

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 177 - 178), 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 kick beyond neutral zone	31*	6	3	10	84
2	Illegally handing ball forward	35*	7	1	6	95
3	Planned loose ball play	19*	7	1	7	95
4	Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds	35*	7	2	1	96
5	Illegal forward pass	35*	7	3	2	97
6	Intentionally grounding forward pass	36*	7	3	2	98
7	Forward pass touched illegally by player out of bounds	16*	7	3	4	99
8	Illegally batting loose ball	31*	9	4	1	131
9	Illegally kicking ball	31*	9	4	4	132
LOSS OF FIVE YARDS						
1	Alteration of playing surface for an advantage	27	1	2	9	25
2	Improper numbering or illegal formation	23	1	4	2	28
3	Coin toss infractions	19	3	1	1	54
4	Illegal delay of game	21	3	4	2	65
5	Delay after three timeouts expended	21	3	4	2	65
6	Advancing a dead ball	21	3	4	2	65
7	Disconcerting offensive signals	21	3	4	2	65
8	Substitution rules infractions	22	3	5	2	66
9	Delay of game (substitutions)	21	3	5	2	67
10	Putting ball in play before declared ready for play	19	4	1	4	70
11	Exceeding 25-second count	21	4	1	5	71
12	Infraction of free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	78
13	Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	2	78
14	Player out of bounds when ball free-kicked	19	6	1	2	78
15	Free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	78
16	Free kick out of bounds [or 30-yard option]	19	6	2	1	80
17	Return kick	31	6	3	10	84
18	Illegal kick beyond neutral zone (also loss of down)	31*	6	3	10	84
19	Marking spot of place kick	31	6	3	10	85
20	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (scrimmage kick)	19	6	3	12	85
21	Taking more than two steps after a fair catch	21	6	5	2	87
22	Illegal snap	19	7	1	1	90
23	Snapper's position and ball adjustment	19	7	1	3	91
24	Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready for play	19	7	1	3	92
25	False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	92
26	Infraction of scrimmage formation	19	7	1	3	92
27	Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	92
28	Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	3	92

Index	O	R	S	A	P
29 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	3	92
30 Failure to pause full second in shift play	20	7	1	4	94
31 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	94
32 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	95
33 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	95
34 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	95
35 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	95
36 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	96
37 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	96
38 Illegal forward pass (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	97
39 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	105
40 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	105
41 Defensive incidental grasping of facemask	45	9	1	2	119
42 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	3	122
43 Sideline-restraining line infraction	29	9	1	5	124
44 Interlocked interference or helping runner	44	9	3	2	127
LOSS OF 10 YARDS					
1 Home team delay	21	3	4	1	65
2 Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	43	9	3	3	128
3 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	128
4 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	3	128
5 Holding or obstruction (defense)	42	9	3	4	130
6 Illegal use of hands (defense)	43	9	3	4	130
7 Illegal block in the back (defense)	43	9	3	4	130
8 Holding or obstruction (loose ball)	42	9	3	6	131
9 Game management delay of game	21	13	4	3	155
10 Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	4	4	155
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	27
2 Numbers changed	27	1	4	2	28
3 Illegal signal devices (also disqualification)	27	1	4	8	34
4 Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	65
5 Simulated substitutions	27	3	5	2	67
6 Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	85
7 Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	88
8 Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	88
9 Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	102
10 Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	102
11 Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	2	119
12 Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	2	119
13 Butting, spearing or ramming with helmet (first down)	24	9	1	2	119
14 Roughing passer (first down)	34	9	1	2	119

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15 Chop block (first down)	41	9	1	2	119
16 Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	2	119
17 Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	119
18 Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	2	119
19 Defensive grasping facemask (first down)	38, 45	9	1	2	119
20 Offensive grasping facemask	38, 45	9	1	2	119
21 Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	3	122
22 Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	3	122
23 Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	3	122
24 Substitute interferes	27	9	1	4	123
25 Illegal participation	28	9	1	4	123
26 Sideline-restraining line infraction	29	9	1	5	124
27 Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	125
28 Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	125
29 Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	125
30 Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	125
31 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	125
32 Illegal return of disqualified player	27	9	2	1	125
33 Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	125
34 Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	126
35 Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	126
36 Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	126
37 Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27	9	2	4	127
38 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet (defense) (first down)	38	9	3	4	130
39 Defensive restrictions	27	9	3	5	131
40 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	131
41 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	132
42 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	132
43 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	132
44 Fighting [also disqualification] (first down)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	133
LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	3	144
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	102
CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION					
1 Not wearing mandatory equipment	23	1	4	4	30
2 Wearing illegal equipment	23	1	4	5	33
3 Not wearing mandatory equipment	23	1	4	6	33
4 Coach's conference	21	3	3	4	63

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Index	O	R	S	A	P
5 Illegal cleats	23	9	2	2	126
VIOLATION					
1 Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	79
2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	82
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	85
DISQUALIFICATION					
1 Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	8	34
2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	117
3 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	125
4 Illegal cleats	47	9	2	2	126
5 Contacting an official	47	9	2	4	127
6 Fighting	47	9	5	1	133
AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	102
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	102
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	2	119
4 Clipping	39	9	1	2	119
5 Butting, spearing or ramming with helmet	24	9	1	2	119
6 Roughing passer	34	9	1	2	119
7 Chop block	41	9	1	2	119
8 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	2	119
9 Tripping	46	9	1	2	119
10 Leaping	38	9	1	2	119
11 Defensive grasping facemask	38, 45	9	1	2	119
12 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	3	122
13 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet (defense)	38	9	3	4	130
14 Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	133
REFEREE'S DISCRETION					
1 Substitute interferes	27	9	1	4	123
2 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	127
WHEN IN QUESTION RULES					
1 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	2	7	38
2 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	39
3 Chop block	-	2	3	3	39
4 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	40
5 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	10	4	42
6 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	15	1	43
7 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	45
8 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	45
9 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	46

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Index	O	R	S	A	P
10 Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5	63
11 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	70
12 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	85
13 Reasonable opportunity to catch	-	7	3	2	97
14 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	101
15 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	112
16 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	2	119
17 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	3	122

REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY

1 Field markings inadequate	-	1	2	1	21
2 Limit lines or coaching lines inadequate	-	1	2	3	22
3 Team area inadequate	-	1	2	4	22
4 Goals inadequate	-	1	2	5	23
5 Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	24
6 Line-to-gain or down indicator inadequate	-	1	2	7	24
7 Sideline markers inadequate	-	1	2	8	25
8 Field surface inadequate	-	1	2	9	25
9 Balls inadequate	-	1	3	2	27
10 Colour of jerseys clash	-	1	4	3	29
11 Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	9	34
12 Changing room inadequate	-	13	1	1	150
13 Security inadequate	-	13	1	2	150
14 Clock malfunction	-	13	2	3	151
15 Officials' assistants inadequate	-	13	3	1	153
16 Number of officials below minimum	-	13	4	5	155
17 Bad weather	-	13	4	6	155
18 Game abandoned	-	13	4	8	156
19 Game suspended for more than 5 minutes	-	13	4	9	156
20 Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	156
21 Public address announcer infraction	-	13	5	2	157
22 Persons removed from the field	-	13	7	2	159

LEAGUES MAY APPLY SANCTIONS

1 Absence of any mandatory marking (sideline, end line, goal line, yard lines at 5-yard intervals, inbounds lines)	-	1	2	1	21
2 End zones smaller than 8 yards or bigger than 13 yards in depth, or where the end zones are not of equal size	-	1	2	1	21
3 Field of play less than 90 yards in length or not a multiple of 10 yards	-	1	2	1	21
4 Field of play not 160 feet in width	-	1	2	1	21
5 White field markings closer than four feet to an end zone line	-	1	2	1	21
6 Absence of nine-yard marks if the field is not numbered according to Rule 1-2-1-j	-	1	2	1	21

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Index		O	R	S	A	P
7	Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	22
8	Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	22
9	Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	22
10	Game management failed to removed unauthorised persons from team area	-	1	2	4	22
11	Practice kicking nets outside the team area (except where permitted)	-	1	2	4	22
12	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	23
13	Uprights less than 20 feet in height, or crossbar not 10 feet above ground	-	1	2	5	23
14	Decorative material on the posts or crossbar	-	1	2	5	23
15	Padding on goal posts absent or less than six feet in height	-	1	2	5	23
16	One or both goals missing or taken down	-	1	2	5	24
17	Illegal pylons that had to be removed	-	1	2	6	24
18	Rods not of minimum height or not with flat ends	-	1	2	7	24
19	Repeated breakages of the line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	24
20	Failure to provide line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	24
21	Markers that are not constructed and/or placed to avoid hazard and had to be removed	-	1	2	8	25
22	Trip hazard(s)	-	1	2	9	25
23	Markings or facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	25
24	Home team provides fewer than three legal balls	-	1	3	2	27
25	If a league has mandated use of balls of a particular manufacture and the home team provides fewer than three legal ones	-	1	3	2	27
26	No towels are provided when conditions warrant it	-	1	3	2	27
27	The visiting team if both teams are playing in the same colour	-	1	4	3	29
28	Players of a team not wearing jerseys of the same colour and design	-	1	4	3	29
29	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	9	35
30	Minimum medical requirement not met	-	1	5	1	35
31	Changing rooms not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without seating	-	13	1	1	150
32	Changing rooms not secured	-	13	1	2	150
33	Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	2	3	151
34	Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	3	1	153
35	Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	3	1	153
36	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	3	1	153
37	Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	156
38	Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	5	2	157

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Index**O R S A P****GAME CANNOT PROCEED RULES**

1	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	23
2	Trip hazards	-	1	2	9	25
3	Markings and facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	25
4	Medical facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	5	1	35
5	Circumstances do not permit play to proceed	-	13	4	1	154