



**Gridiron Australia**  
**9 on 9 Football**  
**Adjustments to IFAF Rules 2018**

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Gridiron Australia Limited



## 9 ON 9 FOOTBALL ADJUSTMENTS TO IFAF RULES 2018

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These are the standard rules for Gridiron Australia sanctioned competitions in which a 9 on 9 format is chosen. The basic principle is that the offensive tackles are removed, the quarters are 10 minutes, with all other rules remaining the same except where necessary and detailed in this document.

This document is only updated as necessary.

### General

1. 9-on-9 football shall be played to the same rules as 11-on-11 football. The version of IFAF rules currently endorsed by GA is the starting point, with the following adjustments.

### Players and substitutions

2. **Team Size.** The game shall be played between two teams of not more than 9 players each (Rule 1-1-1-a).
3. **Fewer Than 9 Players.** A team legally may play with fewer than 9 players, but a foul for an illegal formation occurs if the following requirements are not met: (Rule 1-1-1-b)
  - a) When the ball is free-kicked, at least three Team A players are on each side of the kicker. (Rule 6-1-2-c-3)
  - b) At the snap, at least three players wearing jerseys numbered 50 through 79 are on the offensive scrimmage line and no more than four players are in the backfield. (Rule 7-1-4-a)
4. **Player Vacancy.** A player vacancy occurs when a team has fewer than 9 players in the game. (Rule 2-27-11)
5. **Extra Player Leaving During Play.** No player, in excess of 9, shall leave the field of play or an end zone while the ball is in play. (Rule 3-5- 2-b)
6. **Breaking the Huddle.** Team A may not break the huddle with more than 9 players nor keep more than 9 players in the huddle or in a formation for more than three seconds. Officials shall stop the action whether or not the ball has been snapped. (Rule 3-5-3-a)



7. **Player Numbers at Snap.** Team B is allowed to briefly retain more than 9 players on the field to anticipate the offensive formation, but it may not have more than 9 players in its formation if the snap is imminent. Whether the snap is imminent or has just occurred, the officials shall stop the action. (Rule 3-5-3-b)

### **Tackle box and free blocking zone**

8. Tackle box. The tackle box (Rule 2-34) extends 3 yards (instead of 5) either side of the snapper. The tackle box may be used in the determination of Intentional Grounding (Rule 7-3-2), legality of Blocks below the waist (Rule 9-1-6), Leaping (Rule 9-1-11), Horse Collar Tackle (Rule 9-1-15), and Roughing or Running into the Kicker (Rule 9-1-16).
9. Free blocking zone. The free blocking zone (Rule 2-3-6) extends 3 yards laterally (instead of 5) centered on the middle lineman. The free blocking zone may be used in the determination of Illegal Defensive Formation of place kicks (Rule 6-3-14), Clipping (Rule 9-1-5) and Illegal Blocks in the back (Rule 9-1-6).

### **Timing**

10. Total Playing Time. The maximum total playing time in a game shall be 40 minutes, divided into four periods of 10 minutes each, with one-minute intermissions between the first and second periods (first half) and between the third and fourth periods (second half)
11. Period Between Halves. The intermission between halves shall be 15 minutes, unless altered before the game by mutual agreement of the administrations of both teams. Immediately after the second period ends, the referee should begin the intermission by signalling to start the game clock.