



GENERAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

2020 – 2021

Eligibility

To promote fairness in competition and for the health and safety of student-athletes, no member school will be eligible to participate in any NJSIAA Championship Tournament if it has violated the NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Policies, and Procedures. In addition, schools must follow the sports-specific tournament regulations for each NJSIAA tournament they are entering.

The NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, times and locations as it pertains to all NJSIAA State tournaments. The application of this eligibility standard is not appealable.

Member schools not willing or able to comply with all tournament regulations should not enter the tournament.

Member in Good Standing

In order to be eligible for tournament seeding, a school must be a member in good standing, which means:

1. Annual dues have been timely paid;
2. Resolution card has been timely submitted;
3. Coaches' and Principal's affidavit forms have been timely submitted; and,
4. There are no outstanding invoices over 90 days past due.

Disqualifications

Participation by an ineligible player in any game during the regular season results in forfeiture of same game. If such forfeit(s) would have caused the school's failure to qualify for the tournament or if an ineligible player participates in a tournament game, said school will be disqualified from the tournament immediately and their last opponent will advance in their place; schools eliminated prior to the last opponent will not re-enter tournament competition.

Sportsmanship Policy Dealing with Bias Incidents

Any person (athletic department, staff members, student-athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who engages in any verbal, written or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion shall not be tolerated, could subject the violator to ejection, and may result in penalties assessed against your team. In addition reports of such violations will be forwarded to the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights.

Protests

Protests based upon an official's judgment, or misinterpretation or misapplication of the playing rules will not be honored as per **NJSIAA Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1.**

Alcoholic Beverages/Illegal Substances

Players and coaches involved with alcoholic beverages and/or illegal substances before, during or after the game, at the game site or on school property, including chartered busses, **shall be suspended from NJSIAA tournament play for one (1) year and be denied any championship rights.**

This action was taken in support of the fact that such actions concerning alcoholic beverages and illegal substances are in violation of New Jersey State statutes and will be strictly enforced.

Merchandise Sales

Northwest Designs Ink, Inc. is the exclusive merchandise supplier of the NJSIAA. Any sale or distribution of clothing, souvenirs or any other items is strictly prohibited without the express written consent of the NJSIAA.

Solicitations, sales of merchandise or similar activities are not permitted without prior authorization from NJSIAA.

Emergency & Medical Procedures

Each school participating in the tournament will provide for the care and treatment of their athletes within the school's policy as in effect during the regular season. The athletic emergency procedure of the host school will be in effect during the tournament which should include the establishment of a line of communication for emergent situations.

When games are scheduled at pre-determined sites, the Site Director may require that his/her medical personnel be in attendance. Competing schools will share the cost of providing this coverage.

Some sources of assistance that may be utilized when physicians are not available are certified athletic trainers, emergency medical technicians usually on emergency vehicles, ambulance vehicle with trained personnel, rescue vehicle with trained first-aid personnel and, in some areas, National Guard or Army Reserve Medical personnel assigned to ambulance duty. Schools may also have other school personnel qualified in first-aid, who may be available for duty during activities.

Recommended procedures that may be followed in successful emergency care are:

1. Immediate, on the spot first-aid by an individual with adequate training.
2. **Communication System.** An available, non-pay telephone with an outside line to contact a physician or ambulance service. Arrangements should be made in advance to insure availability.
3. **Emergency care facility.** Arrangements should be made, in advance, with staff personnel of local hospital or clinic to notify, in case of emergency, that emergency service is necessary.

4. **Notification.** The facility to which the injured player is being transported should be immediately informed of the injured player's status. Necessary personnel and equipment should be available in the facility or physicians, on call, could be notified of the emergency.
5. **Transportation.** Ambulance, emergency vehicle, first-aid vehicle or rescue vehicle, with appropriate equipment and personnel may be parked at the field or game site. If this procedure is not feasible, prior arrangements should be made to have equipment on call when an emergency develops. Again, an available, non-pay telephone with an outside line should be immediately available.

Communities without physicians, medical clinics, or hospital service should complete arrangements with medical personnel and hospital facilities in the nearest community where such services are available.

The plan of action specified above should be carefully covered, in advance, with responsibilities of all concerned – trainer, coach, vehicle personnel, school administrators, local police, deputies, or constables – defined. When an emergency does occur, everyone involved can function as an informed, effective team.

Local plans of action to meet emergency situations will vary depending on availability of medical personnel and facilities, the location of the playing field or site and communications. In all cases, the emergency situation plan is best developed through cooperative action of local school personnel, participating professional medical staff and allied groups.

Blood-Borne Pathogens

All member schools must provide every coach with a copy of the **NJSIAA Infectious Disease Policy**.

The **Infectious Disease Policy** provides that if an individual gets someone else's blood on his/her skin, protective gloves should be worn to wipe the blood off with a disposable towel using soap and water.

Note: If any blood gets on an opponent's uniform during competition or a teammate's uniform during practice, it is not necessary to clean the uniform at that point unless the opponent or teammate has an open cut or unskinned area, or the blood is on a part of the uniform which might come in contact with mucous membranes. If the student-athlete does have an open cut or unskinned area or believes the blood might come in contact with mucous membranes, then the uniform should be wiped with soap and water.

Transportation/Supervision/Crowd Control

Schools will pay all transportation expenses for all games.

Participating schools are responsible to provide an administrator or designee to supervise all games, home and away. If it is felt necessary to provide police protection, officers shall be secured from the area in which the game is played, and the cost shall be shared by the schools. All schools involved in the Tournament must provide at least 2 site administrators and security staff for each **Sectional Final, State Semi-Final, Group Final and Tournament of Champions** games. A Security Form must be sent in by the School Athletic Director prior to the Group Finals. The parents, fans and students must be supervised.

The NJSIAA will provide policing for the State Championship Finals.

Coaches are reminded that team personnel must be restricted to an area at least five (5) yards from the sideline and no more than a distance of fifteen (15) yards from the center line of either goal line, if team benches are on opposite sides of the field; or no more than a distance of twenty (20) yards from the center line to the near goal line if benches are on the same side of the field. Spectators are to be restrained to areas at least ten (10) yards from the sidelines and at least ten (10) yards away from the goal. No spectators are permitted behind the goal.

There is a growing concern over the lack of supervision and control of the fans who believe “they can say anything they want” and constantly “scream” at and correct the officials. This is the responsibility of Site Management, Tournament Staff, School Administrators and Coaches. We must all work together to send a clear message that this behavior is unacceptable throughout the season as well as during the NJSIAA Championship Tournament.

We expect fans to cheer positively for their team!

DRONE POLICY

1. Except as provided in number 4 below, the use of unmanned aerial systems (“UAS”), commonly referred to as “drones”, by any NJSIAA member school is permitted during practice and at home events in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal laws and regulations.
2. Member schools are permitted to use UAS at away events with advance written permission of the host school, or, in the event there is no home school, the site manager.
3. If only one school operates a UAS at an event, the UAS video shall be provided to all other participating schools as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the event.
4. **The use of UAS at an NJSIAA tournament event is prohibited.**

NJSIAA BROADCASTING REGULATIONS

The NJSIAA has granted the exclusive rights to create, distribute and license programming in connection with NJSIAA tournaments (and NJSIAA sporting events to the extent the NJSIAA controls or otherwise has authority to grant such rights with regard to NJSIAA sporting events) in all media currently existing or yet to be developed. This includes, without limitation, network and cable television broadcast, pay-per-view television, radio, webcasting, streaming, podcasting, distribution over wireless telephone networks, optical media including DVD, and print publications. The foregoing shall not be interpreted to restrict NJSIAA member schools from producing print publications (i.e. programs or similar) for distribution on school property during the regular season NJSIAA sports events, or to restrict the NJSIAA from producing print publications (i.e. programs or similar) for distribution during post-season NJSIAA tournaments.

Any third party seeking to create, distribute or otherwise exploit programming in connection with the NJSIAA sporting events in any media must contact the NJSIAA with a written request to broadcast. Any request will be subject to approval by the NJSIAA's broadcast partners and the NJSIAA Staff. Requests should be sent directly to broadcast@njsiaa.org.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, including but not limited to the information above, NJSIAA member schools may broadcast regular season (but not playoff, post-season tournament, or championship) athletic contests involving such schools' own teams or athletes, without charging any fee to any viewer or other third party, on such schools' own commercial-free television networks, their own commercial-free websites, or on commercial-free public access television channels (provided that any agreement between an NJSIAA member school and a commercial-free public access television channel does not permit sublicense or other use of the telecast).

NJSIAA Interim Vapor/E-Cigarette Policy (January 13, 2016)

It has come to the attention of NJSIAA that vapor/e-cigarettes maybe/are being used by student athletes and/or coaches prior to, during, or after interscholastic events.

The NFHS rule book(s) state "the use of tobacco products" results in a flagrant disqualification, but there is no mention of vapor/e-cigarettes. When contacted, the NFHS replied that vapor/e-cigarettes are to be treated as a traditional cigarette, which is identified as a tobacco/and or nicotine product, and therefore means any use of the vapor/e-cigarettes shall be enforced as a flagrant disqualification.

The NJSIAA position on this matter is that we will adhere to the ruling stated above. We will refer this matter to the NJSIAA Medical Advisory Committee for further study and after receiving the Medical Advisory Committees' recommendation(s), we will develop a permanent policy and will distribute such to the member schools of NJSIAA.