



BASKETBALL NOVA SCOTIA

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Discipline Policy and Procedures-updated February/06

Basketball Nova Scotia is committed to providing a **positive** playing environment for our members. Specifically one that is **athlete-centered**, and is aligned directly with our Guiding Value of **Respect**- all participants, whether they are players, coaches, spectators, officials or administrators, are expected to respect each other and show **sportsmanship** at all times.

BNS also supports and will communicate the National Coaching Council **Fair Play Program** to our membership.

Any **inappropriate behavior** by participants at a BNS sanctioned game or tournament site will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined below.

Note that BNS has a mutual agreement with the **NSSAF** to recognize and enforce all of both parties' disciplinary actions against individuals who may participate in both Minor and School basketball sanctioned activities.

Definitions

“Days” shall mean total days, irrespective of weekends or holidays

“Members” refers to all categories of members in Basketball Nova Scotia(BNS), as well as to all individuals engaged in activities by BNS, including, athletes, coaches, officials, team managers, team captains, medical and volunteers.

“Appellant” refers to the member appealing a decision.

“NSBO liaison director” refers to the NS Board of Officials individual who is a BNS Board member.

“President” refers to president of Basketball NS. In their absence the President shall appoint a designate from the Executive Board of BNS.

“Host Agent” refers to individual assigned by Executive Director of BNS who will be responsible for managing and insuring compliance of any required discipline action during a BNS sanctioned tournament.

“Discipline committee” refers to the individuals who will make a decision on the appeal. They shall have no significant relationship with the affected parties, shall have had no prior involvement with the decision being appealed and shall be free from any other actual or perceived bias or conflict.

Disciplinary Procedures

Discipline committee will consist of three people, a representative from the Board, Executive Director, and NSBO liaison director. The Board member shall be chosen by the President of BNS. In the case of absence by individual(s) or where a conflict of interest/bias is identified, the individual(s) will be replaced by another Board member as chosen by the president.

-To insure integrity and consistency, all NSBO game reports involving ejections and/or inappropriate behaviour at any BNS sanctioned events will be copied to the Executive Director at the BNS office. BNS will insure that any discipline action taken will be communicated back to affected League’s/Associations/NSBO and managed appropriately.

- As noted in the Guidelines below, any ejection from a game by an official will result in an automatic one game suspension, to be served on the next game during that season.

-Any reports submitted that may result in more action than the automatic one game suspension rendered by officials, are to be managed as follows:

Discipline committee to contact individual(s) and their Club President (if team is part of a Club) and communicate that they have the opportunity to meet with them within seven (7) days from that date to clarify/defend their actions, before any ruling is made.

They are forbid to participate in any further BNS sanctioned games until the disciplinary ruling has been made. Declining to meet will result in the committee making a decision without a hearing.

Although not necessary, where deemed appropriate by the committee, there may be a request to meet with the official(s)/complainant(s) prior to making a ruling.

All disciplinary decisions require the vote of majority of the committee.

Discipline committee will communicate in writing to the individual(s) and Club President (if required) of the disciplinary action. They will also copy, where appropriate, NSBO, NSSAF, and any affected Minor league(s).

Committee will also be responsible for insuring all decisions are documented and kept on file at the BNS office for future reference, if required.

Tournaments

There will be situations at a **BNS Sanctioned tournament** where a timely decision/action may be required at the site prior to the individual(s) next game(s).

Prior to these events BNS will confirm with the host, one individual (host agent) who in conjunction with BNS (Executive Director or designate) will be responsible for managing and insuring compliance of any required discipline action during that event.

The host agent prior to taking any action will also require officials report from the game. If Executive Director is not available a second representative from the Board (designate) will be identified. The Host agent and BNS will make every attempt to make a ruling on the report prior to the team's next game.

If the Host Agent is involved in the incident they must be removed citing a conflict of interest/bias. The Host agent will then be responsible for replacing themselves with a suitable replacement and approved by BNS.

If host agent and BNS representative are not in agreement with discipline action then the Basketball NS decision will be binding.

-Athletes, coaches ejected from a BNS sanctioned game will automatically sit out their next game. Officials must complete a written report on any ejection and NSBO submit it as noted above. If the ejection took place during the last game of the tournament the ejected party is to sit out the next game involving their team, regardless of when it takes place.

If the individual(s) does not avail of the opportunity to discuss the incident with the Host Agent a decision will be made without a hearing.

If the individual (s) noted in the incident request an opportunity to be heard, the format to be followed by the Host Agent will be:

- A. The appellant must notify the Host Agent they would like to present their case involving the incident within 30 minutes after the game in question.
- B. The Host Agent will conduct the meeting and appoint an individual, which has no direct conflict of interest or bias to sit in on meeting and take minutes.
- C. If required the Host Agent will have a discussion with the official involved.
- D. The Host Agent will have the option to discuss the incident with the second official if they so choose. This discussion will be held without the presence of the reporting official.
- E. When the officials have left the meeting the Host Agent will discuss the incident with the accused if he or she so chooses. A coach or club representative is encouraged to accompany the accused.
- F. The Host Agent will read the report to the individual and provide an opportunity for the accused to respond to the incident reported by the official.
- G. The Host Agent and Executive Director will discuss and decide the appropriate disciplinary action.

- H. When a decision has been reached the Host Agent will inform all parties involved.
- I. In situations where the suspension involves games outside of the event hosted, all reports will be forwarded to the BNS within 2 days upon conclusion of the event.

Appeals Procedure

See BNS Appeals Policy and Procedure

Disciplinary Guidelines

The information provided below is intended to be guidelines for any discipline action required at BNS sanctioned games/tournaments. There are always a wide range of incidents and reactions by individuals to a specific situation. Below are recommendations developed by BNS to assist with the decision making process in case of an infraction.

Note: All suspensions are to be served during succeeding game(s). Any player or coach ejected from a game by officials must serve a minimum one game suspension.

Verbal abuse i.e. persistent criticism and disputing of game officials' decisions, excessive profanity by coach/player resulting in ejection from game.

First offence - one game suspension(as noted above)

Second offence - three game suspension and written response to committee describing specific action individual will take to manage their behaviour in the future.

Any repetition - to be determined by Discipline committee.

Extended verbal abuse and/or physical intimidation i.e. personally insulting /intimidating remarks, physical action but without physical contact towards game officials, another player or coach.

First offence - three game suspension.

Second offence - five game suspension and written response to committee describing specific action individual will take to manage their behaviour in the future.

Any repetition - to be determined by Discipline committee.

Attempt to injure i.e. intentional physical action during play resulting in ejection from game

First offence - three game suspension.

Second offence - minimum remainder of the season and written response to committee describing specific action individual will take to manage their behaviour in the future.

Any repetition - to be determined by discipline committee.

Fighting

First offence - two game suspension plus one for instigator/aggressor.

Second offence - five game suspension and written response to committee describing specific action individual will take to manage their behaviour in the future.

Any repetition - to be determined by discipline committee.

Physical abuse i.e. physical conduct against a game official - e.g. striking, kicking, charging, pushing, etc. -

First offence – one year suspension

Second offence - two year suspension and written response to committee describing specific action individual will take to manage their behaviour in the future.

Any repetition - indefinite suspension not to be renewed for five years

Objectionable Language/Behaviour with respect to race relations, cross cultural/gender understanding and human rights.

First offence - three game suspension

Any repetition - to be determined by discipline committee