Rules changes

Major changes

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

1-2-3-b	Access for TV partners between limit lines and sidelines	17
1-4-11-a-1	Identical video/internet connectivity for both teams	27
2-16-10-a	Scrimmage kick formation clarified	37
2-27-14-j	Sliding ball carrier added as a defenseless player	44
2-30-5	Definition of 'result of the play'	46
3-1-1-a	Restrictions on teams during warm-ups	48
3-1-1-d	Teams must stay off the field during the coin toss	48
3-4-3	Starting clock after a foul in last two minutes of half	62
3-5-2-e	Team B allowed to match up on substitutions	64
7-3-2-h	Intentional grounding exception: passer must retain possession	97
9-1-2-c	Tripping the ball carrier or simulated ball carrier now a foul	115
9-1-3	Element of targeting must be present; definition of crown	116
9-1-4	Element of targeting must be present	116
9-1-6-a	Revisions to blocking below the waist	118
9-1-9-b-2	Low blocks against passer clarified	120
9-1-15	Modifications to horse-collar rule	123
9-2-6	Coaches can now be disqualified	129
12	Video judge introduced	146

New Approved Rulings

A.R. 1-4-7:V	A.R. 2-16-10:I	A.R. 3-4-3:VI	A.R. 3-4-4:VI	A.R. 3-4-4:VII
A.R. 4-1-3:II	A.R. 7-1-4:VII	A.R. 7-3-2:XI	A.R. 7-3-2:XII	A.R. 7-3-8:I
A.R. 9-1-2:I	A.R. 9-1-4:X	A.R. 9-1-6:IV	A.R. 9-1-6:VII	A.R. 9-1-6:X
A.R. 9-2-1:XII	A.R. 9-2-2:VI	A.R. 9-4-4:I		

Rules changes 5

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.

1-1-7-b	1-1-7-c	1-2-2	1-4-2 Penalty
1-4-5-a-2	1-4-5-c-2	1-4-6-b-2	1-4-6-d-2
2-3-1-a	A.R. 2-4-3:II	A.R. 2-4-3:III	A.R. 2-4-3:IV
2-19-2-a	2-19-2-c	2-25-8	2-27-12-b
A.R. 2-30-4:II	2-35-1	2-35-1-c	3-1-3-e
3-1-3-f	A.R. 3-1-3:XII	A.R. 3-2-3:VII	A.R. 3-3-2:VII
3-3-5-b	3-3-6	3-3-7	3-3-8
3-3-9-b-2	3-4-2-b-2	3-4-4-a	A.R. 3-4-4:II
4-1-3-a	4-1-4	A.R. 5-2-3:I	A.R. 5-2-6:I
A.R. 6-1-3:I	A.R. 6-1-3:II	6-1-8	A.R. 6-2-1:I
A.R. 6-3-1:III	A.R. 6-3-4:I	A.R. 6-3-4:II	A.R. 6-3-4:III
A.R. 6-3-4:IV	A.R. 6-3-4:V	A.R. 6-3-11:III	A.R. 6-3-11:IV
A.R. 6-3-11:V	6-3-13	A.R. 6-4-1:II	A.R. 6-4-1:III
A.R. 6-5-1:I	A.R. 6-5-4:I	7-1-1-b	A.R. 7-1-2:IV
A.R. 7-1-3:IV	A.R. 7-1-4:V	A.R. 7-1-4:VI	7-1-5-a
7-1-5-a-2	7-1-5-a-3	A.R. 7-1-5:I	7-3-2-e
A.R. 7-3-2:IV	A.R. 7-3-4:II	7-3-7-c	7-3-8-b-1
A.R. 7-3-8:IV	7-3-10	A.R. 7-3-10:II	A.R. 7-3-11:II
A.R. 7-3-12:I	A.R. 8-3-2:V	A.R. 8-3-2:VIII	A.R. 8-3-2:IX
A.R. 8-3-4:I	A.R. 8-3-4:III	A.R. 9-1-6:II	A.R. 9-1-6:III
A.R. 9-1-6:V	A.R. 9-1-6:VIII	A.R. 9-1-7:I	A.R. 9-1-14:I
A.R. 9-1-14:II	A.R. 9-1-14:III	A.R. 9-1-15:I	A.R. 9-1-16:III
A.R. 9-1-16:VI	9-2-1-a-1	A.R. 9-2-1:VIII	9-2-2-d
A.R. 9-2-2:I	A.R. 9-2-3:I	A.R. 9-3-3:VIII	9-3-6-Exception-1-a
A.R. 9-4-1:III	A.R. 9-4-1:X	A.R. 10-1-5:II	A.R. 10-2-2:I
A.R. 10-2-2:III	A.R. 10-2-2:IV	A.R. 10-2-2:V	A.R. 10-2-2:VIII
A.R. 10-2-2:IX	A.R. 10-2-2:X	10-2-3	10-2-4
10-2-5-a-1	10-2-5-a-2	A.R. 10-2-5:VI	10-2-7-b
11-1-1	12-2-1-b-1-a		

Summary of differences between NCAA and IFAF rules

^{*} indicates a new difference in 2017

NCAA Rule	IFAF difference
1-2-5-f	Procedure for dealing with missing goals.
1-4-11	Film and video are allowed for coaching purposes (NCAA not until 2017).
	Cameras allowed on officials. Drones prohibited.
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.
3-1-1-d	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.

6 Rules changes

NCAA Rule	IFAF difference
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.
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.
9-2-2-d	Two players in same position can wear the same number.
9-2-2-е	Penalty for wearing illegal cleats does not include charging a team timeout.
0.0.7	*
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.