

Press Release

Women's and men's tournaments until at least 2027

DEKRA is Official Referee Partner of the upcoming Handball World Championships

- ▶ Neutrality, expertise, and accuracy are common values
- ▶ Partnership starts with Men's World Championships in January
- ▶ Many leading handball countries are DEKRA key markets

DEKRA is to be the Official Referee Partner of the Handball World Championships until at least 2027. This applies to both the women's tournaments (2025 in Germany and the Netherlands, 2027 in Hungary) and the men's tournaments (2025 in Denmark, Croatia and Norway, 2027 in Germany). The sponsorship of the leading international expert organization will be visible above all on the referees' clothing, but also in the context of venue advertising and the fair play message before each game.

"Fair play and adherence to the rules are just as important in sport as they are in everyday life. In handball, the referees ensure that this happens; as a technical expert organization, this is our job when it comes to safety on the road, at work, and at home," says DEKRA CEO Stan Zurkiewicz. "The referees and DEKRA share the values of neutrality, expert knowledge, and accuracy. Furthermore, handball is a sport in which fair play is particularly highly valued. So we are a perfect match as partners."

"The IHF is proud to welcome DEKRA to the handball family. By joining us for the IHF Men's and Women's World Championships, DEKRA prove their trust in handball, as we hope to build a fruitful, long-lasting partnership in collaboration with our TV and Marketing Rights Partner, Sportfive. We are certain that handball fans will identify our common penchant for quality. With many DEKRA key markets being leading countries in handball, the visibility in the arenas, as well as on TV, will be a key factor of the development of both DEKRA and handball", states Dr. Hassan Moustafa, President of the IHF.

The first tournament in which DEKRA will appear as Official Referee Partner is the Men's Handball World Championships, which begins on January 14, 2025. The host countries are Denmark, Croatia, and Norway. The Women's World Championships will

Date Stuttgart, 02.12.2024 / Nr. 108-A
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then follow in November and December 2025 in Germany and the Netherlands. In January 2027, the Men's World Championship will be played in Germany. In December 2027, the women will play for the world title in Hungary.

“Handball is an absolute crowd-puller in many countries across Europe, particularly at the major tournaments, which are mostly broadcast on free-to-air TV. DEKRA is active in these countries and can therefore make optimal use of the large spectator response that is to be expected”, says Uta Leitner, Executive Vice President Communications and Brand Management at DEKRA. “We are delighted and proud that DEKRA is prominently involved in the upcoming international highlights of this popular sport.”

Picture Caption

DEKRA is the official refereeing partner of the upcoming Handball World Championships. IHF President Dr. Hassan Moustafa (left) and DEKRA Head of Communications Uta Leitner present the new jersey the referees will be wearing.

About DEKRA

DEKRA was originally founded in 1925 to ensure road safety through vehicle inspection. With a much wider scope today, DEKRA is the world's largest independent non-listed expert organization in the testing, inspection, and certification sector. As a global provider of comprehensive services and solutions, we help our customers improve their safety, security, and sustainability outcomes. In 2023, DEKRA generated revenue of EUR 4.1 billion. The company currently employs around 49,000 people who offer qualified and independent expert services in approximately 60 countries on five continents. With a platinum rating from EcoVadis, DEKRA is now in the top one percent of sustainable businesses ranked.