Official Signals

1. TOUCHDOWN, FIELD GOAL, or SUCCESFUL TRY
   Both arms extended above head.

2. SAFETY
   Palms together above head.

3. FIRST DOWN
   Arms pointed toward defensive team’s goal.

4. CROWD NOISE, DEAD BALL, or NEUTRAL ZONE ESTABLISHED
   One arm above head with an open hand.
   With fist closed: Fourth Down.

5. BALL ILLEGALLY TOUCHED, KICKED, OR BATTED
   Fingertips tap both shoulders.

6. TIME OUT
   Hands crisscrossed above head.
   Same signal followed by placing one hand on top of cap: Referee’s Time Out.
   Same signal followed by arm swung at side: Touchback.
7. **NO TIME OUT or TIME IN WITH WHISTLE**
   Full arm circled to simulate moving clock.

8. **DELAY OF GAME OFFENSE/DEFENSE or EXCESS TIME OUT**
   Folded arms.

9. **FALSE START, ILLEGAL FORMATION, KICKOFF OR SAFETY KICK OUT OF BOUNDS, or KICKING TEAM PLAYER VOLUNTARILY OUT OF BOUNDS DURING A PUNT**
   Forearms rotated over and over in front of body.

10. **PERSONAL FOUL**
    One wrist striking the other above head.
    Same signal followed by swinging leg: **Roughing Kicker.**
    Same signal followed by raised arm swinging forward: **Roughing Passer.**
    Same signal followed by grasping facemask: **MAJOR Facemask.**

11. **HOLDING**
    Grasping one wrist, the fist clenched, in front of chest.

12. **ILLEGAL USE OF HANDS, ARMS, OR BODY**
    Grasping one wrist, the hand open and facing forward, in front of chest.
13 PENALTY REFUSED, INCOMPLETE PASS, PLAY OVER, or MISSED GOAL
Hands shifted in horizontal plane.

14 PASS JUGGLED INBOUNDS AND CAUGHT OUT OF BOUNDS
Hands up and down in front of chest (following incomplete pass signal).

15 ILLEGAL FORWARD PASS
One hand waved behind back followed by loss of down signal (23) when appropriate.

16 INTENTIONAL GROUNDING OF PASS
Parallel arms waved in a diagonal plane across body. Followed by loss of down signal (23).

17 INTERFERENCE WITH FORWARD PASS or FAIR CATCH
Hands open and extended forward from shoulders with hands vertical.

18 INVALID FAIR-CATCH SIGNAL
One hand waved above head.
19
INELIGIBLE RECEIVER or INELIGIBLE MEMBER OF KICKING TEAM DOWNFIELD
Right hand touching top of cap.

20
ILLEGAL CONTACT
One open hand extended forward.

21
OFFSIDE, ENCROACHMENT, OR NEUTRAL ZONE INFRACTION
Hands on hips.

22
ILLEGAL MOTION AT SNAP
Horizontal arc with one hand.

23
LOSS OF DOWN
Both hands held behind head.

24
INTERLOCKING INTERFERENCE, PUSHING, or HELPING RUNNER
Pushing movement of hands to front with arms downward.
25
TOUCHING A FORWARD PASS OR SCRIMMAGE KICK
Diagonal motion of one hand across another.

26
UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT
Arms outstretched, palms down.

27
ILLEGAL CUT
Both hands striking front of thigh.
ILLEGAL BLOCK BELOW THE WAIST
One hand striking front of thigh preceded by personal foul signal (10).
CHOP BLOCK
Both hands striking side of thighs preceded by personal foul signal (10).
CLIPPING
One hand striking back of calf preceded by personal foul signal (10).

28
ILLEGAL CRACKBACK
Strike of an open right hand against the right mid thigh preceded by personal foul signal (10).

29
PLAYER DISQUALIFIED
Ejection signal.

30
TRIPPING
Repeated action of right foot in back of left heel.
31
UNCATCHABLE FORWARD PASS
Palm of right hand held parallel to ground above head and moved back and forth.

32
ILLEGAL SUBSTITUTION, 12 MEN IN OFFENSIVE HUDDLE, or TOO MANY MEN ON THE FIELD
Both hands on top of head.

33
FACEMASK
Grasping mask with one hand.

34
ILLEGAL SHIFT
Horizontal arcs with two hands.

35
RESET PLAY CLOCK—25 SECONDS
Pump one arm vertically.

36
RESET PLAY CLOCK—40 SECONDS
Pump two arms vertically.