



Statutes (Summary)

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Article 1: Definition

IFAF

International Federation of American Football.

Member

A national federation of American football affiliated to IFAF

Congress

The supreme authority consisting of a general assembly of the Members in accordance with these statutes

Executive Board

The Executive Board of IFAF as constituted in accordance with the present statutes.

American football

Is made up by American football played under whatever set of rules, Canadian football, flag-football, touch football, peewee-football, indoor American football and related activities for amateur and professionals.

Article 2: Title, constitution headquarters

The Federation is a non-profit association and will take the name of the International Federation of American Football. IFAF shall consist of the national federations that are affiliated to it and recognized by it as controlling American football in their respective countries. Only one federation shall be recognized in each country. IFAF is duly organized under French law specifically under the provisions of the July 1st 1901 law as amended from time to time. Consequently, IFAF is declared at the “ préfecture du département ” of its legal seat in order to have legal capacity. The names: International Federation of American Football, and IFAF, and the IFAF logo are protected by copyright.

The number of Members may not be lower than three, representing at least two different continents. The legal seat of IFAF will be at La Courneuve, France. It cannot be transferred to another location without a Congress decision. IFAF is empowered to open offices or give mandates worldwide. The official languages of IFAF are English and French. English is the standard language for the minutes, the official correspondence and the communications. Each member shall be responsible for his own translation. In the event of any divergence in the interpretation of statutes, the French text shall be regarded as the authoritative.

Article 3: Objects

IFAF Objects are:

A. To consider and coordinate all matters relating to American Football among its Members.

B. To promote the development of friendly sporting relationships between the Members in the spirit of peace and mutual understanding, and to safeguard their interests.

C. To assist in promoting the game of American Football all over the World without racial, religious, political, gender or any other discriminations and to take all practicable measures to stop such discrimination.

D. To provide, by means of statutory regulations, principles for settling any differences that may arise between Members.

E. To oversee the organization of the competitions and tournaments as outlined in Article 12 of the present Statutes, and any other such events.

F. To sanction international competitions of teams organized by a Member.

G. To prevent infringements of IFAF Statutes or regulations.

H. To promote fair play and to take all practicable measures to stop doping and to abide by the relevant internationally sanctioned regulations such as the WADA code.

Article 4: Membership

A. IFAF is open to all legally and / or recognized national federations controlling American Football at a national level.

B. Only one Member from each country or self governed territory which is recognized by IOC as own NOC (subject to approval by IFAF Congress) may be affiliated, and such Member shall be recognized by IFAF as the only national governing body for all American football in such a country.

C. A federation can only be admitted for membership by Congress.

D. In any event, the Executive Board may grant provisional membership, but this membership should be subject to approval at the next Congress. Any membership application has to be evaluated by the Executive Board before being submitted to the Congress.

E. A federation applying for membership shall address a written request to this effect to the Executive Board. The application for membership shall contain a declaration in which the applicant federation undertakes to conform at all times to the statutes, regulations and decisions of IFAF. The applicant shall enclose a copy of its own statutes and regulation, and a certified copy of its statutes translated in one of the official languages with his request. These statutes must without any exception contain a mandatory clause stipulating the restraints and obligations contained in Article 14 of the IFAF statutes.

F. A federation that has been granted membership must pay the membership fee before its membership will come in to effect. A federation that has been granted membership and has paid its membership fee shall immediately be allowed to take part in the IFAF activities such as Congress and competitions provided that the entry deadline has not passed.

G. Members must at all times meet the following requirements (a federation applying to become a member must also meet the requirements):

1. To have at least one regular season championship in its country
2. To represent the entire country and control the American football in its country
3. Not to be a member of or be otherwise affiliated to another organisation active in American football and not to participate in any competition under control of such organisation, unless authorized by the IFAF Executive Board
4. To be recognized by national sports or government authority or national Olympic committee, unless national laws so inhibits
5. To pay its membership fee by January 31st every year
6. To abide by IFAF statutes, regulations and decisions
7. To send their in force statutes and regulations to IFAF
8. To have at least 10 clubs in their federation
9. To participate in IFAF competitions
10. To ensure that their internal constitution stipulates that their federation is organized and conducted democratically and without any racial, religious, political or gender discrimination.

H. Membership will be terminated:

1. By voluntary resignation forwarded to the Secretary, in written form by the National Federation legal representative, together with the legal documentation provided by the member association. This resignation will only be accepted if the member association has fulfilled its obligations toward IFAF and its members. This resignation shall become effective thirty (30) days after receipt by the Secretary.
2. By means of revocation ordered by Congress deciding with the majority of two-thirds of the votes, only after a proposal put to Congress by the Executive Board. Notes of the same having been given to Congress on the agenda submitted with the notification of Congress.

National federations that are not full members will be granted a temporary membership by decision of the Executive Board. The temporary membership will be granted for a period of three years. After this period a new decision shall be taken. Temporary members have no voting right. They can attend Congress only as observers without the right to speak. Members of temporary members cannot be elected or appointed to the executive bodies. They have no right of participation in any competition.

In countries where there is no approved or recognized national federation existing the Executive Board can appoint an IFAF Country Administrator which will have the formal status of a temporary member. The IFAF Country Administrator has not to pay any registration fee.

- I. The Executive Board may suspend a Member after due process for important reasons when:
1. The Statutes, other rules and regulations, or decisions of IFAF are violated, and/or
 2. The requirements of Article 4 G. are no longer fulfilled. A Member of IFAF may be dismissed for infringements of the Statutes and / or regulations.
- J. A suspended Member forfeits its membership rights so long as it remains suspended and its teams and officials may not organise and/or participate in official competitions or activities. If not lifted by the Executive Board in the meantime, a suspension remains in force until the next Congress. A decision by the Executive Board to suspend a member can always be appealed to the appeal committee. Barring a lifted suspension by the appeal committee the Congress shall decide whether the suspension is lifted or prolonged.

Article 5: Continental Zones and continental executive committees

Members affiliated to IFAF and geographically situated on the same continent shall belong to their respective Continental zone. IFAF shall have the following Continental zones IFAF Africa, IFAF Americas, IFAF Asia, IFAF Europe and IFAF Oceania.

The Continental executive committees shall assist, support and advise the IFAF Executive bodies and the congress regarding the following issues:

1. The promotion and coordination of the development and activities of American football within the respective continental zone
2. Matters of common interest of the members in their continent.
3. Organization of continental club and national team's competitions
4. Preparation of the budget and plan of action to be submitted to the executive board.

The Executive Board of IFAF is allowed in specific cases to delegate some of its duties and powers to any continental executive committee.

The chairperson and the other persons in the continental executive committees must be a national of a country, which is represented by the continental zone he/she represents. A member of the Executive board is not eligible to be elected or appointed to the continental committees except for the chairperson of each continental executive committee who have a seat at the Executive board.

The respective continental zone members shall elect a continental executive committee as follows for a term of four years (elections to be held between winter Olympic Games):

IFAF Africa, a chairperson, a vice chairperson and a member plus two substitutes.

IFAF Americas, a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a continental competition committee chairperson, a continental officiating committee chairperson, a continental technical committee chairperson, a member plus two substitutes.

IFAF Asia, a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a continental competition committee chairperson, a continental officiating committee chairperson, a continental technical committee chairperson plus two substitutes.

IFAF Europe, a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a continental competition committee chairperson, a continental officiating committee chairperson, a continental technical committee chairperson, three members plus two substitutes.

IFAF Oceania, a chairperson, a vice chairperson, a continental competition committee chairperson, a continental officiating committee chairperson, a continental technical committee chairperson plus two substitutes.

No member country shall have more than one (1) person on the Continental Executive Committee unless the number of IFAF members in the continent does not exceed the number of positions available. In this case, a maximum of two (2) persons will represent an IFAF member on their respective Continental Executive Committee.

The continental executive committees shall meet at least four times a year.

Article 6: Legislative Body

IFAF Congress is the supreme authority and legislative body of IFAF.

Article 7: Executive Bodies

IFAF Executive Bodies are as follows:

- A. The Executive Board
- B. The Secretariat

Article 8: Congress

The IFAF Congress is the general assembly of all IFAF members.

- A. An ordinary Congress shall be held every year within the months of April until July. If there is a World Championship played that year the Congress shall be held during that tournament. Exact date and place shall be decided by the Executive Board, which shall notify the Members no later than four months before Congress. Chairman shall be determined according to the prescriptions of the Standing orders for Congress regulations.
- B. The agenda of Congress shall be prepared by the Executive Board and shall be dispatched to Members at least 30 days in advance. All proposals to be submitted to the Congress by Members must be sent in writing in one of the two official languages to the Secretariat at least 60 days before Congress. The Executive Board must submit all proposals received to Congress and the Executive Board shall write a recommendation for decision by Congress. Only those proposals sent in time and included in the agenda may be discussed at Congress.

Any candidate wishing to run for any elected seat at the IFAF congress must be nominated to the Secretariat at least 60 days before the congress. The Executive Board must submit all nominations received to congress. The congress can accept late nominations if the majority at the congress decides so.

- C. The agenda of the ordinary Congress shall include the following items:
1. Appointment of scrutineers
 2. Appointment of three delegates to whom the minutes must be submitted to for checking before dispatch to the Members
 3. Approval of the minutes from the preceding congress.
 4. Report of the Executive Board covering the period of the last financial year.
 5. Vote on the approval of the Executive Board's report covering the last financial year.
 6. Presentation of the annual report by the treasurer.
 7. Auditors' report
 8. Vote on the approval of the annual report and the auditor's report
 9. Submission of the budget and the plan of action for the upcoming financial year proposed by the Executive Board
 10. Vote on the approval of the budget and the plan of action.
 11. Admission and/or resignation of Members
 12. Vote on any proposal sent according to the statutes and proposals by the Executive Board
 13. Election of the IFAF President (in accordance with art. 9)
 14. Election of the members of the IFAF Presidium (in accordance with art.9)
 15. A) Election of the Continental executive committee chairperson (in accordance with art. 5 and 9) by the respective continental zone members
B) Election of the Continental executive committee members (in accordance with art 5) by the respective continental zone members “
 16. Election of the Athletes Committee representatives at the Executive Board (in accordance with article 15)
 17. Election of chairperson for the competitions, officiating and technical committees (in accordance with art 15.)
 18. Election of one auditor (in accordance with art. 16)
 19. Amendments to the Statutes (if any).
- D. If the Executive Board considers it necessary, or if one quarter of the Member Associations submits a request in writing, an Extraordinary Congress shall be convened. Only items included in the agenda shall be discussed at such an Extraordinary Congress.
- E. Each Member shall have a one-vote right and can be represented by a maximum of two delegates of which only one may vote for that Member.
- F. Votes by proxy or correspondence shall not be allowed. A delegate shall represent only one Member Association and shall be a citizen of the country of the Member which he/she represents. Members must submit to the Executive Board no later than 60 days before the Congress the names of their delegates.
- G. During their term of office, members of the Executive Board shall not be eligible to act as delegates of their federations.
- H. Decision shall be taken by a simple majority of the valid votes cast, unless specially indicated otherwise in these statutes. If there is a tie the proposal will be rejected. Votes will be secret if one delegate asks for it.
- I. Elections will imply secret and in writing ballot unless there are less or as much candidates than seats to supply. The absolute majority of the votes shall decide. If no

candidate obtains the absolute majority, the election will be repeated, but only between the two candidates who have obtained the greatest number of votes, so a simple majority will decide this second vote. If the eventuality of a draw, election will be repeated until decision is reached. If several candidates are elected in a ballot, they are elected in the order of number of votes they have obtained; if two or more candidates have the same number of votes and are placed at the bottom of the ranking list, a further ballot will determine those who will be elected.

- J. Proposed amendments of the statutes may only be adopted by a majority of two thirds of valid votes cast. Such proposals shall neither be discussed nor voted upon at least half of the Member Associations, entitled to vote are present in their places.
- K. IFAF Dissolution is to be decided by at least three-quarters of its full Members.
- L. Congress decisions are binding for Members. Decisions, with the exception of the result of the elections that is immediate, will take effect three months after being passed. Congress may decide their effect shall take place earlier or later.
- M. The Secretary is responsible for the minutes of the Congress which will be sent at the latest three months after Congress to Members, a summary being forwarded in the month following Congress; objections shall be returned in writing to the Secretary within 4 weeks after the receipt of the minutes.
- N. Travel and board and lodging expenses of the delegates are not paid by IFAF.

Article 9: Executive Board

The Executive Board, elected by the Congress, shall consist of twelve persons: a President, a senior Vice-President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer and a Secretary, two representatives from the Athletes committee and the five continental executive committee chairpersons. The President, senior vice president, vice president, treasurer and the secretary is the IFAF Presidium. No gender shall have less than 20 per cent of the seats (excepted President and the continental executive committee chairpersons).

The presidium members and the Athletes committee representatives are elected by the Congress for a period of four years (between Summer Olympic Games). The continental executive committee chairpersons are elected by the congress for a period of four years (between winter Olympic games). They can be re-elected if they qualify under the statutes. No country can have more than one member on the Executive Board and all members of the Executive Board must be each a member of their respective Member federation. In case of resignation or expulsion of one or more members of the Executive Board that seat will remain vacant for the rest of the period until the next Congress sits.

The President may sign any contract or agreement for the proper execution of the administration of IFAF and can empower an IFAF Committee or a person to do the same. The President shall have an ordinary vote and when votes are equal he/she shall have the casting vote. In case of emergency, a vote can be arranged by correspondence, phone or e-mail for the validity of which the President will be responsible. The President is the legal representative of IFAF; he can deliver if necessary a special and written power to another member of the Executive Board.

Board meetings may be convened through the Internet.

The Presidium shall be the federation's executive body. It shall be empowered to take decisions on all matters that are not exclusively devoted to Congress or any other bodies referred to in these statutes. The Executive Board shall be responsible for strategic and financial planning, annual planning and approval of the congress agenda. The Presidium and

Executive Board decisions shall be binding for the Members and the other bodies of IFAF without prejudice to their respective powers. The Executive Board shall meet at least twice a year. The Executive Board shall appoint the chairperson and members of the standing committees and the judicial bodies except for the elected positions at the competitions, officiating and technical committees.

Article 10: Finance

The financial year starts on January 1st and ends on December 31st. Income / revenues of IFAF are made up of but not limited to:

- A. Subscriptions of members
- B. Fees due to IFAF regulations
- C. Registration fees to competitions
- D. Income of any nature stemming from demonstration, competitions, and organizations of its competitions.
- E. Subsidies and sponsor revenues
- F. Any financial resources that IFAF is legally entitled to receive

The subscription fee is decided annually by Congress or remains unchanged; the annual subscription fee is payable by the 31st of January each year. In case of late payment it might be increased up to 50% by decision of the Executive Board. The accounts are maintained and collected by the Treasurer who will provide the Executive Board and Members with regular reports. Those reports will also be given to Congress.

The only official currency of IFAF is Euro; payments can also be done in American dollars at the payment day rate settled by the European Central Bank.

Members are liable for all financial obligations towards IFAF of their own members.

Article 11: Competitions

- A. IFAF competitions shall be open to representative teams or club teams of all Members. Teams shall be admitted to each competition on the basis of the conditions set down in the competitions regulations. The Executive Board shall approve such regulations.
- B. Representative teams and / or clubs, during their participation in IFAF competition, shall not be allowed to take part in other international competitions that have not been sanctioned by IFAF.
- C. World Championships or World Cup of American Football for men and women, whatever the age, are to be held under the aegis of IFAF which is entitled to protect these names or those of any competition it organizes with a copyright.
- D. The Executive Board shall be responsible for issuing provisions for organizing international games and competitions between representative teams, between league club and/or school teams or between other teams under member federations and games involving participants from non-member federations. No such game or competition shall take place without the prior permission of IFAF.

Article 12 Rules of the games

Each member of IFAF shall play American football in compliance with the Rules of the game issued by IFAF. Only IFAF may lay down and alter the Rules of the game. The Rules of the game committee proposes amendments and changes to the IFAF Executive Board for ratification

Article 13: Law

French law shall be applicable in all matters of dispute and Paris shall be the seat of decision. Should the legal seat be transferred to another country, this provision will be changed.

Article 14: Disputes

Any dispute arising from these Statutes or other IFAF rules and regulations, and decisions of IFAF which cannot be settled amicably shall be finally settled by a tribunal constituted in accordance with the Statutes and Procedural Rules of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, Switzerland without recourse to the ordinary courts of law. The parties concerned shall undertake to comply with the Statutes and Procedural Rules of this Court of Arbitration for Sport and to accept and enforce its decision in good faith.

IFAF as well as members, clubs, players and individuals commit themselves not to go to civil court with cases.

Article 15: Standing Committees

The standing committees shall be:

- A. Statutes and regulation committee
- B. Competition committee
- C. Officiating committee
- D. Medical and anti doping committee
- E. Technical committee
- F. Marketing and commercial committee
- G. Rules of the game committee
- H. Athletes committee

The chairman and the members of each standing committee shall be appointed for a term of four years by the Executive Board except for the elected positions as chairpersons for the competitions, officiating and technical committees. Each chairman shall represent its committee and see that its business is properly conducted and report to the Executive Board on its work. The function and duties of each committee shall be governed by the regulations decided by the Executive Board. No Member can have more than one representative in each committee. Each nomination as chairman or member of a committee has to be approved by the concerned Member. In case of resignation or inability or inefficiency, the Executive Board can terminate the nomination of a chairman or a member and appoint a substitute under the same aforementioned conditions; he/she will remain in office for the lasting part of the four-year mandate.

The Executive Board may appoint special committees, for a limited period of time.

Athletes Committee

The Athletes Committee shall consist of two athletes voted by the athletes participating to each IFAF competition. Term of office is the end of mandate of the Executive Board. Should another competition at the same level occur during the same four-year mandate and then election takes place provided open positions from the previous election of that same competition exist at that time. The mandate of the elected athletes shall start after next Congress unless Congress has been held less than three months before the election of the athletes in which case they will take office right after the vote.

The Athletes Committee shall propose two representatives of different gender and different nationality who will join the Executive Board after Congress ratification. Any open positions shall be filled at next Congress.

Other rules applying to The Athletes Committee are as said in article 15 here before.

Article 16: Auditors

Congress shall elect one auditor whom shall be a legal chartered auditor. No member of the Executive board is eligible to the position as auditor. The auditor shall receive the annual report from the Treasurer at least 60 days before the ordinary congress. The auditor shall send their report to the Executive board at least 40 days before the congress.

Article 17: Judicial bodies

The judicial bodies of IFAF shall be the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeal Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a chairman and the numbers of members deemed necessary. The chairman shall have legal qualifications. The function of this body shall be governed by the disciplinary regulations decided by the Executive Board. The Disciplinary Committee may sanction Members, clubs, officials, club members for any breach of IFAF statutes, regulations or any violation of decisions reached by a body of IFAF. Except when the case is brought by an IFAF body, a 500 euros fee, not refundable, has to be paid in advance by the plaintiff unless the Disciplinary Committee decides otherwise.

The Appeal Committee shall consist of a chairman and the number of members deemed necessary. The chairman shall have legal qualifications. It shall hear appeals lodged against decisions made by the Disciplinary Committee, which are not final according to IFAF regulations. Decisions pronounced by the Appeal Committee shall be irrevocable and binding on all parties concerned. The function of the Appeal Committee and the procedure to be followed shall be contained in regulations decided by the Executive Board.

Article 18: IFAF dissolution

In the event of the irreversible dissolution of the IFAF and following a moratorium of nine months after the announcement of same, the IFAF liquidated assets, donations, investments and property and those of its associated bodies, shall be distributed to recognized, legally acceptable associations or bodies only, determined by the members of the Executive Board of the IFAF or in their absence, the appointed Committee or the legal appointed administrator / liquidator.

Article 19: Final provision

Any matters not provided for under these statutes or cases of force majeure shall be settled by the Executive Board, whose decisions shall be final. Decisions in matters of legislation shall not become operative until they have been approved by Congress.

Every activity of the bodies and committees shall be subject to strict observation of the statutes and regulations of IFAF.

These statutes have been amended and voted by the IFAF Congress held at Austin, USA on July 5th, 2012.