



# IFAF EUROPE FLAG FOOTBALL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2017 REGULATIONS

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*Abbreviations:*

IFAF International Federation of American Football  
IFAF Europe IFAF Continental Zone representative  
TC Tournament Committee  
LOC Local Organizing Committee  
FFEC 2017 Flag Football European Championship 2017  
CDM Chef de Mission



## **§1 Definition of the Competition**

The Flag Football European Championship 2017 will be restricted to Flag Football female and male national teams whose IFAF member federation/association is both in good standing with all IFAF statutes as well as IFAF Europe. All open payments to IFAF or to IFAF Europe have to be settled prior to entering the tournament. This includes payments towards IFAF Europe as well as to the LOC.

All players whether playing in their home country or in any other IFAF or IFAF continental representative affiliated country shall be released by their club/team to play in games representing their national federation/association.

## **§2 General Provisions and Financial Requirements**

The national federation/association shall enter its female and/or male Flag Football national team, according to the established procedures, and will also guarantee the participation of the strongest team possible and accept liabilities related to the tournament.

The entry fees are decided by IFAF Europe and have to be paid to IFAF Europe within the specific date. If the conditions are not met, IFAF Europe may declare the entry invalid, which precludes any participation, or accept the late entry and eventually impose a fine. Appeals may be lodged against such decisions, according to IFAF appeals regulations and statutes.

The organizers of the games must take necessary insurance, and in particular third party liability. If a stadium is not owned, or otherwise controlled by the local national federation/association, the realm of the responsibility must be clarified with the stadium owner and clearly defined.

Claims of damage against IFAF or its continental representatives shall be officially excluded.

Proof of the necessary insurance shall be forwarded to the Tournament Committee no later than one month before the start of the tournament.

The national federations/associations and their teams participating in the competition shall undertake to fully observe the regulations as well as the decisions taken by the responsible IFAF Europe authorities.

Entry fee per participating team for each tournament is 1.000 Euros.  
Officiating fee per participating team for each tournament is 800 Euros.

### **Deadlines:**

- By 1 June, 2017, the participating federation/association shall provide the following:

- A) Signed contract/application form confirming their entry in the tournament;
- B) Pay an entry fee of 1,000 Euros per participating team to IFAF Europe;
- C) Pay an officiating fee of 800 Euros per participating team to IFAF Europe.

- By 15 June 2017, the participating federation/association shall provide the following:

- A) One page history of Flag Football national team and history of Flag Football program as Word-document file mailed to IFAF Europe, including the national federation or association logo as .jpg, tif or similar format;
- B) Name and contact data (addresses, e-mail, phone number) of federation office and of Chef de Mission (CDM). This main contact person has to be an English speaking person.

Deadlines for separate roster and other similar requirements for the tournament:



- By 1 July, 2017:

- A) Uniform colors (jersey, pants, socks / home and away) are subject to approval of IFAF Europe TC;
- B) Pay the daily per person participating fee to the Spanish federation's account in Spain.

- 20 days before the start of the tournament (i.e. 14 August 2017):

- A) A 15 player preliminary roster completed with – players Name, Date of Birth, Jersey Number, Position, Height, Weight, Current Club Team – must be submitted to IFAF Europe and LOC along with a name list of all side line personnel. Players cannot be changed from this list and their information and photo will also be used for media purposes (website, program, etc.)

- 1 day prior to the start of the tournament:

- A) Provide necessary forms for insurance, health and liability signed by team members (parents in case of a minor) for TC and LOC to allow for good medical treatment during the tournament

- On game day:

- A) A 12 player roster completed with – players Name, Date of Birth, Jersey Number, Position, Height, Weight, Current Club Team - must be signed by CDM and submitted to IFAF Europe and to the LOC with the list of names of all side line personnel before first game starts. Players cannot be changed from this list, which will be the final roster until the end of present game day. The 12 players on the roster must have been included in the 15 player preliminary roster submitted 20 days before the tournament;
- B) Provide necessary forms for insurance, health and liability signed by team members (parents in case of minors) for those team members that may have changed from deadline of 15 days prior to the tournament.

The documents must be sent to IFAF Europe office email in order to meet the deadlines.

Failure to comply with any deadlines will result in the following:

- Failure to meet the deadline date, fine of 500 Euros for each offence.
- Failure to submit required information 7 days after deadline date: Possible expulsion from the tournament, plus a fine associated to refusal to play \$14 in accordance to non-payment of entry fee.

Failure to comply with the deadline - two weeks before the tournament will result in the following:

- Failure to meet the deadline date, fine of 1.000 Euros for each offence.
- Failure to submit required information within 1 hour after deadline date: Possible expulsion from the tournament, plus a fine associated to refusal to play \$14 in accordance to non-payment of entry fee.

If IFAF Europe office or TC are sending out requests to the designated communication liaison officer of a participant and no answer is received on that request within 48 hours IFAF Europe may fine the federation in the amount of 500 Euros.

### **§3 Tournament Format**

Flag Football European Championships consists of one female and one male tournament, played individually but at the same location.

According to the confirmations of participation IFAF Europe Competition Committee will seed the teams for the groups at the tournament with the basis being previous results from



Flag Football European Championships.

There will be no qualification rounds.

The competition system is decided by IFAF Europe. The games shall be executed according to IFAF rules. Please observe the IFAF minimum game requirements and exceptions for game rules specified in these regulations.

The playing days of both tournaments will be between 07 and 10 September, 2017 (Thursday to Sunday) at LAS ROZAS, Madrid in Spain.

**- Schedule:**

06 September Teams' arrival  
07 September Group games  
08 September Group games  
09 September Group games  
10 September Playoff/Placement games  
11 September Teams' departure

There will be a ranking of all participants set by the Tournament Committee to determine groupings.

**§4 Financial Provisions**

The national federations/associations are responsible for their own traveling arrangements and payments for traveling to and from the city of the tournament.

Participating teams must supply all travel details 20 days prior to the start of the tournament to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC). The LOC will provide for each participating team during the time of their stay, starting with the evening of the day of arrival and ending with breakfast on the day of the departure, the following:

- Residence and lodging for maximum 15 players and 5 coaches/staff for the time of their stay (5 nights) starting with the evening of the day of arrival and ending with breakfast on the day of departure in a hotel (TBD) in Las Rozas, including 3 meals a day (full board) with basic drinks (water, juice). For all teams hotel will provide meeting room and WLAN;
- Assistance to the teams;
- Organization of the stadium for the games;
- Practice field for 1 hour per day on each team's non game days;
- Advertising and public relations;
- VIP-hospitality.

For all these provisions daily per-person fee is 70 euros.

All game officials will be appointed by the IFAF Europe Officiating Committee. The LOC shall cover the costs of officials' accommodation and food.

No per diem will be paid to officials of the tournament.

LOC is responsible for providing accommodation, food and local transportation for maximum two TC members for the tournament.

LOC is responsible for providing accommodation, food and local transportation for one high



ranking IFAF Europe executive member who will present the trophies at the tournament.

## **§5 Organizational Responsibilities**

IFAF Europe shall appoint a Tournament Committee consisting of two members to serve as organizer and coordinator of the tournament.

Flag Football European Championship 2017 Tournament Committee will consist of:

- Chairman: Fabio Tortosa
- Deputy Chairman: TBA.
- TC member (substitute): TBA.

The Chairman of the TC is the Executive Tournament Director. In case of her/his absence the deputy chairman is named to be Executive Tournament Director.

IFAF Europe Tournament Committee will have the responsibility to control player identifications and eligibility, the field/arena and the security measures.

IFAF Europe Officiating Committee shall appoint officials and be responsible for all matters concerning the officiating of the competition (further information in §12).

Infractions of the competition regulations shall be reported to the TC who will take all necessary action at the game site and forward a game report to IFAF Europe.

The national federations/associations are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members and any other person fulfilling a position or function on behalf of the team.

All venue changes must be sanctioned by IFAF Europe Competition Committee.

LOC shall be responsible for order and security before, during and after the tournament.

## **§6 Technical Meetings**

LOC will host a technical meeting the day before the first game day. CDM and one team member (preferably the head coach) must be present.

Failure to participate at a technical meeting will lead to a fine of 2.000 Euros.

During the tournament TC will host mandatory team meetings after each game day (not after final game day) and may do also at other times if necessary. These meetings are mandatory for all participants. TC will decide when both CDM and head coach are necessary. Only those invited by TC to these meetings are allowed to participate in the meetings.

LOC will pay for travel, accommodation, food and local transportation for TC for inspectional visit and operational conference prior to the technical meeting.



## **§7 Eligibility of Players**

### Overall requirements

Players have to be of the equivalent gender of the tournament entered (women for women's tournament, men for men's tournament).

For the tournaments in 2017, all players must be born before 1 January 2002.

If a player has changed her/his nationality or holds two or more nationalities s/he is eligible to play for her/his new or chosen nationality. However, if a player has represented one national federation/association in any official IFAF or its continental representative tournament, including both senior and junior tournaments, the player is not eligible to play for any other national federation/association. Players' nationality must be proven on game day.

A player has to be a citizen of the country s/he intends to play for by the time s/he has to be on the 15 player preliminary roster.

### Tournament requirements

One hour before each game day starts each team shall indicate the names of the 12 players and their staff on the official team roster form. The 12 players on the roster must have been included in the 15 player preliminary roster. The official roster form must be signed by the CDM.

The IFAF Europe TC can request presentation of identity documents of each player prior to each game day.

Identity documents are valid passport or an internationally accepted official national ID card which includes photograph, date of birth and nationality, with the official English translation. In case a player is not able to present their identity document they will be ineligible to play.

Violation of player's eligibility regulations can lead to the team's or player's disqualification and/or of a fine of no more than 5.000 Euros.

## **§8 Laws of the Game**

All games will be played in accordance with the IFAF Flag Football 5 vs 5 rules.

Player ejections: Any player ejected from the game will not be eligible to play in her/his team's next game in this competition. Note: Certain player ejections may lead to longer ineligibility. Certain player ejections may also be overruled after the game in case the game video shows irrefutable evidence for doing so.

The effective playing time is 2x20 minutes for championship rounds.

### Equipment, Uniforms and Colors of the Teams

- All players must wear all mandatory equipment according to the rules.
- Team players uniforms (socks, pants, jerseys, flags) shall be identical and in good condition.
- Teams shall have two complete sets of player jerseys, home color and white/light-coloured jerseys for away games.
- Advertisement on the game uniform is forbidden but with exceptions mentioned in §18.



### Tie breakers

In group games, games may end in a tie.

In all playoff games – not group games, there has to be a winner and the game may not end in a tie. If the score is equal after the normal game time, the IFAF Flag Football international Competition rule in IFAF tournaments on tie-breakers will be used to break a tie.

The winners of championship pool will be decided in the following way:

- Head to head;
- Net points head to head;
- Net points overall;
- Most touchdowns;
- Coin toss.

### **§9 IFAF Minimum Game Requirements**

*Each game must follow IFAF Game regulations. Below is a short list of minimum requirements, but in all games the Game regulations must be followed to the fullest.*

#### Game Balls

If sponsored, only LOC provided game balls are to be used. LOC must inform all teams minimum 30 days prior to the tournament starts. Upon arrival each team will provide a minimum of 5 game balls by LOC. These game balls are property of LOC and the tournament and have to be returned after the tournament to LOC.

If no game balls are provided by LOC each team provides their own game ball according to the rules, and all game balls have to be approved by the referee before each game.

#### Uniform colours

Teams have to wear completely contrasting coloured shirts. Teams must wear colours designated for them by TC. All changes must be approved by TC.

#### Game management to assist game officials at the game

- Medical requirements to meet minimum requirements at least at coin toss:
  - a) A qualified medical doctor must be present at the venue at all times;
  - b) An ambulance crew must not be the sole medical personnel present; if ambulance should leave it should be replaced within the shortest time possible;
  - c) A first aid kit including a suitable (preferably inflatable) set of limb splints must be available;
  - d) Medical doctor to be named on the roster form.

If the above mentioned requirements are not reached, a game will be suspended until above requirements are met.

#### Ice and water

LOC is responsible for providing ice and water for teams. Minimum amount that should be prepared is 30 litres of bottled water and 5 litres of ice per game day. LOC will also provide 1 litre of bottled water per game official for each game.



## §10 Arena and Field

IFAF Europe may refuse to permit games to be played in arenas which do not measure up to international standards, by which it means that the ground must be in good condition as do both the playing surface and the facilities. The stadium must conform to the security prescriptions of the competent civil authorities. LOC must ensure that the stadium they use undergoes a periodic safety check. The games can be played in daytime or evening but then, only on grounds equipped with appropriate floodlights.

In order to guarantee the safety of the players and the game officials, LOC shall provide for an access to the field ensuring safe entry and exit.

An adequate number of ground staff and security personnel shall be present in order to ensure the regular course of the game. No spectators are permitted in the area between the stands and the side-lines.

If seating, IFAF Europe official representatives shall be seated in the best category seats. An adequate number of complimentary and paying seats, to be fixed by mutual agreement, shall be reserved for the teams.

An adequate number of seats shall be put at the disposal of the local and foreign media representatives.

### Field

- Field surface: Has to be either natural or artificial grass. Other surfaces are not permitted.
- Field size
  - a) Length 50 yards (45,75 m), additional end zones 10 yards (9,15 m);
  - b) Width 25 yards (22,90 m).
- Field markings: Full IFAF markings preferred. End zones must be 10 yards deep.
- Safety area: To guarantee the safety of players there must be 3 meters caution area around the field from both side-lines and end zones. All obstacles must be removed from this area.

Total required space for one field including safety area is 76 yards (69,55 m) x 31 yards (28,40 m).

### Stadium

- Stands: Games are preferably organized on grounds that have the stands for minimum of 200 spectators;
- Public Services
  - A) Public facilities
    - a. Inside the stadium there must be sufficient amount of service to the public including but not limited to food and beverage sale as well as toilets.
  - B) Public announcer and PA system
    - a. If there is a public announcer for entertaining the public, they have to announce in English, but it's also possible to announce on the local language.  
The announcer will have to stay neutral and not interfere with the game in any way.  
PA system has to be sufficient for the music and announcements to be heard in all areas of the stands. The PA system may include a cordless microphone for the referee.
- Locker rooms
  - A) Teams and officials: Inside the stadium there have to be locker rooms with direct And safe path to the field. At least one separate locker room for each gender and



One separate for the game officials. Teams' locker rooms have to be sufficient in size to fit 15 players and the one for officials has to be sufficient to fit a 4-man crew. Locker rooms have to be equipped with showers;

- B) Anti-doping tests: Inside the stadium grounds there has to be one extra room that can be reserved for anti-doping tests.
  - Game accessories
- A) Field markers: In each corner of the end zone there has to be a pylon approximately 45cm in height;
- B) Game clock: A visible game clock may be present. This clock will be the official time unless the referee decides otherwise.
  - Security
- A) Stadium security: Game organizer must have enough security people available to guarantee the safety of all players and officials;
- B) Locker room security: Game organizer must have security over the locker room area avoiding unauthorized personnel in teams' or officials' locker rooms.

### **§11 Unfitness of Grounds**

If LOC considers the ground unfit for play, they are responsible to have the ground inspected by IFAF Europe Competition Committee. If the ground is deemed unfit IFAF Europe Competition Committee shall inform concerned participants and LOC immediately.

If the ground is subsequently deemed unfit the LOC is responsible for securing a suitable alternative venue. Any such change has to be approved by TC after the initial permission has been granted. If the game does not take place due to force majeure it will be rescheduled if possible or the game could be played on the following day unless reasons beyond control impede such game from taking place. Final decision will be taken by TC.

In the event that a game does not take place it shall be rescheduled in accordance with the schedule or the result shall be decided by the flip of a coin. The same provisions apply if the game is abandoned for the same reasons. Final decision will be taken by TC after all the relevant facts have been considered.

### **§12 Game Officials and Observers**

All game officials and observers will be appointed by IFAF Europe. Officials' uniforms have to be in good condition and shall only have the IFAF logo attached to them. All other logos/advertisements will be removed before the game/tournament.

After the game the referee shall complete the official game report form, sign it and hand it to the TC immediately after the end of the game.

The report shall include as much information as possible about all occurrences before, during and after the game, such as:

- Misconduct of the players, leading to reprimands or expulsion;
- Unsportsmanlike behaviour of officials, members, supporters and of any person fulfilling a duty on behalf of a team or organizer;
- Any other noticed incidents.



### **§13 Anti-doping Regulations**

IFAF anti-doping regulations are in effect.

The TC will inform the Anti-Doping Committees of respective countries of the game dates of the championship round. The possible testing will be carried out according to the rules of respective Anti-Doping Committees and the WADA.

The use of THC and cannabis is strictly forbidden during the tournament. The tournament starts on arrival and ends 24 hours after the last game of the tournament has been played or a team has left the hosting country which ever applies first. Use of THC or cannabis will be penalized with a playing ban of three months.

### **§14 Refusal to Play and Similar Cases**

Refusal to play automatically leads to disqualification and the team is fined with maximum 30.000 Euros.

The fine shall be paid within one month from the receipt of IFAF Europe decision.

Any actions directly or indirectly caused by the team or its national federation/association, with the result that a game cannot take place or be played to its full extent will be dealt with as refusal to play.

All teams must take part in the tournament with the intent to win every game. A team that doesn't follow the spirit of fair play and who doesn't take part in all games with the intent to win will be dealt with as refusal to play.

All fines amounts will be decided by IFAF Europe depending on the circumstances that lead to the national team's refusal to play.

### **§15 Disciplinary Measures**

IFAF Disciplinary Rules are in effect. The teams are responsible for the behaviour of their players, officials, members, and of any person fulfilling a position or function on behalf of the team.

IFAF Europe Tournament Committee is given the right to fine participants according to these Regulations without a separate hearing. Such decisions may be appealed to IFAF Europe Competition Committee as per IFAF Europe Regulations.

### **§16 Protests and Appeals**

All protests and appeals will be handled by the IFAF Europe Competition Committee. Any person which was a part of the TC that made the decision being protested or appealed to does not have a vote in protests and appeals decisions.

### **§17 Media Regulations**

The commitments and responsibility of national federations/associations towards the media are to provide information, news and access to players and coaches, while protecting the game and the players.



If rules relating to the media are not observed, the matter may be submitted to the TC for a possible fine.

Each participating CDM will act as a press officer to coordinate media matters in cooperation with her/his team, IFAF Europe press officer and other CDMs.

#### Access to practice

In practice sessions, teams must be open to media representatives (TV, radio, written press, website journalists and photographers) for at least 15 minutes from the start of practice time. The LOC, together with the team's CDM or, if appointed, the IFAF Europe Media Officer, is responsible for ensuring that the stadium is clear of media after 15 minutes and that all cameras are turned off.

#### **§18 Advertisement**

Advertisement on the player uniforms is in general forbidden. Federations are allowed to have the logo of the manufacturer of player uniforms on the clothing.

A federation wishing to fix advertisement of a sponsor on the player uniforms (including flags) has to submit the request three months in advance to LOC and TC. Permission will be granted if there is no conflict with tournament main sponsors and the advertisement is suitable for the tournament. A tournament main sponsor is a sponsor who pays a significant amount of money to LOC. Non-suitable advertisers include but are not limited to alcohol and tobacco products as well as sexist material. The definition of a significant amount of money is subject to circumstances.

IFAF Europe has an exclusive right to 10 meters of arena signs in each end zone and one free page in the official game program of all the games in the tournament. IFAF Europe has to notify the organizer of the game or hosting team not later than two months prior to the start of the tournament its decision to use this right.

At all games of the tournament the logo of IFAF, IFAF Europe and continental representative shall be visible to the spectators in the venue.

If in any country there are more restrictive advertisement regulations, or a complete prohibition of publicity, those shall supersede these regulations.

Violations of this regulation may lead to an imposition of a fine of no more than 5.000 Euros. IFAF hereby waives and disclaims all responsibilities arising from disputes between the organizer and third party.

#### **§19 Television and Publishing Issues**

IFAF Europe is the exclusive holder of television and radio broadcast rights and is the beneficiary of any use and distribution thereof by whatever audio-visual and sound broadcasting media.

IFAF Europe has to give written permission for all transmissions of games by television (closed circuit and cassettes included), online streaming, sound broadcast and cinema for the qualification and tournament games.

All games, which shall be transmitted by television, closed circuit, online streaming, broadcast by radio stations or recorded by film producers, shall be covered by a written



contract between the organizer and broadcaster. IFAF Europe is entitled to be informed in advance and in writing of the contents of such contracts before issuing its written permission. Violation of this paragraph leads to a fine up to 10.000 Euros.

## **§20 Trophies and Medals**

The LOC will provide top three teams participating in men and women categories at the Championship rounds 15 medals each. Winner - gold, second place - silver, and third place - bronze. A Fair Play prize will be awarded to the most Fair Play team decided by TC.

The LOC will provide the souvenir medals for all game officials.

The LOC will provide trophies/plaques for members of the all-tournament team (10 in total) and also for the coach of the tournament.

The IFAF Europe TC will assign a group to select the all-star team and coach of the tournament.

The tournament trophies and medals shall be presented by a high-ranking IFAF Europe executive.

## **§21 Tournament Manual**

The IFAF Tournament Manual for Flag Football with procedures, interpretations, standards and other information is an integral part of these regulations. Failure to comply with the Tournament Manual is considered to be a failure to comply with the tournament regulations.

## **§22 Force Majeure**

The referee can interrupt a game before the expiration of the statutory playing time or during possible extra-time because of weather conditions or for other reasons beyond her/his control.

The TC can, after the game has been interrupted by the referee, decide to abandon the game or decide when the game will be continued. TC's decision is final and in case the game is abandoned it will end with the existing score of points.

IFAF Europe has the right to make decisions in all matters concerning the tournament. If the circumstances are unforeseen and have not been provided in these Regulations such decisions shall not be subject to appeal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enrique García de Castro A', written over a horizontal line.

Enrique García de Castro A  
IFAF Europe CA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Romeo Tjoe-A-On', written over a horizontal line.

Romeo Tjoe-A-On  
IFAF Europe CA Sports Director