



NAIA Frequently Asked Questions Ejections and Suspensions

In April 2009, the membership approved a package of new standards for member institutions, affiliated conferences, and various constituent groups. At the NAIA Convention in April 2011, additional information was updated to provide further clarity related to ejections and suspensions. For additional information, please contact the NAIA National Office at 816-595-8000.

What is the difference between ejection and suspension?

An ejection is an action enforced in conjunction with competition by a game official consistent with the playing rules in that sport. A suspension which is required by NAIA bylaws (Article 6, Section B, Item 7) has additional consequences related to ejections.

Can an institution appeal an ejection?

Ejections are not subject to appeal except for the avenues that are governed solely by the playing rules in each sport. 1) If the playing rules in a given sport do not include an opportunity for appeal, no additional appeal opportunity exists within the NAIA. 2) If the playing rules in a given sport do include an opportunity to appeal the proper procedure must be followed.

Can an institution appeal a suspension?

Yes, if required by NAIA bylaws (Article VI, Section B, Item 7). However, if the suspension is related to a sports rule it may not be appealed. Check the sport's rulebook.

What is the process and timeline for appealing a suspension?

The institution's athletics director and faculty athletics representative must sign off on the appeal and submit it to their respective conference commissioner within 72 hours of the completion of the contest. The conference conduct oversight committee will review and send a recommendation to the National Office (within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution). The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.

What information must be submitted for an appeal to be complete?

1. A letter from the Athletics Director/FAR (explaining the incident and reason for the appeal)
2. A videotape of the incident (DO NOT send the entire game)
3. Other documentation may include a letter from the student, coach, and game administrator.

Can a student-athlete/coach continue to participate while an appeal is being processed?

Yes. Once an appeal with appropriate signatures has been submitted to the conference, the student-athlete/coach may continue to participate during the appeal process. If the appeal is not approved, then the student-athlete/coach must sit out of the next scheduled contest(s).

In certain sports, there are multiple contests in a day/weekend. If a coach/student-athlete is ejected do they have to sit out the very next contest?

Yes, unless an official written appeal can be processed and submitted to the conference commissioner before the next contest occurs.

The head men's basketball coach is also the assistant women's basketball coach. If the men's coach is ejected during the women's game, may they coach in the men's game immediately following?

Yes, they may coach in men's game but conference and/or schools may decide not to have them coach in the men's game. However, if this is done, the men's coach must still be suspended for the next women's game.

If an appeal cannot be submitted before the 2nd contest and the coach/student-athlete serves the suspension, what happens if the appeal is approved?

The suspension would not be applied to the overall count. For example, a student-athlete serves his or her second suspension and the appeal is approved. That student-athlete would still only have one suspension in the overall count.

What if a student-athlete/coach participates in a contest after being ejected from the previous contest without an appeal?

If the student-athlete/coach participated while ineligible, then the contest shall be forfeited and the student-athlete/coach is subject to additional penalties.

When a student-athlete/coach is suspended, what are they allowed to do during the suspension?

A player or coach serving a game suspension shall be restricted to the designated spectator areas and prohibited from any communication or contact, direct or indirect, with the team, coaches, bench personnel and/or game officials from the start of the game to its completion, including any overtime periods. While the suspended coach or player is allowed on the field and in the bench area during pregame activities, the suspended player may not be dressed in their game uniform, and they may not take part in any warm-up activities. Some sports have more stringent rules. Check the sport's rulebook.

Does it count if a student-athlete is ejected in a scrimmage or exhibition?

Yes, an ejection in any contest shall count.

Can a student-athlete/coach satisfy a suspension from a game requirement by sitting out a scrimmage or exhibition contest?

No, the suspension has to be served at the next regular season or postseason contest. If ejected from a JV/Varsity contest they shall be suspended for the next contest at the same level or higher from which they were ejected.

A freshman student has been ejected three times, the last ejection occurring in the last contest. Is the student suspended for any amount of contests the following season?

Yes. Should the third ejection occur in either of the last two contests of the year, the returning student-athlete will be suspended for the first two contests of the following year.

NOTES:

- **If specific rules are more stringent than NAIA rules, the institution must also conform to the sport-specific rules.**
- **An institution or affiliated conference shall retain the right to apply more stringent penalties than the NAIA rules and standards.**
- **A game official is responsible to know the rules of the sport. They are not responsible to know the NAIA policies. If you have questions related to ejections and suspensions, please contact your conference commissioner or the NAIA National Office**

