



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
AMERICAN FOOTBALL
INTERNATIONAL OFFICIATING – CODE OF BEHAVIOUR



**INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION**
OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Selecting International Officials

The International Federation of American Football is committed to ensuring that sanctioned international fixtures are overseen by officials of the highest quality and integrity.

Officials: Code of Behaviour

Referees and Competition Officials will be referred to as officials from this point forward.

1. Comply with the rules and regulations of IFAF.
2. Exercise
 - i. Self-control
 - ii. Responsible Behaviour
 - iii. Consideration of others
 - iv. Courtesy
 - v. Good Manners
3. Officiate with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules, which govern them, in the true spirit of the game.
4. Comply with the rules, regulations and procedures relating to doping control.
5. Comply with the laws and regulation currently in force when in international settings.
6. Comply with the IFAF equalities and protection policies and procedures.
7. Refrain from any act or omission that would be detrimental to IFAF, its partners or any fellow athlete.

Even though the standards focus on and describe work functions, they are based on a number of accepted assumptions and values, which underpin good practice in refereeing and officiating.

These have been articulated into a Code of Behaviour, developed by the IFAF and it is incorporated into this document. Please also reference the Code of Ethics on the IFAF website and IFAF's integrity documentation.

The purpose of this Code of Behaviour is to establish and maintain standards for game officials and to inform and protect members of the public using their services. Ethical standards comprise such values as integrity, responsibility, competence and confidentiality. In pursuit of these principles, IFAF referees and competition officials subscribe to standards in the following areas:

1. Issues of Responsibility
2. Issues of Competence

This Code of Ethics is a framework within which to work. It is a series of guidelines rather than a set of instructions, and should be used in conjunction with the IFAF's Championship Guidelines.

Issues of Responsibility

American football officiating is a deliberately undertaken responsibility, and IFAF officials are responsible for the observation of the principles embodied in this Code of Ethics.

Humanity

1.1 Officials must respect the rights, dignity and worth of every human being and their ultimate right to self-determination. Specifically, officials must treat everyone equally, within the context of their activity, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation or political persuasion. People in this document are referred to as players. It should be understood that we include all parties in this including children who have full rights under all IFAF safeguarding and equality policies & procedures.

Integrity

1.2 IFAF officials should refrain from public criticism of fellow officials. Differences of opinion should be dealt with on a personal basis and more serious disputes should be referred to the relevant IFAF Officiating Committee or to the appropriate Body.

1.3 IFAF officials must not encourage players to violate the rules of the game and should actively seek to discourage such action. Furthermore, officials should encourage players to obey the spirit of such rules.

Abuse of Privilege

1.4 The official is privileged, on occasion, to have contact with players and to travel and reside with athletes in the course of officiating and practice. An official must not attempt to exert undue influence over the athlete in order to obtain personal benefit or reward.

Personal Standards

1.5 The official must consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of their sport and of officiating - to players, coaches, other officials, spectators, the media and the general public.

1.6 Personal appearance is a matter of individual taste but the official has an obligation to project an image of health, cleanliness and functional efficiency. Officials must wear the appropriate uniform when officiating.

1.7 The official should never smoke when officiating.

1.8 Officials should not drink alcohol on game day and preferably not the day before.

Safety

1.9 Officials have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the players with whom they work as far as possible within the limitations of their control.

1.10 All reasonable steps should be taken to establish a safe working environment.

Issues of Competence

2.1 Officials shall confine themselves to practice in those fields of American football in which they have been trained/educated, and which are recognised by the IFAF to be valid. Valid areas of expertise are those directly concerned with game officiating.

2.2 Officials should regularly seek ways of increasing their professional development and self-awareness.

2.3 Officials should welcome evaluation of their work by colleagues and be able to account to players, employers, the IFAF and colleagues for their actions.

2.4 Officials have a responsibility to themselves and the players to maintain their own effectiveness, resilience and abilities, and to know when their personal resources are so depleted as to make it necessary for them to seek help and/or to withdraw from officiating, whether temporarily or permanently. Referees in particular need to be aware that they have a duty of care for the safety of the players on their field whilst competing. Referees must ensure that they are physically and mentally competent to carry out this duty of care.

