



# GLOBAL AND CONTINENTAL COMMITTEES

RULES



**INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION**  
OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL

# Introduction

1.1 The IFAF Global Rules Committee is authorised by IFAF Executive Board to conduct its business in accordance with the Terms of Reference as set out below. The Executive Board may review these at any time and, when appropriate, revise to accord with the changing requirements of IFAF.

1.2 The Committee is advisory and will make recommendations to the Executive Board to assist IFAF to achieve its vision, values and strategic goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

1.3 There shall be one Rules Committee with separate subgroups for tackle football and flag football.

## Composition and Membership

2.1 The Committee shall consist of a minimum of four and maximum of six people on each subgroup excluding the Rules Chair. There will be a liaison with the Athletes Committee. In addition, each subgroup will liaise with an appointed representative of each member national federation – there may be separate or combined leads for Tackle and Flag Football in each nation.

2.2 The Executive Board will appoint the Chair for a term of four years and approve the appointed membership of the Committee who will be appointed following an application process.

2.5 Applications for Membership of the Committee can be supported by Members, key stakeholders and/or the Board.

2.6 Effort will be made to take account of regional representation, gender, ethnicity and areas of expertise.

2.7 The membership of this Committee should include qualities and abilities across at least some of the following areas:

2.7.1 Knowledge of game rules, including their history

2.7.2 International coaching

2.7.3 International officiating

2.7.4 Good communication skills – written and oral

2.7.5 Playing at a national team level

2.7.6 Experience in a similar role in another sport

## Responsibilities

3.1 The Committee is responsible for advising the Managing Director and Executive Board and working with them to support the development and implementation of agreed priorities in the Strategic Plan, particularly, in relation to the control and review of the Rules of the Sport as published from time to time by IFAF. The Committee will be required to produce clear rules documents for ratification by the Board.

3.2 In relation to international football the Committee shall:

- a) Consider requests for interpretation of the Rules from a Member federation, continental/national officiating organisation, or other appropriate body submitted through the Committee Chair or designed point of contact
- b) Solicit and review proposals to change the Rules on an annual basis
- c) Propose changes to the Rules
- d) Prepare presentation/evidence relating to above proposals
- e) Work in conjunction with the Secretariat in the production and distribution of the official Rules text
- f) Work in conjunction with other Committees and Committees in the broader context of IFAF's strategic development objectives

3.3 The principles that govern all rule changes are that they must:

- be safe for the participants;
- be applicable at all levels of the sport;
- be coachable;
- be administrable by the officials;
- maintain a balance between offense and defence;
- be interesting to spectators;
- not have a prohibitive economic impact; and
- retain some affinity with the rules adopted by NCAA in the case of tackle football

## Operating and Reporting Procedure

4.1 The Committee will be required to operate according to procedures agreed by the Committee at the start of their term of office and approved by the Executive Board.

- a) The Chair will convene the Committee in two subgroups – one for tackle football and one for flag football.
- b) The Committee may solicit and discuss proposals with relevant people from within the sport as part of the review and change process.
- c) Decisions of the Committee will be made by a two-thirds majority. Where there is not a clear consensus to change a rule, the rule shall remain unchanged.

4.2 The Committee shall report the outcome of any responses to substantive queries or recommendations through the Chair to the Managing Director and the Executive Board.

4.3 Discussions and decisions taken by the Committee must happen in a transparent and efficient way via the appropriate means of communication in accordance with any deadlines set by the Managing Director and/or Board.

4.4 Non-response within the required timeframe to a request for a decision will be regarded as support for the decision. This must be a reasonable timeframe of no less than 72 hours.

## Meetings

5.1 The Committee may be required to attend meetings at a particular event as approved by the Board. This will include but may not be limited to major international events arranged in partnership with a third party at which a presence may be requested. If appropriate, meetings may be conducted electronically by teleconference or videoconference. Meetings may also be conducted by electronic correspondence.

5.2 The Managing Director or a person designated by the Managing Director and/or Executive Board may be present at any meetings.

5.3 Meeting agendas will be prepared by the Chair in conjunction with the Managing Director and circulated to all members of the Committee no later than a week before the meeting.

5.4 Minute takers will be rotated through the membership of the Committee with the exception of the Chair.

5.5 Minutes of all meetings will be circulated to the Board and IFAF Managing Director via the Chair.

5.6 A quorum of a minimum of 50% of the Committee (without counting the national federation representatives) shall be required for all meetings.

5.7 In the absence of the Chair, they will appoint a Deputy.

## Budget and Spending Authority

6.1 Meeting expenses will be covered in accordance with IFAF's financial and travel policy.

6.2 Any other expenses must be approved through the Managing Director and/or the Director for Finance in accordance with IFAF's financial policy and budgets.

6.3 No member has signing authority on behalf of IFAF.

Updated 2021