NJSIAA

GUIDELINES,

POLICIES AND

PROCEDURES

2026 – 2027

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ANONYMOUS CONTACT POLICY STATEMENT

The high school principal, athletic director and coaches are responsible for assuring conformity with NJSIAA eligibility and other regulations, as evidenced by the eligibility affidavits. The NJSIAA relies on its member schools to self-report any eligibility or other violations that they may encounter, to avoid penalties in addition to forfeitures set forth in Article X, Section 1 of the Bylaws. The NJSIAA discourages anonymous complaints against schools. If anonymous complaints are received, the NJSIAA will convey that complaint to the school in question to investigate. If the school determines that there is a violation, no penalties will be imposed other than forfeiture. However, if at a later time it is determined by the NJSIAA that there was a violation based on competent evidence, then more substantial penalties may be imposed on the school and/or responsible school athletic personnel.

ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES AT INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS

Players and coaches involved with alcohol/tobacco/illegal substances during or after the game at the game site or on school property, including chartered busses, **shall be suspended from NJSIAA tournament play for one year and be denied any championship rights.**

This action was taken in support of the fact that such actions concerning alcohol/tobacco/illegal substances are in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-15a, N.J.S.A. 2C:33-16, N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7, N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10 and N.J.S.A. 26:3D-58b as noted below.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-15a:
Any person under the legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages, or under the legal age to purchase cannabis items, who knowingly possesses without legal authority or who knowingly consumes any alcoholic beverage, cannabis item, marijuana, or hashish in any school, public conveyance, public place, or place of public assembly, or motor vehicle shall…

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-16:
Any person of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages or cannabis items, who, in the case of alcoholic beverages, knowingly and without the express written permission of the school board, its delegated authority, or any school principal, brings or possesses any alcoholic beverages, or in the case of cannabis items, brings, possesses, or consumes, including by smoking, vaping, or aerosolizing, any cannabis items, on any property used for school purposes which is owned by any school or school board, is guilty of a disorderly persons offense. For purposes of this section, an alcoholic beverage includes powdered alcohol as defined by R.S.33:1-1, and a cannabis item includes any item available for lawful consumption pursuant to the "New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act," P.L.2021, c.16 (C.24:6I-31 et al.).

N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7:
Any person who violates subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:35-5 by distributing, dispensing or possessing with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog while on any school property used for school purposes which is owned by or leased to any elementary or secondary school or school board, or within 1,000 feet of such school property or a school bus, or while on any school bus, is guilty of a crime of the third degree and shall…

N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10:
It is unlawful for any person, knowingly or purposely to obtain, or to possess, actually or constructively, a controlled dangerous substance or controlled substance analog, unless the substance was obtained directly or pursuant to a valid prescription or order form from a practitioner, while acting in the course of his professional practice, or except as otherwise authorized.

N.J.S.A. 26:3D-58b:
Smoking is prohibited in any area of any building of, or on the grounds of, any public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school, regardless of whether the area is an indoor public place or is outdoors.

BASKETBALL NCAA EVALUATION PERIOD GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are for member schools to adhere to during the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Evaluation Period which occurs during the fall months prior to the start of the NJSIAA basketball season:

1. NJSIAA-member high schools may host no more than two basketball-specific evaluation sessions per week at the request of an authorized NCAA athletic department staff member. No evaluation session may occur without an authorized staff member in attendance. Any evaluation session without an authorized staff member in attendance is a direct violation of these guidelines.
2. These basketball-specific evaluation sessions may only occur on the premises of the member high school; they may not take place at a third-party facility.
3. High school coaches shall be permitted to be in attendance and administer these evaluation sessions in a manner requested by the authorized staff member.
4. High schools, and any member of its coaching staff, may create promotional materials to notify college coaches that they have prospects to be evaluated – this includes the use of social media. Promotional materials may include the head coaches' contact information in order to schedule evaluation sessions. However, the use of promotional materials shall not list predetermined dates and times of evaluation sessions that will be hosted.
5. High schools, and any member of its coaching staff, may use social media to thank college programs and college coaches for attending an evaluation session. However, any communications that go beyond a courtesy thank you may be interpreted as promoting and advertising a school's program for recruiting purposes.
6. The workouts to be observed by the authorized staff member may include:
    a. Strength training
    b. Agility, speed, and endurance training
    c. Drills to highlight specific position skills (see details below)
    d. Small-sided, competitive games such as 3v3
    e. No more than 15 minutes can be used for 4v4 or 5v5 scrimmaging
7. Drills to highlight specific skills, include shooting drills, ball handling drills, lay-up drills, rebounding drills and low-post drills.
8. The workouts SHALL NOT resemble any form of organized practice. Therefore, no diagramed plays may be executed, and no defensive shell drills or simulation of offensive plays are permitted.
9. Each onsite visit/workout may not exceed one hour in length.
10. High schools are NOT permitted to join with another high school nor comingle student-athletes from different schools for these evaluation sessions. High schools must independently host evaluation sessions at the request of a college coach.

A high school coach that violates any part of these guidelines will receive an automatic four-game suspension, such suspension to be served during the first four regular season games during the immediate next season.

BOY/GIRL COMPETITION

Although the implementation of Title 6 and the final decision on Boy/Girl participation in interscholastic athletics in New Jersey is the jurisdiction of the Office of Equal Educational Opportunity (OEEO), New Jersey Department of Education, the NJSIAA Executive Committee has approved the following guidelines for NJSIAA athletic programs:

1. Males shall be excluded from female athletic teams although there are no teams for boys in the same sport.

2. Based on the directives of the Commissioner of Education, girls shall be allowed to participate in any boys' sports teams, on an equal basis with boys, provided that the same sports team is not available to girls at that school.

3. Female athletes are not entitled to participate on boys' teams where there are girls' teams in the same sport. However, if particular events are not provided to girls' teams in the same sport, then girls must be allowed to try out for those events not offered to the female team.

BROADCASTING RIGHTS

The NJSIAA has granted the exclusive rights to create, distribute and license programming in connection with NJSIAA tournaments (and NJSIAA sporting events to the extent the NJSIAA controls or otherwise has authority to grant such rights with regard to NJSIAA sporting events) in all media currently existing or yet to be developed. This includes, without limitation, network and cable television broadcast, pay-per-view television, radio, webcasting, streaming, podcasting, distribution over wireless telephone networks, optical media including DVD, and print publications. The foregoing shall not be interpreted to restrict NJSIAA member schools from producing print publications (i.e. programs or similar) for distribution on school property during the regular season or to restrict the NJSIAA from producing print publications (i.e. programs or similar) for distribution during post-season NJSIAA tournaments.

Any third party seeking to create, distribute or otherwise exploit programming in connection with the NJSIAA sporting events in any media will be directed to the NJSIAA's designated broadcast partners, as applicable, by the NJSIAA or the applicable member school. The NJSIAA designated broadcast partners shall have the right to enter into license arrangements with such third parties.

The NJSIAA designated broadcast partners may create NJSIAA programming for distribution via any media distribution means owned or controlled by their parent organization.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, including but not limited to the information above, NJSIAA member schools may broadcast regular season (but not playoff, post-season tournament, or championship) athletic contests involving such schools' own teams or athletes, without charging any fee to any viewer or other third party, on such schools' own commercial-free television networks, their own commercial-free websites, or on commercial-free public access television channels (provided that any agreement between an NJSIAA member school and a commercial-free public access television channel does not permit sublicense or other use of the telecast).

CHAPERONES

Chaperones are individuals appointed to accompany teams or individuals to NJSIAA Championships.

Member schools are reminded that a team or an individual is not permitted to compete in NJSIAA Championship events unless a properly appointed "coach" is present and was present at six (6) practices prior to the event. When making these assignments, a public school must be aware of the provisions of the New Jersey Administrative Code, Section 6A:9-5.19, entitled "Athletics Personnel," which mandates the requirements which a board of education must follow when appointing individuals in a coaching capacity. The practice of having a parent, a private instructor, or other adults accompany a student-athlete as the coach is a violation of this provision. Your county superintendent will be able to confirm the certification or lack thereof of the individual you are assigning. A properly appointed coach will thereafter be subject to the Rules and Regulations, Section 11 Out-of-Season Practice.

Although non-public schools are not governed by the provisions of the Administrative Code, it is important that such assignments be made in the best interests of the student-athlete; when a parent, a private instructor, or other adults are appointed as coaches by the principal to accompany student-athletes, such coach will thereafter be subject to the Rules and Regulations, Section 11 Out-of-Season Practice.

Gymnastics "spotters" must be approved coaches within this regulation; therefore, tournament directors are instructed to disqualify any contestant who is accompanied by someone in a coaching/spotting capacity who is not properly certified by the board of education in public schools or appointed by the principal in non-public schools.

A principal's signature on the event entry form certifies that the coach/certified faculty member has been appointed by the board of education within the provisions of the Administrative Code or the rules of the private school.

If a properly qualified and certified appointment cannot be made, the school should not enter the team or individual in an NJSIAA event.

Such appointments must be approved by the Board of Education; neither the NJSIAA nor the meet director has the authority or the responsibility for enforcement of this statute, sole jurisdiction rests with the Department of Education, and, therefore, a Principal's signature on the entry form certifies that the coach/certified faculty member has been appointed by the Board of Education within the provisions of Title 6 Education.

CLUB PROGRAMS

The NJSIAA recognizes twenty (20) separate and distinct sports for which the member schools have approved rules and regulations to govern interscholastic competition. These are listed under Contest Rules, Section 9, Rule 2, Rules and Regulations.

As a pilot program, many member schools have initiated bona fide club programs in a recognized sport to determine the interest and feasibility of seeking Board of Education approval to conduct the program on an interscholastic basis. Most often these programs function with limited financial support from the Board; the coach volunteers his/her services gratis; students, booster clubs, and sometimes the Board provide the equipment; facilities are made available for the program and before long, this club program matures into a skilled, competitive, stature seeking program.

In order to establish a firm credibility for the program, at this point the school agrees to schedule scrimmages or games with schools conducting similar club programs. The misconception is that such scrimmages or games may take place since the Board of Education condones it, even though they have not formally approved the program, without relinquishing the title of a club activity. The moment interschool scrimmages or games take place, the

program is no longer a club activity, and member schools must adhere to all NJSIAA rules and regulations governing the interscholastic program.

The interscholastic status then requires both schools to conduct their programs within the rules and regulations of the NJSIAA and the State Board of Education; i.e., eligibility forms must be on file, physical examinations are required, seasonal guidelines observed, course requirements must be met, and all other regulatory provisions satisfied.

Question: When does a club program become an interscholastic sport?
Answer: The day an interschool scrimmage or game takes place.

All member schools sponsoring programs under the "Club" label and competing in interschool scrimmages or games are reminded they are subject to Executive Committee action within the penalties outlined in the NJSIAA Bylaws, Article X, Section 1 through 3.

NJSIAA COACHING CERTIFICATION AND REGULATIONS

A person shall be eligible to coach in any interscholastic contest, provided the person satisfies all of the conditions listed below (For the purposes of this section, "coach" shall mean all persons who coach an interscholastic high school athletic team in any way, whether for pay or as a volunteer at the varsity, junior varsity and/or freshman level – ninth grade through twelve grade).

In addition to State Department of Education Regulations, the following regulations must be adhered to:

1. The person's appointment as coach must be approved by the local educational agency responsible for the member school at which the person coaches.

2. All new coaches will have 120 days after being hired to complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course. A certificate of course completion must be submitted to respective athletic supervisors by June 30th to be eligible to coach at an NJSIAA member school for the subsequent school year. Coaches who have experience coaching in an NJSIAA high school prior to the 2006-2007 school year will be exempt from this requirement.

3. All coaches must hold a current certificate in CPR, AED and Basic First Aid. Online courses without an in-person instructor-evaluated skills test are not recognized.

4. All coaches must obtain a "Concussion Awareness" certificate or its equivalent, as approved by NJSIAA, renewed annually.

5. All coaches must obtain a "Heat Acclimation Awareness and Wellness" certificate or its equivalent, as approved by NJSIAA, renewed annually.

Note: The above regulations do not apply to the coaches appointed by the school to accompany student-athletes to individual events.

STATE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION OF COACHES

The *New Jersey Administrative Code* sets forth qualifications for the coaching of public-school pupils. These qualifications are found at ***N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-5.16**, as follows:

N.J.A.C 6A:9B-5.16 *Athletics* Personnel

a. Any teaching staff member employed by a district board of education shall be permitted to organize students for purposes of coaching or for conducting games, events, or contests in physical education or athletics.

b. School districts may employ any holder of either a New Jersey teaching certificate or a substitute credential pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7 to work in the interscholastic athletic program provided the position has been advertised. The 20-day limitation noted in N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-7. 3(a) shall not apply to such coaching situations.

COMMERCIAL ENDORSEMENTS

The following guidelines have been developed to insure that all commercial endorsements meet goals and objectives of the Association, and are undertaken for the benefit of the NJSIAA, its member schools, and their student-athletes.

1. All commercial endorsements must have the approval of the Executive Committee on recommendation of the Finance Committee.

2. No member of the Executive Committee (including the Finance Committee) or any member of the NJSIAA staff will participate or vote on approving any endorsement of a commercial sponsor if they have any direct ownership interest in such sponsor.

3. In considering any commercial endorsement, the NJSIAA will apply the following criteria:
   a. The relationship of the commercial sponsorship to the goals and objectives of the Association.
   b. The benefits to be derived from the sponsorships or activities by the Association and its member schools.
   c. The quality of the production or program with appropriate evaluation and references.
   d. The time length and extent of commitment required by the activities.
   e. The ultimate educational value of the activities or the beneficial educational effect of conducting the activities (e.g. the support of a particular educational program through sponsorships).
   f. The possibility of creating a conflict of interest for the Association.
   g. The clarity of purpose and activities of the program or service to be sponsored.
   h. The positive nature of a sponsor's product or activity.
   i. The effect of the financial activities on the maintenance and improvement of the positive image by the Association.
   j. The willingness of a sponsor to enter into a save-harmless agreement with the Association.
   k. The necessity of avoiding sponsorships or activities which are in any way connected to productions or services of questionable value to or, in fact, detrimental to students (e.g. alcohol and tobacco products, medicines, gambling, etc.).
   l. The prohibition on advocating a religion or political party.

COMPETITIVE BALANCE POLICY

To ensure that non-traditional public high schools compete on a level playing field with traditional public high schools, the following competitive balance formula shall be applied to non-traditional public high schools participating in the sports of football, boys basketball, and girls basketball.

COMPETITIVE BALANCE FORMULA

A public high school will move up to the next highest classification group when the school meets the success factor and meets the requirements of a non-traditional school.

Success Factor:

Points will be awarded for participation in the NJSIAA state tournament based on the following scale:

- One point for a win in each preliminary round (i.e., all rounds prior to the sectional final).
- Two points for winning a sectional final.
- Three points for winning a state semifinal.
- Four points for winning a state championship.

During the previous two-year classification cycle, the following sport-specific point totals will be used to determine what schools will be further reviewed for a possible move to the next highest classification group:

- Football – cumulative total of six points or more
- Basketball – cumulative total of seven points or more

Non-Traditional Schools:

For purposes of the competitive balance formula, there are three categories of non-traditional schools—non-defined geographic area, county-based geographic area, and school districts with open enrollment policies. These categories are further defined below.

1. <u>Non-Defined Geographic Area</u>
   These schools can enroll students beyond a defined geographic area and are listed below:
   - Charter Schools
   - Choice Schools
   - Schools that Permit Tuition-Paying Students

2. <u>County-Based Geographic Area</u>
   These schools can enroll students from an entire county and are listed below:
   - County Vocational-Technical Schools
   - County Magnet/Academy Schools
   - Schools with Satellite Campuses for County-Based Academies

3. <u>School Districts with Open Enrollment Policies</u>
   These school districts have multiple high schools and allow students to choose which school they attend or allow students to apply to schools within the district. Schools districts with multiple high schools that enroll students based solely on their home address are not included in this category.

Application of Competitive Balance Formula for Non-Traditional Schools:

The following schools will be automatically moved to the next highest classification group if the school has accumulated six or more points in the sport of football, or seven or more points in the sport of basketball, during a two-year classification cycle:

- Charter Schools
- County Vocational-Technical Schools
- County Magnet/Academy Schools
- School Districts with Open Enrollment Policies

The following schools will be moved to the next highest classification group if it has accumulated six or more points in the sport of football, or seven or more points in the sport of basketball, during a two-year classification cycle:

- Choice Schools
- Schools that Permit Tuition-Paying Students
- Schools with Satellite Campuses for County-Based Academies

And three or more student-athletes playing football, or one or more student-athlete(s) playing basketball, are enrolled as choice students, tuition students, or via county academy programs. The school will have to provide a varsity roster and attest to the type of enrollment for each student-athlete.

Non-Resident students who are children of school district staff, as defined by NJ statute, and attend one of these types of schools shall be excluded from the minimum number of student-athletes required to move to the next highest classification group.

Schools subject to the competitive balance formula will move to the next highest classification group from the classification group where the success points were earned. Once a school is subject to the competitive balance formula and moves to the next highest classification group, varsity rosters will not be reviewed during the one-year review or two-year review periods. Potential moves to the next highest classification group, or remaining in the new classification group, will be based solely on points earned in the new classification group. When a school moves back to its original classification group based on its natural enrollment, then varsity rosters will be subject to review when the school earns the required number of success points by sport.

This policy does not apply to NJSIAA member schools with student-athletes participating in interscholastic sports who are enrolled in a charter school and/or county vocational-technical/public academy schools and return to their home district when their charter school and/or county vocational-technical/public academy school does not offer the sport *(NJSIAA Bylaws Article V – Eligibility of Athletes – Paragraph G. Enrollment – CL 2 – 4)*.

Future Classification Cycles:

<u>First-Year Review – One Year Point Total</u>
Once placed in the next highest classification group, if the school earns four or more points in football, or five or more points in basketball, in the first year of the next two-year classification cycle, then it will move up to the next highest classification group for the second year of the next two-year classification cycle. If the school does not earn any points in the first year of the next two-year classification cycle, then it will move down to the next lowest classification group for the second year of the next two-year classification cycle. Otherwise, the school will remain in the next highest classification group for both years of the next two-year classification cycle. The varsity rosters will not be reviewed for Choice Schools, Schools that

Permit Tuition-Paying Students, and Schools with Satellite Campuses for County-Based Academies, during the first-year review—any move will be based solely on points earned during the first year in the new classification group.

Two-Year Review – Cumulative Point Total

During the two-year classification cycle, if the school earns six or more cumulative points in the sport of football, or seven or more cumulative points in the sport of basketball, then the school will move up to the next highest classification group for the next two-year classification cycle. If the school earns three, four, or five cumulative points in football, or three, four, five, or six cumulative points in basketball, then the school will remain in the same classification group for the next two-year classification cycle. If the school earns two or less cumulative points in either sport, then the school will move down to the next lowest classification group for the next two-year classification cycle. The varsity rosters will not be reviewed for Choice Schools, Schools that Permit Tuition-Paying Students, and Schools with Satellite Campuses for County-Based Academies during the two-year review—any move will be based solely on cumulative points earned during the two-year review in the new classification group.

Football:

- 6 or more cumulative points – move to next highest classification group
- 3–5 cumulative points – remain in current classification group
- 2 or less cumulative points – move to next lowest classification group

Basketball:

- 7 or more cumulative points – move to next highest classification group
- 3–6 cumulative points – remain in current classification group
- 2 or less cumulative points – move to next lowest classification group

At no point will a school be eligible to move down to a classification group that is lower than its natural classification group based on enrollment.

Appeals:

This provision is meant to be applied objectively. Therefore, a school that is subject to this provision may appeal only (1) the determination that it is a non-traditional school; or (2) the calculation of the competitive balance formula.

CONTROVERSIES AND DISPUTES BETWEEN OFFICIALS, SCHOOLS AND LEAGUES/CONFERENCES

Prior, during, or after a New Jersey Interscholastic athletic event if an incident occurs between officials, players, spectators, and/or school personnel and the incident warrants investigation, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Immediate attempt should be made to resolve the incident at the local administrative level with building Principals. A report with request for review should be forwarded to the school administration.

2. If there is no successful resolution of the incident at this level, and the aggrieved party is an official, then all facts should be presented in written form to the president of the official's chapter who will forward a written hearing request to the appropriate league or conference.

3. If the aggrieved party is a member school, then all facts shall be presented in a written form to the league or conference or official's chapter, as the case may be; with a request for a hearing.

4. At this time, the Executive Director of the NJSIAA shall be notified in writing of the hearing request by the aggrieved party's chapter, league or conference.

5. The NJSIAA will become directly involved in the incident; (1) If, after a hearing, the case is referred to the NJSIAA Controversies Committee or (2) If the aggrieved party believes the hearing action to be unsatisfactory and requests further review by the NJSIAA Controversies Committee.

6. Whenever a coach removes a team from the field/court prior to the conclusion of the game, meet or event, an official must report this violation to the NJSIAA immediately.

DISQUALIFICATION OF COACHES/PLAYERS

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 coach/player 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 coach/player 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:

1. If the administrator or representative is able to designate such a person, the disqualified coach should be removed from the immediate area;

2. 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 the 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.

3. Any coach/player 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. Such disqualification prevents a coach/player from being present at the site.

CL 1: Definition of not being present at the site means the 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. In addition, a disqualified coach may not engage in any coaching or communication whatsoever with anyone at the contest.

Any player/coach in violation of this provision will be cause for forfeiture of those games during the period of disqualification.

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 coach/player 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 coach/player and offending school in each team's scorebook before signing same, if signature is required.

2. Any questions related 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 coach/player at a game during the disqualification period, the offending individual should be reported to the NJSIAA by the official.

3. The coach of the offending team (freshman, junior varsity, varsity has a dual responsibility with the official to report each disqualification to his/her Athletic Director in person or via phone by noon of the next day. Failure of a coach/official to follow the prescribed procedure in reporting the disqualification *does not* void the penalty and, if the official is at fault, it should be reported to the official's Chapter Secretary and the NJSIAA.

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

5. Any disqualification resulting from harassing verbal or physical misconduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at an interscholastic event must be noted on the Disqualification Form, with a description of the offending conduct provided.

6. Disqualifications for Federated/Non-Member Schools will not be reported to the NJSIAA. Officials will forward D.Q. forms to the Federated School Ex. Sec. for their records. Any disqualifications for member schools will continue to be reported to the NJSIAA regardless of the opponent's status.

7. 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.

Attention:

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.

2. Any coach who is disqualified a second time in single or multiple sports within a 365-day period will be required to appear before the Controversies Committee.

Clarifications – Disqualification Rule:

The Cardinal Rule is:

Officials officiate the game.
Coaches coach the game.
Players play the game.
Concentrate on your area of the game.

CL 1: 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 disqualification 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.

CL 2: 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).

CL 3: 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 cannot be used to satisfy the disqualification rule. The competition must begin in order to fulfill the requirements of the disqualification rule.

CL 4: "Not being present at the site" means the 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. In addition, a disqualified coach may not engage in any coaching or communication whatsoever with

anyone at the contest. Any player/coach in violation of this provision will be cause for forfeiture of those games during the period of disqualification.

CL 5: Ejection or removal of a player for a specific sport rule will carry the disqualification penalty only when it includes a flagrant unsportsmanlike act.

CL 6: Seniors who are disqualified from their last game will serve the penalty in a subsequent sports season. 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.

CL 7: 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.

CL 8: Any player/coach disqualified in single or multiple sports for a second time 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.

CL 9: Any player with two 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.

CL 10: Any varsity team accumulating three or more player 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.

CL 11: 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.

CL 12: 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: Any coach who is disqualified and/or has three or more players on a team disqualified during the course of the preceding school year must complete the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course. NJSIAA will provide the school with a link to the NFHS online course, and the course completion certificate is due to NJSIAA within sixty (60) days of the initial NJSIAA notification of the disqualification requirement.

CL 14: Any player that leaves the bench area during an altercation, regardless of whether the player engages in the altercation, shall be disqualified, and will be subject to the disqualification penalty (automatically disqualified from the next two contests.) Only coaches can leave the bench area with the purpose of restraining players and stopping the altercation

NOTE: Any coach failing to fulfill his/her responsibility as it applies to CL13, would be suspended from coaching in any capacity at any NJSIAA member school until the successful completion of the NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior Course.

DRONE POLICY

1. Except as provided in paragraph 4 below, the use of unmanned aerial systems ("UAS"), commonly referred to as "drones", by any NJSIAA member school is permitted during practice and at home events in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal laws and regulations.

2. Member schools are permitted to use UAS at away events with advance written permission of the host school, or, in the event there is no home school, the site manager.

3. If only one school operates a UAS at an event, the UAS video shall be provided to all other participating schools as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the event.

4. The use of UAS at an NJSIAA tournament event is prohibited.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROCEDURES

The NJSIAA and the National Federation recommend that a physician be present at athletic contests and available (on call) during practice sessions. With many sports activities in progress at any one time, it is often impossible to have physicians present at all contests. In fact, some small communities in rural areas and inner-city schools may not have the services of a physician. This makes it mandatory for the school administrators and coaches to arrange a procedure to obtain medical care and treatment for emergencies to include athletic trainer where applicable.

Some sources of assistance that may be utilized when physicians are not available are certified athletic trainers, emergency medical technicians usually on emergency vehicles, ambulance vehicle with trained personnel, rescue vehicles with trained first-aid personnel and, in some areas, National Guard or Army Reserve medical personnel assigned to ambulance duty. Schools may also have other school personnel qualified in first-aid, who may be available for duty during activities

Recommended procedures that may be followed in successful emergency care are:

1. Immediate on the spot first-aid by an individual with adequate training.

2. Communication System. An available, non-pay telephone with an outside line to contact a physician or ambulance service. Arrangements should be made in advance to ensure availability.

3. Emergency care facility. Arrangements should be made, in advance, with staff personnel of local hospital or clinic to notify, in case of emergency, that emergency service is necessary.

4. Notification. The facility to which the injured player is being transported should be immediately informed of the injured player's status. Necessary personnel and equipment should be available at the facility or physicians, on call, could be notified of the emergency.

5. Transportation. Ambulance, emergency vehicle, first-aid vehicle or rescue vehicle, with appropriate equipment and personnel may be parked at the field or game site. If this procedure is not feasible, prior arrangements should be made to have equipment on call when an emergency occurs. Again, an available, non-pay telephone with an outside line should be immediately available.

6. Communities without physicians, medical clinics or hospital service should complete arrangements with medical personnel and hospital facilities in the nearest community where such services are available.

The plan of action specified above should be carefully covered, in advance, with responsibilities of all concerned – trainer, coach, vehicle personnel, school administrators, local police, deputies, or constables – defined. When an emergency does occur, everyone involved can function as an informed, effective team.

Local plans of action to meet emergency situations will vary depending on availability of medical personnel and facilities, the location of the playing field or site and communications. In all cases, the emergency situation plan is best developed through cooperative action of local school personnel, participating professional medical staff and allied groups.

When there is a school physician or community health department providing school health services, the medical people involved should share in the planning. When no such service exists, the school administration should request medical assistance through the local medical professional groups, the county medical society, the community hospital staff or personal contact with a physician. Many doctors may be interested in assisting as team physicians but school administrators should initiate the first contact. Ethics of the medical profession necessitates this procedure.

Understanding is the key to an effective emergency care plan. Everyone involved – school personnel, medical professionals, allied medical groups, transportation staff, and the like – must know exactly what is going to be done in an emergency and who will be responsible for carrying out the various tasks involved. When this procedure has been completed, the players, coaches, administrators, parents, and medical personnel will know that everything possible has been done to protect the health, safety and welfare of a player who may be injured.

FOOTBALL NCAA OPEN RECRUITING PERIOD GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are for member schools to adhere to during the NCAA Open Recruiting Period:

1. When a college coach is onsite at an NJSIAA-member high school, the high school coach shall be permitted to administer a football-specific evaluation session at the request of a college coach.
2. These football-specific evaluation sessions may only occur on the premises of the member high school; they may not take place at a third-party facility.
3. High school coaches shall be permitted to attend and assist with any workout observed by the college coach.
4. High schools, and any member of its coaching staff, may create promotional materials to notify college coaches that they have prospects to be evaluated – this includes the use of social media. Promotional materials may include the head coaches' contact information in order to schedule evaluation sessions. However, the use of promotional materials shall not list predetermined dates and times of evaluation sessions that will be hosted.
5. High schools, and any member of its coaching staff, may use social media to thank college programs and college coaches for attending an evaluation session. However, any communications that go beyond a courtesy thank you may be interpreted as promoting and advertising a school's program for recruiting purposes.
6. The workouts to be observed by a college coach may include:
    a. Strength training
    b. Agility, speed and endurance training
    c. Position specific skills workouts (see details below)
    d. Position specific skills workouts include, but is not limited to, throwing, blocking (with the use of bags, shields, and sleds only), running routes, kicking/punting, or defensive positioning.
7. The workouts SHALL NOT resemble any form of organized practice. Therefore, no diagramed plays may be executed, no individual skills training may occur, and no scrimmaging of any kind regardless of the number of players participating in the workout.
8. Each onsite visit/workout may not exceed one hour in length.
9. No player protective gear may be used. Protective gear includes, but is not limited to, helmets, shoulder pads, rib pads or thigh/knee pads.
10. THUD or live contact with another student-athlete is not allowed at any time. The only football-specific equipment that may be in use are blocking/tackling dummies, blocking/tackling sleds or hand-shields.
11. High schools are NOT permitted to join with another high school nor comingle student-athletes from different schools for these evaluation sessions. High schools must independently host evaluation sessions at the request of a college coach.

A high school coach that violates any part of these guidelines will receive an automatic two-game suspension, such suspension to be served during the first two regular season games during the immediate next season.

NATIONAL ATHLETIC TRAINER'S ASSOCIATION PRE-SEASON HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Before participating in the preseason practice period, all student-athletes should undergo a pre-participation medical examination administered by a physician (MD or DO) or as required/approved by state law. The examination can identify predisposing factors related to a number of safety concerns, including the identification of youths at particular risk for exertional heat illness.

The heat-acclimatization period is defined as the initial 14 consecutive days of preseason practice for all student-athletes. The goal of the acclimatization period is to enhance exercise heat tolerance and the ability to exercise safely and effectively in warm to hot conditions. This period should begin on the first day of practice or conditioning before the regular season. Any practices or conditioning conducted before this time should not be considered a part of the heat-acclimatization period. Regardless of the conditioning program and conditioning status leading up to the first formal practice, all student-athletes (including those who arrive at preseason practice after the first day of practice) should follow the 14-day heat-acclimatization plan. During the preseason heat acclimatization period, if practice occurs on 6 consecutive days, student-athletes should have 1 day of complete rest (no conditioning, walk-throughs, practices, etc.).
Days on which athletes do not practice due to a scheduled rest day, injury, or illness do not count toward the heat-acclimatization period. For example, an athlete who sits out the third and fourth days of practice during this time (eq, Wednesday and Thursday) will resume practice as if on day 3 of the heat-acclimatization period when returning to play on Friday.

A practice is defined as the period of time a participant engages in a coach-supervised, school-approved, sport- or conditioning-related physical activity. Each individual practice should last no more than 3 hours. Warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities are included as part of the 3-hour practice time. Regardless of ambient temperature conditions, all conditioning and weight-room activities should be considered part of practice.

A walk-through is defined as a teaching opportunity with the athletes not wearing protective equipment (e.g., helmets, shoulder pads, catcher's gear, shin guards) or using other sport-related equipment (e.g., footballs, lacrosse sticks, blocking sleds, pitching machines, soccer balls, marker cones). The walk-through is not part of the 3-hour practice period, can last no more than 1 hour per day, and does not include conditioning or weight-room activities.

A recovery period is defined as the time between the end of 1 practice or walk-through and the beginning of the next practice or walk-through. During this time, athletes should rest in a cool environment, with no sport- or conditioning-related activity permitted (e.g., speed or agility drills, strength training, conditioning, or walk-through). Treatment with the athletic trainer is permissible.

The 14-Day Heat Acclimatization Period – Core Principles:

1. Days 1 through 5 of the heat-acclimatization period consist of the first 5 days of formal practice. During this time, athletes may not participate in more than 1 practice per day.

2. If a practice is interrupted by inclement weather or heat restrictions, the practice should recommence once conditions are deemed safe. Total practice time should not exceed 3 hours in any 1 day.

3. A 1-hour maximum walk-through is permitted during days 1–5 of the heat-acclimatization period. However, a 3-hour recovery period should be inserted between the practice and walk -through (or vice versa).

4. During days 1–2 of the heat-acclimatization period, in sports requiring helmets or shoulder pads, a helmet should be the only protective equipment permitted (goalies, as in the case of field hockey and related sports, should not wear full protective gear or perform activities that would require protective equipment). During days 3–5, only helmets and shoulder pads should be worn. Beginning on day 6, all protective equipment may be worn and full contact may begin.

    a. Football only: On days 3–5, contact with blocking sleds and tackling dummies may be initiated.
    b. Full-contact sports: 100% live contact drills should begin no earlier than day 6.

5. Beginning no earlier than day 6 and continuing through day 14, double-practice days must be followed by a single-practice day. On single-practice days, 1 walk-through is permitted, separated from the practice by at least 3 hours of continuous rest. When a double practice day is followed by a rest day, another double practice day is permitted after the rest day.

6. On a double-practice day neither practice should exceed 3 hours in duration, and student-athletes should not participate in more than 5 total hours of practice. Warm-up, stretching, cool-down, walk-through, conditioning, and weight-room activities are included as part of the practice time. The 2 practices should be separated by at least 3 continuous hours in a cool environment.

7. Because the risk of exertional heat illnesses during the preseason heat-acclimatization period is high, we strongly recommend that an athletic trainer be on site before, during, and after all practices.

HEAT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Introduction:

History shows that most exertional heat stroke deaths occur during August; however, athletes will be at risk whenever in the presence of elevated ambient temperatures with high humidity. For many years, coaches have utilized the Heat Index to determine safe conditions for exercise in a hot environment. Evidence-based research, first initiated with the military, proves that Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) should be the environmental monitoring measure during athletic participation in the heat.

The Heat Index was developed as a measurement of ambient temperatures and relative humidity while resting in the shade. It is intended to provide outdoor restrictions for the elderly and adolescents during times of elevated temperatures. It is not relevant to a athletic activity settings. However; the WBGT is a measurement of ambient temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat from the sun and wind speed. When outdoor activities are conducted in the direct sun, the WBGT is the most pertinent to use. Although read in degrees, the WBGT does not reflect degrees of air temperature. A WBGT reading of 92 F may equate to a Heat Index reading of 104-105 degrees F.

Method:

The *NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy* will be utilized in conjunction with the *NJSIAA Pre-Season Heat Acclimatization Policy*. Monitoring the environmental conditions through the WBGT and making the appropriate activity modifications is an effective preventative measure in reducing the risk of exertional heat stroke. The athletic trainer, certified designee or individual (e.g. coach) appointed by the athletic director must use a scientifically-reliable WBGT measuring device and take an on-site reading 30 minutes prior to activity and a minimum of every hour during activity. Readings must be recorded on the *NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy Record Chart*. All corresponding modifications must also be recorded on the chart.

References:

http://ksi.uconn.edu/prevention/wet-bulb-globe-temperature-monitoring/
http://ksi.uconn.edu/high-school-state-policies/wbgt-policies/
ttp://ksi.uconn.edu/prevention/heat-acclimatization/

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is the *NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy* just for football in the fall preseason?

The *NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy* must be followed by all sports and has no specific ending date. Athletic trainers and coaches must follow the policy anytime the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) readings are at an elevated level. During this time, practices and games must be held in accordance with the *NJSIAA Heat Participation Activity Guidelines.*

What does the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) mean and how is this different from the heat index?

The Heat Index is a measurement of ambient temperatures and relative humidity while resting in the shade. It is intended to provide outdoor restrictions for the elderly and adolescents during times of elevated temperatures. It is not relevant to an athletic practice setting.

The Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) is a measurement of ambient temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat from the sun and wind speed. When outdoor activities are conducted in the direct sun, the WBGT is the most pertinent to use. Although read in degrees, it does not reflect degrees of air temperature. A WBGT reading of 92 F may equate to a Heat Index reading of 104 – 105 degrees F.

How frequently should WBGT readings be taken during practices and games?

WBGT readings must be taken on the practice and game site a minimum of every hour, beginning 30 minutes before the beginning of the practices and games. All readings must be recorded on the *NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy Record Chart*.

Does the *NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy* apply to both practices and games?

The *NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy* applies to both practices and games. At least 30 minutes prior to the start of a game, the officials must be informed of the on-site WBGT reading and the recommended modifications if the WBGT reaches an Orange Flag or Red Flag (e.g. built-in water breaks). There have been very few documented catastrophic heat-related incidents during a game; likely due to the nature of games having built in rest breaks already (e.g. quarters and half-time). Therefore, modifications during games should include increased rest breaks, access to fluids, and cooling zones. Protective equipment must be worn during a game according to the rule book. However, for sports requiring protective equipment, the equipment must be removed and active cooling (e.g. cold towel rotation, misting fans) initiated during the built-in water breaks. Keep in mind that scrimmages take place during the preseason acclimatization period and are considered practices; therefore, must also follow the *Heat Participation Activity Guidelines*. If the WBGT reaches a Black Flag during the game, the game must be postponed for 30 minutes followed by another WBGT reading (similar to the lightning rule). The game must not resume until the WBGT falls below a Black Flag.

Heat Participation Policy Guidelines:

Schools must follow this best practice policy when conducting outdoor practices and games in all sports. The policy follows modified guidelines of the American College of Sports Medicine, and is specific to New Jersey, in regard to:

1. The scheduling of practices during times of various Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) levels
2. The ratio of workout time to time allotted for rest and hydration during times of various WBGT levels
3. The WBGT levels which will result in practices and contests being modified or terminated.

An instrument scientifically approved to measure WBGT must be utilized at each practice and game. WBGT readings must be taken on the practice and game site a minimum of every hour, beginning 30 minutes before

the beginning of practice and game. All readings must be recorded or data logged (e.g. written or electronic form). In the event that a modification or cancellation was required, documentation using the WBGT *NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy Record Chart* must be completed.

WBGT READ-ING	Flag	Risk for Heat Illness	ACTIVITY GUIDELINES AND REST BREAK GUIDELINES
Under 80.0°F	**Green**	**Very Low**	Normal activities – Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour of minimum duration of 3 minutes each during workout.
80.0° F – 85.0°F	**Yellow**	**Low**	Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; watch at-risk players carefully; Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 minutes each.
85.1°F – 88.0°F	**Orange**	**Moderate**	Maximum practice time is 2 hours, For Football, Lacrosse and Field Hockey: All helmets and shoulder pads must be removed for practice and conditioning activities. If the WBGT rises to this level **during** practice, football players may continue to work out wearing football pants without changing into shorts. For All Sports: provide at least four separate rest breaks each hour with a minimum duration of 4 minutes each.
88.1°F – 90°F	**Red**	**High**	Maximum length of practice is 1 hour. For Football, Lacrosse and Field Hockey: No protective equipment may be worn during practice and there must be no conditioning activities. For All Sports: there must be no conditioning and there must be 20 minutes of restbreaks distributed throughout the hour of practice.
Over 90°F	**Black**	**Very High**	**NO OUTDOOR WORKOUTS.** Delay practice until a cooler WBGT level is reached.

Guidelines for hydration and rest breaks:

1. Rest time must involve unrestricted access to fluids (e.g. water or electrolyte beverages).
2. With sports requiring helmets (e.g. football, lacrosse, field hockey), the helmets must be removed during rest time.
3. The site of the rest time must be a in a shaded area.
4. When the WBGT reading is >85.0°F
    a. Ice towels, spray bottles filled with ice water or equivalent must be available to aid in the cooling process within the shaded area.

Definitions:

1. Game: any NJSIAA sanctioned event.
2. Practice: the period of time that a participant engages in coach-supervised, school-approved sport or conditioning-related activity. Practices are timed from the time the players report to the field until they leave.
3. Walk through: this period of time shall last no more than one hour and is not considered to be a part of the practice time regulation and may not involve conditioning or weight-room activities. Players may not wear protective equipment.

The aforementioned policy must be carried out by the athletic trainer, certified designee or individual as appointed by the athletic director which includes a coach or any individual responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the implementation of modifications or cancellation of practices and games based on WBGT.

In accordance with the current school compliance checks, the compliance monitors checklist will include items specific to:

- Presence of a WBGT device
- Documentation of all practices and games requiring modification on the NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy Record Chart
- Proof of written and signed off Heat Participation Policy document

COLD WATER IMMERSION TUB POLICY

All schools participating in interscholastic athletics must have a comprehensive, detailed Emergency Action Plan (EAP), including heat injury. When treating a potential Exertional Heat Stroke (EHS), schools must be properly *prepared and equipped* to initiate Cold Water Immersion (CWI) or other approved cooling technique. Cooling techniques must be implemented immediately, and concurrently EMS should be contacted. This must be followed during all summer conditioning, pre-season practices/contests on school grounds, or when a coach, paid or otherwise, is present. This includes the 1st 21 days of fall practice, and any day the temperature is greater than 80□F WBGT.

WBGT READING	Flag	COLD WATER IMMERSION TUB GUIDELINES
Under 80.0°F	**Green**	Mandatory alternative cooling measures of a cooler with ice and towels or a tarp (taco/burrito method) must be available at the practice, game and event site.
80.0°F – 85.0°F	**Yellow**	It is required a 150 gallon cold water immersion tub or a tarp (taco/burrito method) must be filled with water temperature of less than 60□F and accessible for cooling within 5-10 minutes of the practice/contest site. Remove external clothing/equipment prior to cooling or immediately after entering tub. Aggressively stir water during cooling process.
85.1°F – 88.0°F	**Orange**	It is required a 150 gallon cold water immersion tub or a tarp (taco/burrito method) must be filled with water temperature of less than 60□F and accessible for cooling within 5-10 minutes of the practice/contest site. Remove external clothing/equipment prior to cooling or immediately after entering tub. Aggressively stir water during cooling process.
88.1°F – 90°F	**Red**	It is required a 150 gallon cold water immersion tub or a tarp (taco/burrito method) must be filled with water temperature of less than 60□F and accessible for cooling within 5-10 minutes of the practice/contest site. Remove external clothing/equipment prior to cooling or immediately after entering tub. Aggressively stir water during cooling process.

Over 90°F	**Black**	**NO OUTDOOR WORKOUTS**. Delay practice until a cooler WBGT level is reached. If the WBGT rises to this level **during** practice, it is required a 150 gallon cold water immersion tub (or a tarp (taco/burrito method) must be filled with water temperature of less than 60□F and accessible for cooling within 5-10 minutes of the practice/contest site. Remove external clothing/equipment prior to cooling or immediately after entering tub. Aggressively stir water during cooling process.

Treatment of Exertional Heat Stroke:

If the athletic trainer/medical staff is onsite, utilize the principle of ***Cool First, Transport Second***. When cooling, use CWI or other approved cooling technique, until core temperature is at 103□F. If the athletic trainer/medical staff is not onsite, cool immediately until the athlete starts to shiver, or for a minimum of 20 minutes based upon the known cooling rate of 1 degree per 3 minutes. If athletic trainer/medical staff ***is not*** present, EMS assumes control of the EHS patient upon arrival and continues cooling for the minimum of 20 minutes or until rectal temperature is obtained.

NEW JERSEY HOMESCHOOL GUIDELINES

A home schooled student is eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if the following conditions are met:

1. Approval by the local Board of Education. Consistent with Department of Education guidelines a home schooled student may participate in interscholastic athletics if the local board of education, in its discretion, approves of the participation of home schooled students on the high school teams.

2. Residency. The home schooled student must reside in the school district that serves the high school and must meet the residency criteria pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22 and provide proof of residence as required by the local school board. In school districts that serve more than more town a home schooled student must be assigned to the school of record in the same manner as other students.

3. Notice and request to Principal. The parents of the home schooled student must submit a written request to the principal of the member school to try out for an athletic team in interscholastic athletics.

4. Compliance with local requirements. The home schooled student must comply with the same physical examination, insurance, age, academic and other requirements for participation as required of all students at that high school. The home schooled student must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibilities and performance as other members of the team.

5. Compliance with local requirements. Home schooled students must meet all eligibility requirements established by the NJSIAA, including but not limited to rules relating to amateur status, age, recruitment, academic credits, semesters of eligibility and transfers. Home schooled students will be subject to all rulings and decisions of the NJSIAA, and may appeal any adverse decision to the Commissioner of Education under N.J.A.C. 6A:3-7.1 et seq.

6. Demonstration of equivalent education. The parents of the home schooled student must meet with local school officials to demonstrate that the student is receiving an academically equivalent education.

7. Certification of academic eligibility. The parents of the home schooled student must submit evidence satisfactory to the Principal that the home schooled student has met the requirements of the Academic Credit Rule and the requirements of the school's own academic policy.

8. Transfer to a home school program. Any student who withdraws from a public school program to enroll in a home school program, and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the public school program due to his/her failure to meet academic, behavioral or eligibility standards, shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition in the same manner as a student who remained in school while not meeting NJSIAA credit requirements.

9. The rights, privileges and responsibilities associated with all other student athletes attending NJSIAA member schools will apply to home schooled students who have satisfied the requirements above.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

Presented by the NJSIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee

Purpose:
The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Executive Committee has adopted this policy in an effort to minimize the possibility of transmission of any infectious disease during a high school athletic practice or contest.

The policy primarily addresses blood borne pathogens such as Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). However, it also discusses Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) and common-sense precautions against the spread of less serious infections such as influenza and the common cold.

Much of this policy has been written with contact sports such as football, wrestling, and basketball in mind. However, it is applicable for all sports.

The entire text of this policy is available on the NJSIAA website under Health & Safety.

Guidelines for withdrawal of teams from competition upon diagnosis of infectious diseases:
School administrators should rely solely upon the advice of the school's medical inspector in determining the action to withdraw a team from competition when a member is diagnosed as having an infectious disease.

NJSIAA INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES FOR RECRUITING VIOLATIONS

If the NJSIAA determines that there has been athletic recruitment by a member school, the recruiting school will be subjected to appropriate disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion among other penalties. The following chart will be used to assist the Controversies Committee in issuing penalties for violation of Article V, Section 4.D, Athletic Recruitment. The following penalties may be fully or in part enacted by the Committee:

Recruitment Violation Chart		
Infraction Level	Types of Infractions	Penalties
Level 1	• Use of general advertising for recruitment of 9-12 grade high school students, including but not limited to: social media, flyers, advertisements, brochures, booster/donor sites, etc. • There is no student contact involved in level one.	• School must remediate issue immediately by removing, editing or rescinding advertisement. • School (all sports) placed on probation for one year. • AD and/or coach will take NFHS Course and attend appropriate NJSIAA workshop at own or district expense.
Level 2	• Repeating a Level 1 offense. **OR** • Recruiting contact/communication with a 9-12 grade student-athlete, or their family, from another high school by a non-district approved person including, but not limited to: parents, boosters, alumni, former coaches, and recently hired coaches who may have recruited athletes just prior to being approved by the district.	• Person(s) guilty will be banned from all NJSIAA sporting events for three years. • Head coach of program will be suspended for ¼ of the season's maximum contests for that sport (scheduled contests if sport has no max.) • Head coach will take NFHS Course and attend appropriate NJSIAA workshop at own or district expense. • School (all sports) placed on probation for one year for 1st violation; 2 years if a level 1 violation has previously occurred.
Level 3	• Repeating a Level 2 offense. **OR** • Direct recruiting contact/communication with a 9-12 grade student-athlete, or their family, from another high school by a district approved person including, but not limited to: paid coaches, volunteer coaches, students at the behest of their coach, or any district employee.	• Violating program is ineligible to compete in NJSIAA Championship Tournament for one year or removed from tournament if in progress. • Vacating previously earned championships due to this recruiting violation. • Head coach of program, if not directly involved, will be suspended for ⅓ of the season's maximum contests for that sport (scheduled contests if sport has no max.) • Any coach involved will be suspended in all sports for 1 year. • AD, head coach and all other coaches involved will take NFHS Course and attend appropriate NJSIAA workshop at own or district expense. • School (all sports) placed on probation for 1 year for 1st violation; 2 years if a repeat level 2 violation. • School will be fined ½ of the maximum amount allowed in Article 10, Section 2.
Level 4	• Repeating a Level 3 offense. **OR** • An egregious violation of direct recruiting of a 9-12 grade student-athlete, or their family, from another high school by a district approved person. The violation may include, but is not limited to: recruitment of multiple student-athletes, recruitment that endangers the health, wellness and safety of student athletes, recruitment violations that showed persistent and ongoing recruitment efforts by a district approved coach or employee.	• Violating program is ineligible to compete in NJSIAA Championship Tournament for 2 years (removed from current tournament if in progress plus an additional year). • Vacating previously earned championships due to this recruiting violation. • Head coach of program, if not directly involved, will be suspended for 1 year. • Any coach involved will be suspended in all sports for 2 years. • AD, head coach and all other coaches involved will take NFHS Course and attend appropriate NJSIAA workshop at own or district expense. • School (all sports) placed on probation for 2 years. • School will be fined the maximum amount allowed in Article 10, Section 2.

NJSIAA INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Overview

Since its foundation in 1918, the NJSIAA has strived to maintain eligibility standards for student-athletes attending its member schools which assure that athletic competition is subordinate to the academic goals of its member schools. At the same time, the Association has fostered eligibility standards which equalize competition among member schools and provide a broader opportunity for students to compete in interscholastic competition. Accordingly, the Association now maintains a comprehensive set of eligibility rules and regulations, set forth in Article V of its Bylaws, which are incorporated in the NJSIAA Handbook which is available on our website and can be accessed by all member schools each year.

Although the eligibility standards are quite explicit, the NJSIAA provides a member school with the interpretation of its eligibility decision upon request, based on individual appeals. Nevertheless, several schools have challenged both these regulations and their interpretation by the NJSIAA Executive Committee. The Commissioner of Education has now issued a series of decisions upholding both these guidelines, as well as their interpretation by the Association, and penalties which have been imposed upon member schools who have utilized ineligible athletes in interscholastic competition. In view of these developments, the NJSIAA believes that it is imperative that Principals of member schools, as well as their Athletic Directors and coaches, review the applicable NJSIAA rules and regulations and these interpretive guidelines, which merely set forth earlier published rulings by the Association. In order to reduce unnecessary litigation and at the same time encourage truly meritorious appeals to be made by students, the Association is requiring all of these local school personnel to familiarize themselves with the regulations and these guidelines and to certify that they have done so in affidavits which must be submitted to the NJSIAA Headquarters by October 1st of each year.

Administrative Responsibility

The NJSIAA must rely upon voluntary compliance to its eligibility regulations by member schools. The Association has a very small professional staff and unless such voluntary compliance occurs, it will be impossible to maintain the comprehensive eligibility standards and the goals that those standards seek to foster. Accordingly, the Principal of each member school is responsible for personally assuring that student-athletes and coaches comply with the eligibility regulations of the NJSIAA. The Commissioner has held that this responsibility cannot be abdicated to other personnel who might thereafter not fulfill this responsibility. Therefore, it is imperative that the Principals assure that the responsible athletic staff review, all of the pertinent eligibility rules and regulations and these guidelines. Principals and responsible high school administrators are obligated to assure that athletic recruitment and athletic transfers do not occur. After this responsibility is assumed, the ineligibility affidavits must be completed and filed with the NJSIAA Headquarters by October 1st of each year. In addition, the administration of every school has the obligation to advise appealing students and their parents of their rights as set forth in the NJSIAA Handbook.

Misinterpretation of NJSIAA eligibility regulations or the failure by the school's staff to properly advise a student-athlete will not be considered grounds for waiver of the eligibility regulations.

Most Commonly Applied Eligibility Rules

Although Section 2 of Article V of the NJSIAA Bylaws covers a broad spectrum of eligibility regulations, ranging from preserving the amateur athletic status of students to prohibiting athletic recruitment among member schools, the eligibility standards which are most frequently applied by the NJSIAA are those dealing with age, academic standards, the semesters of eligibility and transfers.

a. Age – Article V, 4.C of the Bylaws provides that an athlete cannot participate in interscholastic athletics if he or she has reached the age of nineteen (19) prior to September 1 of any year. That rule further provides that a

birth certificate or baptismal certificate or other proofs including earlier school records can be used to verify a student-athlete's age. This rule is not only aimed at preventing "red shirting" but is also aimed at encouraging students to satisfactorily complete their academic studies starting with the elementary school level. It is also a safety measure to assure that 13- and 14-year-old students are not expected to compete against adults who are six or more years older, with substantially greater physical size, strength and skills. In view of this paramount safety factor, waivers of this rule will be granted by the NJSIAA in only truly extraordinary circumstances.

It is recognized that as a result of their Individual Education Program (IEP), many handicapped students will be required to extend their elementary and secondary education beyond the customary twelve years. Since the NJSIAA supports the fullest participation of classified or disabled students, consistent with their IEPs and appropriate physical examinations, member schools should encourage such students to compete in interscholastic sports for their permitted four years of eligibility, even when they are attending the 7th or 8th grade classes, special education classes or satellite schools. In such cases the schools should seek a waiver from the NJSIAA. Accordingly, Article V, Section 4.I of the Bylaws has been modified to allow participation of students below the ninth grade when a waiver has been granted. In this way the age requirement will have a minimum impact upon students, who would be otherwise eligible to participate for the normal four years of eligibility. If, as a result of circumstances beyond his/her control, such a student cannot be eligible for four years because of the age rule, that rule may be waived in non-contact sports where physical contact is not a factor (bowling, cross-country, fencing, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and volleyball). In contact sports, the rule may be waived if the student can't comply due to circumstances beyond the student's control. A determination will take into account the size, agility and skills of the student in question and the degree to which these issues will not fundamentally alter the competition.

Where waivers of the age or eight semester rules are sought on the grounds that a student is handicapped, the NJSIAA will carefully assess the circumstances under which the student was classified. To prevent "red shirting," or circumvention of article v, section 4.e credits, waivers will not be granted where the classification occurred just prior to/or during the student's secondary schooling.

b. Academic Standards – In December 1983, the general membership of NJSIAA voted to strengthen the academic standards set forth in Article V, 4.E of the Bylaws.

It must be emphasized that these academic standards are minimal requirements and many member schools have adopted additional, more restrictive, requirements with the full support of the NJSIAA. Any school adopting more restrictive requirements will have the exclusive authority to grant exceptions to these local requirements, provided that the statewide standards set forth in Article V, 4.E are maintained.

The NJSIAA does not establish grading policies or standards for granting credits, the local school's board of education has the exclusive authority to address such matters within the parameters of the state board of education guidelines. Therefore, the NJSIAA will not waive, either the standards set by a member school or the minimum standards set forth in article v, section 4.e except as provided in section 4.f (1). -appeals, therefore, will not be heard because a student has failed a course and has not attained the necessary credits to satisfy Section 4.e.

Additional interpretations of the NJSIAA academic standards are as follows:

i. According to regulations of the New Jersey State Board of Education, credit must be assigned equally to all secondary school courses. Thus, courses which at one time were considered "minor" e.g., physical education, art, music, industrial arts, etc. must be included in the determination of academic credits.

ii. It is recognized that students may accelerate their academic programs during their first three years of secondary schooling. Consequently, such students may be eligible in the second semester of their senior year even when they carry less than $12^1/_2$% (15 credits) of the State minimum (120 credits) during the first semester provided they are meeting their school district's graduation requirements and are passing all courses in which they are enrolled at f the start of the first semester. Students should be cautioned not to register for the minimum credits (15) in their first semester of their senior year, since a failure of just one course will result in ineligibility in the second semester. Waivers will not be considered for a senior who does not attain 15 credits and who fails a subject in his/her first semester, unless that senior is passing all subjects in the subsequent marking period.

iii. Member schools are cautioned that the NJSIAA will not grant any exceptions to the minimum statewide standards for an entire school district or school. Thus, schools will not be permitted to "average" academic achievement for students so as to allow them to be eligible even though they have not accumulated the requisite proportion of the State minimum according to their semester of attendance (e.g., a school may not allow a student who failed 2 courses in his/her first semester to be eligible the following semester because he/she received an "A" in the remaining courses, so as to constitute an average of "C" or above for all courses).

iv. If a student has received a diploma, he/she is ineligible, however he/she may continue to represent his/her school until the official end of that semester – either January 31 or June 30.

v. If a student has left school, but re-enrolls, he/she will be eligible thirty (30) calendar days from the date of re-enrollment.

vi. If a student has continued enrollment while absent from school, he/she will be eligible provided he/she is enrolled in and attends at least one course.

vii. An athlete, whose education is interrupted after his/her entrance into the 9th grade (4- or 6-yr. high school) or 10th grade (3-yr. high school) and who does not pass the required courses as provided for in Article V, Section 4.E (1) and (2) of the Bylaws at the end of a semester, upon being readmitted at the beginning of the next semester, is ineligible for failure to meet the requirements of this section.

viii. An athlete who is ineligible under Article V, Section 4.E (1), may become eligible for the remainder of the winter sports season on February 1 if he/she meets the requirements of Article V, Section 4.E (2).

ix. Any summer work for makeup purposes, completed and approved by the school before the sixth school day, in the semester starting in September, may be used for eligibility purposes.

c. The Eight Semester Rule – Article V, 4.J of the Bylaws basically provides that, with the exception of honorably discharged servicemen and servicewomen, and classified students who are ungraded, no student shall be eligible for high school athletics after the expiration of eight consecutive semesters following his/her entrance into the 9th grade. This rule is intended to prohibit "red shirting," and is also aimed at preventing athletically gifted pupils who are not meeting academic standards from replacing other students who are maintaining their academic standards but who might not have the same athletic prowess. The rule is also aimed at maintaining a uniform progression among all member schools within a four-year cycle and equalizing competition within these schools.

Unfortunately, despite its explicit terms and its obvious objectives, some member schools have interpreted this rule as applying to eight semesters of competition rather than eight semesters of attendance in a secondary school. The NJSIAA will not permit a student to participate in any sport for more than four seasons. Students below the 9th grade who participate on a high school team will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters. The fact that a student has not participated for four seasons will not in itself justify allowing such a student to participate in interscholastic sports beyond the eighth semester after his or her entrance into the ninth grade. Since the NJSIAA carefully regulates practice and scrimmages and is most

concerned over the possibility of "red shirting," "participation in any sports season will begin on the very first day that a student-athlete participates in or attends practice in a particular sport.

Students below the 9th grade who participate on a high school team will be ineligible at the conclusion of eight consecutive semesters, beginning with the student's initial pre-9th grade participation. If a student's pre-high school participation in high school sports occurred in a state other than New Jersey, the student's eight consecutive semesters of eligibility shall begin when the student enters high school, provided that (a) the student has transferred into New Jersey via a change of residence; (b) a Transfer Form has been completed; and (c) the student meets all other eligibility requirements, including academic requirements.

d. Transfers – Article V, 4.K is a detailed provision governing transfers of student-athletes from one school to another and should be carefully read by all responsible local school personnel..

Since the minimal twenty-two (22) and thirty (30) day periods of ineligibility are intended by the member schools to serve as a deterrent for students transferring from one school to another school and is recognized as one of the most lenient transfer penalties in the United States, appeals will not be heard, regardless of reason.

If the Principal and Athletic Director of the student's former school do not complete a Transfer Form in a timely manner, then the Chief Compliance officer shall rule on the student's eligibility based on available evidence and documentation. If necessary, a hearing shall be held at the next scheduled meeting of the Eligibility Appeals Committee and an oral decision reached on that date, which shall thereafter be expressed more fully in writing by either Committee within ten days. Until the Chief Compliance Officer has made a ruling, or the hearing is concluded, the transferring student shall be ineligible.

Observance of Eligibility Standards and Appeals

The NJSIAA maintains two committees to deal with questions of eligibility: Eligibility Committee and the Eligibility Appeals Committee

The Eligibility Committee makes initial determinations concerning the student-athletes eligibility based primarily upon written requests and documentation provided by member schools to the NJSIAA. The schools are required to provide all appropriate information as indicated on the Eligibility Waiver Request Form, This Committee meets at the beginning of each of the three sports seasons and at the conclusion of each academic year.

The Eligibility Appeals Committee, consisting of members of the NJSIAA Executive Committee was established to consider both appeals from initial decisions of the Eligibility Committee and to hear appeals that arise during the school year, but which cannot be dealt with in a timely manner by the Eligibility Committee. The Eligibility Appeals Committee functions specifically as set forth in Section 2 of Article XIII of the NJSIAA Bylaws. In addition, the Eligibility Appeals Committee will hear all initial testimony in the case of unsigned Transfer Forms.

This section provides that an appeal may be disposed of on written submissions or at a hearing, where parties will be entitled to counsel, the right to present witness testimony and cross-examination, and other matters which should be carefully reviewed by all member schools.

Accordingly, if a school has any doubt whatsoever about the eligibility of a student, it should contact the NJSIAA Headquarters for an initial interpretation and, if necessary, submit a formal request to the NJSIAA for an eligibility ruling by the Eligibility Committee prior to the beginning of each of the sports seasons. If time will not permit such a submission to that Committee, then appeals should be made to the Eligibility Appeals Committee in the manner provided by Article XIII, Section 2 of the NJSIAA Bylaws. A school should never allow a student to

participate in interscholastic sports if it has any doubt whatsoever as to that student's eligibility and until an interpretive ruling has been issued by the responsible NJSIAA Directors and/or committees. Otherwise, the school risks imposition of appropriate penalties for the use of an ineligible student, including the forfeiture of games won by that school utilizing such a student.

Waivers

In appropriate cases, the Eligibility Committee or the Eligibility Appeals Committee may grant a waiver from the strict application of any eligibility rules, where the overall objectives of the Association and its member schools will not be undermined. Specifically, waivers of these provisions have been granted in the past where it was shown that a student could not maintain the required academic standards or that he or she had to continue secondary schooling beyond the eighth semester because of circumstances beyond that student's control. By way of illustration, waivers have been granted because a student is a classified pupil who could not carry a full academic load. Waivers of the eight-semester rule have been granted where a student has had to repeat a semester or more because he or she was absent from school, due to a medical or psychological condition, the need to be home to care for an ill parent, or when extended schooling is required for a classified student whose Individual Education Program (IEP) is mandated beyond eight semesters.

A student who is involved in substance abuse does not meet the standard of "circumstances beyond his or her control"; this position constitutes an inducement for students not to involve themselves in drugs or other unacceptable behavior.

Member schools must be aware of the fact that waivers are only intended to equalize opportunities among otherwise eligible students who cannot strictly comply with the eligibility rules because of circumstances beyond their control and is not intended to provide such students with an actual advantage over the great majority of students who maintain appropriate academic standards over the normal eight semester secondary program. Accordingly, waivers of these rules are never granted where it would allow a student to participate in more than four seasons in any one sport or where a student has repeated an academic semester or year of secondary school for academic reasons, or where a student repeats a grade that the student has demonstrated proof of passing grades and earned enough credits to advance to the next academic grade level.

It is expected that waivers of the academic, and eight-semester rule, as well as the age rule involving non-contact sports will continue to be granted, where it is determined that a student cannot comply because of circumstances beyond his/her control. Determinations on waivers of the age rule for contact sports will also take into account the size, agility and skills of the student and the degree to which these issues may fundamentally alter the competition.

Filing a Request for an Eligibility Waiver

The NJSIAA Eligibility Committee meets prior to each Sports Season and at the end of the school year to review eligibility waiver requests. For said request, schools must forward to the NJSIAA Central Office the following documentation, ten days prior to the scheduled meeting:

1. A letter from the Principal requesting a ruling noting any pertinent factors which will aid the Eligibility Committee or the Eligibility Appeals Committee in their review of the case.

2. The NJSIAA Eligibility Waiver Request Form filled in completely. The date of birth must be included along with a record of the student's participation in interscholastic athletics, noting sport and year.

3. A complete transcript of the student's scholastic record from first entrance into the ninth grade to the present with written consent of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to release same.

4. Any relevant documentation which will be helpful to the Committee such as the parent's letter, a hospital/physician's/psychologist's/psychiatrist's/Counselor's report or a Child Study team's recommendation.

All appeals from initial decisions of the Eligibility Committee, as well as initial waiver decisions when the Eligibility Committee cannot consider an eligibility request in a timely fashion, shall be determined by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. The Principal or assigned representative must be present to provide information for the appeal before the Eligibility Appeals Committee when the appeal is requested by the school. In addition, all parties are entitled to be represented by Counsel. The Eligibility Appeals Committee will rule on eligibility requests in emergency circumstances provided the Principal requests a case to be considered and so states in writing.

It is strongly recommended that the student-athlete attend such hearings.

Requests for an appeal of an NJSIAA ruling by any party other than the school will be heard and interpreted as not having the support of the school when the Principal or his/her authorized representative is not present.

Enforcement of Eligibility Standards

To ensure that member schools make certain that all student-athletes comply with eligibility standards or that they obtain appropriate waivers where necessary prior to competition, the following forfeiture penalties will be imposed: (1) If the ineligible student participates as a member of a team, the team will forfeit any contest in which the ineligible student participated, regardless of how long the ineligible student participated in the contest. (2) If the ineligible student participates as an individual, in an event or tournament at which no team score is calculated or team champion declared, the ineligible student will forfeit any contest won. These penalties are mandatory and are not subject to appeal.

Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and not appealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility.

Under Article I of the NJSIAA Bylaws, the Association Executive Director has been granted the authority to impose appropriate penalties by the Executive Committee, until or unless that Committee reverses the Executive Director after an appropriate appeal has been filed by the applicable student and/or school in accordance with Article XIII of the Bylaws.

Since all member schools are expected to voluntarily comply with eligibility standards, the penalty for forfeiture will not be mitigated because the member school itself reported that it had violated the eligibility rules. However, where the eligibility violation is reported by another school and it can be shown that the school attended by the ineligible player or the involved coach was aware, or should have been aware, of the eligibility violation, then the Executive Committee may impose additional penalties upon that school and/or the involved coach including, but not limited to, probation, suspension, expulsion and fines.

JUNIOR HS (9th GRADE) ATHLETICS

Foreword:

The philosophy, objectives and regulations under which Junior High Schools (9th grade) may become members of the NJSIAA are not intended to influence expansion of existing athletic programs, nor to promote programs

where none exist, nor to exert undue pressures for the establishment of interscholastic athletic programs in the Junior High Schools (9th grade) of the state.

The recommendations which are made are promulgated toward the establishment of policies and practices for athletic programs in Junior High Schools (9th grade) of New Jersey.

Philosophy:

If athletics are to serve educational ends, they must be wisely guided, developed, and administered as a vital and effective phase of the educational program. Each school district should develop a philosophy of desirable goals and values from which a sound athletic curriculum can be built.

Participation in sound athletic programs contributes to individual development, physical skill, health, strength, self-reliance, emotional maturity, social competencies, and good sportsmanship.

Junior High School (9th grade) athletics shall be an integral part of the Junior High School (9th grade) educational program and the Junior High School (9th grade) Principal shall be responsible for guiding the school athletic program in line with the accepted philosophy of the school. Every school should conduct as complete an athletic program as meets the needs of the Junior High School (9th grade) child. Participation and competition shall be kept at a "readiness level" with the age and physical development of the early adolescent ever in mind.

The intramural program shall be the foundation of the school athletic program providing opportunity for the total school population to meet its athletic needs and interests. The interschool athlete program grows out of and in no way handicaps the intramural program.

In fulfillment of this philosophy member Junior High Schools (9th grade) subscribe to the following:

1. The entire athletic program shall be determined and under the direction of the Principal and faculty of the school.
2. The athletic program shall in no way interfere with the academic program, but rather integrated with other activities essential to Junior High School (9th grade) youth.
3. Interschool athletic participation offers an opportunity for a select group with a special talent to perform.
4. The interschool athletic program through team competition provides children another opportunity to recognize their abilities and limitations.
5. The interschool athletic program provides early opportunities for children to develop and express leadership qualities.
6. The interschool athletic program shall not be a farm or feeder system for high school athletic teams. Improved articulation between Junior (9th grade) and Senior High Schools and community should always be sought.
7. The interschool athletic program should be financed by the local board of education.
8. The interschool athletic program should be administered through established standards and controls. These standards and controls should be established by the schools and administrators or through membership in an association composed of representing groups interested in good wholesome athletic programs for the children of New Jersey.

Specific regulations to be considered:
Unless otherwise specified in the paragraphs which here follow, the Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association for Senior High Schools apply to Junior High School and 9th grade member schools of this Association.

A. Membership

1. Membership in the Junior High School Division of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association is a voluntary one.
2. Any Junior High School approved by the New Jersey Department of Education as a secondary school shall be eligible to apply for membership.
3. A school shall become a member of the Junior High School Division of NJSIAA when the membership request has been properly executed and it is officially accepted by action of the NJSIAA Executive Committee.

B. Grade Limitation

Students in 6th, 7th or 8th grades who will reach age nineteen (19) prior to September 1 of their senior year while properly enrolled in a member school may request a waiver of the Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.I, Pre-High School Student, to have an opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics for four (4) years prior to becoming ineligible.

C. Interpretation

This is not meant to restrict grades 7 and 8 from participating with other schools in competition at their own level.

D. Supervision

All pupils on Junior High (9th grade) interscholastic teams must be enrolled in the same school and be under the supervision of the same administrative head.

E. Classification

There will be no classification of Junior High Schools on the basis of enrollment.

F. Eligibility

1. Academic Requirements – The same eligibility requirements for 9th grade pupils will be enforced as applies in the high schools.

G. Semester Attendance

A pupil becomes ineligible for Junior High School or 9th grade interscholastic athletic competition after he/she spends two (2) semesters in the 9th grade.

H. Transfers

Article V, Section 4.K of the Bylaws applies.

I. Dues

Each school shall be assessed an annual dues of $60.00 for membership in the Junior High School Division of NJSIAA.

J. Officials

It is urgently suggested that qualified and registered officials be used in all interscholastic games.

K. Safety Measures

In order to assure Junior High School (9th grade) contestant optimum protection against injury to their bodies and their health, the following minimum regulations shall be enforced:

1. Physical Examination – In each school year before a pupil participates in an organized practice session or game of the athletic program, he/she must have a physical examination and present the athletic Participation Form properly signed by himself and his parents (or guardian). This form shall be filed with the administrative head of the school.

2. Conditioning Period – To insure good physical condition of participants each athlete should be given sufficient days of practice and conditioning before engaging in any interscholastic contest.

3. Equipment – Proper equipment and safety precautions must be stressed, such as properly fitted and protective clothing, pads, shoes, helmets, etc.

4. Facilities – The physical facilities such as playing areas, locker and shower rooms, bleachers, transportation, etc., shall be designed and maintained to safeguard the health and safety of all participants and spectators.

L. Competition

1. It is recommended that schools compete with member schools only or with schools following similar regulations.
2. In contests between Junior and Senior High Schools on a 9th grade level, the Junior High School regulations will be mandatory.

3. Wrestling weight classes shall be the same as those provided for high schools in the National Federation Wrestling Rules with the following exception:
   a. Add a 90-lb. weight class (Wrestler must weigh at least 75 lbs. to compete at this weight class.)

M. Penalties

The penalty for violation of these Rules and Regulations may be suspension or expulsion.

LABOR DISPUTES

It is the philosophy of the NJSIAA Executive Committee that interscholastic athletes should not be used as a pawn during professional negotiations between the Board of Education and the Educational Association. Although athletics is only a part of the total school program, it is obvious that the emotions of people are aroused when anything seems to disrupt the athletic program or deprive young people of an opportunity to participate.

Therefore, we recommend that boards of education, administrators, coaches, and professional organizations begin to plan now in advance of any crisis, i.e., withholding of services, work stoppage, so that rational decisions can be made before serious conflicts and problems develop. Students, advisors, parents, and coaches should know in advance whether co-curricular programs, including athletics, will continue to be postponed during a professional labor dispute. If no planning is done, it is likely that students will suffer most, even though they are the innocent bystanders in the negotiations process.

The NJSIAA Executive Committee has adopted the following guidelines for situations which may arise during a professional labor dispute:

1. The decision whether to continue the athletic program or not must be made at the local level, but the safety and well-being of the participants ought to be the primary factor in reaching that decision. If practices or contests are carried on, the local administration ought to be aware of the responsibility for continuous competent supervision and limitations on practices, scrimmages, etc.

2. When a contest must be postponed, it may, by mutual agreement between the contesting schools, be rescheduled. If a postponed game cannot be rescheduled before the end of the regular season, a forfeit shall be declared.

3. In any state tournament, the records of teams at the time of the cut-off date will determine the eligibility of a team to participate. Games not played up to the cut-off date for tournament qualification must be forfeited.

4. If a school has already entered a state tournament and is unable to compete in any scheduled game, that game shall be declared a forfeit and a win shall be credited to the offended school.

5. Transfer students who are affected by a strike will count those days as if school was in session and games being played provided the regular game schedule has begun.

6. We urge all school districts to plan ahead so that everyone is aware of these responsibilities in case of an emergency. The NJSIAA will continue to be available for advice and consultation whenever requested.

EXCERPTS FROM LEAGUE/CONFERENCE POSITION STATEMENT

Adopted by NJSIAA Executive Committee on April 11, 1983, Amended on June 6, 2002

Guiding Principles:
The Association is charged with establishing *statewide standards* for the conduct of the interscholastic sports which cannot be left to local or regional discretion, including the establishment and enforcement of minimum standards of eligibility of student-athletes, as well as the rules and regulations for the various interscholastic sports, the maintenance of standards of sportsmanship; and the conduct of statewide championships in various sports. As such, the Association cannot delegate these vital responsibilities to any member school or group of such schools, whether they be formed as a conference or not. On the other hand, the Executive Committee recognizes that there must be greater home rule among our conferences so as to foster an improvement in both the quantity and quality of athletic programs; convenient and reasonable scheduling of sports activities; and the development of greater sportsmanship and competition. Toward that end, conferences will be given the greatest degree of self-governance, provided that there is not a violation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, as well as the standardized rules and regulations for the conduct of interscholastic sports, and the mandate of the Commissioner of Education that all schools receive an opportunity to have a full schedule of interscholastic sports for their students. While the respective roles of the parent association and the member conferences is not easily discernible, the Executive Committee believes that it must set down certain guidelines, which will hereafter be observed by member schools. In doing so, the Committee wishes to make clear that this statement is intended to clarify the relationship between the State Association and local conferences. Accordingly, the Executive Committee reserves all of its rights under the Association's Constitution and Bylaws.

The Role of NJSIAA:
The role of NJSIAA, principally through its Executive Committee, will continue to exercise the following responsibilities v*is a vis* various conferences and leagues:

1. The determination of eligibility for student-athletes.

2. The maintenance of rules and regulations governing the conduct of various interscholastic sports, including contest rules, the calendar for the start of practice, and the start of, and conclusion of, regular seasons, and the minima and maxima of contests in any sport.

3. The determination of state champions in the various sports.

4. Assuring that all students enrolled in member schools, who would otherwise be eligible to participate in interscholastic sports, are not precluded from a full opportunity to do so, irrespective of their race, sex, religion, or the school that they are attending.

5. Review of all constitution conferences, pursuant to Article XII, Section 2 of the Association Bylaws, and the exercise of other authority granted to it under the Association Constitution and Bylaws.

The Role of Individual Leagues and Conferences:

The Executive Committee strongly believes that our conferences must be strengthened, rather than weakened, if they are to perform the very important tasks for which they were originally created. Therefore, conferences should have exclusive authority over certain functions, which will not be appealable to the Association; while at the same time assuming expanded authority for other responsibilities, with a very limited review by the Association.

1. Exclusive Responsibilities:
   In addition to the traditional internal matters which have never been appealable to the Association, such as the election of officers and the conduct of meetings, conferences will have the exclusive authority over the following functions:
   a. Any academic or recreational activity conducted by a conference outside of the interscholastic sports within the jurisdiction or the NJSIAA.
   b. The determination of conference or league championships.
   c. Internal finances and administration of league activities.

2. Responsibilities of Leagues and Conferences Appealable to the NJSIAA:
   The following responsibilities will be vested in conferences, with a limited right to appeal by member schools who are challenging league or conference determinations:
   a. The Association will continue to exercise its supervisory role to assure *membership* by applicant schools in appropriate conferences and leagues. However, unless it can be shown that there has been a violation of the order of the Commissioner of Education that there be an opportunity for a full schedule of interscholastic sports, there will be no appeals from conference and league *scheduling*.
   b. Many of the larger conferences and leagues have segmented their membership into "divisions," usually on the basis of geography or size. Unless it can be shown that such divisional breakdowns are violation of the order of the Commissioner of Education or at variance with the "Conference Criteria" established in May, 1981 by the Association, no appeal from such internal divisional alignments will be considered by the NJSIAA.* In that vein, the Executive Committee wants to strongly emphasize that a school should not have the right to appeal its placement in a division because the school believes that it should be given a "weaker" or "stronger" schedule. The ability of member schools to have a winning season, or to obtain state or national prominence in its particular sport, is simply not a concern of the Association.
   c. To assure full scheduling for all member schools, every member school should be allowed to enter a League or Conference appropriate to size and geography and other factors set forth in the "Conference Criteria," as approved by the Commissioner of Education.* Any school denied entrance into a League or Conference may appeal to the NJSIAA. When a school seeks to transfer membership from one conference to another, any appeal from denial by either Conference must be based on substantial reasons, recognizing the goal of assuring the stability of Conference structures.
   d. The various conferences are strongly encouraged to adopt disciplinary procedures by which infractions of good sportsmanship can be penalized after there has been an observance of appropriate

due process. Toward that end, all conferences which have not done so should set forth in their Constitution and/or Bylaws, specific violations and penalties which may be assessed for such violations, as well as a hearing procedure. Pursuant to Article XIII of the NJSIAA Bylaws, any school or school official or coach penalized by a conference may appeal to the Executive Committee. However, that Committee's role will be limited to determine whether the actions of the conferences were arbitrary or capricious or in violation of the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws. The NJSIAA and its Executive Committee will not substitute its judgement concerning such issues for that of the conference.

e. The conferences are strongly encouraged to maintain appropriate health and safety standards for athletic facilities among their member schools, provided that such standards are not being utilized to exclude schools, contrary to the order of the Commissioner of Education. Accordingly, the Executive Committee's role on appeal will be limited to determine whether the action of the conference is arbitrary and capricious or in violation of the order of the Commissioner of Education concerning the inclusion of minority and non-public schools. Neither the NJSIAA nor its Executive Committee will substitute its judgement on such questions of health and safety for that of the individual conferences.

f. Article V of the NJSIAA Bylaws incorporates a comprehensive set of minimum eligibility standards for student-athletes. While the NJSIAA will continue to exercise exclusive authority in determining the eligibility of students, member schools and conferences will continue to be the free to adopt *higher* eligibility standards. Neither the NJSIAA nor its Executive Committee will interfere in the adoption of such standards, or the enforcement of them by a conference, league or member schools, unless it can be shown these standards are arbitrary or capricious or in violation of the NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws.

**The Commissioner of Education mandated that the NJSIAA provide an opportunity for public schools with high minority enrollment to join appropriate athletic conferences utilizing Conference Criteria such as enrollment, geography and the impact on the involved conference.*

PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF THUNDER OR LIGHTNING

All coaches and officials should monitor the weather report on game day. The protocol below details the steps to be followed in the event of lightning and/or thunder at outdoor events. If the host school has a more stringent policy, including those schools with lightning detection systems, that policy shall be adhered to. This policy should be reviewed annually with all administrators, coaches, and game personnel.

Every school should develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas, and should determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area. A designated safer area is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium, or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.

If severe weather strikes prior to the beginning of the event, host school site management shall be the decision-maker regarding the policy. If it occurs once the event has begun, the lead game official shall be the decision-maker.

When one contest is suspended on a site due to thunder or lightning, all outdoor contests/activities on that site must be suspended.

When caught in a thunderstorm without the availability or time to reach a safe structure, the risk of injury may be minimized by seeking low ground and avoiding contact with anything made of metal. Avoid bleachers, metal fences, and standing pools of water.

Guidelines for schools when thunder is heard, or lightning is seen:

Mandatory Guidelines:

1. Suspend play, or delay the commencement of the contest, for 30 minutes. All participants and spectators shall vacate the outdoor venue to a designated safer area immediately.
    b. A list of the closest safer areas should be announced and displayed at all outdoor venues.
    c. Clear instructions should be announced over the public address system (if available) to guide participants and spectators to safer areas.
2. Once Play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
3. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count shall begin.
    a. If, for example, the contest is suspended at 7:00 p.m. due to a lightning strike, and then lightning is witnessed again at 7:25 p.m., the earliest the contest may resume is 7:55 p.m.

Voluntary Guidelines:

4. If the thunder or lightning persists, and access to the field for warmups cannot resume 75 minutes after the initial suspension of play, the contest shall be postponed to a later date. If participants can safely return to the field of play within 75 minutes, the players shall participate in a brief workout period, and the contest shall resume.
    a. Athletic Administrators, Coaches & Officials may agree to alter #4 if all agree.
    b. If an agreement on how long to wait cannot be reached, then #4 will be used.
5. For Football only, the host school site management shall determine how long to suspend the game before it is postponed

PARAPROFESSIONAL AIDE POSITIONS

Nothing in the rules governing coaching positions would preclude a board of education from creating, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:32-4.7, paraprofessional aide positions to assist in the supervision of athletic activities under the direction of a certified coach. However, all such positions must be created and maintained in full compliance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 6A:32-4.7, including requirements for written job descriptions and qualification standards, and approvals by, and annual reporting to, the county superintendent. As with classroom aides employed to assist certified teachers, athletic paraprofessionals may only function under the direct supervision of a certified coach, or if not assisting with coaching duties, under the direct supervision of designated certified staff; they may not independently undertake coaching duties or any other duties requiring educational certification. Additionally, all persons employed by a district in a paraprofessional capacity (i.e., not serving on a volunteer basis) are subject to the criminal history record check law.

If a board contemplates the use of an aide (paid or unpaid), the policies of the local board must be adopted and in place regarding this type of position, and the rules of the league or conference to which the district belongs must be followed.

Please contact your county superintendent of schools should you have any questions.

FILING A PROTEST OR DECLARING A FORFEIT

Protest – The NJSIAA Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1 provides that:

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 violation, with a copy to the alleged violator. Protests based upon an official's judgement or misinterpretation of the playing rules will not be honored.

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.

Note: See CL 1 – Article VII, Section 1.

"Protests based upon an official's judgement 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 judgement or misinterpretation of the playing rule.

Forfeit – Schools may not mutually agree to a forfeit; only Leagues or Conferences or the NJSIAA may award forfeits.

When submitting records for tournament qualification, schools listing forfeit wins/losses must attach an explanation for same.

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.

Forfeit – League/Conference – Non-Conference

When a penalty involving a forfeit is assessed against a member school by a League or Conference it is mandatory that the conference/league Secretary submit, immediately in writing, the action taken, reason why, schools involved, ate and site of the game/meet/match to the Central Office. This applies to all sports.

If a member school in a non-conference game/meet/match feels a forfeit might be warranted, relevant information as stated above should be forwarded by the Principal, immediately in writing, to the Central Office for the Executive Director's decision.

CL: When forfeits are accepted, a member school may not compete on the "forfeit day."

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 represented to the officials before each game for the official's 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.

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.

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

1. 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.
2. All officials must register for each sport each year.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. All officials officiating any level must be of legal age (18).

Officials Registration

Officials' registration for all sports will open each year on April 15th and close each year on March 31st. Individual chapters will set their dates for when they want their members to register within the period above.

Registered Officials

1. A registered official is any official that has completed the registration process with the NJSIAA but has not completed the eligibility process.
2. A registered official can be assigned by any NJSIAA-approved assignor but cannot work any regular season or tournament contests until they have successfully completed all eligibility requirements.
3. All registered officials may work scrimmages but will be locked out of working regular season contests until they clear the eligibility requirements.
4. All registered officials are covered by liability insurance.
5. Registered officials that have not completed all the eligibility requirements will receive two (2) warning notifications. The first warning will be three (3) weeks prior to that sports opening day, the second warning will be two (2) weeks prior to that sports opening day.
6. Registered officials will be removed from all assignments if they have not successfully completed all the eligibility requirements one week prior to that sports opening day.

Active Officials

1. An active official is any official that has completed the registration process with the NJSIAA and cleared all eligibility requirements.
2. Active officials are eligible for all levels of contests by the NJSIAA.
3. Each chapter determines the readiness of each of its active officials.

Officials Eligibility Requirements

All eligibility requirements below will expire on June 30th of each year except for the implicit bias course.

1. Register with the NJSIAA
2. Pass the background check.
3. Take the concussion course.
4. Pass a rules exam approved by the NJSIAA for each sport they are registering for with a score of 80% or higher.
5. Complete the one-time implicit bias course.

Any official deemed "not in good standing" with their chapter will not be eligible to officiate until the chapter deems them "in good standing."

Cadet Programs

1. All chapters that have cadet programs that do not permit their cadets to officiate at any level may instruct their cadets that they do not have to register with the NJSIAA if they follow the procedures below:
    a. The cadet is not permitted to officiate at any NJSIAA level
    b. The cadet must always be shadowed an active official
    c. The cadet must never be in a situation to make an "on-field" call or decision
    d. The chapter will take full responsibility regarding the cadent
2. All chapters with cadet programs that require their cadets to officiate sub-varsity contests only as part of their cadet program must have the cadets register and become active officials with the NJSIAA.

Officials Training

1. Chapters must designate a rules interpreter who must attend the NJSIAA rules interpretation meeting conducted by the NJSIAA state rules interpreter.
2. Chapters designated rules interpreter must conduct an NJSIAA rules interpretation meeting with all chapter members before opening day for each sport.
3. Attendance at all NJSIAA rules interpretation meetings is mandatory for all chapter members.
4. Chapters must submit to the NJSIAA (upon request) the names of the officials that have attended the mandatory NJSIAA rules interpretation meeting.
5. Chapters shall conduct additional professional development meetings at which rules, mechanics, and NJSIAA modifications are reviewed for the improvement of officiating.
6. Professional development training programs must be established to insure a high caliber of officiating for the member schools.

Chapters Evaluation and Certification of Officials

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

Chapter Registration of Officials

1. Candidates must provide at least two references attesting to his/her character.
2. 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):
    a. Convicted, or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt, or violation, regarding an offense against a minor or any sexual offense, unless/until such offense has been reversed by the proper authority with jurisdiction over the matter; or,
    b. Convicted, or adjudicated with a finding of fault, guilt, or violation, regarding an offense involving any illegal/illicit drug or controlled substance as prescribed by federal or state law or regulation, before five (5) years following the completion of any sentence, parole, or probation period imposed for the offense.
3. Currently Registered Officials
    a. 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.

b. 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.

4. 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:
   a. 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.
   b. 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 the proper authority having jurisdiction over the matter.

Background Checks

1. All officials must consent to a background check each year during the registration process.
2. Once you have consented to the background check, paid the fee, and filled out all the required information, your information will be sent to the NJSIAA-approved background check company.
3. All background checks will expire on June 30th of each year regardless of when your background check was submitted.
4. Any background checks that are flagged will be sent to the NJSIAA for adjudication.
5. 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 been flagged based on the NJSIAA background check criteria is considered temporally suspended by the NJSIAA until further review. All officials that have been flagged by the NJSIAA will fall into one of three levels (see below).

1. Level One Flag - The official will be adjudicated and reinstated immediately by the NJSIAA, and no other action is needed.
2. Level Two 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 by the NJSIAA. 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.
3. Level Three 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.

Level Two (2) and Three (3) Flagged Procedures

1. Officials will receive an adverse letter and will be suspended pending adjudication by the NJSIAA.
2. Contact the NJSIAA-approved background check company if you disagree with the report or if 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 report.
3. If the report is correct, the official must contact all chapters they belong to regarding the report.
4. The official must follow all guidelines stipulated in the chapter bylaws regarding background checks.

5. 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.
6. The chapter's reinstatement procedure must meet the minimum standards covered in the NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies & Procedures for registration of officials.
7. The chapter/s will decide if the reinstatement will be approved or denied. The chapter will notify the NJSIAA of its decision promptly.
8. 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.

PROCEDURE WHEN OFFICIALS FAIL TO ARRIVE OR ARE 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.

The following recommendations are provided as a procedural plan in the event officials fail to arrive for a contest, assuming confirmation reminders to the officials prior to the game have been sent.

1. If an official/s have failed to arrive within one-half hour of game time, an attempt should be made to contact the official/s or their assignor.
2. Contact the visiting schools Athletic Director as an FYI.

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

1. Contact the assignor or chapter secretary for last-minute replacements.
2. Request via the P.A. system if there are any certified NJSIAA officials present.

The responsibility for determining playing or postponing a contest under these circumstances rests with the Principal and the Athletic Director of the host school.

Every attempt should be made to play the game. We ask that member schools follow the recommended procedure below:

1. When a contest has started and one (1) official cannot continue because of illness or injury etc., the contest must continue unless it can be clearly established that to do so would not be in the best interest of the participating schools. For sports that have game ending rules or modifications, schools may choose to end the game in accordance with those NFHS rules or NJSIAA modifications, or resume play at a later date. In either case, both schools must agree.
    a. Example (1): A baseball game has become an official game with one team ahead starting the top of the 6th inning and one umpire cannot continue. The schools must agree to continue the game or end the game based on the game ending baseball rule. If schools don't agree, then the game will be resumed from the point of stoppage at a later date.

b. Example (2): A soccer game has become an official game as it has started the second half, when one official cannot continue. The schools must agree to continue the game or end the game based on the game ending soccer rule. If schools don't agree, then the game will be resumed from the point of stoppage at a later date.
c. When only one (1) official arrives for a contest to which two (2) officials are usually assigned, the contest must be played unless it can be clearly established that to do so would not be in the best interest of the participating schools.

2. When no officials arrive for a scheduled contest and no replacement can be found, the contest cannot be played. No forfeits will be awarded.

Schools withholding their teams from competition under these conditions will be subject to severe punitive action, unless it can be clearly established that to do so would not be in the best interest of the participating schools.

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.

SALES AND SOLICITATIONS

Only NJSIAA promotional items will be sold at NJSIAA tournaments. No solicitations, sale of publications or products, or similar activities are permitted without prior authorization from NJSIAA.

The New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association is the sponsoring association for all levels of State Tournaments/Championships. The NJSIAA reserves all rights in regard to the management of these Tournaments/Championships and the sale or distribution of clothing, souvenirs or any other items is strictly prohibited without permission of the NJSIAA.

SPECTATOR CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

NJSIAA member schools must adopt a spectator code of conduct policy in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Policy must be provided to, and signed off by, the parents/guardians of participating student-athletes during the sports registration process.
2. Policy must be posted at all venues hosting interscholastic competition, to the extent reasonably possible.
3. Policy must be made available to NJSIAA staff upon request.
4. Policy must include, but is not limited to, the following unsportsmanlike conduct:

a. Physical altercations with an official, coach, player, school staff, school security, or spectator before, during, or after an interscholastic competition.
b. Use of profanity, threatening comments, or biased language.
c. Verbal harassment of an official or participant (coaches and players from any participating school) by using names or uniform numbers.
d. Entering the field of play before, during, or after an interscholastic competition.
e. Use of artificial noisemakers or other instruments intended to disrupt the interscholastic event or distract the participants during an interscholastic event.

5. Policy must include disciplinary actions for policy violations, which include, but are not limited to:
    a. Immediate removal from the event and premises.
    b. Suspension from the next home interscholastic event for a first offense.
    c. Increased suspension from interscholastic events for multiple violations.
    d. Required educational component before readmittance at a future interscholastic event.

NJSIAA member schools and/or its Leagues and Conferences may adopt policies that are more restrictive or include stricter disciplinary measures than the minimum requirements above.

STEROID TESTING PROCEDURES

In accordance with Executive Order 72, issued by the Governor of the State of New Jersey, Richard J. Codey, on December 20, 2005, the NJSIAA will test a random selection of student-athletes, who have qualified, as individuals or as members of a team, for state championship competition.

1. List of banned_substances – A list of banned substances shall be prepared annually by the Medical Advisory Committee, and approved by the Executive Committee.

2. Consent form – Before participating in interscholastic sports, the student-athlete and the student-athlete's parent or guardian shall consent, in writing, to random testing in accordance with this policy. Failure to sign the consent form renders the student-athlete ineligible.

3. Selection of athletes to be tested – Tested athletes will be selected randomly from all of those athletes participating in championship competition. Testing may occur at any state championship site or at the school whose athletes have qualified for championship competition

4. Administration of tests – Tests shall be administered by a certified laboratory, selected by the Executive Director and approved by the Executive Committee.

5. Testing methodology – The methodology for taking and handling samples shall be in accordance with current legal standards.

6. Sufficiency of results – No test shall be considered a positive result unless the approved laboratory reports a positive result, and the NJSIAA's medical review officer confirms that there was no medical reason for the positive result. A "B" sample shall be available in the event of an appeal.

7. Appeal process – If the certified laboratory reports that a student-athlete's sample has tested positive, and the medical review officer confirms that there is no medical reason for a positive result, a penalty shall be imposed unless the student-athlete proves, by a preponderance of the evidence, that he or she bears no fault or negligence for the violation. Appeals shall be heard by a NJSIAA committee consisting of two members of the Executive Committee, the Executive Director/designee, a trainer and a physician. Appeal of a decision of the Committee shall be to the Commissioner of Education, for public school athletes, and

to the superior court, for non-public athletes. Hearings shall be held in accordance with NJSIAA By-Laws, Article XIII, and "Hearing Procedure."

8. Penalties – Any person who tests positively in an NJSIAA administered test, or any person who refuses to provide a testing sample, or any person who reports his or her own violation, shall immediately forfeit his or her eligibility to participate in NJSIAA competition for a period of one year from the date of the test. Any such person shall also forfeit any individual honor earned while in violation. No person who tests positive, refuses to provide a test sample, or who reports his or her own violation shall resume eligibility until he or she has undergone counseling and produced a negative test result.

9. Confidentiality – Results of all tests shall be considered confidential and shall only be disclosed to the individual, his or her parents and his or her school.

10. Compilation of results – The Executive Committee shall annually compile and report the results of the testing program.

11. Yearly renewal of the steroid policy – The Executive Committee shall annually determine whether this policy shall be renewed or discontinued.

SUSPENDED FOOTBALL GAMES

Games interrupted/suspended due to reasons beyond anyone's control, e.g., electrical storms, torrential rains and the like. All games to be continued will be at the site of the interrupted game unless otherwise agreed upon by competing schools.

1. If both schools agree, the game will be a completed game or the game will be continued from the point of interruption but no later than Tuesday of the following week.

2. If both schools belong to the same Conference (divisional or inter-divisional game), the Conference must have adopted guidelines in the event the schools do not agree to resolve the issue by mutual agreement; however, if the game is to be continued from the point of interruption, it must be played no later than Tuesday of the following week.

3. If the game is a non-conference game, and the schools do not agree to resolve the issue, the NJSIAA will resolve the issue as follows:

    a. If the point difference is twenty-two (22) points or more, the game shall be a completed game regardless of the point of interruption.
    b. If the interrupted game has completed three (3) quarters, the game will be a completed game.
    c. If the game is interrupted after the completion of the first half and the point difference is fifteen (15) or more points, the game shall be a completed game.
    d. All other games, except as noted in letter (e) below, will be continued from the point of interruption no later than Tuesday of the following week. If the schools cannot agree on the date, the game will be continued on the Monday following the game at 3:00 p.m.
    e. Whenever it is not considered prudent to complete an interrupted game, the Executive Director will have the authority to rule on the status of the game.

BEFORE A GAME IS TERMINATED

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) have jurisdiction for terminating same prematurely.

Termination, once the game has started, is not the prerogative of a coach or school management, and 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 actions 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.

TRANSGENDER POLICY

1. A transgender student, defined as a student whose gender identity differs from the student's sex assigned at birth, shall be eligible to participate in accordance with either their birth sex or in accordance with their gender identity, but not both. Exceptions to this policy shall be subject to appeal to the Eligibility Appeals Committee.

2. In the event of a positive test result under the NJSIAA's "General Prohibition Against Performance Enhancing Drugs", a transgender student's use of a banned substance for the purposes of hormone therapy may be considered by the NJSIAA medical review officer as a medical reason for the positive result.

3. Any member school may appeal the eligibility of a transgender student on the grounds that the student's participation in interscholastic athletics would adversely affect competition or safety. Any appeal under this paragraph will be heard by the Eligibility Appeals Committee and shall be confidential. The Eligibility Appeals Committee will not consider whether the school has properly determined the student's sex-assignment.
4. If a transgender student has not yet declared their transgender status, this policy shall not apply. If a transgender student, at some point during their high school career, no longer identifies as a transgender student, this policy shall not apply.

UNIFIED SPORTS®

Unified Sports® is a joint effort between the NJSIAA and Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ) to incorporate Unified Sports® programs in NJSIAA member schools recognizing and offering opportunities for students with and without disabilities to compete in NJSIAA sanctioned activity. On June 19, 2014, Governor Christie signed legislation regarding the inclusion of students with disabilities in athletic activities. This law requires school districts ensure students with disabilities have equal access and opportunities to participate in athletics.

Unified Sports® was created by Special Olympics International to give individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and compete in sports activities alongside their peers. The vision of the joint NJSIAA/SONJ effort is to allow high school students with and without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to represent their high school by participating on Unified Sports® teams, providing the students with a quality experience of sports training and competition. No person shall, on the basis of gender, race, religion, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of Special Olympics.

Section 1. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY FOR UNIFIED SPORTS®

1. General Statement – A person with an intellectual (ID) or closely related developmental (DD) disability that has satisfied one of the following requirements:
    a. An appropriate agency or professional has identified him/her as having an intellectual disability, with functional limitations in both general learning and adaptive skills;
    b. (S)he is identified as having a cognitive delay after completing an acceptable standardized test or other instrument generally accepted within the professional community as providing a reliable measurement. ie, IQ test.
    c. An appropriate agency or professional has identified him/her as having a closely related developmental disability (DD), which means having functional limitations in both general learning and in adaptive skills (such as recreational, work, independent living, self-direction, or self-care). This includes students on the Autism Spectrum.
    d. Individuals whose functional limitations are based solely on a physical, behavioral, or emotional disability, or a specific learning or sensory disability, are not eligible to participate as Special Olympic athletes, but may be eligible to participate as a Unified partner, coach, manager or volunteer.

Section 2. UNIFIED PARTNER ELIGIBILITY

1. Definition - Unified Sports® is a program that combines approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes and athletes without ID (Unified partners) on sports teams for training and competition.
2. Any student participating in a strenuous sport at any level at any time during the season is NOT eligible to compete as a Unified partner in a strenuous Unified Sport. Appropriate participation for such a student-athlete may take place as a manager.
3. Refer to NJSIAA By-Law Article V, Section 1.

Section 3. AGE

1. Unified Student-Athlete – A student with ID may participate in Unified Sports® as long as he or she is enrolled in the school.
2. Unified Partner - Refer to NJSIAA By-Law Article V, Section 4, C (Age)

Section 4. CREDITS

1. Unified Student-Athlete - Refer to NJSIAA By-Law Article V, Section 4, F (Handicapped/Classified Students)
2. Unified Partner - Refer to NJSIAA By-Law Article V, Section 4, E (Credits)

Section 5. SEMESTERS

1. Unified Student-Athlete – Students defined by the NJ DOE under IDEA shall be permitted to participate as long as they are properly enrolled in school and maintain other eligibility requirements as per his/her IEP.
2. Unified Partner - Refer to NJSIAA By-Law Article V, Section 4, E, J

Section 6. MEDICAL PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Refer to N.J.A.C 6A:16-2.2 – All participants will follow the State administrative code for required health services as well as other school requirements for athletic participation.

Section 7. ALIGNMENT OF SPORTS

1. Unified Sports® shall be aligned in its own division.
2. Unified Sports® shall be contested as co-ed in both team and individual sports.

Section 8. COOPERATIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS

1. Refer to NJSIAA By-Laws Article III, Section 10

Section 9. SPORTS SEASON

1. Refer to NJSIAA Rules and Regulations Section 5 – 8
2. Practices prior to competition – Although highly recommended, the 6 practice and one day of rest rule is waived for Unified Sports.

Section 10. OUT-OF-SEASON GUIDELINES

1. During the out-of-season period (refer to NJSIAA Rules and Regulations Section 2), coaches ARE permitted to work with Unified athletes and Unified partners ONLY when it is being run as a Unified Sports® event and/or a SONJ event.

Section 11. CONTEST RULES

1. Contests played between member schools will be played according to the rules of the NFHS or National Governing Body of that sport. Rules and regulations for Unified Sports® will be jointly published by NJSIAA and SONJ prior to each season, as approved by the NJSIAA Executive Board.

Section 12. COACH REQUIREMENTS

1. Unified Sports® coaches are required to meet all NJSIAA coaching certifications and regulations as outlined in the NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies and Procedures. Additionally, Unified Sports coaches must obtain a Unified Sports coaching certification by completing the online NFHS Coaching Unified Sports course.