

Suspension of NJCAA Membership

1. In the event the NJCAA Board of Regents (BOR) votes to suspend the membership of an NJCAA member, all suspensions take effect immediately and the Suspension Period shall be no less than 12 months. The BOR, in its sole discretion, may choose to suspend a member institution for a longer period of time.
 - a. During the Suspension Period, the institution is not eligible to receive point reductions for a “clean term”, as defined by the NJCAA Policies Manual. However, point reductions that occur as a result of the three-year clock shall apply.
 - b. For the duration of the Suspension Period, suspended institutions must honor all active Letters of Intent (LOI) issued prior to the suspension but active during the Suspension period.
2. Upon suspension, members must continue to pay dues, but immediately lose all rights and privileges associated with NJCAA membership. Those rights and privileges include, but are not limited to, the following benefits:
 - a. **Access to regular season** – Regular season competition will not count towards NJCAA stats or records, and opponents must treat the contest as though it was played against a non-NJCAA organization. The NJCAA cannot prevent an institution from competing in games, but the NJCAA will not recognize any competition as meaningful or legitimate. However, students that participate in any contests will use an NJCAA season of competition.
 - b. **Access to postseason competition** – All teams in all sports in existence at the time of the suspension or added during the period of suspension are banned from postseason competition. This means no team or individual can compete in regional, district, or national postseason competition in the NJCAA or any other association, conference, league, etc.
 - c. **National awards and recognition** – No coach, student-athlete, or team is eligible for any national awards or recognition. This includes, but is not limited to, recognition for athletic accomplishments and academic achievements.
 - d. **Service in national and regional roles** – No coach, administrator, student-athlete, or representative/employee of a suspended institution may serve on any national or regional boards or committees or in any leadership roles (e.g., region director roles of any type). If a position is held at the time of suspension, the individual holding the position must immediately resign.
 - e. **NJCAA stat solution and streaming program** – None of the institutions current or historical statistical information will appear on the NJCAA website, and they are not eligible to appear in games on the NJCAA Network or via any NJCAA broadcast.
 - f. **NJCAA Letter of Intent** – Suspended institutions lose access to the NJCAA Admin Portal and the ability to utilize the NJCAA Letter of Intent (LOI). Additionally, all student-athletes signed to an active LOI shall be immediately

- i. Suspended institutions must include with their Request for Reinstatement proof of compliance with or completion of all requirements and expectations set forth by the BOR in the Notice of Suspension of NJCAA Membership. Additionally, the suspended institution should include any additional information they believe illustrates their commitment to NJCAA membership, student-athletes, and athletic operations.
 - ii. This step is necessary each time a request for reinstatement is submitted regardless of the number of times previous requests have been denied.
 - c. The BOR or its designee shall review the Request for Reinstatement. The BOR or its designee shall schedule, as soon as practicable, a Reinstatement Meeting to review the Request for Reinstatement.
 - i. This Reinstatement Meeting may occur virtually or in person.
 - ii. The suspended institution must participate in the Reinstatement Meeting. They do have the right to present their Request for Reinstatement, should they choose to do so.
 - 1. During the Reinstatement Meeting, the suspended institution may only be represented by an employee of the college.
 - 2. Legal counsel may be present and may advise the suspended institution representative but may not present information directly to the BOR or their designee during the Reinstatement Meeting.
 - iii. The BOR or its designee has the right to ask questions of the suspended institution regardless of the suspended institution's decision to present information or not.
 - iv. All proceedings occurring during the Reinstatement Meeting may be audio and/or video recorded. If so, the recordings are not available to the suspended institution. Rather, they are made available to the BOR or their designee as they evaluate the Request for Reinstatement.
 - d. The BOR or their designee shall make a reinstatement determination within 30 calendar days of the completion of the Reinstatement Meeting.
 - i. If reinstatement is approved prior to the end of the Suspension Period:
 - 1. The dates of the Suspension Period do not change. No group or individual has the authority to shorten the Suspension Period.
 - 2. The approval is tentative upon completion of the Suspension Period. Further violations of NJCAA bylaws, policies, sports codes, NCAA sport rules, or any other form of NJCAA legislation or falling out of compliance with the requirements set forth in the Notice of Suspension of NJCAA Membership may, at the sole discretion of the BOR or their designee, result in revocation of the tentative approval. If this occurs, the suspended institution must again apply for reinstatement following the process contained herein.

- ii. If reinstatement is denied, the suspended institution must again seek reinstatement via the process contained herein.
- e. Upon reinstatement, all rights and privileges of NJCAA shall be immediately restored.

National Office Responsibilities

- Draft and distribute a letter/email to all impacted student athletes. The communication should include, at a minimum, the following:
 - Notice to the student athletes that the institution's NJCAA membership has been suspended.
 - Student Athlete Rights
 - They have the right to immediate release from their LOI, should they choose to do so.
 - They can immediately transfer, no transfer waiver required.
 - If competition has started, they will not be charged a season of competition.
 - In these instances, it is likely they are not eligible to participate at another NJCAA member institution.
 - If competition has not started and if the student meets all other NJCAA requirements, they are eligible to participate.
- Preparation to process student athlete releases on the back end so no member is required to do so.
 - This is necessary to ensure the LOI search results are reliable.