



Regulations Governing the Organisation and Presentation of Meath GAA Inter-Club Games

2026

Introduction: *These Regulations have been drawn up by Choiste Rialaithe Comórtas C.L.G. na Mí and approved by Coiste Bainistíochta na Mí C.L.G. per Riail 3.18 T.O. 2026 and Rules of Control, Official Guide 2026 Cuid II.*

The Meath GAA Competitions Control Committee (CCC) is mindful of the GAA Give Respect Get Respect campaign and has drawn up these Regulations to benefit all stakeholders – players, referees, team management, officials, media, members and spectators.

Sideline Official/Match Monitor - A Sideline Official may be appointed by the Committee-in-Charge, and it shall be their duty to report any breaches of these Regulations.

The Committee-in-Charge may also appoint a Match Monitor who shall be responsible for any duties assigned. The Sideline Official shall include in their report any relevant observations or breaches reported to him by the Match Monitor.

These will then form part of the Referee's Report per Rule 1.6, Rules of Control, T.O. 2026 Cuid II but any errors or omissions in respect of them shall not invalidate the Report as a whole.

The Committee-in-Charge may also impose penalties for breaches of the Regulations brought to its attention by members of the Committee-in-Charge or the County Management Committee.

Failure to respect the regulations and follow laid down procedures therein may lead to penalties as defined in General Rule & Section 3 of their document being imposed on individuals, teams, County Committees, or Clubs by the Committees-in-Charge.



Ground/Pitch Regulations

1.1 Ground Regulations shall apply to all venues considered suitable for Inter-Club competitions. They shall include procedures for entry to each ground, designated areas for substitutes and Team Officials and shall be communicated to Teams along with the official Clár an Lae.

1.2 The Clár an Lae shall also notify teams in advance of each game as to pre-match & half-time protocols, the assignation of dressing rooms, bib colours to be worn, and any pitch regulations around warmups & access.

1.3 The Official Team List must name the 30 players and the 10 Team Officials.

Only the **30** named players on the Official Team List shall be allowed external entry to the controlled zone.

1.4 A maximum of **10** Team Officials shall be allowed entry to the controlled zone.

The controlled zone is defined as the dressing room and pitch-side area.

All Team Officials and substitutes must sit in the designated areas identified & must leave the field of play 5 minutes before the throw-in to go to the appropriate designated areas.

The **10 Team Officials** should include the following:

- (a) **One** Team Manager / Person in charge of the team
- (b) **Three** Selectors/Coaches
- (c) **Two** Medical Personnel
- (d) **Two** Water/Hurley Carriers
- (e) **Two** Club Officials



1.5 There shall be **two** designated areas for team personnel and officials:

- I. The Bainisteoir zone in which seats for the Bainisteoir, a Selector, and a Medic should be provided (see pitch layout on page 5).
- II. An area for substitutes and all other permitted team officials. *

** Exception: Where the designated area for substitutes and Team Officials is considerably removed from the sideline area and provides a practical difficulty for Team Managers in terms of consultation with backroom personnel (i.e. selectors or medics only), seats in an appropriate area recessed from the pitch enclosure (e.g. in **the front row** of the stand/viewing area or in a dugout) may be provided for a maximum of 4 additional personnel who must remain seated in their area.*

Seating for medics must always ensure uninhibited access to the playing area. Medics may be together in the designated area for substitutes, or one medic may be positioned in the Bainisteoir zone. Where facilities in particular grounds do not permit for the specific arrangements outlined above, alternative arrangements may be made in advance with the approval of the Committee-in-Charge and communicated to the relevant units.

1.6 Where the National Anthem precedes a game, Teams shall stand to attention respectfully facing the flag for the full duration of the anthem and adhere to the following:

<https://www.gaa.ie/article/respect-for-the-national-anthem-meas-ar-an-amhran-naisiunta>

- Helmets and bibs shall not be worn for Amhrán na bhFiann, for the parade, or in team photographs.
- At least 30 seconds will be provided to teams after the anthem, this is to allow for any team huddles or warmups before they are required to get into position for the start of the game.
- There will also be a three minute and a one-minute reminder before the National Anthem is played.
- All other officials should be off the field when the National Anthem is being played.



1.7 When relevant, the team captain shall lead the parade and only the 15 players commencing the game as per official team list may march in the parade, in team jerseys & numerical order.

1.8 For all championship games and all finals, teams shall be provided to the Committee-in-Charge for the official programme, and to the media, three days before the game i.e. no later than Wednesday Noon before a weekend game, along with names of personnel who have access to the controlled zone.

1.9 Players shall be numbered in accordance with the Official Programme from 1 to not more than 30 in Inter-Club games. (Cód 11.8 T.O.).

1.10 In the case of a valid withdrawal of a player, the jersey number of the player being replaced shall be used by the replacing player. Such withdrawal shall be notified in advance of the commencement of the game to the Committee-in-Charge/Match Monitor at least 15 minutes before throw-in. The inclusion of **A.N.Other** is not permitted.

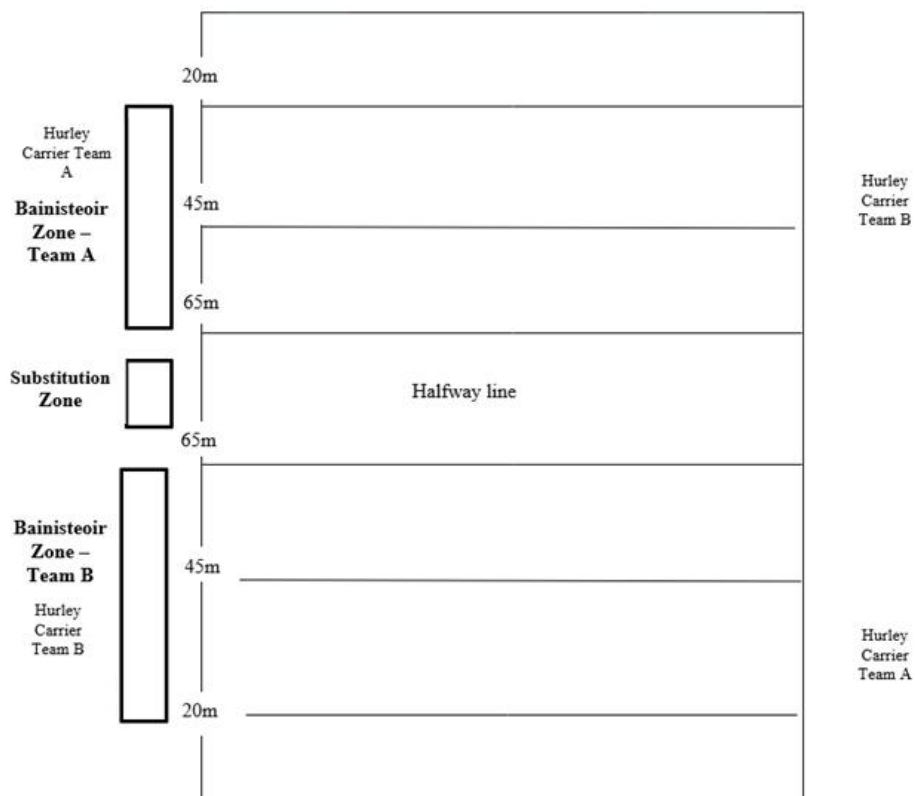
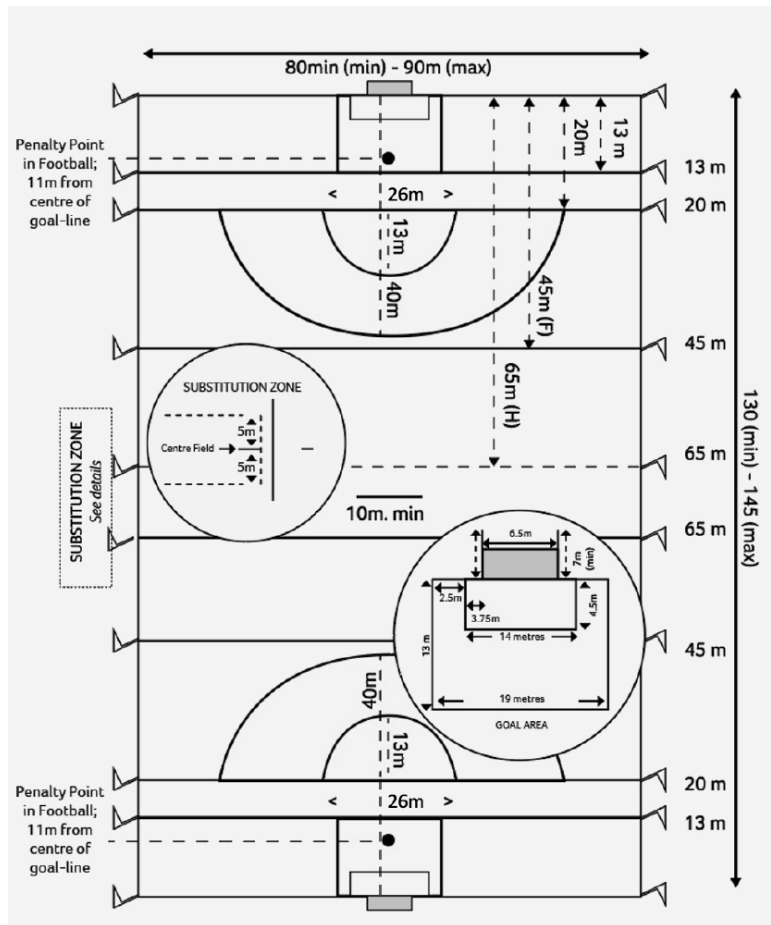
1.11 Ball persons are not permitted in any venue inside the playing enclosure.



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Pitch Layout





2. Game Regulations

- The Referee is in overall charge of Game Regulations and shall delegate authority to their Line Umpire & Sideline Official; they shall include the Sideline Official/Match Monitor's report(s) with their match report as appropriate.
- ***The Referee has the authority during the game to send any person in repeated breach of these Regulations to the stand/outside the pitch enclosure and such person cannot be replaced.***
- A duty of the Referee is to caution a team official who commits a Cautionable Infraction by taking the team official's name and showing that team official a Yellow Card.

2.2 Controlled Zone Access

The following shall have access to the controlled zone. The controlled zone is defined as the dressing room and pitch-side area.

- The matchday panel will be limited to what is provided for in general rule: **30** Only these players will be granted entry to the controlled zone.
- A maximum of **10 additional backroom personnel** will also be granted access.
- Only those named above are permitted access to the controlled zone.
- The ultimate composition of the number is at each club's discretion but must contain the Club Chairperson and Secretary (or their nominees).
- All officials with access to the controlled zone should be registered with the Committee-in-Charge in advance of the game and recorded on the team sheet supplied to the referee.
- Any **unnamed** team official shall be **refused** entry to the controlled zone.

2.3 Cathaoirleach

- Games and Ground regulations apply to all players and officials and adherence to the regulations is the responsibility of the Club Chairperson.
- In their absence, their responsibilities will pass to the Club Secretary/Nominated Person.
- The Bainisteoir also shares the responsibility of ensuring the Games Regulations are respected by players and members of team management.



2.4 Rúnaí

- The Secretary or Nominated Person shall relay details of substitutions to the Referee.

2.5 Bainisteoir

- This person shall be the person in charge of the team unless otherwise stated in writing.
- The Bainisteoir shall wear a designated distinctive top and is not permitted to enter the field of play but may move along the sideline from the 65m line to the 20m line as per the “Pitch Layout” on Page 5 of these Regulations.
- The Bainisteoir may not act in any other capacity.
- The Bainisteoir also shares the responsibility of ensuring the Game Regulations are respected by players and members of team management and can have their sideline privileges removed for any breaches by players and members of team management.

2.6 Unauthorised Incursions

- Any unauthorised incursions onto the field of play will be dealt with under Riail 7.2 T.O.

2.7 Selectors/Coaches

- The Maor Fóirne is no longer allowed under rule, and no selector/coach is allowed on the pitch. Anyone attempting to act in this role or wear a top with the tile may be sanctioned under Riail 7.2 T.O.
- Selectors/Coaches must sit/stand in their designated area.
- Any unauthorised incursions onto the field of play will be dealt with under Riail 7.2 T.O.



2.8 Medics

- Two (2) Medical personnel shall be identified on the Official Team list and shall sit in the areas designated in Ground Regulations; they shall wear clear identification which must not clash with the playing jerseys of either team.
- They may only enter the field of play to attend to an injured player(s).
- Selectors/Coaches cannot act as a medic, without advance approval from the Committee-in-Charge.
- A medical team official who commits a sending-off infraction may remain if the team has no other medical person available, and act if a player needs medical attention.
- Injuries: General - Play shall not be stopped for injury to a player, except in exceptional circumstances to enable a seriously injured player to be treated on the field or removed from the field of play.
- All other Injuries shall be treated off the field of play. An injured player shall leave the field at the nearest point. The player may at a break in play, and only with the referee's permission, return to the Field of Play at the centre point of either sideline
- A player in Hurling who during a game removes their helmet or has had it removed by a player/official on the player's side shall be presumed to be potentially injured and shall be instructed by the referee to immediately leave the Field of Play to be assessed for injury and the helmet refitted. The player shall not return to the Field of Play until the next break in play, at the earliest, and with the permission of the referee.



2.9 Maoir Uisce

- Two Maoir Uisce who must be over 18 years of age, are permitted per team; they may not enter the field of play.
- Each must wear an official top/bib and be situated as per the “Pitch Layout” on Page 5 of these Regulations, at least two metres from the sideline.
- Official team personnel (Selectors/Coaches), substitutes, injured players or members of the extended panel may not act as Maoir Uisce.
- If any official team personnel, injured player or a member of the extended panel acts as a Maoir Uisce, any breach of rule shall be considered as a Misconduct at Games by Team Officials infraction.
- A Maoir Uisce is not permitted to have/use Communications devices i.e. walkie talkies or mobile phones etc.
- In Hurling the Maoir Uisce will also act as Hurley Carriers & may enter the field of play with a replacement hurley when necessary.
- **Maor Camán is not allowed to carry water into the players and may enter the field of play only with a replacement hurley when necessary.**

2.10 Substitutes

- Substitutes are allowed a kick/puck around at half-time on the playing field unless the host venue indicates that this is not authorised.
- A maximum of three substitutes wearing designated distinctive tops may warm up on the sidelines at any one time in their designated half of the field.

2.11 Media Interviews

- Any Club Committee Official or Players who make derogatory comments about Games Officials before, during or after a game in interviews or on social media etc. may be dealt with per Riail 7.2(e) T.O.
- Team Official(s) or Designated Person(s) (as per the list supplied to the Match Referee before the game) may be subject to the withdrawal of side-line privileges for future games



2.12 Sliotars

- Referees/Umpires have the responsibility to control the supply of sliotars approved by the GAA to the goalkeeper.
- Any sliotars not officially approved shall not be used and any breaches shall be brought to the attention of the Referee.
- Goalkeepers are not permitted to have a **personal/private** supply of sliotars in the goal area, unless sliotars have been verified, and the goal-scoring space should be kept free of all objects.
- All hurling games at all levels from Minor (U17) and above, shall use a **Fluorescent Yellow/High-Vis** sliotar from a GAA Sliotar Licensee.
- For all **Senior, Intermediate, Junior**, and **Junior B** Championship **Semi-Finals** and **Finals**, only smart sliotars shall be used. **24** Smart Sliotars shall be supplied by the Committee-In-Charge for these games.
- The two teams playing in the game shall be charged equally for the cost of the sliotars.
- After the game, the sliotars shall be retained by the clubs involved and shared equally. The onus is on the clubs to ensure this occurs.

2.13 Late Fielding

- A team taking the field late before a game shall be subject to the penalties outlined in Cód 15.2 (d) (i) T.O.
- A team responsible for a half-time interval being exceeded shall be subject to penalties outlined in Cód 15.2 (d) (ii) T.O.

2.14 Distinctive Tops

- If not wearing the official bib, the distinctive tops as listed above concerning the Bainisteoir shall not clash with the main colour of either team.



2.15 Matters not provided for

- Matters not specifically provided for in these regulations shall be dealt with by the referee and their team of officials on the day, and then by the Committee-in-Charge when reported via either the Referee, Sideline Official or Match Monitor.

2.16 Extra – Time & Winner on the Day

- Regulations governing the playing of Extra Time & Winner on the Day are outlined in Rule 2.6, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 & 3.7, Rules of Specification, T.O. Cuid II & Winner on the Day regulations approved by Ard Chomhairle.

2.17 Match Officials Dressing Room

- Players and Team Officials shall not enter the Match Officials dressing room without permission. Any breaches will be dealt with under Riail 7.2 T.O.



3. Penalties

3.1 Penalties for breaches of Ground/Pitch/Game Regulations shall be at the discretion of the Committee-in-Charge.

These may include warnings, fines, the withdrawal of sideline privileges for individuals as outlined in Part 2 of these regulations or suspension of individuals as considered appropriate.

3.2 The **Referee** has the authority during the game to send any person in repeated breach of these Regulations to the stand/outside the pitch enclosure and such person cannot be replaced. Also, a duty of the Referee is to caution a team official who commits a Cautionable Infraction by taking the team official's name and showing that team official a Yellow Card.

3.3 The Bainisteoir shares the responsibility of ensuring the Games Regulations are respected by players and members of team management and can have their sideline privileges removed for any breaches by players and members of team management as deemed appropriate by the Committee-in-Charge.

3.4

(a) **Minimum** fines for breaches of Ground/Pitch/Game Regulations and Clár an Lae:
€50 (*for each reported breach*).

(b) **Maximum** fines for breaches of Ground/Pitch/Game Regulations and Clár an Lae:
€300 (*for each reported breach*).

3.5 Where Bainisteoir sideline privileges have been withdrawn the Bainisteoir will be confined to a designated area as decided on by the Committee-in-Charge.

3.6 The frequency and gravity of reported breaches in each game shall be considered by the Committee-in-Charge and may lead to next-match penalties.

3.7 The provisions of Riail 7.2 (c) Misconduct at Games by Team Officials shall apply.