

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).**

1-2-6	Displaced pylons	18
2-3-7	Blind-side block defined	30
2-34-1-a	Tackle box centred on middle lineman	47
3-1-3-e	Extra period becomes a try down beginning with the fifth	49
3-1-3-i	Mandatory break during extra periods	49
3-3-2-g-1	Running clock starts on ready for play on free kick	56
6-1-10-b	Illegal wedge now 2+ players	81
6-1-10-d	No foul for illegal wedge if no return	81
6-5-1-a	Fair catch on free kick	90
6-5-3-a	Invalid signal on free kick	91
9-1-18	Blind-side block now a foul	129
E.5	Knee braces enforcement	178

New Approved Rulings

A.R. 1-4-8:IV A.R. 3-4-3:VII A.R. 6-1-2:IX A.R. 7-2-4:III A.R. 9-1-18: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-k	1-3-2-b	1-4-5-b-4
2-4-1-a	2-4-3-a-1	2-19-2-b
2-27-14-g	A.R. 3-3-2:XII	A.R. 3-3-2:XIII
3-3-7-a	4-1-2-b-2 Exception 2	4-1-2-b-3 Exception 2
A.R. 4-1-2:II	4-1-3-g	A.R. 4-1-3:IX
4-2-4-d	6-5-1-e	A.R. 6-5-3:VI
A.R. 9-1-4:III	A.R. 9-1-4:X	9-1-6-b-1
A.R. 9-1-6:VI	A.R. 9-1-6:IX	9-1-11-b
A.R. 9-1-16:VII	10-1-1-a	A.R. 10-2-3:IV
12-2-2-a-11		

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.
2-34-1-a	The tackle box is centred on the middle lineman, not the snapper.
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. Ignore inadvertent whistle if ball would have become dead anyway in the immediate continuing action.
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. [×]
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.
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.