Mulhouse Autumn Tournament 21st October 2012



The underwater hockey team in Mulhouse organised their Autumn tournament on 21st October 2012 and a Level 1 Referees course (basic introduction to the international rules) on the day before. As a member of the French underwater sports federation (FFESSM), I was eligible to take part in the course. Two experienced players from Strasbourg led the course. We mainly looked at volume 2 of the CMAS rules of play (see it in "Info & FAQ" of www.uwh.ch), which describes equipment and match details, hand signs, faults and penalisations.



Right hand side: Silvania Avelar as referee

The slogan "No Rules Just Play!" can be seen frequently on the trunks of underwater hockey players, but one does not know the real meaning of that until it comes to playing in a tournament. Water referees, two for club games and three for international games, and a chief referee on the pool side follow the game and stop it when any faults occur. There are many possible faults, which are indicated by specific hand signs and are penalised with a free puck, equal puck or a player is sent out of game for one, two or five minutes. Only the team captain and vice captain may talk to the referees during the game. The more senior players 'translate' the situation very quickly to new players, given time and opportunity to do that, during the game. Top games require not only good players but also good referees. And being a good referee requires lots of experience of UWH, fitness, sharp eyes and a good memory to remember all the rules.

The Tournament

For the first time since Swiss underwater hockey teams started participating in tournaments, we had a team with eight players that actually practice UWH in Switzerland! We were registered as Zurich Team and came 6th of 7 teams - the other teams were from Mulhouse (men and women teams), Strasbourg (men and mix teams), Nancy (mix) and Munich (mix). The Zurich team worked quite well together and with regular training we can improve our performance. To be continued!

Silvania Avelar

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Zurich Team in Mulhouse: Martin, Jaco, Zsuzsa, Silvania, Dinah, Fanny, Jeremy and Philipp.

