

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 202 - 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 kick beyond neutral zone	31*	6	3	10	99
2	Illegally handing ball forward	35*	7	1	6	110
3	Planned loose ball play	19*	7	1	7	111
4	Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds	35*	7	2	1	111
5	Illegal forward pass	35*	7	3	2	112
6	Intentionally grounding forward pass	36*	7	3	2	113
7	Forward pass touched illegally by player out of bounds	16*	7	3	4	114
8	Illegally batting loose ball	31*	9	4	1	147
9	Illegally kicking ball	31*	9	4	4	148
LOSS OF FIVE YARDS						
1	Alteration of playing surface for an advantage	27	1	2	9	38
2	Improper numbering or illegal formation	23	1	4	2	41
3	Coin toss infractions	19	3	1	1	68
4	Illegal delay of game	21	3	4	2	80
5	Delay after three timeouts expended	21	3	4	2	80
6	Advancing a dead ball	21	3	4	2	80
7	Disconcerting offensive signals	21	3	4	2	80
8	Substitution rules infractions	22	3	5	2	81
9	Delay of game (substitutions)	21	3	5	2	81
10	Putting ball in play before declared ready for play	19	4	1	4	84
11	Exceeding play clock count	21	4	1	5	85
12	Infraction of free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	92
13	Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	2	92
14	Player out of bounds when ball free-kicked	19	6	1	2	92
15	Free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	92
16	Free kick out of bounds [or 30-yard option]	19	6	2	1	94
17	Return kick	31	6	3	10	99
18	Illegal kick beyond neutral zone (also loss of down)	31*	6	3	10	99
19	Marking spot of place kick	31	6	3	10	99
20	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (scrimmage kick)	19	6	3	12	100
21	Taking more than two steps after a fair catch	21	6	5	2	102
22	Illegal snap	19	7	1	1	105
23	Offensive player in neutral zone	19 or 20	7	1	3	106
24	Snapper's position and ball adjustment	19	7	1	3	107
25	Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready for play	19	7	1	3	107
26	False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	107
27	Infraction of scrimmage formation	19	7	1	3	107

Index	O	R	S	A	P
28 Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	107
29 Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	3	107
30 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	3	107
31 Failure to pause full second in shift play	20	7	1	4	109
32 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	110
33 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	110
34 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	110
35 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	110
36 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	111
37 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	111
38 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	111
39 Illegal forward pass (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	112
40 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	121
41 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	121
42 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	4	137
43 Sideline-restraining line infraction (also 15 yards)	29	9	1	6	139
44 Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2	143
LOSS OF 10 YARDS					
1 Home team delay	21	3	4	1	79
2 Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	43	9	3	3	143
3 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	143
4 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	143
5 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	3	144
6 Holding or obstruction (defense)	42	9	3	4	145
7 Illegal use of hands (defense)	43	9	3	4	145
8 Illegal block in the back (defense)	43	9	3	4	145
9 Holding or obstruction (loose ball)	42	9	3	6	146
10 Game management delay of game	21	13	4	3	175
11 Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	4	4	175
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	41
2 Numbers changed	27	1	4	2	41
3 Illegal signal devices (also disqualification)	27	1	4	8	47
4 Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	79
5 Simulated substitutions	27	3	5	2	81
6 Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	100
7 Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	103
8 Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	104
9 Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	118
10 Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	118
11 Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
12 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet (first down)	38	9	1	2	134

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
13 Striking, kicking, kneeing, elbowing, etc. (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
14 Meeting with knee, striking with open hand, etc. (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
15 Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	134
16 Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	2	134
17 Piling on (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
18 Tackling out of bounds (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
19 Hurdling (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
20 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask, helmet opening or chin strap of opponent (first down)	38,45	9	1	2	134
21 Butting or ramming with helmet (first down)	24	9	1	2	134
22 Obviously uncatchable pass (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
23 Roughing the passer (first down)	34	9	1	2	134
24 Chop blocking (first down)	41	9	1	2	134
25 Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	2	134
26 Running into opponent out of play (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
27 Stepping on opponent for an advantage (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
28 Illegal contact with snapper (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
29 Grabbing the inside collar at back or side of shoulder pads or jersey (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
30 Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	2	134
31 Top of helmet striking (first down)	38	9	1	3	136
32 Initiating contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders (first down)	38	9	1	3	136
33 Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	4	137
34 Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	4	137
35 Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	4	137
36 Substitute interferes	27	9	1	5	138
37 Illegal participation	28	9	1	5	138
38 Sideline-restraining line infraction (also 5 yards)	29	9	1	6	139
39 Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	140
40 Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	140
41 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	140
42 Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	140
43 Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	140
44 Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	141
45 Illegal return of disqualified player	27	9	2	1	141
46 Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	141
47 Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	141
48 Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	141
49 Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	141
50 Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27	9	2	4	142
51 Defensive restrictions	27	9	3	5	146
52 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	147
53 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	148

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
54 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	148
55 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	148
56 Fighting [also disqualification] (first down)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	148
57 Fighting [also disqualification] (first down)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	149
LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	6	159
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	118
CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION					
1 Not wearing mandatory equipment	23	1	4	4	44
2 Wearing illegal equipment	23	1	4	5	46
3 Not wearing mandatory equipment	23	1	4	6	47
4 Head coach's conference	21	3	3	4	77
5 Illegal cleats	23	9	2	2	141
6 Head coach's challenge	21	12	5	1	167
VIOLATION					
1 Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	93
2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	96
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	99
DISQUALIFICATION					
1 Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	8	47
2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	132
3 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	140
4 Illegal cleats	47	9	2	2	141
5 Contacting an official	47	9	2	4	142
AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	118
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	118
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	2	134
4 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet	38	9	1	2	134
5 Striking, kicking, kneeing, elbowing, etc.	38	9	1	2	134
6 Meeting with knee, striking with open hand, etc.	38	9	1	2	134
7 Tripping	46	9	1	2	134
8 Clipping	39	9	1	2	134
9 Piling on	38	9	1	2	134
10 Tackling out of bounds	38	9	1	2	134
11 Hurdling	38	9	1	2	134

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
12 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask, helmet opening or chin strap of opponent	38,45	9	1	2	134
13 Butting or ramming with helmet	24	9	1	2	134
14 Obviously uncatchable pass	38	9	1	2	134
15 Roughing the passer	34	9	1	2	134
16 Chop blocking	41	9	1	2	134
17 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	2	134
18 Running into opponent out of play	38	9	1	2	134
19 Stepping on opponent for an advantage	38	9	1	2	134
20 Illegal contact with snapper	38	9	1	2	134
21 Grabbing the inside collar at back or side of shoulder pads or jersey	38	9	1	2	134
22 Leaping	38	9	1	2	134
23 Top of helmet striking	38	9	1	3	136
24 Initiating contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	38	9	1	3	136
25 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	4	137
26 Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	148
27 Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	149
REFEREE'S DISCRETION					
1 Substitute interferes	27	9	1	5	138
2 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	142
WHEN IN QUESTION RULES					
1 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	2	7	52
2 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	53
3 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	54
4 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	10	4	56
5 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	15	1	58
6 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	60
7 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	60
8 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	61
9 Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5	77
10 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	83
11 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	100
12 Reasonable opportunity to catch	-	7	3	2	113
13 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	117
14 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	128
15 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	2	134
16 Initiating contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	38	9	1	3	136
17 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	4	137
REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY					
1 Field markings inadequate	-	1	2	1	34

table continued...

Index		O	R	S	A	P
2	Limit lines or coaching lines inadequate	-	1	2	3	34
3	Team area inadequate	-	1	2	4	35
4	Goals inadequate	-	1	2	5	37
5	Coaches agree to play without goals	-	1	2	5	37
6	Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	37
7	Line-to-gain or down indicator inadequate	-	1	2	7	38
8	Sideline markers inadequate	-	1	2	8	38
9	Field surface inadequate	-	1	2	9	38
10	Balls inadequate	-	1	3	2	40
11	Colour of jerseys clash	-	1	4	3	42
12	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	9	48
13	Changing room inadequate	-	13	1	1	170
14	Security inadequate	-	13	1	2	170
15	Clock malfunction	-	13	2	3	171
16	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	3	1	173
17	Bad weather	-	13	4	6	176
18	Game abandoned	-	13	4	8	177
19	Game suspended for more than 5 minutes	-	13	4	9	177
20	Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	177
21	Public address announcer infraction	-	13	5	2	177
22	Persons removed from the field	-	13	7	2	179
23	Playing time shortened due to darkness	-	13	7	4	180
COMPETITIONS 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	34
2	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	34
3	Field of play less than 90 yards in length or not a multiple of 10 yards	-	1	2	1	34
4	Field of play not 160 feet in width	-	1	2	1	34
5	White field markings closer than four feet to an end zone line	-	1	2	1	34
6	Absence of nine-yard marks if the field is not numbered according to Rule 1-2-1-j	-	1	2	1	34
7	Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	34
8	Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	36
9	Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	36
10	Persons in team area not wearing proper credentials	-	1	2	4	36
11	Game management failure to remove unauthorised persons from team area	-	1	2	4	36
12	Practice kicking nets outside the team area (except where permitted)	-	1	2	4	36

table continued...

Index		O	R	S	A	P
13	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	36
14	Uprights less than 20 feet in height, or crossbar not 10 feet above ground	-	1	2	5	37
15	Decorative material on the posts or crossbar	-	1	2	5	37
16	Padding on goal posts absent or less than six feet in height	-	1	2	5	37
17	One or both goals missing or taken down	-	1	2	5	37
18	Illegal pylons that had to be removed	-	1	2	6	37
19	Rods not of minimum height or not with flat ends	-	1	2	7	38
20	Repeated breakages of the line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	38
21	Failure to provide line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	38
22	Markers that are not constructed and/or placed to avoid hazard and had to be removed	-	1	2	8	38
23	Trip hazard(s)	-	1	2	9	38
24	Markings or facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	39
25	Home team provides fewer than three legal balls	-	1	3	2	40
26	No towels are provided when conditions warrant it	-	1	3	2	40
27	No balls with white stripes (from 2011)	-	1	3	2	40
28	Both teams are playing in the same predominant jersey colour	-	1	4	3	42
29	Players of a team not wearing jerseys of the same colour and design	-	1	4	3	42
30	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	9	48
31	Recording opponent's signals	-	1	4	9	48
32	Minimum medical requirement not met	-	1	5	1	49
33	Changing rooms not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without seating	-	13	1	1	170
34	Changing rooms not secured	-	13	1	2	170
35	Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	2	3	171
36	Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	3	1	173
37	Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	3	1	173
38	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	3	1	173
39	Unauthorized access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	177
40	Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	5	2	177
41	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	8	6	182

GAME CANNOT PROCEED RULES

1	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	36
2	Trip hazards	-	1	2	9	38
3	Markings and facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	39
4	Medical facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	5	1	49
5	Officials' assistants inadequate	-	13	3	1	173
6	Circumstances do not permit play to proceed	-	13	4	1	175
7	Number of officials below minimum	-	13	4	5	176

table continued...

Index		O	R	S	A	P
8	Any appointed official not present or becomes incapacitated	-	13	4	5	176
9	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	8	6	181

The above lists include only penalties found in 11-man adult contact football. Penalties arising from Football variants (Rule 14) are not listed.

Summary of foul codes

By code:

Code	Foul
ABL	Unsportsmanlike act, abusive language
BAT	Illegal batting
BBW	Personal foul, blocking below the waist
BCH	Unsportsmanlike act, bench
BTH	Personal foul, blow to the head
BUT	Personal foul, butting/ramming with helmet
CHB	Personal foul, chop block
CLP	Personal foul, clipping
DEA	Unsportsmanlike act, delayed/excessive act
DH	Holding, defense
DOD	Delay of game, defense
DOF	Offside, defense
DOG	Delay of game, offense
DPI	Pass interference, defense
DSQ	Disqualification
ENC	Encroachment (offense)
EQV	Equipment violation
FBG	Fighting before game
FFH	Fighting, first half
FGT	Fighting
FHT	Fighting, half-time
FMM	Personal foul, face mask, 15 yards
FSH	Fighting, second half
FST	False start
HCT	Personal foul, horse collar tackle
HDR	Personal foul, hit on defenceless receiver
HTF	Personal foul, hands to the face
HUR	Personal foul, hurdling
IBB	Illegal block in the back
ICB	Personal foul, illegal crackback
ICS	Personal foul, illegal contact with snapper
IDP	Ineligible downfield on pass
IFK	Illegal free kick formation
IFP	Illegal forward pass
IKB	Illegally kicking ball
ILF	Illegal formation
ILM	Illegal motion
ILP	Illegal participation

table continued...

Code	Foul
ILS	Illegal substitution
ING	Intentional grounding
INL	Interlocking legs
ISH	Illegal shift
ISP	Illegal snap
ITP	Illegal touching of a forward pass
KCI	Kick catch interference
KIK	Illegal kick
KOB	Free kick out of bounds
LEA	Personal foul, leaping
LEV	Personal foul, leverage
LTO	Personal foul, late hit out of bounds
LTP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on
OFK	Offside, kicking team
OH	Holding, offense
OPI	Pass interference, offense
RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker
RHT	Unsportsmanlike act, removal of helmet
RNH	Running into the kicker/holder
RPS	Personal foul, roughing the passer
RRK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker/holder
SKE	Personal foul, striking/kneeing/elbowing
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
STB	Unsportsmanlike act, spiking/throwing ball
TAU	Unsportsmanlike act, taunting/baiting
TRP	Personal foul, tripping
UFT	Unfair tactics
UNR	Personal foul, other unnecessary roughness
UNS	Unsportsmanlike act, other

By foul:

Code	Foul
ABL	Unsportsmanlike act, abusive language
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BCH	Unsportsmanlike act, bench
BTH	Personal foul, blow to the head
BUT	Personal foul, butting/ramming with helmet
CHB	Personal foul, chop block
CLP	Personal foul, clipping
DEA	Unsportsmanlike act, delayed/excessive act
DH	Holding, defense
DOD	Delay of game, defense
DOF	Offside, defense
DOG	Delay of game, offense
DPI	Pass interference, defense
DSQ	Disqualification

table continued...

Code	Foul
ENC	Encroachment (offense)
EQV	Equipment violation
FBG	Fighting before game
FFH	Fighting, first half
FGT	Fighting
FHT	Fighting, half-time
FMM	Personal foul, face mask, 15 yards
FSH	Fighting, second half
FST	False start
HCT	Personal foul, horse collar tackle
HDR	Personal foul, hit on defenceless receiver
HTF	Personal foul, hands to the face
HUR	Personal foul, hurdling
IBB	Illegal block in the back
ICB	Personal foul, illegal crackback
ICS	Personal foul, illegal contact with snapper
IDP	Ineligible downfield on pass
IFK	Illegal free kick formation
IFP	Illegal forward pass
IKB	Illegally kicking ball
ILF	Illegal formation
ILM	Illegal motion
ILP	Illegal participation
ILS	Illegal substitution
ING	Intentional grounding
INL	Interlocking legs
ISH	Illegal shift
ISP	Illegal snap
ITP	Illegal touching of a forward pass
KCI	Kick catch interference
KIK	Illegal kick
KOB	Free kick out of bounds
LEA	Personal foul, leaping
LEV	Personal foul, leverage
LTO	Personal foul, late hit out of bounds
LTP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on
OFK	Offside, kicking team
OH	Holding, offense
OPI	Pass interference, offense
RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker
RHT	Unsportsmanlike act, removal of helmet
RNH	Running into the kicker/holder
RPS	Personal foul, roughing the passer
RRK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker/holder
SKE	Personal foul, striking/kneeing/elbowing
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
STB	Unsportsmanlike act, spiking/throwing ball

table continued...

Code	Foul
TAU	Unsportsmanlike act, taunting/baiting
TRP	Personal foul, tripping
UFT	Unfair tactics
UNR	Personal foul, other unnecessary roughness
UNS	Unsportsmanlike act, other