

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	Illegal scrimmage kick	31*	6	3	10	109
2	Illegally handing ball forward	35*	7	1	6	121
3	Planned loose ball play	19*	7	1	7	121
4	Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds	35*	7	2	1	121
5	Illegal forward pass by Team A	35*	7	3	2	123
6	Intentionally grounding forward pass	36*	7	3	2	123
7	Forward pass illegally touched by player out of bounds	16*	7	3	4	125
8	Illegally batting loose ball	31*	9	4	1	160
9	Illegally kicking ball	31*	9	4	4	161
LOSS OF FIVE YARDS						
1	Alteration of playing surface for an advantage	27	1	2	9	43
2	Improper numbering	23	1	4	2	46
3	Coin toss infractions	19	3	1	1	72
4	Illegal delay of game	21	3	4	2	86
5	Advancing a dead ball	21	3	4	2	86
6	Disconcerting offensive signals	21	3	4	2	86
7	Substitution rules infraction	22	3	5	2	88
8	Substitution rules infraction	22	3	5	2	89
9	Delay of game (substitutions)	21	3	5	2	89
10	More than 11 players in the formation or during the play (dead ball)	22	3	5	3	90
11	More than 11 players in the formation or during the play (live ball)	22	3	5	3	90
12	Putting ball in play before it is ready	19	4	1	4	95
13	Exceeding play clock count	21	4	1	5	95
14	Infraction of free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	102
15	Player out of bounds when ball free-kicked	19	6	1	2	103
16	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (free kick)	19	6	1	11	105
17	Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	12	105
18	Free kick out of bounds [or 30-yard option]	19	6	2	1	105
19	Return kick	31	6	3	10	109
20	Illegal scrimmage kick (also loss of down)	31*	6	3	10	109
21	Marking spot of place kick	19	6	3	10	109
22	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (scrimmage kick)	19	6	3	12	110
23	Defensive linemen 3-on-1 in field goal formation	19	6	3	14	111
24	Taking more than two steps after a fair catch	21	6	5	2	114
25	Illegal snap	19	7	1	1	116

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27 Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready for play	19	7	1	3	117
28 Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	117
29 False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	117
30 Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	4	119
31 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	4	119
32 Illegal formation	19	7	1	4	119
33 Illegal formation due to numbering exception	19	7	1	4	119
34 Illegal shift	20	7	1	4	119
35 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	120
36 Defensive player charging unabated toward a back	18	7	1	5	120
37 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	120
38 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	120
39 Defensive player out of bounds at snap	19	7	1	5	120
40 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	121
41 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	121
42 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	121
43 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	122
44 Illegal forward pass by Team A (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	123
45 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	131
46 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	131
47 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	16	151
48 Game administration interference (also 15 yards)	29	9	2	5	156
49 Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2	157
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1 Home team delay	21	3	4	1	85
2 Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	42	9	3	3	158
3 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	158
4 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	158
5 Illegal use of hands (defense)	42	9	3	4	159
6 Illegal contact with eligible receiver (first down)	38	9	3	5	159
7 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	6	160
8 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	160
9 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	161
10 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	161
11 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	161
12 Game management delay of game	21	13	5	3	183
13 Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	5	4	183
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	46
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	105
6	Illegal wedge	27	6	1	10	105
7	Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	112
8	Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	115
9	Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	115
10	Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	127
11	Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	128
12	Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	0	142
13	Striking an opponent (first down)	38	9	1	2	142
14	Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	142
15	Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	143
16	Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	143
17	Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	5	145
18	Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	6	145
19	Late hit (first down)	38	9	1	7	147
20	Action out of bounds (first down)	38	9	1	7	147
21	Helmet/face mask fouls (first down)	38, 45	9	1	8	147
22	Roughing the passer (first down)	34	9	1	9	148
23	Chop blocking (first down)	41	9	1	10	148
24	Leverage/Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	11	149
25	Defensive restrictions	27	9	1	11	149
26	Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play (first down)	38	9	1	12	149
27	Hurdling (first down)	38	9	1	13	149
28	Illegal contact against the snapper (first down)	38	9	1	14	150
29	Horse collar tackle (first down)	38, 31	9	1	15	150
30	Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	16	151
31	Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	16	151
32	Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	16	151
33	Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	152
34	Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	152
35	Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	152
36	Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	152
37	Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	153
38	Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	153
39	Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	153
40	Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	154
41	Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	154
42	Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	154
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47 Defensive restrictions (first down)	38	9	3	5	159
48 Fighting (first down) (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	162
 LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	6	171
 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	128
 CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION					
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2 Head coach's conference	21	3	3	4	82
3 Head coach's review	21	12	2	1	173
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2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	107
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	109
 DISQUALIFICATION					
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2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	142
3 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet	38	9	1	3	143
4 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player	38	9	1	4	143
5 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	152
6 Intentionally contacting an official	47	9	2	4	156
7 Fighting	47	9	5	1	162
8 Concussed player returns to game	47	13	1	3	178
 AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	128
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	128
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	0	142
4 Striking an opponent	38	9	1	2	142
5 Tripping	46	9	1	2	142
6 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	143
7 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	143
8 Clipping	39	9	1	5	145
9 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	6	145
10 Late hit	38	9	1	7	147
11 Action out of bounds	38	9	1	7	147
12 Helmet/face mask fouls	38, 45	9	1	8	147

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13 Roughing the passer	34	9	1	9	148
14 Chop blocking	41	9	1	10	148
15 Leverage/Leaping	38	9	1	11	149
16 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play	38	9	1	12	149
17 Hurdling	38	9	1	13	149
18 Illegal contact against the snapper	38	9	1	14	150
19 Horse collar tackle	38, 31	9	1	15	150
20 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	16	151
21 Continuous contact to the helmet	38	9	3	4	159
22 Defensive restrictions	38	9	3	5	159
23 Illegal contact with eligible receiver	38	9	3	5	159
24 Fighting (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	162
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1 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	155
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	112
15 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	128
16 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	139
17 Forcible contact and targeting with crown of helmet	-	9	1	3	143
18 Forcible contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	-	9	1	4	143
19 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	8	147
20 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	16	151
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	43
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	157
15	Changing room inadequate	-	13	2	1	178
16	Security inadequate	-	13	2	2	178
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	184
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	185
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

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16	Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	41
17	Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	41
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	177
47	Changing room not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without appropriate seating	-	13	2	1	178
48	Changing room unreasonably dirty, cold, wet or noisy	-	13	2	1	178
49	Visiting team not given higher standard changing facilities	-	13	2	1	178
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

Index		O	R	S	A	P
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	185
56	Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	6	2	186
57	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	188
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	177
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	188

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	NEW
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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DSH	Delay of game, start of half
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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	
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OPI	Pass interference, offense	
PF-BBW	Personal foul, blocking below the waist	
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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	
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	
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	NEW
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	