

## SECTION 9 □ ETHICS-CODE OF CONDUCT

The FCCAA and NJCAA "Code of Conduct" shall be utilized. *[See Attachment "A" for NJCAA's]*

Individuals who are volunteers, employees or associated in anyway with member colleges for the administration, conduct or coaching of intercollegiate athletics are, in the final analysis, teachers of young people. Their responsibility is an affirmative one and they must do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts.

Their own moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by a fine example. Much more is expected of them than of the less critically placed citizen. Each coach and athlete should be familiar with and abide by all the state, region and national "Codes of Ethics."

**NOTE:** *Coaches/Advisors are responsible for the conduct of the individual student/athlete and other members of their group while participating in FCCAA sanctioned activities.*

### Policy 1 - Behavior Rule

- A. Violence: No act of violence or flagrant act during or related to an intercollegiate athletic contest is permitted.

**NOTE:** *A violent act is one in which physical contact or an attempt to make physical contact occurs, the purpose of which is to damage, harm, intimidate, or otherwise injure a person or property.*

**Penalty:**

1. Should a coach or athlete commit a violent or flagrant act they shall be ejected immediately from the contest by an official. The individual ejected for a violent or flagrant act shall not be eligible to participate for the next three (3) contests during the regular and/or post-season play.

**NOTE:** *If the individual is a baseball pitcher at a time of the ejection that individual shall not participate in the next three (3) contests nor pitch in the next nine (9) contests during regular and/or post season play.*

2. Should an individual be ejected for violence a second time during a given season, the individual shall be prohibited from participating in any intercollegiate athletics for the remainder of that academic year.

- B. Non-Violent and Unsporting Acts: Non-violent or unsporting acts during or related to an intercollegiate athletic contest is prohibited.

1. The use of tobacco/tobacco like products at any FCCAA sponsored contest by a coach, player or game official is prohibited.
2. The use of profanity or vulgarity by a coach or player at any FCCAA sponsored activity is prohibited.

**NOTE:** *Profanity or vulgarity is the use of a word(s) or gesture(s), which are abusive, vulgar, irreverent, or otherwise offensive.*

3. All profanity or vulgar gestures directed at a contest official or opponent shall be considered unsporting conduct.

**Penalty:** **The individual shall be ejected.**

**NOTE:** *A coach or player who uses profanity or vulgar gestures inadvertently may be issued a warning by the official.*

4. After an individual has been warned the next time they use profanity or vulgar gestures they shall be ejected.

**NOTE:** *In multiple day events in which the contest is defined as the beginning of the event until the end of competition (such as: tennis, golf, track, cross-country, and swimming/diving) the ejection shall remain in effect for the remainder of the entire event on the published schedule.*

**EXAMPLE:** *A tennis player ejected during a singles match is not eligible to participate in the doubles or the match, which follows on the schedule.*

5. A coach or student/athlete ejected for a non-violent, unsporting act, or for the use of tobacco/tobacco like products, shall not be eligible for the next contest during the regular season including post-season play. A **second ejection** for a non-violent act or unsporting act will result in a three [3] game suspension; a **third ejection** for a non-violent act or unsporting act the individual shall be prohibited from participating in any intercollegiate athletics for the remainder of the year. Suspensions will be for regular season including post-season play and may carry over to the next season.

## **Policy 2 - Suspension of Coach**

A coach who is suspended shall not have any contact with the team at a contest. They may travel with the team but may not:

- A. Conduct pre-game meetings at the game site;
- B. Visit the locker room before, during or after the contest;
- C. Sit in the vicinity of the bench;
- D. Communicate verbally, use signs or signals to anyone for the intent to advise or assist the team.

## **Policy 3 - Suspension of Athlete**

A student/athlete who is suspended shall not have any contact with the team. They may not:

- A. Visit the locker room before, during or after the contest

- B. Sit in the vicinity of the bench.

#### **Policy 4 - Time**

A coach or student/athlete **must serve his/her suspension immediately**. Failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of all contests that he/she participated in prior to the serving of the suspension. A student/athlete who is in a team uniform, during a team contest is defined as having participated.

#### **Policy 5 - End of Season**

Suspensions of coaches or student/athletes occurring at the end of a season resulting from an ejection shall carry over into the next academic year. The suspension shall be served the first contest of the new year.

#### **Policy 6 - Procedures for Reporting Ejections**

- A. **Referee/Umpire-In-Chief** shall record the ejection in both score books, sign each and notify their booking agent of the ejection. He/she **shall complete the FCCAA Incident & Ejection Report for the Home Team Athletic Director prior to leaving the facility**.
- B. **Athletic Director** shall report the ejection by telephone or electronic message to the appropriate Commissioner not later than the next school day after the ejection.
- C. **Host/Home Team Athletic Director** shall notify the appropriate Commissioner not later than the next school day after ejection. **The Athletic Director shall forward the FCCAA Incident & Ejection Report to the appropriate Commissioner.**

#### **Penalty:**

1. *The Commissioner shall issue a letter of reprimand to the individual who violated the procedures, with a copy to the CAA Chairperson.*
2. *The Commissioner shall notify the College President with information regarding the ejection (s) of his/her coach/player (s).*

#### **Policy 7 - Required Notification to Coach and Athlete**

The Athletic Director is responsible for notifying and explaining the Behavior Rule Policies and Penalties to the coaches, athletes and officials at their college annually.

#### **Policy 8 - Appeals**

An Appeals Committee comprised of the CAA Chair, CAA Chair-elect and the Commissioner whose division is involved shall hear appeals of suspensions resulting from ejections under the Behavior Rule. The Appeals Committee shall be chaired by the CAA Chairperson. In the event that an individual cannot serve, the committee will then be chaired by the Chairperson-elect. Appeals are discouraged and must be accompanied by definitive video or other irrefutable evidence.

**NOTE:** *If a committee member's college is involved in the appeal, an alternative shall be appointed by the Chairperson unless the Chairperson's college is involved, whereby the Chairperson-elect shall appoint the alternate. Conference Chairs from the Conferences not involved in the appeal should be selected to serve as alternates.*

- A. An appeal of a suspension on a player or coach under the Behavior Rule must be initiated by the Athletic Director or designee within seventy-two (72) hours of the ejection. The written appeal should be faxed to the appropriate athletic commissioner who will fax the appeal to all members of the Appeals Committee. The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be rendered within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt of the appeal.
- B. The original decision being appealed shall remain in effect until such time as the Appeals Committee makes a decision. If the Committee overturns the decision the player/coach is cleared for participation on the day of the decision.

**NOTE:** *A player or coach may not participate while the appeal is being considered.*

## SECTION 13 □ GAME OFFICIALS

### Policy 1 - Registration

In order to call intercollegiate games, all officials must register with the FCCAA through the Officials Coordinator of each FCCAA Conference that employs one. If a conference does not have a coordinator they shall follow the same policies listed below.

**NOTE:** *A college may not use as an official any person who is affiliated with that college either as a currently enrolled full-time student or as a fulltime faculty or staff member.*

### Policy 2 - Rating System

Conferences may have a rating system for officials. If so, both coaches shall be required to submit the approved FCCAA Officials Rating Form to the appropriate Conference Officials Coordinator following the game. The coordinator will send a letter to the athletic director of all coaches not submitting the forms promptly.

### Policy 3 - Fees

- A. Each conference shall determine the compensation paid to the officials for a game.
- B. The Coordinator of Officials for women's sports in each conference shall be compensated the same amount as the Coordinator of Officials for men's sports. A financial report with an appropriate reconciliation shall be made to each institution at the end of the season.

**NOTE:** *The appropriate fee shall be submitted to the Coordinator of Officials.*

- C. Each conference will determine its own selection process for officials to work the State/Region/District tournament.
- C. Each official shall receive expenses for the state tournament, plus a game fee. A complimentary room will be provided whenever possible.

#### **Policy 4 - Coordinators Responsibilities**

The Conference Coordinator of Officials shall:

- A. Be responsible to the Conference Chairperson;
- B. Assign only registered FCCAA Officials to all home games of member colleges within the conference;
- C. Conduct a clinic within the conference in accordance with NCAA standards;
- D. Promote and publicize the clinic;
- E. Distribute Rating Forms to coaches;
- F. Tabulate results of Rating Forms and send them to state chairperson at the end of the season;
- G. Report the results of Rating Forms to officials to assist them with improvement;
- H. Recommend to the state chairperson officials to work the state tournament [invitational tournaments upon request] when necessary;
- I. Collect information regarding complaints or grievances and take appropriate action;
- J. Appoint a Rules Interpreter for the conference;
- K. Inform all officials of the FCCAA Code-Of-Conduct and correct procedures for filing the FCCAA Incident Report Forms.

#### **Policy 5 - No Shows Illness or Injury**

In the event only one official shows for the game, and another registered official is not available to substitute, the visiting team has the option to play the game with only one official/remaining officials or refuse to play and have the game rescheduled. If an official becomes ill or injured the game shall continue with one official/remaining officials.

- A. The officials' coordinator who fails to honor the contest assignment shall be assessed a fine in the amount of the game fee they would have received and said fine shall be paid to the home team.
- B. The above conditions shall not be reason for a college to protest the outcome of the game.

#### **Policy 6 - Enforcement of FCCAA Policies**

- A. All officials shall abide by all FCCAA Policies and Procedures including the tobacco rule at all FCCAA games.
- B. Failure to abide by the policies and procedures shall result in disciplinary action against the official from the appropriate commissioner.

### **Policy 7 - Uniforms**

The uniforms worn by the officials shall be those prescribed by the governing body of the rules book used by the sport.

### **Policy 8 - Grievance Procedures**

Contest officials may file written complaints against a member college, coach, or player.

- A. The complaint shall be sent to the Officials Coordinator of the Conference who shall in turn send it to the Conference Chairperson and Athletic Commissioner.
- B. The Conference Chairperson shall notify the College Athletic Director and ask for a response to the complaint.
- C. The Conference Chairperson shall forward the response to the Athletic Commissioner.
- D. The Athletic Commissioner and the FCCAA President shall decide what action to take.

**NOTE:**        *The coach may file a complaint against an official by following the above procedures.*

### **Policy 9 - Appeal Procedures**

An Appeals Committee comprised of the CAA Chairperson, Chairperson-elect and the Athletic Commissioner not involved shall hear appeals from game officials who have received disciplinary action from the conference or Athletic Commissioner.

- A. An appeal must be initiated by the game official within seventy-two [72] hours of notification of the disciplinary action.  
  
The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be rendered within forty-eight [48] hours of the filing of the appeal.
- B. The original decision being appealed shall remain in effect until such time as the Appeals Committee makes a decision. If the Committee overturns the decision, the game official is cleared the day of the decision.

### **Policy 10 - Rule Interpretations**

Coaches may request a game rule interpretation from the conference rules interpreter.

**NOTE:**        *No official may make interpretations on FCCAA Rules, Policies and Procedures, i.e. eligibility of players for a game: ejections for violent and non-violent acts etc.*