

## BAFA rule changes 2019

This list contains all BAFA rule changes adopted for 2019, including those made by IFAF. It also lists some of the most significant editorial changes.

Ordered by importance to teams (ITT) and importance to officials (ITO).



### 1 Rule changes

#	Rule	Change	Rationale for change	ITT	ITO
1.	3-2-4	40-second play clock used after free kicks and touchdowns	Speed up the first play after a kickoff. Speed up the try.  We added an extra detail to IFAF rules that the 40-second clock after free kicks only applies if Team B will be next to put the ball in play. This is on the basis that more time will reasonably be needed in the unusual case where Team A has the ball.	5	5
2.	9-1-6-a	Blocking below the waist rules for Team A adjusted	The blocking below the waist rule has once again been simplified by NCAA. Now, only linemen can be unrestricted. All backs are restricted to blocking from the front.	5	5
3.	9-2-1 Penalty	Change: "Flagrant offenders, if players or substitutes, shall be disqualified" to:  " <u>Flagrant offenders shall be disqualified</u> "	The same rules that apply to players should apply to coaches and other sideline personnel.	5	5
4.	9-1-6-a	Add:  " <u>or the free blocking zone</u> "	Extends the area in which blocks below the waist are unrestricted to slightly beyond the neutral zone. Fixes an issue with AR 9-1-6:XI.	4	4
5.	1-4-7-m	Change to "Equipment that has been modified in a way that reduces the protection of the player wearing it <u>or any other participant</u> ."	Previously, we prohibited the adaption of equipment in such ways that it reduced protection for the player wearing it, but we have now extended the rule to cover situations where it might be argued that the player wearing it is at no higher risk, if that adaption might affect other players. This includes teammates as well as opponents, and also coaches and officials who may come into contact with it.	4	2
6.	1-4-11-c	Institutional videographer restrictions.  Video created by a videographer working for one of the teams may not be used during a live broadcast or digital stream of the game.	Material filmed from within the team area is sensitive in that it may show players from very close up, or it may reveal tactical information that may be of use to the opponent. This should not form part of material that is broadcast live.	4	2
7.	9-1-11-b	Leaping on tries, field goals and punts redefined	Now based on the concept of a plane above the player being leapt over.	3	3
8.	10-2-5-d	Field goal penalty enforcement aligned to try enforcement	Scoring team may now accept the 3 points AND have a personal foul or unsportsmanlike conduct foul penalty carry forward to the next kickoff.	3	3

#	Rule	Change	Rationale for change	ITT	ITO
9.	3-4-3	Add tied games to the provision to start the clock on the snap in the last two minutes of the half.	Addresses an inequity in the rule.	3	3
10	1-3-2-i	Deleted the requirement, in wet conditions, for game management to provide towels for the officials to dry the ball. Also deleted the requirement for ball-drying towels to be white.  If there insufficient towels, either team may provide additional ones.	Few teams met their obligation under the old rule. There is still the option for towels to be provided.  There is still an obligation to provide towels for the ball boys.  We are making this easier for teams to achieve by removing the requirement that the towels are white.  Note: if towels are not provided, the teams should not complain if they have to play with a wet ball!	3	2
11	9-1-7-c	Blocks out of bounds.  Change: "The spot of the foul is where the blocker crosses the sideline in going out of bounds." to: " <u>The spot of the foul is the point on the sideline nearest to where the contact occurs.</u> "	Makes the rule much easier to officiate. Making a mental note of the spot where (possibly multiple) players cross the sideline "just in case" is challenging. Getting the spot of a block is much easier. Secondly, going out of bounds (unless otherwise specified in the rules) is not a foul per se. We should penalise at the point where an illegal act occurs	2	3
12	2-11-3	Change to:  "Batting the ball is intentionally striking it or intentionally changing its direction with the <u>head</u> , hand(s) or arm(s)."	Add <u>head</u> to definition of batting.  Under rare circumstances, a ball might bounce up to a player's head height. Propelling the ball with the player's head should be treated the same as changing its direction with hand or arm.	2	3
13	4-1-2-b-3, 2-25-9	Add exception that if an advertent whistle sounds during a scrimmage kick, and other exceptions don't apply, the ball belongs to Team B at the spot where the kick ends, provided it crosses the neutral zone and is untouched by Team B.  The spot where the kick ends (in this case) is where the ball next touches a player, official, the ground, or crosses a boundary line.  If an inadvertent whistle sounds during a field goal attempt, the kick may still score if the other usual provisions are met.	Kicking the ball implies Team A is giving up possession, so if an inadvertent whistle is blown, the ball should normally belong to Team B.  This provision also means that most Team B fouls during scrimmage kicks can be enforced as PSK and do not result in the ball being returned to Team A.	2	3
14	8-3-2-a	Team that scores as time expires may forego the try when ahead by one or two points	Avoid the need for Team A to take a knee to protect a small lead.  Safety issue but more a game control issue.	2	2
15	12-3-4-c	Permit adjustments to the game clock in two further circumstances:  a) If the correct ruling meant the clock should not have stopped, there may be a 10-second runoff.  b) If the clock expired incorrectly at the end of a quarter, time can be restored.	Allow the video judge to adjust the game clock to ensure fairness.	2	2

#	Rule	Change	Rationale for change	ITT	ITO
16	9-2-2	Add: "d. <u>No unusual action or verbiage may be used by Team A to confuse an opponent into believing the snap or free kick is not imminent.</u> e. <u>No action that simulates an injury may be used to confuse opponents or officials.</u> "	Outlaw specific trick plays that we regard as objectionable. The first of these has been an example in the Manual of Football Officiating of a possible trick play. Adding it to the rule increases its visibility. The second is intended to address a recent US example where a player lay motionless on the field to discourage an opponent from covering him.	2	2
17	1-2-1-g-3	Field/decorative markings and advertising rules adjusted	Standardises the markings that are allowed at or near midfield. Although this is rare in IFAF football, where decorative markings are used, they should be in standard places.	2	1
18	12-2-2-c	Add: " <u>While undertaking a review of a particular aspect of a play, other aspects may come under consideration. A review can consider any aspect of the play for which the game was stopped.</u> "	Not explicit in the rules before, but was in the Manual of Football Officiating. This makes it absolutely clear that once a play is under review, any reviewable aspect of it can be changed. For example, a review is requested to check whether a pass was incomplete. The review may create a foul for a personal foul spotted during the review.	1	3
19	2-27-6-d	Add: " <u>A teammate is a player of the same team.</u> "	Define "teammate".	1	1
20	1-4-12-a	Permit competitions to have a policy to handle situations where coaches' headsets fail.	Ensure equitability of communication for the two teams. We don't stipulate what that policy should be.	1	1

## 2 Editorial changes

This list includes only significant editorial changes. All deletions, corrected errors, clarifications due to interpretation and items rewritten for readability are marked in the rulebook.

#	Rule	Change	Rationale for change
1	1-4-5	Jersey design allows captain designation	Allows captains to wear the letter "C" on their uniform to identify them.
2.	2-19-2	Team A forward pass further defined.	Only movement of the hand (not the arm) forward counts as starting the pass.
3.	2-8-1-c	"The ball is declared dead at the spot of the catch or <u>recovery. If the catch or recovery precedes the signal, the ball is dead when the signal is first given.</u> "	Clarified when the ball becomes dead when a fair catch signal is made. The doubly-underlined text is IFAF only – it obviously should apply to recoveries as well as catches.
4.	3-3-7-a	A charged full team timeout requested by any player or head coach shall <u>not exceed one minute 30 seconds.</u>	Resolve inconsistency with Rule 3-3-8 over whether a timeout lasts 1'25 or 1'30. Restores pre-2018 wording.
5.	4-2-3	Loose ball out of bounds, ball not in player control.	The word "control" replaces "possession".
6.	6-1-2	Free kick ball relocation clarified	Emphasis that the lateral position of the ball can only be changed if a charged timeout is taken.

#	Rule	Change	Rationale for change
7.	6-1-2-b-3	Add: "If a Team A player attempts to kick the ball but misses it (intentionally or accidentally), it is a dead-ball foul for illegal procedure [S19": IFK]."	Clarifies that there is a dead-ball foul for a failed kickoff attempt. Penalising Team A at this point will save more time than penalising them later for delay of game. This codifies an interpretation circulated to officials in 2018.
8.	8-3-2	Try down: Ball position for the snap	Allow the position of the ball to be altered before the play clock reaches 25.
9.	8-6-2	Touchback: Ball position for the snap	Allow the position of the ball to be altered before the play clock reaches 25.
10	9-1-3 Penalty and 9-1-4 Penalty	Add " <u>Flagrant foul</u> "	Clarifies that targeting is always a flagrant foul. This has implications for enforcement of penalties after a change of possession on tries or in extra periods.
11	9-1-9	Roughing the passer further defined	Clarifies that any personal foul against the passer is a roughing the passer foul.
12	9-1-16	Penalty statement for roughing the kicker updated	Clarifies that any personal foul against the kicker is a roughing the kicker foul.
13	9-2-6-e	Head coach may designate replacement when disqualified.	Common sense.
14	10-2-2:XVI	Remove reference to captain.	In most circumstances, the penalty decision should be referred to the head coach. This is the only place in the rulebook where captains are linked directly to penalty accept/decline decisions.