



IFAF RULES COMMITTEE

INTERPRETATIONS BULLETIN 2015/01

18th April 2015

The following bulletin produced by IFAF Rules of the Game Committee contains recent College Football Officiating interpretations and their official IFAF counterparts. The bulletin is supplementary to the IFAF Football Rules and Interpretations.

AR/interp. number	Play	CFO interpretation 2015	IFAF interpretation 2015
1-4-7:II	At the end of a down, B55's shoulder pad has become exposed and is not covered by the jersey.	Illegal equipment. Because the pad became exposed through play, B33 is not required to leave the game. The pad must be covered by the jersey before the ball is next put into play.	Same as CFO.
1-4-7:IV	As Team A is about to break its huddle, the Referee notices that A35 is wearing an overbuilt facemask.	A35 must leave the game for one down to get a legal facemask. Team A may use an available charged timeout in order that A35 not miss a down, but he may not play with the illegal facemask.	There is no prohibition of overbuilt facemasks in 2015, but it is likely that this rule will be adopted in 2016.
1-4-8:III	When the ball is dead after a scrimmage down, the Umpire notices that linebacker B55 has an exposed back pad at waist level, which apparently became exposed during the previous down.	B55 is not required to leave the game, but he must cover the exposed pad with his jersey before the next down.	Same as CFO.
3-2-4:I	When the ball is dead after a running play that ends out of bounds, the 40-second play clock is started. The umpire receives the ball from the line judge, and as he is placing it on the ground, he sees that it is one of Team B's balls. He tosses the ball to the line judge who attempts to get a Team A ball from the ball boy.	If the play clock reads 25 or less before the correct ball is in from the sideline and ready for play, the Referee declares a timeout and signals to reset the play clock to 25 seconds. When the correct ball is ready for play he signals to start the play clock and the game clock.	There is no such thing as a "Team A ball" or a "Team B ball". Under Rule 1-3-2 both teams use the same balls. Provided the ball is legal, the umpire should not attempt to remove it from the field, nor should the play clock be interrupted or changed in any way.

AR/interp. number	Play	CFO interpretation 2015	IFAF interpretation 2015
3-2-4:II	When the ball is dead after a running play that ends in the side zone, the officials have difficulty getting the ball in to the hash mark. As the play clock nears 25, the Umpire places the ball on the ground, and by the time the officials are ready, the play clock is somewhat below 25 when the Umpire steps away.	Without stopping the game clock, the Referee gives the “pump” signal to indicate that the play clock is to be reset to 25. If the play clock is quickly reset to 25, the game clock does not stop. Only if the play clock operator does not quickly respond to the Referee’s “pump” signal will the Referee declare a timeout, signal for the play clock to be set at 25, and then signal to start both the play and game clocks.	Same as CFO, but only when the play clock reaches 20.
3-3-9:V	During a running play that ends inbounds, a linebacker’s helmet comes off. When the ball becomes dead the game clock is stopped and reads 0:45 in the second quarter.	The play clock is set at 40 seconds. Team A has the option for a 10-second runoff. If Team A exercises this option, unless Team B is charged with a timeout the game clock is set to 0:35 and starts on the Referee’s signal. If Team B uses a timeout to avoid the 10-second runoff, the game clock remains at 0:45, the play clock is set at 25 and starts on the Referee’s signal, and the game clock starts on the snap.	Same as CFO.
8-4-2:VII	Team A snaps the ball at the B-15 to attempt a field goal. The kick is blocked, crosses the neutral zone and lands at the B-12. Before any player touches it beyond the neutral zone, the ball rebounds behind the neutral zone and goes out of bounds at the (a) B-17; (b) B-25.	(a) Team B’s ball, first and 10 at the B-17; (b) Team B’s ball, first and 10 at the B-25.	Same as CFO.
9-2-1:XI	During the play, the ball carrier fumbles and several players dive for the ball. B55 grabs A33 and slings him off the pile.	B55 is charged with a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct. 15 yards and automatic first down. The Referee announces that this is either the first or second unsportsmanlike conduct foul against B55. If it is the second, B55 is disqualified from the game.	This is not explicitly a foul under IFAF 2015 rules, but officials may penalise this as unsportsmanlike conduct.

AR/interp. number	Play	CFO interpretation 2015	IFAF interpretation 2015
9-2-5:I	On the opening kickoff, B22 catches the kick at his goal line and returns the ball down the sideline on Team B's side of the field. As he moves down the sideline officiating the play, the side judge either runs into or must run around a Team B coach or squad member in the restricted area ("the white"). B22 is driven out of bounds at the A-20.	Either situation is physical interference with an official during the play. No warning. Team B foul for unsportsmanlike conduct administered as a dead-ball foul. After the 15-yard penalty, Team B will have first and 10 at the A-35.	Same as CFO.