



**NCS, CIF EJECTION POLICY
HANDBOOK
FALL, WINTER, SPRING
2023-24**



307H Ejection Policy

A. Notice

Every player must read and sign a copy of the NCS Ejection Policy Athlete Notification Form. Each team coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative must read and sign a copy of the NCS Ejection Policy Coach Notification Form. The copies will be maintained by each school's administration. Each school's principal or Head of School must send a copy of the NCS Ejection Policy School Notification Form to their League Commissioner prior to the first contest of the season verifying that all players and coaches for the respective season (fall, winter, and spring) have read and signed the NCS Ejection Policy forms. Additionally, each school's principal or Head of School must verify to the League Commissioner that any future additions to the roster of either players or coaches will also read and sign the NCS Ejection Policy form prior to participating in an interscholastic contest. The principal or Head of School for Non-League Affiliate Members must send the required School Notification Form to the NCS Officials' Liaison.

B. Procedures

Each league and Non-Affiliate Member shall establish a procedure for the reporting of player, coach or fan ejections with the official's association providing officials for home contests.

- a. The coach of the team shall notify (orally or in writing) specified school personnel whenever a player, coach or fan is ejected.
- b. The officials' association shall submit a written report to specified school personnel, the league commissioner and the NCS Officials' Liaison within 24 hours of the ejection. The report should include the reason for the ejection(s) and identify the person(s) ejected.
- c. The lack of receipt of the ejection report from the officials' association does NOT invalidate any ejection.
- d. The NCS Officials' Liaison will forward a copy of any ejection reports received from other CIF Sections or out of state officials associations to the involved school and League Commissioner.

C. Coaches' Responsibility

The Head Coach is responsible for determining the cause of ejection for any of their players or coaching staff members and is responsible for enforcement of the NCS Ejection Policy. Confusion over the cause of a player or coaching staff member's ejection shall not be the basis for allowing a player or coaching staff member to avoid the sanctions required by the NCS Ejection Policy.

D. Penalties

These rules and minimum penalties are applicable to players and coaches during the time that contest officials have jurisdiction for the contest in accordance with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) or sport governing body rules for the respective sport and the CIF Sportsmanship and Ejection Policy set forth in Section 503.M of the NCS Constitution and General Bylaws. Leagues or schools may determine that a greater penalty than what is herein contained may be appropriate and they retain the right to be more restrictive in applying penalties than this policy outlines. Contests that players and/or coaches must sit out shall count as contests played, even if the contests are forfeited because there are not enough players for the school to field a team.

1. Players

A player who is ejected from a scrimmage, jamboree, alumni game or Foundation game must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course prior to a scheduled contest. If more than one player from a team is ejected or participates in a fight, then the team and coaches shall complete the NFHS online sportsmanship course prior to the next contest, the team shall lose one (1) practice the following week and will be put on probation for the remainder of the school year.

A player ejected from a contest (an athletic competition involving two or more teams that is not a scrimmage, jamboree, alumni game or Foundation game) for violation of a NFHS or sports governing body rule (other than assaultive behavior/fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight) shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of the contest and the school's next contest (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff). If the ejection is for unsportsmanlike conduct, the player must also complete the NFHS online Sportsmanship course.

A player ejected a second time from a contest for violation of a NFHS or sports governing body rule (other than assaultive behavior/fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight) shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of the contest and the school's next three contests (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff). There is also a mandatory three contest sit out associated with a second ejection. If the team participates in less than three contests during the remainder of the season, the player must sit out the remaining number of contests the next year, or if a senior, in the next season of sport. If the ejection is for unsportsmanlike conduct, the player must also complete the NFHS online Sportsmanship course.

A player ejected a third time from a contest for violation of a NFHS or sports governing body rule shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of the contest and for the remainder of the season (includes post-season play). There is also a mandatory six contest sit out associated with a third ejection. If the team participates in less than six contests during the remainder of the season, the player must sit out the remaining number of contests the next year, or if a senior, in the next season of sport. If the ejection is for unsportsmanlike conduct, the player must also complete the NFHS online Sportsmanship course.

A player ejected for gross unsportsmanlike conduct, assaultive behavior/fighting (throwing a punch; striking an opponent with fist, locked hands, forearm or elbow; kicking or kneeing; biting or similar behavior) or leaving the bench area to begin or participate in an altercation shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of the contest and the school's next three contests (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff). In unusual circumstances, the NCS Commissioner may increase the suspension up to six games. The player must also complete the NFHS online Sportsmanship course.

A player ejected a second time for gross unsportsmanlike conduct, assaultive behavior/fighting (throwing a punch; striking an opponent with fist, locked hands, forearm or elbow; kicking or kneeing; biting or similar behavior) or leaving the bench area to begin or participate in an altercation shall be ineligible to participate in the remainder of the season (includes post-season play). There is also a mandatory six contest sit out associated with a second ejection. If the team participates in less than six contests during the remainder of the season, the player must sit out the remaining number of contests the next year, or if a senior, in the next season of sport. The player must also complete the NFHS online Sportsmanship course.

Players required to complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course may not participate until the course has been completed and the certificate of completion has been forwarded to the league commissioner, or NCS Officials' Liaison for Non-League Affiliate Members. A player on a team competing in an out-of-Section tournament, may delay completion of the required NFHS Sportsmanship course. The player may continue to participate in the tournament after the appropriate contest suspension but must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course prior to the next non-tournament contest.

During the contest(s) for which the player is ineligible, the player may be on the bench in street clothes for the duration of the suspension.

A player ejected from a sub-varsity level contest must sit out the required number of contests at that level. Additionally, if the player is moved up to the next level to participate, prior to serving the penalty, the player must sit-out the required number of-contests at the next level. The player will still need to sit-out at the sub-varsity level if/when that player is moved back down. A player may not be moved to a lower level of competition until the sit out requirement has been completed at the level the ejected player was competing.

NOTE: This also applies to the completion of *suspended contests*.

A player ejected in the last contest of the season for an offense that requires the completion of the NFHS Sportsmanship course, must complete the course within ten (10) school days. If the ejected player was competing at the sub-varsity level, the player may not be moved to the varsity level for post-season competition.

Before a player may return to participate in a contest following a multiple contest suspension, the school Principal/Head of School or his/her designee must inform the League Commissioner that they have met with the student-athlete, his or her parent/guardian/caregiver and coach to discuss future behavioral expectations. The NCS Return to Competition Form must be returned to the League Commissioner before the player is eligible to participate in the team's next contest. Non-League Affiliates must return the form to the NCS Officials' Liaison.

2. Coaches

A coach who is ejected from a scrimmage, jamboree, alumni game or Foundation game shall complete the NFHS sportsmanship course prior to a scheduled contest. If more than one player or one coach from a team is ejected or participates in a fight, then the team and coaches shall complete the NFHS online sportsmanship course prior to a scheduled contest, the team shall lose one (1) practice the following week and will be put on probation for the remainder of the school year.

A coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative who is ejected from a contest for violation of a NFHS or sports governing body rule (other than assaultive behavior/fighting) shall be disqualified from any coaching activities for the remainder of the day and the school's next contest (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff).

A coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative ejected a second time from a contest during one season for violation of a NFHS or sports governing body rule (other than assaultive behavior/fighting) shall be prohibited from coaching or attending the next three contests for that team. In unusual circumstances the NCS Commissioner may increase the suspension up to six games.

A coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative ejected a third time from a contest during one season for violation of a NFHS or sports governing body rule (other than fighting) shall be prohibited from coaching or attending the remaining contests of the season (including all league, NCS or CIF post-season play). If there six or fewer contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six contests the following season.

A coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative who is ejected from a contest for Gross Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Fighting or Assaultive Behavior shall be prohibited from coaching or attending the remaining contests of the season (including post-season play). If there six or fewer contests remaining in the season, the coach would be disqualified from participating for up to six contests the following season.

In the event of an ejection, the coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative will immediately remove themselves from their coaching responsibilities in accordance with National Federation or sport governing rules for the respective sport. The coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative must leave the vicinity of the playing area immediately and is prohibited from any contact, direct or indirect, with the team players and other team personnel during the remainder of the contest. If there is no other coaching representative who is certified by the school in accordance with CIF Bylaw 503, the contest shall be terminated and declared a forfeit. The offending coach's school will be credited with a loss and the opposing school shall be credited with a win.

The ejected coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative will be prohibited from attending the next contest for that team or any other team in the same sport prior to serving the penalty. Coaches also must meet with their respective Athletic Director and/or School Administrator and complete the online NFHS Sportsmanship course.

The coach may not attend any contests until the course has been completed and the certificate of completion has been forwarded to the league commissioner, or NCS Officials' Liaison for Non-League Affiliate Members. A coach on a team competing in an out-of-Section tournament, may delay completion of the required NFHS Sportsmanship course. The coach may continue to participate in the tournament after the appropriate contest suspension, but must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course prior to the next non-tournament contest.

A coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative ejected in the last contest of the season must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course within ten (10) school days.

Before a coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative may return to participate in a contest following a multiple contest suspension, the school Principal/Head of School or his/her designee must inform the League Commissioner that they have met with the individual and athletic director to discuss future behavioral expectations. The NCS Return to Competition Form must be returned to the League Commissioner the individual is eligible to participate in the team's next contest. Non-League Affiliates must return the form to the NCS Officials' Liaison.

3. Spectator

If a spectator is ejected from a contest, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend that team's next contest. If the same spectator is ejected a second time, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that person does not attend any of the remaining contests for that season.

4. Illegal Participation in the Next Contest

Illegal participation in the next contest after a player, coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative has been ejected shall result in the contest being forfeited and the ineligible player, coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative shall be ineligible for the next contest.

5. Multiple Ejections

When a school incurs three or more ejections (not including fan ejections) in the same sport and level of competition during the season the following is required:

- a. The Head Coach must meet with the Athletic Director and/or School Administrator to review the Sportsmanship guidelines in the NCS Sports & General Rulings Handbook.
- b. The Head Coach must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course and forward the certificate of completion to the League Commissioner. Non-League Affiliate Members must send the certificate to the NCS Officials' Liaison.
- c. The school must develop an action plan for the team regarding sportsmanship and forward the plan to the League Commissioner. Non-League Affiliate Members must send the action plan to the NCS Officials' Liaison. The plan must be submitted within five business days after notification of this requirement is sent to the school.

If a varsity level team has any further ejections after the school has been notified of the requirement to complete an action plan, the team will not be allowed to host during the NCS Championships for that sport. The NCS Commissioner has the authority pursuant to the NCS Sports & General Rulings Handbook (300H), Board of Managers Policy Statement to impose additional sanctions on the school regarding sportsmanship issues.

6. Players Leaving Bench Area

The school, league or NCS may use videotape or any other electronic video to identify players who have left the bench area to begin or participate in an altercation. This identification may be made after the jurisdiction of the contest officials has ended. Players so identified are subject to the penalties outlined in D.1. Videotape or other electronic video may also be used to identify players who were erroneously identified as having left the bench area.

7. Physical Assault of an Official

A physical assault is the intentional infliction of or an attempt to inflict a harmful or offensive touching or contact upon the person of an official. The rule is violated even if no contact is made with the person of an official. Such conduct shall include verbal threats and/or intimidation either before, during or after the contest. The NCS Commissioner of Athletics will notify the member school of an alleged assault by a player, coach, and/or spectator. The competing schools and officials will be required to file written reports within ten (10) days of the incident. After reviewing the material, the principal or Head of School involved will be required to respond to the NCS Office concerning his/her investigation of the incident. The responding school must also indicate action to be taken by the school concerning the alleged incident. The person alleged to have physically assaulted an official shall be ineligible to participate in or attend any contests until the investigation has been completed and the NCS Commissioner of Athletics has accepted the results and recommendation of the school's investigation.

E. Appeal Process for Multi-Game Ejections

The school Principal/Head of School or his/her designee may submit an appeal to the League Commissioner and the NCS Officials' Liaison within 48 hours of the date of the ejection related to the incorrect identification of an ejected player(s) or coach(es) or a misapplication of the rule. Videotape or other electronic video may be used to assist in the correct identification of the player(s) or coach(es) who should have been ejected. If a school alleges there was an incorrect player(s) or coach(es) ejected, the school must identify the correct player(s) or coach(es) as part of the evidence provided. Appeals shall be heard by the ejected player's or coach's League President/League Commissioner for a regular season contest not including the final contest prior to Section playoffs. Non-League Affiliate Members must submit their appeal to the NCS Officials' Liaison. Appeals for misidentification or misapplication of the rule in the final contest of the season and all Section or CIF playoff contests shall be made to the NCS Commissioner. The player(s) or coach(es) must sit-out all contests until the appeal is decided.

There will be no appeal regarding the judgment of an official or for single game ejections.

Q1: If an official disqualifies an athlete as prescribed by the NFHS rules for that sport, will a suspension be required?

A: If, in the review of the report filed by the official, it is determined by the Section Commissioner, or his/her designated representative, that the actions of the player do not involve unsportsmanlike conduct*, a suspension may be waived.

*Note: If a player is disqualified for a flagrant type foul (flagrant foul, flagrant misconduct, serious foul play, malicious conduct, violent conduct etc.), the suspension may not be waived.

Q2: If it is determined by documented and/or video evidence that a player is disqualified from a contest erroneously, will a suspension be required for that player?

A: If, in the review of the report filed by the official, it is determined from the use of documentation and/or video evidence by the Section Commissioner or his/her designated representative, that the player has been misidentified or disqualified erroneously, a suspension may be waived.

Note: If a player was misidentified, the school must provide the name of the correct player who should have been disqualified and that player is subject to the appropriate disqualification penalties.

Q3: Sometimes an official will reverse their initial call at the conclusion of the contest. Can the official reverse his/her original call?

A: If, in the review of the report filed by the official, it is determined that he/she made an incorrect ruling, the official may rescind the initial report.

Note: If an official misapplied a NFHS or sports governing body rule which resulted in the disqualification of a player or coach, the official may rescind the initial report. The officials' association that assigned the official to the contest should concur with the rescinding of the report.

An official/official's association may not rescind the disqualification of a player(s) or coach(es) for assaultive behavior, or the disqualification of a player(s) for leaving the bench area. (The school may appeal these disqualifications pursuant to Section E.)

F. Awards Ceremony

Any player, coach, assistant coach and/or coaching representative who has been ejected from a NCS or CIF Regional/State championship contest for unsportsmanlike conduct, fighting or leaving the bench area to begin or participate in an altercation will be prohibited from participating in the awards ceremony.

G. Process to Change the Ejection Policy

League commissioners shall annually review the content of the Ejection Policy with representatives of its member schools and make recommendations for change. The league commissioner will direct such recommendations to the NCS Sportsmanship Committee ("SC"). Non-League Affiliate Members may forward proposed Ejection Policy changes to the SC. The SC will determine whether to forward recommendations to the Sports Advisory Committee for consideration.

H. Process to Amend Sport Specific Rules Summary

The NCS Commissioner or designee shall annually review the Sports Specific Rules Summary and make changes as necessary to correspond with changes made in the NFHS or sports governing body rules dealing with sportsmanship issues.

HOW LEAGUES SHOULD HANDLE ALL EJECTIONS

Each League President or Board of Managers decides who will handle all information pertaining to ejections and notifies the North Coast Section Office of such person. This would include:

1. Who documents all ejections, including the requirement of confirming receipt of the NFHS Sportsmanship course from the ejected player and school?
2. Handles all reviews of ejections
3. Handles all appeals
4. Notifies the section upon return to competition of an ejected player with a multiple game suspension. Schools must use the Return to Competition form.

Each League Commissioner should collect the NCS Ejection Policy Handbook from each member school at the beginning of each season of sport. In order to make this task simpler, the NCS has developed one handbook for all 3 seasons of sport instead of three separate handbooks.

REVIEW PROCESS

1. All ejections should be reviewed by the League Commissioner or President.
2. If in the review it is deemed that the ejection was for an offense that was not unsportsmanlike conduct, the League President or his/her designee may set aside the suspension of the student-athlete.
3. This must be documented by the league and the information forwarded to the NCS Office.
4. Should the same student-athlete be ejected from another contest for the same reason, the League Commissioner or President may term this an unsportsmanlike act and have the student-athlete subject to the ejection policy.
5. Should in the review a school realize that the student-athlete was misidentified, or a rule was misapplied they may contact the League Commissioner or President to ask for a review. In the case of misidentification, the correct player would then be assessed the ejection.

*Note: If a player is disqualified for a flagrant type foul (flagrant foul, flagrant misconduct, serious foul play, malicious conduct, violent conduct etc.), the suspension may not be waived.

APPEALS PROCESS

1. There is no appeal for a single game suspension.
2. A written appeal must be received by the League and the Section within 48 hours of the date of the ejection.
3. Once the written appeal is in the hands of the League Commissioner or President, he or she will assess the appeal and render a ruling as quickly as possible.
4. All appeal decisions should be filed with the NCS Office.

Question: If a player or coach is ejected from a game on Friday, can the Principal or designee submit an appeal of the ejection on Monday morning?

Answer: No. An appeal of an ejection must be made within 48 hours from the end of the contest.

Question: If the school and League Commissioner have not received a copy of the ejection report from the officials' association, can the school still file an appeal within the 48-hour window?

Answer: The Head Coach is responsible for knowing why a player or coach was ejected. Therefore, the school can submit an appeal even if they have not received a copy of the ejection report.

Question: Can the ejected player or coach participate in the next contest if the appeal has not yet been assessed?

Answer: An ejected player or coach cannot participate in any future contests until the appeal has been upheld or the required number of contests have been sat out.

Question: If a player is ejected for fighting, and later in the year he/she is ejected for an unsportsmanlike conduct foul, is the player done for the year?

Answer: No, but the player would serve a 3-game suspension and have accumulated his second ejection.

Question: If a player is ejected for an unsportsmanlike conduct foul, and later in the year he/she is ejected for fighting, is the player done for the year?

Answer: No, but the player would be assessed a 3-6 game suspension for fighting and have accumulated their second ejection.

Question: If a player is ejected for flagrant targeting in a football game, and the school has film showing the contact was below the head and shoulders, can the school request that the ejection report be rescinded?

Answer: The officials' association can review the film. While the contact may not be a targeting foul, it may still be a flagrant contact foul.

Question: If the League Commissioner or League President determines that the actions of a player does not involve unsportsmanlike conduct, must the NCS Office be notified?

Answer: Yes. The NCS Office tracks all ejections and must note that the suspension has been waived. The ejection still counts against the school/team's total ejections for the year.

Question: If a player is ejected twice during the season for fighting and is no longer eligible to participate, must they complete a Return to Competition Form for the second ejection?

Answer: Yes. A player is not eligible to participate in the sport the following year, or in another sport if they are a senior, until they have sat out six contests and the form has been submitted.

NCS, CIF EJECTION POLICY ATHLETE NOTIFICATION FORM

The following is a partial summary of rules and minimum penalties adopted by the NCS Board of Managers applicable to players and are in effect for (non-league, league, invitational tournaments/events, post-season; league, section or state playoffs).

1. Ejection of a player from a scrimmage:
Penalty: The player must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship course prior to the next contest.
2. Ejection of a player from a contest:
Penalty: A player ejected from a contest for violation of a NFHS or sports governing body rule (other than assaultive behavior/fighting or leaving the bench area during a fight) shall be ineligible for the next contest (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff). **A second ejection will result in a three-game suspension and a third ejection shall make the player ineligible for the remainder of the season.** If the ejection is for unsportsmanlike conduct, the player must also complete the NFHS online Sportsmanship course.
3. **Ejection of a player from a contest for assaultive behavior/fighting or leaving the bench area:**
Penalty: **A player ejected from a contest for these reasons is ineligible for the school's next three contests. In addition, the player shall complete the online NFHS Sportsmanship course. The player may not participate until the course has been completed. The player must also meet with the school principal to discuss future behavioral expectations and complete the NCS Return to Competition Form.**
4. **Second ejection of a player from a contest for assaultive behavior/fighting or leaving the bench area:**
Penalty: **The player shall be ineligible for the remainder of the season.**
5. When one or more players leave the bench to begin or participate in an altercation.
Penalty: The player(s) shall be ejected from the contest-in-question and become ineligible for three contests (non-league, league, invitational tournament, post-season {league, section or state} playoff). **The school, league or NCS may use electronic video to identify players who have left the bench area to begin or participate in an altercation. This identification may be made after the jurisdiction of the game officials has ended and such identified players are subject to the penalties set forth in #3 and #4 above.**
6. Ejection of a player in the last contest of the season:
Penalty: The player will be held out of the number of contests required by the type of ejection in the same sport in the following year. If the player is a graduating senior, the player must sit out the required number of contests in the next season of sport in which they participate. If the ejection is for an offense that requires completion of the NFHS Sportsmanship course, the course must be completed with 10 school days. Sub-varsity players may not be moved to the varsity level for post-season competition.
7. Physical Assault of an Official:
Penalty: A player alleged to have physically assaulted an official shall be ineligible to participate in or attend any contests until the investigation has been completed and the NCS Commissioner of Athletics has accepted the results and recommendation of the school's investigation.

I have read the NCS, CIF Ejection Policy and understand **there are severe consequences for assaultive behavior/fighting and leaving the bench area to begin or participate in an altercation.** I have also been provided with a complete version of the NCS, CIF Ejection Policy. I understand that athletes may not participate in any contest until this document is filed with the school. This signed Athlete Notification Form is to be maintained at the school.

Student's Signature _____ School _____

SPORT _____ Date _____ VAR _____ JV _____ F/S _____ FR _____