

Index of Rules and Interpretations

10-second Runoff from Game Clock — Common Procedures (Delays/Clock Tactics) 67
10-second Runoff from Game Clock – Foul (Delays/Clock Tactics) 66
10-second Runoff Summary (Delays/Clock Tactics) 67
Accessibility (Players and Playing Equipment) 28
Administration and Enforcement (The Ball) 19
After the Ball is Snapped (Backward Pass and Fumble) 102
All Become Eligible (Scrimmage Kicks) 88
Approved Rulings and Official's Signals 29
At Rest (Backward Pass and Fumble) 102
Ball coming out of end zone 209
Ball Dead in End Zone (Free Kicks) 85
Ball Declared Dead (Ball in Play – Dead Ball) 73
Ball Ready for Play (Ball in Play – Dead Ball) 75
Basic Spot (Spots) 42
Batting a Backward Pass in Flight (Batting and Kicking) 141
Batting a Loose Ball (Batting and Kicking) 140
Batting Ball in Possession (Batting and Kicking) 141
Batting (Fumble, Muff; Batting and Touching the Ball; Blocking a Kick) 34
Behind the Neutral Zone (Scrimmage Kicks) 87
Belongs To (Catch, Recovery, Possession) 31
Below Waist (Blocking) 30
Between Downs (Down, Between Downs and Loss of Down) 32
Beyond the Neutral Zone (Scrimmage Kicks) 87
Blind-side block (Blocking) 30
Blind-side block fouls 196
Blind-side block (Personal Fouls) 130
Blocking a Scrimmage Kick (Fumble, Muff; Batting and Touching the Ball; Blocking a Kick) 35
Blocking Below the Waist (Personal Fouls) 123
Blocking (Blocking) 29
Blocking in the Back (Blocking, Use of Hands or Arms) 140
Block in the Back (Blocking) 30
Boundary Lines (Lines) 35
Catchable Forward Pass (Passes) 40
Catch, Interception, Recovery (Catch, Recovery, Possession) 31
Catch or Recovery by Kicking Team (Scrimmage Kicks) 89
Catch or Recovery by Receiving Team (Scrimmage Kicks) 88
Caught or Recovered (Backward Pass and Fumble) 101
Celebrations 202, 205
Chain 208
Charged Team Timeouts (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 59
Chop Block (Blocking) 30
Chop block fouls 196
Chop Blocking (Personal Fouls) 127
Clipping 32
Clipping fouls 191, 212

Clipping (Personal Fouls) 123
Clotheslining 190
Coaches' Certification (Players and Playing Equipment) 26
Coaches' Phones, Headsets and Communication Devices (Players and Playing Equipment) 27
Coach (Team and Player Designations) 45
Complete Pass (Forward Pass) 105
Conspicuous actions 189
Contact Against an Opponent Out of the Play (Personal Fouls) 128
Contact Against the Snapper (Personal Fouls) 128
Contacting an Official (Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls) 136
Continued Participation Without Helmet (Personal Fouls) 130
Continuity of Downs Broken (A Series: Started, Broken, Renewed) 79
Criteria for reversing an on-field ruling (Procedures) 155
Crosses Neutral Zone (Passes) 39
Dead Ball Becomes Alive (Ball in Play – Dead Ball) 72
Dead-Ball Fouls (Penalties Completed) 144
Dead-Ball Spot (Spots) 41
Dead Ball (The Ball: Live, Dead, Loose, Ready For Play) 29
Dead Where Caught (Fair Catch) 93
Defenseless player 195
Defenseless player (Team and Player Designations) 44
Defensive Linemen on Scrimmage Kick Plays (Scrimmage Kicks) 91
Defensive pass interference fouls 193
Defensive Team Requirements (The Scrimmage) 100
Delaying the Start of a Half (Delays/Clock Tactics) 64
Delay of game fouls 197
Determining the Enforcement Spot and the Basic Spot (Enforcement Procedures) 145
Dimensions and Markings (The Field) 14
Disconcerting signals fouls 199
Disqualified players and coaches (Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls) 137
Disqualified Player (Team and Player Designations) 44
Disqualifying foul 195, 197
Dissent 202
Down (Down, Between Downs and Loss of Down) 32
Drop Kick (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 37
During Live Ball (Backward Pass and Fumble) 101
Eligibility Gained or Regained (Forward Pass) 105
Eligibility Lost by Going Out of Bounds (Forward Pass) 105
Eligibility to Block (Free Kicks) 86
Eligibility to Touch Legal Forward Pass (Forward Pass) 104
Eligible receiver 198
Encroachment (Encroachment and Offside) 38
Encroachment foul 199
End Lines (Lines) 35
End Zones (Field Areas) 47
Enforcement Spots (Enforcement Procedures) 145
Enforcement Spot (Spots) 41
Entities Subject to the Rules (General Provisions) 14
Equipment and personnel (Procedures) 154
Explicitly reviewable fouls (Scope of instant replay) 153

- Extension of Periods (Playing Time and Intermissions) 52
- Extra Periods (Start of Each Period) 49
- Face mask fouls 195
- Failure to wear mandatory equipment 201
- Fair Catch (Fair Catch) 32
- Fair catch signal 197, 208
- False start fouls 189, 198
- Field Goal Attempt (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 38
- Field markings 208
- Field of Play (Field Areas) 46
- Field Surface (The Field) 18
- Fighting 142, 47
- Fighting fouls 205
- Flagrant Personal Foul (Foul and Violation) 34
- Flagrant Personal Fouls (Personal Fouls) 121
- Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct 204
- Forced Touching Disregarded (Free Kicks) 84
- Forced Touching Disregarded (Scrimmage Kicks) 88
- Forfeited Games (Value of Scores) 112
- Forward and Backward Pass (Passes) 39
- Forward, Beyond (Forward, Beyond and Forward Progress) 33
- Forward passer (Team and Player Designations) 43
- Forward Pass Play (Play Classification) 46
- Forward Progress (A Series: Started, Broken, Renewed) 78
- Forward Progress (Forward, Beyond and Forward Progress) 33
- Foul After Change of Team Possession (Down and Possession After a Penalty) 80
- Foul Against Kicker (Free Kicks) 85
- Foul Before Change of Team Possession (Down and Possession After a Penalty) 80
- Foul Between Downs (Down and Possession After a Penalty) 80
- Foul Between Series (Down and Possession After a Penalty) 80
- Foul During Free Kick Down (Down and Possession After a Penalty) 80
- Foul (Foul and Violation) 34
- Foul Not Called (Flagrant Fouls) 142
- Fouls After a Try (Try Down) 116
- Fouls by Both Teams (Down and Possession After a Penalty) 81
- Fouls By Kicking Team (Free Kicks) 85
- Fouls By Kicking Team (Scrimmage Kicks) 90
- Fouls by Team A During Kicks (Enforcement Procedures) 148
- Fouls During a Try After a Change of Team Possession (Try Down) 116
- Fouls During a Try Before a Change of Team Possession (Try Down) 115
- Fouls During or After a Touchdown, Field Goal or Try (Enforcement Procedures) 148
- Frame of the body (Blocking) 30
- Free-blocking zone (Blocking) 30
- Free Kick at Rest (Free Kicks) 84
- Free Kick Caught or Recovered (Free Kicks) 85
- Free Kick Formation (Free Kicks) 82
- Free Kick (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 37
- Free kick out of bounds fouls 189
- Free Kick Play (Play Classification) 46
- Fumble (Fumble, Muff; Batting and Touching the Ball; Blocking a Kick) 34

Game Administration and Sideline Interference (Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls) 136
Game Clock (Timing Devices) 45
Game Officials (General Provisions) 13
Goal Lines and Pylons (Lines) 35
Goal Lines (General Provisions) 13
Goals (The Field) 16
Half-Distance Enforcement Procedures (Enforcement Procedures) 150
Handing the Ball 36
Handing the Ball Forward (The Scrimmage) 101
Hash Marks (Lines) 36
Held Ball Out of Bounds (Out of Bounds) 76
Helmet and Face Mask Fouls (Personal Fouls) 126
Helmet Comes Off – Timeout (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 63
Holding and Use of Hands or Arms: Defense (Blocking, Use of Hands or Arms) 139
Holding and Use of Hands or Arms: Offense (Blocking, Use of Hands or Arms) 138
Holding fouls 189, 190, 212
Horse collar tackle fouls 196
Horse-Collar Tackle (Personal Fouls) 128
How and When Completed (Penalties Completed) 143
How Scored (Field Goal) 116
How Scored (Safety) 117
How Scored (Touchdown) 112
How Scored (Try Down) 113
Hurdling 36
Hurdling (Personal Fouls) 128
Illegal block below the waist fouls 191
Illegal block in the back fouls 191, 212
Illegal Block or Contact (Fair Catch) 95
Illegal Contact and Pass Interference (Forward Pass) 107
Illegal Delay of the Game (Delays/Clock Tactics) 65
Illegal equipment (Players and Playing Equipment) 24
Illegal equipment violations 201
Illegal formation 198
Illegal formation fouls 197
Illegal forward handing fouls 201
Illegal Forward Pass (Forward Pass) 103
Illegally Kicking a Ball (Batting and Kicking) 142
Illegal motion fouls 199, 211
Illegal substitution fouls 189, 200
Illegal Touching (Forward Pass) 111
Illegal touching fouls 189, 200
Illegal use of hands fouls 191, 212
Illegal Wedge Formation (Free Kicks) 85
Illegal wedge fouls 201
Inbounds Spot (Spots) 42
Incomplete Pass (Forward Pass) 107
Ineligible receiver 198
Ineligible Receiver Downfield (Forward Pass) 110
Ineligible receiver downfield fouls 199
Information provision (Procedures) 155

Initial Impetus (Responsibility and Impetus) 120
Initiating review (Procedures) 155
Injured players (Scope of instant replay) 154
Injury Timeout (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 60
Intentional grounding fouls 200
Interference with Opportunity (Opportunity to Catch a Kick) 92
Interfering for or Helping the Ball Carrier or Passer (Blocking, Use of Hands or Arms) 137
Interval Fouls (Penalties Completed) 145
Invalid Signal (Fair Catch) 33
Invalid Signals: Catch or Recovery (Fair Catch) 94
Jersey Design, Colour and Numerals (Players and Playing Equipment) 22
Junior players 188
Jurisdiction 151
Kick After Safety (Safety) 119
Kick-catch interference fouls 196
Kicker and Holder (Team and Player Designations) 43
Kicking Team (Free Kick Out of Bounds) 86
Kicking the Ball; Legal and Illegal Kicks (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 36
Kickoff (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 37
Late Hit, Action Out of Bounds (Personal Fouls) 125
Late hit fouls 194
Legal and Illegal Kicks (Scrimmage Kicks) 89
Legal Forward Pass (Forward Pass) 102
Legal Substitutions (Substitutions) 68
Length of Periods and Intermissions (Playing Time and Intermissions) 51
Length of Timeouts (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 63
Leverage and Leaping (Personal Fouls) 127
Limit Lines (The Field) 15
Lineman and Back (Team and Player Designations) 43
Line-to-Gain and Down Indicators (The Field) 18
Line to Gain (A Series: Started, Broken, Renewed) 78
Live Ball Becomes Dead (Ball in Play – Dead Ball) 72
Live-Ball – Dead-Ball Fouls (Penalties Completed) 144
Live-Ball Fouls by the Same Team (Penalties Completed) 143
Live Ball (The Ball: Live, Dead, Loose, Ready For Play) 29
Loose Ball Out of Bounds (Out of Bounds) 76
Loose Ball (The Ball: Live, Dead, Loose, Ready For Play) 29
Loose Behind the Goal Line (Scrimmage Kicks) 90
Loss of down (Down, Between Downs and Loss of Down) 32
Mandatory and Illegal Equipment Enforcement (Players and Playing Equipment) 25
Mandatory equipment (Players and Playing Equipment) 21
Markers or Obstructions (The Field) 18
Marking Balls (The Ball) 20
Marking Boundary Areas (The Field) 15
Minimum time for a play after spiking the ball (Playing Time and Intermissions) 54
More than eleven players on the field (Substitutions) 70
Muff (Fumble, Muff; Batting and Touching the Ball; Blocking a Kick) 34
Next Play (Field Goal) 117
Next Play (Try Down) 116

- Nine-Yard Marks (Lines) 36
- No Advance (Fair Catch) 94
- No Tackling (Fair Catch) 95
- Offensive and Defensive Teams (Team and Player Designations) 43
- Offensive pass interference fouls 194
- Offensive Team Requirements — At the Snap (The Scrimmage) 98
- Offensive Team Requirements — Prior to the Snap (The Scrimmage) 97
- Offsetting Fouls (Penalties Completed) 143
- Offside fouls 189, 199, 201
- Offside on a free kick play (Encroachment and Offside) 39
- Offside on a scrimmage play (Encroachment and Offside) 38
- Opportunity to Score (Try Down) 114
- Optional equipment (Players and Playing Equipment) 23
- Other rulings (Scope of instant replay) 154
- Out of Bounds at Forward Point (Out of Bounds) 77
- Out of Bounds (Backward Pass and Fumble) 102
- Out of Bounds Behind Goal Line (Scrimmage Kicks) 89
- Out of Bounds Between Goal Lines or at Rest Inbounds (Scrimmage Kicks) 89
- Out of Bounds Player (Scrimmage Kicks) 90
- Out-of-Bounds Spot (Spots) 42
- Passing (Passes) 39
- Pass interference fouls 193, 194
- Pass Interference: Summary (Forward Pass) 109
- Penalty Declined (Down and Possession After a Penalty) 80
- Penalty Resulting in New Series (Down and Possession After a Penalty) 80
- Personal Foul (Foul and Violation) 34
- Persons Subject to the Rules (General Provisions) 13
- Place Kick (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 37
- Planned Loose Ball (The Scrimmage) 101
- Play-Clock Count (Ball in Play – Dead Ball) 76
- Play Clock (Timing Devices) 45
- Player Disqualification (Flagrant Fouls) 142
- Player Out of Bounds and In Bounds (Team and Player Designations) 45
- Player out of bounds fouls 201
- Player Out of Bounds (Free Kicks) 85
- Player Out of Bounds (Out of Bounds) 76
- Players' Numbering (Players and Playing Equipment) 21
- Player (Team and Player Designations) 43
- Player Vacancy (Team and Player Designations) 44
- Playing Enclosure (Field Areas) 47
- Playing Surface (Field Areas) 47
- Point of attack 189
- Possession (Catch, Recovery, Possession) 30
- Possession Series (Series and Possession Series) 41
- Postscrimmage Kick Enforcement (Enforcement Procedures) 147
- Postscrimmage Kick Spot (Spots) 42
- Pregame, First and Third Periods (Start of Each Period) 48
- Previous Spot (Spots) 41
- Prohibited Field Equipment (Players and Playing Equipment) 26
- Prohibited Signal Devices (Players and Playing Equipment) 26

Punt (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 36
Pylons (The Field) 17
Ready for play 209
Receiving Team (Free Kick Out of Bounds) 86
Recommended Numbering (Players and Playing Equipment) 20
Referee communication (Players and Playing Equipment) 28
Referee's Notification (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 63
Removing persons from the playing enclosure (Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls) 137
Replaced Player (Team and Player Designations) 44
Requesting a review (Scope of instant replay) 152
Responsibilities 151
Responsibility (Responsibility and Impetus) 120
Restraining Lines (Free Kicks) 82
Restraining Lines (Lines) 35
Result of the Play (Play Classification) 46
Return Kick (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 38
Reviewable plays (Scope of instant replay) 152
Roughing or Running into Kicker or Holder (Personal Fouls) 129
Roughing/running into the kicker fouls 192, 213
Roughing the passer fouls 192
Roughing the Passer (Personal Fouls) 126
Roughing the snapper fouls 195
Rules Decisions Final (Down and Possession After a Penalty) 81
Runner and Ball Carrier (Team and Player Designations) 44
Running Play and Run (Play Classification) 46
Scoring Plays (Value of Scores) 112
Scrimmage Down (Scrimmage) 40
Scrimmage Kick Formation (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 38
Scrimmage Kick (Kicks; Kicking the Ball) 37
Scrimmage Kick Play (Play Classification) 46
Scrimmage Line (Scrimmage) 40
Second and Fourth Periods (Start of Each Period) 48
Series (Series and Possession Series) 41
Shift 40
Shift and False Start (The Scrimmage) 96
Sideline interference 205
Sidelines (Lines) 35
Side Zone (Field Areas) 47
Simulating being roughed fouls 204
Simulating other fouls 205
Simultaneous Catch or Recovery (Catch, Recovery, Possession) 32
Simultaneous with Snap (Penalties Completed) 143
Snap After a Touchback (Touchback) 119
Snapper (Team and Player Designations) 44
Snapping the Ball 40
Special Enforcement of Post-Possession Fouls (Enforcement Procedures) 150
Specifications: Mandatory Equipment (Players and Playing Equipment) 21
Specifications (The Ball) 19
Spot of the Foul (Spots) 41
Spot Where Kick Ends (Spots) 42

Spot Where Run Ends (Spots) 42
Squad Member (Team and Player Designations) 44
Starting and Stopping the Clock (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 56
Starting with a Snap (The Scrimmage) 96
Striking Fouls and Tripping (Personal Fouls) 121
Substitute (Team and Player Designations) 44
Substitution Procedures (Substitutions) 68
Succeeding Spot (Spots) 41
Suspending the game (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 58
Tackle Box 47
Take a knee play 206
Targeting 47
Targeting and Making Forcible Contact to Head or Neck Area of a Defenseless Player (Personal Fouls) 122
Targeting and Making Forcible Contact With the Crown of the Helmet (Personal Fouls) 122
Targeting fouls 195
Team Area and Coaching Box (The Field) 16
Team B movement and signals fouls 199
Team B personal foul and unsportsmanlike conduct during legal forward pass play (Forward Pass) 111
Team Captains (General Provisions) 13
Teams A and B (Team and Player Designations) 43
The Field (Field Areas) 46
The Game (General Provisions) 13
The Neutral Zone 38
Timeout (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 55
Timing Adjustments (Playing Time and Intermissions) 51
Timing Devices (Playing Time and Intermissions) 53
Touchback 208
Touching and Recovery of a Free Kick; Illegal Touching (Free Kicks) 84
Touching (Fumble, Muff; Batting and Touching the Ball; Blocking a Kick) 34
Touching Ground On or Behind Goal Line (Scrimmage Kicks) 89
Two-minute Warning (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 60
Unfair Acts (Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls) 135
Unfair Clock Tactics (Delays/Clock Tactics) 65
Unfair Tactics (Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls) 133
Unnecessary roughness fouls 192, 195, 206
Unsportsmanlike Acts (Unsportsmanlike Conduct Fouls) 131
Unsportsmanlike conduct fouls 202, 213
Valid Signal (Fair Catch) 33
Violation (Foul and Violation) 34
Violation Timeouts (Timeouts: Starting and Stopping the Clock) 63
When Ball is Ready for Play (The Ball: Live, Dead, Loose, Ready For Play) 29
When Declared (Touchback) 119
When to Award Series (A Series: Started, Broken, Renewed) 78
Who May Block (Blocking, Use of Hands or Arms) 137
Winning Team and Final Score (General Provisions) 13
Yard Lines (Lines) 36
Youth players 188

