



# **Gridiron Australia**

## **Adoption of IFAF Rules 2018**

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Gridiron Australia Limited



## **ADOPTION OF IFAF RULES 2018**

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As a member of IFAF, GA makes use of the IFAF rules.

The IFAF rules are the same as NCAA rules, with administrative changes suitable for the level of competition outside of the NCAA.

The IFAF rules are further adjusted for use in Australia. All Gridiron Australia members use these rules as a starting point.

### **Adjustments to playing rules by individual competitions**

Adjustments to game rules are discouraged but for particular circumstances they are allowed. Adjustments that reduce the safety of the game or change it significantly will not be approved. The procedure to get an approval is as follows:

1. Requests must come from the executive of a state league.
2. Send an email to the AGOA Rules and Mechanics coordinator [rules@ago.org.au](mailto:rules@ago.org.au) and explain what you have in mind. They will discuss with you the workability of your proposal and ensure that the language is clear and your proposal will be enforceable. They may alternatively advise you not to make the change and explain why.
3. Send a request to the GA Secretary [secretary@ga.org.au](mailto:secretary@ga.org.au) who will submit your proposal to the board and notify you of the outcome.

### **Rule 1: The Game, Field, Players and Equipment**

1. When playing on a rugby field with goal posts 100 metres apart (109.36 yards). The field should be marked as 90 yards. Each end zone should be 9.68 yards. The goal posts must be at the back of the end zone. The IFAF yard (Rule 1-2-1-a) should not be used.
2. The IFAF rules regarding stadium roofs (Rule 1-2-1-n and 1.2.1-o) should be disregarded. If a ball hits any part of the stadium above the field, an official will sound their whistle and inadvertent whistle provisions will apply.
3. The specification of rugby goal posts is 1 inch narrower and 2 inches lower than Gridiron goal posts (Rule 1-2-5-a). This is acceptable and no adjustment is required.



4. If goal posts are not available at both ends of the field, the game will be played with no field-goals scored at either end (Rule 1-2-5-f).

### **Rule 3: Periods, Time Factors and Substitutions**

5. The standard length of periods is 12 minutes. The intermission between halves shall be 15 minutes (Rule 3-2-1-b). The rules around starting time before darkness (Rule 3-2-1-c,d,e) are disregarded.
6. The Running Clock provisions of rule 3-3-2 (also known as the 'Mercy Rule') will only apply in the second half of a game once the margin in the score is more than 34 points.
7. 7. For the purpose of tie-breakers in league tables, the maximum game points differential shall be 35 points. The actual score of the game is to be recorded as the official score. For example;
  - Example 1: Team A beats Team B 44-0 This is the official (recorded) score and is reflected in the 'Points for' and 'Points against' columns in the league tables. The points differential for tie- break purposes will be 35.
  - Example 2: Team A beats Team B 56-20 This is the official (recorded) score and is reflected in the 'Points for' and 'Points against' columns in the league tables. The points differential for tie- break purposes will also be 35.
  - Example 3: Team A beats Team B 54-20 This is the official (recorded) score and is reflected in the 'Points for' and 'Points against' columns in the league tables. The points differential for tie- break purposes will be 34.

### **Rule 9: Conduct of Players and Others Subject to the Rules**

8. Where a player is disqualified for fighting or a flagrant personal foul, they will be suspended for the next scheduled game their team plays.
9. Where a player is disqualified for targeting and the disqualification is not reversed at some point before the next scheduled game in which their team plays, the player will be suspended for that next scheduled game.
10. State Leagues may conduct a tribunal for further sanction.



## **Rule 12: Video Review of Targeting Calls**

Gridiron Australia games do not typically make use of instant replay or video judge rules. Competitions that have suitable video facilities and at least 6 cameras may elect to use the IFAF Video Judge rule. Otherwise and by default, Rule 12 is replaced with the following procedures to allow video review of targeting calls.

## **SECTION 1. PROCEDURES**

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### **ARTICLE 1**

Where a player is disqualified for targeting, the Referee will inform the Head Coach that the disqualification will be reversed and the player allowed to return if indisputable video evidence is available to show that the call was incorrect. The 15-yard penalty will be enforced and the game will continue.

- a. It is the responsibility of the disqualified players team to source and provide the video evidence. Any agreements between teams to share video are outside the scope of this rule and will not be adjudicated by game officials.
- b. Only one review will be conducted during the game per targeting call. It is the responsibility of the team to ensure the best quality angles and video are available before requesting a review. If the video quality is not sufficient to clearly show that the disqualification was incorrect, then the review will be denied and no further review during the game will be permitted.
- c. If the request to review is made before the video has been found or is ready, the request will be denied and no further review during the game will be permitted.
- d. Any decision made by the Referee or the Officiating Supervisor is final.
- e. When a return is allowed the Referee will inform the opposing head coach and announce the return.



## **SECTION 2. OFFICIATING SUPERVISOR VIDEO REVIEW**

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### **ARTICLE 1**

Where an Officiating Supervisor has been appointed by the relevant assigning body, they may conduct a review while the game continues. If they determine that the disqualification was incorrect, they will inform the Referee the next time the game clock is stopped, after which the player will be allowed to return.

### **ARTICLE 2**

A team may send a coach out of a team area for the purpose of locating the Officiating Supervisor and requesting the review.

## **SECTION 3. COACHES CONFERENCE VIDEO REVIEW**

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### **ARTICLE 1**

Where video is available on a mobile device next to the field, and an Officiating Supervisor has not been appointed, a review may be conducted by the Referee and calling official(s) during a coaches conference. If they determine that the disqualification was incorrect, the player will be allowed to return.

## **SECTION 4. HALF-TIME VIDEO REVIEW**

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### **ARTICLE 1**

Where video facilities are not next to the field, or when a review is requested during the first 5 minutes of the half time intermission, the review will be conducted by the Referee and calling official(s). As soon as possible during the intermission between halves, the Referee will be provided a video of the play(s) in question for his review. If the disqualification was incorrect, the player will be allowed to return for the second half.



## **ARTICLE 2**

No request for review is permitted after more than five minutes of the half-time intermission. This is to avoid delaying the start of the second half.

## **SECTION 5. POST-GAME VIDEO REVIEW**

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### **ARTICLE 1**

A request for review may be made up to 30 minutes after the game has ended. Where video is provided to either the appointed Officiating Supervisor or Referee a review will be conducted by the appointed Officiating Supervisor, Referee and calling official(s). If they determine that the disqualification was incorrect the Referee will inform the Head Coach that the disqualification has been reversed.

## **SECTION 6. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

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### **ARTICLE 1**

A Disqualification report must be completed by the calling official(s) whenever a disqualification occurs, even if it is subsequently reversed.

In the case of a reversal, the reason(s) for the reversal must be included in the report.