

EFAF Officiating Newsletter

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Editor's Note

By Frank Kristensen



In the following, I will have to choose my words carefully because I don't want anyone to misunderstand me.

I think our leadership does a good job. I truly believe they work very hard and I believe that most of their work goes unnoticed by most of us.

In the August issue of this Newsletter, I asked our leadership - the Board, the Review Committee and the Mechanics Committee - to comment on a play and give their view on how this play should be handled in EFAF games. Unfortunately, I have received no answers.

To repeat myself, I don't think it is because our leadership doesn't work hard for officials all over Europe. I do think, however, that this is an example of too many cooks spoiling the proverbial broth. It is very likely that everyone thought, that someone else would answer.

This brings me back to my last editorial. Had we had an official Supervisor, one person who interprets the rules for us, sets the standards and determines our mechanics, it would have been easy for me, or anyone else for that matter, to ask this question and get an answer. As it is now, our organisation is unnecessarily "heavy", which is a shame because a lot of people put a lot of hard work and effort into it.

Again, I want to emphasize that I'm not criticising the board, but I do think we need to think very seriously about appointing an official Supervisor at our next Clinic.

Think about it.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

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

The Book Corner

By Thomas Hofbauer

Crimes & Punishment
Life as a CFL Official
By Neil Payne (2000)

ISBN 1-896239-69-2



One of the major reasons to complete this book was to thank all the wives of husbands who ever wore a striped shirt. Officiating is a profession where working in silence is not a choice but a requirement. Wise words before going public with a book!

Neil tells a story about his life with decades of officiating and ending up as director of officiating in the CFL, the three-down league. Clocks not working, dressing rooms to be shared with cheerleaders (and Marching Bands?), less than perfect fields with end zones not meeting the required standards and lots of problems. The book tells it all and proves that professional leagues face problems we know as well. The guess came into my mind that every league has problems but some of them just have fewer problems solving them, which often is a question of the money available.

In the CFL the defense has to start a yard away from the offense which is one of the most difficult judgements. How many inches is a yard? This is a major part of every officials fight in the league to keep the players onside and minimize the number of flags no one likes to see. Luckily officials are not alone with their decisions in Canada. They have coaches commenting on every move they make. When a supervisor says that sideline officials have to make about 10 to 12 judgements each down that is played, everyone should try to find them out! I believe these numbers!

Stories about the start of TV timeouts in the league (1970) and the old days before officials got tapes for their own review and had to trust the coaches points of view are a nice thing for officials in Europe. „Stickmen“ who do not work properly as well....

Post game „four beer meetings“, fitness tests, dress code, recruiting and lack of experience. Everything is mentioned.

Boris Cheek and Bill Vinovich worked there. Joe Theismann, Doug Flutie and Warren Moon played for the CFL.

With chapters called „Life in the Minors“, „Why“ and „Life on the Sidelines“ there is practical input for everybody. And do not forget: „Ref, he is holding me, he is holding me on every play. Ref, if you do not call it someone is going to get killed,...“

Overall I can strongly recommend the book, especially because I have the feeling that lots of the topics covered could be used as helpful hints in Europe. And funny stories make it easy to read the 200 pages.

Be ready for the next time when we stay with football and have a look at „Stories from a Striped Shirt“.

A word from a friend

By Rom Gilbert and Kalle Kivimaa

I think many of the EFAF officials may be interested in this, so please add it to the next newsletter. This relates to the fact that Rom got fed up with the NCAA rules committee changing the rules every week and announced that he won't be updating the web site any more.

Rom Gilbert <gilbertr@atlantic.net> writes:

I will be sending out Quiz #1 today (if all goes well) by email.

Please advise anyone that you know that wants to receive the weekly quizzes to send me their name and email address.

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. The "frame" of the blocked player:
 - a. Is the same as the frame for blockers.
 - b. Is at the shoulders or below in the front.
 - c. Is at the shoulders or below in the front or back.
 - d. Is at the shoulder or below in the front or side.
 - e. Is at the shoulder or below in the front, back or side.

2. Team K is kicking off from its own 40 yardline. K2 is beyond the 40 yardline when K1 kicks the ball.
 - a. No whistle should be blown.
 - b. The covering official should blow his whistle immediately.
 - c. The penalty signal is hands on hips.
 - d. The penalty signal is rolling fists.
 - e. The foul is for encroachment.
 - f. The foul is for offside.

3. Team A's coach requests that the halftime intermission be shortened to nine minutes. Team B's coach is agreeable.
 - a. No problem as long as the game has not yet begun and the referee agrees.
 - b. No problem as long as the first quarter has not yet ended and the referee agrees.
 - c. No problem any time if the referee agrees.
 - d. The referee must refuse the request.

4. Which of the following is true?
 - a. Team A scores a touchdown any time it possesses a live ball in the end zone.
 - b. Team K players may block team R players below the waist in an effort to "break up the wedge."
 - c. A scoring kick is dead when it hits an upright or the crossbar.
 - d. Team A is limited to one pass per down.
 - e. All of the above.
 - f. None of the above.

5. Fourth and 10 with the nose of the ball touching team B's 20 yardline. A1's pass is incomplete. The official should:
 - a. Move the ball, not the chains, so that the nose of the ball is on team B's 20 yardline.
 - b. Move the chains, not the ball, so that the tail of the ball is touching team B's 20 yardline.

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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, download the program and add me to your contacts. I will then tell you who else is available. It is really neat.

http://www.advertisementave.com/tv/ad.asp?u_player=mediaplayer&adid=501

<http://sports.espn.go.com/ncf/preview06/news/story?id=2543746>

Words from the wise

From a good 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.



They are apples and oranges.

They are vinegar and water.
They do not have similar goals in a football game.
The coaches want to, and most times, have to.. Win.
At any cost!
A coach's loyalty is to his superior and to his players.
Officials have a loyalty only to the rules and their crew.
Officials are there to ensure:
 the safety of the participants
 that no player is disadvantaged.
Players can be heroes.
Coaches can be heroes.
Officials can never be heroes.
Officials should never expect to be heroes.
Officials should never expect compliments.
Officials should never even expect to be liked.
Officials should do the best they can... and then exit.
If the official is any good he will be noticed.
But not during or immediately after the game.
If the coach won, you'll get false compliments.
If he lost, you'll hear heated spur-of-the-moment remarks.
Neither will do you any good.
So do the game the best you can, and exit!

By Jerry Sulecki - an Ohio official since 1973

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 eligible in a scrimmage kick formation.

In a scrimmage kick formation, exceptions to the numbering rule must remain between the ends. A cannot shift and turn an exception into an eligible end. Only if they go away from the numbering exception.



If there is a numbering exception, when the snapper first touches the ball, then the ineligible must remain as ineligible and they must stay in a scrimmage kick formation until the snap unless A shifts into a formation, where there is no numbering exception.

The MWC Pre-season Test

By Land Clark

Scrimmage plays:

1. A 1/10 A-20. Tight end A88 lifts smoothly from a 3 point stance and shifts from the end of the right side of the line to the left side of the line...
 - a. A88 covers A99 who lifts out of his stance to move to the right side.
 - b. A88 lines up as a back and A99 who is still on the end of the line lifts out of a 3-point stance to move to the right side.
 - c. A77 who is now at the end of the line on the right lifts from a 3-point stance to move wider to the right.



2. A 4/10 B-30, with the clock running. A1 is set in scrimmage kick formation preparing to kick a field goal when B55 jumps feet first over guard A66. Immediately afterwards center A50 snaps the ball and A1 kicks the ball through the uprights.

3. A 4/10 A-40. The punter A1 is in scrimmage kick formation at the A-25. B99 drills the snapper within one second after the snap. A1 fakes the kick and runs to the B-20 where he is downed inbounds.

4. A 4/G B-5. A2 takes the snap, scrambles deep and releases a pass to A88 from the B-30. After the pass has been released A55, who is at the B-5, makes his way into the end zone. A88 muffs the pass at the B-1 and the ball is caught by A55 in the end zone.

5. A 4/10 A-40. A44 an exception to the numbering requirement is lined up inside of tight end A88. After the center has made his final adjustments, A88 slowly moves to the other side of the line, leaving A44 at the end of the line. A2 throws a touchdown pass to A44. A44 spikes the ball in the end zone.

6. A 1/10 A-20, 10:00 in the 2nd quarter. QB A2 is under heavy pressure and scrambles near the sideline. A1 throws a pass out of bounds, which crosses the sideline at the A-15 and lands in the stands at the A-25 extended. A77 was 5 yards downfield before the pass was thrown.

Answers

1a. FST; A 1/15 A-15	7-1-3-a-4-c
1b. A 1/10 A-20	7-1-4-b
1c. FST; A 1/15 A-15	7-1-3-a-4-c
2. DB-PF (hurdlng); A 1/10 B-15	2-14-a,b,c; 9-1-2-l
3. PF; A 1/G B-10 Ready	2-15-10, 9-1-2-r, 10-2-2-c
4. ITP; A 4/G B-10 Snap	7-3-10&11
5. ILF, IDF, ITP; A 4/30 A-20 Snap	1-4-2-b, 7-3-10&11, 9-2-1-a-2-b, 10-1-5
6. A 2/10 A-20 Snap	2-19-3-C, 7-3-2-f-exception 1, 7-3-10

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.

mami@blitz.ruc.dk
oleg.larin@mto-net.ru
markusleidner@t-online.de
barryanderson@bellsouth.net
steve.tonkinson@bsc.org.uk
walhalla@netway.at
grobinson@ada.con.com
mbjermo@yahoo.com
jan.kickert@globalnet.net

By the book - Answers

- 1: a, b, d. (2-3-5)
- 2: a, c, f. (2-18-2b, 6-1-1 Pen, signal chart)
- 3: c. (3-2-2a)
- 4: f. (4-1-3a, 7-3-1, 8-2-1, 9-1-2e 4)
- 5: b. (5-1-2)

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

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