

Dead ball officiating



Jóhann Ingi Gunnarsson

European Handball Federation

Dead ball officiating



- Any time the ball is not in play is a dead ball
- This includes:
 - Pre-game
 - Time-outs
 - Half-time
 - Post-game



Dead ball officiating



- Opportunity to:
 - Cool things down (explain)
 - Reassure
 - Settle confrontation
 - Warn
 - Hinder unfortunate incidents
 - Assess the needs of the game



Dead ball officiating

- Neglected issue in handball – little emphasis in referee training
- Opportunity - most space for improvement
- Ball in play
 - the referee reactive
- Dead ball
 - the referee proactive

FIBA Europe want referees to:



Study and master human relations such as:

- Body language
- Tone of the voice
- Using the right words
- Positioning
- Listening skills
- Make decisions
- Keep on



Dead ball officiating



- The key factor of dead ball officiating is - Human relations / Communication skills
- Human relations is the key factor in the evaluation of players and coaches of the best referees

Communication skills



1. Presence



European Handball Federation

Presence



- Be cool
- Your attitude should have soothing effect on the environment
- To listen, you need ears, eyes and a heart



Communication skills

2. Style of leadership





Style of leadership

What do you stand for?

- Firm but flexible
- Servant
- Judge
- Friend
- Approachable
- Strict
- Professional
- Respectful
- Formal/informal

Control the situation



- Don't try to be a psychic
- If you don't see and don't whistle – that's alright (shit happens)
- If you don't see but whistle – then you're guessing

Communication skills



3. Volume



European Handball Federation

Talk



- The game is apposed to be refereed not talked
- Referees are working with people so communication is a part of the task
- Have many faces and many tools in your toolbox
- Mechanical approach works only short time - important to use personality
- Too much talk is too much talk



“Your body is doing a lot of the talking”

Communication skills



4. Confrontation / Conflict solving



European Handball Federation



Confrontation

- Is normal
- Cultural differences
- Different personalities and different people





“”We never have sex” says Alvy

“We´re constantly having sex” says his girlfriend

“How often do you have sex?” Ask the therapist

“Three times a week” – they reply in unison

An international referee

European Handball Federation



Confrontation

- Anger, dissatisfaction, desperation, stress, and provocation leads to confrontation
- It happens in daily life but also on the handball field
- The incidents can be minor but the people are complex creatures



Conflict solving

- Your voice should be firm and clear but not provocative
- Short and sharp
- The tone in your voice and your body language can make problems
- Rather than the real message

- How – not what!



“If both of you are yelling, no one is
in charge”



Take charge

- You matter
- Never become a victim
- Don't fear confrontation
- Let the passion guide you





“Anger can severely limit our choices”



Intense situation:

Step by step:

- Nurse the injured player
- Win time – every second is a long time
- Distance from the action – communicate
- Talk to team captains (football community shield)





“Fight the problem, not the person”





Conflict solving

- Self-reflection /introspection
- Show others respect and they will respect you
- Your aim is to solve the situation – not win
- Stand aside with who you want to work with – rather than opposite
- Give the person the opportunity to end the conversation with dignity

- “Hey – let´s start again, and a little bit slower”
- “ok coach, I see what you mean...”



“Listening leads to understanding,
and understanding is the
foundation for agreement”



Do bear in mind

- Top referees are elite athletes
- The main goal – is to feel good
- You can use these methods in life – personal growth
- Focus on things you can control



Head-sets

- A useful tool in your toolbox
- Especially in dead ball situations
- Also
 - Helps communication in live ball
 - Concentration on key elements of the game
 - Use effectively – don't overuse



Practical issues

Preparation:

- Expect mistakes
- Expect protest
- Plan communication
- Decide where you draw the line
- Expect to make tough decisions



Practical issues

Game:

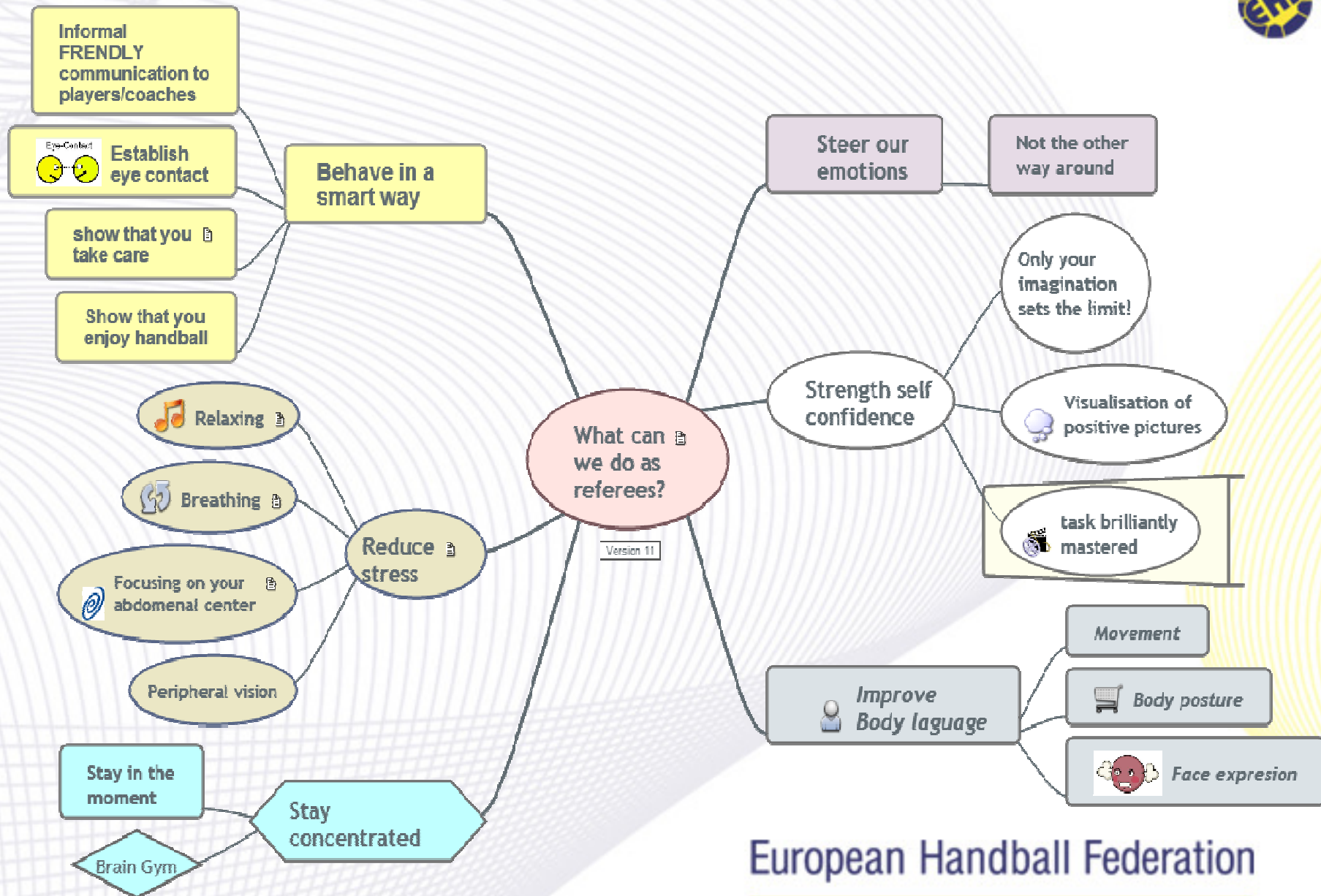
- Be prepared and focused
- Make decisions that people understand
- Lead the teams in the right direction
- Warn and instruct
- Give players options
 - If they decide not to use them then the consequences are at their own risk

Emina Kosteckic Radic & Helena Crnojevic



European Handball Federation

Goal-oriented Training with Mr. Jurgen Boss



Behave in a smart way



- Give information in friendly tone to players/coaches
 - “be careful with the pivot”; “do not hold his shirt”; “go back in the field”; “lets finish this match and everyone is satisfied”; “You don´t look nice when you yell?”

Behave in a smart way



- When you give information or make decisions try to add the eye contact – always look into eyes of payers/coaches to establish relationship (next time they remember that they were warned before)
 - if you are not able to look into the eyes of players/coaches you reveal insecurity of not standing behind your decision

Behave in a smart way



- When impossible to act friendly use punishments
- Apologize when you make obvious mistake
- Show that you take care – injured players, pivot struggling, position of executing throws
- Show that you enjoy handball – face expression (in appropriate situations)
- You, as a team, are in position to lead the game in desired way

Discussion



- **In dead ball situations what are the most challenging tasks?**
- **What has been the most effective solutions dealing with these challenges?**