

BRITISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

**FOOTBALL RULES
AND INTERPRETATIONS**

2006 EDITION

Foreword

The rules are revised each year to improve the sport's level of safety and quality of play, and to clarify the meaning and intent of rules where necessary. The principles that govern all rule changes are that they must:

- be safe for the participants;
- be applicable at all levels of the sport;
- be coachable;
- be administerable by the officials;
- maintain a balance between offense and defence;
- be interesting to spectators;
- not have a prohibitive economic impact; and
- not be unduly divergent from the rules adopted by EFAF in Europe and NCAA in the USA.

These rules apply to all contests involving BAFA-affiliated teams and take effect from 1st March 2006 (*Exception:* leagues whose regular season began before 1st March 2006 will continue to use 2005 rules until the end of their season).

BAFA has established a mechanism for discussing and deciding future changes to this book. Each organisation affiliated to BAFA has a voice on the Rules Committee. You may make suggestions for changes to your organisation's representative(s). Suggestions may be made at any time, but to be eligible for consideration for the following year they must be received by 1st October.

Jim Briggs, BAFRA (Editor)
on behalf of the
BAFA Rules Committee

Those who find it necessary to write to the editor for interpretations of rules or play situations will receive prompt replies if they number their questions and email them to rules@bafra.org.

The editor would like to thank the following people who assisted in the production of this edition of the rulebook:

Keith Alldritt
Phil Cottier
Kara Laing
Tzvi Lindeman
Russell Newton
Peter Parsons

Table of Contents

Rules changes.....	4
Points of emphasis	5
The Football Code.....	8
BAFA Disciplinary Code	11
Rules and Interpretations	14
Field Diagram	16
Rule 1 — The Game, Field, Players and Equipment.....	19
Rule 2 — Definitions	36
Rule 3 — Periods, Time Factors and Substitutions	53
Rule 4 — Ball in Play, Dead Ball, Out of Bounds.....	68
Rule 5 — Series of Downs, Line to Gain	72
Rule 6 — Kicks.....	77
Rule 7 — Snapping and Passing the Ball	89
Rule 8 — Scoring.....	105
Rule 9 — Conduct of Players and Others Subject to Rules.....	115
Rule 10 — Penalty Enforcement	132
Rule 11 — The Officials: Jurisdiction and Duties	143
Rule 12 — Football variants	144
Rule 13 — Standards for Game Management	149
Summary of penalties	158
BAFRA Terms and Conditions	163
Officials’ Signals.....	170
Appendix A: Guidelines for Game Officials to Use During a Serious On-Field Player Injury	172
Index of Rules and Interpretations	173