

# EFAF Officiating Newsletter

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## Editor's Note

By Frank Kristensen



All the major conferences in the US have an Officiating Supervisor, who sets the pace and decides on the philosophy that all the officials must follow.

They also have a body like the Rules Committee, which sets a tone for the entire conference in terms of how they want different situations handled.

At this year's EJC it once again became clear that in EFAF we have neither and we need both.

The Supervisor's job is divided among several people, who all do a good job, but there is no one person, who calls the shots and makes the decisions. This automatically creates confusion and discussion, and we, very often, end up doing things the way the referee wants them done. This makes it hard to be consistent.

The EFAF Board or the leaders of a Tournament may have some ideas as to how they want the games officiated, but this has never been effectively and officially communicated to the Officiating Department. Where some may see it as interference from the EFAF Board, I would welcome a set of guidelines from EFAF.

In my opinion, it would be great to know exactly what is expected of you, and how the leadership wants you to react in different situations.

So what is needed? First of all, the EFAF BOD needs to make a set of guidelines for interpretations and philosophy and incorporate this in a European Rulebook, so that everything a European official needs is in one and the same book. I am sure the Officiating Department would be more than happy to help with this task.

Second, we need one Supervisor with the final say in all matters pertaining to the playing rules. Just off the top of my head I could name half a dozen people, who would be more than qualified for the job. It would end all our discussions on how to do this or that, mechanically and how to interpret this or that rule.

If anyone disagrees with the above, please let me know. I welcome all points of view.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to any official, who might be interested in reading it.

## From the Battlefield European Youth Championships, Stockholm Sweden

By Frank Kristensen, Newsletter Editor



Below is a diary from the EJC in Stockholm, which I wrote on my PDA during the week.

### Saturday, 22 July

I'm sitting in the stands before the game Sweden-Russia. Earlier today, I worked as BJ in the first game of the day and the tournament.

The game went really well as we only had 10 fouls for the entire game. I had three OH and a CLP.

Even though there are 20 officials at this tournament and only two games every day, two of the officials who worked the first game with me, are also working the second game. The reason for this is that both games each day are in the same group, and the officials are not allowed to work games in the same group as their country. This means that each day, 8 of the 20 officials will be unable to work at all. That leaves 12 officials and since 14 are needed, some of us will have to work double headers each day.

Our game went very well. It was fair and pretty close and we had a good time even though it was very hot.

On one of the OH I had with the LJ, we may have had the flag in the wrong spot, which meant that the enforcement spot might have been incorrect. Tomorrow's film meeting will show. Hopefully.

We live in a youth hostel, with four people to a pretty small room, (the theme song for the tournament was "Living in a Box") but since we are practically only going to sleep there, I'm sure it will be fine. The hostel is only a 5 minute walk from the stadium, and right across the street from the stadium is a school where we eat and have our meetings.

### Sunday, 23 July

The second game yesterday kicked off at 6PM and afterwards we went to a sports bar, which was only a five minute walk from the hostel. It was a fun night.

I will say just a couple of things about the second game. The referee, Ralph from Holland, managed to show his athletic abilities when he got caught by a scrambling QB reversing direction. He was good at getting back up after falling on his butt. ;-)

Also, he managed to blow the ball ready for play with the microphone turned on. Come to think of it, I believe Arnold did that too at the last championship in Moscow. Maybe it is a Dutch thing.

The theme song for the tournament was "Living in a box".

### Monday, 24 July

Yesterday I didn't work any games at all, since both games were in Denmark's group. It was nice to watch the colleagues, but I would rather have been on the field, making the calls.

Today, on the other hand, I have a double header, so I will have my hands full.

### Tuesday, 25 July

I can honestly say that my legs are somewhat tired after two intense games yesterday. The first game went fine with 17 fouls and good control all game long. One player was disqualified, but due to a language barrier between the referee and the head coach the team didn't realize the player had been disqualified, so on the next series he was on the field. Luckily our LJ quickly noticed and the player was escorted off the field. Again.

The second game was a different story all together. It was a hard fought game with, unfortunately, a lot of fouls. 32 in all. We had our fair share of procedural fouls at the LOS, but we also had a number of OHs and IBBs. Last night a few of us looked at the tape and agreed that most of the calls were ok. We had few we could have left alone and a few we could have called but all in all, maybe it was just our turn to have a tough game.

We play on a field with artificial turf. The sun is on the field most of the day, and it makes for some very hot games. You can practically feel the heat reflecting off of the turf. Maybe that is the reason I am beginning to get blisters on my feet. So far, it is not a big deal. Let's hope it stays that way.

Every morning at our video session we also spend a few minutes looking at a quiz question. These are interesting situations I have received from PAC-10 linesman, Jeff Hansen. They all pick on some little detail in the rules that is dissected through our discussion. It's a lot of fun.

I usually don't like to pick on my fellow officials (?!?) but something happened in today's first game that I just have to share with you.

There is a flag and a small discussion after which the Italian referee, who shall remain nameless (Max) announces the result. That prompts some more discussion which results in our referee turning on the microphone to announce that: "After reviewing the play, there is no KCI as the kick had touched the ground before the contact." Apparently we now have instant replay at the EJC. ;-)  
In defense of the crew, they did end up getting the call right.

After reviewing the play, there is no KCI as...

#### **Thursday, 27 July**

This morning started with our daily meeting. It was, however, a bit unusual that the Tournament Management was represented by Tommy Viking and Roope Noronen. They wanted to talk to us about the philosophy of calling UNC. Basically he wanted us to call UNC according to Rule 9. This a different and more strict approach than our normal EFAF procedure, and we agreed that for future reference these wishes for philosophy and interpretation from the EFAF top should be communicated our Officiating Board, so they can be presented at our annual clinic.

We then spent a bit of time ironing out the details of how we were going to administer the new, strict interpretation.

I worked two games yesterday, and my legs are tired. Again. I was the BJ in both games and in the first game, for some reason, I felt "out of focus". On a couple of occasions my clock-communication to the R was late and I hesitated on an Incomplete-signal in the endzone. I can't really explain it. In the third quarter our LJ went down with a pulled muscle in the calf, so we went to 6-man mechanics. For me that meant that I moved from BJ to FJ. I may not sound like a big adjustment, but the keys change, and the movement pattern is very different. All of a sudden I had out of bounds coverage on runs to my side and I was much more involved in ball relay. On punts I had progress, and on one occasion I really screwed up. The punt rolls out of bounds on my sideline, and I notice which yardline. As I am moving to the spot, I make sure not to look at the ground, so I look at some of the players in my area, and I see a late hit, which I flag. After the funny whistle and signalling to stop the clock, I proceed to go to the U and the R to tell them what I have before they have a chance to place the ball ready for play. Unfortunately, I forgot to drop a beanbag at the progress spot, and no one else had picked it up, so when the R asked me where the dead ball spot was all I could think of was "duhhh". I looked out to the sideline and I noticed an empty water bottle on the sideline very close to where I think the ball went out. I figured that the only person that could have placed the bottle there would be my colleague, Micha from Austria, who was on the sideline supplying us with water, so with all the confidence I could muster I told the R that the OOB spot was at the B10. Thank you Micha, for saving my butt on that one. ☺

The second game went a lot better. It probably helped that I spent a lot of time before the game, challenging myself to improve on my first game.

The only real miss I had was on a pass play where my key crossed patterns with the FJ's key, and for some reason I stayed with the wrong player. Unfortunately he ended up catching a TD pass and he may have committed OPI in the process.

On a smaller note I have developed a habit of adjusting flags, where the spot is irrelevant, as for instance late hit PF. I will see if I can get rid of that habit again.

Yesterday night we went to an Irish Pub because "our" sports bar was full. It was fun.

#### **Friday, 28 July**

All the group games have been played and today is a resting day for the teams. This morning we went on a boat ride in the Stockholm harbour. It was really nice. This afternoon I took a nap. Tonight we are going to the Irish Pub for dinner and hanging out.

#### **Saturday, 29 July**

The day started with a meeting where Supervisor Eigil Norén informed us of the playoff assignments. I couldn't have been happier with my assignment had I picked it myself. I worked the game for seventh place this morning and I will work another game tomorrow.

This morning's game was very close and both teams had problems scoring. I ended up with 4 fouls and one very interesting story. Finland went up 12-0 and on their PAT attempt, they faked the kick and went for two

points. During the pass towards the endzone, the FJ and I (BJ) saw the biggest DPI in the history of football, after which the ball was intercepted and run back to the A2. Funnily enough, our R was very much out of breath as he came back to us after staying with the return the entire 100 yards. We decided to enforce the DPI, half the distance to the goalline and replay, but it wasn't until after the game that we started wondering if the receiver had even been eligible. Before the snap the FJ and I had noticed the numbers of our eligible receivers, but after the play, we did not even talk about the number of the receiver. I hope we got I right.

### **Sunday, 30 July**

This morning we looked at the tape and it turned out that we were lucky. The fouled receiver had in fact been eligible not only by number (which the FJ had noticed during the play, but also by position, which we had not double checked. Lesson learned: For the officials under the posts, make sure to get the numbers of the eligibles and for the R and U, make sure to notice the numbers on the interior line. Especially if you see some non-interior line numbers in there.

I worked the final today as BJ and was a fantastic game. It was intense from start to finish and it even included a great come-back victory. I had three flags, none of which I had any doubts about. Two UNC and a FM15.

Tomorrow we go home. A little wiser and a lot of great experiences richer. Thank you to all who made it a great week.

Check out these links for a lot of great pictures:

[http://www.sharksfootball.dk/EJC2006/EJC\\_2006.htm](http://www.sharksfootball.dk/EJC2006/EJC_2006.htm)

<http://cillen.com/ejc2006/>

## **The Book Corner**

*By Thomas Hofbauer*

The Man in Black

A History of the football referee

By Gordon Thomson (1998)

ISBN 1-85375-284-3



It is a British book. The author was born in Glasgow and moved to London. So it is just natural that the term football is used instead of soccer and I will change that fact for better understanding!

The blame for inventing soccer is put on the good old Romans. Around the mid-1500s they drew up a set of rules for „calcio storico“ If you go to Florence in July you can see that game still played.

The rest is partially known and comparable to real football. Schools and universities trying to compete but the lack of a uniform set of rules prevented it. Funny things like a „bully“ or a „ruck“ were in the old rules and even for soccer it was interesting that a certain William Webb Ellis just picked up a ball and ran with it. October 26 in 1863 was the day when The Football Association was found in Great Britain and started cleaning up the mess. It took a couple of years. The goalkeeper was introduced in 1870. He had to wear a cap to be identified. Goal kicks were invented in 1869 and corners in 1872. By 1874 umpires were allowed to send off players if the opposing captain agreed. In 1886 the size of the ball was fixed and wooden goalposts became mandatory. Enough of old history and numbers. Let's move to the officials.

In 1891 umpires left the pitch (it was a field as well!) to be replaced by a single referee. Linesman started to „walk the line“ without real responsibilities. They used a handkerchief, a stick or their voice to attract the referee's attention. In 1934 Sir Stanley Rous invented the „diagonal run method“. We would call it the first written mechanics for football. During the 1950s referees started to wear uniforms to become better recognizable.

The book is full of stories about the old world cups and other interesting facts. During the 1974 World cup referees received 20 pounds a day, which had to cover all expenses, including taxi and laundry. In regard to the overall situation we should never complain about our situation!

The invention of red and yellow cards and their first use during World Cup 1970 should be mentioned as well. They were found to make communication on the field possible because of language problems in international games.

The book is filled with personal stories about events, mostly in GB or during World Cups. And there is a full chapter about experiences from British Refs in South America, where they helped out for a long period of time and not all of them were killed from the mob.

Overall recommended, especially because it gives a nice overlook about soccer and I experienced that background knowledge about it helps you when you talk to people in Europe and tell them that you are a referee, regardless what sport. Nobody knows how offside rules came into being and that there were different sets as well.

Join me next time when we switch to the Canadian League with „Crimes and Punishment“.

## 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.

For answers, click [here](#).

1. Fourth and 10 for team K from its own 30 yardline. R1, rushing punter K2, dives in an effort to block the kick but misses. He slides on the ground and winds up under the punter's kicking leg, which is still in the air. As K2, leg returns to the ground, he accidentally steps on R1. That causes K2 to lose his balance and fall.

- a. That's roughing the kicker.
- b. That's running into the kicker.
- c. No foul.

2. Third and 20 on team A's 24 yardline. A1's forward pass falls to the ground untouched and incomplete at his 48 yardline. Before the pass was released, B5 was flagged for holding tight end A2 at team A's 32 yardline. The penalty is accepted.

- a. The penalty is five yards only.
- b. The penalty is five yards and an automatic first down.
- c. The penalty is 10 yards only.
- d. The penalty is 10 yards and an automatic first down.

3. Fourth and 12 on team K's 30 yardline. K1's punt lands on team R's 35 yardline and bounces high into the air. After the ball strikes the ground, R1 gives a fair-catch signal, recovers the ball at his 30 yardline and is immediately tackled by K3.

- a. The fair-catch signal is valid.
- b. The fair-catch signal is invalid.
- c. The fair-catch signal is illegal.
- d. Team R is penalized five yards.
- e. Team R is penalized 15 yards.
- f. There is no penalty.
- g. The ball was dead when R1 recovered it.
- h. The ball remained live when R1 recovered it.

4. First and 10 at team A's 20 yardline. Quarterback A1 runs to team A's 23 yardline, retreats to team A's 16 yardline and throws a pass that is caught by eligible A2 at team A's 37 yardline.

- a. Legal play.
- b. A1 is guilty of an illegal forward pass.
- c. The penalty is five yards from the previous spot and a loss of down.
- d. The penalty is five yards from the spot of the pass and a loss of down.
- e. The penalty is five yards from the previous spot but no loss of down.
- f. The penalty is five yards from the spot of the pass but no loss of down.

5. A1 snaps the ball before the referee has given the ready-for-play signal. After blowing his whistle to stop the play, the referee should:

- a. Assess a 15 yard penalty for UNC.
- b. Assess a five-yard penalty and give the delay of game signal.
- c. Assess a five-yard penalty and give the rolling fists signal.
- d. Assess no penalty, but warn A1 to wait for the ready.

## Websites of interest

By Frank Kristensen, Newsletter editor

Einar has it. Fereed has it. All of the Danish officials have it. You can too. I'm talking about MSN Messenger. Go to [www.msn.com](http://www.msn.com), download the program and add me to your contacts. I will then tell you who else is available. It is really neat.

## Words from the wise

This is the beginning of a new segment in the Newsletter. From a colleague in Belgium I have received these texts, which he has collected over the years. Whenever possible, the author is credited. I found them very inspirational. Enjoy.



### Dealing Successfully with Players and Coaches

Like it or not, a critical component of whether you succeed as an official is how you are perceived by players and coaches. By doing the right things, you will enhance your chances for acceptance, which is the foundation for becoming a successful official. Coaches and players battling with officials is fruitless because the winner of that battle was decided long ago when the officials signed their contracts. Officials have the power and the control.

There is a big difference between power and control. Power is ego-centered and confrontational. Control is professional, objective, and congenial. The successful official achieves control because he understands that people are reacting to his role... not him. It's his uniform that commands attention.

#### Dealing with players:

Officials are there to help the players play the game. If the team decides the officials are adversaries, then the team's focus will be divided and they are handicapping themselves by trying to overcome two forces instead of one. Show the players the dignity and respect befitting their extensive preparation and training before the contest even began. When players ask you to watch a situation react as though you are interested in their problems. Don't shrug off their complaints. And, be sure to keep your hands off the players.

#### Dealing with coaches:

The basic premise of coach-official relationships is that they should not be adversaries. The control official will anticipate the coach's "style" and have a prepared response for his actions and concerns. Should a coach bring up alleged opponent misbehaviour, the official will reflect his neutrality while at the same time acknowledging the coach's concern. "Thanks for alerting us - we'll be watching for that with both teams". This response helps the official stay centered on the issue and inspires confidence.

Always keep in mind that the coach has the poorest vantage point on the field and what goes on is often confusing to him. They need to be personally informed and it is the duty of the official to explain things to him. If a coach questions a call, tell him the reason for it, but defuse the argument with firmness and an even tone. If he persists in arguing, try standing side-by-side with him. It is virtually impossible to have a shouting argument when two people are not facing each other. But, don't explain too much! You never have to defend what you didn't say. More officials get in trouble with their comments than with their calls. This takes tremendous self-discipline but the best officials do it easily and consistently.

## The Frank Study Guide

By Frank Kristensen, Newsletter editor

I started including pre-snap lists for different positions from my Study Guide, and then, for some reason, I stopped.

From now on, this will be a regular section in the Newsletter. It will either be a pre-snap list of some sort, or it will be a discussion of some sort, like the one below, which deals with special rules for KCI.

## KCI

Rules 6-4 and 6-5

Please note that there are three different situations here.

### With no fair catch signal.

"The donut is toast". In general, if A gets close, and the kick is dropped, then we probably have KCI. KCI is a spot foul, which means enforced from the spot of the A foul. See below with fair catch and muff.



### With valid fair catch signal

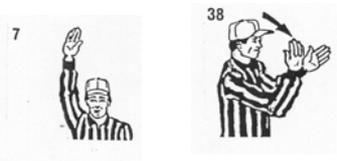
Team A cannot interfere with the receiver OR ball. If the ball carooms several yards away from the receiver where he could not possibly get to it before touching the ground - Team A can legally touch the ball or the receiver - judgement call. Also, only the signaler gets protection -- and only the signaler has the unimpeded right to catch the muffed kick.

Also, if the kick is muffed, and then caught, say, two yards from the spot of the muff, the ball must be brought back to the spot of the muff. This is also the enforcement spot for any KCI fouls.



### With invalid fair catch signal

The ball dies when recovered. The returner only has dead-ball protection.



## The MWC Pre-season Test

By Land Clark

### Passing plays:

- QB A14's legal forward pass is intercepted by B47 in B's end zone where he fumbles. B63 recovers on B's 4 while grounded. During the fumble, B56 clipped A74 on the B-6.
  - During the last timed down of the 4th quarter.
  - During a try with :30 seconds remaining on the clock.
- A 2/10 A-20. Receiver A88 steps out of bounds, on his own at the A-25 and immediately returns inbounds. QB A2 throws a forward pass toward A88. On the A-40, A88 attempts to catch the pass but does not touch the ball. B44 is able to make a diving catch on the A-45.
  - B33 blocks A88 below the waist as he returned inbound
  - B33 pushes A88 out of the way as A88 attempts the catch.
- A 3/G B-10. B44 intercepts A2's legal forward pass and while still airborne...
  - One yard deep in B's end zone, B44 is hit in the back by A88 and driven to the B-2 where he is downed.
  - On the B-2, B44 is hit in the chest by A88 and driven into B's end zone where he is downed.

4. A 1/10 A-40. A2 throws a forward pass to A88. Before B55 can intercept the ball he is pushed in back above the waist

- a. By A77 at the A-35, the ball is untouched.
- b. By A77 at the A-35, the ball is touched by B55.
- c. By wide receiver A88, at the A-45, the ball is untouched.
- d. By wide receiver A88, at the A-45 the ball is touched by B55.
- e. By wide receiver A88, at the A-35, the ball is untouched.

The ball falls incomplete.

5. A 1/10 A-20. A88 reaches for a pass and muffs it up into the air at the A-30. Having no idea where the ball is A88 pushes B22 to the ground to prevent him from intercepting. The ball falls incomplete.

A 1/10 A-20. A88 reaches for a pass and muffs it up into the air and it falls incomplete. At the A25, while the pass was in flight before A88 touched it...

B22 holds A88.

B22 forcefully contacts A88 with a forearm to the head.

Running Plays:

A 1/10 A-20. A88 reaches for a pass and muffs it up into the air and it falls incomplete. At the A25, while the pass was in flight before A88 touched it...

- a. B22 holds A88.
- b. B22 forcefully contacts A88 with a forearm to the head.

## Answers

- |                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1a. Deleted                         |                               |
| 1b. CLP; Safety; B's FK B-20 Extend | 9-1-2-d, 10-2-2-c, 10-2-2-f-2 |
| 1c. CLP; Try over; A's FK A-35      | 8-3-4-a, 9-1-2-d              |
| 2a. B 1/10 B-40 Snap                | 9-1-2-e-3                     |
| 2b. B 1/10 B-40 Snap                | 7-3-4, 7-3-8-c                |
| 3a. B 1/10 B-2 Snap                 | 2-8-2, 5-1-3 exception        |
| 3b. B 1/10 B-2 Snap                 | 2-8-2, 5-1-3 exception        |
| 4a. IBW; A 1/20 A30 Snap            | 9-3-3-c exception 5           |
| 4b. A 2/10 A-40 Snap                | 9-3-3-c exception 3           |
| 4c. OPI; A 1/25 A-25 Snap           | 7-3-8-b                       |
| 4d. A 2/10 A-40 Snap                | 9-3-3-c exception 3           |
| 4e. A2/10 A-40 Snap                 | 9-3-3-c exception 5           |
| 5. A 2/10 A-20 Snap                 | 7-3-9-b                       |
| 6a. DPI; A 1/10 A25 Snap            | 7-3-9-e                       |
| 6b. UNR; A 1/10 A-35 Snap DQ B22    | 7-3-9-e, 9-1-1                |

## Strange things do happen

By Frank Kristensen, Newsletter editor



In last month's issue, the below situation was described and discussed.

*The QB takes the snap and quickly passes the ball to a WR. The QB intentionally throws the ball backwards and into the ground after which the WR picks up the ball and team A stops as if the ball is dead. They stop for about 5 seconds, after which the WR takes off for the B endzone.*

I have received some comments, and a couple of points need to be made. First of all, as Einar and others have pointed out, I should have made it clear, that the interpretation was mine and Arnold's and not one from our BoD. I apologize.

Secondly, It seems that not all agree with the ruling we came up with. See for example this link, sent to me from Kalle in Finland: <http://www.gmcgriff.com/discus/messages/4/4584.html>

So the question remains. What is the EFAF ruling on this play? I hereby call on our BoD (Peter, Perttu and Thomas), our Mechanics committee (Jim) and our Review Committee (Ari) to send me their opinions on this play, so we can figure out how this play should be handled.

## **Practical stuff**

If you get a new email address, please let me know, so I can update my file. That will also ensure that you always receive the Newsletter and other pieces of information from EFAF.

The below is a list of the email addresses that did not work when I sent out the last issue.

[mikewylde@tcp.co.uk](mailto:mikewylde@tcp.co.uk)  
[mbjermo@yahoo.com](mailto:mbjermo@yahoo.com)  
[shoslett@comcast.net](mailto:shoslett@comcast.net)  
[oleg.larin@mto-net.ru](mailto:oleg.larin@mto-net.ru)  
[grobinsom@ada.con.com](mailto:grobinsom@ada.con.com)  
[walhalla@netway.at](mailto:walhalla@netway.at)  
[mami@blitz.ruc.dk](mailto:mami@blitz.ruc.dk)  
[jan.kickert@globalnet.net](mailto:jan.kickert@globalnet.net)  
[alref@bellsouth.net](mailto:alref@bellsouth.net)  
[barryanderson@bellsouth.net](mailto:barryanderson@bellsouth.net)  
[hemitch4@bellsouth.net](mailto:hemitch4@bellsouth.net)

## **By the book - Answers**

- 1: c. (9-3-a3)
- 2: d. (9-3-4-e)
- 3: c, f, g. (2-7-2 through 4)
- 4: b, d. (7-3-2-e)
- 5: c. (4-1-4)

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Views and comments expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the EFAF Officiating Department.

Articles and such may be shortened or edited.

Excerpts or articles may be copied with clear reference to source.