

Rules changes

Major changes

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

Major changes are marked by a box like this. **New or modified text is marked in blue (grey when printed in monochrome).**

1-2-7 Penalty	Stop if chain set does not conform	46
1-4-4-a-4	Youth helmets illegal	50
1-4-4-a-5	Helmets over 10 years old may not be worn	50
2-8-3-b	T signal defined as an invalid fair catch signal	63
2-16-10-a	Scrimmage kick formation redefined	68
3-1-3-h	Extra period timeouts modified	79
3-3-6-a-1	Adjustment to the injury timeout for feigning injuries	90
3-5-3 Penalty	Defensive substitution penalty after 2-minute warning	100
6-3-14-a	Adjustment for defensive linemen on scrimmage kick plays	121
7-1-5-a-4	Further defined defensive team pre-snap movements	130
7-1-5-a-5	Identifies protected starting signals for defense and offense	130
9-1-9-a	Roughing the passer extended to players in passing posture	156
9-1-14	Modifies snapper protection on scrimmage kick plays	158
10-2-2-b	Unsportsmanlike conduct behind neutral zone enforced from previous spot	175
13-2-1-c	Washing and toilet facilities mandatory	189
13-8-6-e	Additional certification for coaches who officiate (from 2028)	199

New/Revised Approved Rulings

A.R. 3-2-4:VI	A.R. 3-3-4:III	A.R. 3-3-4:IV	A.R. 3-3-6:X	A.R. 3-3-6:XI
A.R. 3-3-6:XII	A.R. 3-3-6:XIII	A.R. 3-3-6:XIV	A.R. 3-3-6:XV	A.R. 3-3-6:XVI
A.R. 3-5-3:VIII	A.R. 3-5-3:IX	A.R. 3-5-3:X	A.R. 6-5-3:VII	A.R. 9-1-15:II

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. **New or modified text is marked in blue (grey when printed in monochrome).** A × symbol denotes where text has been deleted.

1-2-3-e	1-2-3-f	1-2-3-g
1-2-4-b	1-2-4-h	1-4-12
2-7-1	A.R. 2-8-3:II	2-25-11-c
2-27-14-k	3-2-2-g	3-2-4-c
3-2-4-c-5	3-3-6-b	3-3-6-e
3-3-6-f	A.R. 3-3-6:XVII	3-3-10-a
3-3-10-b-1	3-3-10-b-2	A.R. 3-5-2:V
4-1-2-b-2 Exception 3	4-1-2-c	4-1-2-d
4-1-3-b	7-1-6	A.R. 7-3-11:I
9-1-18	9-2-1-a-1-c	9-2-2 Penalty
A.R. 9-2-3:I	9-2-5-b	A.R. 9-2-5:I
A.R. 9-2-5:II	A.R. 9-2-5:III	A.R. 9-3-3:I

A.R. 10-2-5:XI	11-2-2-c	12-1-2-a-12
12-1-5-a	12-2-3-a	12-2-3-b
13-3-1-f-2	13-3-2-c	13-4-3-a-3
13-5-6-b	13-8-1-a-1	13-8-1-a-2
13-8-1-a-3	13-8-1-b	Appendix C

A "Field dimensions metric converter" has been added to Appendix D.

A new section "Rules application" has been added.

Summary of differences between NCAA and IFAF rules

NCAA Rule	IFAF difference
1-2-5-f	Procedure for dealing with missing goals.
1-4-8-d	Timeout if player does not respond to equipment enforcement.
1-4-11	Drones prohibited.
2-3-6-a	The free-blocking zone is centred on the snapper, not the middle lineman.
2-11-3	Definition of batting includes the head.
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. There is no distinction between disqualified and ejected - all such players must leave the playing enclosure.
3-1-1	During coin toss, teams must remain in the team area.
3-2-3	Period can be extended for foul on field goal or illegal touching violation.
3-2-4	Play clock reset only if it drops below 20 seconds before ball ready.
3-3-2	Running clock.
3-3-2-e-1	Clock stops to award all first downs, not just in last two minutes of half.
3-3-5	Two-minute warning lasts only as long as it takes to notify teams. Not a full timeout.
3-3-8	No short timeouts.
4-1-2-b	Ball may belong to recovering team after inadvertent whistle. Ball may belong to Team B after inadvertent whistle on scrimmage kick. Ignore inadvertent whistle if ball would have become dead anyway in the immediate continuing action.
4-1-3	Ball is dead if players in vicinity believe it is.
7-2-5	Both fumbles <i>and backward passes</i> out of bounds or at rest awarded according to forward fumble principles. NCAA rule does not apply to backward passes that go forward out of bounds.
9-1-3&4/9-5-1	No half-game suspensions.
9-1-7-c	Spot of foul for blocking out of bounds is spot on nearest sideline.
9-2-2	Additional unfair tactics.
9-2-2-e	No disqualification for illegal cleats.
9-2-2-f	No more than ONE player allowed to be assigned the same number in a competitive game.
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.
10-2-7-a	Non-flagrant personal foul enforcement can carry forward.

NCAA Rule

12

IFAF difference

Instant replay rule provides more responsibility to the video judge, including calling major fouls and any fouls after the two-minute warning in the 4th quarter.

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.