

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 178 - 179), 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	90
2	Illegally handing ball forward	35*	7	1	6	100
3	Planned loose ball play	19*	7	1	7	100
4	Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds	35*	7	2	1	101
5	Illegal forward pass by Team A	35*	7	3	2	102
6	Intentionally grounding forward pass	36*	7	3	2	102
7	Forward pass illegally touched by player out of bounds	16*	7	3	4	103
8	Illegally batting loose ball	31*	9	4	1	133
9	Illegally kicking ball	31*	9	4	4	134
LOSS OF FIVE YARDS						
1	Alteration of playing surface for an advantage	27	1	2	9	35
2	Improper numbering	23	1	4	2	38
3	Coin toss infractions	19	3	1	1	61
4	Illegal delay of game	21	3	4	2	71
5	Delay after three timeouts expended	21	3	4	2	71
6	Advancing a dead ball	21	3	4	2	71
7	Disconcerting offensive signals	21	3	4	2	71
8	Substitution rules infractions	22	3	5	2	73
9	Delay of game (substitutions)	21	3	5	2	74
10	More than 11 players in the formation or during the play	22	3	5	3	75
11	Putting ball in play before it is ready	19	4	1	4	77
12	Exceeding play clock count	21	4	1	5	78
13	Infraction of free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	84
14	Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	2	84
15	Player out of bounds when ball free-kicked	19	6	1	2	84
16	Team B not behind restraining line	18	6	1	2	84
17	Free kick out of bounds [or 30-yard option]	19	6	2	1	87
18	Return kick	31	6	3	10	90
19	Illegal scrimmage kick (also loss of down)	31*	6	3	10	90
20	Marking spot of place kick	19	6	3	10	90
21	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (scrimmage kick)	19	6	3	12	91
22	Defensive linemen 3-on-1 in field goal formation	19	6	3	14	91
23	Taking more than two steps after a fair catch	21	6	5	2	93
24	Illegal snap	19	7	1	1	96
25	Snapper's position and ball adjustment	19	7	1	3	97
26	Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready for play	19	7	1	3	97
27	Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	97

Index	O	R	S	A	P
28 False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	97
29 Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	4	99
30 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	4	99
31 Illegal formation	19	7	1	4	99
32 Illegal formation due to numbering exception	19	7	1	4	99
33 Illegal shift	19	7	1	4	99
34 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	100
35 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	100
36 Defensive player charging unabated towards a back	19	7	1	5	100
37 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	100
38 Defensive player out of bounds at snap	19	7	1	5	100
39 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	100
40 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	100
41 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	101
42 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	101
43 Illegal forward pass by Team A (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	102
44 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	109
45 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	109
46 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	16	125
47 Sideline-restraining line infraction (also 15 yards)	29	9	2	5	129
48 Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2	130
LOSS OF 10 YARDS					
1 Home team delay	21	3	4	1	71
2 Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	42	9	3	3	130
3 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	130
4 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	130
5 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	3	131
6 Holding or obstruction (defense)	42	9	3	4	132
7 Illegal use of hands (defense)	43	9	3	4	132
8 Illegal block in the back (defense)	43	9	3	4	132
9 Holding or obstruction (loose ball)	42	9	3	6	133
10 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	133
11 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	134
12 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	134
13 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	134
14 Game management delay of game	21	13	4	3	159
15 Field needs improvement delay of game	21	13	4	4	159
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	37
2 Numbers changed	27	1	4	2	38
3 Illegal signal devices (also disqualification)	27	1	4	10	41
4 Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	71

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
5 Rapid substitutions to opponent's disadvantage	27	3	5	2	74
6 Blocking a free kicker	40	6	1	9	86
7 Illegal wedge	27	6	1	10	86
8 Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	92
9 Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	94
10 Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	95
11 Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	106
12 Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	106
13 Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	0	120
14 Striking an opponent (first down)	38	9	1	2	120
15 Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	120
16 Targeting/initiating contact with crown of helmet (first down)	38	9	1	3	120
17 Contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (first down)	38	9	1	4	121
18 Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	5	121
19 Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	6	122
20 Late hit (first down)	38	9	1	7	122
21 Action out of bounds (first down)	38	9	1	7	122
22 Helmet/face mask fouls (first down)	38, 45	9	1	8	123
23 Roughing the passer (first down)	34	9	1	9	123
24 Chop blocking (first down)	41	9	1	10	123
25 Leverage/Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	11	124
26 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play (first down)	38	9	1	12	124
27 Hurdling (first down)	38	9	1	13	124
28 Illegal contact against the snapper (first down)	38	9	1	14	124
29 Horse collar tackle (first down)	38, 31	9	1	15	124
30 Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	38, 30	9	1	16	125
31 Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	16	125
32 Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	16	125
33 Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	126
34 Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	126
35 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	126
36 Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	126
37 Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	126
38 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	126
39 Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	126
40 Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	127
41 Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	127
42 Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	128
43 Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	128
44 Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	128
45 Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27	9	2	4	129
46 Sideline-restraining line infraction (also 5 yards)	29	9	2	5	129
47 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet (first down)	38	9	3	4	132

table continued...

Index		O	R	S	A	P
48	Defensive restrictions	27	9	3	5	133
49	Fighting [also disqualification] (first down)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	135
LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE						
1	If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	6	143
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	106
CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION						
1	Not wearing mandatory equipment	23	1	4	8	41
2	Wearing illegal equipment	23	1	4	8	41
3	Head coach's conference	21	3	3	4	69
4	Illegal cleats	23	9	2	2	128
5	Head coach's challenge	21	12	5	1	151
VIOLATION						
1	Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	85
2	Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	88
3	Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	91
DISQUALIFICATION						
1	Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	10	41
2	Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	120
3	Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	1	126
4	Illegal cleats	47	9	2	2	128
5	Contacting an official	47	9	2	4	129
6	Fighting	47	9	5	1	135
AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)						
1	Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	106
2	Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	106
3	Personal foul	38	9	1	0	120
4	Striking an opponent	38	9	1	2	120
5	Tripping	46	9	1	2	120
6	Targeting/initiating contact with crown of helmet	38	9	1	3	120
7	Contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player	38	9	1	4	121
8	Clipping	39	9	1	5	121
9	Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	6	122
10	Late hit	38	9	1	7	122
11	Action out of bounds	38	9	1	7	122
12	Helmet/face mask fouls	38, 45	9	1	8	123
13	Roughing the passer	34	9	1	9	123
14	Chop blocking	41	9	1	10	123

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
15 Leverage/Leaping	38	9	1	11	124
16 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play	38	9	1	12	124
17 Hurdling	38	9	1	13	124
18 Illegal contact against the snapper	38	9	1	14	124
19 Horse collar tackle	38, 31	9	1	15	124
20 Roughing kicker or holder	38, 30	9	1	16	125
21 Continuous contact to opponent's helmet	38	9	3	4	132
22 Fighting [also disqualification]	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	135
REFEREE'S DISCRETION					
1 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	129
WHEN IN QUESTION RULES					
1 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	46
2 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	46
3 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	4	3	47
4 Ball accidentally touched rather than batted	-	2	11	3	49
5 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	11	4	49
6 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	16	1	51
7 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	53
8 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	53
9 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	54
10 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	76
11 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	92
12 Reasonable opportunity to catch	-	7	3	2	102
13 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	106
14 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	116
15 Initiating contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	-	9	1	3	120
16 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	8	123
17 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	16	125
REPORT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY					
1 Field markings inadequate	-	1	2	1	31
2 Limit lines or coaching lines inadequate	-	1	2	3	31
3 Team area inadequate	-	1	2	4	32
4 Goals inadequate	-	1	2	5	33
5 Coaches agree to play without goals	-	1	2	5	33
6 Pylons inadequate	-	1	2	6	34
7 Line-to-gain or down indicator inadequate	-	1	2	7	34
8 Sideline markers inadequate	-	1	2	8	35
9 Field surface inadequate	-	1	2	9	35
10 Balls inadequate	-	1	3	2	37
11 Colour of jerseys clash	-	1	4	5	39
12 Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	42
13 Changing room inadequate	-	13	1	1	154

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
14 Security inadequate	-	13	1	2	154
15 Clock malfunction	-	13	2	3	155
16 Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	3	1	157
17 Bad weather	-	13	4	6	160
18 Game abandoned	-	13	4	8	160
19 Game suspended for more than 5 minutes	-	13	4	9	160
20 Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	161
21 Public address announcer infraction	-	13	5	2	161
22 Persons removed from the field	-	13	7	2	163
23 Playing time shortened due to darkness	-	13	7	4	163
COMPETITIONS MAY APPLY SANCTIONS					
1 One or both sidelines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	31
2 One or both goal lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	31
3 One or both end lines is incomplete	-	1	2	1	31
4 One or more yard lines across the field at least every 10 yards is incomplete	-	1	2	1	31
5 One or more yard lines across the field every 5 yards is incomplete (from 2013)	-	1	2	1	31
6 The hash marks are incomplete (from 2013)	-	1	2	1	31
7 The short yard-line extensions at the sideline are incomplete (from 2014)	-	1	2	1	31
8 Absence of any mandatory marking (sideline, end line, goal line, yard lines at 5-yard intervals, hash marks)	-	1	2	1	31
9 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	31
10 Field of play less than 90 yards in length or not a multiple of 10 yards	-	1	2	1	31
11 Field of play not 160 feet in width	-	1	2	1	31
12 White field markings closer than four feet to an end zone line	-	1	2	1	31
13 Absence of nine-yard marks if the field is not numbered according to Rule 1-2-1-j	-	1	2	1	31
14 Game management fail to enforce rule regarding persons outside the team area	-	1	2	3	31
15 Limit lines closer than six feet to any boundary line	-	1	2	3	31
16 Absence of coaching line, team area markings, or team area not marked to 25-yard lines	-	1	2	4	32
17 Media personnel in team area or coaching box	-	1	2	4	32
18 Persons in team area not wearing proper credentials	-	1	2	4	32
19 Game management failure to remove unauthorised persons from team area	-	1	2	4	32
20 Practice kicking nets outside the team area (except where permitted)	-	1	2	4	32

table continued...

Index	O	R	S	A	P
21 Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	33
22 Uprights less than 20 feet in height	-	1	2	5	33
23 Crossbar not 10 feet above ground	-	1	2	5	33
24 Goal not 18 feet six inches wide	-	1	2	5	33
25 Goal not in plane of end line	-	1	2	5	33
26 Decorative material on the posts or crossbar (other than streamers)	-	1	2	5	33
27 Padding on goal posts absent or less than six feet in height	-	1	2	5	33
28 One or both goals missing or taken down	-	1	2	5	33
29 Illegal pylons that had to be removed	-	1	2	6	34
30 Rods not of minimum height or not with flat ends	-	1	2	7	34
31 Repeated breakages of the line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	34
32 Failure to provide line-to-gain or down indicators	-	1	2	7	34
33 Markers that are not constructed and/or placed to avoid hazard and had to be removed	-	1	2	8	35
34 Trip hazard(s)	-	1	2	9	35
35 Markings or facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	35
36 Home team provides fewer than three legal balls	-	1	3	2	37
37 No towels are provided when conditions warrant it	-	1	3	2	37
38 Balls do not have white stripes	-	1	3	2	37
39 Both teams are playing in the same predominant jersey colour	-	1	4	5	39
40 Players of a team not wearing jerseys of the same colour and design	-	1	4	5	39
41 Prohibited field equipment used	-	1	4	11	42
42 Prohibited media equipment used	-	1	4	11	42
43 Artificial sound amplification used	-	1	4	11	42
44 Recording opponent's signals	-	1	4	11	42
45 Minimum medical requirement not met	-	1	5	1	43
46 Changing rooms not provided, not separate, not large enough, or without seating	-	13	1	1	154
47 Changing rooms not secured	-	13	1	2	154
48 Stadium clock malfunctions or operator is inadequate	-	13	2	3	155
49 Officials' assistants under age 14	-	13	3	1	157
50 Fewer than minimum number of assistants provided	-	13	3	1	157
51 Officials' assistants provided later than 30 minutes before kickoff	-	13	3	1	157
52 Unauthorised access to officials' changing room	-	13	5	1	161
53 Infractions by public address announcers	-	13	5	2	161
54 BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	8	6	165

GAME CANNOT PROCEED RULES

1 Inadequate field markings	-	1	2	1	31
2 Goal posts inbounds	-	1	2	5	32

table continued...

Index		O	R	S	A	P
3	Trip hazards	-	1	2	9	35
4	Markings and facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	2	9	35
5	Medical facilities inadequate for game to proceed	-	1	5	1	42
6	Officials' assistants inadequate	-	13	3	1	157
7	Circumstances do not permit play to proceed	-	13	4	1	158
8	Number of officials below minimum	-	13	4	5	159
9	Any appointed official not present or becomes incapacitated	-	13	4	5	159
10	BAFA game requirements not met	-	13	8	6	165

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
ATR	Assisting the runner
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
IFD	Illegal formation, defense (3-on-1)
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

table continued...

Code	Foul
IWK	Illegal wedge on kickoff
KCI	Kick catch interference
KIK	Illegal kick
KOB	Free kick out of bounds
OFK	Offside, kicking team
OH	Holding, offense
OPI	Pass interference, offense
PF/BOB	Personal foul, blocking out of bounds
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/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/FCO	Forcibly contacting an official
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

By foul:

Code	Foul
ATR	Assisting the runner
DOD	Delay of game, defense
DOG	Delay of game, offense
DSQ	Disqualification

table continued...

Code	Foul
ENC	Encroachment (offense)
EQV	Equipment violation
FST	False start
FGT	Fighting
FBG	Fighting before game
FFH	Fighting, first half
FHT	Fighting, half-time
FSH	Fighting, second half
UC/FCO	Forcibly contacting an official
KOB	Free kick out of bounds
DH	Holding, defense
OH	Holding, offense
BAT	Illegal batting
IBB	Illegal block in the back
ILF	Illegal formation
IFD	Illegal formation, defense (3-on-1)
IFP	Illegal forward pass
IFK	Illegal free kick formation
KIK	Illegal kick
IKB	Illegally kicking ball
ILM	Illegal motion
ILP	Illegal participation
ISH	Illegal shift
ISP	Illegal snap
ILS	Illegal substitution
ITP	Illegal touching of a forward pass
IWK	Illegal wedge on kickoff
IDP	Ineligible downfield on pass
ING	Intentional grounding
INL	Interlocking legs
KCI	Kick catch interference
DOF	Offside, defense
OFK	Offside, kicking team
DPI	Pass interference, defense
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/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/HTF	Personal foul, hands to the face
PF/HDR	Personal foul, hit on defenceless 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

table continued...

Code	Foul
PF/LTP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on
PF/LEA	Personal foul, leaping
PF/LEV	Personal foul, leverage
PF/UNR	Personal foul, other unnecessary roughness
PF/RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker
PF/RRK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker/holder
PF/RPS	Personal foul, roughing the passer
PF/SKE	Personal foul, striking/kneeing/elbowing
PF/TRP	Personal foul, tripping
RNH	Running into the kicker/holder
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
UFT	Unfair tactics
UC/ABL	Unsportsmanlike act, abusive language
UC/BCH	Unsportsmanlike act, bench
UC/DEA	Unsportsmanlike act, delayed/excessive act
UC/UNS	Unsportsmanlike act, other
UC/RHT	Unsportsmanlike act, removal of helmet
UC/STB	Unsportsmanlike act, spiking/throwing ball
UC/TAU	Unsportsmanlike act, taunting/baiting