

PIAA Supplemental Disqualification

(Revised August 17, 2023 to include scrimmage and inter-school practice terminology)

This is a short educational tool to familiarize officials and schools covering the Supplemental Disqualification and what it entails.

Please refer to PIAA By-Laws, Article XIII for more detailed information.

General Rule. Preamble

Sportsmanship is a core principle in interscholastic athletics. Actions which are unethical and/or intended to demean, embarrass, intimidate or injure opposing contestants, Teams, spectators and/or officials are considered unsportsmanlike and will not be tolerated since they are contrary to the purposes of PIAA and convey lessons incompatible with the reason why high school sports exist.

What is it?

Provides for additional suspension penalty
for unsportsmanlike behavior

Why?

PIAA Board of Directors concerned with increase in number of
ejections and to show support of officials who face unsportsmanlike
conduct by coaches and players

When did it go into effect?

It went into effect for all sports for the 2020-2021 school year

What does it entail?

This language was revised July 2023

Supplemental Disqualification. Two Game Suspension

Any Coach, team personnel and/or contestant who, is ejected from a Scrimmage, Inter-School Practice, and/or Contest by a state high school association recognized and/or registered official and a component of the ejection is any of the following actions: confronting an official, coach, or contestant; physically contacting an official, coach, or contestant; directing foul or vulgar language/gestures toward an official, coach, contestant or spectator(s); using ethnic or racially insensitive comments will be disqualified from competition for the remainder of the day and for the next two (2) Contests including all Contests on the next two (2) Contest days of the same level (varsity, junior varsity, or otherwise) of competition from which the Coach, team personnel and/or contestant was previously disqualified.

Where can it occur?

For the purposes of this provision, the jurisdiction of the official(s) to apply and enforce the Supplemental Disqualification begins upon the official(s) arrival at the Contest site and ends when the official (or the last of the team of officials) leaves the Contest site.

The Contest site is defined as premises on which the competition surface is located and includes the entirety of the premises and parking areas.

Additional training is involved

When the Supplemental Disqualification implicates a contestant, and in addition to the two (2) Contests disqualification, the contestant may not return to competition representing the contestant's school until the contestant completes the NFHS Sportsmanship program at NFHSLearn (online) and provides a certification of completion of this program to the student's Principal and the Principal submits the certification to the PIAA District Sport Chairman.

Additional training is involved for coaches

A Coach disqualified under this provision may not return to competition representing the Coach's school until the Coach completes the NFHS Sportsmanship program and Teaching and Modeling Behavior program at NFHSLearn (online) and provides a certification of completion of these two programs to the Coach's Principal and the Principal submits the certification to the PIAA District Sport Chairman.

Final Point to Support Officials

A PIAA District Committee may, at its discretion, convene a hearing to address any and all disqualifications and may provide additional penalties as warranted by the circumstances.

Penalties handed down by the District Committee would be covered under Article XIII of PIAA By-Laws.

What does this mean for schools and coaches?

Any ejection involving confronting an official, coach, or contestant; physically contacting an official, coach, or contestant; directing foul or vulgar language/gestures toward an official, coach, contestant or spectator(s); using ethnic or racially insensitive comments results in a two game sit out penalty.

What does this mean for officials?

Any ejection involving confronting an official, coach, or contestant; physically contacting an official, coach, or contestant; directing foul or vulgar language/gestures toward an official, coach, contestant or spectator(s); using ethnic or racially insensitive comments results in a two game sit out penalty which must be communicated to the coach or school immediately after the contest.

What does this mean for officials (cont.)?

Officials must immediately or immediately after the contest notify the coach or athletic administrator that the ejection is a supplemental ejection.

There is no need to inform the coach of the penalty. Officials should just state, “Coach, that is a Supplemental Ejection.”

What does this mean for officials (cont.)?

When officials complete the disqualification form online they must use the actual language used by the ejected person or the acts committed that fit the criteria of the Supplemental Disqualification.

Officials must also check the Supplemental Ejection box prior to clicking the submission button.

Officials will receive an email upon proper submission.

What does this mean for officials (cont.)?

Once officials arrive on the premises that the contest is going to be played, they have jurisdiction under this Supplemental Ejection policy. This jurisdiction continues until officials leave the premises.

Officials approached at their vehicles, in their locker rooms and any other locations while on the premises may issue the Supplemental Ejection.

Additional Notes

The Supplemental Ejection is not designed for violations of “Rules of the Game” but rather for the conduct and foul language that result in the ejection.

The one game sit out penalty still remains for those actions that do not fit the Supplemental Ejection policy.

PIAA Board of Directors has given officials an additional tool to use, if warranted, to curb bad behavior.

PIAA Board of Directors is concerned about the number of ejections and the conduct and foul language that result in ejections. This could aid in the recruitment and retention of officials if bad behaviors are reduced.



Additional Notes

Ejections submitted may be edited by the PIAA office to a Supplemental Disqualification if the criteria are met after reading the Reason for Disqualification section of the submitted disqualification form.

Schools considering appeal should review PIAA By-Laws Article XIII to determine if an appeal is permitted.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year scrimmages and inter-school practices are included as situations in which ejections will be enforced in the same manner that contest ejections are handled.

The sit out penalties for scrimmages and inter-school practices apply to Contests only and not other scrimmages.

A Few Examples

- Situation: After the basketball game has concluded and the officials are in the locker room, varsity head coach Jones begins to bang on the door and use profanity toward the officials.
- Ruling: The coach's actions would merit a Supplemental Disqualification. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on Coach Jones who must sit out the next two varsity contests. The crew chief must also make contact with Coach Jones' athletic director immediately or immediately after leaving the contest site to inform them that the Supplemental Disqualification was issued on Coach Jones.

Situation: During a junior varsity soccer game a player from team A commits a handball violation in the penalty area denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity.

Ruling: The referee awards a penalty kick to team B and properly issues a red card and escorts the player from Team A to the sideline. The referee also informs the coach of the reason for ejection. The referee must file the Disqualification Report within 24 hours and the player must sit out the next junior varsity contest.

This is a standard one game sit out disqualification penalty.

Situation: In the third inning of a baseball game the head coach disagrees with a safe/out call and charges onto the field while yelling profanities at the umpire.

Ruling: The umpire must eject the head coach and inform them that they are being assessed a Supplemental Disqualification. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on Coach Smith who must sit out the next two junior varsity contests.

Situation: During the boy's varsity soccer match, Player A1 is taken down with a legal tackle by Player B1. Player A1 feels that a foul should have been called and jumps from the ground and yells at the nearest official saying, "Hey Ref, you suck."

Ruling: The official must immediately issue a red card and eject Player A1. The official must then inform Player A1's head coach of the ejection and the fact that it is a Supplemental Disqualification due to the foul language directed at the official.

The ejecting official must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on the player who must sit out the next two varsity contests.

Situation: After the volleyball match has concluded and the officials are walking through the school lobby to get to their cars a parent confronts the officials and uses profanity toward them.

Ruling: The officials must not engage the parent in discussion and should continue to their vehicle, if possible. Upon reaching their vehicles the crew chief must immediately contact the host school's athletic director and inform them of what occurred. The officials do not retain jurisdiction under the Supplemental Disqualification in this instance. It does not apply to fans, only coaches and contestants. School athletic administrators must take action to prevent this type of occurrence in the future.

Situation: After the varsity football game has ended and the officials are gathering at the 40-yard line to proceed to the locker room, the head coach rushes on to the field and confronts the crew about calls made that evening. The coach while using foul and abusive language contacts one of the officials.

Ruling: The crew chief must inform the head coach that he is being assessed a Supplemental Disqualification for his actions. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on the head coach who must sit out the next two varsity contests.

Supplemental Disqualification

Situation: School A has two varsity pre-season soccer scrimmages scheduled and during the first pre-season scrimmage the head coach is ejected for directing foul or vulgar language toward an official.

Ruling: The crew chief must inform the head coach that he is being assessed a Supplemental Disqualification for his actions. The crew chief must file the Supplemental Disqualification report within 24 hours on the head coach who must sit out the next two varsity contests.

Note: The sit out penalty for ejections occurring during a scrimmage involve Contests not scrimmages. In spite of this head coach having one more pre-season scrimmage scheduled, he cannot use that second scrimmage as one of the Contests he must sit out. Both Contests to be sat out must be Contests, not scrimmages.

Final Point:

Question: On the two game DQ is it going to be the officials' decision if it's a two game DQ or the PIAA's after reviewing the report?

Answer: As with the previous one game DQ, it is always the decision of the official to eject but the actions of the player or coach will be the deciding factor whether the Supplemental DQ is used.

The official really has no decision to make. If the actions fit the criteria of the Supplemental Disqualification, then the penalty is two games, the decision will be made for them by the actions of the offender.

The official will not have the ability to choose between the two different disqualifications. The choice will be made for them.

Questions?

Please reach out to Pat Gebhart at PIAA at
717-697-0374 ext. *121 or via email at
pgebhart@piaa.org

THANK YOU!

