



2021-22
Winter Chapters

“Points of Emphasis”

November 30, 2021

COVID-19 Information

Currently, the **NJSIAA** does not anticipate any COVID-19 modifications this year, however there are two Executive Orders still Active:

Executive Order No. 251 regarding the mandatory use of face masks by everyone in the indoor portion of a school district's premises, with the following exceptions:

- When doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors;
- When the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face mask;
- When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity;

Executive Order No. 253, which require vaccination and/or testing for all school personnel is not applicable to officials.

School districts may impose other requirements for officials assigned to their events if they so choose.



Information Updates

- State tournament assigning:
 - preliminary rounds – By Local Assignor
 - Sectionals, Groups, TOC – By NJSIAA
- Heat participation policy reminder
- 6-Day Practice Rule reminder
- Sportsmanship statement update
- Chapter Board Members Info
- Registration/Eligibility Warnings



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. (July 1)
- All officials must pay appropriate NJSIAA fees, including the background check fee.
- All officials must pass the NFHS test.
 - Closing Dates / Secondary Test



Conflict of Interest Policy

Conflict of Interest

- 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



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
- Must be read to all members of the team regardless of the size of the team.
- PA announcers – different version
- The sportsmanship policy must be adhered to before, during and after the contest.



NEW Sportsmanship Statement

The NJSIAA requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players. There will be no tolerance for any negative behavior, such as taunting, trash-talking and verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion. Such behavior will result in being ejected from this event.

All participants must respect the game and respect their opponents.



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.



DQ Reporting

- Official must contact the AD **via email** by noon of the next day
- The online report must be sent within 48 hours from completion of game
- Take your time and get it right!
- In certain circumstances, officials are encouraged to use video (if available) to confirm the information is correct before filing the DQ with the NJSIAA.
- Schools will not be penalized for playing a player that eventually was disqualified within the 48-hour period.
- Official must notify the coach before they leave the facility that it was a DQ or in the case where multiple DQ's (fight) are possible, inform the coach and AD DQ's are coming.
- 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

- For the 2021-22 school year – the handshake will not be mandatory. We will approve schools choosing not to do the handshake because of COVID.
- 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

Jewelry:

- 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

Religious Accommodations:

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.



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

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

The NJSIAA is proud to announce our new exclusive supplier of official's uniforms is Smitty out of Canton, Ohio. Smitty is a nationwide company with an outstanding product, serving many states as well as the official manufacturer of the NFHS. The NJSIAA will not have a preferred vendor going forward. Not having a preferred vendor will be good for all officials as you may purchase any apparel from any provider across the country. I have provided a link below to the Smitty website. Their website will help you find all local vendors that will be selling Smitty apparel. smittyapparel.com

NJSIAA/Smitty rollout plan:

- The current officials apparel supplied by Cliff Keen will continue to be sold until December 31st, 2021.
- Starting January 1, 2022, only Smitty apparel will be sold.
- Officials will not be required to wear Smitty apparel until July 1, 2023.



Officials Logo

All officials (any level) that are registered with the NJSIAA must wear the approved NJSIAA logo on the chosen apparel (shirt/jacket). All officials must match if there are color options.

For those officials that wear hats during their contests; During the regular season, the hats can have either the NJSIAA logo or their chapters logo; During the tournament, all hats must have the NJSIAA logo.



Registration for 2022-2023

Registration Reminders:

Registration will open on April 15, 2022.

Registration will close on March 31, 2023

ZebraWeb Freeze June 30, 2022

All registered officials are covered by the NFHS Liability Insurance.

All eligibility requirements will expire on June 30th of each year.

Eligibility Reminders:

Concussion Certification – July 1, Chapters responsibility

Background Checks – Automatically sent

NFHS Test – 80% is passing

Member in good standing – Chapter's responsibility



Registration for 2022-2023

Assignment Reminders:

- Only NJSIAA registered officials can be assigned to contests at any level.
- Registered officials cannot work any games until they have cleared all the eligibility requirements.
- Registered officials that have not completed all the eligibility requirements will receive two notifications (warning & forfeiture) regarding their assignments.
- **Potential Warning Dates:**
 - Fall warning notice July 15 ~ Fall forfeiture August 1
 - Winter warning notice November 15 ~ Winter forfeiture December 1
 - Spring warning notice February 15 ~ Spring forfeiture March 1



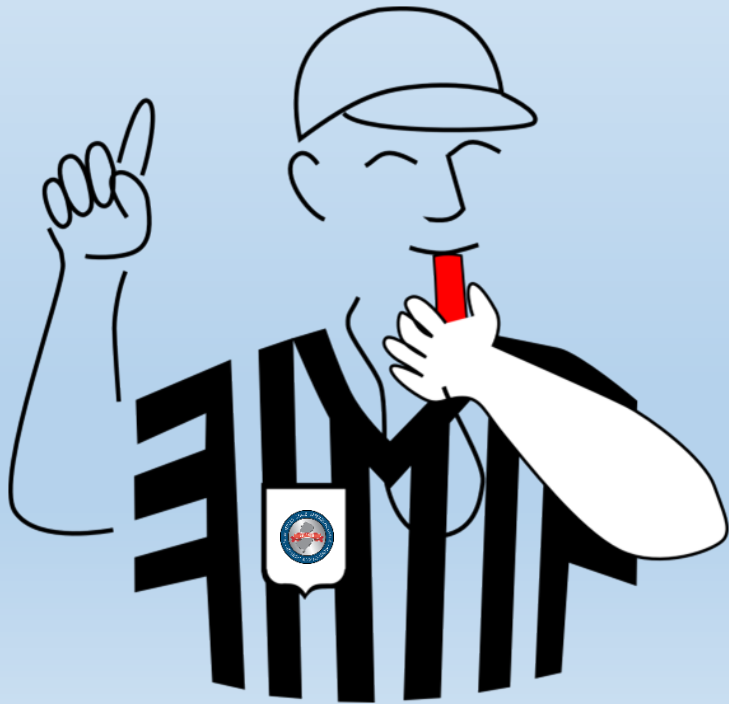
Registration Fees for 2022-2023

Registration Fees	2022-2023
1st Sport	\$55
Each Additional Sport	\$35
Inactive	\$20
Background Check	\$10
Late Registration Fee (After 3/31)	\$10



Professional Development

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



Have a great year!!!

