

# EFAF Officiating Newsletter

No. 6 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year  
1 June, 2005

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## Editor's Note

A couple of months ago I told you the sad news that Steve from Ireland had gone into a coma right after a game. He was hospitalized and for the longest time, it seemed that nobody knew how he was doing. Until now.

It is an absolute pleasure to announce, that Steve is doing well, and he has even started working games again. Thanks to Oscar from Ireland for that piece of great news.

Summer is upon us, and at least in Denmark we have July off, before we pick it back up again in August. My last game before the break was a beauty. Number 1 vs. number 2. First place on the line. It was a great game, but the story I want to tell is about the officials. (Big surprise)

I was referee in this game, which had a total of three EFAF officials in the 5-man crew. We are working hard, but staying in control, and all of a sudden it happens. The punter has to scramble and to recover a bad snap, and he takes off. All of a sudden he decides to kick anyway, but by then he is one yard over the line of scrimmage. I have to admit, after 13 years of officiating, this is the first time I have ever been involved with an illegal kick, and we were a little stunned.

Just off the top of your head, can you remember what the penalty is?

We remembered that the play dies with the kick, and we remembered that it is a five yard penalty with a loss of down, but we ended up administering the foul from the spot of foul / dead ball spot (after all, this is an offensive foul beyond the LOS on a run that ends beyond the LOS) in stead of from the previous spot.

This just goes to show you, as soon as you think you are in control, the idiot punter can decide to screw up a perfectly good play during a perfectly good game on a perfectly good day. So stay alert. 😊

And remember, if your colleagues are not receiving this Newsletter, please let me know.

Enjoy  
Frank Kristensen  
Editor

## Philosophy 101

Mel Pons made the suggestion that we should have a segment in the Newsletter about philosophy just like we have rules quizzes. I thought that sounded like a really good idea, so here we go.

### 3.6 Fouls that are “obvious”

Although these fouls are not serious and don't create a significant advantage, they are so “obvious” to anyone watching that we would look foolish if we didn't call them:

1. **Illegal substitution** when a player leaves the field other than across his own sideline,
2. **illegal substitution** when a team has 12 or more men in the huddle for more than 3 seconds (but don't nit pick the 3 second limit),
3. **inadvertent illegal touching** of a forward pass,
4. **false start** by a tight end or wide receiver,
5. **offside** by team B at their restraining line on a free kick,
6. **free kick out of bounds.**

The above is take directly from the 2004 BAFRA/EFAP Manual of Football Officiating.

## Danish License System

Over the last few years, and still running, we, in Denmark, have worked on implementing a new officiating licensing system. The reason for this being, that earlier on, we only had one type of officiating license but most people didn't care too much about it. Our system of officiating is very much based on club crews, meaning that every tournament active club has to provide the federation with a crew of at least 5 officials.

In addition to that, we have a small (but increasing) number of independent officials. The independent group(s) were assigned in the same way as the club crews.

The clubs often just sent out 4 or 5 guys with no officiating skills what so ever when it was their job to work a game and the independent guys were much more committed towards the job. The result being a highly differentiated level of approach to every game.

From the year 2000 we thought out a new system based somewhat on the way our Scandinavian peers had theirs. The Danish tax system doesn't allow us to vary the level of payment for officials, so increasing the game fee would just mean an increased economical burden for the paying hosts. Our example being that if we put on 100 % on the

game fee the clubs obviously had to pay twice the price for officials but the game would have 5-10% decrease due to a tax level of some 55-60%. This was therefore never an option.

We instead turned it around and made it less interesting to officiate without proper knowledge. Today our officials on the lowest level are not entitled to receive game fee. To obtain a game fee they now have to show the federation that they have some skills with regards to rules knowledge.

The license for officiating can now be bought for the price of 200 DKK (approx. 27-28 €). This just giving the buyers the right to officiate.

Federation rules now has given us a possibility of fining the unauthorized persons claiming to be officials, turning their numbers from approx. 50% to an estimated 1-2%.

And luckily the license type that doesn't grant you the right to game fee is only about 2-3% of all officials.

The "real" license is divided in to 3 different levels with the lowest level separated into two subcategories.

The lowest is called C (the non-paying type thus called D).

As shortly mentioned there are 2 kinds a C licenses, one free of charge and one where the officials have to pay for it. The latter being an equivalent to the D level but with the right to receive game fees. To achieve a paid-for C level license the applicants have to answer a test of 50 rules and mechanics questions. To pass the test an answering percentage of 75 is needed. Once cleared the person is then given a year license, technically making it possible to work any level of football in Denmark.

The real C license is then a license obtained by attending some of our yearly officiating clinics. Our deal is that to become a licensed official this way the person needs to attend two different full day courses of rules and mechanics. We have an education system of 3 basic level modules that we host every year and the rule is that a new official has to participate in at least two of these basic modules in a two year period. All these courses are paid for by all clubs as a part of the tournament fee and technically each club can send as many potential officials as they would like – and some clubs do – 3 clubs or more have at least 15 trained officials to take care of their approx. 10-12 games a year.

If a person applies for an officiating license based on attending two basic level modules we grant them a two year license as opposed to the bought license which only is valid for one year.

As already explained our Danish tax system sets the standard for game fee and therefore we have had to invent a way of rewarding our most committed officials and we now have. The Danish officiating department has started cooperating with an organisation called the "elite officials support unit". This organisation has been invented to help elite officials with most potential football officiating related costs. Meaning that the organisation can help an official with new officiating gear, new clothes to travel to games in, bags for equipment, equipment for remaining in good physical shape. This organisation is financed by extra payment from clubs that have games that these elite officials participate in.

To become an elite official an official has to have officiated for at least two years and have to have worked more than 15 or 20 games over these two years. You start out as a B level official and then have to be at the B level for at least 2 years before you can become an A level official.

The elite officials have to have participated on every one of our basic level modules at least once in their career and they also have to attend our high level clinic in the year

where they want to become an elite official. At that clinic there is a NCAA rules and mechanics exam of serious questions – to become a level B elite official you need to pass with an percentage of 65 correct answers, to become a level A elite official the limit is 80%.

Currently, we only have 5 elite officials but a select group of guys are very potential to become elite officials within the next years.

I hope this explanation of our licensing system has given you an insight to how things can be done and we Danes look forward to other countries chipping in and explaining how you have done it in your country.

Frank Rasmussen  
Head of officials in Denmark

## Officiating salary

I know its summer and people get lazy, but come on, guys! So far I have only heard from six countries. So please, if your country is not mentioned below, send me an email with the info.

How much does an official with the highest national license earn working a regular season game in the highest national division?

Please state the amount in Euros.

Denmark	27 EUR
Norway	60 EUR
Sweden	60 EUR
Great Britain	52 EUR
The Netherlands	40 EUR
France	75 EUR

Frank Kristensen  
Editor

## TASO Quiz

1. B44 intercepts A16's legal forward pass on B's 2 and his momentum carries him into B's end zone where he is downed. A88 commits an incidental grasping the facemask foul in making the tackle.

2. B44 intercepts A16's legal forward pass in B's end zone then fumbles while still in B's end zone. The ball rolls to B's 2 where A66 bats the ball back into B's end zone. B55 recovers in B's end zone while grounded.

3. A9's free kick bounces off B48 chest in B's end zone and rolls into the field of play. B54 retreats toward B's goal line, recovers the ball on B's 4 and his momentum carries him into B's end zone where he is downed.

4. 2nd and 5 on A's 25. B23 intercepts A17's legal forward pass and is advancing on A's 16 when an inadvertent whistle sounds. B79 commits a roughing the passer foul.
5. 4th and goal on B's 7. A27 advances to B's 3 where he attempts a backward pass. The pass hits the ground on B's 1.
6. 4th and goal on B's 7. A37 takes a handoff and advances to B's 4 where he fumbles. A78 catches the ball in B's end zone.
7. 4th and goal on B's 2. A33 does not get control of QB A14's handoff on B's 4 and is juggling the ball as he plows through the line. A33 recovers the ball in B's end zone.
8. 4th and goal on B's 2. A33 does not get control of QB A14's handoff on B's 4 and is juggling the ball as he plows through the line. A33 finally gains control (and possession) of the ball when the ball is over B's goal line. The ball has not touched the ground.
9. 4th and 22 on A's 27. A8's punt from a scrimmage kick formation rolls out of bounds on B's 36. A43 legally blocks B87 into the kicker forcing B87 to rough the kicker.
10. 4th and 22 on A's 27. A8's punt from a scrimmage kick formation rolls out of bounds on B's 36. B28 cuts A88 in the neutral zone during the down.

**Answers:**

1. B's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 7. The basic enforcement spot is the spot of the interception. [10-2-2-f-1, 8-5-1]
2. Touchback. B's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 20. A66 commits an illegal batting foul. The basic enforcement spot is B's goal line. A66 also imparted new impetus with the bat. [10-2-2-f-\*]
3. B's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 4. The clock starts when the ball crosses B's goal line following B48's muff in B's end zone.
4. A's ball, 1st and 10, on A's 40. There was a change of team possession during the down. Thus, the 15-yard penalty is enforced from the previous spot and carries a first down. The penalty would also be enforced from the previous spot if A23 fumbled and A66 recovered while grounded. The inadvertent whistle provisions are put on hold until completion of the penalty for a foul that occurred during the down.
5. Incomplete illegal forward pass. B's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 8 after the 5-yard penalty.
6. No score. Team A fumbled on 4th down before a change of team possession. B's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 4.
7. Fumble by A14. A33 never had possession of the ball until the recovery. The handoff was not completed. B's ball on B's 4.
8. Touchdown. The handoff was completed when A33 controlled the ball. There is really

no time nor distance involved as long as A33 has a reasonable chance to complete the handoff.

9. Roughing the kicker since the block was legal. A's ball, 1st and 10, on A's 42.

10. Blocking below the waist is not allowed during a down in which there is a kick from a scrimmage kick formation. A's ball, 1st and 10, on A's 42.

## **EFAF Official profile**

**Name:** Klas Leidö

**Age:** 29

**Job:** Developer in computers

**Family status:** Big family

**Number of years as an EFAF official:**

1

**Highlights as EFAF official:**

Every game.

**Highlights as national official:**

When I get to be an official in Pee-wee.

**Did you play football before becoming an official?**

Yes, of course.

**Highlights as player:**

None. I was the worst ever. (kidding)

**What do you do, to improve as an official?**

See a lot of games, and I summarize every game I official the next day.

## **Bowl Crews**

Congratulations to the crews selected to the two big European Finals.

### **Eurobowl final**

R	Jim Briggs
U	Juan Nogues
HL	Eigil Noren
LJ	Olivier Valongo
FJ	Chris Sprigwald
SJ	Steve Tonkison
BJ	Heinz Sauer

## EFAF Cup Final

R	Willy Edelmüller
U	Serge Monmerque
HL	Jean Perez-Canto
LJ	Markus Leidner
FJ	Michael Ulicny
SJ	Pierre Pagnon

## By the book

In each of the following you are given a situation and at least two possible answers. You are to decide which answer or answers are correct. Note: In kicking situations, K is the kicking team, R the receiving team.

Answers appear at the end of the Newsletter.

1. First and 10 for team A at team B's 20 yardline. A1's pass is intercepted by B2 at his own three yardline. B2 voluntarily runs into team B's end zone. He simulates going to one knee, then puts on a burst of speed and advances to team B's 37 yardline before he is downed.
  - a. Legal play; it's team B's ball at its own 37 yardline.
  - b. The ball is dead when B2 simulates taking a knee.
  - c. The momentum rules applies.
  - d. It's a safety; team A scores two points.
2. Fourth and seven for team K from team R's 23 yardline. K1 wants to attempt a field goal via a drop kick. However, he kicks the ball before it hits the ground. The ball goes between the uprights and above the crossbar.
  - a. Legal play; the field goal counts.
  - b. K1 is guilty of illegally kicking the ball.
  - c. It's not a field goal; it's simply a punt that went out of bounds.
  - d. Team R will get the ball, first and 10 from its own 23 yardline.
  - e. Team R will get the ball, first and 10 from its own 20 yardline.
  - f. If team R accepts the penalty, team K will repeat the down.
  - g. The penalty is 15 yards.
  - h. The penalty is 10 yards.
  - i. The penalty is five yards.
  - j. The penalty is loss of down only.
  - k. The penalty is five yards and loss of down.
3. Second and 10 for team A from team B's 37 yardline. A1's legal forward pass is intercepted by B2 at his own three yardline. B2's momentum takes him into his own end zone. An official blows an inadvertent whistle.
  - a. Team A scores a safety.
  - b. Team B is awarded a touchback.
  - c. Team B will begin a new series at its own three yardline.
  - d. B2 should ignore the whistle and continue playing.

4. First and goal for team A from team B's seven yardline. A1's legal forward pass to A2 is complete. A2 steps out of bounds at team B's two yardline. The scoreboard is equipped with a horn, but it does not sound even though the clock reads 0:00.
- The half is over.
  - The half doesn't end until the horn sounds.
  - It is illegal for a scoreboard to be equipped with a horn.

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## 2004 MWC Test

The MWC Clinic Exam consists of 34 True or False questions. Each question is worth 3 points. The maximum score will be 102. A passing score of 70 is expected.

### New Rules

When time-outs are not exhausted, an official shall allow a charged team time-out when requested by a player, head coach, or assistant coach when the ball is dead.

Team A encroaches during their free kick from the A35 and the ball is advanced to the B25 when the ball is fumbled and then recovered by a Team A player on the B35. Ruling: Team B ball 1/10 on the B30 or rekick from the Team A30.

While in the process of substitution or simulated substitution Team A is prohibited from rushing quickly to the line of scrimmage with the obvious attempt of creating a defensive disadvantage. In order to have a 15-yard penalty for this illegal action a 5-yard, delay penalty, must first have occurred.

The following is a true definition of the "clean hands rule." If there are live ball offsetting fouls that occur on a play where there is a change of possession, Team B may keep the ball after declining Team A's foul and enforcing theirs as long as they fouled AFTER they got possession of the ball.

No defensive player who runs forward and leaps in an obvious attempt to block a field goal or try may land on an opponent. This includes a Team B player who is blocked by an A player and lands on an opponent.

### Free Kicks

Team A's free kick from the A35 goes out of bounds untouched by a Team B player. Ruling: Team B has 3 options-----Have Team A rekick from the Team A30; Take the ball 30 yards in advance of Team A's free kick line; and take the ball at the spot where the kick goes out of bounds.

Team A's free kick is muffed by Team B at the Team B 5 yard line. While the ball is loose Team B held a Team A player (foul). Team B picks up the ball in the end zone and returns to the Team B35 yard line. Ruling: If B's penalty is accepted enforce 10 yards from the previous spot and rekick.

Team A's onside kick from the A35 goes 11 yards after which a Team A player blocks a Team B player and Team A recovers the ball. Ruling: Legal play.

Team A's short free kick from the Team A35 is "pooched" in the air and a Team B player who is in position to make the catch must go around a Team A player who is in front of him at the 50 and muffs the ball and Team A recovers at the A45. Ruling: No foul. Team A's ball at the A45.

Team A's short free "pooch kick" from the A35 is caught in the air by a Team A player at the 50. No Team B player was in a position to catch the kick. Ruling: Illegal touching at the 50. B's ball 1/10 @ 50.

### **Passing the Ball**

Team A Quarterback is not under duress (pressure) and throws the ball to the ground or out of bounds where no eligible receiver could have caught a pass. Ruling: Legal play.

An airborne Team A receiver catches a pass 2 yards into Team B's end zone and is driven (not carried) back into the field of play where he lands on his back and is downed on the Team B 2 yard line. Ruling: Team A's ball on the B 2 yard line.

4th and 5 at the 50. Team A QB is roughed on a pass play to a Team A Wideout. Team A Wideout runs an extra 20 yards and is hit and fumbles the ball at the Team B 20 yard line and Team B recovers there. The penalty for roughing the passer is accepted. Ruling: Team A's ball 1/G at the Team B 10 yard line.

Team A QB throws a forward pass that is deflected back to him and he throws a second pass to an eligible Team A receiver that falls incomplete at the 20-yard line. Ruling: Legal play.

Team A's pass hits the helmet of lineman A75 and the pass is subsequently caught by lineman A55. Ruling: Legal catch by lineman A55.

### **Line of Scrimmage Plays**

A's ball 2<sup>nd</sup>/5 on A's 25. DE B80 is lined up in a 3-point stance and flinches in an attempt to pull TE A85 into a false start (football act). A85 does not move but RB A35 falls forward and false starts. Ruling: Foul on Team A35 for false start.

The crackback zone refers to that area centered on the middle lineman of an offensive formation that restricts blocking towards the ball up to 10 yards downfield when lineman or receivers are 7 yards from the middle lineman and backs are lined up outside the normal tackle position.

On a try down the ball is placed in the middle of the field on the 3-yard line and the R gives the ready for play signal. Team A then requests that the ball be placed at the left hash mark. There are no fouls or timeouts called. Ruling: The referee shall allow Team A to move the ball to the left hash mark.

Team A QB is lined up under the center after all Team A players are set for one second. The QB then goes in motion, does not reset or pause and the ball is snapped to a back in the backfield. Ruling: Legal Play.

The ball cannot be legally snapped or free kicked until the ready for play signal is given.

### **Kick Plays**

During Team A's scrimmage kick Team B commits a PSK foul and they are not in possession of the ball at the end of the down. Ruling: Enforce penalty at the previous spot.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> down Team A "quick kicks" and the ball is blocked by Team B and never crosses the LOS. Team A and Team B simultaneously recover the ball. Ruling: Team B's ball at the spot of simultaneous recovery.

Team A's 4<sup>th</sup> down scrimmage kick is partially blocked behind the LOS. Lineman A65 catches the ball in the air behind the LOS and runs for a 1<sup>st</sup> down. Ruling: Team A's ball, 1<sup>st</sup> down.

On 4<sup>th</sup> down Team B signals for a fair catch and muffs the ball. The ball is recovered by Team A. Team A did not interfere with B's opportunity to catch the kick but was within the 2-yard zone when Team B muffed the ball. Ruling: 5-yard penalty against Team A for violating the 2 yard zone.

On 4<sup>th</sup> down a Team B player signals for a fair catch and the ball goes over his head. While the ball is loose the player who signaled blocks a Team A player. Ruling: At the end of the down the Team B player will be penalized 15 yards for his block.

### **Penalty Enforcement**

Team A scores and during Team A's run Team B commits a live ball personal foul (9-1-2). After Team A's TD Team B commits a dead ball personal foul. Ruling: Team A may accept both penalties on the try or succeeding kickoff or take one penalty on the try and one on the kickoff.

Team A snaps the ball at the Team B18. Team B commits DPI in the end zone. Ruling: A's ball 1<sup>st</sup> and Goal at the Team B 3 yard line.

Team A snaps the ball from the Team A 5 yard line. Team A75 holds a Team B player in the end zone. The A runs the ball to the Team A 15 yard line and gets a 1<sup>st</sup> down. Ruling: Penalize Team A from the 5 yard line and replay the down.

Team B intercepts Team A's pass at the B-3 yard line and his momentum carries him into the end zone. He attempts to run the ball out of the end zone and fumbles the ball OB at the sideline in the end zone. Ruling: Team B's ball 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 at the Team B 3 yard line.

On 4<sup>th</sup> down Team A's scrimmage kick is blocked and a Team A lineman bats the ball forward and Team A recovers. Ruling: Forward batting of a loose ball from a scrimmage

kick behind the LOS by Team A is a spot foul and loss of down. The ball would be given to Team B after administering a 15-yard penalty against Team A.

### **Miscellaneous**

Beginning with the 3<sup>rd</sup> overtime period a try worth 2 points can only be scored.

On a FG attempt from the Team B 25 yard line and with the kicker in position to kick the ball, Team A holder muffs the snap and raises up to get the ball, then goes down to his knee and places the ball and the kicker makes a successful FG. Ruling: Legal Play

Momentum only applies to Team B (new interpretation for 2004)

The 4<sup>th</sup> down fumble rule doesn't apply if there is a change of team possession during the down

### **2004 MWC Clinic Exam Answers**

1. F	13. F	25. T
2. F	14. F	26. T
3. T	15. F	27. T
4. T	16. T	28. F
5. F	17. T	29. T
6. T	18. F	30. T
7. T	19. T	31. T
8. T	20. T	32. T
9. F	21. T	33. F
10. F	22. T	34. T
11. T	23. T	
12. F	24. F	

Thanks to Supervisor Ken Riveria for supplying this test.

### **Practical stuff**

I have received an error message for these email addresses, so if there is any problems with the below addresses, please let me know.

[oliver@wintgenundpartner.de](mailto:oliver@wintgenundpartner.de)

### **By the book - Answers**

1: b, d. (4-1-3-o, 8-5-1-a, 8-5-1-b Exc. 1)

2: c, e. (8-4-1-a, 8-6-1-b, 8-6-2)

3: c. (4-1-2-b-1)

4: a. (3-2-1-a)