

EFAF Officiating Newsletter

No 27 over all.

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Editor's Note

By Frank Kristensen

First of all, let me apologize for the delay in getting this edition of the Newsletter out. A number of factors contributed, but I will not bore you with the details.

Yesterday, a streak of at least 5 years ended. I'm embarrassed to admit that I had an inadvertent whistle. On a six-man crew we line up for an onside kick. I'm the FJ. The kick is recovered by the receiving team and they start returning the ball, at which point I kill the play.

I could start listing a long line of excuses as to why I did it, but instead just tell you what went through my head at the time; As the receiving team player started returning the ball, it just looked wrong, and I thought "they can't advance a kick!!!"

Of course, the receiving team is allowed to return the kick, and even if the play should have been killed, it wouldn't have been my call, as I did not have progress.

After the game, I bought ice creams for the rest of the crew (a tradition in Denmark).

After the game, I tried to figure out what I could learn from the play, and I guess it (as always) comes down to mental preparation. Had I been more ready for what might happen during an onside kick, I might have been able to avoid it. On that play, my pre-snap routine just wasn't good enough. You live and you learn.

That brings me to my question to all of you in Europe. I had my streak up to 5 or 6 years, but what about you. How long has it been since you had an inadvertent whistle? How did you deal with it? And just as important, what do you do to avoid them now? I look forward to hear from you.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

EFAF Clinic

By Perttu Hautala,

So far nothing else on our clinic except the date, it will be 20.-22.1.2006. The venue is still open, but I think will have more information on the topic after the meeting in Frankfurt on the last week-end of September.

What a weekend

By Frank Kristensen

Friday 19 and Saturday 20 August I worked two games in the highest Danish league, The National League. The first game was on Friday Night. The federation has arranged these FNF (Friday Night Football) games to be more attractive to the media, and it is certainly working. This was the fifth televised game of the season and it has been a great success. It would be my first TV-game as referee.

After we have started with these night games, I have now found respect for high school officials in the states. It's one thing to work a game on Saturday or Sunday afternoon as we are used to here in Europe, but it is a whole different story to come directly from eight hours of work go through a pre-game and then work a game, which doesn't finish until 10 PM. That turns out to be a very long day, and it is very demanding on your ability to stay focused and concentrated.

This game was supposed to be a "piece of cake" for the away team. The only problem was that they knew it, and nobody had bothered to tell the home team, so by halftime the home team was up 13-0, and we had our hands full.

It wasn't a tough game to work in the sense that the teams didn't like each other. Not at all. But it was a close game and the intensity level was very high. As the referee I had three PFs and an UNC because of the intensity.

The away team is very well coached, so we know going into the second half, that they would come out with everything they had, to try to come back from the poor showing of the first half. Sure enough they score on the first drive and stop the home team on their first drive. 13-6.

On their second drive, a home team player gets injured. It's pretty bad, so we have to wait for an ambulance to arrive. Normally when people sustain an ankle injury, they can be carried off the field, but that was not the case here. I felt bad for the away team, who had another good drive going. Their momentum suffered a blow due to this 25 minute break. I was also thankful that it was not a live broadcast. The game would be shown that same night at 10PM.

The ambulance came and after 5-7 minutes, they were able to move the player and his broken ankle on to a stretcher, and into the ambulance and off they went. It later turned out, that the ankle wasn't broken at all. The player returned to the field with his ankle wrapped or taped and he could even use it a little bit.

We resumed the game, and the away team went for it on 4th and 10 and scored a beauty of a 35 yard TD on a long pass, to tie the game 13-13.

After that, they went back to the same complacency that had ruined their first half, and the teams battled on well into the fourth quarter where the home team manages to take advantage of a bad punt-snap, and they tackle the punter before he can recover and kick the ball. First and goal. They subsequently manage to score and they go ahead 20-13. With the score my hopes for an overtime game suffer a serious blow.

The away team receives the ball with four or five minutes to go, but they have to punt the ball away after three plays. Now all the home team has to do is hold on to the ball, but a great interception gives the away team one last chance with two minutes to go. This is also where I start hoping again. I want that OT!

All of a sudden the offense is like transformed. Three plays in a row, they gain enough for first downs, and quickly, they find themselves in the red zone. They manage to score, but the play is called back on the seventh (I believe) ILF penalty of the game. All of them on the same team. I still haven't figured out what happened with those receivers, because we really tried to give them the benefit of the doubt.

Two plays later the away team manage to score again. 20-19. OT, here we come. On the PAT they line up with 12 players, so I hit them with a SUI and they have to kick from the B8. My OT dreams are still in good shape. The kick gets blocked and picked up by the kicking team, and they try to score two points but the

With the score my hopes for an overtime game suffer a serious blow.

runner gets stopped short of the goalline. It is all over except for the flag on the ground. The LJ tells me that the defense grabbed the runner's facemask as they were tackling him, so we have to replay the PAT and the away team gets another chance to tie the game. This time from the four yardline. My hopes for OT are alive again - right until the kicker shanks the kick and they lose the game 20-19. The crowd goes wild and the home team is beside themselves, and we, the officials, were just part of a true drama. A real battle.

I got home at 11.45PM but I had to sit and watch TV for almost an hour before I had digested everything. What a game! I was not entirely happy with my own performance, but the crew as a whole worked a great game, and we avoided any major errors.

This FNF game was supposed to be the easy one as Saturday's game was number 1 against number 2 and a very high profile game.

Friday we worked a 7-man crew, but Saturday we only had a 5-man crew. Four of the officials were the same, but I probably had the easiest transition, since I worked the referee spot in both games. One official moved from HL to U. Another from SJ to HL, and the third stayed at LJ but even that is a big change. As you all know, a 5-man LJ has a lot more to do than a 7-man LJ.

We were all still influenced by the Friday game, so our pre-game conference was not very good. I'm not really sure why. Never the less, once we got to the field before the game, I felt we were well prepared and ready to go. We knew we might be in for another drama, and the teams didn't disappoint.

This may have been number 1 against number 2, but it was also the defending champions against the new team in the top division, so we thought the champs would win, but not by much unless they made the same mistake and underestimated their opponents, and that is exactly what happened. At halftime the away team (the newcomers) were up by two touchdowns. And the home team just couldn't get their offense to "click".

As far as the officiating went, we did well. We had very few flags, but I guess that also reflects well on the two disciplined teams. Most of it was procedural stuff at the LOS.

But it was in the second half, or rather in the fourth quarter, that everything became interesting. Well into the fourth quarter the home team was down 6-18. My OT hopes are still intact at this point. They score at TD and close the gap to 13-18, and on a subsequent drive the away team ends up with fourth and 15 on their own one foot line. Part of the reason for their situation is the fact that they actually take a DOG penalty on purpose, to save a TO. This would be the first of no less three DOGs taken on purpose by the two teams, which is certainly a record for me. I ended up with six flags in the game, all of them DOGs. Also a personal record.

Anyway, with three minutes or so to go and fourth and 15 or so, the away team elects to take a safety rather than to attempt a punt, cutting the score to 15-18 and my OT hopes come back to life. Here we go again. One last drive to either tie or win the game. This is what football is all about and for the second game in a row, we get to practice our hurry-up mechanics where the umpire gets the ball where ever it is. That sounds easy enough, but it is a challenge to change your ball handling system at a critical time in the game, where there is so much else going on.

I ended up with six flags in the game, all of them DOGs. Also a personal record.

Much to the dismay of my OT hopes, the home team scores another TD and goes on to win the game 22-18 (16 unanswered points in the fourth quarter) but from the officiating point of view, clock management became a focal point. There was no visible game clock, so the BJ ran it on his wrist watch, and obviously the clock became very important towards the end. Especially with the home team trying to run the last seconds off through a series of kneel-downs. Our problems arose, because when asked, the BJ informed how much time was left, but by time that was relayed out to the coaches 5 additional seconds could easily have gone by, and with a running clock, that caused a bit of confusion and frustration.

I guess the lesson is that the officials have to make sure to mention if the clock is running when they relay time information. I know the coach is supposed to know this, but it never hurts to add additional info like that, to keep the coach both informed and happy.

All in all, two very close games, both well officiated but I do feel cheated out of my OT.

European Championships A-group 2005 in Sweden

By Thomas Hofbauer

From July 28th until July 30th 2005 the European Football Championships took place in Malmö/Sweden.

Participating officials were:

Fereed Adus
Ari Antilla
Christian Ball
Jeff Batzler
Magnus Bjermo
Thomas Hofbauer
Jan Kickert

Kalle Kivimaa
Pierre Pagnon
Thomas Plendl
Thomas Salmelainen
Steve Tonkinson
Axel Trittmacher
Mike Wyld

Four games were played and we had two seven man crews available.

We played at 2 different sites which were close together. The officials not working a game had the possibility to watch it.

We all arrived at Wednesday afternoon and met for a nice dinner at a place chosen by Fereed. We enjoyed great Swedish food, talked about some basics of organisation during the tournament and had a good evening.

We started on Thursday with a 34:0 between Germany and Great Britain. The evening game was a thrilling comeback from Sweden against Finland which ended 23:19. We were given lunchboxes and those who were lucky and got a knife and a fork could even eat it without problems. After the second game we got a hamburger at the stadium for dinner and went home. We dropped our bags and went to a bar close by the hotel, had a beer together and reviewed the games in our mind. All officials went out together.

On Friday we had the morning free for taking a walk to the city, which was really close to the hotel as well.

first game for Saturday was moved to a different stadium because of terrible rain.

We did some shopping and after lunch we left for a place where once the Vikings had lived. We enjoyed a really nice tour through the village and nobody seemed to want to leave as we stayed there for at least one and a half more hours, even as the place was already closed and rain started falling down.

Before dinner we watched the video of the games from the day before and some things were discussed. It was remarkable that the thinking in our countries is really different and so it was sometimes difficult to come to a good conclusion. This is definitely a part where EFAF will have to work on. The crews for the finals were announced during the review and thereafter we went back to our hotel for dinner.

The first game for Saturday was moved to a different stadium because of terrible rain. Luckily it stopped in time and only the feet got wet. Finland had an easy victory over Great Britain with a score of 34:12. For a couple of minutes the game became a little hot but only because of the players' attitude. But we never lost control.

The final was played in front of about 2500 spectators and it was worth watching. The Swedish team managed again to come back from behind and had a 16:7 victory. The last touchdown was scored in the last minute as the Germans only wanted the ball back. It was really close and the crew with referee Pierre Pagnon did well. It is a pity that this was his last game for the European Federation. We will really miss his good knowledge and the calm way he gets over difficult situations. I hope he will learn to putt a golf ball like he enforces a difficult penalty! There were a couple of situations to discuss from this game but as most of us had to leave early on Sunday we did not really finish discussions (if this is ever possible!).

It was a nice event, well organized and we were all happy to meet under good circumstances and do together, what for most of us is really important: Work nice games with people we like. Finally I need to thank Fereed Adus for his efforts in Malmö to keep our life easier and make everything work like it did.

www.referee.at/sweden

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.

3.2 – Contact fouls

1. Offensive holding:
 - a) Only call it when all of the following conditions are met:
 - i. The foul is visibly apparent, I-e. if it wouldn't show up on video, don't call it;
 - ii. The foul affects the play, i.e. if it is away from the point of attack, don't call it;
 - iii. The action is demonstrably restrictive, i.e. if the player is not illegally slowed down or forced to take a longer route to his target, don't call it;
 - iv. The foul disadvantages the opponent, i.e. if it actually moves the player the way he wants to go, don't call it.
 - b) Don't call it if any of the following conditions are met:
 - i. A player tackles the runner for a loss of yardage (including a sack);
 - ii. The player held makes the tackle (behind the neutral zone or where there is no neutral zone);
 - iii. It happens at the same time as a tackle elsewhere on the field;
 - iv. It is behind the neutral zone and a forward pass has already been thrown, or is in the process of being thrown;
 - v. It is part of a double-team block (unless a takedown occurs);
 - vi. It is the result of a defensive rip (i.e. the defensive player raising the offensive player's arm);
2. Defensive holding: Downfield on passing plays, there is no point of attack – a foul can occur anywhere. Always call fouls that prevent the passer throwing the ball and lead to a sack. Clotheslining a receiver at the head or neck should be called as a personal foul. Contact that does not demonstrably impede a receiver should be ignored. Holding should be called against defenders who clearly illegally restrict an offensive player from making a lead block for the runner (this includes pulling linemen on trap and sweep players), but not where the offensive player is too far away from the play to become involved.
3. Illegal use of hands: Call it the same as for offensive holding, unless the initial contact in the block is on the opponent's helmet or facemask, in which case it must always be called. Make sure you see the initial contact; it is not a foul if a player's hands slide up to a point above the opponent's shoulders. Remember, however, that continuous contact to the helmet is a personal foul.
4. Clipping; Only call this if you saw the blocker's last two strides before the contact (so that you are certain you know which direction he came from), and if you saw the opponent he hit before the block (so that you know whether he turned his back or not). You must see the point of initial contact. Remember that contact to the side is legal. See the entire act.
5. Illegal block in the back: Before calling this, apply the same conditions as you would apply for holding, but also apply the conditions for calling clipping, particularly the need to see the entire act. Pushes in the back should not be called unless they result in the opponent being knocked down or pushed off balance so that he stumbles. Charging into a player's back away from the play may be called as unnecessary roughness.
6. Roughing the passer: If the defensive player's initial contact on the passer is at his head, it is always a foul (unless the passer ducks into it). If the defensive player spears the passer, call it as roughing so the penalty can be tacked on to the end of the run. Defensive players who make a legitimate attempt to avoid or reduce contact are given the benefit of the doubt.

7. Roughing/running into the kicker: Any time the kicker or holder are knocked off their feet it should be called as roughing. Where the kicker makes a move before the kick that is not part of the normal kicking motion, then it is no longer obvious that a kick will be made and there will probably be no foul unless the defensive player is out to punish him. This is also the case if the ball is snapped high or wide of the kicker.
8. Defensive pass interference:
 - a) Actions that constitute defensive pass interference include:
 - i. Not playing the ball – Contact by a defender (who is not playing the ball) that impedes or restricts the receiver’s opportunity to make the catch.
 - ii. Playing through an opponent – Playing through the receiver (i.e. contacting him in the back or on the side of him furthest from the ball), even if attempting to play the ball.
 - iii. Grabbing an arm – Grabbing the receiver’s arm in a manner that restricts his opportunity to catch a pass.
 - iv. Arm bar – Extending an arm across the receiver’s body to impede his ability to catch a pass, whether or not the defender is playing the ball.
 - v. Cut off – Cutting off the path of a receiver by making contact with him without playing the ball (i.e. before the defender looks for the ball).
 - vi. Hook and turn – Hooking the receiver around the waist that causes his body to turn prior to the ball arriving (even if the defender is trying to get to the ball).
 - b) Actions that do not constitute defensive pass interference include:
 - i. Incidental contact in the act of moving to the ball that does not materially affect the route or the receiver. If in doubt as to whether the route was materially affected, there is no interference.
 - ii. Inadvertent tangling of feet when both (or neither) players are playing the ball.
 - iii. Contact occurs during a pass that is clearly uncatchable by the involved players.
 - iv. Hooking the receiver around the waist that does not turn or impede him until after the ball has arrived.
 - c) Further notes:
 - i. A stationary player (in position to catch the ball) who is displaced from his position has been fouled.
 - ii. It is never pass interference if the defensive player touches the ball before contacting the opponent.
 - iii. Interference must be obvious to be called.
 - iv. Remember that the defense has as much right to the ball as the offense.
 - v. It is crucial to identify which players are playing the ball and which are not.
 - vi. When judging whether a pass is catchable, imagine how far the receiver could have run, and how high or wide he could have jumped, if he had not been impeded.
9. Offensive pass interference:
 - a) Actions that constitute offensive pass interference include:
 - i. Blocking downfield – Blocking downfield by an offensive player prior to the pass being touched.
 - ii. Pushing off – Initiating contact with a defender by shoving or pushing off, this creating a separation in an attempt to catch a pass.
 - iii. Driving through – Driving through a defender who has established a position on the field.
 - b) Further notes:
 9. Before the pass is thrown, all interference must be called except where contact is incidental.
 10. While the pass in flight, only fouls in the vicinity of the end of the pass or those committed against Team B players in a position to tackle the catcher of the pass should be called.
 11. Non-flagrant contact well away from the play should not be called.

10. Late hit; Be more likely to call it the later the hit or the more severe the contact. Slight contact immediately after the ball is dead should not be called. Any deliberate push against a runner out of bounds is a foul. Use of the helmet is a foul even if only slightly late.
11. Facemask: There should be very few five-yard facemask penalties, and only for obvious grasping. Incidental grasping in a pile of players should not be called unless there is twisting that makes it a 15-yard penalty. Remember that a facemask foul involves grasping the helmet or facemask, not simply touching it. A five-yard penalty is for incidental contact – never use the words “inadvertent” or “unintentional” – intent is not an issue.
12. Unnecessary roughness: An act that occurs well away from the play may be classed as a personal foul even though the act itself is legal. In other words, it is the location of the players with respect to the play that causes the foul, not the legality of the contact. Be certain that the act wasn't justified by the play situation (e.g. an interception or fumble return or a broken play). If a player is moving towards the play, he is a fair target: if he is standing still, he is not. It is not a foul if two players are blocking each other – only contact against a player off his guard needs to be penalised.
13. Roughing the snapper: this foul can occur when it is reasonably obvious that a scrimmage kick will be made. In other words, only on field goal and PAT attempts, or when a team lines up in a punting formation on 4th down. Don't be picky about the one second interval. If the snapper is upright before the one second has elapsed then permit contact, but if he takes longer to recover then allow him more protection. Don't call a foul if a defensive player contacts the snapper after being blocked by an adjacent offensive lineman. Disqualify any player who attempts to punish by contact to the snapper's helmet or spears using the defender's own helmet.
14. Defenseless players: In the following situations, players should generally be regarded as being “defenceless”:
 - a) Quarterbacks (or other obvious passers) after the pass has been thrown, and they do not move to participate in the play;
 - b) Kickers and holders after the kick has been made, and they do not move to participate in the play;
 - c) Kick returners while looking up in the air at the ball;
 - d) Receivers who have attempted, but failed, to touch a pass;
 - e) Runners, once their forward progress is stopped and they make no further effort to advance.

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

Tip for referees

By Frank Kristensen

In Denmark, we do not have visible 25-second clocks, so the responsibility lies with the Referee. If you are dealing with teams that do a lot of shifting and motion and audibles, it can become very difficult to keep track of the time as well as to make sure that you see the snap. I have figured out a way to do it and I thought I'd run it by everybody and see if anyone could think of drawbacks or flaws.

I absolutely hate calling DOGs. There I've said it. Whatever I can do, to prevent it, I will.

This includes verbally informing the offense that 15 and 10 seconds remain of the 25. My problem was that many teams are already at the LOS with 10 seconds to go, so whenever I look at my watch, I risk missing the snap.

Here is my solution. I have a watch with countdown and a 10 second alarm when the countdown hits zero. If I set the countdown to 16 seconds (an extra second to be nice) I can warn the offense that they have 15 seconds left when my watch shows 5 seconds remaining, and then when my watch starts to beep, I tell them "10 seconds" and when the watch stops beeping, they are out of time.

This way, from 15 seconds and in, I don't have to look at my watch. I can stay 100% focused on the QB and the snap.

Also, when I forget to look at the watch, at the very least, I can still give the offense the 10-second warning, because my watch reminds me when 10 seconds remain.

Drawbacks: Some players hear the alarm go off, and they automatically assume that time has run out. This can be dealt with, by telling them not to worry about the alarm or maybe telling them the real reason.

There is no visible countdown from ten to zero, since the watch has already reached zero. This is only important in very rare instances (for example, if the QB wants to take a knee and requests a countdown from five to zero) and it can be dealt with by counting the beeps or by "winging" a 5 second countdown during the beeps.

I have only just started using this mechanic, but I have found it to be a great help and it actually keeps the DOGs down and the QBs happy because you help the offense keep going.

Championship Weekend in The Netherlands

Oops, I did it again. No, this has nothing to do with Britney Spears. I'm referring to my screwing up an article I have received from Arnold. Last issue I included a conclusion to a situation, but I forgot to include the actual situation, so here we go again...

By Arnold Buijs

A rapport on our Nat. Championship weekend!!

It was a weekend of 4 season final games that were played.

As the weekend was organised in Arnhem for the 2nd year running all categories had their championship game at this one site this one weekend.

Saturday July 2nd ;

youth tackle, Dyan Kralt Bowl

Arnhem Falcons - Amstelland Panthers 26 - 6

Nat. championship TulipBowl

Amsterdam Crusaders - Hilversum Hurricanes 18 - 6

Sunday July 3rd ;

3rd division Friendship Bowl

Alphen Eagles - Lelystad Commanders 32 - 8

2nd division Runnersup Bowl

Maastricht Wildcats - Eindhoven Raptors 20 - 13

Yours truly had the honour of being the Referee at the TulipBowl. With the support of AFBN / EFAF colleagues Noland Worthy FJ , Erwin van Houten HL and AFBN officials Peter Mönlich LJ, Jos de Laat Ump & Monciff Ghezza SJ.

For those fanatics and who can read Dutch : www.tulipbowl.nl For actual pictures www.amsterdam-crusaders.nl link fan media , bodega fotos , tulipbowl 2005 and *eehhhm* at page 4 picture 11 I guess I missed a holding oops :-)

The actual game itself was pretty straightforward. The Amsterdam Crusaders have been dominating the Dutch league for years now. It was their 4th consecutive Championship.

With the Hilversum Hurricanes for the 3rd year running at the losing end of the contest.

We didn't have any 'wake up call' like Frank our editor did on his last game of the spring season. The most 'challenging' enforcement was a 3 way flag on a punt play:

1. a ILF

2. after the COP an IBB receiving team on the runback

3. after the COP an UNC kicking team as the ball carrier went 'all the way' and halfway into the end zone a kicking team player made a slashing/striking motion at the ball carrier in a weak and unnecessary attempt to force a fumble...

The ILF was of course declined and the other 2 enforced so in all +5yards from the IBB spot. Our rookie on the crew the SJ deserved praise on a good game and an excellent pick up on a OPI as the QB scrambled to the sideline and under pressure finally threw the ball away over the sideline (yes across the LOS so no ING). But a WR in the middle of the field already started blocking downfield during the scramble. Sounds obvious and simple but it's easily overlooked and as a deep guy you gotta stay awake.

So in all a good game from the officiating standpoint. Compliments from players is always a good indicator even from the losing team, but than again what do they know :-)

For us it came down to the details, trying to get better mechanically and making sure that our dead ball officiating was in order to keep incidents from happening and we succeeded. Strangely enough the youth game / Dyan Kralt Bowl was tarnished with 2 ejections and unsportsmanlike behaviour from coaches from one team.

After the Tulipbowl I got home at 23:00hrs and had to get up at 07:00hrs at Sunday morning to be back in Arnhem to Referee the Friendship Bowl. Again a clear cut game with one team dominating the other and no exceptional situations or enforcements.

The most annoying situation was the fact that the microphone didn't work. Which actually isn't a bad thing come to think of it, because from that point onward my announcements were picture perfect of course. The most exciting game was the final game Wildcats - Raptors. A close score but more interesting from our point of view because of the following:

In the 2ndQ Wildcats QB #13 got tackled and resulted in a bloody cut on the jaw. A lot of blood got on his shirt and after getting stitches he returned to the game in a clean shirt #8.

Unnoticed by anyone and only after the game announcer reported this unknown player (as no #8 was on his players list) the Raptors complained and at half time the Referee had to resolve the issue. In the mean time shirt#13 got cleaned up and the player started the 2nd half in his original shirt#13.

So my question to you guys is: what to do, which Rules apply?? This issue got formal as the Eindhoven Raptors filled a formal complaint to the League and as a member of the AFBN disciplinary committee I had to deal with it.

Next newsletter I'll let you know what the outcome was....

[This is where I screwed up, but here is the result. Again.](#)

We gave the Maastricht Wildcats a formal warning with a fine of 100Euro pending if they do it again. The disciplinary committee recognised / acknowledged the mistake made in (lack off) enforcing the proper ruling by the officiating crew. A 15y pen. at the beginning of the 2nd half because of rule R1 S4 A2 would have ended the whole issue. but as we decided that A.R. R3 S3 A5 V was far more appropriate for the situation we gave them the formal warning. The whole matter was left at that, the score, of course, never changed as the result stood.

Officiating salary

Here are the final results. 10 countries have answered, and as you can all see, there are huge differences across Europe. Germany and the Czech Republic represent each end of the spectre with Denmark also in the very low end.

Germany	60-110 EUR
France	75 EUR
Norway	60 EUR
Sweden	60 EUR
Spain	60 EUR
Austria	60 EUR
Great Britain	52 EUR
The Netherlands	40 EUR
Denmark	27 EUR
Czech Republic	23 EUR

Thank you for everyone, who shared their information.

TASO Quiz

1. 1st and 10 for Team A from the A-40, QB A12 drops back and passes the ball to A22, who catches the ball at the B-40 and is downed at the B-35. During A12's pass, B64 grabs lineman A77's facemask and pulls him to the ground by it in order to get around him in pursuit of the QB.

On a try from B-3...

2. On a try from B-3, A requests that the ball be placed on the right hash mark. Team A apparently scores during the try but it

flagged for illegal motion. Team B was also offside on the play. The penalties offset, and Team A requests that the ball be placed in the center of the field, between the hash marks, as they want to attempt to kick. Grant or deny request?

3. Team A's QB is injured on a sack. The Referee calls for an injury time out. The QB left and his replacement came in. Team A is guilty of a false start with the replacement QB. The 5-yard penalty is stepped off, and the original QB then comes back into the game. Legal or not?

4. 1st and goal for Team A from the B 4-yardline. Tight End A88 is covered up by Flanker A83. A88 runs a pass route into the end zone where he is the first to touch and catch a legal forward pass thrown by A12.

5. 4th and goal for Team A from the B 4-yardline. Tight End A88 is covered up by Flanker A83. A88 runs a pass route into the endzone where he is the first to touch and catch a legal forward pass thrown by A12. On the play, time expired in the game. Team B was leading by 9 prior to the score.

6. 1st and 10 for Team A from the 50-yardline. Wide receiver A88 steps out of bounds and immediately returns into the field of play. He runs a fly pattern and as he is about to catch the pass, B34 contacts him while he is not playing the ball, thus preventing A88 from making a touchdown reception. The ball falls to the ground untouched.

7. 3rd and 17 on A's 40. QB A18 runs the option and is on A's 38 when he pitches a backward pass to A46. A46 is in position to catch the backward pass on A's 33 when B89 incidentally grasps A46's facemask. A46 then recovers the backward pass on A's 34 and advances to A's 48 where he is downed.

8. A's ball, try, on B's 3. Holder A16 rises with the ball and throws a legal forward pass to A80. B21 intercepts the pass in B's end zone and sets sail for A's goal line. When B21 is at A's 5, the Line Judge blows his whistle thinking that B21 has crossed A's goal line.

9. A's ball, free kick, on A's 35. While A6's free kick is airborne, B27 blocks A49 below the waist at B's 25. B42 catches the ball on B's 20 and advances to B's 40 where he is downed.

10. Team B intercepts a legal forward pass and scores a touchdown. Prior to the change of team possession, Team A is flagged for a chop block. Time expires in the 2nd quarter during the down.

Answers

1. The facemask foul took place during a passing play. The basic spot on a passing play is the previous spot. This play does not become a running play until the pass is caught. Therefore, any fouls by Team B that has a basic spot enforcement will be enforced from the previous spot. In this case, Team A will want to decline the facemask and have the result of the play stand for they gain 10 more yards.

2. Deny the request. Once the ball has been blown ready for play, and a foul occurs, Team A can no longer request the ball be moved to a different location on the line of scrimmage.

Deny the request.

3. This is not legal. The player must stay out for one down unless there is a charge timeout to his team (3-3-5-a1 FR 68)

4. There are two penalties on this play, an ineligible receiver downfield and illegal touching of a forward pass. Both penalties carry the same penalty a 5-yard loss and you repeat the down. The clock will start on the snap because it was stopped to award a touchdown to Team A.

5. There are two penalties on this play, an ineligible receiver downfield and illegal touching of a forward pass. Both penalties carry the same penalty a 5-yard loss and you repeat the down. If Team B elects to take a penalty, Team A will lose the touchdown, and Team A try again after a 5-yard loss. They will have to snap the ball for an untimed play. If they elect to decline the penalty, Team A will get a chance to attempt the point after, then the ball game will be over.

6. There is no penalty for the potential defensive pass interference because A88 is not able to legally touch the pass. If the contact by B34 was severe, it could be ruled as a personal foul.

7. A's ball, 3rd and 4, on B's 47. There may not be more than one running play behind the neutral zone if no change of team possession occurs. A18's run ended behind the neutral zone. Even though the foul occurred before A46 got possession of the ball, the 5-yard penalty is enforced from the end of A46's run, A's 48. An incidental live ball grasping the face mask foul is not a personal foul even though it is listed under Rule 9-1-2

8. No score. Try ends. A's ball, free kick, on A's 35. The try ends when the ball becomes dead by rule. A ball becomes dead by rule when there is an inadvertent whistle. There is no provision for a retry when an inadvertent whistle sounds after Team B gains possession on the try. The score before the try could have been tied with time having expired in the fourth quarter. An inadvertent whistle can mess up a perfectly nice Friday evening.

9. A's ball, free kick, on the 50. Post scrimmage kick enforcement applies only to scrimmage kicks. The basic enforcement spot for fouls that occur during a free kick is the previous spot. If the penalty is declined, it would be B's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 40. The penalty will be accepted.

10. Team B may elect to have the 15-yard penalty for the personal foul enforced on the try or the succeeding kickoff, including the second half kickoff. The period is not extended except for the try. Rule 3-2-3: A period shall be extended until a down (other than a try) free from live ball fouls not penalized as dead ball fouls when: (a) A penalty is accepted for a live ball foul not penalized as a dead ball foul that occurs during a down in which time expires (Exception: 10-2-2-g); (b) An inadvertent whistle is sounded or an official signals the ball dead during a down in which time expires; (c) Offsetting fouls occur during a down in which time expires.

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. Third and 10 for team A at its own 20 yardline. A1 advances to team A's 30 yardline. After the ball is dead, A2 taunts B3 the penalty is accepted As a result:

- a. After enforcement, it will be third and 15 from team A's 15 yardline.
- b. After enforcement, it will be first and 10 from team A's 15 yardline.
- c. The clock starts on the ready.
- d. The clock starts on the snap.

2. Team A has three timeouts remaining and has the ball, first and 10 from its own 20 yardline. As A1 advances to team A's 33 yardline, he takes a hard but legal hit from B2. The contact causes A1's helmet to pop off and results in A1 fumbling the ball. Prone B3 recovers the loose ball at team A's 37 yardline. The covering official notices A1 is wearing a bandana.

- a. The ball remains live until B3 recovers the fumble.
- b. The ball should be declared dead when A1's helmet pops off.
- c. Team A is charged a timeout due to A1's bandana.
- d. Team A is assessed a 15-yard penalty due to A1's bandana.
- e. A1 is ejected.
- f. There is no penalty for A1's bandana.

3. Batting the ball:

- a. Is always illegal, except for team K players attempting to prevent a touchback or for team R players attempting to block a kick.
- b. Is only legal if the ball is not in a player's possession.
- c. Is illegal if a backward pass in flight is batted forward by the passing team.
- d. Is illegal if a teammate of the player in possession bats the ball forward.
- e. Is illegal if a teammate of the player in possession bats the ball in any direction.

4. Which of the following penalties includes award of an automatic first down?

- a. Any team B personal foul.
- b. Only team B dead-ball personal fouls.
- c. Any tripping by team B.
- d. Any tripping by team B except against the runner.

e. None of the above.

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EFAF Official profile

Name: Frank Rasmussen

Age: 36

Job: Military policeman in the Royal Danish Navy (for 22 years) – and part time fireman (for 6 years).

Family status: Marriage-like relationship with one stepdaughter at the age of 15.

Number of years as an EFAF official:

7 years as EFAF official

Highlights as EFAF official:

Worked the 2003 Euro bowl as Referee, supervised (and officiated) the C group EC in Denmark 2003

Highlights as national official:

8 times National championship final (3 times as referee), numerous championship games in the lower ranks

Did you play football before becoming an official?

No

Highlights as player:

No football experience prior to officiating but twice after and still undefeated 😊

What do you do, to improve as an official?

To improve I do everything possible – study rules and mechanics, try to figure out the philosophy behind rules changes, watch video, play Madden, work a ton of games, travel to high level football games etc. But most importantly I teach classes of new officials – their “stupid” questions can sometimes really turn you mind around for a while.

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
testpilot@list.ru

By the book - Answers

1: b. (5-1-1-b)

2: b, c. (1-4-5-r, 4-1-3-q)

3: c, d. (9-4-2, 9-4-3)

4: a, d. (penalty chart)

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