

Rules Questions 6.7.2026

Q. Seeking clarification on the football kick out rule on the ball not crossing 40m arc under Rules 4.27

If the ball travels outside the 40m arc but the wind or the curl on the ball, brings it back inside the 40m arc is it still an infraction for the defender to play the ball?

A. Despite the weather conditions, if the ball is played by a defending player inside the 40m arc, it will result in a free to the opposition from the spot where the ball is played. The free kick must be taken from where the foul occurred.

*2.7 The ball **shall** travel outside the 40m arc and the 20m line before being played by another player of the defending team.*

4.27 For another player on the team taking a kick-out to play the ball before it has travelled outside the 40m arc.

Penalty - A free kick from where the foul occurred.

Q. Seeking clarification on the football kick out rule on the ball not crossing or being collected inside the 20m line by a defender under Rules 4.29

For kick out crossing the 20m line, if the wind blows it back or curl on the ball takes it back inside the 20m is this still deemed as not being kicked forward and a 13m free awarded, whether the ball is played or not or perhaps goes out over the sideline inside the 20m line ?

A. In this scenario it would result in a 13m free to the opposition if the ball is played or not and if the ball was to travel over the sideline inside the 20m line.

*2.7 The ball **shall** travel outside the 40m arc and the 20m line before being played by another player of the defending team.*

4.29 To take the kick-out after a wide or after a score other than from the centre point of the 20m line

or

Not to kick the ball forward.

Penalty for the above fouls -

i Cancel kick-out.

ii Free kick on defenders' 13m line in front of scoring space.

Q. A forward takes a shot at goal and misses but claims ball was a score, he disputes the umpire and referee decision not to award a score. The referee believes the forwards actions are dissent. Can a free be awarded for dissent to the defending team 50m from the goal line.

A. In this instance the ball is out of play, the Referee can caution (yellow card) the offender. The play resumes with a goal kick.

6.1 To challenge the authority of a Referee, Score Umpire, Line Umpire or Sideline Official.

Penalty - Caution the offender; order off for second cautionable foul.

Q. A solo and go taken just outside the 21, does the up to 8m unchallenged remain as he's past the 21-yard line and heading for goal. Can he be tackled when he crosses the 21 is the question really

A. There are a few considerations for the Referee in this instance. After a foul, if the player in possession moves 4m from outside the 21m line & then takes a Solo having moved inside the 21m line, this is not allowed. The play would come back to the spot of the initial foul.

If a player for example, is 25m from goal, takes their 4m and then Solos the ball before passing the 21m line, they are entitled to continue with the Solo & Go and have another 4m before they can be tackled.

Q. During a game a penalty is awarded to an attacking team during normal time. Is the defending team allowed to change their goalkeeper with someone else from the outfield players prior to the penalty being taken?

A. Yes, in this instance the team are entitled to change their goalkeeper with an outfield player in advance of the penalty being taken.

Q. An outfield kick from the opposing team is kicked into the large rectangle and the ball is broken down on to the ground following two players (back & forward) challenging for the ball in the air. A defending player picks up the breaking ball and hand passes the ball to his goalkeeper inside the large rectangle. Is the goalkeeper allowed to continue on playing as normal or is it a free on the 13m line opposite where the foul occurred.

A. In this instance if the defending player who gathers possession of the ball, does so inside the large rectangle and passes to the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper can play on from that point.

If the player who gathers the breaking ball, does so outside the large rectangle and then moves back into the large rectangle and passes to the goalkeeper, this would be an infraction and leads to a free kick.

4.34 For a goalkeeper to receive the ball by a pass:

(a) From a teammate, when the goalkeeper is outside the large rectangle and in their own half of the field;

(b) From a teammate, while the goalkeeper is inside the large rectangle, unless it has been played into the large rectangle by an opposing player.

Penalty

A free kick from the position the goalkeeper receives the pass, or if the goalkeeper is inside the 13m line (whether the player making the pass is inside the small rectangle or not) when in receipt of the pass, the free will be from the 13m line opposite where the foul occurred.

Q. A foul is committed just outside the 40m arc and while advantage is being played the attacking team score a one-point score. Do the attacking team have the option of taking the free just outside the 40m arc for the two-pointer and cancel the one-point score from the advantage?

A. In this instance the team can decide which of the two scenarios is most advantageous for them. They could decide to bring the ball back outside the 40m arc, thus the one point score would be cancelled.

Q. I'm a referee. I've sent a player off for 'abusive language'. They then assault another match official. What is the correct course of action. Show a second red card or report it in my match report?

A. In this instance as the Red Card has been issued, the follow up infraction would be included in the Referees match report.

Q. I've sent a player off for striking. After I've shown the card, they've given me abusive language (another red card offence). Do I show a second red card or report it in my match report?

A. In this instance as the Red Card has been issued, the follow up infraction would be included in the Referees match report.

Q. In football, when a goalkeeper takes a kickout, what is the rule for having a teammate or opposition player inside the small D when the ball is kicked (i.e. the player is not 13m from the ball when the kickout is taken).

A. In this instance, both defensive & attacking players must be 13m from the ball before the ball is kicked.

4.19 For a player to be less than 13m from the ball, before a kick-out.

Penalty - a free kick from where the foul occurred.

Q. Nicky Quaid foul should it have been black card as it was goal scoring opportunity or was ref right with yellow because he wasn't in possession of the ball when he was fouled

A. In this scenario, the yellow card was the correct decision based on the rule where definition 9 states that the attacking player fouled shall be in possession of the ball. This rule only applies to Intercounty games at Senior, U20 & Minor and does not apply to club games.

9. Goal Scoring Opportunity (Denial of)

In the context of Rules 5.45 (Hurling)/5.41 (Football), a situation requiring each of the following criteria:

"The attacking player fouled, as specified in these Rules, shall be in possession of the ball,"

Q. Is the keeper allowed to go up for the throw in for start of the game and half time or does he have to be on his respective position for the throw in

A. This situation is ok, based on Rule 1.3 P 15 the other players shall be in respective positions. As long as the goalkeeper's team have 7 inside the 45m.

(b) Gaelic Football

One Player from each team shall stand on their own defensive side of the 10m dashed halfway line, and shall face the referee, for the throw-in. A second player on each team shall be positioned on opposite sidelines, centred on the sideline and facing the players contesting the throw-in. These

players will swap sides for start of the second half. The other players shall be in their respective positions behind the 45m line.