

Rules changes

Major changes

The list below shows rule number, description of the change, and page number in this book.

Major changes are marked by a box like this. [New or modified text is marked in blue \(grey when printed in monochrome\).](#)

1-2-1-g-3	Field/decorative markings and advertising rules adjusted	16
1-4-7-m	Equipment modification cannot reduce safety of any participant	26
1-4-11-c Exception 5	Team video from team area cannot be used for public	28
1-4-12-a	Competition may have policy on headsets	28
2-11-3	Definition of batting includes head	34
2-25-9	End of kick on inadvertent whistle	41
2-27-6-d	Definition of teammate	43
3-2-4-c-7	40-second clock used after a free kick	53
3-2-4-c-8	40-second clock used after a touchdown	53
3-4-3	Unfair clock tactics changes	62
4-1-2-b-3 Exception 3	End of kick on inadvertent whistle	68
8-3-2-a Exception 1	Team scoring as time expires may forego try	112
9-1-6-a	Revisions to blocking below the waist	122
9-1-7-c	Spot of foul for blocks out of bounds	124
9-1-11-b	Leaping redefined	126
9-2-1 Penalty	All flagrant offenders disqualified	129
9-2-2-d	Confusing an opponent that the snap is not imminent	132
9-2-2-e	Confusing an opponent by simulating injury	132
10-2-5-d	Field goal penalty enforcement aligned to try enforcement	147
12-2-2-c	Review can consider any aspect of a play once game is stopped	152
12-3-4-c-3	Timing adjustments due to replay: 10-second runoff	154
12-3-4-c-4	Timing adjustments due to replay: end of quarter	154

New Approved Rulings

A.R. 3-2-4:III	A.R. 3-2-4:IV	A.R. 4-1-3:IV	A.R. 4-2-3:I	A.R. 6-1-2:VIII
A.R. 6-5-1:III	A.R. 6-5-3:VI	A.R. 9-2-3:II	A.R. 9-2-3:III	A.R. 10-2-5:VII
A.R. 12-2-2:I				

Editorial changes

The following list shows those rules that have been subject to editorial change, i.e. deletions, corrected errors, clarifications due to interpretation and items rewritten for readability. The list also includes those Approved Rulings altered to conform with rule changes. **New or modified text is marked in blue (grey when printed in monochrome).**

1-2-1-g-2	1-4-4-d	1-4-5-a-2	1-4-12	2-8-1-c
2-19-2-a	2-19-2-b	A.R. 2-19-2:I	3-1-3-h	A.R. 3-1-3:XII
A.R. 3-2-4:I	A.R. 3-2-4:II	3-3-2	3-3-2-d-8	3-3-2-g-1
3-3-2-g-2	3-3-5-a-1	3-3-7-a	A.R. 3-4-3:VI	A.R. 4-1-2:III
A.R. 4-1-3:V	A.R. 4-1-3:IX	4-2-3-a	6-1-2-a	6-1-2-b-3
6-1-2 Penalty	6-1-7	6-5-1-b	A.R. 6-5-1:I	7-1-1-c
8-3-2-c	8-6-2	9-1-3 Penalty	9-1-4 Penalty	A.R. 9-1-6:I
A.R. 9-1-6:IV	A.R. 9-1-6:V	A.R. 9-1-6:VII	A.R. 9-1-6:VIII	A.R. 9-1-6:XI
9-1-8-b	9-1-9	9-1-16	A.R. 9-1-16:VII	9-2-6-d
A.R. 9-2-6:I	A.R. 10-1-4:II	A.R. 10-2-2:XVI	A.R. 10-2-5:X	

Summary of differences between NCAA and IFAF rules

NCAA Rule	IFAF difference
1-2-5-f	Procedure for dealing with missing goals.
1-4-11	× Drones prohibited.
2-11-3	Definition of batting includes the head.
2-16-10-a	Punter needs only be 7 yards deep; kicker/holder need only be 5 yards deep to count as a scrimmage kick formation.
2-27-12	Whether a disqualified player is suspended for the next game is matter for the disciplinary authority.
3-1-1	Pre-game warmups not subject to the rules. During coin toss, teams must remain in the team area.
3-2-4	Play clock reset only if it drops below 20 seconds before ball ready.
3-2-5	No minimum time for a play after spiking.
3-3-2	Running clock.
3-3-7	No short timeouts.
3-3-8	Two-minute warning cannot happen before 2'00.
4-1-2-b	Ball may belong to recovering team after inadvertent whistle. Ball may belong to Team B after inadvertent whistle on scrimmage kick.
4-1-3	Ball is dead if players in vicinity believe it is.
6-1-7-b/8-6-2	All touchbacks are from the 20-yard line.
6-5-1	Free kick fair catch does not result in a touchback.
7-2-5	Fumble/backward pass at rest awarded according to forward fumble principles.
9-1-3&4/9-5-1	No half-game suspensions.
9-1-6-a	Larger area for unrestricted blocking below the waist.
9-1-7-c	Spot of foul for blocking out of bounds is spot on nearest sideline.
9-2-2	Additional unfair tactics. Two players in same position can wear the same number.
9-2-2-e	No disqualification for illegal cleats.
9-2-7	Referee may require persons to be removed from the playing enclosure.

NCAA Rule	IFAF difference
9-6	Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct fouls can be reviewed for additional sanctions.
12	Video judge rule.

This list ignores differences that address field limitations, NCAA competition structures (e.g. conferences) or equipment restrictions. It also ignores minor wording changes that do not have significant effect on the way the game is played.