

Dear Ultimate Community,

This email is regarding the "drop" video that has been widely circulated over social media networks since the EUC 2011 Open Final of Sweden vs GB.

Due to the widespread nature of this video the European Ultimate Federation (EUF) has been compelled to take two actions.

1) We contacted the Swedish Frisbeesport Federation to offer guidance that rule 1.7 (http://ultimaterules.co.cc/?page_id=1535#spirit) is enacted, as this was a case of a SOTG infraction.

1.7. Teams are guardians of the Spirit of the Game, and must:

1.7.1. take responsibility for teaching their players the rules and good spirit;

1.7.2. discipline players who display poor spirit; and

1.7.3 provide constructive feedback to other teams about how to improve their adherence to the Spirit of the Game.

They will determine what spirit infraction occurred based off of their follow-on dialogue with the player in question. As the tournament is over, let's all remember that in this instance, it is solely the responsibility of the Swedish Frisbeesport Federation and the team in question to determine what happened and how to follow-up with the situation. As per the rules, other teams can provide constructive feedback to the team in question, but nothing beyond that is acceptable.

2) The EUF is also strongly compelled to remind Ultimate players that, when discussing a play that has either happened on field, or in discussing it afterwards in a forum, where other teams can interact with each other, that rule 1.3 is still very much in effect. This means that, as outlined in the rule, one must allow an opponent a reasonable chance to speak, and respectful language must be used.

1.3. Players should be mindful of the fact that they are acting as referees in any arbitration between teams. In such situations, players must:

1.3.1. know the rules;

1.3.2. be fair-minded and objective;

1.3.3. be truthful;

1.3.4. explain their viewpoint clearly and briefly;

1.3.5. allow opponents a reasonable chance to speak;

1.3.6. resolve disputes as quickly as possible; and

1.3.7. use respectful language.

There have been some disappointing displays of poor spirit where the rules above were not adhered to by individuals discussing this particular incident on public online spaces. The usage of racial/ethnic slurs and statements which might lead the reader to perceive a threat of violence are very clearly outside the realm of respectful language. Anyone representing a team in an online/public forum seen to be breaking this SOTG rule can be disciplined by their respective European National Federation.

With the increased connectivity through social networking we need to increase guidelines to players and keep an even more mindful eye on how we are conducting ourselves both on and off the field when representing our sport.

We do hope everybody will be able to learn something important out of these discussions.

Especially that Spirit can be and must be trained. That knowing and teaching the rules is the critical backbone of our self-refereed sport. And that when infractions occur that it is important to discuss these together with mutual respect.

With best regards,

Oddi

EUF Chairperson

On Behalf of the EUF Committee (in consultation with the WFDF SOTG committee)