



NAIA Frequently Asked Questions Ejections and Suspensions

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

Can an institution appeal an ejection?

Ejections, and avenues for appeal, are governed solely by the playing rules in each sport. If the playing rules in a given sport do not include an opportunity for appeal, no additional appeal opportunity exists within the NAIA. If the playing rules in a given sport do include an opportunity for appeal that is the only appeal opportunity available within the NAIA.

What is the difference between an ejection and suspension?

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

Can an institution appeal a suspension?

Yes.

What is the process for appealing a suspension?

The institutions athletics director and faculty athletics representative must sign off on the appeal and submit it to their respective conference commissioner. The conference conduct oversight committee will review and send a recommendation to the national office. The Conduct and Ethics Committee is responsible for all appeals related to suspensions due to ejections of a coach and/or student-athlete.

How long does an institution have to submit an appeal?

An institution must submit an appeal to their conference within 72 hours of the completion of contest. The conference will submit a recommendation to the national office within 72 hours of receiving the appeal from the institution.

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

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

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

A letter from the Athletics Director/FAR (explaining the incident and reason for the appeal) along with the student's transcript must be submitted. Other documentation may include a letter by the student, coach and game administrator.



NAIA Standards FAQs

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

A suspended person cannot be in the competitive venue the day of the contest or communicate with any team personnel or game officials the day of the contest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yes, an ejection in any contest shall count.

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

No, the suspension has to be served at the next regular season or postseason contest.

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

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

NOTE:

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