

RULE 11

The Officials: Jurisdiction and Duties

SECTION 1. Jurisdiction

ARTICLE 1. # The officials' jurisdiction begins 60 minutes before the scheduled kickoff and ends when the referee declares the score final [S14].

SECTION 2. Responsibilities

ARTICLE 1. # The game shall be played under the supervision of four or more officials. The game may be played under the supervision of three officials under exceptional circumstances such as injury or delay in travel.

ARTICLE 2. # Officiating responsibilities and mechanics are specified in the current edition of the *Manual of Football Officiating*, published by IAFOA. Officials are responsible for knowing and applying the material in the Manual.

- a. The use of mechanics systems that span crews of 3 to crews of 8 is essential. The use of manuals that only specify a subset of the mechanics is prohibited in international competition.
- b. National federations and officiating bodies are encouraged to use standard mechanics in games played under their jurisdiction to facilitate their officials moving between domestic and international games.
- c. From 2028, only officials who regularly use the latest approved mechanics will be considered for international tournaments. "Latest mechanics" will be the newest edition of the *Manual of Football Officiating*, or the previous edition for up to 12 months after its replacement.
- d. *Exceptions to b and c:* USA, Canada, Mexico and Japan.