

**BRITISH  
AMERICAN FOOTBALL  
ASSOCIATION**

**FOOTBALL RULES  
AND  
INTERPRETATIONS**

**2014-15 EDITION**

© BAFA 2014

## 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 2014 (*Exception:* Competitions that began before 1st March 2014 will continue to use 2013 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@britishamericanfootball.org](mailto:rules@britishamericanfootball.org).

The editor would like to thank the following people who assisted in the production of this edition of the rulebook (GB except where stated):

Amir Brooks  
Phil Clarke  
Alex DeVal  
John Griffin  
Rob Hill  
David Knight  
Lewis Lebolt (Sweden)  
Andrew Lovell  
James Meredith  
Russell Newton  
Peter Parsons  
Ian Sneddon  
Paul Sutton  
Ian Wainwright

Cover image by Sophie Robinson, Staffordshire Surge

## Table of Contents

Rules changes.....	4
Points of emphasis .....	7
The Football Code.....	10
BAFA Disciplinary Code .....	13
Rules and Interpretations .....	26
Rule 1 — The Game, Field, Players and Equipment.....	28
Rule 2 — Definitions .....	43
Rule 3 — Periods, Time Factors and Substitutions .....	60
Rule 4 — Ball in Play, Dead Ball, Out of Bounds.....	78
Rule 5 — Series of Downs, Line to Gain .....	82
Rule 6 — Kicks.....	86
Rule 7 — Snapping and Passing the Ball .....	100
Rule 8 — Scoring.....	115
Rule 9 — Conduct of Players and Others Subject to the Rules.....	125
Rule 10 — Penalty Enforcement .....	144
Rule 11 — The Officials: Jurisdiction and Duties .....	152
Rule 12 — Instant replay .....	153
Rule 13 — Standards for Game Management .....	162
Summary of penalties .....	175
Officials' Signals.....	186
Appendix A — Guidelines for Game Officials to Use During a Serious On-Field Player Injury.....	189
Appendix B — Guidelines for Game Officials and Game Management To Use Regarding Lightning.....	190
Appendix C — Concussions .....	193
Appendix D — Field Diagrams .....	195
Appendix E — Equipment: Additional Details .....	201
BAFRA Terms and Conditions .....	203
Index of Rules and Interpretations .....	210