



THE PREVENTION OF MANIPULATION OF COMPETITIONS



REGULATIONS





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Preamble, Application and Scope

1.1 Acknowledging the danger to sports integrity from the manipulation of sports competitions, the International Federation of American Football restates their commitment to safeguarding the integrity of sport, including the protection of clean athletes and competitions as stated in Olympic Agenda 2020;

1.2 Due to the complex nature of this threat, the International Federation of American Football recognises that they cannot tackle this threat alone, and hence cooperation with public authorities, in particular law enforcement and sports betting entities, is crucial;

1.3 The International Federation of American Football declares their commitment to support the integrity of sport and fight against the manipulation of competitions by adhering to the standards set out in the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, these IFAF Regulations on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions ('the Regulations') and the IFAF Integrity Code and requires it members to do likewise.

1.4 All Covered Persons (as defined below and in all IFAF Integrity Rules) have a special responsibility to themselves, their teams, their teammates, fans and the IFAF to ensure that American Football is always played fairly, honestly and to the best of their ability.

1.5 Every Covered Person holds the personal responsibility to make himself or herself aware of these Regulations including, without limitation, taking appropriate steps to safeguarding our sport against competition manipulation-related risks and corrupt behaviour. They are also expected be educated on what conduct constitutes a violation of these Regulations and to comply with those requirements.

1.6 Covered Persons should also be aware that conduct prohibited under these Regulations may also constitute a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws and regulations including other IFAF rules and regulations and codes. They must always comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

Definitions

2.1 “Benefit” means the direct or indirect receipt or provision of money or the equivalent such as, but not limited to, bribes, gains, gifts and other advantages including, without limitation, winnings and/or potential winnings as a result of a wager; the foregoing shall not include official prize money, appearance fees or payments to be made under sponsorship or other contracts;

2.2 “Betting Organisation” means any person or company or other undertaking that promotes, brokers, arranges or conducts any form of betting activity or that has interests in betting in any form whatsoever.

2.3 “Competition” means any sports competition, tournament, match or event, organised in accordance with the rules of International Federation of American Football or its affiliated organisations (including national sports federations or National Olympic Committee), or, where appropriate, in accordance with the rules of any other competent sports organisation;

2.4 “Inside Information” means information relating to any competition that a person possesses by virtue of his or her position in relation to a sport or competition, excluding any information already published or common knowledge, easily accessible to interested members of the public or disclosed in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the relevant Competition;

2.5. “Covered Persons” as defined and used in the Integrity Code and all IFAF Integrity Rules including these Regulations on the Prevention of Competition Manipulation include but are not limited to:

2.5.1. All participants in IFAF activities including but not limited to players, coaches, trainers, therapists, physicians, Technical Officials, other officials, Board of Directors and Executive Members, or other IFAF Officers.

2.5.2. All Member Federations and their members who compete at the international level.

2.5.3. All persons who take part in the sport of American football in any capacity directly or indirectly at a IFAF sanctioned or IFAF approved event.

2.5.4 All IFAF employees or IFAF-appointed consultants or agents.

2.5.5 All individuals who compete, coach, officiate, work at, or otherwise participate in a supporting role, including parents and legal guardians of a player in an event or training camp or activity organised, sanctioned or approved by IFAF.

2.5.6 All individuals who hold an IFAF or IFAF-recognised officiating or coaching certification or Technical Official certification.

2.5.7 All individuals who receive accreditation at any IFAF tournaments, events and activities or act as an IFAF contractor or volunteer in relation to such tournaments, events and activities.

2.5.8. All individuals who serve as members of any IFAF committee or national or international committee related to IFAF.

2.5.9. All persons who have, whether by enjoying any form of licence, accreditation or any other status from IFAF, or otherwise consented (expressly or impliedly) to be bound by these Regulations.

2.6 "Sports Betting, Bet or Betting" means any wager of a stake of monetary value in the expectation of a prize of monetary value, subject to a future and uncertain occurrence related to a sports competition.

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Violations

The following conduct as defined in this Article constitutes a violation of these Regulations:

3.1 Betting

No Covered Person may place, solicit or facilitate any bet, whether directly or through a third party on any IFAF game, practice or other event. This includes betting on game outcomes, statistics, score, performance of any individual participant, “futures” or any other kind of “proposition bet” in any way related to American Football (flag or tackle or other format).

This includes betting in relation either to:

- a. a Competition in which the Covered Person is directly participating; or
- b. the Covered Person’s sport; or
- c. any event of a multisport Competition in which the Covered Person is a participant.

3.2 Manipulation of sports competitions

The Covered Person may engage in any way in an intentional arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the sports competition with a view to obtaining an undue Benefit for oneself or for others. This includes not giving best efforts.

3.3 Corrupt conduct

No Covered Person may provide, request, receive, seek, or accept a Benefit related to the manipulation of a competition or any other form of corruption.

3.4 Use of inside information

No Covered Person may :

- a. Use Inside Information for the purposes of Betting, any form of manipulation of sports competitions or any other corrupt purposes whether by the Covered Person or via another person and/or entity.
- b. Disclose Inside Information to any person and/or entity, with or without Benefit, where the Covered Person knew or should have known that such disclosure might lead to the information being used for the purposes of Betting, any form of manipulation of competitions or any other corrupt purposes.
- c. Give and/or receive a Benefit for the provision of Inside Information regardless of whether any Inside Information is actually provided.
- d. Solicit Inside Information for any use whatsoever, including Betting or any manipulation of sports competition.

3.5 Failure to report and reporting mechanism

Covered Persons must report to IFAF or relevant disclosure/reporting mechanism or authority (i.e. the IFAF Health and Integrity Unit or the IOC's Integrity and Compliance Hotline available at: www.olympic.org/integrityhotline at the first available opportunity:

- a. full details of any approaches or invitations received by the Covered Person to engage in conduct or incidents that could amount to a violation of these Regulations.
- b. full details of any incident, fact or matter that comes to the attention of the Covered Person (or of which they ought to have been reasonably aware) including approaches or invitations that have been received by another Covered Person to engage in conduct that could amount to a violation of these Regulations.

3.6 Benefits

The following are considered violations of these Regulations:

3.6.1 Providing, requesting, receiving, seeking, or accepting a Benefit related to the Manipulation of Event or any other form of corruption. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this includes:

- i. fixing or contriving in any way or otherwise improperly influencing (or being a party to the fixing, contriving or other improper influencing of) the result, progress, outcome, conduct or any other aspect of an Event;
- ii. ensuring the occurrence of a particular incident in an Event, the occurrence of which is to the Covered Person's knowledge the subject of a Bet and for which the Covered Person or another Person expects to receive or has received a Benefit;
- iii. failing to perform to the best of one's abilities in an Event, in return for a Benefit or the expectation of a Benefit (irrespective of whether such Benefit is in fact given or received) or further to another agreement with a third party;
- iv. seeking, accepting, offering, or agreeing to accept or offer, a bribe or other Benefit to fix or contrive in any way or otherwise to influence improperly the result, progress, outcome, conduct or any other aspect of an Event (irrespective of whether such bribe or other Benefit is in fact given or received); and/or
- v. providing, offering, giving, requesting or receiving any Benefit in circumstances that the Covered Person knew or should have known could undermine public confidence in the integrity of any Event or the sport of American Football generally (irrespective of whether such Gift or other Benefit is in fact given or received).

3.7. Failure to cooperate

3.7.1. Covered Persons must cooperate with any investigation carried out by IFAF or any Integrity Unit or organisation approved to undertake this task in relation to a possible breach of these Regulations, including, without limitation, failing to provide accurately, completely and without undue delay any information and/or documentation and/or access or assistance requested by IFAF or any Integrity Unit or organisation approved to undertake this task as part of such investigation.

3.7.2. Covered Persons must not obstruct or delay any investigation that may be carried out by IFAF or any Integrity Unit or organisation approved to undertake this task in relation to a possible violation of these Regulations, including without limitation concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to the investigation.

3.8. Relationships with betting organisations

3.8.1. A Covered Person must not have a business association or enter into any business arrangement (whether formal or informal) with any Betting Organisation that involves the payment of any monies to or by, or the conferring of any benefit(s) or advantage(s) upon or by, the Covered Person, either directly or indirectly, as a result of such association or arrangement.

3.8.2. As an exception to Article 3.8.1, a Covered Person will not have violated these Regulations if they are employed by, or have a business association (including any sponsorship arrangement) with, a parent company that has a Betting Organisation as a subsidiary company (or betting is a business interest of any subsidiary company), provided that the Covered Person can prove that (a) they have no direct involvement with the subsidiary, (b) that they derive no direct or indirect benefit from the subsidiary, and (c) that the parent company's business does not involve betting.

3.8.3. A Covered Person shall be considered to have acted in violation of Article 13.8.1 if any Related Party has a controlling interest in a Betting Organisation, or a substantial relationship with a Betting Organisation, or is employed in the day-to-day operational control of a Betting Organisation, unless this is disclosed to, and recorded and approved by, the IFAF Health and Integrity Officer.

3.9 Fantasy Football

Covered Persons may not:

- a. accept prizes with a value in excess of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250 USD) in any season-long fantasy football game;
- b. participate in any “daily” or other similar short duration fantasy football game that offers a prize; or
- c. participate in any fantasy football game (including daily, season-long, or other format) if participation is prohibited by applicable law or regulation.

3.9. Committing any act not otherwise prohibited under IFAF Integrity Rules and these Regulations that amounts to a violation of any applicable criminal or other law or regulation where such violation could undermine public confidence in the integrity of an Event or the sport of American Football.

3.10 Application of Articles 3.1 to 3.9

3.10.1 For the determination of whether a violation of these Regulations has been committed, the following are not relevant:

- a. Whether or not the Covered Person is participating in the Competition concerned;
- b. The outcome of the Competition on which the Bet was made or intended to be made;
- c. Whether or not any Benefit or other consideration was actually given or received;
- d. The nature or outcome of the Bet;
- e. Whether or not the Covered Persons effort or performance in the Competition concerned were (or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omission in question;
- f. Whether or not the result of the Competition concerned was (or could be expected to be) affected by the acts or omission in question;
- g. Whether or not the manipulation included a violation of an IFAF technical rule.
- h. Whether or not the competition was attended by the competent national or international IFAF representative.

3.10.2. Any form of aid, abetment or attempt by a Covered Person that could culminate in a violation of these Regulations shall be treated as if a violation had been committed, whether such an act effectively resulted in a violation and/or whether that violation was committed deliberately or negligently.

Disciplinary Procedures

4.1. Preliminary Assessment and Provisional Measures

4.1.1. As set out in Article 7 of the IFAF Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Rules, upon being informed of alleged violations of these Regulations, the IFAF Health and Integrity Unit shall undertake a preliminary assessment to determine if there is a case to answer.

a. Should there be insufficient evidence or cause and no case to answer the matter will not proceed further

b. Should there be sufficient evidence or cause to warrant moving forward an investigation will be undertaken by an independent and impartial Investigatory Body pursuant to the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Rules and the provisions below.

4.1.2 IFAF's Disciplinary Officer or Health and Integrity Unit may impose provisional measures, including a provisional suspension, on the Covered Person where there is a particular risk to the reputation of the sport, while carrying out Articles 3.1 to 3.3 of these Regulations and in full respect of Article 3.4 of these Regulations.

4.1.3 Where a provisional measure is imposed, this shall be taken into consideration and credited from the determination of any sanction which may ultimately be imposed.

4.2 Investigations

4.2.1. The investigative process is set out in the Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Rules.

4.2.2. The Covered Person who is alleged to have committed a violation of these Regulations must be informed of the alleged violations that have been committed, details of the alleged acts and/or omissions, and the range of possible sanctions.

4.2.3. Notice to a Covered Person may be accomplished by delivery of the notice to the Member Federation concerned. The Member Federation shall be responsible for immediately communicating the notice to the Covered Person. The timing of the notice is at IFAF's prerogative.

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4.2.4. Upon request by IFAF or its Health and Integrity Unit that an investigation into the allegations has commenced, the concerned Covered Person must provide any information which IFAF or its Health and Integrity Unit or any other investigatory body who may be requested to undertake this task may be relevant to investigate the alleged violation, including agreeing to interviews, sharing records relating to the alleged violation (such as betting account numbers and information, itemised telephone bills, bank statements, internet service records, computers, hard drives and other electronic information storage devices), and/or providing a statement setting out the relevant facts and circumstances around the alleged violation.

4.2.5 Further to completion of an investigation, the Investigatory Body shall remit a Confidential Investigative Report to the IFAF Disciplinary Officer which will include non-binding recommendations on applicable discipline in the event that the Investigatory Body concludes that a violation of these Rules has been established to the required legal standard.

4.3 Offer of Consequences

4.3.1. Pursuant to Article 8 of the IFAF Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Rules, where, following an investigation, IFAF decides to charge a Covered Person with a violation of these Regulations, the IFAF Disciplinary Officer (or Ad Hoc Disciplinary Officer when relevant) will, with reference to the Investigative Report and the recommendations therein, determine what sanctions may be applicable to the violations and offer the Covered Person reasonable and proportional consequences to accept as an admission of said violations in lieu of proceeding to a hearing.

4.3.2. The Disciplinary Officer shall establish a firm timeline by which the Covered Person must respond.

a. If the Covered Person formally accepts the proposed consequences, this will amount to a full and final resolution of the matter.

b. if the Covered Person does not respond to the IFAF within the deadline provided, the Covered Person will be deemed to have accepted the proposed consequences, and the IFAF will issue a decision confirming the same which will be a full and final resolution of the matter.

c. If the Covered Person does not accept the proposed consequences, he or she must inform the Disciplinary Officer before the deadline provided and expressly request a hearing. The matter will then be referred to the Integrity Tribunal for adjudication pursuant to the IFAF Discipline and Dispute Resolution Rules.

4.4. Rights of the Covered Person

In all procedures linked to violations of the present Regulations:

4.4.1. The Covered Person will have right to be informed of the charges and respond to the same.

4.4.2. The principle of confidentiality must be strictly respected by IFAF and the Covered Person during all the procedure. Information should only be exchanged with entities on a need-to-know basis. Confidentiality must also be strictly respected by any person concerned by the procedure until there is public disclosure of the case.

4.4.3. Anonymous reporting is facilitated through the designated reporting mechanism provided by IFAF, its Health and Integrity Unit or other organization delegated to undertake this task.

4.4.4. A right to a hearing is available before the IFAF Integrity Tribunal pursuant to the IFAF Discipline and Dispute Resolution Rules.

4.5. Appeals

4.5.1. Appeals of any Decision made by the Integrity Tribunal further to a confirmed violation of these Regulations may be filed to the IFAF Integrity Appeal Tribunal in accordance with the IFAF Discipline and Dispute Resolution Rules.

Sanctions

5.1. Where it is determined that a violation of these Regulations has been committed, the IFAF Disciplinary Officer or IFAF Integrity Tribunal shall impose an appropriate sanction upon the Covered Person in accordance with the IFAF Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Rules.

5.2. When determining the appropriate sanctions applicable, the applicable IFAF body imposing the sanction shall take into consideration all aggravating and mitigating circumstances and shall detail the effect of such circumstances on the final sanction in the written decision.

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Reinstatement

6.1. Once the period of the Covered Person's ineligibility has expired, he or she will become automatically re-eligible to participate in IFAF activities provided that he or she has:

- a. completed an official integrity education imposed on him or her as a sanction by the IFAF disciplinary body to IFAF's satisfaction;
- b. has paid, in full, any fine imposed under these Regulations and/or any order of costs made against him or her by the relevant IFAF disciplinary body; and
- c. has agreed to subject himself or herself to any reasonable and proportionate monitoring of his or her future activities in connection with IFAF or any other football or sport organisation may reasonably consider necessary given the nature and scope of the violation that he or she has committed.

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Mutual Recognition

7.1. Subject to the right of appeal, any decision in compliance with these Regulations by any other Sporting Organisation whether bound or not by the Olympic Charter will be recognised and respected by IFAF.

7.2. IFAF will recognise and respect the decision(s) made by any other sporting body or court of competent jurisdiction which is not a Sporting Organisation as defined under these Regulations.

7.3. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between these Regulations and a less restrictive provision of another Sporting Organisation's gambling or match manipulation policy, the provisions of these Regulations shall govern.

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