## INSTRUCTIONS

This Learning Packet has two parts: (1) text to read and (2) questions to answer.
The text describes a particular sport or physical activity and relates to its history, rules, playing techniques, scoring, notes and news.

The Response Forms (questions and puzzles) check your understanding and appreciation of the sport or physical activity.

## INTRODUCTION

Team handball is played by two teams of seven players each ( 1 goalkeeper and 6 court players). The object of the game is to throw the ball past a goalkeeper into the opponent's goal.

## HISTORY OF THE GAME

Team handball is very popular in much of the world, but little known in North America. even the name is confusing even to a North American who knows quite a bit about sports.

The modern game actually grew out of three sports that were developed, independently, in three different European countries: The Czech Hazena, the Danish Handbold, and the German Torball.

All three were based on soccer, but essentially replaced
 the foot with the hand, so that the ball could be advanced by batting or throwing, rather than by kicking.

Hazena was being played by Slovaks as early as 1892; its rules were first set down in 1906, by a college professor. Handbold (the Danish word for handball) was developed in 1898 by a teacher, Holger Nielsen, as an alternative to soccer. In 1906, Nielsen revised the rules considerably and began organizing competitions outside the
school at which he taught. Similarly, Torball was created in 1915 by a German gymnastics teacher, Max Heiden.

Professor Carl Schelenz of the Berlin Physical Education School in 1919 combined elements of handbold and Torball and adapted the soccer playing field for a new sport which he called handball (actually translating the Danish into German). Schelenz also borrowed from basketball, which was just becoming popular in Germany, to allow dribbling as a means of advancing the ball.

By 1925, the game had become fairly popular in other European countries. The International Amateur Handball Federation (IAHF) was established in 1928; handball was a demonstration sport at the Olympics that year and again in 1932.

Team handball, designed to be played outdoors by teams of eleven players, was a fullfledged Olympic sport at the 1936 Munich Games. The United States finished sixth and last in the competition.

Meanwhile, a different, indoor version of handball was being developed in the Scandinavian countries. Based largely on Danish Handbold, this version had only seven on a side and was played in a considerably smaller area. The IAHF held the first seven-a-side world championships in 1938.

After World War II, the seven-player game gradually took over from the eleven-player version in Europe and also spread to other continents. World championship play, which had
 been ended by the war, began again in 1954 and handball was restored to the Olympic program in 1972. Competition for women's teams began in 1976.

When handball was introduced to the United States, around 1930, the name was already being used for the court game that was very popular in YMCAs across the country, so the new import was called "field handball," eventually shortened to "fieldball," and it was at first played primarily by girls and women. The seven-player version, however, became known as team handball in the United States.

Although it has never achieved great popularity, it was adopted by the U. S. Army as a camp sport in many areas of the country. Many Boys' and Girls' Clubs also took it up, followed by Explorer Scouts and even some high schools and colleges. The U. S. Team Handball Federation was founded in 1959 to standardize rules and sanction competition.

## HOW HANDBALL IS PLAYED

Handball is a ball game of two teams against each other. Each team consists of six field players and one goalkeeper. The winner is the team that makes more goals in sixty minutes, divided into two half-times of thirty minutes. Each team has up to five players to change the playing team in the field.

Players advance the ball down the court by dribbling and throwing the ball. They are allowed to dribble for an unlimited amount of time, run with the ball for up to three steps before and after dribbles, and hold the ball without moving for three seconds. Players are not allowed to pull, hit, or punch the ball out of the opponent's hands, endanger an opponent with the ball, or make contact with the ball below the knees. Free throws are awarded to the opponent in the event of minor fouls or violations. A seven-meter penalty shot is awarded to the opponent when major violations are committed. Matches consist of two thirty-minute periods with a ten-minute half-time interval. There are no overtime periods in team handball.

The playing field is twenty meters wide and forty meters long and it is divided into two halves. Each team owns one of the two goals and there is an area in front of the goal up to six meters away called the 'circle,' wherein only the goalkeeper is allowed. Only the goalkeeper, while in his circle, is allowed to touch the ball with his whole body, all other play-
 ers are only allowed to throw the ball with their hands.

A player owning the ball can hold it for three seconds or go for three steps, then he must
tip the ball to the ground, throw the ball to another player or into the goal.

The goal is three meters wide and two meters high and is located in the middle of the circle at the end of the playing field. No field player is allowed to reach the goal, but they are allowed to jump into the circle, if they are leaving it at once after the jump.

A match is lead by two referees, each of whom can penalize players with a warning (yellow card, not more than three per team or one per player), a two minute time-penalty (not more than two per player), a disqualification (red card, another player can go on the field after two minutes) or an
 exclusion (the team is one player short until the end of the match).

If a player makes a fault, each of the referees is allowed to give a free-throw to the other team, or decide for a penalty. Penalties are executed at a mark seven meters away from the goal. In a free-throw each player of the other team has to stay three meters away from the point where it is executed from, in a penalty there is only one shooter against the goalkeeper, but the shooter is not allowed to make a step before the ball has left his hand.

## SKILLS \& TECHNIQUES

## BASIC CATCHING TECHNIQUE

The thumbs and fingers should form the shape of a triangle.
Both hands form a "bowl/basket," enabling to catch the ball more effectively.
Arms should be bent at the elbow and fully extended in order to catch the ball.
When catching the ball, players should move hands toward the ball.
Always catch the ball with two hands.
The "target" should be at shoulder height and on the dominant arm side.
The knees are flexed and the feet are shoulder width apart.
The head is up and forward and the eyes are focused in on the ball.

## OVERHEAD PASS

Throwing arm is at a 90 degree angle at the elbow with ball slightly above head height. The whole hand should be behind the ball when it is being thrown.
Begin by taking one step forward with the left foot (right handed throwers).
Upon completion of the pass follow through to the target.

Drive with the right foot for power.
Always retreat after the pass to the original position.


## THE JUMP SHOT

Right-handed throwers should push off from the left foot. Left-handed throwers should push off from the right foot. Throw from the highest point of the jump.
When in the air, the body should be stretched and throwing shoulder drawn back.

## GOALKEEPING

The knees should be slightly bent and the hands held at head height.
Low balls are stopped with the foot and one arm stretched toward the foot to assist.
A ball thrown at mid-height should be stopped with hand and foot while high balls require a jump from one foot.

## EQUIPMENT \& CLOTHING

Ball - The ball used in men's team handball competitions is about 23 inches in circumference. The ball used in women's team handball competitions is 22 inches in circumference. Team handballs are covered in leather.

Uniforms - All players on a team must wear identical uniforms, with the exception of the goalkeeper whose uniform must have colors that distinguish him/her from the court players.

## HANDBALL NEWS \& NOTES

USA Team Handball Collegiate National Championships hosted by the Carolina Team Handball Club (CTHC) took place in April, 2006 at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

The Tournament was a success as collegiate teams from around the U.S. competed in Men's and Women's divisions to battle for the title of Collegiate National Champion.

After three days of exciting team handball

the Gold Medal went to the Carolina men's team, the Silver Medal was won by the West Point Black team and the Bronze went to the Air Force squad. On the women's court the Gold Medal was captured by the West Point Black, the Silver by the Carolina women and the Bronze by the West Point Gold team.

The tournament was considered a rousing success, drawing teams from across the United States. Both the men's and women's divisions were comprised of the top team handball clubs in the nation.

2004 Olympic Results:
Men-Croatia
Women-Denmark
Stay current with information about the sport by visiting these websites:
http://www.usateamhandball.org/
http://www.usoc.org/237.htm
http://www.ushandball.org/college/index.html


Denmark's Women's Championship Team

## STUDENT RESPONSE PACKET \#26 TEAM HANDBALL

NAME $\qquad$

DATE $\qquad$

## WHAT TO DO

The following questions will help you to have a greater appreciation and understanding of team handball. Write your answers in the spaces below the questions. If there is not enough room, write on the backs of these sheets. Be neat, spell correctly, and write in complete sentences.

1. Describe how handball players move the ball.
2. What three sports formed the basis of team handball?
3. When was team handball introduced to the Olympics? Where? How did the United States do in this competition?
4. Team handball changed around the time of World War II. Describe the changes.
5. Describe how the game of team handball is played.
6. What did Schelenz add to the rules because of the popularity of a new sport in Germany?
7. Where was "fieldball" first played in the US? By whom?
8. What organization in the US adopted Team Handball?
9. List three things a player cannot do to try to get the ball out of an opponent's hands.
10. Describe the difference between a red card and a yellow card.
$\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$


## Across

3 One gets a free throw for one of these violations
8 A player is $\qquad$ if he/she gets a red card
9 Players cannot contact the ball below the $\qquad$
12 One should always throw the ball with two of them
13 A Czech sport
15 Number of steps players can take with the ball
16 One of the countries that first developed a game of Team Handball
18 One of the ways players can advance the ball
20 Team Handball is based upon this common sport

## Down

1 The 1936 Olympics were held here
2 The only one who can touch the ball with his/her whole body
4 This was the term used to describe the American game around 1930
5 The Danish word for "handball"
6 He created Torball in 1915
7 Hands are to team handball as $\qquad$ are to soccer
10 The number of players on each Team Handball team
11 The ball used is covered with this
14 The "A" in IAHF
17 A penalty shot is awarded after one of these violations
19 He was the first to combine Handbold and Torball
$\qquad$ Date: $\qquad$

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H G H I Q T Y V M T D K M T E E F M A L
D A E E F C B V D O L M L O X B U M E A
R R N R I B L R U L A P O I W N A A A D
W M I D M D X B S T J F K W I T T N X M
P I D B B A E N B Z I H E C E H E C L S
Q N C A B A N N H W D S H U E Z C OV U
B O Y L J L L Y V W Z B R R A S D Z V J
X R Q K H C I L D X S H G H L S Y D K V
V B B B X S I N A T A O D C I S D E G B
W O Q J F F D V G N A E K B N J D T C X
R N P D N C A C D L I T Q D W L U Y J D
O H Y Y I D F B K F L S O N O E I W J Q
J Z Y X T Y O E I N O L C R R R G S R R
N B B W O L E L X V U F A H B E R C Z O
X M O E D P A D F V GV U B E A C A N J
S G N V R U I K Y U O V V W D L L C C A
D S M E Q L S R S C E J J M Y L E L O M
N Q D S Y W D Y Z E X O H K U K E N N S
A X I F N D Z Y R F Q O C K O E F I Z R
H D K N E E S C E P V X V I R D W V F T
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Circle the words in the above puzzle.

| 1. | AMATEUR | 11. | HAZENA |
| ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2. | DISQUALIFIED | 12. | HEIDEN |
| 3. | DRIBBLING | 13. | KNEES |
| 4. | FEET | 14. | LEATHER |
| 5. | FIELDBALL | 15. | MAJOR |
| 6. | GERMANY | 16. | MINOR |
| 7. | GOALKEEPR | 17. | MUNICH |
| 8. | HANDBALL | 18. | SCHELENZ |
| 9. | HANDBOLD | 19. | SOCCER |
| 10. | HANDS | 20. | TORBALL |

