

**BRITISH AMERICAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**

**FOOTBALL RULES  
AND INTERPRETATIONS**

**2012-13 EDITION**

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## 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 administrable 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 2012 (*Exception:* Competitions that began before 1st March 2012 will continue to use 2011 rules until the end of their competition).

For brevity, male pronouns are used extensively in this book, but the rules are equally applicable to female and male participants.

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@bafa.org.uk](mailto:rules@bafa.org.uk).

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## Table of Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Rules changes.....   | 4   |
| Points of emphasis .....   | 8   |
| The Football Code.....   | 11  |
| BAFA Disciplinary Code .....   | 14  |
| Rules and Interpretations .....  | 27  |
| Rule 1 — The Game, Field, Players and Equipment.....   | 29  |
| Rule 2 — Definitions .....   | 45  |
| Rule 3 — Periods, Time Factors and Substitutions .....   | 61  |
| Rule 4 — Ball in Play, Dead Ball, Out of Bounds.....   | 76  |
| Rule 5 — Series of Downs, Line to Gain .....   | 80  |
| Rule 6 — Kicks.....  | 84  |
| Rule 7 — Snapping and Passing the Ball .....   | 96  |
| Rule 8 — Scoring.....  | 111 |
| Rule 9 — Conduct of Players and Others Subject to the Rules.....                               | 120 |
| Rule 10 — Penalty Enforcement .....  | 137 |
| Rule 11 — The Officials: Jurisdiction and Duties .....   | 145 |
| Rule 12 — Instant replay .....   | 146 |
| Rule 13 — Standards for Game Management .....  | 155 |
| Rule 14 — Football variants .....  | 167 |
| Summary of penalties .....   | 168 |
| Officials' Signals.....  | 179 |
| Appendix A — Guidelines for Game Officials to Use During a Serious On-Field Player Injury..... | 181 |
| Appendix B — Guidelines for Game Officials and Game Management To Use Regarding Lightning..... | 182 |
| Appendix C — Concussions .....   | 185 |
| Appendix D — Field Diagrams .....  | 187 |
| Appendix E — Equipment: Additional Details .....   | 193 |
| BAFRA Terms and Conditions .....   | 195 |
| Index of Rules and Interpretations .....   | 202 |