

EFAF Officiating Newsletter

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Editor’s Note

As some of you may know, our Irish colleague, Steve Stacher had a stroke immediately after a game shortly after our clinic in Prague. He is still hospitalised, and not doing very well. Our thoughts and best wishes go to Steve and his family, and if anyone hears anything, please let us know.

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.

3.5 Fouls that always involve advantage

The following fouls always involve advantage, even if it doesn’t appear so, and shall be called:

1. **Illegal formation:** It is always a foul when Team A has only six (or fewer) men on the line of scrimmage at the snap. Team A gains a blocking advantage by being further away from the defense. However, the seventh man must be “obviously” off

- the line; no player (other than the quarterback) should ever be ruled as being neither on the line nor in the backfield – if in doubt consider him as being in the position to make things most legal or (as a wing official) adjust your position slightly to adjust the line of scrimmage to his benefit.
2. **Locking legs:** It is always a foul when offensive linemen (other than the center) lock legs at the snap on a scrimmage-kick play. It advantages the kicking team by closing down the gap to a potential kick blocker, and also leaves the linemen susceptible to leg injuries.
 3. **Offensive pass interference:** Blocking downfield by the offense (against a player in pass coverage) on a forward pass play before the ball is thrown is always offensive pass interference. The defense (particularly the safeties) may see a block and read the play as a run, so drawing coverage away from the destination of the subsequent pass. (see section 3.2 for how to call offensive pass interference while the ball is in flight.)
 4. **Handing the ball forward illegally:** Handing the ball forward (except where allowed by rule is always a foul. A team can gain significant yardage (as well as the benefits of deception) from this illegal play.
 5. **Encroachment:** Encroachment by the kicking team on an onside-kick (deliberately or otherwise) is always a foul. Any advantage gained, however small, may be significant. If team B recovers the ball, the penalty will almost certainly be declined.
 6. **Team A player out of bounds:** Whenever any Team A player returns inbounds after going out of bounds during a kick play, or an eligible receiver touches the ball after going out of bounds during a pass play, it is always a foul. A Team A player leaving the field of play gains an advantage by avoiding being blocked. Remember that a player is out of bounds even if only one foot touches the sideline or end line – this must be called.
 7. **Kick catch interference:** It is always a foul when contact, however slight, is made with a player in position (or moving to position) to catch a kick in flight. His balance will have been disturbed, so hindering his ability to catch the ball cleanly. (See also section 3.3)

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

Monarchs-Crusaders 23.04.05

R-Einar Bolstad, **U**-Frank Rasmussen, **H**-Jens Toft, **L**-Fereed Adus, **BJ**-Eigil Noren, **FJ**-Frank Kristensen, **SJ**-Thomas Lund-Hansen.

This was the first EFAF game of the year for me, and my preparation had started the night before, when we worked the first Friday Night Football game of the Danish season. Frank Rasmussen and I worked this EFAF Cup game for free, which meant a 7-man crew. The night before we had also worked 7-man mechanics, so we were well prepared. It was a good crew and a good game, so I will only mention two different situations.

As FJ I start backing up when I see my key going deep. As I get to the goalline, I stop and back away from the field on the goalline extended, and as my key gets ready to catch the ball in the end zone close to the sideline, I move back up to the pylon to rule on inbounds/out of bounds. So far so good. That worked well for me, and I sent a kind thought to mr. Pierattelli, for his vivid illustration of this mechanic at our clinic in Prague.

Now take the same situation from the B7. I am on the goalline and the WR catches the ball in the end zone close to my sideline. My first impulse was to move up to the pylon, but it hit

me that the LJ was already in perfect position at the sideline, so I ended up covering the catch more or less from my original position. It worked well in the actual situation, but I am still not sure that it was mechanically correct.

If it is incorrect, I risk blocking the view of a stationary colleague and I risk having to make a tight call for a potential score while on the move.

If it is correct, that raises the question of how far away from the end zone I should let the wing rule on "my" sideline. What if the LOS had been the B10? The B12? The B15, and so on. This situation is not covered in our Manual as far as I can see, but we need to agree on how to cover this. Anyone with an opinion is more than welcome to send me an email, and I will put it in the next issue.

The other situation I want to mention included two "firsts" for me. Two players were blocking each other and they fell to the ground. Then the defender took a full swing and punched his opponent in the stomach. My first EFAF disqualification. Einar, the referee, and I went to inform the head coach, and his comment to our decision was the other "first" in that game. What was the comment from the disqualified player's coach? "Good call!"

Frank Kristensen
Field Judge

Crusaders-1814's 30.04.05

R-Frank Rasmussen, **U**-Klas Leidoe, **H**-Thomas Hjalmarrsson, **L**-Øjvind Løken, **BJ**-Frank Kristensen.

Maybe I should just title this article "Peter, please...". Confused? Read on and you will understand.

Another EFAF game, another game with mr. Rasmussen. We meet in the Copenhagen Airport and proceed to check in. No problem. We get through all the security checks. No problem. We check the board to find out which gate to go to, and it says "please wait". No problem. About 40 minutes prior to the planned departure time we check the board again, and now it says Cancelled!!!! Big Problem!!!!

For some reason, the flight had been cancelled, so instead of flying to Carlstad, arriving at around midnight, they flew us to Oslo. That's right, not even the right country! From Oslo they put us on a bus to Carlstad, and we arrived at 4 AM in pouring rain at the Bus Station. By the time we found a taxi and got to the hotel and got to bed it was almost 5 AM.

The last time Frank R. flew to Sweden for an EFAF game they lost his luggage, and it didn't show up until 30 minutes before kick off, so here is the first half of the title explanation:

Peter, please... Don't send Frank R. to Sweden anymore, and if you do, leave me out of it!

The game itself was great. Both teams liked to throw deep, which really stretches a 5-man crew and puts a lot of pressure on the BJ, both quarterbacks liked to scramble and run the ball themselves, which really screws up the wings. Lots of challenges to go around.

Throw in a clock operator, that seemed to be biased toward the home team - we had to adjust the clock around 10 times - 31 fouls, and five lead changes in the second half, and you've got yourself a football game.

31 fouls are a lot of fouls, even when you consider that 12 of them were procedural, such as FST, DOG and DOF. I am looking forward to the review and a chance to see the tape to find out if we could/should have avoided any of them.

Throughout the game we felt in control, and all five scores in the second half changed the lead, so here is the second part of title explanation:
Peter, please... Feel absolutely free to assign me to any game, any where and with anyone if there is any chance for a game like this!! :-)

Frank Kristensen
Back Judge

Officiating salary

I thought it would be interesting to compare officiating salaries in different European countries.

This is how we are going to it:

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. I will include the results in the June issue.

Frank Kristensen
Editor

Quicktip

One method the referee can use to count the team A players is by staying behind the huddle to mark the ball ready for play instead of going to the line. By doing that, the referee can see substitutes enter and ensure that replaced players leave in a timely manner.

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Pre-snap lists

Here is the second of seven segments in this series. These are lists of what to think about during the dead-ball interval divided into the different positions.

I have taken it from my Study Guide, but they are by no means perfect or complete, so all kinds of suggestions are welcome.

Pre-snap list – FJ

7-man crew

Pinch (dead ball officiating)

Check the clock. (Should it stop? If yes, when should it start again?)

Check what down it is.

Count the defense and communicate to your colleagues.

Get to your position.

Find your key and your secondary key if your key goes in motion.

Communicate status of clock to R, if necessary.

6-man crew

Pinch (dead ball officiating)

Check the clock. (Should it stop? If yes, when should it start again?)

Check what down it is.

Count the defense and communicate to your colleagues.

Get to your position.

Find your key.

Communicate status of clock to R, if necessary.

When there is a flag

Pinch (dead ball officiate)

Stop the clock. Note when it should start again.

Write down the time and which official threw the flag.

Get in position to see the Referee's signals.

Write down the rest on your penalty card.

Communicate status of clock to R.

Count the defense and communicate to your colleagues.

Get to your position.

Find your key.

Frank Kristensen

Editor

EFAF Official profile

Name: Jan Kickert

Age: 31

Job: Secretary/University Administrator

Family status: Married with Lotta since 2000. A son, Mårten born June 2004. We live in Göteborg, Sweden.

Number of years as an official: 14

Number of years as an EFAF official: 7

Highlights as EFAF official: All nice people I've met from all over Europe. If I have to pick a certain game I chose the Badalona-Stockholm game in 2001.

Highlights as national official: National championship game as Referee 2003, League Official of the year 2001

Did you play football before becoming an official? Yes

Highlights as player: MVP and team captain in Junior National Team, Sweden-Finland 1992.

What do you do, to improve as an official? Watch other officials (both football ones and from other sports); watch game films, from the US and my own if I can get hold of'em; debate rules and lurk on internet forums; teach the rules to others

TASO Quiz

For all questions, answer with the correct down and distance, foul if applicable, penalty enforcement options, and the status of the clock. Some may be true or false.

1. 4th and 10 at the 50. A's punt is rolling at the B-20 when A23 illegally touches it. B88

picks it up at the 10 and returns it to the 50 where he fumbles. A43 recovers and is running at the B-40 when B78 commits an incidental facemask foul but A43 keeps running, and he takes it in for an apparent TD.

2. 4th and 10 at the 50. A's punt is rolling at the B-20 when A23 illegally touches it. B88 picks it up at the 10 and returns it to the 50 where he fumbles. A43 recovers and is running at the B-40 when B78 commits an incidental facemask foul but A43 keeps running, and he is tackled at the B-5 yardline.

3. 4th and 10 at the 50. A's punt is rolling at the B-20 when A23 illegally touches it. B88 picks it up at the 10 and returns it to the 50 where he fumbles. A43 recovers and is running at the B-40 when B78 commits a personal foul facemask foul but A43 keeps running, and he takes it in for an apparent TD.

4. 4th and 10 at the 50. A's punt is rolling at the B-20 when A23 illegally touches it. B88 picks it up at the 10 and returns it to the 50 where he fumbles. A43 recovers and is running at the B-40 when B78 commits a personal foul facemask foul but A43 keeps running, and he is tackled at the B-5 yardline.

5. A's ball free kick, on A's 35. A6's kick is rolling near the sideline on B's 4 when B22 bats the ball backward to keep a Team A player from recovering the ball. The ball hits the ground in B's end zone and then A88 falls on the ball in B's end zone.

6. Fourth and goal on B's 6. A7's field goal attempt is partially blocked, lands on B's 4, and takes a reverse bounce. B66 bats the ball backward on B's 7 and A77 picks up the ball in B's end zone.

7. Fourth and 10 on A's 25. B22 gives a valid fair catch signal. B22 muffs the ball on B's 42, is hit by A87 on B's 43 but catches the ball on B's 44.

Answers

1. The penalty is declined by rule, and is not enforced. The key to this ruling is a penalty not enforced. The privilege for enforcing an illegal touch is cancelled if there is a penalty enforced on the play. Team A will not have an option to enforce the facemask foul because it will be declined by rule. This will allow Team B to have the ball at the spot of illegal touching, 1st and 10 from their 20-yardline.

2. Because Team A did not score, they will want to enforce the facemask foul. This will cancel the illegal touching violation and Team A will get to keep the ball, 1st and goal from the 2 ½ yardline after enforcing half the distance for the facemask. Clock on the snap due to the legal kick play.

3. Team A will get to keep their touchdown, and the illegal touch will be ignored. The penalty will be enforced either on the PAT or the succeeding free kick.

4. This is similar to play 2. Again, the illegal touching will be ignored due to the enforcement of the penalty. Because Team A did not score, they will want to enforce the facemask foul. This will cancel the illegal touching violation and Team A will get to keep

the ball, 1st and goal from the 2 ½ yardline after enforcing half the distance for the facemask. Clock on the snap due to the legal kick play.

5. Touchdown. A's ball, try, on B's 3. The ball remains a live ball in B's end zone since the ball was touched by a Team B player before touching the ground in B's end zone. Team A recovered a live ball in B's end zone. The bat by B22 is legal since the ball was batted backward while in the field of play. However, the bat imparts new impetus. If a Team B player recovers and is downed in B's end zone or the ball goes out of bounds in B's end zone including hitting the goal line pylon, the result of the play is a safety.

6. Touchdown. A's ball, try, on B's 3. The ball remains a live ball in B's end zone since a Team B player touched the ball after the ball crossed the neutral zone. The batting by B66 is not a foul but does impart new impetus since the ball had previously hit the ground. A57 recovered a live ball in B's end zone.

7. B's ball, 1st and 10, on A's 42. Interference with the opportunity to make a fair catch. The 15yard penalty is enforced from the spot of the foul, B's 43. If there was no foul, the ball would next be put in play on B's 42, the spot of the muff. If B22 did not give a valid signal, there would be no foul and the ball would be put in play at the spot of the catch, B's 44.

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. Which of the following are legal methods of tackling a runner?
 - a. A cross-body block at the knees.
 - b. A trip with his foot.
 - c. Grabbing and pulling the jersey.
 - d. Using the opening at the back of the helmet.
 - e. A block from behind and below the waist.

2. K1's kick try is good. While the kick is in flight, R5 is flagged for grabbing and twisting the facemask of guard K9.
 - a. The penalty is automatically declined.
 - b. If team K accepts the penalty, it must be enforced from the succeeding spot.
 - c. Team K could choose to have the penalty enforced from the succeeding spot.
 - d. Team K could choose a replay of the down.

3. Quarterback A1 takes the snap and drops back to pass. Under a heavy rush, he scrambles towards the line of scrimmage. His passing arm and one of his feet are beyond the neutral zone when he throws a forward pass to A7.
 - a. Legal play. The passer's entire body must be beyond the zone for that to be a foul.
 - b. Foul. If only A1's arm had been beyond the zone, there would be no foul.
 - c. Foul. If any part of the passer's body is beyond the zone, it is a foul.
 - d. The penalty is five yards only.
 - e. The penalty is a loss of down only.

- f. The penalty is five yards and a loss of down.
4. Fourth and 10 for team K from its own 20 yardline. Team K is in punt formation. After adjusting the ball, snapper A1 slowly rises and turns to communicate with the punter. In the process, A1 removes both hands from the ball.
- Legal.
 - That's a snap infraction.

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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
goeman22@wanadoo.nl

By the book - Answers

- 1: a, b, c, e. (2-26-1, 2-28-1, 9-3-4-a, 9-1-2-s)
2: d. (10-2-2-g)
3: c, f. (7-3-2-a Pen)
4: a. (7-1-3-a-1-c)

Views and comments expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the EFAF Officiating Department. Articles and such may be shortened or edited.