



Make the Call – The Official’s Role in NAIA competition

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics is looking forward to another sports year dedicated to character-driven athletics. In April 2009, the NAIA membership approved important new standards for behavior during all NAIA competition.

These standards will affect officiating in two ways. Beginning with this sport season, NAIA officials will be expected to:

- **Enforce a “zero tolerance” rule on profanity in NAIA competition. NAIA officials will be expected to apply penalties (e.g., personal fouls, yellow cards) to any participant (player or coach) in NAIA competition.**
- **Game officials must provide a written report to the conference commissioner when an ejection of a coach or student-athlete occurs during a contest.**



Submit ejection reports online by clicking on this icon on the ChampionsofCharacter.org home page or by going directly to www.naiaforms.com/ejection

In addition, the NAIA now has developed more stringent, automatic penalties for ejections. Any coach or student-athlete ejected on one or more occasions while representing an NAIA member institution in competition shall be subject automatically to the following penalties:

- Suspension for the next contest after the coach or student-athlete is ejected for the first time (in one sport) in a single season.
- Suspension for the next two contests if a coach or student-athlete accumulates two ejections (in one sport) in a single season. This includes post-season play and may carry over to the following year depending on when the ejection occurs.
- Ineligibility for the remainder of all regular-season and post-season participation if a coach or student-athlete accumulates three ejections (in one sport) in a single season. Should the third ejection occur in either of the last two contests of the year, the coach or returning student-athlete will be suspended for the first two contests of the following year

The NAIA also has increased standards on NAIA campuses in regard to event management and crowd behavior and control. Our goal is to provide a positive environment and experience which will then result in positive behavior for all involved.

It is important that everyone understands the role they play in developing champions of character including officials. As officials of the NAIA, your role is vital as you have the opportunity to shape the lives of young people by insuring that ethics, sportsmanship and fair play remain important factors during competition.

Thank you for assisting the NAIA in its mission to change the culture of sport and ensure a better game through better sportsmanship.