

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 199 - 201), 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	108
2	35*	7	1	6	120
3	19*	7	1	7	120
4	35*	7	2	1	120
5	35*	7	3	2	121
6	36*	7	3	2	122
7	16*	7	3	4	123
8	31*	9	4	1	158
9	31*	9	4	4	159
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	89
9	22	3	5	3	90
10	22	3	5	3	90
11	21	4	1	4	94
12	21	4	1	5	95
13	18, 19	6	1	2	101
14	19	6	1	2	101
15	19	6	1	11	104
16	19	6	1	12	104
17	19	6	2	1	104
18	31	6	3	10	108
19	31*	6	3	10	108
20	19	6	3	10	108
21	19	6	3	12	109
22	19	6	3	14	110
23	21	6	5	2	112
24	19	7	1	1	115
25	19	7	1	3	116

Index	O	R	S	A	P
26 Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready for play	19	7	1	3	116
27 Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	116
28 False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	116
29 Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	4	118
30 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	4	118
31 Illegal formation	19	7	1	4	118
32 Illegal formation due to numbering exception	19	7	1	4	118
33 Illegal shift	20	7	1	4	118
34 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	119
35 Defensive player charging unabated toward a back	18	7	1	5	119
36 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	119
37 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	119
38 Defensive player out of bounds at snap	19	7	1	5	119
39 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	120
40 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	120
41 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	120
42 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	121
43 Illegal forward pass by Team A (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	121
44 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	129
45 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	130
46 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	16	148
47 Game administration interference (also 15 yards)	29	9	2	5	154
48 Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2	155
 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	155
3 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	155
4 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	155
5 Illegal use of hands (defense)	42	9	3	4	157
6 Illegal contact with eligible receiver (first down)	38	9	3	5	157
7 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	6	157
8 Holding or obstruction (loose ball)	42	9	3	7	157
9 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	158
10 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	159
11 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	159
12 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	159
13 Game management delay of game	21	13	5	3	181
14 Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	5	4	181
 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

Index		O	R	S	A	P
4	Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	85
5	Blocking a free kicker	40	6	1	9	103
6	Illegal wedge	27	6	1	10	104
7	Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	111
8	Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	113
9	Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	114
10	Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	126
11	Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	126
12	Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	0	140
13	Striking an opponent (first down)	38	9	1	2	140
14	Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	140
15	Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	141
16	Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	141
17	Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	5	143
18	Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	6	143
19	Late hit (first down)	38	9	1	7	145
20	Action out of bounds (first down)	38	9	1	7	145
21	Helmet/face mask fouls (first down)	38, 45	9	1	8	145
22	Roughing the passer (first down)	34	9	1	9	145
23	Chop blocking (first down)	41	9	1	10	146
24	Leverage/Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	11	147
25	Defensive restrictions	27	9	1	11	147
26	Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play (first down)	38	9	1	12	147
27	Hurdling (first down)	38	9	1	13	147
28	Illegal contact against the snapper (first down)	38	9	1	14	147
29	Horse collar tackle (first down)	38, 31	9	1	15	148
30	Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	16	148
31	Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	16	148
32	Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	16	148
33	Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	150
34	Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	150
35	Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	150
36	Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	150
37	Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	150
38	Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	150
39	Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	151
40	Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	152
41	Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	152
42	Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	152
43	Illegal cleats (also disqualification)	23, 47	9	2	2	152
44	Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27, 47	9	2	4	153
45	Game administration interference (also 5 yards)	29	9	2	5	154
46	Physical interference with an official	27	9	2	5	154

Index	O	R	S	A	P
47 Continuous contact to the helmet (first down)	38	9	3	4	157
48 Defensive restrictions (first down)	38	9	3	5	157
49 Fighting (first down) (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	159
LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	6	169
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	127
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 Head coach's review	21	12	2	1	171
VIOLATION					
1 Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	102
2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	106
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	108
DISQUALIFICATION					
1 Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	10	51
2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	140
3 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet	38	9	1	3	141
4 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player	38	9	1	4	141
5 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	150
6 Illegal cleats	47	9	2	2	152
7 Intentionally contacting an official	47	9	2	4	153
8 Fighting	47	9	5	1	159
9 Concussed player returns to game	47	13	1	3	176
AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	126
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	127
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	0	140
4 Striking an opponent	38	9	1	2	140
5 Tripping	46	9	1	2	140
6 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	141
7 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	141
8 Clipping	39	9	1	5	143
9 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	6	143
10 Late hit	38	9	1	7	145

Index	O	R	S	A	P
11 Action out of bounds	38	9	1	7	145
12 Helmet/face mask fouls	38, 45	9	1	8	145
13 Roughing the passer	34	9	1	9	145
14 Chop blocking	41	9	1	10	146
15 Leverage/Leaping	38	9	1	11	147
16 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play	38	9	1	12	147
17 Hurdling	38	9	1	13	147
18 Illegal contact against the snapper	38	9	1	14	147
19 Horse collar tackle	38, 31	9	1	15	148
20 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	16	148
21 Continuous contact to the helmet	38	9	3	4	157
22 Defensive restrictions	38	9	3	5	157
23 Illegal contact with eligible receiver	38	9	3	5	157
24 Fighting (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	159
REFEREE'S DISCRETION					
1 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	153
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	55
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	82
13 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	93
14 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	111
15 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	126
16 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	137
17 Forcible contact and targeting with crown of helmet	-	9	1	3	141
18 Forcible contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	-	9	1	4	141
19 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	8	145
20 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	16	148
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

Index	O	R	S	A	P
5 Coaches agree to play without goals	-	1	2	5	42
6 Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	42
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	52
13 Playing time shortened due to darkness	-	3	2	1	75
14 Persons removed from the field	-	9	2	7	154
15 Changing room inadequate	-	13	2	1	176
16 Security inadequate	-	13	2	2	176
17 Clock malfunction	-	13	3	3	178
18 Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	4	1	180
19 Bad weather	-	13	5	6	182
20 Game abandoned	-	13	5	8	183
21 Game suspended for more than 5 minutes	-	13	5	9	183
22 Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	6	1	183
23 Public address announcer infraction	-	13	6	2	184

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

Index		O	R	S	A	P
15	Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	40
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	175
47	Changing room not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without appropriate seating	-	13	2	1	176
48	Changing room unreasonably dirty, cold, wet or noisy	-	13	2	1	176
49	Visiting team not given higher standard changing facilities	-	13	2	1	176
50	Changing rooms not secured	-	13	2	2	177
51	Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	3	3	178

Index		O	R	S	A	P
52	Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	4	1	180
53	Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	4	1	180
54	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	4	1	180
55	Unauthorized access to officials' changing room	-	13	6	1	183
56	Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	6	2	184
57	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	186
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	175
6	Officials' assistants inadequate	-	13	4	1	180
7	Circumstances do not permit play to proceed	-	13	5	1	181
8	Number of officials below minimum	-	13	5	5	182
9	Any appointed official not present or becomes incapacitated	-	13	5	5	182
10	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	186

Summary of foul codes

By code:

Code	Foul	
APS	Altering playing surface	NEW
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	

Code	Foul	
IKB	Illegally kicking ball	
ILF	Illegal formation	
ILM	Illegal motion	
ILP	Illegal participation	
ING	Intentional grounding	
IPR	Illegal procedure	NEW
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	NEW
OFH	Holding, offense	
OFK	Offside, free kick	CHANGED
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	CHANGED
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	CHANGED
PF-RTK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker	CHANGED
PF-RTP	Personal foul, roughing the passer	CHANGED
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	CHANGED
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards	
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards	
SUB	Illegal substitution	CHANGED
UC-ABL	Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language	
UC-BCH	Unsportsmanlike conduct, bench	

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

By foul:

Code	Foul	
APS	Altering playing surface	NEW
ATR	Assisting the runner	
DOD	Delay of game, defense	
DOG	Delay of game, offense	
DSH	Delay of game, start of half	
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	
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	NEW
ISH	Illegal shift	
ISP	Illegal snap	
SUB	Illegal substitution	CHANGED
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	

Code	Foul	
KCI	Kick catch interference	
DOF	Offside, defense	
OFK	Offside, free kick	CHANGED
OBK	Out of bounds during kick	NEW
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-LHP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on	CHANGED
PF-LEA	Personal foul, leaping	
PF-OTH	Personal foul, other	
PF-RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker	
PF-RTH	Personal foul, roughing the holder	CHANGED
PF-RTK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker	CHANGED
PF-RTP	Personal foul, roughing the passer	CHANGED
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	CHANGED
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards	
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards	
UFA	Unfair acts	NEW
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-SBR	Unsportsmanlike conduct, simulating being roughed	NEW
UC-STB	Unsportsmanlike conduct, spiking/throwing ball	
UC-TAU	Unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting/baiting	