



# IFAF

## TRANSFER REGULATIONS 2017

### 1. **Scope of the regulations**

#### 1.1.

Anyone who plays American Football or its different forms shall have the right to play the sport in any one of the IFAF member countries, within the limits established by the IFAF Statutes and regulations as well as the eligibility regulations of the respective national federation.

#### 1.2.

The regulations governing international transfers apply in full to all national federations. However, in exceptional circumstances, the IFAF may reach a special agreement with a national federation.

#### 1.3.

For national transfers the national federations are invited to draw inspiration on these international regulations and to establish their own regulations governing the transfer of players in the spirit of the IFAF regulations.

### 2. **Definitions**

#### 2.1.

A foreign player is a player who holds another member federation citizenship than the one he is licensed in.

#### 2.2.

A national federation is defined as a national federation/association affiliated to the IFAF in accordance with the Statutes of the IFAF.

#### 2.3.

Last national federation is defined as a national federation/association where the player last held his/hers player license.

#### 2.4.

New national federation is defined as a national federation/association where the player is transferring to.

#### 2.5.

Player's nationality is defined based on the passport. In case the player has dual citizenship, player's nationality is the one the player has used to play in national team competitions. In case the player has not played for any national team, the player may choose under which nationality the player should be marked at that time.



2.6.

A licence is defined as the necessary authorization given by a national federation to a player to allow him to play American Football or its different forms for a club in membership at that federation.

### 3. The player

3.1.

#### **International Transfer Card**

3.1.1.

An International Transfer Card (ITC) must be obtained from a national federation where the player was last licensed or from USA Football or Football Canada under special agreements before the player can be licensed by another national federation. This document certifies that the player concerned is free to be licensed by another national federation.

3.1.2.

The ITC may be for limited or unlimited time. If applicable, it should mention any sanctions which may be in force against the player. National member federations may have rules or time restrictions on licensing players from another federation. These rules are in effect in international transfers.

3.1.3.

International transfer registration fee is 130 Euros. Transfer registration fee includes 40 Euros for both the last and new national federation, which will be forwarded to national federations. IFAF will keep 10 Euros for processing fee, while each federation's continent will receive 20 Euros.

Transfer registration fee is to be paid every time a player transfers. However, if the ITC is for limited time only, having the player returning back to its previous club in its previous national federation at the end of that limited time, the registration fee is to be paid only when the first transfer is made. If either the limited time or the returning destination is to be changed, then the transfer registration fee has to be paid on the second transfer as well.

3.1.4.

Payment of the ITC fees will be considered as a credit towards the account balance of a National Federation within IFAF. Out of this credit any outstanding debts will be paid to IFAF. If there is any money remaining on the account balance of a National Federation on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December that amount will be transferred to the designated account of the National Federation and all bank transfer charges will be on the burden of the recipient. That transfer will not be made later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of February of the next year.



#### 3.1.5.

National Federations may waive their portion of the fee. To waive the fee for the next calendar year, a National Federation has to inform IFAF latest before the end of the current year.

#### 3.1.6.

All the provisions of this article apply to any player licenced by a national federation or falls under special agreements with USA Football and Football Canada who wishes to apply for an international transfer regardless whether the player has the nationality of that country or not.

### 3.2. **Self-declaration**

#### 3.2.1.

A foreign player, who has never held a license in any IFAF member federation or falls under special agreements with USA Football or Football Canada, can sign a self-declaration certifying that he/she has never held a license or wishes to be transferred to any IFAF member federation. This self-declaration may be used instead of ITC card for issuing a player licence.

Same applies to a player who has not held a licence for the past two (2) whole calendar years. A period in which the player has not played due to disciplinary actions or bans will not be counted as a period the player has not held a licence.

#### 3.2.2.

National Federation receiving a self-declaration must send the self-declaration card together with the receipt of payment to IFAF prior to issuing a license to the player.

Any player who has never played American football before, but would need to use self-declaration to start playing in another country than the one of its nationality is exempt from paying the registration fee.

#### 3.2.3

Any player who is U16 need to use self-declaration to start playing in another country than the one of its nationality and is exempt from paying the registration fee.

#### 3.2.4.

Any player filling out a self-declaration and having been previously licensed in another national federation or falls under special agreements with USA Football or Football Canada is acting against these regulations, this will result in a 1-year ban from all American football activities under IFAF and its member federations.



3.3.

**License restrictions**

3.3.1.

A player may not be licensed by more than one national federation at the same time.

3.3.2.

Any license held by a player becomes automatically null and void when an international transfer card is issued by IFAF or when the licence is revoked by the issuing authority.

3.2.3

For national competitions, clubs are authorized to include on their team roster players who have already played in another member country during the same calendar year if not restricted under the club's member federation rules.

3.2.4.

When a player is subject to an outstanding disciplinary sanction from the national federation where the player is licensed and when that sanction has been approved by the IFAF then for as long as the sanction remains in force no transfer shall be permitted.

3.2.5.

All sanctions which continue to be in force beyond the end of a national federation's playing season shall be notified by that federation to IFAF.

3.2.6.

In the paragraph 3.2.4 above-mentioned case the ITC must be filled for the whole period of disqualification and must mention the sanction, its duration, the reasons and the possibilities of appeal provided for in the national regulations in force.

**4. The national federation**

4.1.

**Transfer procedures**

4.1.1.

Whenever a national federation receives a request for a licence for any player who was previously licensed by another member federation or falls under special agreements with USA Football or Football Canada, it must, before granting such a license in accordance with its own regulations, obtain an ITC for the relevant player.

4.1.2.

The national federation may not grant a license until it has obtained the ITC from the national federation of the country in which the player was last licenced or USA Football or Football Canada.



#### 4.1.3.

The ITC card must be sent by one of the following methods:

Email attachment – **transfers@ifaf.info**,

Online site (when applicable)

#### 4.2.

##### **Process and Deadlines for Response**

##### 4.2.1.

A national federation receiving a request for a license for any player who was previously licensed by another federation must send the filled ITC card with the signatures of the player and the new federation together with a receipt of payment to IFAF within 3 days of receiving the ITC card.

##### 4.2.2.

IFAF will submit the ITC to the last federation for approval/refusal. A national federation receiving a request of ITC from the IFAF must send the ITC card within 7 days following receipt of the request either by granting or refusing the ITC to the IFAF. It is the sole responsibility of the last federation to inform/contact the former club team.

##### 4.2.3.

If the request for the ITC is opposed by the national federation of the club or USA Football or Football Canada where applicable, the national federation shall immediately notify IFAF giving them the reason for refusal by attaching the refusal to the player's ITC card.

##### 4.2.4.

In case of a refusal of ITC, the IFAF will only admit contractual or sanction issues as valid refusal. In case of valid refusal, ITC processing fee will not be refunded.

##### 4.2.5.

If there is no response within the 7-day period, the IFAF may authorize the issuing of the license without the ITC.

##### 4.2.6.

An individual player may start the ITC process. In this case the player must submit the signed ITC card together with a receipt of payment to the IFAF. IFAF will handle the process as it would have been started by the new federation. After receiving the ITC request with a receipt of payment, IFAF will send ITC/SD request to the new federation. The new federation must respond IFAF within three days, and if not, IFAF will be able to continue the process.

##### 4.2.7.

After receiving approval/refusal from both federations, the ITC Manager has 72 hours to answer. An ITC sent on Friday might not be cleared until Monday.



4.2.8.

IFAF will make all approved ITC's public by publishing a list of transfers on its website.

4.3.

#### **Rights of the Country of Nationality**

4.3.1.

The club and the national federation must allow a player to play for his national team in the following games:

All the qualifying games of the official competitions of IFAF

All the official competitions of IFAF

4.3.2.

A club which has signed a contract with a player undertakes to leave this player, without requiring any compensation or insurance cover whatsoever, at the disposal of the national federation for which the player is eligible in order to enable him to play for the national team(s).

4.3.3.

This permission shall be valid for at least the complete duration of the competition or for the day of the individual game and also for a training period of a duration of:

5 days for qualifying games

14 days for official competitions

4.3.4.

If a player who is licensed by a member federation is called to play for his national team in one of the above mentioned games or competitions refuses for whatever reason to play for his national team, the said player is not allowed to play for the club in which he is licensed for the duration of such game or competition and the applicable training period.

4.4.

#### **Disputes**

4.4.1.

Any dispute arising from refusal to issue an ITC shall be decided by IFAF according to IFAF regulations.

4.4.2.

IFAF Disciplinary Council will be handling the cases of fines and bans for players and national federations.

4.4.3.

The decision to refuse or approve an ITC as well as the Disciplinary Council decision may be appealed as per IFAF regulations.



4.5.

**Illegal transfers**

4.5.1.

Any international transfer having taken place without an ITC is invalid and any license issued pursuant to such a transfer is invalid.

4.5.2.

Any player who has played without an ITC is acting against these regulations, which will result in a 1-year ban from all American football playing activities under IFAF and its member federations.

4.5.3.

Any national federation issuing a license without an ITC or self- declaration is acting against these regulations, which will result in a fine of 1000 Euros.

**5. Transfers and playing outside of IFAF member federations**

If a player, after having played for a club affiliated to an IFAF member federation plays for an academic institution which does not recognise the IFAF regulations governing the International Transfer of Players or plays for an organization which is not recognised by the respective national federation and subsequently returns to an IFAF club, the player is then considered as having transferred from an IFAF club to an IFAF club. In other words, the player's playing activities during his/hers stay at an academic institution or non-recognised organisation as defined above, will be disregarded.

**6. Official documents to be provided by national federations**

6.1.

**International Transfer Card**

6.1.1.

In general, the ITC is delivered by the player from one national federation to another, which will be forwarded to IFAF. If necessary, it may be issued directly to the player concerned.

6.1.2.

ITC must be filled on the IFAF approved card.

6.1.3.

IFAF may accept ITC cards without national federation signature if they are sent from the official federation email address and there is no doubt on the validity of that email.



## **7. Special agreement with USA Football**

### **7.1.**

Based on rule 1.2. IFAF has reached a special agreement with USA Football which applies to all US citizens that have played high school, college, semi-pro or professional football in the United States without being a licenced player previously to that in any other IFAF member federation.

### **7.2.**

Any US citizen wishing to play American football in another IFAF member country must transfer to that country using the ITC.

### **7.3.**

No US citizen can use the self-declaration as a form of transfer, if the player has played high school, college, semi-pro or professional football in the United States.

### **7.4.**

This special rule only applies to players transferring for the first time. If a player has previously been licenced by another IFAF member country, the transfer follows the standard procedures.

## **8. Special agreement with Football Canada**

### **8.1.**

Based on rule 1.2. IFAF has reached a special agreement with Football Canada which applies to all Canadian citizens that have played high school, college, semi-pro or professional football in Canada without being a licenced player previously to that in any other IFAF member federation.

### **8.2.**

Any Canadian citizen wishing to play American football in another IFAF member country must transfer to that country using the ITC.

### **8.3.**

No Canadian citizen can use the self-declaration as a form of transfer, if the player has played high school, college, semi-pro or professional football in Canada.

### **8.4.**

This special rule only applies to players transferring for the first time. If a player has previously been licenced by another IFAF member country, the transfer follows the standard procedures.



**9. Special situations with transfers regarding special agreements**

If a player holding the citizenship of an IFAF Special Agreement country, did not hold a licence previously for any IFAF member country and did not play ever in the country where he is applying for a license, but only in another IFAF Special Agreement country, the IFAF Special Agreement of the country where football was played will apply to the case, regardless of the player's nationality.

10. These regulations have been decided by the IFAF Managing Committee. The IFAF Managing Committee may give separate decisions on all matters regarding these regulations.