

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 201 - 203), the numbers refer to numbered illustrations; R, Rule; S, Section; A, Article; P, Page. Where a signal is marked *, the referee shall also give Signal 9.

Index	O	R	S	A	P
LOSS OF A DOWN					
1	31*	6	3	10	107
2	35*	7	1	6	118
3	19*	7	1	7	119
4	35*	7	2	1	119
5	35*	7	3	2	120
6	36*	7	3	2	120
7	16*	7	3	4	122
8	31*	9	4	1	156
9	31*	9	4	4	158
LOSS OF FIVE YARDS					
1	27	1	2	9	43
2	23	1	4	2	46
3	19	3	1	1	72
4	21	3	4	2	85
5	21	3	4	2	85
6	21	3	4	2	85
7	22	3	5	2	88
8	21	3	5	2	88
9	22	3	5	3	89
10	22	3	5	3	90
11	21	4	1	4	93
12	21	4	1	5	93
13	18, 19	6	1	2	100
14	19	6	1	2	100
15	19	6	1	11	103
16	19	6	1	12	103
17	19	6	2	1	103
18	31	6	3	10	107
19	31*	6	3	10	107
20	19	6	3	10	107
21	19	6	3	12	108
22	19	6	3	14	109
23	21	6	5	2	111
24	19	7	1	1	114
25	19	7	1	3	115
26	19	7	1	3	115
27	19	7	1	3	115

Index	O	R	S	A	P
28 False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	115
29 Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	4	117
30 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	4	117
31 Illegal formation	19	7	1	4	117
32 Illegal formation due to numbering exception	19	7	1	4	117
33 Illegal shift	20	7	1	4	117
34 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	118
35 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	118
36 Defensive player charging unabated toward a back	18	7	1	5	118
37 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	118
38 Defensive player out of bounds at snap	19	7	1	5	118
39 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	118
40 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	119
41 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	119
42 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	119
43 Illegal forward pass by Team A (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	120
44 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	128
45 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	128
46 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	16	147
47 Game administration interference (also 15 yards)	29	9	2	5	152
48 Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2	153
LOSS OF 10 YARDS					
1 Home team delay	21	3	4	1	85
2 Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	42	9	3	3	154
3 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	154
4 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	154
5 Illegal use of hands (defense)	42	9	3	4	155
6 Illegal contact with eligible receiver (first down)	38	9	3	5	155
7 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	6	156
8 Holding or obstruction (loose ball)	42	9	3	7	156
9 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	156
10 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	157
11 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	157
12 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	158
13 Game management delay of game	21	13	5	3	184
14 Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	5	4	184
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	45
2 Numbers changed	27	1	4	2	46
3 Illegal signal devices (also disqualification)	27, 47	1	4	10	51
4 Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	85
5 Rapid substitution to opponent's disadvantage	27	3	5	2	88

Index		O	R	S	A	P
6	Blocking a free kicker	40	6	1	9	102
7	Illegal wedge	27	6	1	10	103
8	Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	110
9	Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	112
10	Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	113
11	Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	125
12	Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	125
13	Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	0	139
14	Striking an opponent (first down)	38	9	1	2	139
15	Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	139
16	Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	140
17	Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	140
18	Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	5	142
19	Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	6	142
20	Late hit (first down)	38	9	1	7	144
21	Action out of bounds (first down)	38	9	1	7	144
22	Helmet/face mask fouls (first down)	38, 45	9	1	8	144
23	Roughing the passer (first down)	34	9	1	9	144
24	Chop blocking (first down)	41	9	1	10	145
25	Leverage/Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	11	146
26	Defensive restrictions	27	9	1	11	146
27	Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play (first down)	38	9	1	12	146
28	Hurdling (first down)	38	9	1	13	146
29	Illegal contact against the snapper (first down)	38	9	1	14	146
30	Horse collar tackle (first down)	38, 31	9	1	15	146
31	Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	16	147
32	Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	16	147
33	Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	16	147
34	Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	149
35	Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	149
36	Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	149
37	Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	149
38	Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	149
39	Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	149
40	Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	149
41	Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	149
42	Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	151
43	Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	151
44	Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	151
45	Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27, 47	9	2	4	152
46	Game administration interference (also 5 yards)	29	9	2	5	152
47	Physical interference with an official	27	9	2	5	152
48	Continuous contact to the helmet (first down)	38	9	3	4	155

Index	O	R	S	A	P
49 Defensive restrictions (first down)	38	9	3	5	155
50 Fighting (first down) (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	158
 LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	6	167
 OFFENDED TEAM'S BALL AT SPOT OF FOUL					
1 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty) (first down)	33	7	3	8	125
 CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION					
1 Illegal jersey numbers	23	1	4	5	48
2 Head coach's conference	21	3	3	4	81
3 Illegal cleats (also disqualification)	23	9	2	2	151
4 Head coach's challenge	21	12	5	1	176
 VIOLATION					
1 Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	101
2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	105
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	107
 DISQUALIFICATION					
1 Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	10	51
2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	139
3 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet	38	9	1	3	140
4 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player	38	9	1	4	140
5 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	149
6 Illegal cleats	23	9	2	2	151
7 Contacting an official	47	9	2	4	152
8 Fighting	47	9	5	1	158
 AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	125
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	125
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	0	139
4 Striking an opponent	38	9	1	2	139
5 Tripping	46	9	1	2	139
6 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	140
7 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	140
8 Clipping	39	9	1	5	142
9 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	6	142
10 Late hit	38	9	1	7	144
11 Action out of bounds	38	9	1	7	144

Index	O	R	S	A	P
12 Helmet/face mask fouls	38, 45	9	1	8	144
13 Roughing the passer	34	9	1	9	144
14 Chop blocking	41	9	1	10	145
15 Leverage/Leaping	38	9	1	11	146
16 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play	38	9	1	12	146
17 Hurdling	38	9	1	13	146
18 Illegal contact against the snapper	38	9	1	14	146
19 Horse collar tackle	38, 31	9	1	15	146
20 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	16	147
21 Continuous contact to the helmet	38	9	3	4	155
22 Defensive restrictions	38	9	3	5	155
23 Illegal contact with eligible receiver	38	9	3	5	155
24 Fighting (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	158
REFEREE'S DISCRETION					
1 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	152
WHEN IN QUESTION RULES					
1 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	54
2 Chop block	-	2	3	3	54
3 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	54
4 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	4	3	56
5 Ball accidentally touched rather than batted	-	2	11	3	58
6 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	11	4	58
7 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	16	1	60
8 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	62
9 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	63
10 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	63
11 A player is defenseless	-	2	27	14	68
12 Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5	81
13 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	92
14 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	110
15 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	125
16 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	136
17 Forcible contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	-	9	1	3	140
18 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	8	144
19 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	16	147
REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY					
1 Field markings inadequate	-	1	2	1	39
2 Limit lines or coaching lines inadequate	-	1	2	3	40
3 Team area inadequate	-	1	2	4	40
4 Goals inadequate	-	1	2	5	42
5 Coaches agree to play without goals	-	1	2	5	42
6 Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	42

Index		O	R	S	A	P
7	Line-to-gain or down indicator inadequate	-	1	2	7	42
8	Sideline markers inadequate	-	1	2	8	43
9	Field surface inadequate	-	1	2	9	43
10	Balls inadequate	-	1	3	2	45
11	Colour of jerseys clash	-	1	4	5	48
12	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	51
13	Playing time shortened due to darkness	-	3	2	1	75
14	Persons removed from the field	-	9	2	7	153
15	Changing room inadequate	-	13	2	1	179
16	Security inadequate	-	13	2	2	179
17	Clock malfunction	-	13	3	3	180
18	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	4	1	182
19	Bad weather	-	13	5	6	185
20	Game abandoned	-	13	5	8	185
21	Game suspended for more than 5 minutes	-	13	5	9	185
22	Unauthorized access to officials' changing room	-	13	6	1	186
23	Public address announcer infraction	-	13	6	2	186

COMPETITIONS MAY APPLY SANCTIONS

1	One or both sidelines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	39
2	One or both goal lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	39
3	One or both end lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	39
4	One or more yard lines across the field at least every 10 yards is incomplete	-	1	2	1	39
5	One or more yard lines across the field every 5 yards is incomplete	-	1	2	1	39
6	The hash marks are incomplete	-	1	2	1	39
7	The short yard-line extensions at the sideline are incomplete	-	1	2	1	39
8	Absence of any mandatory marking (sideline, end line, goal line, yard lines at 5-yard intervals, hash marks)	-	1	2	1	39
9	End zones smaller than 7 yards or bigger than 13 yards in depth, or where the end zones are not of equal size	-	1	2	1	39
10	Field of play less than 90 yards in length or not a multiple of 10 yards	-	1	2	1	39
11	Field of play not 160 feet in width	-	1	2	1	39
12	White field markings closer than four feet to an end zone line	-	1	2	1	39
13	Absence of nine-yard marks if the field is not numbered according to Rule 1-2-1-j	-	1	2	1	39
14	Game management fail to enforce rule regarding persons outside the team area	-	1	2	3	40
15	Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	40

Index		O	R	S	A	P
16	Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	40
17	Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	40
18	Persons in team area not wearing proper credentials	-	1	2	4	41
19	Game management failure to remove unauthorised persons from team area	-	1	2	4	41
20	Practice kicking nets outside the team area (except where permitted)	-	1	2	4	41
21	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	41
22	Uprights less than 20 feet in height	-	1	2	5	42
23	Crossbar not 10 feet above ground	-	1	2	5	42
24	Goal not 18 feet six inches wide	-	1	2	5	42
25	Goal not in plane of end line	-	1	2	5	42
26	Decorative material on the posts or crossbar (other than streamers)	-	1	2	5	42
27	Padding on goal posts absent or less than six feet in height	-	1	2	5	42
28	One or both goals missing or taken down	-	1	2	5	42
29	Illegal pylons that had to be removed	-	1	2	6	42
30	Rods not of minimum height or not with flat ends	-	1	2	7	43
31	Repeated breakages of the line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	43
32	Failure to provide line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	43
33	Markers that are not constructed and/or placed to avoid hazard and had to be removed	-	1	2	8	43
34	Trip hazard(s)	-	1	2	9	43
35	Markings or facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	44
36	Home team provides fewer than three legal balls	-	1	3	2	45
37	No towels are provided when conditions warrant it	-	1	3	2	45
38	Balls do not have white stripes	-	1	3	2	45
39	Both teams are playing in the same predominant jersey colour	-	1	4	5	48
40	Players of a team not wearing jerseys of the same colour and design	-	1	4	5	48
41	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	52
42	Prohibited media equipment used	-	1	4	11	52
43	Artificial sound amplification used	-	1	4	11	52
44	Recording opponent's signals	-	1	4	11	52
45	Drone inside the playing enclosure	-	1	4	11	52
46	Minimum medical requirement not met	-	13	1	1	178
47	Changing room not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without appropriate seating	-	13	2	1	179
48	Changing room unreasonably dirty, cold, wet or noisy	-	13	2	1	179
49	Visiting team not given higher standard changing facilities	-	13	2	1	179
50	Changing rooms not secured	-	13	2	2	179
51	Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	3	3	180
52	Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	4	1	182

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53	Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	4	1	182
54	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	4	1	182
55	Unauthorized access to officials' changing room	-	13	6	1	186
56	Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	6	2	186
57	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	189
GAME CANNOT PROCEED RULES						
1	Inadequate field markings	-	1	2	1	39
2	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	41
3	Trip hazards	-	1	2	9	43
4	Markings and facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	44
5	Medical facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	13	1	1	178
6	Officials' assistants inadequate	-	13	4	1	182
7	Circumstances do not permit play to proceed	-	13	5	1	183
8	Number of officials below minimum	-	13	5	5	184
9	Any appointed official not present or becomes incapacitated	-	13	5	5	184
10	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	189

Summary of foul codes

By code:

Code	Foul
ATR	Assisting the runner
BAT	Illegal batting
DEH	Holding, defense
DOD	Delay of game, defense
DOF	Offside, defense
DOG	Delay of game, offense
DPI	Pass interference, defense
DSQ	Disqualification
ENC	Encroachment (offense)
EQV	Equipment violation
FGT	Fighting
FST	False start
IBB	Illegal block in the back
IBP	Illegal backward pass
IDP	Ineligible downfield on pass
IFD	Illegal formation, defense (3-on-1)
IFH	Illegal forward handing
IFK	Illegal free kick formation
IFP	Illegal forward pass
IKB	Illegally kicking ball
ILF	Illegal formation
ILM	Illegal motion
ILP	Illegal participation

Code	Foul
ILS	Illegal substitution
ING	Intentional grounding
ISH	Illegal shift
ISP	Illegal snap
ITP	Illegal touching of a forward pass
IUH	Illegal use of hands
IWK	Illegal wedge on kickoff
KCI	Kick catch interference
KIK	Illegal kick
KOB	Free kick out of bounds
OFH	Holding, offense
OFK	Offside, kicking team
OPI	Pass interference, offense
PF/BOB	Personal foul, blocking out of bounds
PF/BBW	Personal foul, blocking below the waist
PF/BTH	Personal foul, blow to the head
PF/CHB	Personal foul, chop block
PF/CLP	Personal foul, clipping
PF/FMM	Personal foul, face mask
PF/HCT	Personal foul, horse collar tackle
PF/HDR	Personal foul, hit on defenseless receiver
PF/HTF	Personal foul, hands to the face
PF/HUR	Personal foul, hurdling
PF/ICS	Personal foul, illegal contact with snapper
PF/LEA	Personal foul, leaping
PF/LEV	Personal foul, leverage
PF/LTO	Personal foul, late hit out of bounds
PF/LTP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on
PF/RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker
PF/RPS	Personal foul, roughing the passer
PF/RRK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker/holder
PF/SKE	Personal foul, striking/kneeing/elbowing
PF/TGT	Personal foul, targeting
PF/TRP	Personal foul, tripping
PF/UNR	Personal foul, other unnecessary roughness
RNH	Running into the kicker/holder
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
UC/ABL	Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language
UC/BCH	Unsportsmanlike conduct, bench
UC/DEA	Unsportsmanlike conduct, delayed/excessive act
UC/FCO	Forcibly contacting an official
UC/RHT	Unsportsmanlike conduct, removal of helmet
UC/STB	Unsportsmanlike conduct, spiking/throwing ball
UC/TAU	Unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting/baiting
UC/UNS	Unsportsmanlike conduct, other
UFT	Unfair tactics

By foul:

Code	Foul
ATR	Assisting the runner
DOD	Delay of game, defense
DOG	Delay of game, offense
DSQ	Disqualification
ENC	Encroachment (offense)
EQV	Equipment violation
FST	False start
FGT	Fighting
UC/FCO	Forcibly contacting an official
KOB	Free kick out of bounds
DEH	Holding, defense
OFH	Holding, offense
IBP	Illegal backward pass
BAT	Illegal batting
IBB	Illegal block in the back
ILF	Illegal formation
IFD	Illegal formation, defense (3-on-1)
IFH	Illegal forward handing
IFP	Illegal forward pass
IFK	Illegal free kick formation
KIK	Illegal kick
IKB	Illegally kicking ball
ILM	Illegal motion
ILP	Illegal participation
ISH	Illegal shift
ISP	Illegal snap
ILS	Illegal substitution
ITP	Illegal touching of a forward pass
IUH	Illegal use of hands
IWK	Illegal wedge on kickoff
IDP	Ineligible downfield on pass
ING	Intentional grounding
KCI	Kick catch interference
DOF	Offside, defense
OFK	Offside, kicking team
DPI	Pass interference, defense
OPI	Pass interference, offense
PF/BBW	Personal foul, blocking below the waist
PF/BOB	Personal foul, blocking out of bounds
PF/BTH	Personal foul, blow to the head
PF/CHB	Personal foul, chop block
PF/CLP	Personal foul, clipping
PF/FMM	Personal foul, face mask
PF/HTF	Personal foul, hands to the face
PF/HDR	Personal foul, hit on defenseless receiver
PF/HCT	Personal foul, horse collar tackle
PF/HUR	Personal foul, hurdling

Code	Foul
PF/ICS	Personal foul, illegal contact with snapper
PF/LTO	Personal foul, late hit out of bounds
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PF/LEV	Personal foul, leverage
PF/UNR	Personal foul, other unnecessary roughness
PF/RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker
PF/RRK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker/holder
PF/RPS	Personal foul, roughing the passer
PF/SKE	Personal foul, striking/kneeing/elbowing
PF/TGT	Personal foul, targeting
PF/TRP	Personal foul, tripping
RNH	Running into the kicker/holder
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
UFT	Unfair tactics
UC/ABL	Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language
UC/BCH	Unsportsmanlike conduct, bench
UC/DEA	Unsportsmanlike conduct, delayed/excessive act
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UC/RHT	Unsportsmanlike conduct, removal of helmet
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