

NJSIAA

Officials Handbook



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Introduction

The NJSIAA takes great pleasure in presenting this Officials Handbook to all officials and member schools in our state. To achieve officiating excellence an official must combine knowledge of the rules and of the game with proper mechanics and decision-making skills. The official must also be in top physical condition in order to meet the rigorous physical and mental demands of such activities. This handbook serves as a reminder to officials of their responsibilities to the student/athletes and member schools and, in turn, the schools' responsibility to officials.

Officials Code of Ethics

Officials at an interscholastic athletic event are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of citizenship, self-discipline, independence and responsibility. The purpose of this Code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials.

Officials shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.

Officials shall work with each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.

Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

Officials shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and the public hold for the profession.

Officials shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.

Officials shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

Minimum Requirements for Certification of Officials Chapters

Certification of an officials' chapter or association is at the discretion of the Executive Committee, which may consider, among other things, the need for a new chapter or association, the number of new officials in the membership of the new chapter or association, and whether the new chapter or association was created as a result of a conflict with an existing chapter or association. In addition, all officials' chapters or associations must meet the following minimum requirements to be eligible for consideration by the Executive Committee.

1. The chapter must provide evidence of officiating experience of its membership noting league, conference, or levels of competition and years of service.
2. The chapter must provide a list of its duly elected officers and membership.
3. The chapter must provide a copy of its Constitution and Bylaws for review by the NJSIAA.
4. The chapter must agree to grant the NJSIAA the final authority for testing, training, and evaluation procedures adopted by the chapter.
5. The chapter must provide an outline of its testing, training, and evaluating procedures for certification of prospective and present members. All members must pass an annual rules examination approved by the NJSIAA.
6. The chapter must agree to comply with all provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA; decisions of the Executive Committee of the NJSIAA; and the tenets of agreements effected by the Officials' Councils and the NJSIAA.

NJSIAA Minimum Requirements for Registration of Officials

The Executive Committee, at its discretion, may approve the certification or registration of officials and/or official's chapters in all sports, and may establish the minimum requirements for testing, training and evaluating of officials.

- I. NJSIAA Registration
 - a. All officials must be registered with the NJSIAA online registration system to be eligible to officiate ANY level of high school contests the NJSIAA governs.
 - b. All officials must register for each sport each year.
 - c. All officials must pay the appropriate registration fees based on the number of sports they are registering for. All NJSIAA payments are paid through the online registration system, which includes both the registration, and the background check fees.
 - d. All officials must consent to a yearly background check and pay the background check fee. The background check is required once a year not per sport. Inactive officials are not required to have background checks.
 - e. All background checks will expire in June on the day of the last NJSIAA event regardless of when your background check was submitted.

- f. All registered NJSIAA officials are considered independent contractors and not employees of the NJSIAA.

II. NJSIAA Officials Registration Levels:

- a. **Registered** – Registered officials can be assigned to games but cannot work any games until they become an active official. All registered officials are covered by the NFHS Liability Insurance. A registered official is any official that has:
- Completed the registration process with the NJSIAA
 - Consented to the background check & general release clause
 - Paid the appropriate registration and background check fees
 - Registered officials that have not become active will receive two notifications (warning & forfeiture) regarding their registration level to officiate. See dates below:
- b. **Active** – Active officials are eligible for all levels of contests by the NJSIAA. Each chapter will determine the readiness of each of its officials. All active officials are covered by the NFHS Liability Insurance. An active official is any official that has:
- Completed the registration process with the NJSIAA
 - Consented to the background check & general release clause
 - Paid the appropriate registration and background check fees
 - Complete all eligibility requirements (see below).
- c. **Inactive** – 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. Inactive officials do not receive rulebooks from the NFHS. An inactive official is any official that has:
- Registered as “Inactive” with the NJSIAA
 - Paid the appropriate “Inactive” registration fee
- d. **Suspended** – Any official that has been suspended, will not be assignable and will be pulled from all games they have already been assigned to until the suspension level has been lifted. A suspended official is any official that:
- Is currently suspended by the NJSIAA
 - Has a level two or three flagged background check
 - Is not in good standing with their chapter

III. Testing

- a. All officials must pass the NFHS rules test or other comprehensive exam approved by the NJSIAA for each sport they are registering for with a score of 80% or higher.

IV. Eligibility

- a. All officials must clear the following eligibility checks to become an active member.
 - Pass the background check
 - Take the concussion course
 - Pass the NFHS part I test with an 80% or higher
 - Be in good standing with your chapters

Note: All eligibility requirements will expire on June 30th of each year. Please do not take the NFHS Concussion course until July 1 or later of each year.

V. Training

- a. Chapters must designate a rules interpreter who must attend the NJSIAA Rules Interpretation meeting.
- b. Chapters designated rules interpreter must conduct an NJSIAA rules interpretation meeting prior to the opening of the interscholastic sport season for that sport.
- c. Attendance at all NJSIAA rules interpretation meetings is mandatory for all members. Chapters must submit to the NJSIAA the names of the officials that have attended the mandatory NJSIAA rules interpretation meeting.
- d. Chapters shall conduct additional meetings at which rules, mechanics, and NJSIAA modifications are reviewed for the in-service improvement of officiating.
- e. Cadet and in-service training programs must be established to insure a high caliber of officiating for the member schools.
- f. All officials officiating any level game the NJSIAA governs must be of legal age (18).

VI. Evaluation and Certification

- a. Chapters shall develop a means of evaluating their members for continuing their memberships in good standing
- b. Chapters shall furnish the NJSIAA with a list of their members in good standing by the NJSIAA designated date.

VII. Chapter Registration

- a. Candidates must provide at least two references attesting to his/her character.
- b. Registration by the NJSIAA and the chapter will not be issued or renewed for any adult (an adult is defined as any person 18 years of age or older):
 - Convicted, or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt or violation, in regard to an offense against a minor or any sexual offense unless/until such offense has been reversed by proper authority with jurisdiction over the matter; or,
 - Convicted, or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt or violation,

in regard to an offense involving any illegal/illicit drug or controlled substance as prescribed by federal or state law or regulation, prior to five (5) years following the completion of any sentence, parole, or probation period imposed for the offense.

c. Currently Registered Officials

- When a currently registered official is indicted or charged with any indictable criminal offense or charged with a violation of any statute pertaining to minors, drugs or a controlled substance, such license will automatically be suspended, pending resolution of the indictment or charge. Conviction or adjudication of fault, guilt or a violation under any such indictment or charge shall result in immediate and automatic forfeiture of the officiating license.
- Currently registered officials must inform the local chapter of any such indictment or indictable criminal charge immediately upon receipt of or upon having knowledge of such indictment or charge. Failure to notify the chapter shall itself be a basis for immediate and automatic forfeiture of the officiating license.

d. Reinstatement/Reapplication for Registration. An official whose registration has been forfeited, suspended or revoked or an applicant who is denied registration, under the provisions of this policy, may petition the chapter for reinstatement/reapplication based on the following:

- If suspension, revocation or forfeiture of registration is based upon conviction, adjudication or finding of guilt as a result of an indictable offense: The official/applicant may petition the chapter for registration one (1) year after the completion of the parole/probation period; other than conviction of illegal/illicit drugs, controlled substance where a five (5) year probation period is used, or immediately upon dismissal or reversal of the charge or conviction (provided the offense was NOT involving a minor or a sexual offense).
- If suspension, revocation, forfeiture or denial of registration is based upon any conviction, adjudication or finding of guilt involving a minor or sexual offense, reinstatement/reapplication will not be permitted, unless/until such offense has been reversed by proper authority having jurisdiction over the matter.

VIII. Background Check Information

- All officials must consent to a background check each year during the registration process.
- Once you have consented, paid the fee and filled out all the required information, your information will be sent to the NJSIAA approved background check company.
- All background checks will expire on June 30th of each year regardless of when your background check was submitted.

- As each background check is complete, it will be sent to the NJSIAA for adjudication.
- All officials that have been flagged by the NJSIAA because of their background check will receive a pre-adverse letter and a copy of the report to the email that was entered at the time of registration.

Flagged Background Check Procedure:

Any official that has received a pre-adverse letter because they have been flagged by the NJSIAA based on the NJSIAA background check criteria is considered temporally suspended by the NJSIAA until further review by all chapters the official belongs to. All officials that have been flagged by the NJSIAA must follow the procedure below if they wish to officiate any NJSIAA governed contests:

1. Contact the NJSIAA approved background check company if you disagree with the report or there is an error. If there was an error in the report, the NJSIAA approved background check company will fix the error and clear the officials background check.
2. If the report is correct, the official must contact all chapters they belong to regarding the report.
3. The official must follow all guidelines stipulated in the chapter bylaws regarding background checks.
4. All Chapters must have a reinstatement procedure for their officials to follow in the event of a violation of the NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies & Procedures for registration of officials.
5. The chapters reinstatement procedure must meet the minimum standards covered in the NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies & Procedures for registration of officials.
6. The chapter/s will decide if the reinstatement will be approved or denied. The chapter will notify the NJSIAA of their decision in a timely manner.
7. If the official is approved for reinstatement, the NJSIAA will verify that the official's violations fall within the minimum standards covered in the NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies & Procedures for registration of officials. If it is determined that the official satisfies the reinstatement standards, the NJSIAA will notify the official and chapter/s of the reinstatement.
8. If the official is denied reinstatement by the chapter/s, the official will receive an adverse letter and will be suspended indefinitely by the NJSIAA.

Flagged Levels:

The NJSIAA will review all flagged reports and determine appropriate level.

Level 1 Flag - The official will be reinstated immediately upon notification from the official's chapter/s stating that the official is a current member in good standing of said chapter.

Level 2 Flag - The official will be reinstated on a date set by the NJSIAA based on the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws. Upon reaching that date, the official

will be reinstated immediately upon notification from the official's chapter/s stating that the official is a current member in good standing of said chapter. Level 2 flags may be appealed to the NJSIAA controversies committee if the official chooses. The official in this case must notify the NJSIAA in writing of their intentions ASAP.

Level 3 Flag - The official will be suspended indefinitely with no reinstatement possible based on the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws. Level 3 flags may be appealed to the NJSIAA controversies committee if the official chooses. The official in this case must notify the NJSIAA in writing of their intentions ASAP.

Protests (Article VII)

Section 1. Protests against alleged violations of contracts, violations of the accepted standards of good sportsmanship, or of the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association, must be reported in writing and posted by the Principals of the participating schools or the game officials to the Executive Committee, through the Executive Director, within one hundred twenty (120) hours of the time of such violations, with a copy to the alleged violator. Protests based upon an official's judgment or misinterpretation (*misapplication*) of the playing rules will not be honored.

CL 2 "Protests based upon an official's judgment or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules will not be honored" does not preclude a League or Conference from addressing same; however, the NJSIAA will not honor such protests for non-conference games/meets, neither will the NJSIAA hear appeals to a League or Conference decision based upon an official's judgment or misinterpretation (misapplication) of the playing rules.

Contest Rules - Championships - Officials (Article VIII)

Section 2. All contests involving member schools must be played according to the rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations. This applies to all sports for which rules are formulated by that Association. Any sport that is governed by an agency other than the NFHS shall be played according to the rules of that governing body (i.e., USTA for spring and fall tennis/US Women Lacrosse Association Rule).

Section 3. All baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling officials working in any NJSIAA interscholastic baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball or volleyball game, gymnastics or swimming meet, or wrestling match, must be registered with the Association.

Section 4. The Executive Committee may approve the

certification of officials and/or officials' chapters in all sports; and the minimum requirements for testing, training, and evaluating all officials.

Sportsmanship (Article IX)

Coaches must be cautioned not to refuse to play or to complete a game/meet. Such decisions are within the jurisdiction of the game/meet officials once game/meet has started, or rest with home management and/or tournament director if the game/meet has not started.

Penalty: Any school whose coach violates Section 2. E. Shall be placed on probation by the Association for not less than one year from the date of violation and shall not receive championship recognition from this Association in that sport, or enter any championship games, matches, meets or tournament sponsored by the Association in that sport unless the NJSIAA deems sufficient administrative action has been taken against the coach. Conditions of probation are outlined in the Bylaws, Article X, Section 2. A. Probation. In addition, the coach will be fined a minimum of \$300.00.

Sportsmanship Rule/Policy

All association competitions must feature high standards of courtesy, fair play and sportsmanship. Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player or spectator.
- b. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- c. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, or spectators.
- d. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion at an interscholastic event.
- e. Any school or athletic staff member who is publicly critical of any game official, opponents and/or opposing coaches/players.
- f. The administration of a member school will be responsible for the unsportsmanlike conduct of that school's fans or spectators.

Executive Authority: Any report of a violation of good sportsmanship occurring during an NJSIAA sponsored event, must be submitted in writing and posted within one hundred twenty (120) hours of the incident to the Executive Director of the Association with a copy to the alleged violator and/or his/her school.

CL The one hundred twenty (120) hour provision will be satisfied, if the school's Principal notifies the League or Conference President, in writing, prior to the expiration of this time period since disputes and controversies involving League or Conference members must be initially heard at that level. However, all parties obligated to report a violation of good sportsmanship or any violation within 120 hours as required by Art. IX, Sect.4, and other Articles and Sections contained in the Constitution or Bylaws, cannot use the failure of such disclosure as an excuse to prevent the NJSIAA Executive Committee or Controversies Committee from taking jurisdiction of such a matter as provided by Section 4 of Article VII.

Pregame Sportsmanship Statement

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players. Officials have been instructed not to issue warnings regarding this policy. It is the coach's responsibility to remind all players of this policy

There will be no tolerance for negative statements or actions among players, coaches or officials. This includes taunting, baiting berating opponents, "Trash-Talking" or actions which ridicule or cause embarrassment to them. 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 being assessed against your team. If such comments are heard, a penalty will be assessed immediately.

Controversies and Disputes

- a. The Affiliated Agreement will not in any way impair the present authority of the NJSIAA to deal with controversies among, or impose discipline or sanctions upon, member schools, coaches, officials or student-athletes.
- b. All complaints against officials who are members of the Officials' Association, including disciplinary matters, shall be handled through the internal processes of the Officials' Association.
- c. Any party to a complaint involving an official who is a member of the Officials' Association, may appeal to the NJSIAA by filing an appeal with the Executive Director of the NJSIAA, pursuant to Article XIII of the NJSIAA Bylaws. However, no such appeal will be entertained by the NJSIAA until all internal processes of the Officials Association have been fully exhausted by the appellant.
- d. Hearings - The Controversies and Disputes Committee meets periodically to conduct hearings when there are violations of NJSIAA regulations. To that extent, officials are encouraged to attend said hearings when they have firsthand knowledge relative to the proceedings. Officials, along with all other parties, may be represented by counsel.

Disqualification Rules and Regulations

Rule 2 Specific Sport Regulations - Note 4.

- a. 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 (2) regularly scheduled games/meets, with the exception of football which will carry a one (1) game disqualification, at that level of competition and all other game(s)/ meet(s) in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties which the NJSIAA or a league/conference may assess.

CL-1, Once a coach/player has been disqualified, NO appeals will be honored from the player, coach, official or any other party. Disqualification is a judgement call and officials must be certain the act warrants disqualification. All complaints against an official must be directed to the official's Chapter Secretary and the NJSIAA.

CL-2, Scrimmages are not considered part of the disqualification rule.

- b. A disqualified player or coach may not be present at any contest in that sport during the period of disqualification. Definition of not being present at the site means that disqualified player or coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the bus, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet. Any player/coach in violation of this provision will be cause for forfeiture of those games during the period of disqualification.
- c. Should a coach/player be disqualified from the final game/meet of the season, said disqualification will carry over to the next year in that sport. In the case of the student-athlete, the same degree of penalty shall apply if said athlete retains eligibility in that sport.
- d. Any player/coach disqualified a second time in single or multiple sports will have the penalty doubled (i.e., in football - disqualified for two (2) games; all other sports - four (4) games). Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.
- e. Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of an NJSIAA tournament will be ineligible to compete in said tournament. According to NJSIAA rules and regulations, a player may and can be disqualified a second time in the same game/meet/match. A second disqualification for an individual in any game/meet/match supersedes NFHS rules in this regard.
- f. Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player and/or coach disqualifications for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct prior to the start of a tournament will not be permitted to participate in same. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.
- g. Single/multiple sports - on the third offense; players disqualified will be suspended indefinitely, and must apply, in writing, to the NJSIAA through

- the office of their Principal for reinstatement. Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.
- h. Any coach disqualified a second time within 365 days from the date of the first disqualification will be required to appear before the Controversies Committee with the Principal and Athletic Director.
 - i. Any coach who has been disqualified during the course of the proceeding school year and/or who has three or more players on a team disqualified during the course of the preceding school year must complete online the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course. This course license must be obtained from the NJSIAA with course completion certificate due to NJSIAA within 60 days.

Procedure for Disqualification of Players/Coaches

The following guidelines will serve to implement, clarify, and interpret the provisions of Note 4: Specific Sport Regulations.

The rules in many sports are now providing explicit instructions as to the removal of a player/coach from the game and the designated area to which they are assigned. IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES WHICH REQUIRE DISQUALIFICATION WITHIN A SPORT, THE OFFICIAL MUST BE COGNIZANT OF THESE RULES AS THEY APPLY TO THAT SPECIFIC SPORT. These circumstances have necessitated establishing specific guidelines for officials to follow when a player/coach is disqualified.

Whenever it becomes necessary to disqualify a coach from the game, the official should ascertain the availability of another coach or qualified faculty member who can assume responsibility for the team, and then employ the following procedures:

- a. If the administrator or representative is able to designate such a person, the disqualified coach should be removed from the immediate area.
- b. If the administrator or representative is not able to make this designation, the disqualified coach should be assigned to an area where the coach can visually observe a game and be available to protect the safety and welfare of the team. If the disqualified coach uses this privilege to communicate with the team or is again guilty of an unsportsmanlike act, the game shall be terminated and the Central Office of the NJSIAA notified in writing.
- c. Any player/coach disqualified before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two (2) regularly scheduled games/meets, with the exception of football which will carry a one (1) game disqualification, at that level of competition and all other game(s)/meet(s) in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties which the NJSIAA or a league/conference may assess. Such disqualification prevents a coach/player from being present at the site.

CL-2, These NJSIAA procedures will supersede a playing rule which

requires a coach or player to leave the premises upon disqualification; therefore, a player will be confined to the bench area to remain under the supervision of the coach. If said player continues to be disruptive or acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, the official may terminate the game/event.

Officials must use discretion in exercising their prerogative as most often these situations call for a high degree of tact. The unruly coach should be dealt with in a stern but courteous manner the very first-time actions prompt any cautioning by an official. This will usually forestall any punitive measures having to be taken at a later and more critical time of the game.

Mechanics at Time of Disqualification

1. Call time out - stop the action.
2. Do not hurry - if player is disqualified, request player to accompany you to the coach - go directly to coach, if player hesitates - give a direct statement of explanation to the player/coach as to why “player” was disqualified - do not debate the issue - be professional, courteous and assertive. If coach is disqualified, same procedure applies.
3. Go to opposing coach and give exact same statement.
4. Resume the game.

Upon Conclusion of Game:

1. If conditions permit, include a brief explanation of reason for disqualification, name and/or number of player/coach and offending school in each team’s scorebook before signing same, if signature is required.
2. Any questions relative to period of disqualification should be referred to NJSIAA. The official is not an enforcer of the additional game (s) disqualification; however, if the official is aware of the presence of a player/coach at a game during the disqualification period, the offending individual should be reported to the NJSIAA by the official.
3. The official must report each disqualification to the Athletic Director of the offending school in person or via phone by noon of the next day. Failure of an official to follow the prescribed procedure in reporting the disqualification does not void the penalty. The official not following this procedure should be reported to the official’s Chapter Secretary and the NJSIAA. The coach of the offending school also shares this reporting responsibility. An accepted practice is for the chapter secretary or president to report the disqualification to the athletic director of the offending school in lieu of the game official.
4. A disqualification report must be completed online within 48 hours of the disqualification. No other reporting process will be accepted. The online form will be electronically sent to the offending school’s principal, athletic director, and the NJSIAA. The official should also notify their chapter of the disqualification.
5. Any disqualification resulting from harassing verbal or physical related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at the

- interscholastic event must be noted during the online reporting process, with a description of the offending conduct provided.
6. Disqualifications for Federated/Non-Member Schools do not have to be reported online. Any disqualifications for member schools will continue to be reported to the NJSIAA regardless of the opponent's status.

Failure to file these reports will result in punitive action by the chapter and the NJSIAA.

Attention:

- a. Once a player/coach has been disqualified, NO appeals will be honored from the player, coach, official or any other party. Disqualification is a judgement call and officials must be certain the act warrants disqualification. All complaints against an official must be directed to the official's Chapter Secretary and the NJSIAA.
- b. Any coach who is disqualified a second time will be required to appear before the Controversies Committee.

Disqualification Rule - Clarifications

CL1 - Officials are reminded that prudent judgement should be utilized prior to any disqualification. An official may not have a "change of mind" after the disqualification has been enforced; there is no such condition as "the act was not serious enough for the player/coach to be disqualified from additional game(s)." All disqualifications for flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct will always carry the additional game(s) penalty; flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct is not a "playing rule" violation. The determination of disqualification must be made at the time of the violation.

CL2 - Flagrant is a glaring action by a player or coach which is excessive physical play or unacceptable conduct as adjudged by the game/meet official(s).

CL3 - Regular season, rescheduled or tournament games which are in place prior to the disqualification will be used to satisfy the penalty; any games arranged by the school after the disqualification to be played during the disqualification period will be added to the penalty. Scrimmages are not considered part of the disqualification rule.

CL4 - "Not being physically present at the site" means the disqualified player or coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet.

CL5 - Ejection or removal of a player for a specific sport rule will carry the disqualification penalty only when it includes a flagrant unsportsmanlike act.

CL6 - Seniors who are disqualified from their last game will serve the penalty in a subsequent sports season according to the penalty provisions of that subsequent sport. When seniors are disqualified from their last game of their high school careers, member schools are required to take proper administrative action to discipline the offending student.

CL7 - Seniors who quit a sport and have not fulfilled their penalty in that sport, must serve it in the new sport before beginning playing in the new sport.

CL8 - Any player/coach disqualified in single or multiple sports for a second time will have the penalty double (i.e., in football - disqualified for two (2) games; all other sports are four (4) games.) Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.

CL9 - Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of an NJSIAA tournament will be ineligible to compete in said tournament. A second disqualification for an individual in any game/meet/match supersedes NFHS rules in this regard.

CL10 - Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player and/or coach disqualifications for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct prior to the start of a tournament will not be permitted to participate in same. Seeded teams will forfeit their right to compete if a disqualification limit is reached prior to the start of the tournament for the team.

CL11 - Single/multiple sports - on the third offense; players disqualified will be suspended indefinitely, and must apply, in writing, to the NJSIAA through the office of their Principal for reinstatement. Disqualifications will count for 365 days from the date of the first disqualification.

CL12 - Any coach disqualified a second time in single or multiple sports in a 365-day period from the date of the first disqualification will be required to appear before the Controversies Committee with the Principal and the Athletic Director.

CL 13, 14, 15 - Any coach who is disqualified or who has three players disqualified during the preceding school year must complete online the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course. This course license must be obtained from the NJSIAA with course completion certificate due to NJSIAA within 60 days.

Disqualification Form Submitting Instructions

This form must be completed within 48 hours of the DQ, however officials must call the offending school's Athletic Director by noon the next day after a disqualification.

Step 1: Call the offending school's Athletic Director by noon the next day after a disqualification.

Step 2: File the online report within 48 hours of the incident.

- Go to the NJSIAA website
- Make sure you are logged in
- Select the official's menu at the top
- Select "DQ Reporting" tab on the left side.
- Enter all the disqualification information.
- Click on the submit button
- You will get an email confirmation that the DQ has been submitted.

The NJSIAA, the high school Principal and Athletic Director of the offending school will all receive an e-mail confirmation of the DQ.

Guidelines for Thunder/Lightning Safety

As noted previously, a chain of command and designated decision maker should be established for each organized practice and competition.

Recognition:

Coaches, certified athletic trainers, athletes, and administrators should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately 2-3 miles, any time that lightning can be seen, or thunder heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

Monitor Weather Patterns - Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the practice or competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take proper precautions.

Management:

Evacuation - If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators must evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures must be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.

Thirty-minute rule - Once lightning/thunder has been recognized, it is mandatory to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the

30-minute count should reset the clock and another count should begin. When one contest is suspended on a site due to thunder being heard and/or lightning being observed, all contests/activities on that site must be suspended.
Education on Lightning Danger

Coaches, athletic trainers, officials, administrators, as well as athletes, must be educated regarding the signs indicating nearby thunderstorm development. Generally speaking, it is felt that anytime that lightning can be seen, or thunder heard, risk is already present.

Criteria for Suspension and Resumption of Activity:

Once lightning has been recognized or thunder heard, by an official, a coach, the host site management personnel, or by a lightning detection system, the game must be suspended immediately with all players, coaches, spectators, and officials directed to appropriate shelters.

After the suspension, the plan should include strict, documented criteria for the resumption of activities. It is mandatory to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count should reset the clock and another count should begin.

Once the contest has been suspended, the 30-minute mandatory suspension in play is in effect. If the lightning detection system gives an “all clear signal” prior to the end of the 30-minute suspension time, the contest shall not be resumed until the 30-minute suspension time limit has elapsed, per the NJSIAA and NFHS policy. However, if a member school has a Board policy that states no play/no activity may resume until the lightning detection system gives the “all clear signal” even though the 30-minute suspension time has elapsed per NJSIAA/NFHS rule, that Board policy shall supersede NJSIAA/NFHS policy.

Evacuation Plan:

All personnel, athletes and spectators should be clearly informed of available safe structures or shelters in the event a thunderstorm approaches. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues when applicable. The person in authority must be aware of the amount of time it takes to get to each structure and the number of persons each structure can safely hold. For large events, time needed for evacuation is increased and there must be a method (i.e., announcement over loudspeaker) for communicating the need for evacuation and directing both athletes and spectators to the appropriate safe shelters.

Safe Structures:

The most ideal structure is a fully enclosed, substantial building with plumbing, electrical wiring and telephone service, which aids in grounding the structure. A fully enclosed automobile with a hard metal roof and rolled up windows is also a reasonable choice. School buses are an excellent lightning shelter that can be utilized for large groups of people. However, it is important to avoid contact with any metal while inside the vehicle.

Avoid using shower facilities for safe shelter and do not use showers or plumbing facilities during a thunderstorm as the current from a local lightning strike can enter the building via the plumbing pipelines or electrical connections. It is also considered unsafe to stand near utilities, use corded telephones or headsets during a thunderstorm, due to the danger of electrical current traveling through the telephone line. Cellular and cordless telephones are considered reasonably safe and can be used to summon help during a thunderstorm.

When caught in a thunderstorm without availability or time to reach safe structures, you can minimize the risk of lightning-related injury by following a few basic guidelines:

- Avoid being the highest object. Seek a thick grove of small trees or bushes surrounded by taller trees or a dry ditch.
- Avoid contact with anything that would be attractive to lightning. Stay away from freestanding trees, poles, antennas, towers, bleachers, baseball dugouts, metal fences, standing pools of water and golf carts.
- Crouch down with legs together, the weight on the balls of the feet, arms wrapped around knees, and head down with ears covered.

Resources:

- Bennett B. A model lightning policy for athletes. *Ath. Train.* 1997;32:251-253
- Holle R, Lopez R, Howard K, Vavrek J, Allsopp J. Safety in the presence of lightning. *Semin Neuro.* 1995; 14:375-380
- Holle R, Lopez R, Lightning-impacts and safety. *WMO Bulletin.* 1998; 47:148-155
- NCAA. Guide Line 1d - Lightning Safety. In: Halpin T, Dick R, eds. *NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook*, Indianapolis, IN: NCAA; 1999.
- NLSI. Multi-Agency Recommendations for Lightning Safety. American Meteorological Society Conference. 1998; Phoenix, Arizona.
- Vavrek I, Holle R, Allsopp J. Flash to Bang. *The Earth Scientist.* 1993; X:3-8.
- Walsh KM, Bennett B, Cooper MA, Holle RL, Kithil R, Lopez RE, National Athletic Trainers' Association Position Statement: Lightning Safety for Athletics and Recreation. *Journal of Athletic Training.* 2000; 35(4): 471-477.

For more detailed information and a complete list of references, please see: Zinder, S.M. and Shultz, S.J. *Lightning Safety*. National Federation of State High School Associations Resource Document. <http://www.nfhs.org>.

Game Termination Procedure

Before Game Has Started:

The host school management has full responsibility for determining whether or not conditions are such as to postpone or start a game/meet. Schools must know that once a game/meet/event has started, the official(s) usually have jurisdiction for terminating same prematurely.

After Game Has Started:

Is not the prerogative of a coach or school management. The action of removing a team from the event prior to the conclusion of the game/meet/event, regardless of the circumstances, will result in severe punitive action by the NJSIAA

controversies or executive committee.

The following procedure should be implemented before termination of the event by the official(s):

1. Coaches and/or players should be penalized for misconduct as provided for in the playing rules.
2. Continued misconduct should result in the coach(es) of the teams being advised to correct the situation or be faced with possible termination of the game.
3. Officials should confer and, if they consider the circumstances warrant, teams should be directed to their respective bench areas while the coaches, athletic directors, and administrators of the schools discuss, in the center of the field or in a private area, an attempt to restore control of their teams and/or spectators.
4. When it is apparent to the game official(s) and the host school administration that to continue the event would present a clear and present danger to the safety and welfare of any party, the game should be terminated, and the schools' head coaches advised accordingly. This should not be a unilateral decision; however, if the responsible parties are unable or unwilling to control their teams and/ or spectators, the official(s) must inform the head coach(es) of the teams that the game is terminated.
5. Officials must not rule on forfeiture of any prematurely terminated events; only conferences and/or the NJSIAA have the jurisdiction to determine forfeits. All games terminated due to control problems, will require a comprehensive report to the NJSIAA Central Office and the Chapter Secretaries by the officials and the Principals of the involved schools. Said report from the officials should be forwarded immediately to the NJSIAA with a copy to the Principals of the involved schools. The report(s) will be forwarded to the League/Conference for a hearing by them prior to any action by the NJSIAA.

Procedure when officials fail to arrive or unable to continue

Member schools on a few occasions have been faced with the failure of officials to arrive for a scheduled event. The NJSIAA would like to reemphasize the absolute necessity for having properly executed contracts, in writing, with either the individual official or the chapter assignor. The officials have been repeatedly advised to report to the game site well in advance of the starting time for a pregame meeting and to permit ample time for their pregame duties relative to facility inspection, equipment approval and instructions to game-related aides. Upon arrival at an event, an official should immediately report to the athletic director or site director.

Hopeful, that schools will never have the experience of having teams poised for action, with thousands of spectators awaiting the start of the contest only to discover late arriving or totally absent officials, the following recommendations

are provided as a procedural plan in the event officials fail to arrive for the game.

To reassure yourself, a reminder should be forwarded to officials one week prior to the game. Schools must not permit contracted officials to assign substitute officials without the approval of the school.

If the officials have failed to arrive within one-half hour of game time, an attempt should be made to contact the officials or their assignor.

When it becomes apparent that the expected officials will not be present for the game, the following procedure is recommended:

Contact chapter assignor, chapter secretary or local NJSIAA officials for last minute replacements.

If this fails:

Request via the P.A. system that NJSIAA officials (of the sport in question) report to a central location. Assignment to be the responsibility of the home athletic director.

Every attempt should be made to play the game, unless it can be clearly established that to do so would not be in the best interest of the participating schools.

The responsibility for assigning officials and for determining the playing or postponing of a game under these circumstances' rests with the Principal and the Athletic Director of the host school-this is not a coaching staff decision. When only one (1) official arrives for game to which two (2) officials-umpires are usually assigned, the game must be played. Same applies when an official is unable to complete the assignment.

Schools withholding their teams from competition under these conditions will be subject to severe punitive action under Article X of the Bylaws and officials are required to report the violation to the NJSIAA within seven (7) days.

The use of a Prosthesis (Artificial Limb)

Federal legislation which prohibits discrimination on the basis of a physical handicap, makes it difficult for state associations to defend the former blanket prohibition of the use of a prosthesis when challenged in the courts. Many sports now have revised rules to provide "artificial limbs which, in the judgement of the rules administering officials, are no more dangerous to players than the corresponding human limb and do not place an opponent at a disadvantage may be permitted." The NJSIAA endorses this policy so long as it is not in conflict with the rules for a specific sport.

The NJSIAA procedure for approving the wearing of a prosthesis by a student-athlete will be as follows:

1. The member school must notify the NJSIAA and arrange for a meeting to determine the legality of the prosthesis; present at this meeting must be the school physician, athletic director, principal, coach, a representative from NJSIAA, and the player who must be fully equipped as he/she will be when competing; an athletic trainer or other school representative may also be present.
2. The criteria recommended as a guideline to follow in determining the legality and suitability of wearing a prosthesis in a contact sport are:
 - a. The prosthesis should be approved at any Juvenile Amputee Clinic listed in the National Directory. Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, 1199 Pleasant Valley Way, West Orange, New Jersey, 07052 is the only New Jersey clinic listed.
 - b. Prosthesis should be properly padded.
 - c. Signed approval by an orthopedic surgeon or physician associated with a juvenile amputee clinic and the school physician. Such approval must be presented to the officials before each game for the officials' final inspection and approval of proper padding.

CL - A series of photos showing the unpadded, partially padded, and full padding of the approved prosthesis should be included.

NOTE: Member schools are given this advance notice to allay the possibility of having a prosthesis declared illegal, thereby preventing the player from participating until approval is granted.

Officials Dress Code & Uniforms

These regulations are superseded by National Federation Rules when applicable.

Officials are expected to dress professionally when they arrive at contests prior to changing into the NJSIAA uniforms when appropriate. The following represents the required uniforms for all NJSIAA officials in accordance with the "Affiliated Agreement" Section Four (H) and the NJSIAA Constitution.

According to the current Affiliated Agreement, each official who is a member of the Officials Association shall wear the prescribed NJSIAA official uniform while officiating at NJSIAA Interscholastic regular season and state tournament contests.

All officials' uniforms must have the approved NJSIAA logo which can only be distributed by the approved NJSIAA uniform supplier and Vender. All officials apparel is permitted to have their chapter logo on the right sleeve as long as they are following the rules below.

BASEBALL

Baseball Umpire Uniform Changes:

- None for the 2021-22 school year

Current uniforms:

The Navy-Blue baseball umpire uniform shall consist of:

1. Navy-blue short sleeve pullover style shirt with red, white and blue trim. The approved NJSIAA logo shall be sublimated on the left pocket. The American flag with a white border may be placed on the left sleeve.
2. The navy-blue long sleeve pullover style shirt with red, white and blue trim may be worn when appropriate. The approved NJSIAA logo shall be sublimated on the left pocket. The American flag with a white border may be placed on the left sleeve.
3. The navy-blue pullover jacket with red, white and blue trim may be worn when appropriate. The American flag with a white border may be placed on the left sleeve.
4. Charcoal gray pants, black belt, primarily black shoes, black socks and a navy-blue cap shall complete the uniform.
5. Ball bag(s) shall be navy blue or charcoal gray.

The Black baseball umpire uniform shall consist of:

1. Black short sleeve pullover style shirt with white trim. The approved NJSIAA logo shall be sublimated on the left pocket. The American flag with a white border may be placed on the left sleeve.
2. The black long sleeve pullover style shirt with white trim may be worn when appropriate. The approved NJSIAA logo shall be sublimated on the left pocket. The American flag with a white border may be placed on the left sleeve.
3. The black pullover jacket with white trim may be worn when appropriate. The American flag with a white border may be placed on the left sleeve.
4. Charcoal gray pants, black belt, primarily black shoes, black socks and a black cap shall complete the uniform.
5. Ball bag(s) shall be black or charcoal gray.

Note: Chapters may dictate which color they want their umpires wearing during the regular season. During the NJSIAA tournament, either uniform combination is fine. During the state tournament all umpires must match in color for all parts of the uniform. If umpires cannot agree on the uniform color, then the default color will be the navy-blue.

Hats:

Regular Season Games

Any of the two hats listed below will be acceptable for all regular season games.

Umpires do not need to have matching hats.

- NJSIAA Approved Logo Hat
- Chapter Hat

NJSIAA State Tournament Games

Only hats with the NJSIAA approved logo will be worn for all NJSIAA tournament games. Umpires must have matching hats for all rounds of the state tournament.

Jackets

Umpires may wear either the plain Jacket (no logo) or the jacket with the approved NJSIAA logo. In addition, the approved logo maybe embroidered on a jacket for those umpires that already have a plain jacket and wish to have it embroidered on. The NJSIAA will not require umpires to wear the jacket with the NJSIAA logo at any time, however, our approved vendor will no longer sell the plain jacket to NJSIAA registered officials. Only the jacket with the approved NJSIAA logo will be sold.

Shirt

All shirts (short sleeve or long sleeve) must have the sublimated approved NJSIAA logo on them. Either the navy-blue or black shirt may be worn for all regular season and all NJSIAA tournament games, however all umpires must match for all games. If umpires cannot agree on the shirt color, then the default color will be the navy-blue.

BASKETBALL

The basketball officials' uniform must consist of black slacks, black socks, all black athletic shoes (no white logos).

Shirts - All basketball officials must wear the V-neck black and white shirt (2.25" size stripes) which includes a sublimated American Flag on the left sleeve, a sublimated NJSIAA Logo over the left pocket. The double wide black side panel is acceptable. IAABO members may also have the IABBO sublimated logo on the left sleeve.

All officials may wear either a plain Jacket (no logo), their IAABO jacket or the jacket with the approved NJSIAA logo. In addition, the approved NJSIAA logo can be embroidered on a jacket for those officials that already have a plain jacket and wish to have it embroidered on. The NJSIAA will not require officials to wear the jacket with the NJSIAA logo at any time, however, our approved vendor will no longer sell the plain jacket to NJSIAA registered officials. Only the jacket with the approved NJSIAA logo will be sold. Or hope is that in time, all jackets will have the approved NJSIAA Logo embroidered on the left chest, the American flag embroidered on the left sleeve. If officials want they can also have the IAABO logo embroidered on the right sleeve as well.

FIELD HOCKEY

The field hockey officials' uniform shall consist of neon yellow shirt/jacket, or any NJSIAA approved color, with the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve. Black skirt, slacks or shorts, and black athletic shoes. All officials assigned to the game must have matching shirts/jackets.

FOOTBALL

The football officials' uniform must consist of a black and white striped shirt, black pants with white stripe (NFL style) pants, black belt, black athletic shoes and laces, black and white striped jacket reversible to all black (the official NJSIAA logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve), and a black cap with white piping (white for referee with the NJFOA patch on the cap). Shorts are not allowed to be worn, but this does not apply to levels of play below high school. All members of the crew must wear like gear.

GYMNASTICS

The gymnastics official uniform consists of a white or yellow top and navy-blue bottom (pants, skirt, or shorts). All shirts or outer garments must have the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve.

ICE HOCKEY

The ice hockey officials' uniform must consist of a black and white striped long sleeve shirt with a waist band, black pants, black skates with white or black laces, an H.E.C.C. approved black hockey helmet and the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve.

LACROSSE-Boys

The boy's lacrosse officials' uniform must consist of a black and white, striped shirt with the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve. Black shorts (Bermuda length), full length black hose with outer white socks, black athletic shoes, a black turtleneck, black gloves, a black hat with white piping. When an outer garment is worn during a contest, it must have the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve.

LACROSSE-Girls

The girl's lacrosse officials must wear a black and white striped shirt/jacket with the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve. Shorts, black kilts (preferred), slacks, and black athletic shoes.

SOCCER

The soccer officials' uniform must consist of a solid lime green jersey with the official NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve. Solid black shorts and black knee socks with 3 horizontal stripes and black shoes. An optional solid black cap and jacket may be worn. All officials must be attired similarly except for the optional cap.

SOFTBALL

Softball Umpire Uniform Changes:

- None for the 2021-22 school year

Current uniform:

The Powder-Blue softball umpire uniform shall consist of:

1. Powder-blue short-sleeve pullover style shirt. The approved NJSIAA logo shall be sublimated on the left pocket. The American flag with a white border may be placed on the left sleeve. Only a white solid short sleeved shirt may be worn under the shirt.
2. The Powder-blue long sleeve pullover style shirt may be worn when appropriate. The approved NJSIAA logo shall be sublimated on the left pocket. The American flag with a white border may be placed on the left sleeve.
3. The Navy-blue pullover jacket with powder-blue and white trim may be worn when appropriate. The American flag with a white border may be placed on the left sleeve.
4. A plain navy-blue turtleneck may be worn with the navy-blue pullover jacket
5. Heather gray pants, black belt, black shoes, black socks and a navy-blue cap (mandatory for the field, optional for the plate) shall complete the uniform.
6. Ball bag(s) shall be navy blue or heather gray.

Shirt

All shirts (short sleeve or long sleeve) must have the sublimated approved NJSIAA logo on them.

Hats:

Regular Season Games

Any of the two hats listed below will be acceptable for all regular season games. Umpires do not need to have matching hats.

- NJSIAA Approved Logo Hat
- Chapter Hat

NJSIAA State Tournament Games

Only hats with the NJSIAA approved logo will be worn for all NJSIAA tournament games. Umpires must have matching hats for all rounds of the state tournament.

Jackets

Umpires may wear either the plain Jacket (no logo) or the jacket with the approved NJSIAA logo. In addition, the approved logo maybe embroidered on a jacket for those umpires that already have a plain jacket and wish to have it embroidered on. The NJSIAA will not require umpires to wear the jacket with the NJSIAA logo at any time, however, our approved vendor will no longer sell the plain jacket to NJSIAA registered officials. Only the jacket with the approved NJSIAA logo will be sold.

SWIMMING

The swimming officials' uniform must consist of a white shirt with the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve. Blue pants or skirt with white socks and white athletic shoes.

TENNIS

The tennis officials uniform consists of a yellow shirt with the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve and black pants or shorts.

TRACK

The track officials' uniform must consist of a yellow short or long sleeve shirt with the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve. Navy-blue shorts or pants and a navy-blue hat with the NJSIAA approved logo. The hat can be either baseball, visor or bucket style. The jacket, if worn must also be yellow with the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area.

VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball officials' uniform must consist of an all-white, short-sleeved, collared polo shirt with the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area, with an American flag placed on the left sleeve. Black slacks, a black belt, black athletic shoes, and black socks.

WRESTLING

The wrestling official's uniform must consist of a gray V-neck short-sleeved shirt with black pinstripes. The shirt must have the NJSIAA approved logo sublimated on the left chest area and an American flag on the left sleeve. If a t-shirt is worn underneath the shirt, it must be black in color. The uniform also consists of black slacks, black belt (if slacks have belt loops), black wrestling shoes or black sneakers (without colored highlights), and black socks. Whistles and lanyards must be black in color. The official must be neatly attired and have other accessories, including a red and green colored disk, red and green armbands and a kit to conduct the random draw.

School Uniform Modifications

1. Transgender Modifications:

Pursuant to NJ law and NJSIAA policy, the NJSIAA will approve all reasonable accommodations regarding uniforms as it relates to transgender student-athletes.

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.

2. Religious Modifications:

- **Uniforms:** Schools may permit modification of uniforms for their athletes for religious reasons without an approval letter from the NJSIAA. Any concerns regarding the accommodations must be addressed through the coach, not the athlete. Officials are instructed to continue with the contest and notify the NJSIAA if there are concerns the following day. No accommodation may create an unsafe environment for any participant.
- **Headwear:** The NJSIAA does not require schools/athletes to obtain approval to wear religious headwear during any NJSIAA competition. Head coverings worn for religious reasons are not considered hair devices, and therefore do not require NJSIAA approval. All head coverings must be made of non-abrasive or soft material and fit securely.

3. Jewelry Modifications:

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.

NFHS Ball Mark

The NFHS authenticating mark is required on all balls that will be used in high school competition. Where approved, the NOCSAE certification mark will also be required.

Health and Safety

Officials are advised to use extreme caution when dealing with injuries or altercations. The role of the official in this regard is well defined in the officiating manuals for each sport.

When it is determined that a player is injured and needs assistance, the official

should stop play as per each sport's rules, summon the trainer or coach to attend to the injured player, and then MOVE away.

On-Field Player Injury

The following guidelines for game officials are listed to use during a serious on-field player injury:

1. Attempt to keep players a significant distance away from the seriously injured player or players. Direct players toward respective team bench area.
2. Do not allow a player to roll an injured player over.
3. Do not allow players to assist a teammate who is lying on the field, i.e. removing the helmet or chin strap or attempting to assist breathing by elevating the waist.
4. Once the medical staff begins to work on an injured player, all members of the officiating crew should control the total playing field environment and team personnel and allow the medical staff to perform services without interruption or interference. Always ensure adequate lines of vision between the medical staffs and all available emergency personnel.

NJSIAA Officials Concussion Policy and Procedures

“A student who participates in an interscholastic sports program and who sustains or is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury while engaged in a sports competition or practice shall be immediately removed from the sports competition or practice. A student-athlete who is removed from competition or practice shall not participate in further sports activity until he is evaluated by a physician or other healthcare provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receives written clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to return to competition or practice.”

From the schools' perspective, written release forms, must be present at all practices and competitions. However, once a student-athlete is removed from competition or a practice, only a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions can sign off on a written clearance that would allow a concussed or suspected concussed athlete to return. NJSIAA has created a standardized written, RTP, form that will be available on our website. When a student athlete is evaluated by a trained physician and is NOT cleared to return to play or practice that day/night, the school district's Return to Play guidelines shall be followed.

Game officials upon observing any signs, symptoms or behaviors that are consistent with a concussion, and the signs, symptoms or behaviors are a result of an impact or contact of the player with another person, an object or the ground, the student athlete is immediately removed from play and may not return to play without a written clearance from a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. The mechanics to enforce the rule are as follows:

1. Using sound game management procedures and judgment, upon observing a player who exhibits the signs, symptoms or behaviors that are consistent with a concussion, the official shall follow the sport specific guidelines for handling an injured player.
2. When appropriate, call time out. If the player's safety is in jeopardy, call time out immediately.
3. Beckon the physician/ATC onto the playing surface.
4. Observe the injured player.
5. Other game officials keep players/others away from the injured player.
6. Apprise the physician/ATC of your observations as to the signs, symptoms, behaviors that are consistent with a concussion, including any conversation that you had with the injured player (any questions and answers that took place prior to the physician/ATC arriving).
7. Note the game time, score, period or half, player name/number, etc. when injury and removal took place (for those sports that officials do not normally keep a game card on their person, begin doing so).
8. If the prescribed written clearance form is signed by a physician, and the player returns to play that day/night, the official in charge must obtain a copy of the signed written clearance form and subsequently submit it to the association's keeper of records.

Schools and officials are reminded that NJSIAA is a 100% state, meaning that we follow the playing rules established by the NFHS. Every NFHS sports rule book contains the following:

Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

Remember that under NJ Law the only "appropriate health-care professional" who can authorize return-to-play under the rule is a physician trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.

Assaults on Officials (Chapter 6 of the Public Laws of 1995)

This measure makes any assault on a coach, manager or sports official punishable as a third-degree crime, if there is any injuries, which could bring a sentence of three to five years in prison and a maximum of a \$7,500 fine. Where there are no injuries, then the aggravated assault would be a crime of the fourth degree, allowing for punishment of up to eighteen months of incarceration and a \$7,500 fine. Before this legislation, an assault on a sports official was considered only to be a disorderly persons offense with a maximum penalty of six months incarceration and a \$1,000 fine.

Dual Membership

Historically, through the Affiliated Agreement, the NJSIAA has always

recognized dual membership of officials (officials belonging to more than one chapter in the same sport). The issue of dual membership pertains to an individual's choice and remains separate and apart from any financial consideration other than that which a chapter may wish to charge in addition to the NJSIAA fee. The local chapter's constitution rules and by-laws shall prevail relative to meeting requirements. All officials must designate only one "Primary" chapter when registering with the NJSIAA. Officials are permitted to work contest assigned from chapters other than their "Primary", provided their primary chapter approves.

Conflict of Interest

In most sports, individual tournament regulations require that officials not take assignments where there is any conflict or affiliation between the school and the official. While this may be difficult at times due to extenuating circumstances, every effort must be made to insure this regulation.

At the same time, no regular season regulation exists in this regard, but officials are encouraged to avoid said situations whenever possible.

The officiating fraternity is cognizant of the fact that both statements above have little or no effect on the games they work. However, the appearance of a conflict is sometimes grounds for unnecessary criticism which can be avoided.

Using the criteria from several tournament regulations as it pertains to schools listing officials that are affiliated with that school, the NJSIAA recommends that officials use the same definitions for affiliation in their determination as to a possible conflict of interest. This list is not totally inclusive, and officials are reminded that a perception of a conflict of interest is often considered reality.

- Currently employed in the district
- Previous employment in the district within the past 10 years
- A close relative employed in the district
- A child attending any school in the district
- A graduate of school within the past ten years

Officials that also coach the sport in which they officiate must be extremely aware of a possible conflict of interest

Schools' Recommended Responsibilities for Hosting Officials

Section I - School's Responsibilities to an Official Prior to the Season

1. Send a reminder to the officials after you have them scheduled.
2. Reminder should include date of contest, time, level, location, and sport.
3. Have a standard wage scale set for your different sports and levels and a method in place to raise the pay periodically.
4. If possible, let the working official know who their partner(s) will be.
5. Hire police and security along with medical assistant or trainer coverage for events whenever possible.

Section II - School's Responsibility to an Official Prior to the Contest

1. Prior to the contest provide the officials with directions and inform them of any special activities that might be occurring (i.e., Homecoming, Senior Night, etc.)
2. Give the official a number he/she can call in case of an emergency or postponement due to weather.
3. Have competent workers assigned at all contests (scorers, announcers, chain crew, etc.). These people are of great assistance to the official during the contest.
4. Have a host assigned to meet the officials as they arrive. The host should do the following for the officials:
 - a. Provide a reserved parking space.
 - b. Meet Officials and take them to the dressing room.
 - c. Have refreshments available for halftime and postgame.
 - d. Ask for any additional needs.
 - e. Have the escort or preferably the athletic director introduce the officials to those game workers pertinent to the contest (i.e., scorer, announcer, chain gang, etc.)
 - f. Get the proper pronunciation of officials' names so they are correct when given to the public-address announcer.
5. Athletic Director should discuss with the officials any special events, conference rules, national anthem time, etc. that would affect the game.
6. Provide the officials with the name of the adult supervisor for the contest and where he/she can be found in the event a challenging situation should occur.
7. Make officials aware of the location of trainer or paramedics during the contest.
8. Make sure all bench personnel are properly attired.
9. Do a check on game scoreboards and lighting systems prior to the game or contest.
10. Make sure the playing area is properly marked and meets National Federation guidelines for that contest.

Section III - School's Responsibility to an Official During the Contest

1. Insist coaches display good sportsmanship and are proper examples for your players and crowd.
2. Have your public-address announcer or cheerleader read the NJSIAA sportsmanship statement and remain unbiased during the contest.
3. Make sure the event supervisor understands the duties and responsibilities pertinent to the contest.
4. Make sure the playing area is maintained during halftime of each contest.
5. Make sure proper crowd control is visible and in place.
6. Observe the crowd during the contest and prevent any disturbances that may occur.
7. Work with the official during the game regarding crowd control.

8. Retrieve the game ball at the end of the contest.
9. Escort the officials back to the dressing room at halftime and at the conclusion of the contest.

Section IV - School's responsibility to an Official after the Contest

1. Escort the officials safely back to the dressing room.
2. Do not allow unauthorized persons in the dressing room after the game.
3. Have refreshments available for the officials after the contest.
4. Be sure to thank the officials for their time and effort, regardless of the outcome of the game.
5. Make sure arrangements for paying the officials have been completed.

Guidelines for Assignors of NJSIAA Tournament Officials

1. All assignments should be coordinated through the NJSIAA staff member responsible for the sport. NJSIAA staff member has the final decision-making authority.
2. Official must be in good standing with local chapter. Officials not in good standing will not be assigned to tournament games.
3. Official must have actively worked a high school game schedule during the present season. "Actively worked a high school game schedule" is defined as working a minimum of varsity games equal to but not limited to 20% of the maximum allowed games per the specific sport rule detailed in the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws.
4. Official cannot work sport specific championship in same season or two years in a row unless assigned through a defined process approved by the NJSIAA sport-specific staff member.
5. Official cannot work high profile neutral site two years in a row unless assigned through a defined process approved by the NJSIAA sport-specific staff member.
6. Officials, where appropriate, should be assigned by chapter as a crew.
7. In sports where crews work as a unit throughout the season, two replacements would require a new crew to be assigned.
8. In sports where officials are assigned by position, replacements must be made by position.
9. The use of qualified females, minorities and upcoming officials is encouraged where appropriate.
10. Assignments should be made through an established evaluation process proportionally over all chapters.
11. An official should never commit to a tournament assignment if incapacitated.
12. No assignments of officials will be made if the chapter interpreter or designee fails to attend the NJSIAA Interpretation meeting.

Officials Professional Development Opportunities

The NJSIAA in agreement with the NFHS recognizes that the ongoing education and training of contest officials, coaches and participants is imperative to the continued growth and development of sport. It is strongly recommended

that all officials and coaches maintain membership in professional organizations and national governing bodies. In addition, we encourage all members to participate in educational and professional development opportunities offered by the NFHS, NJSIAA and local chapters. Please utilize the NFHS Learn site at <https://www.nfhslearn.com/courses> for this purpose.

NFHS Rule Changes

Recommended changes are to be submitted by individuals through their chapter interpreters. The chapter interpreters will review and either reject or forward said changes to the NJSIAA interpreter one month after the start of the season.

Independent Contractor Status

While officials are contracted to perform services by schools and the NJSIAA, their function is by definition independent. The officials have complete control of the contests they officiate. To that extent a GENERAL RELEASE is required by each official at the time of registration.

NFHS Officials Insurance Coverage 2021-2022

General Liability Insurance - Carrier: Scottsdale Insurance Company

Effective Date - July 1, 2021 – July 1, 2022	
General Aggregate Limit	\$5,000,000
Products-Completed Operations Aggregate Limit	\$5,000,000
Each Occurrence Limit	\$2,000,000
Personal and Advertising Injury Limit	\$1,000,000
Damage to Premises Rented to You	\$500,000
Premises Medical Payments	\$5,000
Sexual Abuse & Molestation – Each Occurrence	\$1,000,000
Sexual Abuse & Molestation – Aggregate	\$2,000,000
Participant Legal Liability – Coverage Endorsement	\$1,000,000
Crisis Response - Each Event/Aggregate	\$25,000
Deductible	\$0 (zero)

Excess Liability Insurance - Carrier: HDI Global Specialty SE

Effective Date - July 1, 2020 – July 1, 2021	
Each Occurrence Limit	\$1,000,000
General Aggregate Limit	\$1,000,000

Blanket Accident Program - Carrier: Hartford Fire Insurance Company

Effective Date - July 1, 2020 – July 1, 2021	
Benefits: Excess Accident Medical Expense Benefit	
Maximum Benefit	\$50,000

Deductible (Disappearing)	\$250
Accidental Death & Dismemberment Benefit:	\$10,000
Physical Therapy - per Visit	Up to \$50 Per Day
Physical Therapy – Maximum per Injury	40 Days, Limited to One Treatment Per Day
Durable Medical Equipment – Maximum per Injury	Up to \$1,000 per Covered Accident
Prescription Drug – Maximum per Injury	Up to \$1,000 per Covered Accident
Benefit Period	52 Weeks
Concussion	Covered up to policy max of \$50,000
Concussion Diagnosis	\$100 cash benefit (5 per year)
Treatment by a Physician	Within 72 Hours

Covered Activities: Insured persons are covered for injury resulting from an accident which occurs directly from:

- Activities that are scheduled, sponsored, or supervised by the policyholder.
- Premises owned, leased, or borrowed by the policyholder.
- Travel scheduled, sponsored, or supervised by the policyholder. (Accident medical coverage only)
- For officials/referees, coverage shall apply only while the member is engaging in officiating activities during regularly scheduled sports or activities competition, which includes assigning, chain crew, and attending or operating officiating camps, clinics, or meetings.
- Per occurrence limit is a combination of Scottsdale’s General Liability and Excess Liability Policies.

This summary is for illustration only. For a complete list of coverage, covered activities and exclusions please contact Dissinger Reed.

Dissinger Reed, LLC

8700 Indian Creek Parkway, Suite 320, Overland Park, KS 66210

Phone: 800-386-9183 or 913-491-6385

Fax: 913-491-0527

email: info@dissingerreed.com

<http://www.dissingerreed.com/nfhs>



Important Contact information

NJSIAA Office: 609-259-2776

NJSIAA Officials Registration & ZebraWeb Support
Tawanda Bennett & Jen Fischer

ZebraWeb Direct Support
support@ZebraWeb.org
610-458-8950

NJSIAA Background Check Services
Comprehensive Screening Solutions (CSS)
css_support@ghrr.com
866.427.7837



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Please visit the NFHS Learning Center for many free professional development opportunities.

Have a great year!!!

