



GLOBAL AND CONTINENTAL COMMITTEES

RULES – FLAG FOOTBALL



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 for Flag Football with standing sub-groups for representation from:

- 1.3.1 Athletes
- 1.3.2 Equipment
- 1.3.3 Welfare
- 1.3.4 Broadcast
- 1.3.5 Youth Sports

1.4 IFAF will also appoint 2 Rules Editors. These roles will ensure a true and accurate representation of the Rules in English and in Spanish. Further languages will be published via an official translation service.

Composition and Membership

2.1 The Committee shall consist of four Member. A designated Executive Board member will be an ex-officio Committee Member alongside the IFAF Sport Manager and IFAF Managing Director. All personnel have voting rights excluding the Managing Director. The Chair will not vote unless a casting vote is required. A non-voting guest from the National Football League may attend meetings.

2.2 The Executive Board will appoint the Chair from the four Members for a term of four years and approve the appointed membership of the Committee who will be appointed following an application process. Terms will be a four-year term although the Board has a right to appoint for three years to ensure rolling membership and continuity.

2.5 Applications for Membership of the Committee are individual applications.

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

2.7.7 Project Management skills

2.8 For the Rules Editors, a familiarisation of the Rules of sport and an experience of authoring documents is essential along with a strong command of both the English and Spanish language respectively.

2.9 The sub-groups will be comprised of specialists drawn from IFAF partners and wider groups as identified by the designated IFAF Board Member, IFAF Sport Manager and IFAF Managing Director.

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 establish a two-year cycle programme of work which allows it to:

- 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 a bi-annual basis
- c) Propose changes to the Rules
- d) Prepare presentation/evidence relating to above proposals including the commission of tests through the specific standing committees
- e) Work in conjunction with the Rules Editors in the authoring, production and distribution of the official Rules text
- f) Work in conjunction with other 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
- is informed by best practice solicited from the specialist groups and determined from review of other sports.

3.4 The Committee may, from time to time, approve a Rule Amendment for specific circumstances to ensure immediate concerns can be expedited. For example, for a matter of health and safety or for a specific competition.

3.5 The Rules Editors will solely be responsible for the authoring of the definitive Rules text. They will not contribute to the Committee's review of the Rules but will liaise with them to ensure effective representation of the Rules in the text.

3.6 IFAF may commission third parties to ensure the Rules documents are presented in a way which is engaging and easy to access.

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 a minimum of 3 times a year.
- 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 majority of voting Members present. Where there is not a clear consensus to propose a change a rule the Board must be notified of this.

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 designated representative of 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.

4.5 The Committee will work with the Managing Director to establish reporting procedures for any Standing Committee and the commissioning of testing and investigation.

Meetings

5.1 The Committee may be required to attend meetings at a particular event as approved by the Managing Director. 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. In most cases, meetings will 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 IFAF Managing Director via the Chair. The Managing Director will present to the Executive Board.

5.6 A quorum of a minimum of 50% of the Committee inclusive of ex Officio members shall be required for all meetings.

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

Standing Committees

6.1 The Rules Sub-Committees will be populated through appointment with recommendations made by the Sport Manager and Managing Director to the Executive Board. These are specialist appointments and may also reflect partnerships which IFAF may have.

6.2 These Committees will be convened at a cadence which meets the objectives of the bi-annual Rules Review process and any urgent requirements.

6.3 These Committees will work to ensure that the Rules Review process considers the relevant information in order to be able to make an informed decision.

Timelines

7.1 The publishing of the Rules will occur bi-annually with new Rules coming into effect from January 1 onwards.

7.2 The Final Draft of the Rules must be submitted to the Executive Board for review no later than October 1 of the year prior to publication.

7.3 The Executive Board reserve the right to make amendments to the Rules if deemed appropriate for health, safety or welfare reasons or to ensure the furtherance of the sport.

Budget and Spending Authority

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

8.2 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.

8.3 No member has signing authority on behalf of IFAF.

Applications

9.1 IFAF seeks written application for the following:

9.1.a Four Committee Members

9.1.b Two Rules Editors (one English, one Spanish)

9.2 Applications should come in the form of a written application which includes a relevant Curriculum Vitae and a Cover Letter explaining why you consider yourself suitable.

9.3 Applications may include endorsements from IFAF Member Federations (Full and Associate). This is a requirement for the Chair role.

9.4 All applicants should state whether they have a current membership of or role with, an IFAF Member Federation or partner organisation.

9.5 Successful applicants will be bound by IFAF policies and procedures.

9.6 When sending in your Curriculum Vitae, details such as your address may be kept private. Please do state your current country of residence.

9.7 All applicants must be over the age of 18 years.

All applications should be sent via email to both of the following email addresses:

IFAF Board Member: Eric Mayes
Eric.mayes@americanfootball.sport

IFAF Sport Manager: Lars Carlsen
Lars.carlsen@americanfootball.sport

Deadline for applications: May 4st, 2025