

Article XVIII - Sportsmanship

Section 1 - General Sportsmanship Expectations: A basic principle of NJCAA athletic competition is to develop and foster respect for fellow participants, coaches, officials and spectators. Article XVIII applies to all athletic events involving NJCAA member institutions, conferences and/or regions. Sport rulebooks may apply rules and regulations that are more restrictive than those found in this section.

- A. Participants will recognize their responsibility for proper conduct before, during and after every contest.
- B. Coaches and Athletic Directors will recognize and assume responsibility for the behavior of themselves, players, staff, game management personnel and representatives of the respective NJCAA member institution.

Section 2 - Ejections

A. Violent

A.1. Violent behavior is defined as:

- A.1.a. An act in which physical contact or an attempt to make physical contact occurs with the purpose to do damage, harm, intimidate, incite a fight or otherwise injure a player, coach, referee, spectator or game management personnel or damage property.
- A.1.b. Engaging in hostile or abusive language or harassment that refers to race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and national origin and/or other threatening language.
- A.1.c. An act in which any bench personnel other than the head coach (or in the absence of the head coach the acting head coach) leave the bench area or designated warm-up area when a fight may break out or has broken out.

A.2. Penalties - The following penalties will be assessed if a game official ejects a player, coach, team personnel, staff member, or game management personnel for violent unsportsmanlike behavior:

- A.2.a. Immediate ejection and removal from the venue as defined by sight and sound.
- A.2.b. Mandatory ejection and removal from the venue for any bench personnel other than the head coach who leaves the bench or designated warm up area when a fight may break out or has broken out.
- A.2.c. A two contest suspension to be served during the next two regularly scheduled or postseason contests. Suspension of a coach or player at the end of a season of play shall carry over to the following season.
- A.2.d. Should the player, coach or team personnel be ejected for violent behavior a second time during the season, that individual shall be prohibited from participating in athletic contests of that institution for the remainder of the academic year, including postseason play.
- A.2.e. Penalties shall be imposed automatically by the offending institution with suspensions to be in effect for the next two regularly scheduled contests as appearing on the published schedule of the institution at the time of the ejection.
- A.2.f. The referee may end the contest.

A.3. Failure to report and/or comply - Failure to report and/or comply will result in:

- A.3.a. For the first occurrence, the penalties will double for the offending participant, with the head coach also serving the doubled portion of the penalty and a letter of reprimand shall be sent to the Director of Athletics and the President of the institution.
- A.3.b. For the second occurrence, the penalties will double and a sanction of probation shall be given to the offending institution for that sport in that year.
- A.3.c. Games played during the time of failure to report and/or failure to comply with Article XVIII, Section 3.A. must be forfeited

B. Non-Violent

B.1. Definition - Non-violent unsportsmanlike behavior is defined as profanity, vulgar gestures, trash talking, taunting or abusive language directed at players, coaches, referees, game management personnel and/or spectators. The use of tobacco or alcohol during NJCAA sponsored events is prohibited within this rule.

B.2. Penalties - The following penalties will be assessed if a game official ejects a player, coach, team personnel, staff member, or game management personnel for non-violent unsportsmanlike behavior:

- B.2.a. Immediate ejection and removal from the venue as defined by sight and sound.

- B.2.b. For the first non-violent ejection of the sport season, a one contest suspension to be served during the next regularly scheduled or postseason contest. Suspension of a coach or player at the end of the season of play shall carry over to the following season. For the second non-violent ejection of the sport season, a two game suspension shall be served. For the third non-violent ejection of the sport season, a four game suspension shall be served. Each subsequent ejection will result in a doubling of the suspension previously served.
- B.2.c. Penalties shall be imposed automatically by the offending institution with suspensions to be in effect for the next regularly scheduled contest as appearing on the published schedule of the institution at the time of the ejection.
- B.3. Failure to report and/or comply - Failure to report and/or comply will result in:
 - B.3.a. For the first occurrence, the penalties will double for the offending participant, with the head coach also serving the double portion of the penalty and a letter of reprimand shall be sent to the Director of Athletics and the President of the institution.
 - B.3.b. For the second occurrence, penalties will double and a sanction of probation shall be given to the offending institution for that sport in that year.
 - B.3.c. Games played during the time of failure to report and/or failure to comply with Article XVIII, Section 3.A. must be forfeited.
- C. Ejection of the Head Coach: The game shall be terminated and a forfeit declared if the head coach is ejected and there is no assistant coach or other college staff contractually bound to the institution willing to assume responsibility for the team.

Section 3 - Non-Collegial Incident

- A. Definition - Any act or incident not in accordance with Article XVIII, Section 1 and or any sportsmanship situation not appropriately ruled on by the game officials in charge of the contest in accordance with NJCAA bylaws. Examples: multiple ejections, bench clearing altercations, postgame altercations, game official(s) in charge of the contest does not allow the contest to be completed in its entirety.
- B. Penalties – Will be administered by the NJCAA National Office on a case by case basis in support of Article XVIII Section 1.
- C. Failure to report and/or comply - Failure to report and/or comply will result in:
 - C.1. For the first occurrence, the penalties will double for the offending participant, with the head coach also serving the double portion of the penalty and a letter of reprimand shall be sent to the Director of Athletics and the President of the institution.
 - C.2. For the second occurrence, penalties will double and a sanction of probation shall be given to the offending institution for that sport in that year.
 - C.3. Games played during the time of failure to report and/or failure to comply with Article XVIII, Section 3.A. must be forfeited.

Section 4 – Entering Spectator Area: No player, coach or bench personnel may leave the playing area and enter into the spectator area of the facility to engage in any type of verbal or physical conflict. Penalty for violation of this rule shall be immediate ejection from the contest and suspension from all intercollegiate athletic contests of that institution for the remainder of the academic year including playoffs.

Section 5 – Reporting

- A. Single Person Ejections – In the case where a single incident resulted in a single individual being ejected, the report must be communicated to the Regional Director by noon the next business day.
 - A.1. The Athletic Directors of the member institutions involved in the contest shall notify, in writing, their respective Regional Director (or designee) following the ejection(s) by noon local time of the first business day following the event. (Note: Reporting procedures must be followed for all regular and postseason competition).
 - A.2. Ejection Reports – Ejection reports of violent ejections will include a written notification to the President with a copy sent to the Athletic Director of the offending college. This notification will be sent by the Regional Director or his/her designee in the region where the college of the offending player or coach resides.
- B. Multiple Person Ejections and Non-Collegial Incidents - In the case of an incident where two (2) or more individuals are ejected, in a single incident, or in the case of a Non-Collegial Incident, the report must be communicated to the NJCAA National Office by noon the next business day.
 - B.1. Game officials do not have to eject players, personnel or a coach to require this report.
 - B.2. The Athletic Directors of the member institutions involved in the contest shall notify, in writing, the NJCAA Executive Director following any incident which involves two or more individuals by noon local time of the first business day following the incident. (Note: Reporting procedures must be followed for all regular and postseason competition).
 - B.3. A copy of the report should be sent to the respective Regional Director in addition to the NJCAA Executive Director.
 - B.4. Details of Report – Multiple Person and Non-Collegial Incident Reports must include a detailed accounting of the following:
 - B.4.a. Date and location of incident

- B.4.b. Names of individuals involved in the incident
- B.4.c. Names of schools involved in the incident
- B.4.d. Specific details of the incident
- B.4.e. Were there any ejections as a result of the incident? If so, provide details.
- B.4.f. Is there a video of the incident? If there is a video it should be provided with the report.

C. Regional Director Reporting Structure for Ejections:

- C.1. The Regional Director or his/her designee shall keep a record of all ejections in their respective region. The record shall include the name of the person ejected and institution, the date of the ejection, the reason for the ejection and the penalty imposed.
- C.2. The Regional Director or his/her designee shall supply an end of the year report of the ejections occurring in the Region. The report shall include the number of ejections and the penalties assessed by sport. Copies of the end of the year report shall be given to the Region, the Sport Committee and the Standards and Ethics Committee by June 15 of that academic year.

Section 6 - Jurisdiction

- A. Single person ejections - Region Level
- B. Multiple person ejections and Non-Collegial incidents - NJCAA National Office

Section 7 – Appeals

- A. Participants in all NJCAA certified sports are subject to the penalties listed for the ejections.
- B. There is no appeal of a game(s) suspension resulting from an ejection by a game official except:
 - B.1. When there is the college's irrefutable game video evidence that the wrong student-athlete(s)/coach(s) was ejected. If the wrong student-athlete(s)/coach(s) was ejected, the penalty will be assessed to the student-athlete(s)/coach(s) in violation and he/she will serve the complete suspension.
 - B.2. All game suspensions will be in effect during the appeals process.
 - B.3. Only the institution of the student-athlete(s)/coach(s) that was ejected can appeal.
 - B.4. The NJCAA National Office will rule on all appeals.
 - B.5. The level of the ejection cannot be appealed (violent vs. non-violent).
- C. ~~There is no appeal of a ruling made by the NJCAA National Office in the case of a non-collegial incident. The NJCAA has a zero-tolerance philosophy when it comes to sportsmanship that is found to be less than the expected standard, and the negative image-unsportsmanlike conduct brings to our member colleges and association, when it is exhibited by our student-athletes, coaches and /or personnel.~~ Deleted as of August 1, 2017

Section 8 - Game Officials and Game Management Personnel: An act in which verbal abuse, physical contact or an attempt to make physical contact occurs with the purpose to do damage, harm, intimidate, incite a fight or otherwise injure a game official and/or game management personnel will lead to a suspension for a minimum of two games and a maximum of one year.

Section 9 – Suspensions: Personnel and athletes suspended under these NJCAA rules shall not be allowed in the facility/gym/field/complex before or during the contest and may not coach or participate before the game, during play, or at half-time. Suspended individuals must remain out of sight and sound of and from the venue while serving a suspension.

- A. Suspended coaches may travel with the team.
- B. Suspended athletes may not travel with the team while serving a suspension.

