



2020-21
Officials

“Points of Emphasis”

COVID-19 Information

During the 2020-21 school year, the NFHS & the NJSIAA have made modifications to many of the sports because of COVID-19

Please make sure you are informed of the changes by attending your chapters rule interpretations meeting or contacting your chapters rules interpreter



Registering of Officials

- All officials, all levels must be registered with the NJSIAA.
- All officials must complete a background check.
- All officials must complete the concussion in sports course on the NFHS Learn website.
- All officials must pay appropriate NJSIAA fees, including the background check fee.
- All officials must pass the NFHS/NJSIAA test.



Background Checks

BACKGROUND CHECK DISCLOSURE

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) requires all independently contracted officials to complete a criminal history background check annually. The background check will be ordered by the NJSIAA and submitted to an NJSIAA-approved consumer reporting agency (CRA). The NJSIAA will not accept criminal history background reports from other CRAs that were not ordered by the NJSIAA. Under New Jersey law, you have the right to submit a request to the CRA for a copy of any background check report that the NJSIAA has ordered about you.

BACKGROUND CHECK ADJUDICATION MATRIX

With the NJSIAA Comprehensive National Background Package, the NJSIAA approved background check company will be conducting their background checks using the NJSIAA adjudication matrix listed below:

Unlimited Scope:

- All Felonies
- Misdemeanors involving the following:
 - Sex crimes
 - Crimes involving minors

Seven (7) Year Scope:

- Misdemeanors involving drug related charges

Additional Information is located on NJSIAA website



Sportsmanship Statement

- Must be read at all levels (no choice – AG office mandate)
- Must be read in its entirety (no paraphrasing)
- Must be professional in the delivery
- Because of COVID-19, the sportsmanship statement will only be read to one captain and one coach from each team.
- PA announcers – different version
- The sportsmanship policy must be adhered to before, during and after the contest.



Sportsmanship Statement

- The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players.
- There will be no tolerance for negative statements or actions between opposing players or coaches. This includes taunting, baiting, berating opponents, or “trash talking” or actions which ridicule or cause embarrassment to them.
- **It also includes “harassing conduct” (Bias) related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion. If such comments are heard, a penalty will be assessed immediately.**
- **We have been instructed not to issue warnings.**
- It is your responsibility to remind your team of this policy.



Sportsmanship Statement

“Harassing Conduct” (Bias)

- Bias = Race, Color, Religion, Gender, Disability, Sexual Orientation, National Origin, Ethnicity, Gender Identity or Expression
- De-escalation of any potential Bias incidents is paramount.
- If you see or hear something...Do something!!!
- **We (you) have been instructed not to issue warnings.**



DQ vs. Game Ejection

Disqualification Rule

Any student-athlete or coach disqualified before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike, flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two regularly scheduled contests, except for football which will carry a one game disqualification.

Game Ejection

Definition of a game ejection is any player removed from a game for behavior that is not considered unsportsmanlike, and does not require a DQ report to be filed.



Game Ejection 2020-21

Game Ejection (COVID-19)

- NJSIAA will not tolerate any behavior by a coach or player that may jeopardize the health of our officials and other players.
- Any behavior by a coach or player, that is considered non-compliant with social distance guidelines may be ejected from the game consistent with the rules of that sport.
- Further escalations of this behavior could be considered a sportsmanship violation and a disqualification (DQ) should be given.



DQ Reporting

- Official must contact the AD by noon of the next day
- Online reporting must be 48 hours from completion of game
- Official must notify the coach before they leave the facility that it was a DQ and will be reported
- DQ is a DQ, officials are not permitted to change their mind after it is called
- DQ appeals will **NOT** be accepted by the NJSIAA
- Please remember to be signed into the website to enter a DQ



Handshake

THERE WILL BE NO HANDSHAKES FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

- ~~• Officials are not required to supervise the handshake.~~
- ~~• It is the schools / coaches' responsibility to supervise the handshake.~~
- ~~• Officials are permitted to observe the handshake if they desire.~~



Heat Policy

- The heat policy and subsequent modifications is the decision of the school district. They will determine the correct procedure as spelled out in the heat policy.
- Officials are not involved in this decision regarding the heat policy before or during the game.
- School district personnel should be in communication with all officials assigned to the game regarding modifications if needed.



School Uniform Modifications

Transgender Clarification:

Pursuant to NJ law and NJSIAA policy, the NJSIAA will approve all reasonable accommodations regarding uniforms as it relates to transgender student-athletes. If there are any questions regarding this on the day of the contest, officials are instructed to continue with the contest and notify the NJSIAA the following day.

All Accommodations:

- Must not violate the NFHS sports specific uniform rules
- Must match the existing uniform in terms of color and logos.
- Must not create an unsafe environment for all participants.



School Uniform Modifications

Religious Clarification:

The NJSIAA will approve all reasonable accommodations regarding uniforms as it relates to accommodations for religious reasons. Schools may modify uniforms for their athletes for religious reasons upon approval of the NJSIAA. A copy of the letter from NJSIAA that allows such must accompany the participant at each event to be available for the official to review and approve. If a letter from the NJSIAA is not available, officials are instructed to continue with the contest and notify the NJSIAA the following day.

All Accommodations:

- Must not violate the NFHS sports specific uniform rules
- Must match the existing uniform in terms of color and logos.
- Must not create an unsafe environment for all participants.



School Uniform Modifications

Jewelry Clarification:

- Jewelry shall not be worn except for religious or medical medals.
- A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform.
- A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.

Any questions or concerns regarding uniform modifications, please contact the NJSIAA.



School Uniform Modifications

If there are any questions regarding uniform modifications for Transgender or religious reasons the day of the contest, officials are instructed to continue with the contest and notify the NJSIAA the following day.

Officials Apparel

All officials (any level) that are registered with the NJSIAA must wear the approved NJSIAA logo on the chosen apparel (shirt/jacket) by the officials for that particular game. For those officials that wear hats during their contests, we are simply asking that all hats are the same for all officials working that game. The hats can have either the NJSIAA logo, their chapters logo, or no logo, as long as all officials match.



Registration for ****2021-22****

****REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR WILL OPEN ON APRIL 1, 2021 AND CLOSE ON MARCH 30, 2022****

Registered

A registered official is any official that has completed the registration process with the NJSIAA but has not completed the eligibility process. A registered official can be assigned by any NJSIAA approved assignor but cannot work any games until they become active.

Active

An active official is any official that has completed the registration process with the NJSIAA and completed and cleared all the eligibility requirements.

Inactive

An inactive official is any official that is registered with the NJSIAA and not officiating for a period of time. An inactive official is not permitted to work any NJSIAA contests at any level until they become active. All inactive officials are covered by the NFHS Liability Insurance if they choose to officiate any contest other than NJSIAA, Semi-Pro, and Professional levels.

Suspended

Any official that has not completed the registration process.

Any official that has a level two or three flagged background check

Any official that is suspended by the NJSIAA

Any official that is not in good standing with their chapter

The Registration Level of cadet will go away after the 2020-21 year.



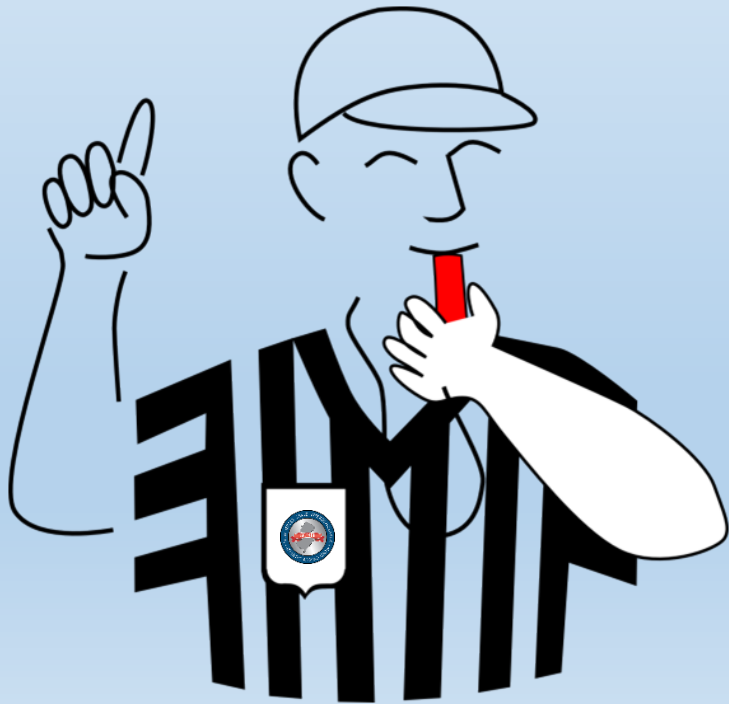
NFHS Test **2021-22**

- All officials as part of the eligibility process will need to take the NFHS Test and pass with a score of 80%.
- Officials will not be permitted to officiate any NJSIAA contest at any level without passing the test.
- All Chapters will need to complete their cadet programs to coincide with the release of the NFHS test.
- If the cadet program is structured in such a way that they are to shadow on field officials, this practice may continue without the cadet taking the NFHS test as long as the cadet is in direct supervision with an active official.



Professional Development

Please visit the [NFHSlearn.com](https://www.nfhslearn.com) for many free professional development opportunities.



Have a great year!!!

