NFL Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. How many points is an NFL touchdown worth before the extra-point or two-point attempt?

A. Six
B. Three
C. Seven
D. Eight

Correct answer: A. Six

A touchdown adds six points. The following try is scored separately.

2. How long is one regulation quarter in an NFL regular-season game?

A. 12 minutes
B. 10 minutes
C. 15 minutes
D. 20 minutes

Correct answer: C. 15 minutes

Regulation consists of four 15-minute quarters for a total of 60 game-clock minutes.

3. Which offensive line position usually snaps the ball to begin a play from scrimmage?

A. Left guard
B. Center
C. Right tackle
D. Tight end

Correct answer: B. Center

The center normally starts the play by snapping the ball backward from the line of scrimmage.

4. What does «3rd & 4» mean on an NFL scoreboard in an ordinary first-down situation?

A. Third down at the four-yard line
B. Fourth down with three yards to gain
C. Third quarter with four minutes left
D. Third down with four yards to gain

Correct answer: D. Third down with four yards to gain

The first number gives the down. The second gives the distance from the ball to the line the offense must reach to earn a new set of downs.

5. What is it called when a defender completes a catch of the offense's forward pass?

A. A fumble recovery
B. An interception
C. A sack
D. A punt return

Correct answer: B. An interception
An interception gives the defending team possession. The defender can try to advance the ball after the catch.

6. A player drops the ball from their hands and kicks it before it touches the ground. What kind of kick is this?

A. A punt
B. A drop kick
C. A placekick
D. A free kick from a tee

Correct answer: A. A punt
A punt is struck before the dropped ball reaches the ground. A drop kick is struck as or just after the ball touches the ground.

7. An NFL receiver controls a pass in the air near the sideline. Only the receiver's feet touch down. If all other catch requirements are met, which landing counts as in bounds?

A. Neither foot lands in bounds
B. One foot lands in bounds and the other lands out
C. The same foot touches in bounds twice while the other stays off the ground
D. Both feet touch in bounds before either touches out

Correct answer: D. Both feet touch in bounds before either touches out
When only the feet touch, two feet must land in bounds to satisfy the in-bounds requirement of a catch.

8. On fourth-and-3 at its own 40, an NFL offense throws a forward pass that lands incomplete 15 yards downfield. With no penalty, where does the other team's next drive begin?

A. At midfield
B. At the spot where the pass landed
C. At the same 40-yard line where the play began
D. At the other team's 25-yard line

Correct answer: C. At the same 40-yard line where the play began
A fourth-down incompletion fails to earn another down. The other team takes over at the previous spot.

9. An NFL offense has already thrown one forward pass during a down. Given possession and otherwise legal play, which of these passes may it still throw?

A. A backward pass
B. A second forward pass from behind the line
C. A forward pass thrown by a different player
D. A short forward pass caught behind the line

Correct answer: A. A backward pass
An offense may make one forward pass per down. A later backward pass is allowed if the other rules are met.

10. What minimum number of offensive players must line up on the line of scrimmage for a standard NFL snap?

A. Eight
B. Five
C. Six
D. Seven

Correct answer: D. Seven
The offense needs at least seven players on the line at the snap. Which of those players may catch a forward pass depends on their positions and eligibility.

11. How long is an NFL field from one end line to the other, including both end zones?

A. 110 yards
B. 100 yards
C. 120 yards
D. 130 yards

Correct answer: C. 120 yards
The goal lines are 100 yards apart, and each 10-yard end zone adds to the full length.

12. In which season did regular-season NFL play begin under the AFC and NFC structure after the merger with the AFL?

A. 1966
B. 1970
C. 1974
D. 1978

Correct answer: B. 1970
The merger took full effect for the 1970 season. The combined league was organized into the American and National Football conferences.

13. What name did the league now known as the NFL adopt at its September 1920 organizational meeting?

A. American Football Conference
B. American Football League
C. National Football Conference
D. American Professional Football Association

Correct answer: D. American Professional Football Association
The meeting in Canton established the American Professional Football Association. The league adopted the National Football League name in 1922.

14. Which AFL quarterback recorded the league's first 4,000-yard passing season in 1967?

A. Joe Namath
B. Len Dawson
C. John Hadl
D. Daryle Lamonica

Correct answer: A. Joe Namath
Namath threw for 4,007 yards with the New York Jets during the 1967 AFL season.

15. In what season did the NFL move from a 14-game to a 16-game regular-season schedule for each team?

A. 1970
B. 1967
C. 1978
D. 1983

Correct answer: C. 1978
The 16-game schedule began in 1978. The league had used a 14-game schedule immediately before the change.