



To: NJSIAA Executive Committee

From: Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer

Date: May 11, 2022

RE: NJSIAA Rules and Regulations Proposals

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The NJSIAA Chief Compliance Officer was tasked with reviewing the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations to ensure accuracy and consistency. There are a number of areas that are out of date or not worded correctly within the spirit of the rule. Additionally, there are areas that need to be amended in order to address new areas of need or to clarify our practices. In consultation with NJSIAA staff and counsel, the NJSIAA Chief Compliance Officer recommends the following changes to the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations. Each recommended change is supported by a brief rationale statement.

## **PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS AMENDMENTS**

[Additions are underlined, and deletions are ~~struck through~~.]

### **(1) NJSIAA Rules and Regulations, Section 2 (Out-of-Season Period), CL 2**

a. Coaches/Student-Athletes: Coaches may not instruct their Student-Athletes during the out-of-season period, including Open-Gym Programs. For seniors, all rules apply through the last date of the NJSIAA Spring Championships, except for those seniors who have exhausted their eligibility and will not compete interscholastically in any future season/sport. When the same sport for Boys and Girls is conducted in different sports seasons, a Student-Athlete in that sport may not serve as manager of the team of the opposite sex and will be considered a violation of the out-of-season rule. Coaches may not exchange supervisory and/or coaching duties in their sport to circumvent the out-of-season rule.

b. Coaches Meetings: Coaches may hold non-instructional meetings for the purpose of distributing try-out schedules, medical forms, parent permission slips, etc. to returning lettermen and prospective team candidates. Strategy or techniques may not be discussed and neither may any physical activity take place.

c. Coaches may instruct and coach their sons and daughters during the out-of-season period.

***Rationale:*** *This is current practice but not stated anywhere.*

## **(2) NJSIAA Rules and Regulations, Section 14 (Video Taping and Filming)**

Electronic Communication equipment, including but not limited to computer, film television and video tape is permissible according to the NFHS rules for the sport in question. Videotaping of scrimmages is a local option. No video or audio recording may be used to review or challenge the decision of a sports official. ~~unless it is an approved game following the Football Video Replay protocol.~~ The NJSIAA may use video and audio recordings to identify and determine violations of its sportsmanship policy and to ensure that disqualifications are correctly identified.

***Rationale:*** *This addition clarifies that NJSIAA may use video to review sportsmanship issues and DQ issues. The sportsmanship policy is critical to the NJSIAA's mission, and it is important that it is accurately enforced. Lastly, the NJSIAA no longer uses video replay in the sport of football so this statement is no longer applicable.*

## **(3) NJSIAA Rules and Regulations, Sports Specific Regulations, Note 4 (Disqualification)**

j. Any player that leaves the bench area during an altercation, whether to intervene or participate, shall be disqualified, and will be subject to the disqualification penalty (automatically disqualified from the next two contests, with the exception of football which will carry a one game disqualification). Only coaches can leave the bench with the purpose of restraining players and stopping the altercation.

***Rationale:*** *This addition to the disqualification rule sends a clear message that NJSIAA and member schools have zero tolerance for leaving the bench during melees. Leaving the bench violations appear in some NFHS sports-specific rulebooks, but not all.*