

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 164 - 166), 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	96
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	101
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	111
16	Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	12	111
17	Free kick out of bounds [or 30-yard option]	19	6	2	1	111
18	Return kick	31	6	3	10	115
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	116
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

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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	163
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	165
3 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	165
4 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	165
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	167
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	191
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	50
2 Numbers changed (also disqualification)	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

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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	121
9 Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	121
10 Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	133
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	156
28 Illegal contact against the snapper (first down)	38	9	1	14	156
29 Horse collar tackle (first down)	25, 38	9	1	15	156
30 Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	30, 38	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 Blind-side block (first down)	38	9	1	18	158
35 Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	159
36 Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	159
37 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	159
38 Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	159
39 Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	159
40 Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	159
41 Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	159
42 Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	161
43 Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	161
44 Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	161
45 Unusual action or verbiage to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	161
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Index	O	R	S	A	P
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49 Physical interference with an official	27	9	2	5	163
50 Fighting (first down) (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	169
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 Intentionally contacting an official	47	9	2	4	163
6 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	6	163
7 Fighting	47	9	5	1	169
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
10 Late hit	38	9	1	7	153
11 Action out of bounds	38	9	1	7	153

Index	O	R	S	A	P
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	156
18 Illegal contact against the snapper	38	9	1	14	156
19 Horse collar tackle	25, 38	9	1	15	156
20 Roughing kicker or holder	30, 38	9	1	16	157
21 Continued participation without a helmet	38	9	1	17	158
22 Blind-side block	38	9	1	18	158
23 Illegal contact with eligible receiver	38	9	3	5	166
24 Fighting (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	169
REFEREE'S DISCRETION					
1 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	162
WHEN IN QUESTION RULES					
1 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	59
2 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	59
3 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	4	3	61
4 Ball accidentally touched rather than batted	-	2	11	3	63
5 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	11	4	63
6 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	16	1	65
7 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	67
8 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	68
9 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	68
10 A player is defenseless	-	2	27	14	73
11 Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5	87
12 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	99
13 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	117
14 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	134
15 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	145
16 Forcible contact and targeting with crown of helmet	-	9	1	3	149
17 Forcible contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	-	9	1	4	149
18 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	8	153
19 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	16	157
REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY					
1 Field markings inadequate	-	1	2	1	43
2 Limit lines or coaching lines inadequate	-	1	2	3	44
3 Team area inadequate	-	1	2	4	44
4 Goals inadequate	-	1	2	5	46
5 Coaches agree to play without goals	-	1	2	5	46
6 Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	46

Index		O	R	S	A	P
7	Line-to-gain or down indicator inadequate	-	1	2	7	47
8	Sideline markers inadequate	-	1	2	8	47
9	Field surface improvement required	-	1	2	9	48
10	Balls inadequate	-	1	3	2	50
11	Colour of jerseys clash	-	1	4	5	52
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	43
2	One or both goal lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	43
3	One or both end lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	43
4	One or more yard lines across the field every 5 yards is incomplete	-	1	2	1	43
5	The hash marks are incomplete	-	1	2	1	43
6	The short yard-line extensions at the sideline are incomplete	-	1	2	1	43
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	43
8	Field of play less than 80 yards in length	-	1	2	1	43
9	Field of play not a multiple of 10 yards in length	-	1	2	1	43
10	Field of play not 160 feet in width	-	1	2	1	43
11	White field markings closer than four feet to an end zone line	-	1	2	1	43
12	Absence of nine-yard marks if the field is not numbered according to Rule 1-2-1-j	-	1	2	1	43
13	Game management fail to enforce rule regarding persons outside the team area	-	1	2	3	44
14	Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	44
15	Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	45
16	Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	45
17	Persons in team area not wearing proper credentials	-	1	2	4	45

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18	Game management failure to remove unauthorised persons from team area	-	1	2	4	45
19	Practice kicking nets outside the team area (except where permitted)	-	1	2	4	45
20	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	45
21	Uprights less than 20 feet in height	-	1	2	5	46
22	Crossbar not 10 feet above ground	-	1	2	5	46
23	Goal not 18 feet six inches wide	-	1	2	5	46
24	Goal not in plane of end line	-	1	2	5	46
25	Decorative material on the posts or crossbar (other than streamers)	-	1	2	5	46
26	Padding on goal posts absent or less than six feet in height	-	1	2	5	46
27	One or both goals missing or taken down	-	1	2	5	46
28	Illegal pylons that had to be removed	-	1	2	6	46
29	Rods not of minimum height or not with flat ends	-	1	2	7	47
30	Repeated breakages of the line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	47
31	Failure to provide line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	47
32	Markers that are not constructed and/or placed to avoid hazard and had to be removed	-	1	2	8	47
33	Trip hazard(s)	-	1	2	9	48
34	Markings or facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	48
35	Home team provides fewer than three legal balls	-	1	3	2	50
36	No towels are provided when conditions warrant it	-	1	3	2	50
37	Balls do not have white stripes	-	1	3	2	50
38	Both teams are playing in the same predominant jersey colour	-	1	4	5	52
39	Players of a team not wearing jerseys of the same colour and design	-	1	4	5	52
40	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	57
41	Prohibited media equipment used	-	1	4	11	57
42	Artificial sound amplification used	-	1	4	11	57
43	Recording opponent's signals	-	1	4	11	57
44	Drone inside the playing enclosure	-	1	4	11	57
45	Minimum medical requirement not met	-	13	1	1	184
46	Changing room not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without appropriate seating	-	13	2	1	185
47	Changing room unreasonably dirty, cold, wet or noisy	-	13	2	1	185
48	Visiting team not given higher standard changing facilities	-	13	2	1	185
49	Changing rooms not secured	-	13	2	2	185
50	Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	3	3	187
51	Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	4	1	189
52	Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	4	1	189
53	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	4	1	189
54	Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	6	1	192

Index		O	R	S	A	P
55	Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	6	2	193
56	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	9	6	195
GAME CANNOT PROCEED RULES						
1	Inadequate field markings	-	1	2	1	43
2	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	45
3	Trip hazards	-	1	2	9	48
4	Markings and facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	48
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)	
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	
IJY	Illegal jerseys	NEW 2020
IKB	Illegally kicking ball	
ILF	Illegal formation	
ILM	Illegal motion	
ING	Intentional grounding	
IPN	Improper numbering	NEW 2020

Code	Foul
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
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

Code	Foul
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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ATR	Assisting the runner	
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DOG	Delay of game, offense	
DSH	Delay of game, start of half	
DSQ	Disqualification	
ENC	Encroachment (offense)	
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	
IJY	Illegal jerseys	NEW 2020
KIK	Illegal kick	
IKB	Illegally kicking ball	
ILM	Illegal motion	
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	
IPN	Improper numbering	NEW 2020
IDP	Ineligible downfield on pass	
ING	Intentional grounding	
KCI	Kick-catch interference	
DOF	Offside, defense	
OFK	Offside, free kick	
OBK	Out of bounds during kick	
DPI	Pass interference, defense	

Code	Foul
OPI	Pass interference, offense
PF-BBW	Personal foul, blocking below the waist
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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
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RNH	Running into the holder
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SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
SLW	Sideline interference, warning
UFA	Unfair acts
UFT	Unfair tactics
UC-ABL	Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language
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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