

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 198 - 199), 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	96
2	Illegally handing ball forward	35*	7	1	6	106
3	Planned loose ball play	19*	7	1	7	107
4	Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds	35*	7	2	1	107
5	Illegal forward pass	35*	7	3	2	108
6	Intentionally grounding forward pass	36*	7	3	2	109
7	Forward pass touched illegally by player out of bounds	16*	7	3	4	110
8	Illegally batting loose ball	31*	9	4	1	143
9	Illegally kicking ball	31*	9	4	4	144
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	65
4	Illegal delay of game	21	3	4	2	76
5	Delay after three timeouts expended	21	3	4	2	76
6	Advancing a dead ball	21	3	4	2	76
7	Disconcerting offensive signals	21	3	4	2	76
8	Substitution rules infractions	22	3	5	2	78
9	Delay of game (substitutions)	21	3	5	2	78
10	Putting ball in play before declared ready for play	19	4	1	4	81
11	Exceeding play clock count	21	4	1	5	82
12	Infraction of free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	89
13	Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	2	89
14	Player out of bounds when ball free-kicked	19	6	1	2	89
15	Free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	89
16	Free kick out of bounds [or 30-yard option]	19	6	2	1	92
17	Return kick	31	6	3	10	96
18	Illegal kick beyond neutral zone (also loss of down)	31*	6	3	10	96
19	Marking spot of place kick	31	6	3	10	96
20	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (scrimmage kick)	19	6	3	12	97
21	Taking more than two steps after a fair catch	21	6	5	2	99
22	Illegal snap	19	7	1	1	101
23	Offensive player in neutral zone	19 or 20	7	1	3	102
24	Snapper's position and ball adjustment	19	7	1	3	103
25	Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready for play	19	7	1	3	103
26	False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	103
27	Infraction of scrimmage formation	19	7	1	3	103

Index	O	R	S	A	P
28 Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	103
29 Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	3	103
30 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	3	103
31 Failure to pause full second in shift play	20	7	1	4	105
32 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	106
33 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	106
34 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	106
35 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	106
36 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	107
37 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	107
38 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	107
39 Illegal forward pass (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	108
40 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	117
41 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	117
42 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	4	133
43 Sideline-restraining line infraction (also 15 yards)	29	9	1	6	135
44 Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2	139
LOSS OF 10 YARDS					
1 Home team delay	21	3	4	1	76
2 Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	43	9	3	3	139
3 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	139
4 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	139
5 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	3	140
6 Holding or obstruction (defense)	42	9	3	4	141
7 Illegal use of hands (defense)	43	9	3	4	141
8 Illegal block in the back (defense)	43	9	3	4	141
9 Holding or obstruction (loose ball)	42	9	3	6	142
10 Game management delay of game	21	13	4	3	171
11 Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	4	4	171
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	40
2 Numbers changed	27	1	4	2	41
3 Illegal signal devices (also disqualification)	27	1	4	10	45
4 Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	76
5 Simulated substitutions	27	3	5	2	78
6 Illegal wedge	27	6	1	9	91
7 Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	97
8 Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	100
9 Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	100
10 Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	114
11 Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	114
12 Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	2	130

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
13 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
14 Striking, kicking, kneeing, elbowing, etc. (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
15 Meeting with knee, striking with open hand, etc. (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
16 Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	130
17 Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	2	130
18 Piling on (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
19 Tackling out of bounds (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
20 Hurdling (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
21 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask, helmet opening or chin strap of opponent (first down)	38,45	9	1	2	130
22 Butting or ramming with helmet (first down)	24	9	1	2	130
23 Obviously uncatchable pass (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
24 Roughing the passer (first down)	34	9	1	2	130
25 Chop blocking (first down)	41	9	1	2	130
26 Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	2	130
27 Running into opponent out of play (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
28 Stepping on opponent for an advantage (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
29 Illegal contact with snapper (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
30 Grabbing the inside collar at back or side of shoulder pads or jersey (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
31 Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	2	130
32 Top of helmet striking (first down)	38	9	1	3	132
33 Initiating contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders (first down)	38	9	1	3	132
34 Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	4	133
35 Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	4	133
36 Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	4	133
37 Substitute interferes	27	9	1	5	134
38 Illegal participation	28	9	1	5	134
39 Sideline-restraining line infraction (also 5 yards)	29	9	1	6	135
40 Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	136
41 Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	136
42 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	136
43 Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	136
44 Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	136
45 Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	137
46 Illegal return of disqualified player	27	9	2	1	137
47 Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	137
48 Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	137
49 Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	137
50 Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	137
51 Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27	9	2	4	138
52 Defensive restrictions	27	9	3	5	142
53 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	143

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
54 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	144
55 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	144
56 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	144
57 Fighting [also disqualification] (first down)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	144
58 Fighting [also disqualification] (first down)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	145
LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	6	155
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	114
CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION					
1 Head coach's conference	21	3	3	4	73
2 Illegal cleats	23	9	2	2	137
3 Head coach's challenge	21	12	5	1	163
VIOLATION					
1 Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	90
2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	93
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	96
DISQUALIFICATION					
1 Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	10	45
2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	128
3 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	136
4 Illegal cleats	47	9	2	2	137
5 Contacting an official	47	9	2	4	138
AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	114
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	114
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	2	130
4 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet	38	9	1	2	130
5 Striking, kicking, kneeling, elbowing, etc.	38	9	1	2	130
6 Meeting with knee, striking with open hand, etc.	38	9	1	2	130
7 Tripping	46	9	1	2	130
8 Clipping	39	9	1	2	130
9 Piling on	38	9	1	2	130
10 Tackling out of bounds	38	9	1	2	130
11 Hurdling	38	9	1	2	130
12 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask, helmet opening or chin strap of opponent	38,45	9	1	2	130
13 Butting or ramming with helmet	24	9	1	2	130

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
14 Obviously uncatchable pass	38	9	1	2	130
15 Roughing the passer	34	9	1	2	130
16 Chop blocking	41	9	1	2	130
17 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	2	130
18 Running into opponent out of play	38	9	1	2	130
19 Stepping on opponent for an advantage	38	9	1	2	130
20 Illegal contact with snapper	38	9	1	2	130
21 Grabbing the inside collar at back or side of shoulder pads or jersey	38	9	1	2	130
22 Leaping	38	9	1	2	130
23 Top of helmet striking	38	9	1	3	132
24 Initiating contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	38	9	1	3	132
25 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	4	133
26 Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	144
27 Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	145
REFEREE'S DISCRETION					
1 Substitute interferes	27	9	1	5	134
2 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	138
WHEN IN QUESTION RULES					
1 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	49
2 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	49
3 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	4	3	51
4 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	11	4	53
5 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	16	1	55
6 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	57
7 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	57
8 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	57
9 Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5	74
10 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	80
11 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	97
12 Reasonable opportunity to catch	-	7	3	2	109
13 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	113
14 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	124
15 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	2	130
16 Initiating contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	38	9	1	3	132
17 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	4	133
REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY					
1 Field markings inadequate	-	1	2	1	33
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	36

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
5 Coaches agree to play without goals	-	1	2	5	36
6 Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	36
7 Line-to-gain or down indicator inadequate	-	1	2	7	37
8 Sideline markers inadequate	-	1	2	8	37
9 Field surface inadequate	-	1	2	9	38
10 Balls inadequate	-	1	3	2	40
11 Colour of jerseys clash	-	1	4	5	43
12 Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	45
13 Changing room inadequate	-	13	1	1	166
14 Security inadequate	-	13	1	2	166
15 Clock malfunction	-	13	2	3	167
16 Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	3	1	169
17 Bad weather	-	13	4	6	172
18 Game abandoned	-	13	4	8	173
19 Game suspended for more than 5 minutes	-	13	4	9	173
20 Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	173
21 Public address announcer infraction	-	13	5	2	173
22 Persons removed from the field	-	13	7	2	175
23 Playing time shortened due to darkness	-	13	7	4	176

COMPETITIONS MAY APPLY SANCTIONS

1 One or both sidelines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	33
2 One or both goal lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	33
3 One or both end lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	33
4 One or more yard lines across the field at least every 10 yards is incomplete (from 2012)	-	1	2	1	33
5 Absence of any mandatory marking (sideline, end line, goal line, yard lines at 5-yard intervals, inbounds lines)	-	1	2	1	33
6 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	33
7 Field of play less than 90 yards in length or not a multiple of 10 yards	-	1	2	1	33
8 Field of play not 160 feet in width	-	1	2	1	33
9 White field markings closer than four feet to an end zone line	-	1	2	1	33
10 Absence of nine-yard marks if the field is not numbered according to Rule 1-2-1-j	-	1	2	1	33
11 Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	34
12 Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	35
13 Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	35
14 Persons in team area not wearing proper credentials	-	1	2	4	35
15 Game management failure to remove unauthorised persons from team area	-	1	2	4	35

table continued...

Index		O	R	S	A	P
16	Practice kicking nets outside the team area (except where permitted)	-	1	2	4	35
17	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	35
18	Uprights less than 20 feet in height, or crossbar not 10 feet above ground	-	1	2	5	36
19	Decorative material on the posts or crossbar	-	1	2	5	36
20	Padding on goal posts absent or less than six feet in height	-	1	2	5	36
21	One or both goals missing or taken down	-	1	2	5	36
22	Illegal pylons that had to be removed	-	1	2	6	36
23	Rods not of minimum height or not with flat ends	-	1	2	7	37
24	Repeated breakages of the line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	37
25	Failure to provide line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	37
26	Markers that are not constructed and/or placed to avoid hazard and had to be removed	-	1	2	8	37
27	Trip hazard(s)	-	1	2	9	38
28	Markings or facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	38
29	Home team provides fewer than three legal balls	-	1	3	2	40
30	No towels are provided when conditions warrant it	-	1	3	2	40
31	No balls with white stripes (from 2011)	-	1	3	2	40
32	Both teams are playing in the same predominant jersey colour	-	1	4	5	43
33	Players of a team not wearing jerseys of the same colour and design	-	1	4	5	43
34	Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	46
35	Recording opponent's signals	-	1	4	11	46
36	Minimum medical requirement not met	-	1	5	1	46
37	Changing rooms not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without seating	-	13	1	1	166
38	Changing rooms not secured	-	13	1	2	166
39	Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	2	3	167
40	Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	3	1	169
41	Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	3	1	169
42	Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	3	1	169
43	Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	173
44	Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	5	2	173
45	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	8	6	178
GAME CANNOT PROCEED RULES						
1	Inadequate field markings	-	1	2	1	33
2	Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	35
3	Trip hazards	-	1	2	9	38
4	Markings and facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	38
5	Medical facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	5	1	46

table continued...

Index		O	R	S	A	P
6	Officials' assistants inadequate	-	13	3	1	169
7	Circumstances do not permit play to proceed	-	13	4	1	171
8	Number of officials below minimum	-	13	4	5	172
9	Any appointed official not present or becomes incapacitated	-	13	4	5	172
10	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	8	6	177

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
BAT	Illegal batting
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
FSH	Fighting, second half
FST	False start
IBB	Illegal block in the back
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
OFK	Offside, kicking team
OH	Holding, offense

table continued...

Code	Foul
OPI	Pass interference, offense
PF/BBW	Personal foul, blocking below the waist
PF/BTH	Personal foul, blow to the head
PF/BUT	Personal foul, butting/ramming with helmet
PF/CHB	Personal foul, chop block
PF/CLP	Personal foul, clipping
PF/FMM	Personal foul, face mask, 15 yards
PF/HCT	Personal foul, horse collar tackle
PF/HDR	Personal foul, hit on defenceless receiver
PF/HTF	Personal foul, hands to the face
PF/HUR	Personal foul, hurdling
PF/ICB	Personal foul, illegal crackback
PF/ICS	Personal foul, illegal contact with snapper
PF/LEA	Personal foul, leaping
PF/LEV	Personal foul, leverage
PF/LTO	Personal foul, late hit out of bounds
PF/LTP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on
PF/RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker
PF/RPS	Personal foul, roughing the passer
PF/RRK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker/holder
PF/SKE	Personal foul, striking/kneeing/elbowing
PF/TRP	Personal foul, tripping
PF/UNR	Personal foul, other unnecessary roughness
RNH	Running into the kicker/holder
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
UC/ABL	Unsportsmanlike act, abusive language
UC/BCH	Unsportsmanlike act, bench
UC/DEA	Unsportsmanlike act, delayed/excessive act
UC/RHT	Unsportsmanlike act, removal of helmet
UC/STB	Unsportsmanlike act, spiking/throwing ball
UC/TAU	Unsportsmanlike act, taunting/baiting
UC/UNS	Unsportsmanlike act, other
UFT	Unfair tactics

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EQV	Equipment violation
FBG	Fighting before game
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Code	Foul
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PF/TRP	Personal foul, tripping
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RNH	Running into the kicker/holder
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UC/BCH	Unsportsmanlike act, bench
UC/DEA	Unsportsmanlike act, delayed/excessive act
UC/RHT	Unsportsmanlike act, removal of helmet
UC/STB	Unsportsmanlike act, spiking/throwing ball
UC/TAU	Unsportsmanlike act, taunting/baiting
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UFT	Unfair tactics