

IFAF GAMEDAY OPERATIONS DOCUMENTATION

Game Day Medical Arrangements – Tackle Football



**INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION**
OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Introduction

This document is designed to aid all personnel involved in the planning and delivery of IFAF-sanctioned games ensure that appropriate medical standards are in place to safeguard players, entourage and other gameday staff.

Emergency Medical Services

Each Home Nation must produce and circulate to the opponents, IFAF Medical Delegate and IFAF Technical Delegate an Emergency Management Plan (EMP) for the game or event.

This Plan should detail:

The name of the company providing medical services;
The location of the nearest hospital;
The contact number of the nearest hospital;
The name, mobile phone number and email address of the host committee personnel responsible for coordinating medical services.

The home nation is responsible for scheduling one certified crew of paramedics and an Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances

The paramedics are required to be stationed as close to the field as possible, while not interfering with standard sideline procedures. Each nation's Team Manager, Medical Lead and Head Coach are required to know their location. At the conclusion of the game, the paramedics must check with both nation's Team Manager prior to departing the stadium.

If emergency medical transportation is needed to remove an injured player, coach, Technical Official, or game day personnel (e.g., ball crew, chain crew member, etc.) from the playing field, the ALS ambulance is authorised to go onto the playing field at the discretion of the paramedics.

Stretchers and Carts

For each scheduled game, the home club is responsible for providing appropriate spinal boards with stabilizing systems and high-quality stretchers.

All medical equipment must be of appropriate size to accommodate tackle football players and personnel.

The nearest exit to the ambulance should be used when removing an injured coach, player, Game Official, or game day personnel from the playing field.

Emergency Blind and Treatment Tent

Whilst not mandated, an Emergency Blind or Treatment Tent is recommended. The portable device is intended to provide privacy during circumstances where an individual may be undergoing on-field care for life-threatening medical emergencies or catastrophic injury.

Hard Casts / Special Equipment

Each nation's Team Manager, Head Coach or Medical Lead is required to give the Technical Officials the names and jersey numbers of players who have casts or special equipment for pregame inspection.

Concussion Protocols

The following procedures will apply to all players with a suspected concussion and reflect Appendix C of the IFAF Rulebook.

- a. Sideline Examination. Players suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated inside the medical room (or in the locker room) using an approved Sideline Concussion Assessment Tool. Any player suspected of having a concussion must undergo this concussion assessment.
- b. Returning to Play. Any player suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by both the team Medical Lead and unaffiliated paramedic. The player can only return to play if cleared by the team Medical Lead.
- c. Leaving the Field. A player diagnosed with a concussion may not return to the field under any circumstances. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- d. At no point should a player with suspected or diagnosed concussion be left alone.
- e. Focus on caution. If a Technical Official, coach or Medical Lead have any suspicion about a player being concussed, remove them from the game. Always err on the side of caution. In cases where Technical Officials witness a player suffering a head impact and they appear unstable on their feet or shows other signs of a potential head injury; the Technical Officials must alert the team's medical personnel or Head Coach and should recommend that the team remove that player from the field. The player should then be escorted to the sideline by a Technical Official along with the team medical personnel.
- f. Support for Medical Personnel. Nations should assign a specific coach to assist medical personnel in dealing with abusive or uncooperative players, and to intervene if the player disregards medical advice and attempts to or does re-enter the game.

IFAF will designate a representative to monitor compliance with these protocols and investigate any potential violations. A finding that a nation knowingly and materially failed to follow any of the mandatory steps required by these Medical Protocols will be subject to disciplinary action.

Team Medical Leads

Each nation may designate up to two medical personnel permitted to leave the bench area and move along their sideline and on to the field for evaluation and intervention of potential player injuries. Unless addressing a potential injury on the field or in the bench area, these persons must remain behind the broken yellow border and between the 10-yard lines. In an emergency situation, access to the end zone is permitted.

These medical leads will be identified on the Team Roster. All other club medical personnel (including athletic trainers) must remain within the bench area, unless addressing a potential injury.

Home team Medical Leads are responsible on game day for the care of the Technical Officials. In the event that a Technical Official suffers an injury while at the stadium, a home team physician shall examine them and determine whether they will return to the game. If necessary, the physician will make the necessary arrangements for the Technical Official to be transported to a medical facility.

The Medical Lead will provide updates to the Technical Delegate and Refereeing Delegate on the status of any injured Technical Official and their ability to return to the game.

Concussion Observers

IFAF recommends that each competing nation have an observer sat in the stands or positioned with a good vantage point whose role it is to support the team medics in identifying instances of concussion and report it to the team Medical Personnel.

This person should have training in identifying the symptoms of concussion as well as understanding where concussions may occur.

Game Day Medical Communication

It is requested that the host nation provide working radios to the paramedics and each nation's Medical Lead.

In the absence of formal radios, each Medical Lead and paramedic should have access to a mobile phone and be in possession of each other's numbers for emergency use.

Injury Reporting

All injuries must be reported to the IFAF Medical Delegate or their designate at the completion of each fixture.