

Next level referee education

Although the game of korfball has changed a lot during the past decade the role and education of the referees and the referee team, in general, has not evolved.

Sure, 'in-game communication' was introduced and the tasks and role of the assistant and reserve referee were extended, but the core education and development of referees in most of the national federations remain very conservative.

Over the past few years, we see new initiatives taking form. Several countries are experimenting with a two referee system, we see online platforms being used to teach playing rules and in general, a lot of federations are documenting and officialising their referee courses.

The IKF referee committee has taken on several projects to help general referee development, supporting not only individual referees but also facilitating projects helping federations to go forward with referee development.

In this newsletter we will talk about two of them. Both of them were implemented because we feel a strong need to also develop IKF referees 'off tournament' so they can perform on an even higher level 'on tournament'.

Firstly, there is our new concept for talent referees. Each year national federations can nominate four referees (five if one of them is female) to be on the official IKF referees list, these referees go out on the official tournaments, in the same way national players do, representing their countries.

To get a better view on available talents and start education and development before referees are being sent to official tournaments, we offer federations to put two (or three if one is female) referees under 30 on the talent list.

Our goal is to educate these talent referees off tournament in the same way we do with our official IKF referees.

Secondly, we invested in the recruitment of an online coach team. This team, made up out of former top referees, elite referees and assessors from different countries, coaches 18 small referee groups online.

Every coach group consists of four referees (including talents) a coach and an assessor. The groups get different assignments they have to prepare and discuss online. A lot of the assignments include creating small video clips to feed the online discussion.

The most interesting clips are being shared in the different groups, commented on by the referee committee and/or the playing rules committee.

Our goal is to open up these clips for global referee education.

IKF referee committee is always looking for innovative ways to educate our referees, any thoughts, ideas or projects are welcome, bjorn.elewaut@ikf.org .

