

# The IHF backs the world's first intelligent ball - the SELECT iBall

Together with the International Handball Federation (IHF) the Danish company SELECT introduces its latest development, the SELECT iBall. With its unique built in electronic system SELECT positions itself as one of the global market's most innovative ball manufacturers.

The IHF recently extended its sponsorship deal with SELECT as their official supplier of handballs to all World Championships and Olympic Games for both men and women until 2013. As part of their agreement IHF will support the development of the SELECT iBall, affirming its role of continuously working towards the improvement and progress of the sport of handball. The iBall heralds an evolutionary trend in referee ruling for such sports as handball and football. Its first appearance is planned at the next Men's World Championship scheduled in Croatia in January 2009.

In cooperation with another Danish company, Goalref Technologies, SELECT has engineered an electronic system that will signal the crossing of the goal line, eliminating any doubts as to whether a ball has crossed the goal line or not. The intelligent handball - SELECT iBall - is in fact a system based on wireless communication between the ball, the frame of the goal and the referees' receiving device. Within less than half a second, by means of an encrypted computer signal, the referee will get the confirmation to his verdict of goal or no goal. Besides an accurate and neutral support to the referees' ruling, the system relates the speed at which the ball has been thrown or kicked, which could add an extra dimension to the spectators' experience. The encrypted information transfer is secured and will only be received by the referees as an additional help to the countless decisions they have to make during one game. The iBall itself will have the same look and feel like the current handballs used in the championships while the speed of information transfer will guarantee an uninterrupted game continuation.

"The extension of our sponsorship deal confirms a long-term and successful partnership with SELECT. We are very thrilled to be the first in the world to implement this exciting technology, which will ensure the flow of the game and support the referees' job," says IHF President Dr. Hassan Moustafa. The SELECT iBall fulfills a long spoken wish for a system, which can eliminate incorrect goal decisions. The Managing Director of Goalref, Ulrik Merild, believes that intelligent balls will have a great influence on international handball and football in the future.

The founder of SELECT and former keeper of the Danish national team in football, Eigil Nielsen, is the creator of the three most significant milestones in the history of handball and football: the laceless ball, the 32-section ball and the introduction of synthetic leather. "Today, we are very proud of once again bringing epoch-making innovation to market. With the SELECT iBall we carry on the legacy of Eigil Nielsen and set yet another milestone," says SELECT SPORT's CEO, Peter Knap.

