

## ARTICLE XVIII – SPORTSMANSHIP

A basic principle of NJCAA athletic competition is to develop and foster respect for fellow participants, coaches, officials and spectators. The following handbook section applies to all athletic events involving NJCAA member institutions, conferences and regions. Sport rule books 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 1. Ejections:** (The Ejection Form can be found in the “Forms” section of the Handbook/Casebook.)

- A. Ejection for violent behavior:
  1. Violent behavior is defined as:
    - 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, game management personnel or damage property.
    - b. An act in which any bench personnel other than the coaching staff leave the bench area when a fight may break out or has broken out.
  2. 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. Immediate ejection and removal from the venue.
    - b. Mandatory ejection and removal from the venue for any bench personnel other than the coaching staff who leaves the bench when a fight may break out or has broken out.
    - c. A two contest suspension to be served during the next two regularly scheduled or post season contests. Suspension of a coach or player at the end of a season of play shall carry over to the following season.
    - 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.
    - 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.
    - f. The referee may end the contest.
    - g. Failure to report and/or comply will result in:
      1. For the first occurrence, the penalties will double, with the head coach 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.
      2. 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.
      3. Games played during the time of failure to report and/or failure to comply with Article XVIII, Section 2.A must be forfeited.
- B. Ejection for non-violent unsportsmanlike behavior:
  1. 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.
  2. 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:
    - a. Immediate ejection and removal from the venue.
    - b. For the first non-violent ejection of the sport season, a one contest suspension to be served during the next regularly scheduled or post-season contest(s). 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.
    - 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.
    - d. Failure to report and/or comply will result in:
      1. For the first occurrence, the penalties will double, with the head coach 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.
      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.

3. Games played during the time of failure to report and/or failure to comply with Article XVIII, Section 2.A must be forfeited.
- C. Entering spectator area is prohibited: 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.
  - D. Ejection of the 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.
  - E. Reporting structure
    1. The Athletic Directors of the member institutions involved in the contest shall notify, in writing, their respective Region Director (or designee) following the ejection/s by noon local time of the first business day following the event.
    2. The Region Directors (or designee) shall keep a record of all ejections in their respective region. The record shall include the name and institution of the person ejected, the date of the ejection, the reason for the ejection, and the penalty imposed.
    3. The Region Director or 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.
  - F. Appeals
    1. Participants in all NJCAA certified sports are subject to the penalties listed for the ejections.
    2. There is no appeal of a game(s) suspension resulting from an ejection by a game official except:
      - a. When there is the college's irrefutable game video evidence that the wrong student-athlete/coach was ejected. If the wrong student-athlete/coach was ejected, the penalty will be assessed to the student-athlete/coach in violation and he/she will serve the complete suspension.
      - b. All game suspensions will be in effect during the appeals process.
      - c. Only the institution of the student-athlete(s)/coach(s) that was ejected can appeal.
      - d. The NJCAA National Office will rule on all appeals.

**NOTE:** The level of the ejection can not be appealed (violent vs. non-violent).

**Section 2: Suspensions:**

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