

REGULATION 5. MISCONDUCT BY PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS

1. Where a Player or Official receives a red card and/or is subsequently reported for misconduct against a Match Official, the overall suspension imposed, including the automatic one match suspension, shall be for:

	Offence	Sanction
a)	Foul, insulting or abusive language that is used directly towards a Match Official	Automatic 3 match suspension
b)	Behaviour that is aggressive, intimidating, or threatening towards a Match Official	At least 6 matches
c)	Deliberately placing a hand on, brushing against or obstructing a Match Official	At least 12 matches
d)	Assaulting (deliberately pushing, pulling, spitting at, striking, elbowing, punching, kicking etc.) a Match Official	At least 12 months
e)	Assaulting i.e. deliberately striking a Match Official that involves head butting, repeated punching/kicking and/or assaults involving more than one Player and/or Official from the same team.	At least 36 months

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2. Where a Player or Official persists in using foul and abusive language, having been sent from the field of play, a further sanction shall be applied.
3. Separate incidents of misconduct towards a Match Official in relation to the same game shall incur an additional sanction for any such incident.
4. Any club that has a player, team and/or official found to be in continuous and persistent breach of Regulation 5 may be subject to a separate investigation by the Disciplinary Regulations Officer ("DRO") who can consider the culpability of the Club and subject to such investigation, the DRO may issue a charge(s) against the club directly.
5. Where a sanction is imposed for committing assault or attempted assault on a Match Official the Disciplinary Committee may impose any other sanction available under the FAI Disciplinary Regulations.
6. Where a Player or Official has been reported for an alleged breach of Section 2 Regulation 5(1)(c) the Player or Official shall automatically stand suspended to play/participate in games for any other club or in any competitions until the matter is dealt with by the League. Leagues shall address the matter under the FAI Disciplinary Regulations within seven days of receiving the report.
7. A Player or Official whom the Match Official has reported as having committed an assault or attempted assault on a Match Official before, during or immediately after a match shall automatically stand suspended until the disciplinary process has been completed.
8. Where a Player or Official has been reported as having committed an assault on a Match Official, the League shall immediately refer the matter to the FAI Disciplinary Control Unit. A Club or Participant may also refer the matter to the FAI Disciplinary Control Unit. The matter will be decided by the FAI Disciplinary Committee in the first instance and all previous decisions from other bodies/leagues will be revoked. The decision of the FAI Disciplinary Committee shall be notified to all relevant bodies.
9. Where a Player or Official makes disparaging remarks or comments about a Match Official in mainstream media and/or on their personal social media platform visible to the public that Player or Official shall be dealt with in accordance with Section 2 Regulation 18.

10. Where a sanction is imposed under Regulation 5(1)(d) on a minor (e.g. a Player who has not yet reached his eighteenth birthday at the time of the offence and is playing in an age group of under 18 or lower in youth or underage football) the Disciplinary Committee when considering the appropriate sanction has discretion to have regard to any mitigating factors to partially suspend the implementation of a sanction in accordance with Regulation 52. The mitigating factors that the Disciplinary Committee may wish to consider include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Admission at the earliest opportunity.
- Demonstration of genuine remorse.
- Co-operation with the FAI .
- Age of the Player.
- Previous disciplinary record of the Player.

11. Where a sanction is imposed under Regulation 5 on a Player or Official the Disciplinary Committee when considering the appropriate sanction has discretion to have regard to any aggravating factors to increase the sanction agreed for the offence. The aggravating factors that the Disciplinary Committee may wish to consider include (but are not limited to) the following:

- The degree of force and/or the nature and extent of threatening behaviour used.
- The profile of the Player or Official, including where they hold a position of responsibility within their Club or organisation (e.g. Club captain, Club chair, a member of the Club's
- Failure to co-operate with the League, Provincial Association and/or the FAI.
- Previous disciplinary record of the Player or Official.
- Any attempt to conceal the breach.
- The extent of any premeditation.
- The overall impact on the reputation and integrity of the game.

REGULATION 52. PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SANCTION

1. The Disciplinary Committee that imposes a sanction on a person, Member, League or Club may examine whether it is possible to suspend the implementation of that sanction partially.
2. The Disciplinary Committee will decide which part of the sanction may be partially suspended.
3. By suspending the implementation of the sanction, the Disciplinary Committee subjects the person, Member, League or Club sanctioned to a probationary period which shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee.
4. If the person, Member, League or Club benefiting from a partially suspended sanction commits the same offence during the probationary period, the partial suspension is automatically revoked and the sanction applied. Any sanction imposed from the subsequent offence will be added to the sanction imposed for the previous offence.