



# IFAF

## TRANSFER REGULATIONS 2015

### 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 on these international regulations and to establish their own regulations governing the transfer of players in the spirit of the IFAF regulations.

#### 1.4.

For 2015, player who has played in 2014 without a valid ITC, is regarded to have had a valid ITC for 2014 and is regarded as a player for the club/national federation which he/she last played for during 2014.

### 2. **Definitions**

#### 2.1.

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

##### 2.2.1

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

##### 2.2.2.

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



2.3.

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

2.4.

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 a player was last licenced or from USA Football or Football Canada under special agreements before the player can be licenced by another national federation. This document certifies that a player concerned is free to be licenced 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. National federations may not charge additional fees for the administration as the international transfer registration fee includes 40 Euros administration fee 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 federations continent will receive 20 Euros. (in case of transfer inside one continent, that continent receives 40 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 previous club in 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 wished to be changed, then the transfer registration fee needs 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 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 National Federation on 31<sup>st</sup> of December for the year that ended , that amount will be transferred to the designated account of National Federation and all bank transfer charges will be on the burden of the recipient. That transfer will be not made later then 15<sup>th</sup> of February for the previous year.

#### 3.1.5.

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

### 3.2.

#### **Self declaration**

#### 3.2.1.

A foreign player, who has never held a license to any IFAF member federation or fall under special agreements with USA Football or Football Canada, can sign a self-declaration certifying that he/she has never held a license or needs 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 players whom have not held a licence for the past two (2) whole calendar years. Period 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 license for the player.

#### 3.2.3.

Any player filling out a self-declaration and having been previously licensed with another national federation or fall under special agreements with USA Football or Football Canada is acting against these regulations, which 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 championships, clubs are authorized to include on their team players who have already played in another member country during the same calendar year if not restricted under member federation rules.

### 3.2.4.

Where a player is subject to outstanding disciplinary sanction from the national federation whom the player is licensed and whose sanction has been approved by the IFAF then for so long as the sanction remains in force no transfer shall be permitted.

### 3.2.5.

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

### 3.2.6.

In cases mentioned above in paragraph 3.2.4. the international transfer card must be filed with IFAF for the whole of the period of disqualification and must mention the sanction, its duration, the reasons and possibilities for 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 fall under special agreements with USA Football or Football Canada, it must, before granting such a license in accordance with its own regulations, obtain an international transfer card for the player concerned.

#### 4.1.2.

The national federation may not grant a license until it has obtained the international transfer card 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.org**

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 old 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 solely the responsibility of the old federation to inform/contact the old club team.

##### 4.2.3.

If the request for the international transfer card is opposed by the national federation of the club or USA Football or Football Canada when special agreement applies, the national federation shall immediately notify IFAF the ITC 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 take contractual or sanction issues as valid refusal. In case of 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 granting 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 approval for ITC from IFAF, the player may take the ITC to a new federation for licensing.

##### 4.2.7.

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

#### 4.3.

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

##### 4.3.1.

The club and 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 who has signed a contract with a player undertakes to place 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 on the national team(s) of the latter.

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 federation and who is called to play on his national teams in one of the games or competitions mentioned above, for whatever reason refuses to play on his national team, the said player is not allowed to play for the club for 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 international transfer card shall be decided by IFAF according IFAF regulations.

4.4.2.

IFAF Disciplinary Committee 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 Disciplinary Committee decision may be appealed as per IFAF regulations.

4.5.

**Illegal transfers**

4.5.1.

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



4.5.2.

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

4.5.3.

Any national federation issuing a license without an international transfer card or self-declaration is acting against these regulations, which will result in a fine of 500 Euros.

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

5.1.

If a player, after having played for a club affiliated to 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 a IFAF club, the player is then considered as having transferred from an IFAF club to an IFAF club. In other words, players 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 international transfer card 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.

International transfer card 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.

All US citizens that wish 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 transfers follow normal 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.

All Canadian citizens that wish 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 transfers follow normal procedures.

## 9. Special situations with transfers regarding special agreements

9.1.

If a player holding citizenship of a one IFAF Special Agreement country, have not held a licence previously for any IFAF member country and have not played at all in the country of the players nationality, but only in another IFAF Special Agreement country, the IFAF Special Agreement of the country where football was played will be applied to the case, regardless of the players nationality not being from that country.