

ARTICLE XX

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL NATIONAL EVENTS, CONTESTS AND TOURNAMENTS SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

This code of conduct applies to all region, district and national events, contests and tournaments sponsored by the National Junior College Athletic Association. Violations of the code of conduct occurring during the regularly scheduled season events shall be referred to the respective conference or region Standards and Ethics Committee. The jurisdiction of the NJCAA Code of Conduct ends when colleges competing in such tournaments arrive back on their respective campuses.

Code of Conduct

- A. Participants shall recognize the responsibility for proper conduct at any national tournament, event or contest sponsored by the NJCAA or its member colleges.
- B. Coaches shall recognize and assume responsibility for the actions of themselves and the team members. Each coach who has participants competing in the event shall be responsible for informing each participant about the Code of Conduct.

Behavior

Coaches, players, and institutional personnel must remember that they are representatives of an institution of higher learning, its faculty, and administration and student body. As such they are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which would reflect credit on their team, institution, region and the NJCAA. Student-athletes, coaches and institutional personnel who are participating in NJCAA events are subject to all NJCAA rules, regulations and penalties as stated in the NJCAA Handbook as well as local, state and federal laws.

Inappropriate and unacceptable behavior by coaches, players or institutional personnel will not be tolerated before, during, or after contests; at the hotel or in public while representing their college. This Code of Conduct does not replace Article XVIII of the NJCAA handbook. Unacceptable forms of behavior include but are not limited to:

1. fighting
2. taunting
3. inappropriate celebration
4. disrespectful attitude toward opponents, officials, tournament administrators
5. use of profane and vulgar language
6. use of tobacco, drugs and/or alcohol
7. disrespectful attitude toward host hotel personnel
8. unlawful activities

Derogatory comments

Coaches, athletes or institutional personnel shall not make derogatory public comments regarding administration of a tournament or officiating of contests during post game interviews or at other times; to print or broadcast media, in news releases or institutionally produced news releases or under any conditions when their comments may become public. The head coach shall be fully responsible for assuring that no public comments are made by the coaching staff, student-athletes or institutional personnel about officiating, fighting or other incidents which occur during contests.

A coach shall not address or permit anyone in the team area to address uncomplimentary remarks to any game official during the progress of a contest or engage in conduct which might incite student-athletes or spectators against officials.

Reporting

Violations of the Code of Conduct may be reported to the Executive Director of the NJCAA or his designee.

Procedures and Penalties

Immediate Action

Where immediate action is needed to alleviate or control a situation, the Executive Director or designee shall have the authority to act at his/her sole discretion. Examples of events which would require immediate action include but are not limited to the following:

- Allegation of serious misconduct requiring immediate suspension of institutional personnel or student-athletes from competition.
- Instances where the Executive Director or designee deems it necessary to protect the equity and integrity of the competition.
- Protection of the event's officiating program, particularly in an instance where public comments by an institutional representative may affect competition.
- Any instance or circumstance which might affect the safety of officials, participants or spectators attending the event.

Penalties-Immediate Action

The Executive Director or designee may issue any penalty that he/she believes appropriate to any student-athlete or institutional personnel who has violated the regulations pertaining to conduct when the Executive Director or designee concludes that immediate action is required. The actions of the Executive Director or designee shall be final and binding but shall be reported to the Standards and Ethics Committee within one week.

Timely Action

In cases where immediate action is not required but where sanctions are warranted, the Executive Director or designee may issue the following penalties:

Reprimand: The Executive Director or NJCAA Standards and Ethics Committee may issue a letter of reprimand to the coach, player or institutional personnel who violates the regulations pertaining to conduct. Copies of the letter of reprimand will be sent to the Director of Athletics and the President of the institution.

Probation, suspension and other penalties: If the misconduct is serious enough, the Executive Director or designee may issue other penalties which may include but are not limited to probation, suspension or disqualification of the coach, player or institutional personnel from participating in one or more contests.