



MEATH GAA 2026

Additional regulation (Dissent)

For all underage games (U12/U14/U16/U18)

Effective from 1st August 2026

'Any instance whereby a member of management challenges the authority of a Referee, Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official, the penalty is that the ball/sliotar will be moved forward 50m (football) or 30m (hurling). The referee may consider gesticulating wildly, or arms outstretched, to be dissent'

Rationale

This means the referee does not have to issue a yellow card to a management team member, as they are currently obliged to do, before advancing the ball and the dissent rule is the same for players.

The reason for this regulation is because referees are often inhibited from approaching a hostile line to issue a yellow card before advancing the play. Thus behaviour on the line has disimproved at underage games, during 2026, having previously improved. Whereas behaviour on the pitch is much better because players get instantaneous and costly consequence for dissent.

Clubs should be aware, in underage games, mandatory suspensions are doubled as per current rules.