

EFAF Officiating Newsletter

No. 36 over all

No. 6 – 4th Year

1 June, 2006

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Editor's Note

By Frank Kristensen



EJC, the European Junior Championships, are getting closer and closer. I for one am looking forward to the tournament, which I will be fortunate enough to participate in. Initially, the plan was to bring 3 officials from each country and 4 neutrals. That would be a total of 28 officials and enough for 4 complete 7-man crews.

The new plan is for four "neutral" referees (aren't we all neutral?) and 2 officials from each participating country. That makes a total of 20 officials. Does that mean 4 crews of 5 officials? I certainly hope not. Obviously, there is something to be said for fixed crews, but there is also something to be said for working the same position the entire tournament. I will be interesting to see what the decision will be.

Whoever the Supervisor of officials will be, I look forward to working with you. I hope you will be just that, a Supervisor. A person who will tell it like it is, if we screw up and I hope the rest of the officials at the tournament will be open to the constructive criticism the Supervisor is supposed to give.

Seldom do you get a better chance to improve very much over a short period of time.

Make sure you take advantage of this opportunity.

Enjoy the Newsletter.

Initially the plan was to bring 3 officials from each country...

Playoffs

EFAF Cup quarterfinals:

20-May, Oslo, Norway, Eidsvoll 1814 vs Bolzano Giants, Italy

Smith, Pedersen, Bolstad, Tansini, Nilsson, Loken

20-May, Stuttgart, Germany, Scorpions vs Hohenems Cineplex Blue Devils, Austria

Strähl, Fotsch, Sauer, Ulicny, Ball,

21-May, Zurich, Switzerland, Renegades vs London P.A. Knights, England

König, T., Doboczky, Fouillet, Zwicker, König, M.

21-May, Marburg, Germany, Mercenairies vs Graz Giants, Austria

Lenoire, Kimpel, Sauer, Berger, Worthy, Goeman

EFL and EFAF Cup Semi finals

June 10, Graz Giants at Zurich Renegades

Plendl, Fotsch, Strähl, Kuntschik, Doboczky, Zwicker

June 10, Hohenems Cineplex Blue Devils at Eidsvoll 1814

Rasmussen, Pedersen, Noren, Berger, Henriksen, Bolstad, Loken

June 10, La Courneuve Flash at Swarco Raiders Tirol

Introini, Hofbauer, Savicevic, Roger, Perona, Lair

June 11, Stockholm Mean Machine at Dodge Vikings Vienna

Valongo, T. König, M. König, Leidö, Souhy, Ulicny, Edelmüller

The Book Corner

By Thomas Hofbauer



Tough Calls

NHL Referees and Linesmen Tell Their Story

Written by Dick Irvin

ISBN 0-7710-4368-6

Dick Irvin is working for the media. He interviewed the Hockey officials and put the results into a book.

Hockey refs wear striped shirts as well but they have helmets on their heads. They do not count the yardage of the penalties but they calculate in minutes. That is rather strange for us!

„In the refereeing business you call them or you do not“. There is nothing in between, which is true for us as well.

Interesting that the NHL had problems like the NFL with another league, the WHA (World Hockey Association) coming along in 1972. They lost good officials to that league but got lots back when that league folded and 4 teams out of it joined the NHL.

The young officials should not get the so-called big games because they cannot handle them. Good thing as well for us and it is said that some games become big ones without being expected to go that way. That is where the young officials have to prove themselves.

Personally the most outstanding story in the book is when a coach, right after a game closed the door and said: “I got him! I finally got Ron Finn making a mistake. God, I feel good.“ Though the play did not mean anything a coach was happy to catch a perfectionist blowing a call. I just loved that one!

We do not have to like them, we just have to call them.

In Hockey as well there is the problem of fouls late in game. A 2 minute penalty close to the end of a game might be a big thing and help decide the outcome. Officials fight with this as we do with calls a few second before the final whistle and they do as well not have any alternative for it.

Until 1967 the NHL consisted of 6 teams only. Refs travelled by train and worked the teams up to 18 times a season. They knew all the players and even the season ticket holders in the front rows. Then the league expanded to 12 teams. Refs changed from train to plane and did not know the players any more that well. A situation I can well imagine with my point of view from Europe.

And finally about the rules: "We do not have to like them, we just have to call them."

Lots of nice stories about a fast sport. Good ideas in regard of assignments and how to handle players and break up fights. Interesting Rookie experiences and finally: They all love their game!

Next month we will look into basketball with: „It's a Very Simple Game“

From the battlefield EJC Qualifier NL@FI, 6-May-06

By Frank Kristensen, Newsletter Editor

R	Frank Kristensen
U	Erwin van Houten
H	Ari Antilla
L	Perttu Hautala
F	Kalle Kivimaa
S	Veikko Laminsala



My first game as EFAF Referee ended in a 79-0 beating, so I was pretty confident that this, my second game, would be closer and more competitive. Early May in Helsinki meant that I had some reservations about possible cold weather, but luckily, the weather turned out great. 25 degrees and sunshine.

Perfect. The game was close. 14-0, but that is hardly important. I would like to mention two episodes, that I will (hopefully) learn from, and maybe you can too.

Situation 1.

1 minute (or less) to go in the second quarter. 3rd and long at midfield. The QB bootlegs and throws an incomplete pass 1 yard beyond the LOS. IFP with LOD and 5 yard penalty from the spot of the foul. Pretty simple, right? Well, here is how my mind worked at the time (if you can make sense of it, please explain it to me): The spot of the foul is beyond the previous spot, so if B declines the penalty, we can enforce from the previous spot, which would be better for B than accepting the foul and enforcing from the spot of foul. So I convince the U, the L and the B captain that it is in B's best interest to decline the foul and take 4th down. It makes no sense, I know. A total screw-up, I know that too.

Lesson learned? Well... whenever the A-foul includes LOD, it will take very special circumstances for B to decline the penalty. Also, whenever the B-foul includes automatic first down, it takes special circumstances for A to decline.

If I can work those two rules into my penalty enforcement thought process, hopefully, I can avoid this mistake in the future.

Luckily, A punted and shortly there after, the half ended, so my/our mistake didn't have any direct consequences, but still.

ILF with LOD and 5 yard penalty from the spot of the foul.

Situation 2.

3rd quarter. A sweeps to the left side for a first down. L has a flag down for OH short of the line to gain but beyond the LOS. 10 yard penalty from the spot of foul, replay the down. Pretty simple, right? Well, here is what I did: I see the flag and somehow mistake it for the end of the run, so I go out and do preliminary signals, and get a captain to explain the situation to him. Once I do that I realize my mistake and I tell him to accept the penalty or else it will mean a first down for A.

We ended up getting it right, but again I was not sharp enough to process the information. I screwed up my own check-list in determining the result of the play.

Lesson learned? I have to be better at looking at the ball (which indicates the dead ball spot) and the communication from the calling official to the U/R has to be better. The entire crew (and especially the calling official) should know that B will want to accept the penalty when the play yielded a new series for A.

10 yards from the spot of the foul, replay the down. Pretty simple, right?.

Two situations from an entire game, so my feeling was we did a pretty good job. It certainly was an interesting game

to work as the Dutch coaches became very excited in the 3rd quarter, because of some FM15s they felt we missed.

They became so angry that they talked about filing an official complaint about the officials/officiating after the game, but I think that once tempers cooled off, they came to their senses again. All in all, I have to say that my first two EFAF games as Referee have been very eventful, and I can't wait for the next one.

Short sleeves... Really??

By Frank Kristensen, Newsletter editor



The European Championships in School Flag Football, arranged by the NFL, once again, was organised in the shadow of the World Bowl Stadium.

Düsseldorf to be exact. Most of the kids were 13-14 years old and 8 teams divided into two groups had qualified by winning national competitions. Friday would see the group play and Saturday would see the playoff games before we would all go see the World Bowl.

I had checked the weather forecast before leaving home and it didn't look good. 12-13 degrees and rain for Friday and 17 degrees and rain for Saturday. Those of you, who know me, know that anything below 25 is cold.

With this weather I was planning on long sleeves, but as luck would have it, my two crew-mates insisted on short sleeves in spite of the downpour. We then spent 5 hours in short sleeves in the rain. Pretty soon my hands were so cold, that I couldn't write on my game card anymore, and before long water oozed from my shoes with every step. Some of the kids looked like smurfs, they were so cold, and I knew exactly how they felt.

Saturday my crew had wised up, and we worked our final two games in long sleeves and luckily without any more rain. That didn't start until the final.

Again this year I was fortunate enough to be able to spend some time with the crew working the World Bowl, including our very own Arnold Buys from Holland. It is such a treat to get to sit in on the pre- and post-game meetings. This time, I had fellow EFAF official Alex Henriksen with me, and we both enjoyed it thoroughly.

We spent five hours in short sleeves in the rain.

So how did Arnold do in the Big Game? I thought he did a great job. Arnold worked the SJ position and as a fellow deep guy, I spent most of the game looking at Arnold's work and the action by his keys. Mechanically, Arnold was flawless. I didn't notice a single time that he was out of position, and he wasn't even close to getting beat deep. Good job Arnold.

As for the rest, well if my nickname is "downtown" Arnold's is now "slowtown". I'll let him fill you in on the details.

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. A1 runs for a touchdown on the final timed down of the first half. During the touchdown run, B2 is flagged for a personal foul.
 - a. Team A must decline the penalty in order to keep the touchdown.
 - b. Team A does not have the option of having the penalty enforced on the second-half kickoff.
 - c. Team A may have the penalty enforced on the second-half kickoff or on the ensuing try.
2. It is never, under any circumstances, legal:
 - a. For a team A lineman to receive a forward handoff.
 - b. To have more than one player in position to receive a hand-to-hand snap from between the snapper's legs.
 - c. To use a punt as the free kick after a try.
 - d. To have more than seven team A players on the line of scrimmage.
 - e. To throw a forward pass such that an ineligible receiver is the first to touch it.
3. Examples of personal fouls include:
 - a. Throwing a helmet to trip an opponent.
 - b. A runner hiding the ball underneath his jersey.
 - c. A runner grasping a team mate.
 - d. All of the above

- e. None of the above.
4. K1's free kick hits the ground at team R's 25 yard line. R1 goes to one knee to field the ball.
- R1 may advance when he recovers it even though his knee is touching the ground when he gains possession.
 - Even if R1 rises so his knee is off the ground when he gains possession, he may not advance because his knee was at one time on the ground.
 - If the ball contacts R1, with his knee on the ground, the ball is dead the second it touches him.
 - If the ball contacts R1 and goes out of bounds at team R's 20 yard line, team R starts a new series there.
 - If the ball contacts R1 then K2 and goes out of bounds at team R's 20 yard line, team K has fouled.
 - None of the above statements is true.
5. Fourth and nine on team K's 30 yard line. Just after K1's punt is airborne and untouched by team R, K1 is contacted by R2 and the contact is not incidental.
- Foul on R2 only if contact with the kicker was caused by a legal block by a team R player.
 - Foul on R2 only if contact with the kicker was caused by an illegal block by a team R player.
 - Foul regardless if the block is legal or illegal.
 - No foul regardless if the block is legal or illegal.

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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 to. 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.

Here is a link from one Swedish official about another Swedish official. Notice the FJ on the first long pass. ☺

<http://svt.se/svt/road/Classic/shared/mediacenter/player.jsp?d=24029&a=578789>

<http://www.usafootball.com/resource-center/officiating/center-articles/23-officiating-center/106-featured-articles/364-2006ncaafotballrulesexam.php>

<http://www.usafootball.com/resource-center/officiating/>

<http://www.referee.com/cca/Football/index.html>

<http://www.naso.org/PressReleases/st136.htm>

http://www.ncaa.org/wps/portal!/ut/p/kcxml/04_Sj9SPykssy0xPLMnMz0vM0Y_QjzKLN4j3CQXJgFjGpvqRqC KOcAFj_zcVH1v_QD9gtzQiHJHRUUAc0tpTA!!/delta/base64xml/L3dJdyEvUUd3QndNQSEvNEIVRS82XzBfTFU!?CONTENT_URL=http://www2.ncaa.org/portal/media_and_events/press_room/2006/may/20060530_playingrulesoversightpanel_rls.html

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/9465189>

http://www.cologne-centurions.de/global/videos/interview_official512K_Stream.wmv

<http://www.nfleurope.com/news/story/9465005>

Words from the wise

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



Working with Football People

Have the right attitude. Plan on having to take a little criticism. It's part of officiating. Know how much to take.

Answer reasonable questions. Treat coaches and players in a courteous way. Be firm, but relaxed. If they ask you a question reasonably, answer them politely.

Choose your words wisely. Don't put a coach or player on the defensive by obviously threatening them. You only put yourself on the spot. If a situation is serious enough to threaten about, then it's serious enough to penalize - without a threat.

Be competitive. You're hired to make the calls that control the game.. Make them! There is no excuse for officials who do not have the courage to eject coaches and players for unsportsmanlike conduct. They deserve the abuse they get.

Stay cool. Establish a calm environment for the game. Nervous officials that seem vulnerable to the pressure are easily spotted by the players, coaches, and fans. Try to present the proper image. Show confidence.

Flow with the game. A ragged game calls for a different style of game than a smooth one. Concentrate on the reactions of the players and adjust your officiating accordingly.

Forget the fans. 3 characteristics exhibited by fans are:

- Ignorance of the rules
- Highly emotional favoritism
- Delight in antagonizing the officials

Don't be a tough guy. Don't shout unless you want to be shouted at. Shouting indicates a loss of control. Don't develop characteristics that irritate the coaches and players. Have fun!

The Frank Study Guide

By Frank Kristensen, Newsletter editor

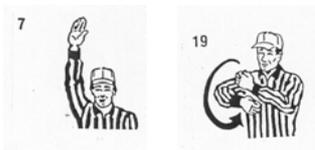
I started including pre-snap lists for different positions from my Study Guide, and then, for some reason, I stopped.

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 FST.

It is a FST if a covered WR/TE in a three-point stance moves. Even if it looks like a shift/motion.

A TE with a lineman number (50-79) is restricted the same way an interior lineman is.

He cannot move, once he is in a three point stance.



The MWC Pre-season Test

By Land Clark

Kicking:

1. A 4/G B-5. The score is A7-B10. A1's field goal attempt is partially blocked. B94 bats the grounded ball backwards from the B-8. The ball rolls into B's end zone where A66 recovers.
 - a. The partially blocked ball does not cross the neutral zone before the bat.
 - b. The partially blocked ball hits the ground on the B-1 and rebounds behind the line where B bats.
2. A free kick A-35. A1 kicks the ball...
 - a. The ball previously untouched hits A22 in the foot and rolls out of bounds at the B-25.
 - b. A22 is offside on the kick. B33 catches the kick, fumbles at the B-20 and B44 recovers the ball while grounded at the B-25.
 - c. The ball is kicked along the ground where B33 finally recovers the kick at the B-40 while grounded. The kick was still rolling when B44 blocks A55 below the waist at the B-30.
3. A try B-3. A1's try attempt is blocked, B99 recovers the ball and advances across A's goal line. During B99's run, B88 kicks A1 in the groin.
 - a. With 3:00 remaining in the 3rd quarter.
 - b. During the first series of the second overtime period.

4. A try B-3. The score is tied late in the 4th quarter. A1's kick is successful. A66 holds B55 on the B-5 and B55 knocks A66 to the ground after the try and is flagged for a personal foul.
5. A 4/10 A-40. During A1's punt A44 is first to touch the ball at the B-30. B22 picks up the ball there and runs to the B-40 where he fumbles. A33 picks up the ball and scores. During A33's run B66 commits...
- A holding foul at the B-20.
 - A personal foul at the B-20.
6. A 4/5 B-40. A1's punt bounces at the B-3, airborne A44 reaches past the plane of B's end zone and bats the ball before it hits the ground. The ball is recovered by B22 at the B-2 and he is downed at the B-5. While the punt was in the air B66 held A77 at the B-30.

Answers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1a. Safety; B's Free Kick (FK) B-20 | 2-15-1-b, 4-1-3-c, 6-3-9, 8-5-1-a, 8-7-2-b-1 |
| 1b. Touchdown; A's try B-3, FK A-35 | 2-15-1-b, 6-3-3, 8-2-1-e, 8-7-2-b-1 |
| 2a. KOB; B 1/10 B-35 Snap or A FK A-30 | 6-2-1 |
| 2b. OFK; B 1/10 B-30 Snap or A FK A-30 | 6-1-2-a, AR 6-1-VI |
| 2c. ILB; A FK 50 | 9-1-2-e-4, 10-2-2-e, AR 10-2-2-II |
| 3a. UNR; No score, A FK A-35 DQ B88 | 8-3-4-a&b, 9-1-1, 9-1-2-b |
| 3b. UNR; No score, B1/10 B-40 DQ B88 | 3-1-3-g-1&2, 9-1-1, 9-1-2-b |
| 4. PF; A's retry B-6 ½ | 9-1-2-h, 9-3-3-b, 10-2-3, AR 10-1-7-XVII |
| 5a. DH; B 1/10 B-30 Snap | 6-3-2-b, AR 6-3-2-V, 9-3-4-b |
| 5b. PF; Touchdown; A's try B-1 ½,
FK A-35 or A's try B-3, FK 50 | 6-3-2-b, AR 6-3-2-V, 9-1-2 |
| 6. DH; B 1/10 B-10 Snap | 6-3-11, AR 6-3-11-I, 9-3-4-b |

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.

shoslett@comcast.net
oleg.larin@mto-net.ru
grobins@ada.con.com
walhalla@netway.at
mikewylde@tcp.co.uk
mbjeremo@yahoo.com
dbliles@swbell.net
jan.kickert@globalnet.net

By the book - Answers

- 1: c. (10-2-2-g-1)
 2: b, c, e. (2-12-1-b, 2-15-6, 7-1-3-b-1 exc. 2, 7-1-6-b, 7-2-2)
 3: e. (9-2-2-a, 9-3-2-b, 9-2-1-a, 9-2-1-a-1-f)
 4: d. (4-1-3-b, 6-2-1, AR 6-2-1 III)
 5: a. (9-1-3-a-6)

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