



## Contest Ejection and Next Day of Competition Protocol and Guide MHSAA Regulation V, Section 3(D)

### Penalty Summary

- When a coach or student is ejected or disqualified from an MHSAA contest (including as a result of progressive penalties such as yellow cards in soccer, technical fouls in basketball or unsportsmanlike fouls in football), he/she shall be ineligible to continue participating in that day of competition.
- He/she will also be ineligible, at minimum, to participate in the next day of competition regardless the number of contests scheduled ([See Defining “Next Day of Competition” Suspension](#)); and will be ineligible to participate indefinitely until he/she completes the specified NFHS online sportsmanship course ([See Required Online Sportsmanship Course](#)).

### Overturning Ejection/Disqualification

- Ejections/Disqualifications may not be overturned or rescinded by the contest official(s) after play has resumed following the ejection/disqualification, or after the officials have left the grounds or facility if a post-contest ejection. Officials and coaches may not negotiate a “quasi-ejection”, in which the participant is ejected, but the official agrees not to submit a report to avoid the next day of competition penalty.
- [See Ejection Review Protocol](#) for all requirements when a school would like to have the suspension caused by an ejection reviewed by MHSAA staff.

### Requirements Following Ejection/Disqualification

- A coach that is ejected must leave immediately and shall not be present on site or within sight, sound or communication for the remainder of that day of competition.
- A student that is ejected may be allowed to remain on the team bench as long as he/she does not create any further disturbance. If warranted, the contest official(s) may require the student to leave the playing site/facility; in which case, he/she must be accompanied by an adult.

### Defining “Next Day of Competition” Suspension

- The “Next Day of Competition” suspension for both coaches and students applies to that team, in that sport, at that level, and all intervening contests in that sport at any level.
- If there are no further days of competition remaining at that level in which the coach or student is disqualified, he/she shall be ineligible for at least the next day of competition in that sport at any level (including an MHSAA tournament contest).
- If the coach or student is ejected/disqualified during the last contest date of that season (including during the MHSAA tournament):
  - For graduating seniors or eighth graders, he/she shall be ineligible for the next day of competition in the next sport in which he/she participates that year.
  - For all other students, he/she shall be ineligible for the next day of competition in that sport at any level the following year. If the student does not participate in the same sport the following year, he/she shall be ineligible for the next day of competition in the next sport in which he/she participates.
- Scrimmages do not satisfy the next day of competition suspension requirement.

### Permissible Activity during Suspension of Next Day of Competition

- Coaches serving a suspension on the next day of competition are not permitted to be present at the facility (home or away) and may not participate in pregame activities (*i.e., bus rides, pep talks or warm-ups*) on site of the competition. Coaches that are parents of participating students are not provided any special consideration and are not eligible to coach or attend the next day of competition.
- Students serving a suspension on the next day of competition may be allowed by their school to be present at the facility and on the bench with his/her team (permitted to dress in uniform) but may not participate.

### Required Online Sportsmanship Course

- In addition to the minimum next day of competition suspension, a coach or student is not eligible to participate in any contest in that sport at any level until:
  - If a coach, he/she completes the National Federation [Teaching and Modeling Behavior](#) learning course (or other course designated by the MHSAA) and submits a certificate of completion to the school’s athletic director.
  - If a student, he/she completes the National Federation [Sportsmanship](#) learning course (or other course designated by the MHSAA) and submits a certificate of completion to the school’s athletic director.

## **School's Onus for Enforcement**

- Contest officials that penalize a coach or student by ejection/disqualification are required to submit an incident report indicating the actions leading up to, and including, the ejection. This must be submitted within 24 hours from the conclusion of the contest date. Additionally, the official(s) should notify the school's athletic director in person, by phone or by email of any ejection/disqualification by noon the next day.
- However, it is the school's responsibility to ensure that any coach or student ejected/disqualified serves the required suspension on the next day of competition, regardless as to whether the athletic director receives notification of the ejection/disqualification from the contest official(s) by report or otherwise.
- In sports that do not have contest officials (*i.e., golf, tennis, bowling*), the host school or tournament manager is responsible to contact the school whose coach/student was ejected.

## **Suspended/Forfeited Contest Provisions**

- When a coach or student is ejected during a contest that is subsequently suspended, he/she is not eligible to return to participate in the resumed portion of that contest, regardless of the date it is resumed. If the suspended portion of the contest is resumed on a later date when another contest will take place, the coach or student is eligible to participate in that additional contest as long as he/she has already served his/her next day of competition suspension and completed the required online sportsmanship course.
- If a coach's or student's next day of competition occurs on a date in which a contest is suspended or forfeited, this shall satisfy the suspension requirement. If the suspended contest is resumed on a later date, the coach or student shall be permitted to participate in the resumed portion of the suspended contest as long as he/she has completed the required online sportsmanship course.

## **Sport-Specific Participation Provisions**

- Except for where specified below, if a coach or student is ejected, disqualified or removed from further participation during a contest by rule or because of unsportsmanlike conduct, it shall be considered an ejection and is subject to the next day of competition suspension and completion of the required online sportsmanship course. ([See \*Overturning Ejection/Disqualification\*](#)).

### *Baseball*

- A coach or student may be restricted to the dugout as permitted by the rules. A coach restricted to the dugout may continue to coach from that position; but a student restricted to the dugout may not participate in any further capacity. In neither case is this considered an ejection/disqualification that results in a next day of competition suspension.

### *Basketball*

- When a student accumulates five fouls, he/she is ineligible from further participation in the current contest, but does not result in a next day of competition suspension unless he/she receives two technical fouls or a single flagrant foul.

### *Boys Lacrosse*

- When a student accumulates five minutes of penalties, he/she is ineligible from further participation in the current contest, but does not result in a next day of competition suspension. If a student receives two non-releasable unsportsmanlike fouls, this is equivalent to an ejection and is subject to the next day of competition suspension.

### *Girls Lacrosse*

- When a coach or student receives a second yellow card, he/she is ineligible from further participation in the current contest, but does not result in a next day of competition suspension. If a coach or student receives a red card, this is equivalent to an ejection and is subject to the next day of competition suspension.

### *Ice Hockey*

- When a coach or student is disqualified from a contest, he/she is not eligible to participate in the next two days of competition. A second disqualification in the same season results in a next four days of competition suspension ([See \*Multiple Ejections/Disqualification in the Same Season\*](#)), and a third disqualification in a season results in a suspension for the remainder of the season.
- A game misconduct penalty results in no further participation in the current contest but does not result in a next two days of competition suspension. A game disqualification penalty is equivalent to an ejection and is subject to the next two days of competition suspension.
  - When a student receives five penalties in a game, it results in a game misconduct and removal from further participation that game, but does not result in an ejection (*i.e., game disqualification*) that leads to a suspension from the next two days of competition.
  - When a coach or student violates the post-contest ejection policy, it shall be designated as a game disqualification and will result in a suspension from the next two days of competition.

### *Track and Field*

- When a student is disqualified from an event for a rules violation that does not involve unsporting conduct or behavior, it does not result in a next day of competition suspension.

### *Volleyball*

- When a coach or student receives a single red card, it is a loss of rally/point. If the red card is issued to any coach or bench personnel, the head coach is restricted to the bench for the remainder of the contest but may continue to coach from that position. If the red card is issued to a player on the court, no additional penalties apply other than the loss of rally/point. In neither case is this considered an ejection/disqualification that results in a next day of competition suspension. If a coach or student receives a red/yellow card, this is equivalent to an ejection and is subject to the next day of competition suspension.

## **Ejections/Disqualifications during an MHSAA Tournament**

- If a coach or student is ejected during an MHSAA tournament contest, the next day of competition suspension must be served the next day of tournament competition for that team, in that sport, and all intervening contests in that sport at any level.
- If there are no further days of competition remaining for that team in the MHSAA tournament from which the student or coach is disqualified, it shall be served in accordance with normal disqualification rules ([See Defining “Next Day of Competition” Suspension](#)).

## **Multiple Ejections/Disqualifications in the Same Season**

- Any coach that is ejected/disqualified two or more times during a season, or any student who is disqualified three or more times during a season, is ineligible for participation in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. This penalty does not carry over to another sport during that year or another tournament in the same sport the following year (even if such ejection/disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament).

## **Physical Contact with Contest Official**

- Any coach or student that makes intentional and/or aggressive physical contact with an official during or following a contest (including, but not limited to, hitting, slapping, kicking or pushing), leading to or following his/her ejection/disqualification, he/she shall be ineligible for participation in the MHSAA tournament for that sport that season. The coach or student is not permitted to be on site or within sight, sound or communication during the entire tournament. This penalty does not carry over to another sport during that year, or another tournament in the same sport the following year (even if such ejection/disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament).

## **Circumvention of the Intent of the Regulation**

- If a school, athletic director and/or coach is determined by MHSAA staff as having acted in attempt to circumvent the regulation requiring the next day of competition suspension, such as, but not limited to, adding an intervening contest to the schedule or “playing” a student for a contest in which they were not already expected to participate, the provisions of that requirement shall not have been satisfied. This may result in the ejected/disqualified person having to serve an additional day of competition suspension, or further penalties ([See Penalties for Failure to Enforce Suspensions](#)).

## **Penalties for Failure to Enforce Suspensions**

- If a school or official is aware that a next day of competition suspension was not enforced, the school of the ejected coach/student should be contacted first so that they may resolve the issue – followed up by a call or email to the MHSAA, if necessary.
- If a school knowingly fails for any reason to withhold a coach or student from competition when required, the contest in which he/she participated may be retroactively forfeited in addition to the ejected/disqualified person having to serve an additional day of competition suspension.
- If a school willingly and intentionally fails to enforce a next day of competition suspension or uses tactics to circumvent the intent of the regulations, this will prohibit the school from entry in the next MHSAA tournament for that sport, or from the remainder of the current tournament if the disqualification occurs during an MHSAA tournament or during the last regular-season contest.



## Ejection Review Protocol MHSAA Regulation V, Interpretation 294

When a school administrator (athletic director or principal) submits a review request for the next day of competition (or MHSAA tournament) suspension following the ejection of a player or coach, the first determination will be whether the situation fall within the three reviewable categories.

The three (3) reviewable categories include:

- **Rule Misapplication:** Misapplication of a rule that directly results in the ejection of a player or coach (e.g. basketball coach incorrectly ejected after one direct technical foul and one indirect technical foul). Note that this category only includes rule misapplications that directly result in the ejection. If a playing rule is misapplied during a contest and a coach or player reacts or responds to that situation in an unsportsmanlike manner and is ejected, this is not reviewable as the ejection was not a direct result of the rule misapplication.
- **Individual Misidentification:** Misidentification of an ejected individual (e.g. jersey number of players are confused or mixed up). Note that if #7, for example, is ejected for throwing a punch and video review confirms it was #8 instead, the suspension would be removed for #7 and would then be correctly applied to #8.
- **Contact Review:** Flagrant or malicious contact with an opponent as defined by playing rules or intentional and/or contact with an official when video evidence proves otherwise.

The following protocol shall be used when an ejection falls within the three reviewable categories defined above:

1. The member school administrator (either the athletic director or principal) must submit the school's review request to [suspensionreview@mhsaa.com](mailto:suspensionreview@mhsaa.com). This email request must include the following information, only (no additional information, argument or rationale will be accepted):
  - a. Sport, level, location and date the ejection occurred.
  - b. Date(s) of next day of competition suspension for the ejected individual.
  - c. Name(s) of the official(s) involved in the contest.
  - d. The reviewable category which must be 1) Rules Misapplication; 2) Individual Misidentification; or 3) Contact Review. If submitting a rules misapplication review request, the request must also include the rule and rule reference allegedly misapplied.
  - e. The ejected individual's name, identification of that individual as a player or coach and uniform number (if applicable). Note that no other information about the ejected individual will be accepted such as grades, character, previous (or lack of) ejections/discipline, family background, skill level and playing ability. No written argument, rationale or documents of support will be accepted. Providing any of this extraneous information will result in the review process being terminated and will only be reopened if the review request is submitted correctly.
  - f. If the request is an individual misidentification or contact review, the video of the incident must be included. The video must be an unedited clip showing all action leading up to, during and following the incident. Video that is slowed down, zoomed in or out, highlighted, spot-shadowed or only shows the immediate incident will not be accepted and will terminate the review process. Multiple video clips from a variety of angles will be accepted based on this video criteria. If the video file is too large to email, include in the request the method by which the video will be shared with MHSAA staff (Dropbox, HUDL, etc).
2. MHSAA staff will review the request and determine if all elements from Item #1 above have been provided. All valid requests for review will be completed by MHSAA staff in a timely manner with a written determination being provided to the requesting school and in some cases to the future opponent(s). Note that if the review is not resolved before the date of suspension, the player or coach must still be withheld from competition.
3. All determinations made by MHSAA staff under these three categories of review are final and not subject to further review, appeal or waiver by MHSAA staff, Executive Committee or Representative Council.