"Reforms in the Norms of Selection procedure for Maharashtra State Senior Level Male Players in Handball Game"

By

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Introduction

Game including the hand and a ball looks back on an unbelievably long tradition. Even if the rules and the way of playing were hardly in line with today’s handball, the "Urania game" played by the Greek which had already been mentioned in Homer’s "Odyssey" or "Harpaston" played by the Romans - described by Claudius Galenus (AD 110 - 200) among others - may definitely be characterized as prototype of today’s handball. Such precursors also existed in today’s Central Europe. Minnesingers Walther von der Vogelweide (1170 - 1230) sang about a, catch ball game, whereas in the 16th century, the Frank Rabelais described a kind of game in which the hands were used for playing the ball. Another game similar to handball was played by Greenland’s Intuits at the end of the 18th century. The actual beginnings of the game of handball didn’t develop until the end of the 19th century. A corresponding game was held in Nyborg (Denmark) in 1897. From that point on, fixed rules for ball games played between teams emerged. Games such as "Treibball" played against or over a border ("Grenzball" or "Raffball", "Konigsberger Ball") were well-known. Moreover, there were games towards baskets or against nets (German netball, nevjall. Turmball), and later on games towards goals without ball control. Players were not allowed to run with the ball and to hold it longer than three seconds (Handball 1906 in Sweden, "Neuer Raffball", "Torball"). Further development included games towards goals with ball control. In this case, players were allowed to run three steps with the ball or to hold it for three seconds. A kind of game from the Czech Republic was called "Hazena", a form of field handball which already included the division of the playing field into three parts.
characterizing field handball. However, countries such as Denmark, Germany and Sweden are considered as the real handball pioneers of modern times.

Field handball was pushed by German gymnastics teacher so that, alongside handball, it became popular as an alternative to football, especially for women. In 1917, Max Heiser formulated the first official handball rules for women. Two years later, Karl Schelenz added the rules for the men. In the 20s, handball became a national sport.

On the occasion of a meeting in The Hague (Netherlands) in 1926, the Congress of the International Amateur Athletics Federation appointed a commission for the elaboration of international playing rules for field handball. In 1928, the International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF) was founded in Amsterdam on the occasion of the IX Olympic Games. One of the foundation members was Avery Brundage (USA) who later became IOC President in 1933; handball was included in the Olympic Programme. At the XI Olympic Games in Berlin, host Germany won the final and therefore the gold medal in the pouring rain in front of an audience of 100,000 people, beating Austria 10:6. One year after the end of World War II, representatives of eight nations met in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, and launched the International Handball Federation (IHF). It is considered founded on 11 July 1946. The nations involved in the foundation are Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland. In 1960, the last Women's Outdoor World Championship was played whereas the last Men's Outdoor World Championship took place in 1996. At the XXXII Congress in Cairo, which has been the last official one so far, 167 member federations were counted. By now, handball is being played in 183 countries and the number of team's amounts to approximately 800,000.

Statement of the Problems

On the basis of overall observations, experience and general discussions which have been made with experts, referees, national and international players and reviewing of literature on the same theme, it is opined that there is an essential need to frame standard criteria for the selection of efficient and suitable players for handball game to be played at state or national level. Accordingly the present researcher has designed the following statement of problems:
1) Selection of players only on the basis of individual performance in a particular match is not always desirable.

2) In the selection process, basic motor qualities and skills are the most important factors to be considered in order to improve overall performance of the team in the long run.

3) There is no any criterion devised on the date for senior handball players in Maharashtra to provide guidelines for selection of suitable players.