

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL

STATUTES

Incorporating all Amendments adopted at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, Paris, France, September 17, 2016

PREAMBLE

The International Federation of American Football (IFAF) is the international federation governing all aspects of American Football worldwide, either directly through its own organs, or through its national member bodies, or by administrative agreements with other persons and bodies.

The IFAF was founded in 1998 to organize and improve American Football. Its objects are defined in the **Statutes**. The IFAF controls all international American Football competitions and the granting of American Football competitions, which are subject to IFAF RULES.

Each Member of IFAF is the sole recognized representative of American Football in its country or a special multinational sports body, and representatives of each such body attend the General Meeting of the IFAF, which is the legislative organ controlling all American Football affairs, based on universal sporting principles.

American football is made up by American football played under whatever set of rules, Canadian football, flag-football, touch football, peewee-football, indoor American football and related activities for amateur and professionals.

The purpose of these **Statutes** is:

1. to ensure that IFAF's affairs are based on clear, sound principles and a strict democratic process, and not on other factors;
2. to ensure fairness, openness and principles in the conduct of IFAF's affairs;
3. to assure the free and effective participation of Members in the General Meeting;
4. to ensure accountability by the Presidium to the General Meeting;
5. to ensure the improvement and popularization of American Football;
6. to ensure a sound legal basis and modern principles of business administration in IFAF's affairs;

7. to ensure the clear and effective operation of the Presidium as the IFAF's political and strategic organ between General Meetings;
8. to ensure effective management of IFAF by the Managing Committee;
9. to ensure the financial success of IFAF; and
10. to ensure that American Football is admitted to and remains in the Medal Programme of the Olympic Games.

STATUTES

Article 1

Name, Constitution, and Registered Address

1. The name of the federation shall be "International Federation of American Football" or "IFAF".
2. The Federation is a non-profit association and will take the name of the International Federation of American Football. IFAF shall consist of the national federations that are affiliated to it and recognized by it as controlling American football in their respective countries. Only one federation shall be recognized in each country. IFAF is duly organized under French law specifically under the provisions of the July 1st 1901 law as amended from time to time. Consequently, IFAF is declared at the " préfecture du département " of its legal seat in order to have legal capacity. The names: International Federation of American Football, and IFAF, and the IFAF logo are protected by copyright.
The number of Members may not be lower than three, representing at least two different continents. The legal seat of IFAF will be at La Courneuve, France. It cannot be transferred to another location without a General Meeting decision. IFAF is empowered to open offices or give mandates worldwide. The official languages of IFAF are English and French. English is the standard language for the minutes, the official correspondence and the communications. Each member shall be responsible for his own translation. In the event of any divergence in the interpretation of statutes, the French text shall be regarded as the authoritative.
The legal seat of IFAF may be transferred from La Courneuve, France, to Paris, France by a decision of the Presidium.

Article 2 Objects

The IFAF is a non-partisan, non-profit-making body. The objects of the IFAF are:

- a) to organize, govern, represent, produce and promote American Football;
- b) to unite in recognized IFAF member Federations, and to maintain jurisdiction over all American Football athletes, trainers, coaches, officials, judges, administrators, or other technical officials and allied sportspeople, including all amateur and professional competitors;
- c) to enact, administer, and enforce standardized rules to which all international competitions organized by it or its members are subject based on sporting principles, and in the best interests of American Football;
- d) to obtain the admission of American Football to the Medal Programme of the Olympic Games; to support and promote Olympism in American Football and the world; and to support the objectives of the International Olympic Committee; and
- e) to advise and assist its members with their work in their own countries.
- f) To assist in promoting the game of American Football all over the World without racial, religious, political, gender or any other discriminations and to take all practicable measures to stop such discrimination.
 - g) To promote the development of friendly sporting relationships between the Members in the spirit of peace and mutual understanding, and to safeguard their interests.
 - h) To provide, by means of statutory regulations, principles for settling any differences that may arise between Members.
 - i) To oversee the organization of the competitions and tournaments and any other such events and to sanction international competitions of teams organized by a Member.
 - j) To prevent infringements of IFAF Statutes or regulations.

With reference to the purpose of the **IFAF Statutes**, found in its preamble, IFAF shall take action especially, but not exclusively, against doping and any sort of irregular and corrupt practices relating to American Football, including but not limited to improperly influencing the outcomes and results of an event or competition, activities that suggest or promote such improper influences and any sort of betting activities. These actions are prohibited and subject to sanctions.

Article 3 Financial Year and Liability

The financial year shall be the calendar year.

Only the society funds are liable for payment the debts of the society. A personal liability of the members of IFAF is excluded.

Article 4 Membership

Members of IFAF shall fall into one of the following classifications:

1. Full Members

Full Members shall be American Football bodies of countries, which are recognized by the IFAF. Only one such body from any country may become a member.

2. Provisional Members

Provisional Members shall be bodies, which only partially fulfil membership qualifications. A Provisional Member does not have voting rights, but does have the right to nominate delegates to attend and speak at the General Meeting.

3. Honorary Members

Honorary Members are individuals who have rendered outstanding services to international American Football and who are voted Honorary Membership by the General Meeting.

Article 5

Admission and Termination of Membership

1. Applications

Applications for Membership must be submitted to the Secretary. The following must be included with an application:

- a) a copy of the applicant's Constitution accompanied by an English translation;
- b) a list of the applicant's members;
- c) the names and addresses of the applicant's Executive Committee; and

the following statement: "we agree to abide by the IFAF's **Statutes**, Rules and Regulations, and to abide by decisions of the IFAF's General Meeting and Presidium."

The Presidium may require the applicant to answer questions and provide further financial and other information, including proof to the satisfaction of the Presidium that it does not conflict with, or is not in rivalry with an existing member of IFAF.

2. Admission is decided by the Presidium. No reason need be given when refusing an application. If an application is rejected, the unsuccessful applicant is entitled to require the Secretary to present its application to the next General Meeting, which may admit any applicant by a two-thirds majority vote.

3. Admission occurs when an applicant's application for membership has been accepted by the Presidium.
4. Members agree to abide by the IFAF's **Statutes**, rules and regulations, and to abide by decisions of the IFAF's General Meeting and Presidium, and to comply with the **World Anti-Doping Code**, the **IFAF Anti-Doping Code**, including requiring all teams, athletes and support personnel within their jurisdiction to recognize and be bound by the **World Anti-Doping Code** and the **IFAF Anti-Doping Code**.
5. All members must be notified in writing of any new admission and of any change in membership. It is a condition of membership of the IFAF that the policies, rules, statutes and programs of the member comply with **World Anti-Doping Code** (WADC).
6. Members have to pay their annual Membership Fee on or before March 31st. Membership Fees may not be set off by a Member against any other debt or claim. If a member misses to pay the annual Membership Fee in time he loses his voting right and the right to compete in all World level competition unless the Managing Committee decides to grant a later payment schedule. The members still has to maintain with all obligations.
7. A member may resign from the IFAF at any time by registered letter or facsimile transmission addressed to the Secretary who may accept or decline to accept such resignation. Such resignation does not affect the member's financial obligations for the current calendar year.
8. A Member may be expelled by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Meeting, or by a vote of the Presidium as set out in these **Statutes**. A Motion to expel a Member is not in Order unless the proposer has given the Member at least one month's notice of the proposer's motion to expel, by registered letter or facsimile transmission. A decision by the General Meeting to expel a Member is final.
9. An applicant is only eligible for IFAF membership if the applicant is a non-profit body according his national law of the applicants' country. Companies cannot be admitted. If a company is holding direct or indirectly a dominant role inside the applicant the IFAF membership cannot be granted. Applicants shall reveal any control by any company over the applicant's body.
10. IFAF is open to all legally and / or recognized national federations controlling American Football at a national level.
11. Only one Member from each country or self governed territory which is recognized by IOC as own NOC (subject to approval by IFAF Presidium) may be affiliated, and such Member shall be recognized by IFAF as the only national governing body for all American football in such a country or self governed territory.
12. Members must at all times meet the following requirements (a federation applying to become a member must also meet the requirements):
 - a) To represent the entire country and control the American football in its country

- b) Not to be a member of or be otherwise affiliated to another organisation active in American football and not to participate in any competition under control of such organisation, unless authorized by the IFAF Presidium
- c) To abide by IFAF statutes, regulations and decisions
- d) To have at least one club in their federation
- e) To ensure that their internal constitution stipulates that their federation is organized and conducted democratically and without any racial, religious, political or gender discrimination.

Article 6

Continental Associations

1. The Members of IFAF may form Continental Associations (CAs) and apply to the IFAF Presidium for recognition of such CAs in accordance with this article 6. The purpose of a recognized CA shall be to develop and strengthen IFAF American Football in the relevant continental area in accordance with the Statutes, Rules and Regulations, strategy and policies of the IFAF.
2. The IFAF Presidium may recognize one CA for each of the following continental areas: Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania. The Presidium may define which countries may join each CA according to geography, past practice and other relevant factors.
3. Articles 5.1 to 5.2 of these Statutes shall apply mutatis mutandis to an application of a CA for recognition by IFAF.
4. In order to be recognized by the IFAF Presidium, a CA shall satisfy the following conditions, both at the time of its application for recognition and subsequently:
 - (a) Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the IFAF Presidium, the membership of each CA shall be comprised solely of Full Members and Provisional Members of the IFAF belonging to the relevant continental area. In principle, membership of a CA shall be open and accessible to all such Full Members and Provisional Members without discrimination of any kind.
 - (b) The majority of the Full Members of IFAF from a relevant continental area must be members of the CA.
 - (c) Each CA must keep the IFAF Presidium informed as to the identity of its members.
 - (d) A CA must be a legal entity distinct from its members.
 - (e) The Statutes of the CA must be and remain fully compliant and consistent with these Statutes and other IFAF Rules and Regulations.

- (f) A CA shall act in accordance with these Statutes, other IFAF Rules and Regulations and any decisions of the IFAF General Meeting, Presidium. A CA shall not act in any way which undermines, or is contrary to, the best interests of IFAF.

 - (g) Before a CA organizes any American Football competition or event, the relevant CA and the IFAF shall first enter into a hosting agreement with respect to such event or competition. Furthermore, all CA events must be organized in accordance with the IFAF Rules and Regulations and the relevant hosting agreement. American Football competitions or events organized by a recognized CA must be limited to athletes belonging to a country comprised within the continental area of the relevant CA.
5. The administrative activities of each CA shall be directed by a Managing Committee elected by the members of that CA. The Managing Committee of each CA shall coordinate its activities and closely cooperate with the IFAF Presidium. In particular, the Managing Committee of each CA shall report in writing on its activities biannually to the IFAF Presidium and annually to the IFAF General Meeting.
 6. The recognition of a CA may be suspended or withdrawn by the General Meeting for just cause including, without limitation, any breach of the recognition conditions set out at sub-article 4 (a) - (g) above. If the circumstances so require, the IFAF Presidium may also provisionally suspend the recognition of a CA provided that, if the relevant CA remains provisionally suspended at the time of the next IFAF General Meeting, that General Meeting shall decide whether the CA's recognition should be reinstated, further suspended or withdrawn.
 7. A decision to suspend or withdraw the recognition of a CA may be appealed exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration.
 8. If there is no continental federation on a continent in accordance of this Article 6 the Presidium may appoint a continental commission. The Presidium may decide to appoint continental committees for regional zones on a continent.

Article 7 Disputes

In view of the international composition of the IFAF and the resultant difficulties in settling disputes judicially where problems arise between members or between the IFAF and either Members or recognized CAs, Members and recognized CAs waive the right to take such disputes to law, and agree that such disputes shall be subject to the binding decision of the IFAF Disciplinary Council, the General Meeting or the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 8 Membership Fees

1. Members are required to pay an annual fee to renew their Membership, according to the Financial regulations.
2. The amount of the annual Membership Fee shall be decided or amended by simple majority of the General Meeting and subject to amendment at any time by the General Meeting.
3. The Membership Fee for any year is due on January 1st of that year.
4. Membership Fees paid after March 31st of any year are overdue.
5. If the Membership fees are overdue the member loses the voting right in the General Meeting unless the overdue fee is settled or the Managing Committee grants a delayed payment deadline.

Article 9 Organs of the IFAF

The organs of the IFAF are:

the General Meeting

- a) the Presidium
- b) the Managing Committee of the Presidium
- c) the Disciplinary Council

The first elections under the IFAF statutes which had been come in effect with the IFAF General Meeting on September 17, 2016 will be those conducted on September 17, 20016.

Any other bodies, committees, executives or positions which existed under the former statutes, regulations and by-laws of the IFAF are null and void. Those mandates expire on September 17, 2016. IFAF Presidium may decide to appoint executives for an interim period until the vacant positions will be filled by new elections or appointments under the statutes in the version of September 17, 2016.

Article 10 General Meeting

1. The General Meeting is the principal and original organ of the federation and consists of the Members' Delegates and the members of the Presidium. Each Member is entitled to send two Delegates to the General Meeting.

2. Each Member must provide one of its delegates with written power of attorney which constitutes the authority to vote. Only one delegate per Member may vote.
3. A Delegate must be a member of the body he or she represents as a Delegate (member means that he/she is at least member of a club team directly or indirectly through a regional body member of the relevant IFAF full member or he/she is a direct member of the relevant IFAF full member) and must be at least 18 years of age and legally capable of managing all of his or her personal and business affairs, and may not be:
 - (a) a corporation;
 - (b) an undischarged bankrupt;
 - (c) someone convicted anywhere of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a corporation, or involving fraud, or whose registration to trade in the stock of corporations has been revoked, within five (5) years of the date of the General Meeting at which he or she proposes to serve as a Delegate.
4. Assignment of votes by proxy is permitted, but only in the following written form:

(beginning of form)

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AMERICAN
FOOTBALL

FORM OF PROXY
FOR THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AMERICAN
FOOTBALL
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON (DATE OF MEETING) AT
(PLACE OF MEETING).

The undersigned signatory of (NAME OF IFAF MEMBER) hereby appoints (PROXY HOLDER'S NAME), or in his absence (ALTERNATE PROXY HOLDER'S NAME) as the proxy holder for and on behalf of (NAME OF IFAF MEMBER) to attend, act and vote for and on behalf of (NAME OF IFAF MEMBER) at the above meeting and at any adjournments thereof, to the same extent and with the same powers as if the authorized Delegate of (NAME OF IFAF MEMBER) were present at the said meeting, or any adjournment thereof.

(Please print)

Signature of Authorized Signatory

Printed Name

Address

Date

(end of form)

Proxies are not valid and may not be used unless they are assigned to a duly authorized Delegate to the Meeting, completed and signed in this form, and delivered to the Secretary or the fax number or address permitted by the Secretary at least twelve (12) hours before the scheduled time of the Meeting, provided always that if the Secretary is not satisfied with any form of proxy submitted to him or her then the Secretary shall submit the proxy for the approval of the Meeting as the first order of business of the Meeting after ascertainment of Members present, and the decision of the Meeting on the question shall be final.

5. No Delegate may represent more than two further Members by proxy in addition to his or her own Member body.
6. Honorary Members may serve as Delegates. Honorary Members may receive and vote proxies.
7. At the General Meeting each Member has two votes. Honorary members have one vote. Provisional members have no vote.
8. An Ordinary General meeting must be held in every financial year.

Article 11 Convocation of the General Meeting

1. The Secretary shall convene an Annual General Meeting by notice in writing to all Members by electronic mail ("e-mail") on or before January 15th every year.
2. The Secretary shall communicate the date and venue for the General Meeting by notice in writing to all Members by e-mail at least four (4) months before the General Meeting.
3. Motions for the agenda must be submitted to the Secretary in writing by mail or e-mail not later than three (3) months before the General Meeting and accompanied by a brief background statement by the proposer explaining the reason for the proposed intended effect of the Motion.
4. The Secretary shall communicate the final agenda and motions on notice for the General Meeting by sending e-mail at least two (2) months before the General Meeting to notify all Members of the internet address of an internet web site where the said agenda and motions have been posted.

5. Candidates for the offices of President, First or Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Legal Officer or ordinary member of the Presidium have to be nominated for the respected position by a full member of IFAF to the Secretary at the latest two (2) months before the General Meeting in which the election shall take place. The General Meeting can accept late nominations by vote.

Article 12 General Meeting Procedure

1. The General meeting shall be chaired by the President, or alternatively the Senior Vice President, or alternatively a Delegate elected by the Meeting for the whole or any part of the Meeting.
2. The General Meeting is duly constituted if at least one quarter (1/4) of the voting Members is represented by Delegates or proxy. If the General Meeting is not duly constituted then a new General Meeting may be convened according to Article 11 with the same agenda, and that General Meeting will be duly constituted regardless of the number of the members represented.
3. In order to ensure a fair and democratic process and the efficient conduct of business, the proceedings of the General Meeting shall be governed by the following Rules of Order:

motions may be made by any Delegate, Presidium Member, or Honorary Member;

- (a) the following take precedence over all other matters before the Meeting, in the following order: Points of Order (i.e. questions or objections regarding the proper order to be followed in the Meeting, including motions to close debate on any question), Points of Privilege (i.e. questions or objections touching on the privileges of a Delegate or a Member), and Points of Information (i.e. questions seeking further and better information and explanation of any matter before the Meeting);
- (b) every Member of the Presidium may speak at the General Meeting, and in the event of a dispute, the following is the order of precedence for speaking and proposing motions:
 - (i) the Chairman;
 - (ii) Presidium Members;
 - (iii) Delegates;
 - (iv) Honorary Members; and
 - (v) guests
- (c) the Chair shall recognize Delegates in order of their request to speak;

- (d) subject to the vote of the Meeting, the Chair may impose time limits on debate and on proposers making and speaking to motions, and may impose equal time limits on any speaker wishing to speak to any matter;
- (e) motions may only be tabled, amended, withdrawn or otherwise disposed of by vote of the Meeting as required in these **Statutes**, called by asking "who is in favour of this motion?";
- (f) debate may only be closed by majority vote of the Meeting on a Point of Order; and
- (g) other Rules of Order adopted by the General Meeting on Points of Order,

provided always that in the event of a dispute over any Rule of Order, the General Meeting may submit the dispute to the ruling of the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

4. Except as otherwise provided in these **Statutes**, the General Meeting passes its resolutions by simple majority of votes of the voting Delegates, including proxy holders. Resolutions to amend these **Statutes** require three (3) months' written notice to the Secretary and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. In any vote, abstentions and invalid votes are disregarded. If there is equality of votes, the President or in his or her absence the Chairman may cast a deciding vote, but otherwise the motion fails.
5. Voting is by a show of hands, unless one-third of the Delegates present request a secret ballot.
6. The General Meeting elects Members of the Presidium according to Article 14 and the Auditor according to Article 19 respectively of these **Statutes**. Elections shall not be held until after debate and voting on Motions of the Presidium and Motions of the Members.
7. Minutes must be taken in writing at every General Meeting and verified by two (2) Presidium Members forthwith after any adjournment thereof. They must be transcribed within one (1) month and signed by the President and another member of the Presidium. A copy shall be sent to all Members by ordinary mail or e-mail without delay and in any event within two (2) months of the end of the Meeting.
8. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary in these **Statutes**, the Presidium may submit urgent motions to the General Meeting without prior notice, with the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
9. General Meeting decisions are binding for Members. Decisions, with the exception of the result of the elections that is immediate, will take effect three months after being passed. The General Meeting may decide their effect shall take place earlier or later.

10. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by a decision of the Presidium and must be convened if at least one-third (1/3) of the Members entitled to vote requests such a meeting in writing, stating their reasons.
11. The Extraordinary General Meeting must be convened immediately per Article 11.
12. For greater certainty, the Extraordinary General Meeting is a General Meeting and is subject to the same requirements as an ordinary General Meeting.
13. Travel and board and lodging expenses of the delegates are not paid by IFAF.

Article 13 Postal Ballots

In addition to the procedures available in the General Meeting, the Presidium may conduct votes on motions by post or email provided always that it may not do so regarding any motion to amend the **Statutes**. Members shall be allowed a minimum of two (2) months to vote, failure to reply shall constitute abstention, and if there is equality of votes, the motion fails. This procedure is called a "postal ballot". A postal ballot is valid provided that 50% of the membership has voted at the end of the period, which the Presidium orders for voting.

Article 14 Presidium

1. The Presidium is the secondary political organ of the IFAF and is subordinate to the General Meeting.
2. Subject to the will of the General Meeting, the Presidium is empowered to govern IFAF's affairs between General Meetings and to represent IFAF in any manner, in the best interests of American Football.
3. The Presidium consists of:
 - a. the President
 - b. the Senior Vice President
 - c. up to two Vice Presidents
 - d. the Secretary
 - e. the Treasurer
 - f. the Legal Officer
 - g. up to 5 Ordinary Member
 - h. the Chairperson of the Athletes Commission and
 - i. any Honorary Life President or Presidents

The Ordinary Members, the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission, and the Vice President are responsible to undertake various functional activities as directed by the President or the Presidium.

4. The Presidium, other than the Honorary Life President and the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission is elected by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting every fourth year.
5. Elections will imply secret and in writing ballot unless there are less or as much candidates than seats to supply. Successful candidates for election to the Presidium shall be those obtaining the greatest number of votes. If there is a tie between two or more candidates a second election shall be held. If the tie persists, lots will be drawn to decide the successful candidate. In an election for Ordinary Members of the Presidium, anyone who casts a ballot must vote for the same number of candidates as the number to be elected; and, e.g. for greater certainty, if six (6) Ordinary Members of the Presidium are to be elected, then a ballot will be invalid unless it is marked for the election of six (6) different candidates out of the total of the candidates nominated for the position of Ordinary Member of the Presidium.
6. Anyone who is legally capable of managing all of his or her personal and business affairs, and is not:
 - (a) a corporation;
 - (b) an undischarged bankrupt; or
 - (c) someone convicted anywhere of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a corporation, or involving fraud, or whose registration to trade in the stock of corporations has been revoked within five (5) years of the date of the General Meeting at which he or she is nominated for election to the Presidium,may be elected to the Presidium or the Managing Committee or appointed as Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission, whether or not he or she is a Delegate or Presidium Member, provided always that no one may be elected to the Presidium unless she or he is present at the General Meeting where such elections are held or unless she or he has previously consented in writing to election to the Presidium.
7. If the office of any elected Presidium member becomes vacant, the Presidium may appoint a successor to that office to hold that office until the next General Meeting, at which time an election must be held to fill that position for the balance of the four-year term.
8. The Presidium shall constitute and appoint members to Commissions to assist it in its work, including the Sports Commission, the Finance Commission and the Press Commission, and these Commissions shall be responsible to and report to the Presidium.
9. The Presidium may appoint and dismiss members of a Council of Advisors of up to fifteen (15) members to advise and assist it in the development of American Football.
10. Every Presidium Member owes IFAF the duties of Good Faith and Competence.

Article 15 Powers of the Presidium

1. When the General Meeting is not in session, the Presidium possesses all of the powers which are not specifically reserved to the General Meeting by law or under these **Statutes**, and is empowered to make any decision which is not specifically reserved to other bodies under these **Statutes**, including taking action against Members, athletes or other persons who violate or may violate the **Statutes** or the Rules, or harm or may harm IFAF. In such cases the Presidium may take any action within its powers, including but not limited to:
 - a) prohibit the organizing or production of international competitions or the participation of a Member's national or club team in any competition,
 - b) reprimand a Member,
 - c) suspend some or all of the membership privileges of any Member,
 - d) enforce any appropriate sanctions against individuals or teams, and
 - e) expel a Member, provided always that the Presidium may only expel a Member for important reasons, which important reasons comprehensively include the following behavior of the member in question or its representatives:
 - (i) repeated or serious violations of the **IFAF Statutes** and associated codes, rules and regulations;
 - (ii) repeated or serious contraventions of decisions taken by competent IFAF organs or arbitral courts;
 - (iii) failing to pay fees before they are overdue;
 - (iv) any criminal act;
 - (v) any act that seriously harm the reputation of IFAF or its organs;
 - (vi) any act that causes serious damage or harm to the cooperation between IFAF members;
 - (vii) providing substantially incorrect or misleading information about its activities and basic data to IFAF organs, or
 - (viii) not primarily pursuing its membership in IFAF to support the objects set out in Article 2 of these **Statutes**.
2. An appeal against a decision by the Presidium under Article 15(1)(a) through (d) may be brought by the Member or individual affected by such decision to the IFAF Disciplinary Council, the decision of which shall be final, subject to the provisions of Article 6. An appeal against a decision by the Presidium under Article 15(1)(e) may be

brought only to the General Meeting, the decision of which shall be final; if the General Meeting allows the appeal by revoking the Presidium's decision to expel, the appellant Member is readmitted to its former Membership on the date of the General Meeting's decision to revoke expulsion, subject to payment of Membership dues for the current year. An appeal by a Member must be made in writing and delivered either to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Council or to the Secretary (as the case may be) within two (2) months of receiving notice of the Presidium's decision. The appeal must be reasonably clear. For further clarity, filing an appeal of such a decision does not suspend or affect the Presidium's decision, which shall remain in full force until the next formal decision of the competent body has been taken unless that decision is varied by the Presidium.

3. The Presidium may adopt its own Operating Policies in order to ensure the more democratic, collegiate and efficient conduct of IFAF's affairs.
4. The Presidium may empower the Managing Committee (MC) to hire staff to operate the day-to-day business under the MC's supervision.

Article 16 Work of the Presidium

1. The work of the Presidium shall be conducted by correspondence by mail and email. Meetings of the Presidium shall only be convened if more than half the elected members can attend. Travelling expenses for such meetings will be paid as far as possible from IFAF funds.
2. Decisions of the Presidium require a simple majority. The President shall have a casting vote in any tied vote of the Presidium. The result of any vote must be made known to all members of the Presidium without delay.

Article 17 Management and Representation

1. The President, the Senior Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer and the Legal Officer constitute the Managing Committee, and, subject to the discretion of the Presidium, represent the IFAF. The President is the legal representative of IFAF and signs on behalf of IFAF. In his absence it is the Senior Vice President.
2. The Managing Committee has the duty and the authority to manage and conduct IFAF's affairs according to Modern Sports Principles and modern Management Principles.
3. The President is the chief political representative of IFAF and has the duty and authority to lead and to try to build consensus within IFAF. The President is also the Chief Executive Officer of IFAF and has full authority to manage the day-to-day business and sport affairs of IFAF.

4. The Senior Vice President is the deputy chief political representative of IFAF and, subject to the President's directions, has the duty and authority to lead and to try to build consensus. The Senior Vice President is also the Assistant Executive Officer of IFAF and, subject to the President's directions, has authority to manage the day-today business of IFAF. In the event of the resignation, termination, death or incapacity of the President, the Senior Vice President has the duty and authority to fully assume the office, authority and title of the President.
5. The Vice President is a political representative of IFAF and is subject to the Presidium's directions.
6. The Secretary is in charge of the IFAF's office and its World Wide Web site, and acts according to the President's instructions.
7. The Treasurer is the Chief Financial Officer of IFAF and has the duty and full authority to manage the day-to-day financial and accounting affairs of IFAF according to modern Management Principles. The Treasurer has the duty to report to the General Meeting and the Presidium regarding IFAF's accounts and financial affairs.
8. The Legal Officer is the Chief Legal Officer of IFAF. It falls on to him to follow the application of the statutes and general regulations of the IFAF and is responsible for all the legal affairs. The Legal Officer exchanges with the organizers of the competitions to make sure of the application of the regulations of competition of IFAF.

Article 18 Law

French law shall be applicable in all matters of dispute and the legal seat of IFAF shall be the seat of decision. Should the legal seat be transferred to another country, this provision will be changed.

Article 19 Finances

1. IFAF's books and accounts will be managed by the Treasurer according to good commercial procedures.
2. The Treasurer must present the financial report to every Ordinary General Meeting and every meeting of the Presidium.
3. Every third Ordinary General Meeting will appoint an Auditor. The Treasurer shall obtain the Auditor's signed Report prior to every Annual General Meeting and distribute it to Delegates prior to the beginning of the Annual General Meeting.

It is agreed that revenues generated in each continental association program not including general global payments to IFAF including but not limited to membership fee and other general IFAF payments, are kept in each continent to develop football in that Continental Association. CA may charge membership fee.

The subscription fee is decided annually by General Meeting or remains unchanged; the annual subscription fee is payable by the 31st of January each year and overdue by 31st of March each year. In case of late payment it might be increased up to 50% by decision of the Managing Committee. The accounts are maintained and collected by the Treasurer who will provide the Presidium and Members with regular reports. Those reports will also be given to General Meeting.

The only official currency of IFAF is Euro; payments can also be done in other currencies at the payment day rate settled by the European Central Bank.

Members are liable for all financial obligations towards IFAF of their own members.

Article 20 Disciplinary Council

1. The Disciplinary Council ("the DC") is the independent jurisdictional organ of IFAF. It considers and renders judgments on the subjects referred to it by the **Code** of the IFAF Disciplinary Council and the provisions of the **Anti-Doping Code**.
2. The composition of the Disciplinary Council and the required profile of its members shall be defined in the provisions of the **IFAF Disciplinary Council Code** ("IFAF DC Code").
3. Members of the Disciplinary Council may not at the same time be a member of the IFAF Presidium or of the Managing Committee. Members of the Disciplinary Council exercise their duties independently according to the doctrine of *trias politica* and are not bound by any instructions of other IFAF organs regarding these duties.
4. The members of the Disciplinary Council are elected by the General Meeting.
5. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Council must present a report on its decisions during the previous year, to every General Meeting.

Article 21 The Ethics Committee

1. The Ethics Committee is an independent organ within IFAF, which is authorized to investigate cases of alleged violations of the IFAF **Code of Ethics**.
2. The Ethics Committee reports to the General Meeting and to the Presidium according to the detailed provisions in the **Code of the Ethics Committee**.
3. The Ethics Committee is composed of two ordinary Members and a Chairperson. All three are elected by the General Meeting for a term of office of four years. Each may be reelected. The mandate of the Ethic Committee elected in the General Meeting of IFAF on July 17, 2016 will expire with the General Meeting of IFAF in the year 2020.

4. The Members of the Ethics Committee, its Chairperson as well as their family members and life partners may not be Members of the Presidium, of the Disciplinary Council or Members of the executive power in a Continental Association, a Full or Provisional Member Body at the same time.

Article 22 Honours

1. Honorary Life Presidents and Honorary Members may be appointed by the General Meeting. At the request of the President, they may perform advisory and ceremonial functions.
2. The General Meeting and the Presidium may create and confer upon any person such Honours as they deem to be deserved and advisable in the interests of American Football.

Article 23 Rules and Regulations

1. The IFAF has the following Rules and Regulations:
 - a) **Financial Regulations**
 - b) **Rules of the Games**
 - c) **Regulations for Television, Broadcasting, New Media, Advertising and Sponsorship**
 - d) **Anti-Doping Code**
 - e) **Disciplinary Council Code**
 - f) **Code of Ethics**
 - g) **Code of the Ethics Committee**
 - h) **Transfer Regulations**
 - i) **Tournament Regulations for various World Championships**
2. The **Anti-Doping Code** and the **Disciplinary Council Code**, the **Code of Ethics** and the **Code of the Ethics Committee** are integral parts of the **Statutes**.
3. The other Rules and Regulations are not an integral part of the **Statutes** and may be amended by postal ballot or by the Presidium.
4. Athletes, Members' representatives, trainers, coaches and officials are bound to IFAF Rules and Regulations by forms of consent approved by the Presidium.

Article 24 Liquidation of the IFAF

1. The dissolution of the IFAF may be decided only by a General Meeting called specifically for the purpose and requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority, subject to at least two-third (2/3) of the Members being present or represented.
2. In the event of the IFAF being dissolved or of its objects becoming invalid and following a moratorium of nine months after the announcement of same, its assets will be assigned to the International Olympic Committee or to any other internationally recognized sport body or bodies recognised by the Olympic Family. No monies will be paid to Members of the IFAF.

Article 25 Final provision

Any matters not provided for under these statutes or cases of force majeure shall be settled by the Presidium, whose decisions shall be final. Decisions in matters of legislation shall not become operative until they have been approved by the General Meeting.

Every activity of the bodies and committees shall be subject to strict observation of the statutes and regulations of IFAF.

These statutes have been amended and voted by the IFAF General Meeting held in Paris France on September 17, 2016.