

Guidance to Referee's New Hurling Rules 2026

Effective from 28th March 2026

This document explains how the new Hurling rules, approved by Congress on 28 February, will be used in games.

The purpose is to give referees, clubs and counties clear, simple information on:

- what the new rules are, and
- how they will be applied.

1. Changes to the Dissent Rule (players)

Previously, when a player showed dissent (argued or complained) about a referee's decision, the referee could move the ball 13 metres closer to the opposing goal.

Now:

- The referee can move the ball **30 metres** forward instead of 13 metres.
- This can only be done **once** for the same incident.
- If the dissent continues, either:
 - by the same player, or
 - by another player on the same team,

then the referee should give a **yellow card** to the offending player under Rule 6.1.

2. Extra sanctions for Under-18 and younger grades

At Under-18 level and all younger age grades, if a player is guilty of dissent:

- The player must leave the field for **10 minutes** (a "sin bin").
- The referee gives the player a **black card**.
- The player's team may bring on a **temporary substitute** during those 10 minutes.

3. New sanctions for Team Management (sideline)

Team management (e.g. manager, selectors, coaches, backroom staff) can now be penalised under the Dissent Rule for the following:

1. Challenging the authority of the referee or any match official.
2. Threatening, or using abusive or provocative language towards an opposing player or team official.
3. Using abusive language towards the referee or any match official.

4. Disruptive conduct (for example, behaviour that delays or interferes with the game).
5. Minor physical interference with a referee or match official or threatening/abusive behaviour or threatening language towards them.
6. Any type of assault on a referee or match official.

4. Penalties for Team Management offences

If a member of team management commits any of the above offences:

During play

A **free puck** is awarded to the opposing team on the offending team's **20-metre line**, in front of the scoring space.

Before the game starts, at half-time, or before extra time

Play will **start or restart** with a **free puck** to the opposing team from the offending team's **20-metre line**, in front of the scoring space.

RULES.

Rule 6.4 – The Playing Rules of Hurling – Rules of Foul Play – Dissent – Official Guide Part 2 (Page 42)

R. 6.4 To show dissent with the Referee's decision to award a free puck to the opposing team.

Penalty: The free puck already awarded shall be taken from a place 30m more advantageous than the place of original puck– up to opponents' 20m line. Further dissent shall be considered as a breach of Rule 6.1 and shall be penalised accordingly. Yellow card should be issued.

Rule 6.4 – Penalty – The playing Rules of Hurling – Rules of Foul play – Dissent – Official Part 2 – in addition to above player under 18 or younger grades.

Additional penalty at Under 18 or younger grades - Order the offender off for ten minutes in the Sin Bin by showing the offender a Black Card. The offending player can be replaced immediately by a Temporary Substitute for the duration of the ten minutes. In these circumstances, the following acts shall not count as substitutions under Rule 2.3 (i) and (ii), Rules of Specification:

1. The use of the Temporary Substitute for a player instructed to leave the field.
2. The return to the field of play of the player who was ordered off as a direct replacement for the Temporary Substitute.
3. The return to the field of play of the player who was ordered off as a replacement for any other player if the Temporary Substitute has previously been sent off or substituted.

Rule 6.7 – The Playing Rules of Hurling – Rules of Foul Play – Dissent – Official Guide Part 2 (Page 42)

For a Team Official to commit one of the following Misconduct at Games by Team Officials infractions contrary to Rules of Control - Rule 5:

- (a) Category 1a.2 To challenge the authority of a Referee, Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.
- (b) Category 1a.3 To threaten or to use abusive or provocative language or gestures to an opposing player or team official.
- (c) Category IIa.
 - (i) To use abusive language to a Referee, Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.
 - (ii) Disruptive Conduct
- (d) Category IVa.1 Minor physical interference with (e.g. laying a hand on, pushing, pulling or jostling), threatening or abusive conduct towards, or threatening language to, a Referee, Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.
- (e) Category Va Any type of assault on a Referee, Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

Penalty:

A free puck on the offending team's 20m line at the centre of the scoring space or, Where the infraction occurs immediately before the start of the game; or during the half-time interval in Normal Time or Extra Time; or between the end of Normal Time and the commencement of Extra Time, the game shall start or restart with a free puck as outlined above.

That Rules of Control – Control of Games – Rule 5 – Misconduct At Games By Team Officials – Penalty on the day for the above categories IIa, IIIa, IVa and Va infractions – Official Guide Part 2 Page 20.

In Hurling, in addition to the above penalties, the team of the official shall be penalised as follows: A free puck on the offending team's 20m line at the centre of the scoring space.