

# Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 180 - 181), 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
<b>LOSS OF A DOWN</b>						
1	Illegal kick beyond neutral zone	31*	6	3	10	86
2	Illegally handing ball forward	35*	7	1	6	96
3	Planned loose ball play	19*	7	1	7	96
4	Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds	35*	7	2	1	97
5	Illegal forward pass	35*	7	3	2	98
6	Intentionally grounding forward pass	36*	7	3	2	99
7	Forward pass touched illegally by player out of bounds	16*	7	3	4	100
8	Illegally batting loose ball	31*	9	4	1	132
9	Illegally kicking ball	31*	9	4	4	134
<b>LOSS OF FIVE YARDS</b>						
1	Alteration of playing surface for an advantage	27	1	2	9	27
2	Improper numbering or illegal formation	23	1	4	2	30
3	Coin toss infractions	19	3	1	1	56
4	Illegal delay of game	21	3	4	2	67
5	Delay after three timeouts expended	21	3	4	2	67
6	Advancing a dead ball	21	3	4	2	67
7	Disconcerting offensive signals	21	3	4	2	67
8	Substitution rules infractions	22	3	5	2	68
9	Delay of game (substitutions)	21	3	5	2	68
10	Putting ball in play before declared ready for play	19	4	1	4	71
11	Exceeding 25-second count	21	4	1	5	72
12	Infraction of free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	79
13	Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	2	79
14	Player out of bounds when ball free-kicked	19	6	1	2	79
15	Free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	79
16	Free kick out of bounds [or 35-yard option]	19	6	2	1	81
17	Return kick	31	6	3	10	86
18	Illegal kick beyond neutral zone (also loss of down)	31*	6	3	10	86
19	Marking spot of place kick	31	6	3	10	86
20	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (scrimmage kick)	19	6	3	12	86
21	Taking more than two steps after a fair catch	21	6	5	2	88
22	Illegal snap	19	7	1	1	91
23	Snapper's position and ball adjustment	19	7	1	3	92
24	Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready for play	19	7	1	3	93
25	False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	93
26	Infraction of scrimmage formation	19	7	1	3	93
27	Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	93
28	Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	3	93

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29	Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	3	93
30	Failure to pause full second in shift play	20	7	1	4	95
31	Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	95
32	Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	96
33	Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	96
34	Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	96
35	Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	96
36	Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	97
37	Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	97
38	Illegal forward pass (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	98
39	Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	106
40	Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	107
41	Defensive incidental grasping of facemask	45	9	1	2	120
42	Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	3	123
43	Sideline-restraining line infraction	29	9	1	5	125
44	Interlocked interference or helping runner	44	9	3	2	128
<b>LOSS OF 10 YARDS</b>						
1	Home team delay	21	3	4	1	67
2	Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	43	9	3	3	129
3	Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	129
4	Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	3	130
5	Holding or obstruction (defense)	42	9	3	4	131
6	Illegal use of hands (defense)	43	9	3	4	131
7	Illegal block in the back (defense)	43	9	3	4	131
8	Holding or obstruction (loose ball)	42	9	3	6	132
9	Game management delay of game	21	13	4	3	157
10	Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	4	4	157
<b>LOSS OF 15 YARDS</b>						
1	Marking ball	27	1	3	3	29
2	Numbers changed	27	1	4	2	30
3	Illegal signal devices (also disqualification)	27	1	4	8	36
4	Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	67
5	Simulated substitutions	27	3	5	2	69
6	Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	87
7	Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	89
8	Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	90
9	Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	103
10	Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	103
11	Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	2	120
12	Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	2	120
13	Butting, spearing or ramming with helmet (first down)	24	9	1	2	120
14	Roughing passer (first down)	34	9	1	2	120

table continued...

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15 Chop block (first down)	41	9	1	2	120
16 Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	2	120
17 Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	120
18 Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	2	120
19 Defensive grasping facemask (first down)	38, 45	9	1	2	120
20 Offensive grasping facemask	38, 45	9	1	2	120
21 Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	3	123
22 Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	3	123
23 Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	3	123
24 Substitute interferes	27	9	1	4	124
25 Illegal participation	28	9	1	4	124
26 Sideline-restraining line infraction	29	9	1	5	125
27 Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	126
28 Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	126
29 Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	126
30 Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	126
31 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	126
32 Illegal return of disqualified player	27	9	2	1	126
33 Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	126
34 Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	127
35 Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	127
36 Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	127
37 Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27	9	2	4	128
38 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet (defense) (first down)	38	9	3	4	131
39 Defensive restrictions	27	9	3	5	132
40 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	132
41 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	133
42 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	133
43 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	134
44 Fighting [also disqualification] (first down)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	134
 <b>LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE</b>					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	3	146
 <b>OFFENDED TEAM'S BALL AT SPOT OF FOUL</b>					
1 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty) (first down)	33	7	3	8	103
 <b>CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION</b>					
1 Not wearing mandatory equipment	23	1	4	4	32
2 Wearing illegal equipment	23	1	4	5	35
3 Not wearing mandatory equipment	23	1	4	6	35
4 Coach's conference	21	3	3	4	64

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5 Illegal cleats	23	9	2	2	127
<b>VIOLATION</b>					
1 Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	81
2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	83
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	86
<b>DISQUALIFICATION</b>					
1 Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	8	36
2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	118
3 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	126
4 Illegal cleats	47	9	2	2	127
5 Contacting an official	47	9	2	4	128
6 Fighting	47	9	5	1	134
<b>AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)</b>					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	103
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	103
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	2	120
4 Clipping	39	9	1	2	120
5 Butting, spearing or ramming with helmet	24	9	1	2	120
6 Roughing passer	34	9	1	2	120
7 Chop block	41	9	1	2	120
8 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	2	120
9 Tripping	46	9	1	2	120
10 Leaping	38	9	1	2	120
11 Defensive grasping facemask	38, 45	9	1	2	120
12 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	3	123
13 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet (defense)	38	9	3	4	131
14 Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	134
<b>REFEREE'S DISCRETION</b>					
1 Substitute interferes	27	9	1	4	124
2 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	128
<b>WHEN IN QUESTION RULES</b>					
1 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	2	7	40
2 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	41
3 Chop block	-	2	3	3	41
4 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	42
5 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	10	4	44
6 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	15	1	45
7 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	47
8 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	47
9 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	48

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10 Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5	65
11 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	71
12 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	87
13 Reasonable opportunity to catch	-	7	3	2	98
14 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	103
15 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	113
16 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	2	120
17 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	3	123

### **REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY**

1 Field markings inadequate	-	1	2	1	23
2 Limit lines or coaching lines inadequate	-	1	2	3	23
3 Team area inadequate	-	1	2	4	24
4 Goals inadequate	-	1	2	5	26
5 Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	26
6 Line-to-gain or down indicator inadequate	-	1	2	7	26
7 Sideline markers inadequate	-	1	2	8	27
8 Field surface inadequate	-	1	2	9	27
9 Balls inadequate	-	1	3	2	29
10 Colour of jerseys clash	-	1	4	3	31
11 Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	9	36
12 Changing room inadequate	-	13	1	1	152
13 Security inadequate	-	13	1	2	152
14 Clock malfunction	-	13	2	3	153
15 Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	3	1	155
16 Bad weather	-	13	4	6	157
17 Game abandoned	-	13	4	8	158
18 Game suspended for more than 5 minutes	-	13	4	9	158
19 Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	159
20 Public address announcer infraction	-	13	5	2	159
21 Persons removed from the field	-	13	7	2	161
22 Playing time shortened due to darkness	-	13	7	4	161

### **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	23
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	23
3 Field of play less than 90 yards in length or not a multiple of 10 yards	-	1	2	1	23
4 Field of play not 160 feet in width	-	1	2	1	23
5 White field markings closer than four feet to an end zone line	-	1	2	1	23

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6	Absence of nine-yard marks if the field is not numbered according to Rule 1-2-1-j	-	1	2	1	23
7	Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	24
8	Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	25
9	Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	25
10	Persons in team area not wearing proper credentials	-	1	2	4	25
11	Game management failed to removed unauthorised persons from team area	-	1	2	4	25
12	Practice kicking nets outside the team area (except where permitted)	-	1	2	4	25
13	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	25
14	Uprights less than 20 feet in height, or crossbar not 10 feet above ground	-	1	2	5	26
15	Decorative material on the posts or crossbar	-	1	2	5	26
16	Padding on goal posts absent or less than six feet in height	-	1	2	5	26
17	One or both goals missing or taken down	-	1	2	5	26
18	Illegal pylons that had to be removed	-	1	2	6	26
19	Rods not of minimum height or not with flat ends	-	1	2	7	27
20	Repeated breakages of the line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	27
21	Failure to provide line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	27
22	Markers that are not constructed and/or placed to avoid hazard and had to be removed	-	1	2	8	27
23	Trip hazard(s)	-	1	2	9	27
24	Markings or facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	28
25	Home team provides fewer than three legal balls	-	1	3	2	29
26	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	29
27	No towels are provided when conditions warrant it	-	1	3	2	29
28	The visiting team if both teams are playing in the same colour	-	1	4	3	31
29	Players of a team not wearing jerseys of the same colour and design	-	1	4	3	31
30	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	9	37
31	Minimum medical requirement not met	-	1	5	1	37
32	Changing rooms not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without seating	-	13	1	1	152
33	Changing rooms not secured	-	13	1	2	152
34	Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	2	3	153
35	Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	3	1	155
36	Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	3	1	155
37	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	3	1	155
38	Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	159

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	<b>O</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>P</b>
39 Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	5	2	159

**GAME CANNOT PROCEED RULES**

1 Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	25
2 Trip hazards	-	1	2	9	27
3 Markings and facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	27
4 Medical facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	5	1	37
5 Officials' assistants inadequate	-	13	3	1	155
6 Circumstances do not permit play to proceed	-	13	4	1	156
7 Number of officials below minimum	-	13	4	5	157
8 Any appointed official not present or becomes incapacitated	-	13	4	5	157