

EJECTION PROCEDURES

Special Olympics New Jersey's mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

In order to uphold and further this mission, it is imperative that all players, coaches, and spectators show respect, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and abide by the codes of conduct established by Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ).

If an official or SONJ representative observes violations of codes of conduct or specific playing rules which require ejection within a sport, the following procedures may be enforced. The ejection procedures for players, coaches, and spectators were adopted based on the guidelines followed by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), and was reviewed and approved by a group of Special Olympics New Jersey coaches, officials and Area Directors.

In this document, the term "player(s)" refers to all Special Olympics New Jersey athletes and Unified partners listed on the roster. "Player/Coach" refers to player and/or coach.

1. Player/Coach Disqualification

- a) Any player/coach ejected before, during or after an event for unsportsmanlike, flagrant, verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next (1) scheduled game/meet; in addition to any other penalties which SONJ or an Area may assess.
 - *Clarification (CL)1: Flagrant is a glaring action by an individual which is excessive physical play or unacceptable conduct as adjudged by the game/meet official(s) or SONJ Representative.*
 - *CL2: Regular season, rescheduled or tournament games which are in place prior to the disqualification will be used to satisfy the penalty. Scrimmages or practices cannot be used to satisfy the disqualification rule. The competition must begin in order to fulfill the requirements of the disqualification rule.*
 - *CL 3: The disqualification penalty must be served within the established timeline even if this results in a team being unable to field the minimum number of players required for competition.*
- b) A disqualified player/coach may not be present at any contest in that sport during the period of disqualification.
 - *CL 4: Definition of not being present at the site means that 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. Any player/coach in violation of this provision may be cause for forfeiture of those games during the period of disqualification.*
 - *CL 5: At the time of the initial ejection, a disqualified player will be confined to the bench area to remain under the supervision of the coach if he/she is unable to be safely removed from the immediate area. If said player continues to be disruptive or acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, the official and/or SONJ Representative may terminate the game/event.*
 - *CL6: At the time of the initial ejection, a disqualified coach should be removed from the immediate area and another coach shall assume responsibility for the team. If another coach is unable to be designated, 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 commits another sportsmanship violation during this time, the official and/or SONJ Representative may terminate the game/event.

- c) Any player/coach ejected from the final game/meet of the season, will serve the penalty in a subsequent Special Olympics New Jersey sports season.
 - *CL 7: Subsequent sport seasons may include but is not limited to other programming such as Camp Shriver, College Unified, Unified Rec, and other activities as determined by SONJ.*
 - *CL 8: Exceptions may be made for disqualification penalties that impact multiple sport seasons and jeopardize a player's or coach's eligibility for the entire subsequent season.*
- d) Any player/coach ejected a second time at any point during his/her participation with SONJ, may have the penalty doubled (i.e. disqualified for two (2) games) based on the circumstances surrounding the incidents, and may be required to meet, in person, with SONJ staff.
- e) Any player/coach with two (2) ejections in the current season, prior to the start of an SONJ tournament will be ineligible to compete in said tournament. According to SONJ rules and regulations, a player/coach may and can be ejected a second time in the same game/meet/match.
- f) Any team accumulating three (3) or more player and/or coach ejections in the same season will not be eligible to advance the next level of competition (sectional, chapter, etc.).
- g) Any player/coach ejected a third time at any point during his/her participation with SONJ may be suspended indefinitely, and must apply, in writing, to SONJ through their Area Director for reinstatement.
- h) Any coach who has been ejected and/or who has three or more players on a team ejected within a year (365 days) must complete the online NFHS Teaching and Modeling Behavior course, at his/her own cost. The course completion certificate is due to SONJ within 90 days.

2. Spectator Ejections

- a) Any spectator ejected before, during or after an event for unsportsmanlike, flagrant, verbal or physical misconduct may be required to meet with SONJ staff. If a meeting is required, the spectator shall not be permitted to attend any games, practices, or other SONJ sponsored activities in the interim. Team and/or player eligibility may be jeopardized if a spectator is found to be in violation of this provision during a period of disqualification. Additionally, any physical misconduct may be referred to the authorities for further action.
- b) Should a spectator be ejected from the final game/meet of the season, the disqualification penalty may carry over to the subsequent sports season (*see CL 7 and CL 8*).
- c) Any spectator accumulating three (3) ejections during his/her involvement with SONJ may be suspended indefinitely from all SONJ competitions, events and activities.

Additional Clarifications (CL) – Disqualification Rule:

CL 9: Ejection or removal of a player for a specific sport rule (i.e. soccer yellow cards, two basketball technical fouls) will only carry the disqualification penalty when it includes a flagrant unsportsmanlike act.

CL 10: Players 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 11: As per Special Olympics Article One 12.5.3, entire teams or individual members of a team disqualified from the entire competition for unsportsmanlike conduct shall not receive an award of any kind. This does not include those athletes ejected from one round of competition who are allowed to return to play in future rounds or team play.

CL 12: Once a coach/player has been ejected, NO appeals will be honored from the player, coach, official or any other party regarding the ejection. However, appeals may be submitted, in writing, to SONJ regarding the assessed disqualification penalty up until the period of disqualification begins. All complaints against an official must be directed to SONJ in writing by the head coach.