



**NEW ZEALAND AMERICAN  
FOOTBALL FEDERATION  
INCORPORATED**

**TE RUNANGA O WHUTUPORO I AMERIKA  
KI AOTEAROA**

**RULES &  
REGULATIONS**

November 2024

## CONTENTS

1. CHAMPIONSHIPS .....	2
2. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS FOR COMPETITIONS.....	4
3. PLAYER TRANSFERS .....	5
4. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS AND COMPETITIONS .....	6
5. DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS .....	8
6. THE CONTROL OF BANNED SUBSTANCES.....	9
7. MISCELLANEOUS.....	9

# 1. CHAMPIONSHIPS

---

## 1.1. Rules of the game

1.1.1. The rules of the game of American Football for any competition run by the Federation will be those specified by the IFAF unless otherwise stated for a particular competition.

1.1.2. The rules of the game of Flag Football for any competition run by the Federation will be those specified by the IFAF unless otherwise stated for a particular competition.

## 1.2. Events

NZAFF shall from time to time organise national Events

## 1.3. Event Notification

The Federation will notify all Regions and Associations of the dates of the Event with a reasonable lead time to enable teams to plan for the Event.

The Event notification will include:

1.3.1. Venue allocation,

1.3.2. The cost of entry,

1.3.3. The opening and closing dates for entries,

1.3.4. The qualifications for age group teams if applicable,

1.3.5. The dates for submitting team rosters,

1.3.6. The dates of the draft process (if applicable) being:

a) The open and close dates for the Individual Declarations.

b) The date of the draft selection process.

1.3.7. Any other dates or information important to the event.

## 1.4. Right to Cancel

If there are insufficient entries for any Event the Federation can cancel the Event. If an Event is cancelled the teams who have entered must be informed of the cancellation no later than twenty eight (28) days prior to the commencement of the Event.

## 1.5. Withdrawals

Participants that withdraw a team from an Event after entries close shall remain liable for and shall forfeit their Event entry fee.

## 1.6. Allocations of Championship

1.6.1. Appointment of Host: The Federation may appoint a Host for the Event to help run the Event. The duties shall include:

a) Nominating an Event Controller to oversee the Event;

b) Organising team sheets;

c) Organising referee refreshments;

d) Publishing Event photos;

e) Record any Health & Safety incidents and actions.

1.6.2. Host reimbursement;

a) The Federation may reimburse the Host for its duties.

b) If the Host withdraws its services then payment will be withheld and any payment made to the Host must be refunded.

1.6.3. Right to revoke: the Federation shall revoke the right of any Host to hold an allocated Championship if:

a) The Host has been suspended or;

b) The Host has become inactive or;

c) The Host becomes unable to fulfil the conditions of Regulation 1.5.2.

## 1.7. Draws, Rules and event format

- 1.7.1. Draw and rules governing the Event: Prior to the commencement of the Event, the Federation shall send to all Regions, and Associations (and Schools if applicable) that have entered the Event, the Event draw, rules and points allocation.
- 1.7.2. The rules governing the Event: the Federation will determine the rules governing an Event not covered by these Regulations.
- 1.7.3. Format of All Events: Events shall follow the format approved by the Federation for that particular Event.
- 1.7.4. Seedings for Events: seedings for Events will be made as follows:
  - a) For any competition where seedings are considered by the Federation to be necessary, the seedings will be determined by the Federation;
  - b) For any competition where seedings are not deemed necessary by the Federation the draw shall be made and the teams allocated positions in the draw according to a ballot conducted by the Federation.

## 1.8. Forfeiture

A team forfeiting any game may be excluded from the medal round. A team arriving over five (5) minutes beyond the scheduled start time of any game may be deemed to have forfeited that game.

## 1.9. Other Circumstances

In the Event of other circumstances beyond the control of a team to start a National Event game on time at the scheduled venue NZAFF will liaise with teams to find a suitable alternative.

## 2. QUALIFICATION OF PLAYERS FOR COMPETITIONS

---

### 2.1. Eligibility

- 2.1.1. Any Association or Region may include on their team playing roster any current Individual Member of the Federation as long as that Member meets the eligibility requirement of the competition.

### 2.2. Draft Declaration

- 2.2.1. Once teams have submitted their playing rosters for a competition any Individual Member not included in the roster can make a Declaration that they are available for a specific competition to be included on a Draft on a form provided by the Federation.
- 2.2.2. If an Association or a Region has no teams entered in a competition then players from these Member groups may also declare their availability for the draft for a specific competition.
- 2.2.3. Individual Members wishing to make themselves available for the Draft must be of good standing. Associations or regions may block a declaration of a player not on a roster only if that player has outstanding fees.

### 2.3. Draft Operation

- 2.3.1. If a Competition has a requirement for a Draft system the draft system will operate as follows:
  - a) The opportunity to declare availability will be open for a specified time detailed in the event notification.
  - b) The available Individual Members will be listed on the Federation Web site.
  - c) Teams wishing to choose players from the draft must have paid their entry fees and have submitted a player roster that is not at the maximum allowable in the competition thus showing there is room for more players.
  - d) Teams who have submitted team rosters cannot reduce their roster to make room for a drafted player.
  - e) Teams wishing to take advantage of the draft system will be put into a list by the Federation from which the first team will be given first choice of available players followed by the second team on the list and so on. Once all teams have made a choice the process will be repeated until rosters are full or there are no more available players.
  - f) Players entering the draft must agree to join any Association or Region that selects them during the draft process.
  - g) The ranking of teams for the selection process will be done by the Federation at its sole discretion in such a manner to encourage parity of teams including placing those teams who are performing less well at the top of the list.
  - h) This draft selection process will be held either on line, via telephone conference or some other means so that the process is completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.
  - i) The timing of the Draft process will be included in the notification of the event.

### 2.4. Combined Teams

- 2.4.1. The Federation may grant permission for Regions or Associations to combine to compete at an Event under a different name upon terms and conditions as determined by the Federation provided that the relevant Regions and Associations give mutual consent.

### 2.5. Power of Federation to Vary

- 2.5.1. The Federation may at its sole discretion approve a variance of any of the above regulations outlined in Regulation 2.

### 3. PLAYER TRANSFERS

---

3.1. Association Transfers: the process for a member to transfer is:

3.1.1. Transfer Form: The Member shall complete the relevant section of the transfer form approved by the Federation. After completion the member shall forward the form to their existing Association or Region;

3.2. Existing Association Approval

3.2.1. If the Member is of good standing then the Association shall approve and sign the form. If the existing Association is part of an active Region the Association shall forward the transfer to the Region. If the current Association does not belong to a Region then the current Association shall forward the form to the new Association;

- a) Existing Region Approval: If the Member is of good standing then the Regions shall approve and sign the form and forward it to the new Association.
- b) New Association: The new Association shall approve and forward the form to the Federation.
- c) The Federation: The Federation, Having confirmed that all required conditions have been met, shall notify all parties that the transfer is complete;
- d) Transfer Fee: the administration fee for the transfer that shall be set from time to time by the Federation.
- e) A Member may only transfer once in a twelve month period.

3.3. Transfers Prior to Events

3.3.1. As soon as the transfer has been approved, the Member shall be eligible to play for his or her new Association except that for a Member to be eligible to play for his or her new Association in an Event, the Member must have sent the transfer documentation and fee required by Regulation 7.1 at least 21 days prior to the first day of the Event.

3.4. A Members Financial Responsibilities on Transfer

3.4.1. Transfers During Year: during the Financial Year, and their name is currently on the Region's register of Members, they shall not pay the Affiliation Fee until the next Financial Year,

3.4.2. Transfers Within Region Area: if the Association being transferred to is in the same Region as the Association being transferred from, no further fee, fees or levies shall be paid to the Region until the next Financial Year;

3.4.3. New Association Fees: the Association being transferred to may charge such fee, fees or levies to the transferring Member as their constitution or rules require;

3.4.4. New Region Fees: if the Association being transferred to is in a different Region that Region shall decide what fee, fees or levies are required to be paid under its constitution or rules before the Members name can be placed on that Region's register of Members; and

3.4.5. Financial Status: notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations any Affiliation Fees, fee, fees, levies or administration fees which are owing at the time of transfer shall be paid before the transfer can be finalised.

3.5. Power of Federation to Vary

3.5.1. The Federation may at its sole discretion approve player transfers in situations other than those in or that differ from this Regulation 3.

## 4. REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS AND COMPETITIONS

---

### 4.1. Managers and Coaches for National Teams or Squads

- 4.1.1. The position of Manager and Coach for National Teams or squads will be appointed by the Board upon negotiation with candidates. Such positions may be advertised in such manner and form as the Federation may from to time decide.
- 4.1.2. Managers and Coaches of National Teams will be required to sign a contract with NZAFF upon accepting their respective position.
- 4.1.3. The Managers and Coaches of National Teams will report to the NZAFF Board or the NZAFF National Teams Committee, as a delegated authority, if it has been convened.

### 4.2. Selection of Representative Teams

Representative teams shall be selected as follows:

- 4.2.1. Selection Panel: The Federation will appoint National Team Selection Panels for each team. These appointments will be made by the Federation as and when required. The Panel for each team will consist of at least: the relevant team Coach and one other member appointed by the Federation. The panel may also include the appointed Assistant team coach (as appropriate), and any other member appointed by the Federation up to a limit of four members. The Team Coach will Chair the Selection Panel;
- 4.2.2. Submission of Names: The Panel will consult with any party it deems appropriate in making team selections. The Federation has the power to intervene in the process or the approval. Where time is of the essence, the Board of Directors has the right to appoint a representative to approve a team selection within necessary timeframes. All decisions ratified by the Board of Directors are final.
- 4.2.3. The Selection Panel reserves the right to recommend to the Board of Directors the addition or deletion of squad members on the basis of performance criteria;
- 4.2.4. If in the opinion of the selection panel, the overall standard of available players does not warrant a team being selected for a particular competition, then no team selection announcement will be made by the selectors. If after the date of selection of any team for a team event, withdrawals for any reason, make a team uncompetitive or incomplete, and suitable replacements cannot be found by the selection panel, the team may be withdrawn and the selected players notified;
- 4.2.5. Any player seeking, or having achieved team selection, must keep NZAFF Head Office and their Team Manager informed at all times of their contact address and telephone numbers. Any changes to these details, particularly if travelling overseas, must be advised immediately;
- 4.2.6. In the case of extenuating circumstances (such as illness, bereavement, injury, travel delays/cancellations) a decision will be made by the Selection Panel on a case-by-case basis.
- 4.2.7. Conflict: if a member of the selection panel becomes a contender for selection to the relevant team or squad being selected, that member shall automatically cease to be a member of the selection group.
- 4.2.8. Selection Display: the names of all selection groups shall be provided to the Regions and the Associations.

#### 4.3. Team Selection Criteria

- 4.3.1. Selection of players into any of the New Zealand representative American Football teams shall be based on performance during identified competitions and camps.
- 4.3.2. At the time of team selection, a list of reserves will be notified and held (although not announced publicly) with the National Head Coach and High Performance Manager;
- 4.3.3. Compliance to training and performance expectations established by the Head Coach will play a part in selection;
- 4.3.4. Compliance to support programmes (e.g. sports science monitoring, scholastic activity) will play a part in selection

#### 4.4. Appeal Process:

- 4.4.1. Any player who is aggrieved by the NZAFF selectors' decision not to select them to a national squad or team, may appeal the decision of the selectors to the Appeals Tribunal of NZAFF. The grounds of appeal are limited to:
  - a) The applicable selection criteria not being properly followed and/or implemented; or
  - b) The player not being afforded a reasonable opportunity by the selectors to satisfy the applicable selection criteria; or
  - c) The decision being affected by actual bias; or
  - d) There being no material on which the decision could reasonably be based.
- 4.4.2. The procedure for an appeal shall be as follows:
  - a) The athlete wishing to appeal must give written notice of their appeal ("Appeal Notice") to the General Manager of the Federation within 48 hours of the official announcement of the selected squad/team.
  - b) Within 48 hours of the General Manager receiving the Appeal Notice, s/he shall, in consultation with the player, arrange a meeting of the selection panel, and the athlete and their representatives (if any) at which meeting the parties shall endeavour to resolve the appeal by further discussion. Such meeting (which may be held in person or by telephone) should be held as soon as possible and within 10 days of the Appeal Notice being received by the General Manager.
  - c) The meeting referred to in Clause (b) shall be held on a confidential and without prejudice basis so that the content of it may not be used in the Appeal if it proceeds to a hearing as described in this document.
  - d) If the Appeal is not resolved at the meeting in Clause (b), and the player wishes to proceed to a hearing, s/he shall file an application for appeal to the Appeals Tribunal as specified in the NZAFF Rules and Regulations Disciplinary Regulations.

#### 4.5. Equalisation of National Team's or Squad's Travel

- 4.5.1. Whenever any national team or squad meets for training or any other activity, not in conjunction with a Championship or some other tournament, the costs of the activity may be equalised so that each person pays the same amount. Such an arrangement will be notified to players prior to the camp. Costs may include:
  - a) Travel: Travel costs;
  - b) Hireage: Venue hireage; and
  - c) Other Costs: Any other costs necessary for the activity.



## **5. DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS AND APPEALS PROCESS**

---

The policies for protests and complaints in tournaments and competitions, and other general disputes have now been separated out as part of the Constitutional review in 2024.

The relevant documents below can be found by following the links on the NZAFF web site.

- [Complaints & Protests Process Overview](#)
- [Protests and Complaints In Competition Policy V1 14 10 2024](#)
- [Protests and Complaints Tournament Policy V2 14 10 2024](#)
- [Disputes Policy v2 14 10 2024](#)

## **6. THE CONTROL OF BANNED SUBSTANCES**

---

The anti-doping policy of the Federation shall be the Sports Anti-Doping Rules ("SADR") (2010) as amended from time to time.

## **7. MISCELLANEOUS**

---

- 7.1.** Headings: headings are for ease of reference only and shall not be deemed to form any part of the context or to affect the interpretation of these Regulations;
- 7.2.** Persons: references to persons shall be deemed to include references to individuals, companies, corporations, firms, partnerships, joint ventures, associations, organisations, trusts, states or agencies of state, government departments and local and municipal authorities in each case whether or not having separate legal personality;
- 7.3.** Gender: words importing one gender shall include the other genders except where the context clearly intends that one gender is referred to;
- 7.4.** Plural and Singular: words importing the singular number shall include the plural and vice versa; and
- 7.5.** Statutes and Regulations: references to a statute include references to regulations, orders or notices made under or pursuant to such statute and references to a statute or regulation include references to all amendments to that statute or regulation whether by subsequent statute or otherwise and a statute or regulation passed in substitution for the statute or regulation referred to or incorporating any of its provisions.