

# EFAF Officiating Newsletter

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

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## Editor's Note

As with everything in life, there are ups and downs in football too.

A couple of weeks ago, The Danish federation had a great day because the first regular season game was shown on Danish TV. Our board has worked very hard to get this deal and now their hard work has finally paid off. More games will follow, and this channel can actually also be seen online. If you go to [www.4sport.dk](http://www.4sport.dk) you can see our games. Even though everything is in Danish, you should be able to find it. "Dagens Program" is the program of the day, and there you only have to look for Towers, Monarchs, Knights, Razorbacks or Kings. When you have located the program, all you have to do is click on "Se 4sport her" which means "see 4sport here". The first (and so far only game) was shown 4 or 5 times, so it should be possible to catch it. The next scheduled TV-game is on Friday 10 June between the Monarchs and the Kings. Keep an eye out for it.

A week after the first TV-game, last year's finalist, Herning Hawks, pulled out of the Tournament, due to a lack of players. This is the first time ever, we have had to cancel games in our top division, The National League. I don't want to speculate as to why this could happen. I just think it is sad for the federation that the club could not keep it together.

Ups and downs, the good with the bad, rolling with the punches. The list goes on. Hopefully we can continue the growth and expand the TV-exposure. It certainly is a lot of fun to have cameras on the sideline. ☺

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.

### 3.7 – Other rules applications

1. It is not a fumble if the ball is stripped after the runner has been thrown back. The ball is dead once the runner is so held that his forward progress is stopped.
2. Don't be picky about fair catch signals. Any waving signal or raising a single arm above the head is sufficient to indicate that a fair catch has been called for. Players obviously shading their eyes from the sun have **not** signalled for a fair catch. Any "get away" signal after the ball touches the ground should be ignored.
3. If the field is not marked to the correct length. Team A's restraining line on kickoffs shall be the line 15 yards from the halfway line. If that line is not properly marked, use the 30-yard line or nearest marked line. If this is not possible, or the kickoff position is changed due to a penalty, use the chain to identify the position of each team's restraining line. If in doubt, the chain can be used to measure whether a spot of first touching is illegal or not.
4. A catch should not be regarded as completed if the player never demonstrates complete control over the further disposal of the ball.

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

## Coverage of the sideline in the endzone

In the last issue of the Newsletter I mentioned a couple of situations in an EFAF game:

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.

After talking with several deep officials from different conferences, here is their answer:

Both said that when if they started at the GL pylon (not in GL mechanics), they would assume full responsibility of the sideline in the EZ, no matter where the ball was snapped.

Both also agreed with you - that unless the pass was at least 4 yards deep into the EZ they would stay wide and concentrate on receivers feet - then ball - but still take primary responsibility of the sideline. Anything deeper than about 4 yards in the EZ they will move back to the GL pylon and straddle the sideline. Interestingly, neither one said they were relying on help from the wing guy if the pass is in the EZ, only if in the field of play.

I will leave it with our mechanics committee to decide if this should be adopted by EFAF and spelled out in our manual.

Frank Kristensen  
Editor and deep official

## **New system for EFAF Officiating**

This just in from Perttu and the Officiating Committee.

The new system for EFAF Officials will look like this. Each country will have an opportunity to have two officials on the Senior EFAF Staff. Both officials have to have the highest national license and they also have to attend the EFAF clinic every year. If either condition is not met, it is not possible to continue on the Senior Staff. If a country only has one official with the highest license, then that country can only have one Senior EFAF Official until more qualify.

Apart from the Senior Staff, each country can have more "Active officials". If a country has under 100 national officials, it will get 2 spots for Active Officials. Over 100 nationals will yield three Active Officials and over 500 nationals will yield four Actives.

Apart from this, each country will get two spots for Active Officials for each club team and one Active Official for each National Team participating in EFAF Tournaments.

Active Officials have to come from the "Associated List", and Actives have to attend the EFAF Clinic every two years.

Apart from the above two categories, it will be possible to have an unlimited number of national officials on the "Associate List". To remain on the Associated List, officials must attend the clinic every four years.

Also, there are plans for a test in English for Senior and Active Officials, and much more, but that will be revealed when it has been finalised. Questions to the above should be directed to Perttu and the Officiating Committee.

Frank Kristensen  
Editor

## **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.

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

So far, I have heard from four countries, and Denmark is terribly behind, but there is still time to hear from more countries, so if your country is not mentioned above, please send me an email.

Frank Kristensen  
Editor

## Pre-snap lists

Here is the next 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 – SJ

#### 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.

Frank Kristensen  
Editor

## EFAF Official profile

**Name:** Thomas König

**Age:** 40

**Job:** Administrator / quality manager

**Family status:** Married to EFAF official Martina König, 1 son

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

Since 1999

**Highlights as EFAF official:**

EFAF cup final 2002, Eurobowl semifinal 2004

**Highlights as national official:**

Austrian Bowl XVIII, XIX, XX.

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

Yes

**Highlights as player:**

Winner of 2<sup>nd</sup> division

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

Clinics, read.

## 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. The restriction for crack back blocking is anywhere behind the neutral zone and up to 10 yards beyond the neutral zone when a Team A lineman is outside of the 7-yard area and when a backfield player is outside of the normal tackle position. True or False
2. When the ball is behind the line of scrimmage, the Referee is responsible for it and the wingmen are responsible for the pitchmen. True or False
3. It is recommended that all wing officials start inside their 9-yard marks (top of the numbers) if the ball is snapped on the opposite harsh mark. True or False
4. A's ball 1st and 10 at their own 20, clock is running. After breaking the huddle, all Team A players get set for 1 second. Then back A23 goes into motion. He stops, but before 1 second elapses, A31 goes into motion. Running back A45 carries for 10 yards. Ruling (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)
5. 3rd and 3 for Team A at Team B's 6 yard line. Running back A23 gains four yards to the two-yard line, where he fumbles and the ball rolls out of bounds at the one-yard line. Ruling (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

6. 4th and goal at the three-yard line. A12 attempts to hand the ball to A45. The ball hits A45 in the chest and falls to the ground. A45 picks the ball up at the 4 yard line and runs for a touchdown. Ruling (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

7. Team A's ball. 3rd at 4 at the A-40 yard line. Halfback A23 is positioned in the backfield outside the tight end and is stationary at the snap. At the snap, A23 moves toward the spot of the snap and blocks defensive tackle B79 below the waist at the A-40 yard line. The quarterback keep the ball and runs for a touchdown on the play. Ruling (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

8. Team A's ball, 1st and 10 on their own 20, clock is not running. On an option play to the right, quarterback A12 pitches the ball to A34 who runs for 4 yards when his forward momentum is stopped. Defender B26 pushes A34 backward and out of bounds (no foul). Ruling (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

9. Any offensive player (Team A) is eligible to receive a forward handoff behind the line of scrimmage without exception. True or False

10. Team A's ball, 3rd and 6 from their 33 yard line. On a run by A14, B76 makes the tackle behind the line for a loss of three yards. On the tackle, B76 is flagged for an incidental facemask. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

11. Team A's ball, 4th and 6 from their 33 yard line. On a run by A14, B76 makes the tackle behind the line for a loss of three yards. On the tackle, B76 is flagged for an incidental facemask. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

12. Team A's ball, 4th and 6 from their 33 yard line. A23 runs for 3 yards and goes out of bounds at the A-36. He is tackled 5 yards out of bounds by B76 after the whistle was sounded. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

13. Team A's ball, 2nd and 3 from the A-40. Wingback A17, who is lined up inside the right tackle (2nd lineman from the snapper) blocks B45 below the waist and toward the ball at the A-43. A21 gains 6 yards on the play. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

14. Team A's ball, 2nd and 3 from the A-40. Wingback A17, who is lined up outside of the right tackle (2nd lineman from the snapper) blocks B45 below the waist and toward the ball at the A-43. A21 gains 6 yards on the play and runs out of bounds. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

15. Team A's ball at their own 20 yard line, 1st and 10. Quarterback A14 hands the ball forward to running back A34 who runs for 8 yards. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

16. 4th and 10 for Team A from the A-3 yard line. Punter A23, under heavy rush, is unable to kick the ball. He is hit by B35 and fumbles the ball. A76 picks the ball up in the endzone and runs for 25 yards. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

17. 3rd and 10 for Team A from the A-3 yard line. Quarterback A23 in shot gun formation, under heavy rush, attempts to, but is unable to, kick the ball. He is hit by B35 and fumbles

the ball. A76 picks the ball up in the end zone and runs to the A-25 yard line. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

18. Team A's ball, 2nd and 3 from the A-40. Wingback A17, who is lined up outside of the right tackle (2nd lineman from the snapper) blocks B45 below the waist and away from the ball at the A-43. A21 gains 6 yards on the play and runs out of bounds. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

19. 3rd and 10 for Team A from the A-3 yard line. A23 gains 4 yards on a hand off. On the play, A78 is flagged for holding at the 2 yard line. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

20. 3rd and 10 for Team A from the A-3 yard line. A23 gains 4 yards on a hand off. On the play, A78 is flagged for holding in the end zone. (Penalty, Down and Distance, Clock Status)

### Answers:

1. True

2. True. The referee has the ball sideline to sideline behind the line of scrimmage.

3. False. Wingmen should never be that far into the field of play. Their original positioning should be on or near the sideline.

4. Legal play. 1st and 10 for Team A from their 30, clock on the ready. There has not been a shift because back A23 was set (only player moving, therefore he does not have to be set for one second) prior to A31 going into motion. The one-second rule does not apply to single players.

5. 1st and goal for Team A at the 2 yard line. The clock will start on the ready for the forward fumble.

6. The handoff was not complete – A12 was the fumbler for he was the last player in control of the ball. Therefore, A12 is the only one who can advance that fumble. The ball should be blown dead when it is recovered by A45. B's ball, 1st and 10 from their own 4 yard line.

7. Penalty on A23 for a crack back block. 15 yard penalty from the previous spot (spot of foul) repeat the down, 3rd and 19 from the A-25 yard line. Clock on the snap due to the touchdown (reason clock was stopped).

8. 2nd and 6 for Team A from their 24 yard line, clock should never have stopped. Forward momentum was stopped in bounds. The progress spot should not include the push backward nor the yardage lost going out of bounds.

9. False. Only those players not on the line. For a player on the line of scrimmage, he must make a 180 degree turn away from the goal line he is face, and be two yards behind the line of scrimmage prior to the handoff.

10. Team A's ball, 3rd and 1 from the A-38, clock on the ready. The run ended behind the line of scrimmage. The penalty was by the team not in possession. Therefore, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot, 5 yards. Clock was stopped only to complete the penalty.

11. Team A's ball, 4th and 1 from the A-38, clock on the snap. The only change from play #10 is that without the penalty, the ball would go over to Team B. Therefore, the clock was stopped to complete the penalty and to award Team B the ball. By rule, when the clock is stopped to award a 1st down for Team B, the clock starts on the snap. This trumps the penalty enforcement reason for clock stoppage.

12. Team B's ball, 1st and 10 from the B-49, clock on the snap. Team A failed to make a 1st down. The late hit out of bounds was a dead ball penalty. Therefore, the ball goes over to Team B on downs, then the 15 yards are enforced against Team B for the late hit out of bounds. Clock on the snap due to the 1st down by Team B.

13. 1st and 10 for Team A from the A-46. The block by A17 is legal because he was lined up inside of the right tackle. Clock on the ready.

14. Blocking below the waist foul on A17. 15 yard penalty from the spot of the foul. Team A's ball, 2nd and 15 from the A-28, clock on the snap (ball was out of bounds).

15. Legal play. 2nd and 2 for Team A from the A-28, clock should never have stopped.

16. Safety for Team B. The punter is the only one allowed to advance the fumble (4th down fumble rule). The ball should be blown dead when recovered by A76. Clock will start when the free kick following the safety is touched by the receiving team in the field of play.

17. Legal play, 1st and 10 for Team A from the A-25, clock on the ready.

18. Legal play, 1st and 10 for Team A from the A-46. The block was away from the ball and is therefore legal. Clock on the snap (out of bounds).

19. A78's holding penalty is behind the end of the run. It is penalized from the spot of the foul, half the distance to the goal line. It will be Team A's ball, 1st and 11½ from the 1½ yard line, clock on the ready.

20. Safety for Team B for the hold in the end zone (exception to the fouls behind the line rule).

## **Lights, Camera... Officiate**

As mentioned in the Editor's Note, the Danish Federation has made a deal with a Danish Television Channel to broadcast games from the Danish League, so I thought this tip from Referee Magazine was quite appropriate.

If you knew people were watching you, would you act differently? From the moment you arrive at the game site, pretend there's a TV camera pointed directly at you. In effect,

you're on stage. Think about what you would look like if you were on TV and there was no sound.

Constantly ask yourself, "What does this look like?" By doing so, you'll use body language that sends positive signals and avoid using confrontational movements and gestures. As a result, your challenges decrease. Body language speaks loudly and clearly. Think about what you are saying.

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## 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. Fourth and goal for team A at team B's three yardline. Quarterback A1 keeps the ball and is at team B's one yardline when he is hit by B2. The ball pops into the air and is caught by A3 at team B's four yardline. A3 advances into team B's end zone.

- a. The ball is dead when A3 catches it.
- b. Legal play; touchdown for team A.
- c. It will be team B's ball, first and 10 from its own four yardline.
- d. It will be team B's ball, first and 10 from its own one yardline.
- e. Safety; team B scores two points.
- f. Touchback; it will be team B's ball, first and 10 from its own 20 yardline.

2. First and 10 for team A from its own 20 yardline. Runner A1 is tripped attempting to break through the line and falls onto the back of a fallen player at team A's 23 yardline. A1 is only on the player's back for a split-second before he regains his feet and advances to team A's 33 yardline.

- a. If the player, A1 fell on was a teammate, the ball is dead at team A's 23 yardline.
- b. If the player A1 fell on was an opponent, the ball is dead at team A's 23 yardline.
- c. The ball remains live regardless of whether the player A1 fell on was a teammate or opponent.

3. First and 10 for team A from its own 20 yardline. Eligible receiver A1 is running a sideline pattern when he voluntarily goes out of bounds at team A's 33 yardline. When a legal forward pass is thrown in his direction, A1 leaps and is airborne over inbounds territory when he bats the ball to eligible receiver A2 at team A's 30 yardline. A2 makes the catch and advances to team A's 47 yardline before he is downed.

- a. Legal play.
- b. A1 is guilty of OPI.
- c. A1 is guilty of illegal touching.
- d. A1 is guilty of illegal participation.
- e. A1 is guilty of being an ineligible receiver downfield.
- f. The ball is dead when A1 touches it.
- 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 down.

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## Hamburg-Copenhagen-Hamburg

Thursday, May 19 Walt Anderson's NFLE Crew arrived in Copenhagen, from Hamburg, as tourists and Frank Rasmussen and I welcomed them and showed them around. Thursday night we enjoyed dinner with them accompanied by my lovely wife, EFAF official Alex Henriksen and an up-and-coming Danish Official, called Martin Mikkelsen. Also with us was the wife of the HL, and she was a lot of fun.

We got to show them parts of Copenhagen and they seemed to enjoy themselves. Two days later, I was on a train bound for Hamburg to join the crew for the Sunday game between the Hamburg Sea-devils and the Berlin Thunder.

It was a great experience to meet the guys again, and to get an "all access" behind the scenes look at the preparations before an NFLE game.

During the game, EFAF official Thomas Lund-Hansen, who had joined us Sunday morning, and I were on the sideline to really get a feel for the intensity and the speed of the game. It was great!!!

After the game, we went back to the hotel, and watched the crew do the paperwork and unfortunately we had to leave just as the video from the game arrived, but if you ever get a chance to join an NFLE crew around a game, do yourself the favour and do it.

It's really quite an experience. Thanks to Walt and the crew.

Frank Kristensen  
NFLE Hopeful

## 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)  
[goeman22@wanadoo.nl](mailto:goeman22@wanadoo.nl)

## By the book - Answers

- 1: a, c. (4-1-3-j)
- 2: c. (4-1-3-b)
- 3: c, j. (7-3-4)