



NAIA Frequently Asked Questions Ejections and Suspensions

At the NAIA Convention in April 2009, membership approved a package of new standards for member institutions, affiliated conferences, and various constituent groups. Below is a list of frequently asked questions specifically 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 which will process the appeal through the National Eligibility Committee.

How long does an institution have to submit an appeal?

There is currently no rule stating the timeline in which an appeal has to be submitted. The National Eligibility Committee suggests that an institution should submit an appeal within 72 hours after the completion of a contest.

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

Yes. 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.

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.

Does a student-athlete/coach have to serve the suspension if the next contest is a scrimmage or exhibition?

Yes, the suspension has to be served no matter if it's a scrimmage, exhibition, 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.