

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 208 - 210), 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	Illegal scrimmage kick	31*	6	3	10	115
2	Illegally handing ball forward	35*	7	1	6	127
3	Planned loose ball play	19*	7	1	7	127
4	Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds	35*	7	2	1	127
5	Illegal forward pass by Team A	35*	7	3	2	129
6	Intentionally grounding forward pass	36*	7	3	2	129
7	Forward pass illegally touched by player out of bounds	16*	7	3	4	131
8	Illegally batting loose ball	31*	9	4	1	167
9	Illegally kicking ball	31*	9	4	4	168
LOSS OF FIVE YARDS						
1	Alteration of playing surface for an advantage	27	1	2	9	48
2	Improper numbering	23	1	4	2	51
3	Coin toss infractions	19	3	1	1	77
4	Illegal delay of game	21	3	4	2	91
5	Advancing a dead ball	21	3	4	2	91
6	Disconcerting offensive signals	21	3	4	2	91
7	Substitution rules infraction	22	3	5	2	94
8	Delay of game (substitutions)	21	3	5	2	94
9	More than 11 players in the formation or during the play (dead ball)	22	3	5	3	95
10	More than 11 players in the formation or during the play (live ball)	22	3	5	3	96
11	Putting ball in play before it is ready	19	4	1	4	100
12	Exceeding play clock count	21	4	1	5	101
13	Infraction of free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	107
14	Player out of bounds when ball free-kicked	19	6	1	2	108
15	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (free kick)	19	6	1	11	110
16	Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	12	110
17	Free kick out of bounds [or 30-yard option]	19	6	2	1	111
18	Return kick	31	6	3	10	114
19	Illegal scrimmage kick (also loss of down)	31*	6	3	10	115
20	Marking spot of place kick	19	6	3	10	115
21	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (scrimmage kick)	19	6	3	12	115
22	Defensive linemen 3-on-1 in field goal formation	19	6	3	14	116
23	Taking more than two steps after a fair catch	21	6	5	2	119
24	Illegal snap	19	7	1	1	122
25	Snapper's position and ball adjustment	19	7	1	3	123

Index	O	R	S	A	P
26 Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready for play	19	7	1	3	123
27 Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	123
28 False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	123
29 Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	4	125
30 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	4	125
31 Illegal formation	19	7	1	4	125
32 Illegal formation due to numbering exception	19	7	1	4	125
33 Illegal shift	20	7	1	4	125
34 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	126
35 Defensive player charging unabated toward a back	18	7	1	5	126
36 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	126
37 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	126
38 Defensive player out of bounds at snap	19	7	1	5	126
39 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	127
40 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	127
41 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	127
42 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	128
43 Illegal forward pass by Team A (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	129
44 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	137
45 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	137
46 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	16	157
47 Game administration interference (also 15 yards)	29	9	2	5	162
48 Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2	164
LOSS OF 10 YARDS					
1 Home team delay	21	3	4	1	90
2 Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	42	9	3	3	164
3 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	164
4 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	164
5 Illegal use of hands (defense)	42	9	3	4	166
6 Illegal contact with eligible receiver (first down)	38	9	3	5	166
7 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	6	166
8 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	167
9 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	168
10 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	168
11 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	168
12 Game management delay of game	21	13	5	3	190
13 Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	5	4	190
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	51
2 Numbers changed	27	1	4	2	51
3 Illegal signal devices (also disqualification)	27, 47	1	4	10	56
4 Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	90

Index		O	R	S	A	P
5	Blocking a free kicker	40	6	1	9	110
6	Illegal wedge	27	6	1	10	110
7	Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	117
8	Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	120
9	Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	120
10	Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	134
11	Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	134
12	Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	0	148
13	Striking an opponent (first down)	38	9	1	2	148
14	Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	148
15	Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	149
16	Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	149
17	Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	5	151
18	Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	6	151
19	Late hit (first down)	38	9	1	7	153
20	Action out of bounds (first down)	38	9	1	7	153
21	Helmet/face mask fouls (first down)	38, 45	9	1	8	153
22	Roughing the passer (first down)	34	9	1	9	154
23	Chop blocking (first down)	41	9	1	10	154
24	Leverage/Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	11	155
25	Defensive restrictions	27	9	1	11	155
26	Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play (first down)	38	9	1	12	155
27	Hurdling (first down)	38	9	1	13	155
28	Illegal contact against the snapper (first down)	38	9	1	14	156
29	Horse collar tackle (first down)	38, 31	9	1	15	156
30	Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	16	157
31	Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	16	157
32	Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	16	157
33	Continued participation without a helmet (first down)	38	9	1	17	158
34	Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	158
35	Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	158
36	Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	158
37	Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	158
38	Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	159
39	Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	159
40	Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	159
41	Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	161
42	Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	161
43	Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	161
44	Unusual action or verbiage to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	161
45	Simulating injury to confuse opponents or officials	27	9	2	2	161
46	Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27, 47	9	2	4	162
47	Game administration interference (also 5 yards)	29	9	2	5	162

Index	O	R	S	A	P
48 Physical interference with an official	27	9	2	5	163
49 Continuous contact to the helmet; Hands to the face (first down)	38	9	3	4	166
50 Defensive restrictions (first down)	38	9	3	5	166
51 Fighting (first down) (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	168
 LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	6	178
 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	134
 CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION					
1 Illegal jersey numbers	23	1	4	5	53
2 Head coach's conference	21	3	3	4	87
3 Head coach's review	21	12	2	1	180
 VIOLATION					
1 Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	109
2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	112
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	115
 DISQUALIFICATION					
1 Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	10	56
2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	148
3 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet	38	9	1	3	149
4 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player	38	9	1	4	149
5 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	158
6 Intentionally contacting an official	47	9	2	4	162
7 Fighting	47	9	5	1	168
8 Concussed player returns to game	47	13	1	3	185
 AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	134
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	134
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	0	148
4 Striking an opponent	38	9	1	2	148
5 Tripping	46	9	1	2	148
6 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	149
7 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	149
8 Clipping	39	9	1	5	151
9 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	6	151

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10 Late hit	38	9	1	7	153
11 Action out of bounds	38	9	1	7	153
12 Helmet/face mask fouls	38, 45	9	1	8	153
13 Roughing the passer	34	9	1	9	154
14 Chop blocking	41	9	1	10	154
15 Leverage/Leaping	38	9	1	11	155
16 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play	38	9	1	12	155
17 Hurdling	38	9	1	13	155
18 Illegal contact against the snapper	38	9	1	14	156
19 Horse collar tackle	38, 31	9	1	15	156
20 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	16	157
21 Continued participation without a helmet	38	9	1	17	158
22 Continuous contact to the helmet; Hands to the face	38	9	3	4	166
23 Defensive restrictions	38	9	3	5	166
24 Illegal contact with eligible receiver	38	9	3	5	166
25 Fighting (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	168
REFEREE'S DISCRETION					
1 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	161
WHEN IN QUESTION RULES					
1 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	59
2 Chop block	-	2	3	3	59
3 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	59
4 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	4	3	60
5 Ball accidentally touched rather than batted	-	2	11	3	63
6 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	11	4	63
7 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	16	1	65
8 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	67
9 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	67
10 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	68
11 A player is defenseless	-	2	27	14	72
12 Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5	87
13 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	98
14 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	117
15 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	134
16 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	145
17 Forcible contact and targeting with crown of helmet	-	9	1	3	149
18 Forcible contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	-	9	1	4	149
19 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	8	153
20 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	16	157
REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY					
1 Field markings inadequate	-	1	2	1	44
2 Limit lines or coaching lines inadequate	-	1	2	3	45

Index		O	R	S	A	P
3	Team area inadequate	-	1	2	4	45
4	Goals inadequate	-	1	2	5	47
5	Coaches agree to play without goals	-	1	2	5	47
6	Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	47
7	Line-to-gain or down indicator inadequate	-	1	2	7	48
8	Sideline markers inadequate	-	1	2	8	48
9	Field surface inadequate	-	1	2	9	48
10	Balls inadequate	-	1	3	2	50
11	Colour of jerseys clash	-	1	4	5	53
12	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	57
13	Playing time shortened due to darkness	-	3	2	1	80
14	Persons removed from the field	-	9	2	7	164
15	Changing room inadequate	-	13	2	1	185
16	Security inadequate	-	13	2	2	185
17	Clock malfunction	-	13	3	3	187
18	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	4	1	189
19	Bad weather	-	13	5	6	191
20	Game abandoned	-	13	5	8	192
21	Game suspended for more than 5 minutes	-	13	5	9	192
22	Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	6	1	192
23	Public address announcer infraction	-	13	6	2	193

COMPETITIONS MAY APPLY SANCTIONS

1	One or both sidelines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	44
2	One or both goal lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	44
3	One or both end lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	44
4	One or more yard lines across the field every 5 yards is incomplete	-	1	2	1	44
5	The hash marks are incomplete	-	1	2	1	44
6	The short yard-line extensions at the sideline are incomplete	-	1	2	1	44
7	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	44
8	Field of play less than 90 yards in length or not a multiple of 10 yards	-	1	2	1	44
9	Field of play not 160 feet in width	-	1	2	1	44
10	White field markings closer than four feet to an end zone line	-	1	2	1	44
11	Absence of nine-yard marks if the field is not numbered according to Rule 1-2-1-j	-	1	2	1	44
12	Game management fail to enforce rule regarding persons outside the team area	-	1	2	3	45
13	Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	45

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14	Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	46
15	Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	46
16	Persons in team area not wearing proper credentials	-	1	2	4	46
17	Game management failure to remove unauthorised persons from team area	-	1	2	4	46
18	Practice kicking nets outside the team area (except where permitted)	-	1	2	4	46
19	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	46
20	Uprights less than 20 feet in height	-	1	2	5	47
21	Crossbar not 10 feet above ground	-	1	2	5	47
22	Goal not 18 feet six inches wide	-	1	2	5	47
23	Goal not in plane of end line	-	1	2	5	47
24	Decorative material on the posts or crossbar (other than streamers)	-	1	2	5	47
25	Padding on goal posts absent or less than six feet in height	-	1	2	5	47
26	One or both goals missing or taken down	-	1	2	5	47
27	Illegal pylons that had to be removed	-	1	2	6	47
28	Rods not of minimum height or not with flat ends	-	1	2	7	48
29	Repeated breakages of the line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	48
30	Failure to provide line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	48
31	Markers that are not constructed and/or placed to avoid hazard and had to be removed	-	1	2	8	48
32	Trip hazard(s)	-	1	2	9	48
33	Markings or facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	49
34	Home team provides fewer than three legal balls	-	1	3	2	50
35	No towels are provided when conditions warrant it	-	1	3	2	50
36	Balls do not have white stripes	-	1	3	2	50
37	Both teams are playing in the same predominant jersey colour	-	1	4	5	53
38	Players of a team not wearing jerseys of the same colour and design	-	1	4	5	53
39	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	57
40	Prohibited media equipment used	-	1	4	11	57
41	Artificial sound amplification used	-	1	4	11	57
42	Recording opponent's signals	-	1	4	11	57
43	Drone inside the playing enclosure	-	1	4	11	57
44	Minimum medical requirement not met	-	13	1	1	184
45	Changing room not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without appropriate seating	-	13	2	1	185
46	Changing room unreasonably dirty, cold, wet or noisy	-	13	2	1	185
47	Visiting team not given higher standard changing facilities	-	13	2	1	185
48	Changing rooms not secured	-	13	2	2	185
49	Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	3	3	187
50	Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	4	1	189

Index		O	R	S	A	P
51	Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	4	1	189
52	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	4	1	189
53	Unauthorized access to officials' changing room	-	13	6	1	192
54	Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	6	2	193
55	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	195
GAME CANNOT PROCEED RULES						
1	Inadequate field markings	-	1	2	1	44
2	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	46
3	Trip hazards	-	1	2	9	48
4	Markings and facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	49
5	Medical facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	13	1	1	184
6	Officials' assistants inadequate	-	13	4	1	189
7	Circumstances do not permit play to proceed	-	13	5	1	190
8	Number of officials below minimum	-	13	5	5	191
9	Any appointed official not present or becomes incapacitated	-	13	5	5	191
10	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	195

Summary of foul codes

By code:

Code	Foul
APS	Altering playing surface
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
DSH	Delay of game, start of half
DSQ	Disqualification
ENC	Encroachment (offense)
EQV	Equipment violation
FGT	Fighting
FST	False start
IBB	Illegal block in the back
IBK	Illegal block during kick
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

Code	Foul
ILF	Illegal formation
ILM	Illegal motion
ILP	Illegal participation
ING	Intentional grounding
IPR	Illegal procedure
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
OBK	Out of bounds during kick
OFH	Holding, offense
OFK	Offside, free kick
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-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-LHP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on
PF-LTO	Personal foul, late hit out of bounds
PF-OTH	Personal foul, other
PF-RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker
PF-RTH	Personal foul, roughing the holder
PF-RTK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker
PF-RTP	Personal foul, roughing the passer
PF-SKE	Personal foul, striking/kneeing/elbowing
PF-TGT	Personal foul, targeting
PF-TRP	Personal foul, tripping
PF-UNR	Personal foul, unnecessary roughness
RNH	Running into the holder
RNK	Running into the kicker
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
SLW	Sideline interference, warning
SUB	Illegal substitution
UC-ABL	Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language
UC-BCH	Unsportsmanlike conduct, bench

Code	Foul
UC-DEA	Unsportsmanlike conduct, delayed/excessive act
UC-FCO	Unsportsmanlike conduct, forcibly contacting an official
UC-RHT	Unsportsmanlike conduct, removal of helmet
UC-SBR	Unsportsmanlike conduct, simulating being roughed
UC-STB	Unsportsmanlike conduct, spiking/throwing ball
UC-TAU	Unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting/baiting
UC-UNS	Unsportsmanlike conduct, other
UFA	Unfair acts
UFT	Unfair tactics

By foul:

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EQV	Equipment violation
FST	False start
FGT	Fighting
KOB	Free kick out of bounds
DEH	Holding, defense
OFH	Holding, offense
IBP	Illegal backward pass
BAT	Illegal batting
IBK	Illegal block during kick
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
IPR	Illegal procedure
ISH	Illegal shift
ISP	Illegal snap
SUB	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

Code	Foul
DOF	Offside, defense
OFK	Offside, free kick
OBK	Out of bounds during kick
DPI	Pass interference, defense
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PF-BBW	Personal foul, blocking below the waist
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PF-LTO	Personal foul, late hit out of bounds
PF-LHP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on
PF-LEA	Personal foul, leaping
PF-OTH	Personal foul, other
PF-RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker
PF-RTH	Personal foul, roughing the holder
PF-RTK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker
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PF-SKE	Personal foul, striking/kneeing/elbowing
PF-TGT	Personal foul, targeting
PF-TRP	Personal foul, tripping
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RNH	Running into the holder
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SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
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UFA	Unfair acts
UFT	Unfair tactics
UC-ABL	Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language
UC-BCH	Unsportsmanlike conduct, bench
UC-DEA	Unsportsmanlike conduct, delayed/excessive act
UC-FCO	Unsportsmanlike conduct, forcibly contacting an official
UC-UNS	Unsportsmanlike conduct, other
UC-RHT	Unsportsmanlike conduct, removal of helmet
UC-SBR	Unsportsmanlike conduct, simulating being roughed
UC-STB	Unsportsmanlike conduct, spiking/throwing ball
UC-TAU	Unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting/baiting