

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 186 - 188), 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	93
2	35*	7	1	6	104
3	19*	7	1	7	105
4	35*	7	2	1	105
5	35*	7	3	2	106
6	36*	7	3	2	106
7	16*	7	3	4	107
8	31*	9	4	1	141
9	31*	9	4	4	142
LOSS OF FIVE YARDS					
1	27	1	2	9	34
2	23	1	4	2	37
3	19	3	1	1	60
4	21	3	4	2	72
5	21	3	4	2	72
6	21	3	4	2	72
7	21	3	4	2	72
8	22	3	5	2	75
9	21	3	5	2	75
10	22	3	5	3	76
11	19	4	1	4	79
12	21	4	1	5	80
13	18, 19	6	1	2	86
14	18	6	1	2	86
15	19	6	1	2	86
16	19	6	1	11	89
17	19	6	1	12	89
18	19	6	2	1	89
19	31	6	3	10	93
20	31*	6	3	10	93
21	19	6	3	10	93
22	19	6	3	12	94
23	19	6	3	14	94
24	21	6	5	2	97
25	19	7	1	1	100
26	19	7	1	3	101
27	19	7	1	3	101

Index	O	R	S	A	P
28 Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	101
29 False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	101
30 Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	4	103
31 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	4	103
32 Illegal formation	19	7	1	4	103
33 Illegal formation due to numbering exception	19	7	1	4	103
34 Illegal shift	20	7	1	4	103
35 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	104
36 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	104
37 Defensive player charging unabated towards a back	19	7	1	5	104
38 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	104
39 Defensive player out of bounds at snap	19	7	1	5	104
40 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	104
41 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	105
42 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	105
43 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	105
44 Illegal forward pass by Team A (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	106
45 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	113
46 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	114
47 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	16	132
48 Sideline-restraining line infraction (also 15 yards)	29	9	2	5	136
49 Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2	137
LOSS OF 10 YARDS					
1 Home team delay	21	3	4	1	72
2 Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	42	9	3	3	137
3 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	137
4 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	138
5 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	3	138
6 Holding or obstruction (defense)	42	9	3	4	139
7 Illegal use of hands (defense)	42	9	3	4	139
8 Illegal block in the back (defense)	43	9	3	4	140
9 Holding or obstruction (loose ball)	42	9	3	6	140
10 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	141
11 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	142
12 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	142
13 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	142
14 Game management delay of game	21	13	5	3	167
15 Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	5	4	168
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	36
2 Numbers changed	27	1	4	2	37
3 Illegal signal devices (also disqualification)	27	1	4	10	41

Index	O	R	S	A	P
4 Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	72
5 Rapid substitutions to opponent's disadvantage	27	3	5	2	75
6 Blocking a free kicker	40	6	1	9	89
7 Illegal wedge	27	6	1	10	89
8 Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	95
9 Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	98
10 Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	99
11 Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	110
12 Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	111
13 Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	0	125
14 Striking an opponent (first down)	38	9	1	2	125
15 Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	125
16 Targeting/initiating contact with crown of helmet (first down)	38	9	1	3	126
17 Contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (first down)	38	9	1	4	126
18 Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	5	127
19 Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	6	128
20 Late hit (first down)	38	9	1	7	129
21 Action out of bounds (first down)	38	9	1	7	129
22 Helmet/face mask fouls (first down)	38, 45	9	1	8	129
23 Roughing the passer (first down)	34	9	1	9	129
24 Chop blocking (first down)	41	9	1	10	129
25 Leverage/Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	11	130
26 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play (first down)	38	9	1	12	130
27 Hurdling (first down)	38	9	1	13	130
28 Illegal contact against the snapper (first down)	38	9	1	14	130
29 Horse collar tackle (first down)	38, 31	9	1	15	131
30 Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	16	132
31 Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	16	132
32 Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	16	132
33 Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	133
34 Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	133
35 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	133
36 Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	133
37 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	133
38 Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	133
39 Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	134
40 Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	134
41 Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	135
42 Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	135
43 Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	135
44 Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27	9	2	4	136
45 Sideline-restraining line infraction (also 5 yards)	29	9	2	5	136
46 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet (first down)	38	9	3	4	140

Index	O	R	S	A	P
47 Defensive restrictions	27	9	3	5	140
48 Fighting [also disqualification] (first down)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	142
LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	6	151
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	111
CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION					
1 Not wearing mandatory equipment	23	1	4	8	40
2 Wearing illegal equipment	23	1	4	8	40
3 Head coach's conference	21	3	3	4	68
4 Illegal cleats (also disqualification)	23	9	2	2	135
5 Head coach's challenge	21	12	5	1	159
VIOLATION					
1 Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	88
2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	91
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	93
DISQUALIFICATION					
1 Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	10	41
2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	125
3 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	133
4 Illegal cleats	23	9	2	2	135
5 Contacting an official	47	9	2	4	136
6 Fighting	47	9	5	1	142
AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	111
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	111
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	0	125
4 Striking an opponent	38	9	1	2	125
5 Tripping	46	9	1	2	125
6 Targeting/initiating contact with crown of helmet	38	9	1	3	126
7 Contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player	38	9	1	4	126
8 Clipping	39	9	1	5	127
9 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	6	128
10 Late hit	38	9	1	7	129
11 Action out of bounds	38	9	1	7	129
12 Helmet/face mask fouls	38, 45	9	1	8	129
13 Roughing the passer	34	9	1	9	129
14 Chop blocking	41	9	1	10	129

Index	O	R	S	A	P
15 Leverage/Leaping	38	9	1	11	130
16 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play	38	9	1	12	130
17 Hurdling	38	9	1	13	130
18 Illegal contact against the snapper	38	9	1	14	130
19 Horse collar tackle	38, 31	9	1	15	131
20 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	16	132
21 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet	38	9	3	4	140
22 Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	142
REFEREE'S DISCRETION					
1 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	136
WHEN IN QUESTION RULES					
1 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	44
2 Chop block	-	2	3	3	44
3 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	44
4 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	4	3	45
5 Ball accidentally touched rather than batted	-	2	11	3	47
6 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	11	4	48
7 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	16	1	49
8 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	51
9 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	51
10 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	52
11 Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5	68
12 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	79
13 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	95
14 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	110
15 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	121
16 Initiating contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	-	9	1	3	126
17 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	8	129
18 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	16	132
REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY					
1 Field markings inadequate	-	1	2	1	30
2 Limit lines or coaching lines inadequate	-	1	2	3	31
3 Team area inadequate	-	1	2	4	31
4 Goals inadequate	-	1	2	5	32
5 Coaches agree to play without goals	-	1	2	5	33
6 Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	33
7 Line-to-gain or down indicator inadequate	-	1	2	7	33
8 Sideline markers inadequate	-	1	2	8	34
9 Field surface inadequate	-	1	2	9	34
10 Balls inadequate	-	1	3	2	36
11 Colour of jerseys clash	-	1	4	5	38
12 Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	41

Index		O	R	S	A	P
13	Changing room inadequate	-	13	2	1	163
14	Security inadequate	-	13	2	2	163
15	Clock malfunction	-	13	3	3	164
16	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	4	1	166
17	Bad weather	-	13	5	6	168
18	Game abandoned	-	13	5	8	169
19	Game suspended for more than 5 minutes	-	13	5	9	169
20	Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	6	1	170
21	Public address announcer infraction	-	13	6	2	170
22	Persons removed from the field	-	13	8	2	172
23	Playing time shortened due to darkness	-	13	8	4	172
COMPETITIONS MAY APPLY SANCTIONS						
1	One or both sidelines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	30
2	One or both goal lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	30
3	One or both end lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	30
4	One or more yard lines across the field at least every 10 yards is incomplete	-	1	2	1	30
5	One or more yard lines across the field every 5 yards is incomplete	-	1	2	1	30
6	The hash marks are incomplete	-	1	2	1	30
7	The short yard-line extensions at the sideline are incomplete	-	1	2	1	30
8	Absence of any mandatory marking (sideline, end line, goal line, yard lines at 5-yard intervals, hash marks)	-	1	2	1	30
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	30
10	Field of play less than 90 yards in length or not a multiple of 10 yards	-	1	2	1	30
11	Field of play not 160 feet in width	-	1	2	1	30
12	White field markings closer than four feet to an end zone line	-	1	2	1	30
13	Absence of nine-yard marks if the field is not numbered according to Rule 1-2-1-j	-	1	2	1	30
14	Game management fail to enforce rule regarding persons outside the team area	-	1	2	3	31
15	Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	31
16	Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	31
17	Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	31
18	Persons in team area not wearing proper credentials	-	1	2	4	31
19	Game management failure to remove unauthorised persons from team area	-	1	2	4	31

Index	O	R	S	A	P
20 Practice kicking nets outside the team area (except where permitted)	-	1	2	4	31
21 Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	32
22 Uprights less than 20 feet in height	-	1	2	5	32
23 Crossbar not 10 feet above ground	-	1	2	5	32
24 Goal not 18 feet six inches wide	-	1	2	5	33
25 Goal not in plane of end line	-	1	2	5	33
26 Decorative material on the posts or crossbar (other than streamers)	-	1	2	5	33
27 Padding on goal posts absent or less than six feet in height	-	1	2	5	33
28 One or both goals missing or taken down	-	1	2	5	33
29 Illegal pylons that had to be removed	-	1	2	6	33
30 Rods not of minimum height or not with flat ends	-	1	2	7	33
31 Repeated breakages of the line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	33
32 Failure to provide line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	33
33 Markers that are not constructed and/or placed to avoid hazard and had to be removed	-	1	2	8	34
34 Trip hazard(s)	-	1	2	9	34
35 Markings or facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	34
36 Home team provides fewer than three legal balls	-	1	3	2	36
37 No towels are provided when conditions warrant it	-	1	3	2	36
38 Balls do not have white stripes	-	1	3	2	36
39 Both teams are playing in the same predominant jersey colour	-	1	4	5	39
40 Players of a team not wearing jerseys of the same colour and design	-	1	4	5	39
41 Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	41
42 Prohibited media equipment used	-	1	4	11	41
43 Artificial sound amplification used	-	1	4	11	41
44 Recording opponent's signals	-	1	4	11	41
45 Minimum medical requirement not met	-	13	1	1	162
46 Changing rooms not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without seating	-	13	2	1	163
47 Changing rooms not secured	-	13	2	2	163
48 Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	3	3	164
49 Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	4	1	166
50 Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	4	1	166
51 Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	4	1	166
52 Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	6	1	170
53 Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	6	2	170
54 BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	174
GAME CANNOT PROCEED RULES					
1 Inadequate field markings	-	1	2	1	30

Index		O	R	S	A	P
2	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	32
3	Trip hazards	-	1	2	9	34
4	Markings and facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	34
5	Medical facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	13	1	1	162
6	Officials' assistants inadequate	-	13	4	1	166
7	Circumstances do not permit play to proceed	-	13	5	1	167
8	Number of officials below minimum	-	13	5	5	168
9	Any appointed official not present or becomes incapacitated	-	13	5	5	168
10	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	174

Summary of foul codes

By code:

Code	Foul	
ATR	Assisting the runner	NEW
BAT	Illegal batting	
DEH	Holding, defense	NEW
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	
IDP	Ineligible downfield on pass	
IFD	Illegal formation, defense (3-on-1)	NEW
IFH	Illegal forward handing	NEW
IFK	Illegal free kick formation	
IFP	Illegal forward pass	
IKB	Illegally kicking ball	
ILF	Illegal formation	
ILM	Illegal motion	
ILP	Illegal participation	
ILS	Illegal substitution	
ING	Intentional grounding	
ISH	Illegal shift	
ISP	Illegal snap	
ITP	Illegal touching of a forward pass	
IUH	Illegal use of hands	RENEWED
IWK	Illegal wedge on kickoff	
KCI	Kick catch interference	
KIK	Illegal kick	
KOB	Free kick out of bounds	

Code	Foul	
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	NEW
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	NEW
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	NEW
DOD	Delay of game, defense	
DOG	Delay of game, offense	
DSQ	Disqualification	
ENC	Encroachment (offense)	
EQV	Equipment violation	
FST	False start	
FGT	Fighting	

Code	Foul	
UC/FCO	Forcibly contacting an official	NEW
KOB	Free kick out of bounds	
DEH	Holding, defense	NEW
OFH	Holding, offense	
BAT	Illegal batting	
IBB	Illegal block in the back	
ILF	Illegal formation	
IFD	Illegal formation, defense (3-on-1)	NEW
IFH	Illegal forward handing	NEW
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	RENEWED
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	
PF/ICS	Personal foul, illegal contact with snapper	
PF/LTO	Personal foul, late hit out of bounds	
PF/LTP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on	
PF/LEA	Personal foul, leaping	
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	

Code	Foul	
PF/TGT	Personal foul, targeting	NEW
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	
UC/UNS	Unsportsmanlike conduct, other	
UC/RHT	Unsportsmanlike conduct, removal of helmet	
UC/STB	Unsportsmanlike conduct, spiking/throwing ball	
UC/TAU	Unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting/baiting	