

# **STEP BY STEP: Review Process for On-Field Rules Violations**



**NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

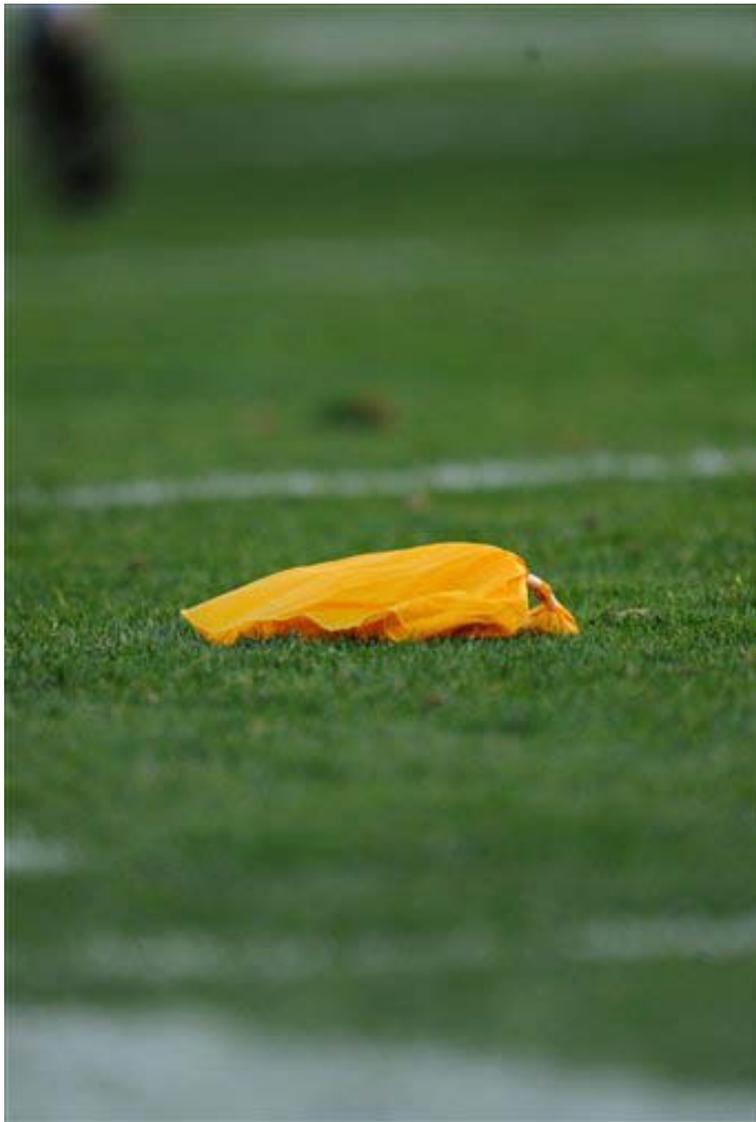
➤ The process for a play to be reviewed for disciplinary action starts with the NFL Officiating Department reviewing every play of every game.



*The NFL Officiating Command Center in New York.*



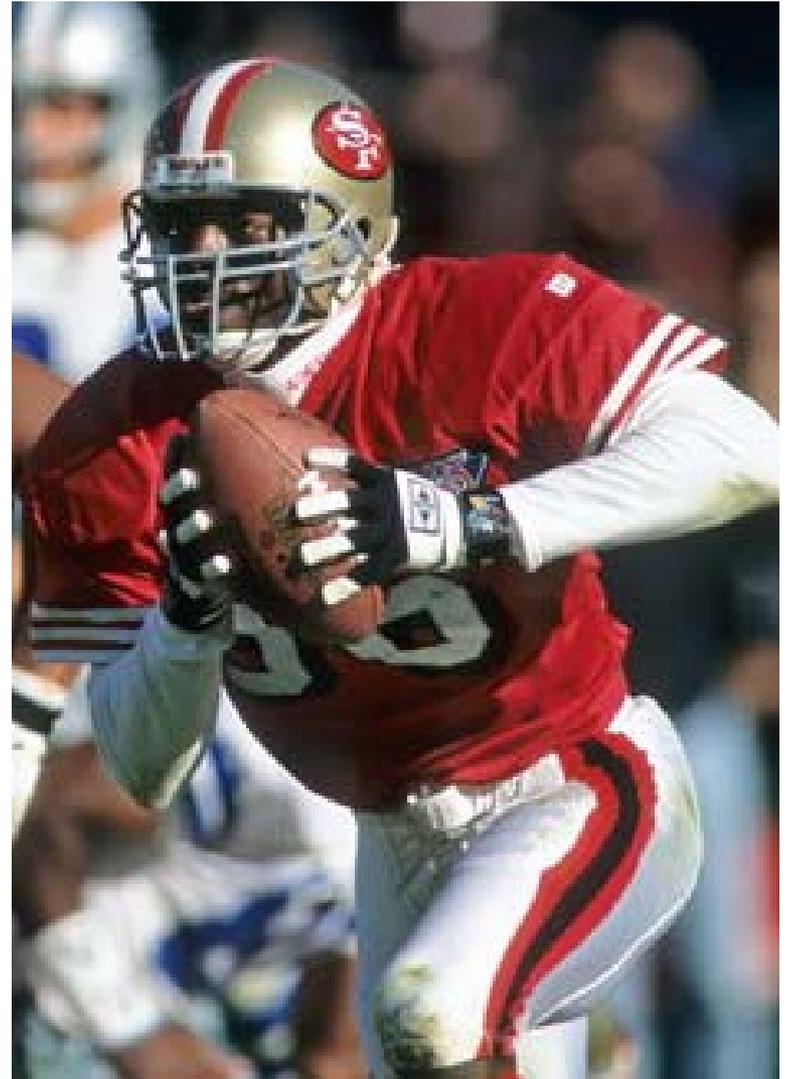
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➤ Any play that needs to be reviewed for possible discipline – whether penalized or not – is referred by Officiating to the NFL Football Operations Department.



- Executive Vice President of Football Operations Ray Anderson, a three-year football letterman at Stanford University (1973-1975), and Vice President of Football Operations Merton Hanks (right), a nine-year NFL veteran (1991-1999), make the initial decision to discipline a player for an on-field violation.
- Discipline typically consists of a fine.





- Fine amounts are not random.
- As per the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the NFL and the NFLPA, the fine schedule is provided to the NFLPA prior to training camp for its review.



- The 2011 schedule of fines, which was accepted by the NFLPA, serves as the basis for discipline.
- This schedule is provided to players prior to each season in the Player Policies Manual.



## FINE SCHEDULE

| Player Safety Rules and/or Flagrant Personal Foul             | <i>First Offense</i> | <i>Second Offense</i> |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Striking/Kicking/Kneeing                                      | \$7,500              | \$15,000              |
| Horse Collar Tackle   | \$15,000             | \$30,000              |
| Face Mask   | \$7,500              | \$15,000              |
| Leg Whip  | \$15,000             | \$30,000              |
| Late Hit  | \$7,500              | \$15,000              |
| Spearing  | \$20,000             | \$40,000              |
| Impermissible Use of the Helmet (including illegal launching) | \$20,000             | \$40,000              |
| Hit on Defenseless Player                                     | \$20,000             | \$40,000              |
| Blindside Block   | \$20,000             | \$40,000              |
| Roughing the Passer   | \$15,000             | \$30,000              |
| Low Block   | \$7,500              | \$15,000              |
| Chop Block  | \$7,500              | \$15,000              |



## FINE SCHEDULE , continued

| <b>Fighting</b>  | <b><i>First Offense</i></b> | <b><i>Second Offense</i></b> |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Fighting   | \$25,000                    | \$50,000                     |
| Unnecessarily Entering Fight Area<br>(active involvement)    | \$5,000                     | \$10,000                     |
| Unnecessarily Entering Fight Area<br>(no active involvement) | \$2,500                     | \$7,500                      |



## FINE SCHEDULE , continued

| <b>Sportsmanship</b>  | <b><i>First Offense</i></b> | <b><i>Second Offense</i></b> |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Excessive Profanity; other Unsportsmanlike Conduct (e.g., toward opponent(s), game personnel, fans, etc.) | \$10,000                    | \$20,000                     |
| Taunting  | \$7,500                     | \$10,000                     |
| Football Into Stands  | \$5,000                     | \$10,000                     |



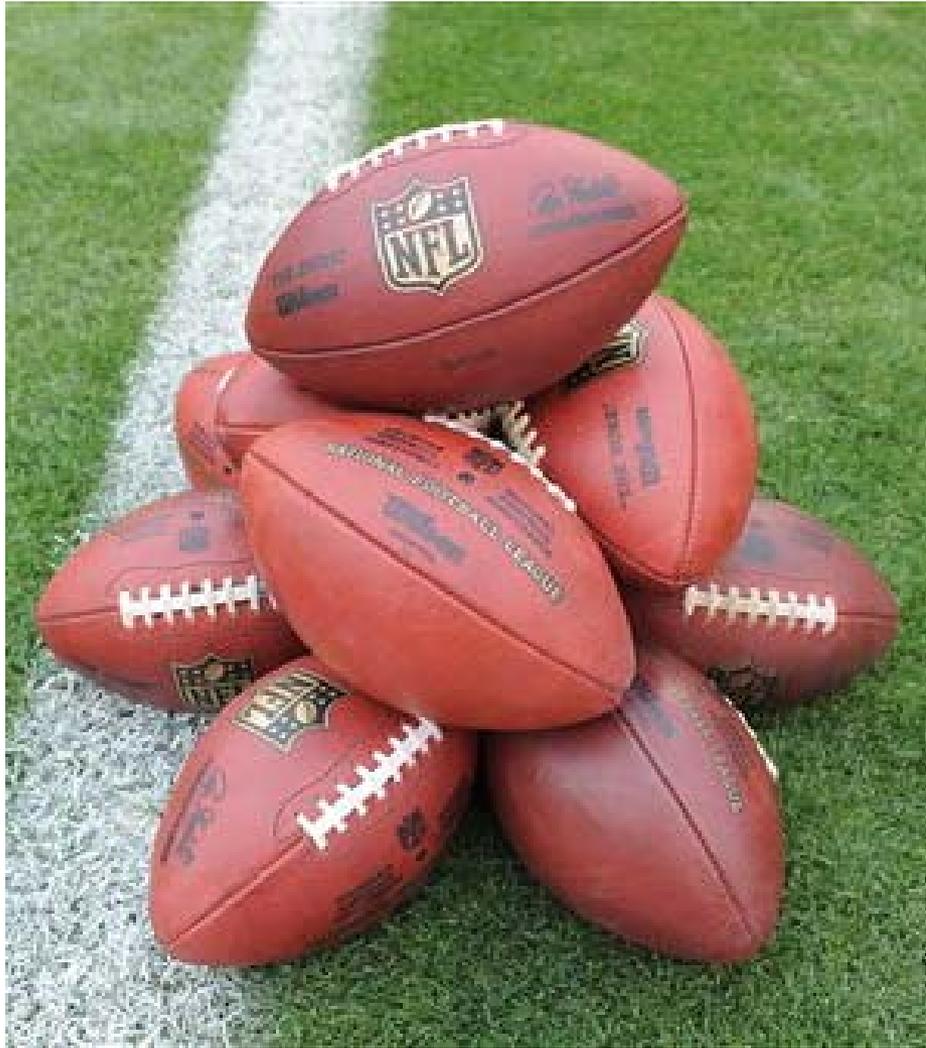


- The fine amounts listed are minimums.
- Other forms of discipline, including higher fine amounts and suspension, may be imposed based upon the play in question.



- A player's history is a factor in the level of discipline imposed.
- Players who were fined in 2009 or 2010, and whose fines were either partially or fully upheld on appeal, are considered repeat offenders and subject to more severe discipline.





- Discipline in each case is evaluated on its own facts and circumstances.
- This includes determining whether the infraction occurred during the normal course of a game or outside the normal course of a game (such as flagrant, unnecessary, avoidable or gratuitous violations).





- Once a decision to discipline has been reached, players are notified in writing via email, usually on Tuesday following a Sunday game.



# That correspondence includes the following information:

the decision on what the discipline is

the specific rule violation that occurred to trigger the discipline

instructions on how to appeal

instructions on how to view video of the play in question



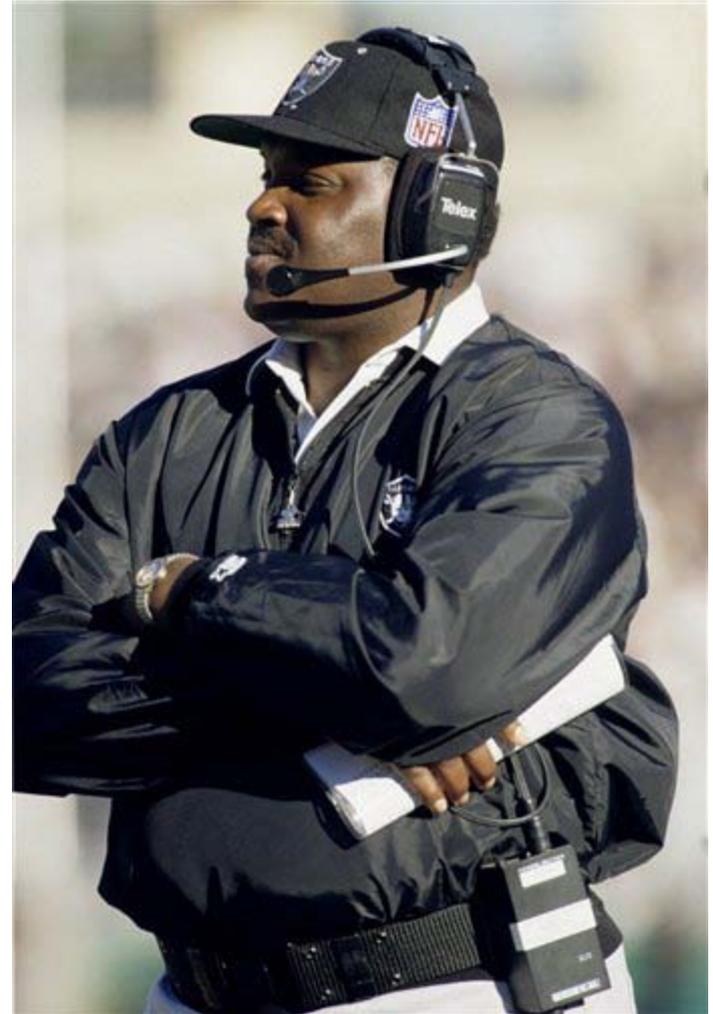
Players have three days from the time they are notified of the discipline to appeal.



A hearing is then conducted within 10 days of receiving the notice of appeal.



- Appeals for on-field rules violations are heard in accordance with a 2010 agreement between the NFL and NFLPA.
- The jointly appointed and compensated appeals officers are Pro Football Hall of Famer Art Shell (right) and former NFL player and coach Ted Cottrell.





- Only after appeals are decided upon by Art Shell or Ted Cottrell (left) is money withheld from a player's paycheck.
- As long as players file a timely appeal notice, they will not forfeit any money in advance of the appeal ruling.



- Fine money from on-field player fines is donated through NFL Charities to programs for retired players via the NFL Player Care Foundation and the NFLPA's Players Assistance Trust, as well as to support medical research through the Brian Piccolo Memorial Fund and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Care Center.
- This on-field fine money has netted an average of approximately \$3 million per year over the last four years for distribution to those charitable organizations.





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