

RULE 19 OFFICIALS

SECTION 1 OFFICIALS

ARTICLE 1. GAME OFFICIALS. The game shall be played under the supervision of seven officials: the Referee, Umpire, Down Judge, Line Judge, Field Judge, Side Judge, and Back Judge. In the absence of seven officials, the crew is to be rearranged according to the remaining members of the crew.

ARTICLE 2. JURISDICTION. The officials' jurisdiction begins 100 minutes before the scheduled kickoff and ends when the Referee declares the final score.

ARTICLE 3. REFEREE'S AUTHORITY. The Referee is to have general oversight and control of the game. The Referee is the final authority for the score. If there is a disagreement between members of the crew regarding the number of down, any decision, or the application, enforcement, or interpretation of a rule, the Referee's decision will be final. The Referee's decisions upon all matters not specifically placed under the jurisdiction of other officials by rule are final.

ARTICLE 4. RESPONSIBILITIES AND MECHANICS. Officiating responsibilities and mechanics are specified in the Mechanics Manual, published annually by the National Football League.

SECTION 2 SUPPORT FROM NFL OFFICIATING STAFF

The Replay Official and designated members of the Officiating department at the League office may consult with the on-field officials to provide objective information regarding on-field rulings and the correct application of playing rules. In addition, if the designated members of the Officiating department determine that a foul for a football or non-football act called on the field is flagrant, then they can instruct the on-field officiating crew to disqualify the player(s) who committed the foul. Those players who were not penalized, but who engaged in football or non-football acts that were determined to be flagrant and directly related to the foul called on the field, may also be disqualified by designated members of the Officiating department. A penalty will be assessed when a player was not penalized by on-field officials but was subsequently disqualified pursuant to this Section. The determination that a foul is flagrant must be based on the available video, and the designated members of the Officiating department must instruct the officiating crew to disqualify the identified player(s) before the ball is next legally put in play.

Distance Penalties	
Loss of Five Yards	
Delay of game	4-6
Encroachment	7-4-3
False start	7-4-2
Holding (defense)	12-1-6
Illegal contact	8-4-3
Illegal formation (free kick).....	6-1-3, 6-1-6
Illegal formation (scrimmage down)	7-5-1
Illegal formation (scrimmage kick).....	9-1-3
Illegal forward handing.....	8-7-4
Illegal kick.....	6-1-1, 6-1-6
Illegal motion	7-4-8
Illegal shift	7-4-7
Illegal snap	7-6-3, 7-6-4
Illegal substitution	4-7-2, 5-2-8, 5-3-2
Illegal touching of a forward pass.....	8-1-8
Illegally touching of a free kick	6-2-5
Illegal use of hands by defense	12-1-7
Ineligible player downfield on kick.....	9-1-2
Ineligible player downfield on pass	8-3-1
Invalid fair catch signal	10-2-2
Kicking team player voluntarily out of bounds	9-1-5
Neutral zone infraction.....	7-4-4
Offside.....	7-4-5
Punt, drop kick, or place kick from beyond the line	9-1-1
Running into kicker.....	12-2-12
Second excess team timeout after two-minute warning	4-5-4
Team timeout called when not allowed	4-5-1
Too many players on the field.....	5-1-1
Voluntarily going out of bounds on free kick.....	6-2-6
Loss of Ten Yards	
Assisting the runner	12-1-4
Holding (offense)	12-1-3(c)
Illegal batting	12-5-1
Illegal blocking or use of hands (free kick)	6-2-1, 6-2-2
Illegal kicking	12-5-2
Illegal use of hands (offense).....	12-1-3(a)
Illegal block in the back.....	12-1-3(b)
Offensive pass interference	8-5-2, 8-5-4
Loss of Fifteen Yards	
Attempting to call excess/illegal timeout to freeze kicker..	12-3-1(v)
Blindside block	12-2-7
Blocking a kicking team player out of bounds	12-2-8(c)
Chop block	12-2-5
Clipping	12-2-1
Concealing ball or using equipment to simulate ball.....	12-3-1(j)
Crackback block	12-2-6
Delaying the start of a half.....	4-2-1(a)
Disconcerting acts or signals	12-3-1(i)

Forcibly contacting a player out of bounds	12-2-8(b)
Goaltending	12-3-1(s)
Horse-collar tackle	12-2-16
Illegal block after fair catch signal.....	10-2-2
Illegal block below the waist.....	12-2-4
Hip-drop tackle.....	12-2-18
Illegal contact after a fair catch.....	10-2-3
Illegal cut block	8-4-5, 12-2-3
Illegal double team block.....	6-2-1, Item 2(c), 6-2-2, Item 2(d)
Illegal wedge on free kick.....	6-2-1, Item 2(d), 6-2-2, Item 2(d)
Illegally entering field.....	4-1-2
Impermissible Use of the Helmet.....	12-2-10
Interference with a fair catch	10-1-1
Interference with the opportunity to make a catch.....	10-1-1
Kicker or holder simulating being roughed.....	12-3-1(t)
Kicking player not attempting to return inbounds	12-3-1(u)
Leaping	12-3-1(o), (r)
Leg whip	12-2-8(a)
Leverage.....	12-3-1(p)
Non-player unnecessary contact or abusive language.....	13-8
Peel back block	12-2-2
Picking up a teammate to block a kick	12-3-1(q)
Player going in motion in front of bench area.....	12-3-1(l)
Prohibited contact to a defenseless player	12-2-9
Prolonged or excessive celebration.....	12-3-1(f)
Pulling opponent off a pile of players.....	12-2-8(h)
Pushing teammate on scrimmage kick	9-1-3
Removal of helmet in the field of play.....	12-3-1(h)
Repeated illegal substitutions when time is in.....	12-3-1(m)
Roughing the holder	12-2-13
Roughing the kicker	12-2-12
Roughing the passer.....	12-2-11
Striking, kicking, tripping or kneeling an opponent.....	12-2-14
Successive delay of game penalties when time in.....	12-3-1(n)
Throwing a punch, forearm, or kicking at opponent	12-3-1(a)
Twisting, turning or pulling of opponent's facemask	12-2-15
Unnecessary contact against a runner	12-2-8(d), (f)
Unnecessary contact against player on the ground	12-2-8(e)
Unnecessary contact to a kicker out of the play.....	12-2-8(i)
Unnecessary contact to a player out of the play	12-2-8(g)
Unnecessary physical contact with game official	12-3-1(e)
Unnecessary roughness.....	12-2-8
Unsportsmanlike conduct by non-player	13-1
Use of the helmet as a weapon.....	12-2-17
Using abusive, threatening or insulting language.....	12-3-1(b)
Using an object as a prop.....	12-3-1(g)
Using baiting or taunting acts or words.....	12-3-1(c)
Using substitutes or returning players to deceive.....	12-3-1(k)
Violent, offensive, or sexually suggestive gesture.....	12-3-1(d)
Loss of Down Without Yardage	
Illegal touching of forward pass by an eligible receiver who had gone out of bounds and reestablished.....	8-1-8(b)