

Summary of penalties

Officials' signals (see pages 164 - 166), 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	86
2	Illegally handing ball forward	35*	7	1	6	98
3	Planned loose ball play	19*	7	1	7	98
4	Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds	35*	7	2	1	98
5	Illegal forward pass by Team A	35*	7	3	2	100
6	Intentionally grounding forward pass	36*	7	3	2	100
7	Forward pass illegally touched by player out of bounds	16*	7	3	4	102
8	Illegally batting loose ball	31*	9	4	1	138
9	Illegally kicking ball	31*	9	4	4	139
LOSS OF FIVE YARDS						
1	Alteration of playing surface for an advantage	27	1	2	9	19
2	Improper numbering	23	1	4	2	21
3	Coin toss infractions	19	3	1	1	48
4	Illegal delay of game	21	3	4	2	62
5	Advancing a dead ball	21	3	4	2	62
6	Disconcerting offensive signals	21	3	4	2	62
7	Substitution rules infraction	22	3	5	2	65
8	Delay of game (substitutions)	21	3	5	2	65
9	More than 11 players in the formation or during the play (dead ball)	22	3	5	3	67
10	More than 11 players in the formation or during the play (live ball)	22	3	5	3	67
11	Putting ball in play before it is ready	19	4	1	4	72
12	Exceeding play clock count	21	4	1	5	72
13	Infraction of free kick formation	18, 19	6	1	2	78
14	Player out of bounds when ball free-kicked	19	6	1	2	79
15	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (free kick)	19	6	1	11	82
16	Team A blocking during a free kick	19	6	1	12	82
17	Free kick out of bounds [or 30-yard option]	19	6	2	1	82
18	Return kick	31	6	3	10	86
19	Illegal scrimmage kick (also loss of down)	31*	6	3	10	86
20	Marking spot of place kick	19	6	3	10	86
21	Team A player illegally goes out of bounds (scrimmage kick)	19	6	3	12	87
22	Defensive linemen 3-on-1 in field goal formation	19	6	3	14	87
23	Taking more than two steps after a fair catch	21	6	5	2	90
24	Illegal snap	19	7	1	1	93
25	Snapper's position and ball adjustment	19	7	1	3	94

Index	O	R	S	A	P
26 Team A not within nine-yard marks after ready for play	19	7	1	3	94
27 Encroachment (offense) at snap	19	7	1	3	94
28 False start or simulating start of a play	19	7	1	3	94
29 Player out of bounds when ball is snapped	19	7	1	4	96
30 Offensive player illegally in motion at the snap	20	7	1	4	96
31 Illegal formation	19	7	1	4	96
32 Illegal formation due to numbering exception	19	7	1	4	96
33 Illegal shift	20	7	1	4	96
34 Interference with opponent or ball	18	7	1	5	97
35 Defensive player charging unabated toward a back	18	7	1	5	97
36 Abrupt defensive actions	21	7	1	5	97
37 Offside (defense)	18	7	1	5	97
38 Defensive player out of bounds at snap	19	7	1	5	97
39 Illegally handing ball forward (also loss of down)	35*	7	1	6	98
40 Planned loose ball play (also loss of down)	19*	7	1	7	98
41 Intentionally throwing backward pass out of bounds (also loss of down)	35*	7	2	1	98
42 Player on scrimmage line receiving snap	19	7	2	3	99
43 Illegal forward pass by Team A (also loss of down)	35*	7	3	2	100
44 Ineligible receiver downfield	37	7	3	10	108
45 Forward pass illegally touched	16	7	3	11	108
46 Running into kicker or holder	30	9	1	16	128
47 Game administration interference (also 15 yards)	29	9	2	5	134
48 Interlocked interference or helping ball carrier	44	9	3	2	135
LOSS OF 10 YARDS					
1 Home team delay	21	3	4	1	62
2 Illegal use of hands or arms (offense)	42	9	3	3	136
3 Holding or obstruction (offense)	42	9	3	3	136
4 Locked hands	42	9	3	3	136
5 Illegal use of hands (defense)	42	9	3	4	137
6 Illegal contact with eligible receiver (first down)	38	9	3	5	137
7 Illegal block in the back (offense)	43	9	3	6	138
8 Illegally batting loose ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	1	138
9 Illegally batting a backward pass	31	9	4	2	139
10 Batting a ball in possession by player in possession	31	9	4	3	139
11 Illegally kicking ball (also loss of down)	31*	9	4	4	139
LOSS OF 15 YARDS					
1 Marking ball	27	1	3	3	21
2 Numbers changed (also disqualification)	27	1	4	2	21
3 Improper colours	27	1	4	5	23
4 Illegal signal devices (also disqualification)	27, 47	1	4	10	27
5 Team not ready to play at start of either half	21	3	4	1	61
6 Blocking a free kicker	40	6	1	9	81

Index	O	R	S	A	P
7 Illegal wedge	27	6	1	10	81
8 Interference with opportunity to catch kick	33	6	4	1	88
9 Illegal block by fair catch signaller	40	6	5	4	92
10 Tackling or blocking fair catcher	38	6	5	5	92
11 Offensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	104
12 Defensive pass interference (first down)	33	7	3	8	105
13 Personal foul (first down)	38	9	1	0	119
14 Striking an opponent (first down)	38	9	1	2	119
15 Tripping (first down)	46	9	1	2	119
16 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	120
17 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (first down) (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	120
18 Clipping (first down)	39	9	1	5	122
19 Blocking below the waist (first down)	40	9	1	6	122
20 Late hit (first down)	38	9	1	7	124
21 Action out of bounds (first down)	38	9	1	7	124
22 Helmet/face mask fouls (first down)	38, 45	9	1	8	124
23 Roughing the passer (first down)	34	9	1	9	125
24 Chop blocking (first down)	41	9	1	10	125
25 Leverage/Leaping (first down)	38	9	1	11	126
26 Defensive restrictions	27	9	1	11	126
27 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play (first down)	38	9	1	12	126
28 Hurdling (first down)	38	9	1	13	126
29 Illegal contact against the snapper (first down)	38	9	1	14	127
30 Horse collar tackle (first down)	25, 38	9	1	15	127
31 Roughing kicker or holder (first down)	30, 38	9	1	16	128
32 Simulating roughed or run into	27	9	1	16	128
33 Blocking a free kicker	40	9	1	16	128
34 Continued participation without a helmet (first down)	38	9	1	17	129
35 Blind-side block (first down)	38	9	1	18	129
36 Unsportsmanlike conduct	27	9	2	1	130
37 Obscene or vulgar language	27	9	2	1	130
38 Persons illegally on the field	27	9	2	1	130
39 Engendering ill will	27	9	2	1	130
40 Player not returning ball to official	27	9	2	1	130
41 Persons leaving team area	27	9	2	1	130
42 Noise by persons subject to the rules	27	9	2	1	130
43 Concealing the ball	27	9	2	2	132
44 Simulated replacements or substitutions	27	9	2	2	132
45 Equipment to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	132
46 Unusual action or verbiage to confuse opponents	27	9	2	2	132
47 Simulating injury to confuse opponents or officials	27	9	2	2	132
48 Intentionally contacting an official (also disqualification)	27, 47	9	2	4	134
49 Game administration interference (also 5 yards)	29	9	2	5	134

Index	O	R	S	A	P
50 Physical interference with an official	27	9	2	5	134
51 Fighting (first down) (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	140
LOSS OF HALF DISTANCE TO GOAL LINE					
1 If distance penalty exceeds half the distance (except on defensive pass interference)	-	10	2	6	149
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	105
CHARGED TIMEOUT FOR A VIOLATION					
1 Illegal jersey numbers	23	1	4	5	23
2 Head coach's conference	21	3	3	4	58
3 Head coach's review	21	12	2	1	151
VIOLATION					
1 Illegal touching of free kick by kicking team	16	6	1	3	80
2 Illegal touching of scrimmage kick by kicking team	16	6	3	2	83
3 Scrimmage-kick-batting exception	16	6	3	11	86
DISQUALIFICATION					
1 Prohibited signal devices	47	1	4	10	27
2 Flagrant fouls	47	9	1	1	119
3 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet	38	9	1	3	120
4 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player	38	9	1	4	120
5 Intentionally contacting an official	47	9	2	4	134
6 Two unsportsmanlike fouls	47	9	2	6	134
7 Fighting	47	9	5	1	140
AUTOMATIC FIRST DOWNS (DEFENSIVE FOULS)					
1 Defensive pass interference	33	7	3	8	105
2 Defensive pass interference (if less than a 15-yard penalty)	33	7	3	8	105
3 Personal foul	38	9	1	0	119
4 Striking an opponent	38	9	1	2	119
5 Tripping	46	9	1	2	119
6 Targeting/forcible contact with crown of helmet (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	3	120
7 Forcible contact to head/neck area of a defenseless player (also disqualification)	24, 38, 47	9	1	4	120
8 Clipping	39	9	1	5	122
9 Blocking below the waist	40	9	1	6	122
10 Late hit	38	9	1	7	124
11 Action out of bounds	38	9	1	7	124
12 Helmet/face mask fouls	38, 45	9	1	8	124
13 Roughing the passer	34	9	1	9	125

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14 Chop blocking	41	9	1	10	125
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16 Fouling an opponent obviously out of the play	38	9	1	12	126
17 Hurdling	38	9	1	13	126
18 Illegal contact against the snapper	38	9	1	14	127
19 Horse collar tackle	25, 38	9	1	15	127
20 Roughing kicker or holder	30, 38	9	1	16	128
21 Continued participation without a helmet	38	9	1	17	129
22 Blind-side block	38	9	1	18	129
23 Illegal contact with eligible receiver	38	9	3	5	137
24 Fighting (also disqualification)	27, 38, 47	9	5	1	140

REFEREE'S DISCRETION

1 Penalty for unfair acts	-	9	2	3	133
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WHEN IN QUESTION RULES

1 Block below waist	-	2	3	2	30
2 Block in the back	-	2	3	4	30
3 Catch, recovery or interception not completed	-	2	4	3	32
4 Ball accidentally touched rather than batted	-	2	11	3	34
5 Ball not touched on kick or forward pass	-	2	11	4	34
6 Ball is accidentally kicked (touched)	-	2	16	1	36
7 Forward pass rather than backward pass	-	2	19	2	39
8 Forward pass and not fumble	-	2	19	2	39
9 It is a catchable forward pass	-	2	19	4	39
10 A player is defenseless	-	2	27	14	44
11 Stop clock for injured player	-	3	3	5	58
12 Forward progress stopped	-	4	1	3	70
13 Kick-catch interference	-	6	4	1	88
14 It is a catchable forward pass	-	7	3	8	105
15 Touchback rather than safety	-	8	5	1	116
16 Forcible contact and targeting with crown of helmet	-	9	1	3	120
17 Forcible contact and targeting defenseless opponent at or above the shoulders	-	9	1	4	120
18 Twisting, turning or pulling face mask (helmet opening)	-	9	1	8	124
19 Roughing kicker rather than running into	-	9	1	16	128

Summary of foul codes

By code:

Code	Foul
APS	Altering playing surface
ATR	Assisting the runner
BAT	Illegal batting
CLT	Illegal cleats

NEW 2020

Code	Foul	
DEH	Holding, defense	
DOD	Delay of game, defense	
DOF	Offside, defense	
DOG	Delay of game, offense	
DPI	Pass interference, defense	
DSH	Delay of game, start of half	
DSQ	Disqualification	
ENC	Encroachment (offense)	
FGT	Fighting	
FST	False start	
IBB	Illegal block in the back	
IBK	Illegal block during kick	
IBP	Illegal backward pass	
IDP	Ineligible downfield on pass	
IFD	Illegal formation, defense (3-on-1)	
IFH	Illegal forward handing	
IFK	Illegal free kick formation	
IFP	Illegal forward pass	
IJY	Illegal jerseys	NEW 2020
IKB	Illegally kicking ball	
ILF	Illegal formation	
ILM	Illegal motion	
ING	Intentional grounding	
IPN	Improper numbering	NEW 2020
IPR	Illegal procedure	
ISH	Illegal shift	
ISP	Illegal snap	
ITP	Illegal touching of a forward pass	
IUH	Illegal use of hands	
IWK	Illegal wedge on kickoff	
KCI	Kick catch interference	
KIK	Illegal kick	
KOB	Free kick out of bounds	
OBK	Out of bounds during kick	
OFH	Holding, offense	
OFK	Offside, free kick	
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-CHB	Personal foul, chop block	
PF-CLP	Personal foul, clipping	
PF-FMM	Personal foul, face mask	
PF-HCT	Personal foul, horse collar tackle	
PF-HDR	Personal foul, hit on defenseless receiver	
PF-HTF	Personal foul, hands to the face	
PF-HUR	Personal foul, hurdling	
PF-ICS	Personal foul, illegal contact with snapper	

Code	Foul
PF-LEA	Personal foul, leaping
PF-LHP	Personal foul, late hit/piling on
PF-LTO	Personal foul, late hit out of bounds
PF-OTH	Personal foul, other
PF-RFK	Personal foul, roughing free kicker
PF-RTH	Personal foul, roughing the holder
PF-RTK	Personal foul, roughing the kicker
PF-RTP	Personal foul, roughing the passer
PF-SKE	Personal foul, striking/kneeing/elbowing
PF-TGT	Personal foul, targeting
PF-TRP	Personal foul, tripping
PF-UNR	Personal foul, unnecessary roughness
RNH	Running into the holder
RNK	Running into the kicker
SLI	Sideline interference, 5 yards
SLM	Sideline interference, 15 yards
SLW	Sideline interference, warning
SUB	Illegal substitution
UC-ABL	Unsportsmanlike conduct, abusive language
UC-BCH	Unsportsmanlike conduct, bench
UC-DEA	Unsportsmanlike conduct, delayed/excessive act
UC-FCO	Unsportsmanlike conduct, forcibly contacting an official
UC-RHT	Unsportsmanlike conduct, removal of helmet
UC-SBR	Unsportsmanlike conduct, simulating being roughed
UC-STB	Unsportsmanlike conduct, spiking/throwing ball
UC-TAU	Unsportsmanlike conduct, taunting/baiting
UC-UNS	Unsportsmanlike conduct, other
UFA	Unfair acts
UFT	Unfair tactics

By foul:

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APS	Altering playing surface
ATR	Assisting the runner
DOD	Delay of game, defense
DOG	Delay of game, offense
DSH	Delay of game, start of half
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ENC	Encroachment (offense)
FST	False start
FGT	Fighting
KOB	Free kick out of bounds
DEH	Holding, defense
OFH	Holding, offense
IBP	Illegal backward pass
BAT	Illegal batting
IBK	Illegal block during kick
IBB	Illegal block in the back

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CLT	Illegal cleats	NEW 2020
ILF	Illegal formation	
IFD	Illegal formation, defense (3-on-1)	
IFH	Illegal forward handing	
IFP	Illegal forward pass	
IFK	Illegal free kick formation	
IJY	Illegal jerseys	NEW 2020
KIK	Illegal kick	
IKB	Illegally kicking ball	
ILM	Illegal motion	
IPR	Illegal procedure	
ISH	Illegal shift	
ISP	Illegal snap	
SUB	Illegal substitution	
ITP	Illegal touching of a forward pass	
IUH	Illegal use of hands	
IWK	Illegal wedge on kickoff	
IPN	Improper numbering	NEW 2020
IDP	Ineligible downfield on pass	
ING	Intentional grounding	
KCI	Kick catch interference	
DOF	Offside, defense	
OFK	Offside, free kick	
OBK	Out of bounds during kick	
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-CHB	Personal foul, chop block	
PF-CLP	Personal foul, clipping	
PF-FMM	Personal foul, face mask	
PF-HTF	Personal foul, hands to the face	
PF-HDR	Personal foul, hit on defenseless receiver	
PF-HCT	Personal foul, horse collar tackle	
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