social hour. Details shall be announced as soon as confirmed.**

The USA Team Handball is the rights holder for all marketing, sponsorship and broadcasting related to the 2017 USA Open Championships. Please be advised that this event may be streamed or spots televised locally for promotion – and teams may be asked to make accommodations for this purpose for the common good.

AGAIN, CAREFULLY READ ALL OF THE INSTRUCTIONS – PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO ME.

Thanks,

Jan

Jan O'Shea

Tournament Director, 2017 USATH Open Championships

AGAIN, PLEASE NOTE MY EMAIL ADDRESS:

janoshea@aol.com

USATH PLAYER INFORMATION CARD

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|--|----------|--------------|-------------------|
| First & Last Name: | | | | | | |
| Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): | | | Height: | | Weight: | |
| US Shoe Size: | | | Short Size: | | Jersey Size: | |
| US Address: | | | Right-handed: | | Left-handed: | |
| Email: | | Cell: | | Skype: | | |
| US Passport Number: | | | US Passport Expiration Date: | | | |
| School Name/Address: | | | | | | |
| Current Club Name/Address: | | | | | | |
| Coach Name: | | | Coach Email/Phone: | | | |
| Under Contract (Yes/No): | | | Availability for Tryouts: US _____ Europe _____ | | | |
| Availability of Video(s): Please explain and attach | | | | | | |
| Handball Experience (years): | 0-2 ____ | 3-4 ____ | 5-6 ____ | 7-8 ____ | 8+ ____ | Playing Position: |
| Handball Accomplishments (Please list): | | | | | | |
| How did you learn about USA Team Handball? | | | | | | |
| Please describe your plans (professional and/or educational) after graduating from HS/College: | | | | | | |
| Would you consider long-term residency program (either live-in or walk-in) If selected by USATH for High Performance Training leading into OG in 2016? Yes ____ No ____ Why? In US? _____ In Europe? _____ | | | | | | |
| Would you consider relocation abroad (Europe) to train and compete if selected by USATH for HP Training? Yes ____ No ____ Why? | | | | | | |