



GUIDELINES OVERVIEW

The Basketball Nova Scotia (BNS) **Standard Misconduct Penalty Guidelines** is an important piece of the organization's Discipline Policy, designed to uphold the integrity and spirit of competition within our sport. It is also governed by Safe Sport principles, grounded in the emphasis on safety, fairness, and mutual respect amongst all participants.

These guidelines outline a structured and cumulative approach to managing misconduct, ensuring consistent and fair consequences for infractions at all levels of play. By adhering to this chart, all those involved in the game of basketball can be assured of a system that is committed to long-term growth and success. Please note that the system is cumulative in nature, meaning that any disciplinary actions, including suspensions, will carry over into subsequent seasons if the stipulated time or number of games remains unserved.

BNS believes this approach will foster a positive and respectful environment, encouraging all athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, and spectators to uphold the highest standards of the game.

BNS full state of **Safe Sport Policies** as well as the **BNS Discipline & Complaints Policy** can be reviewed on the BNS website (basketballnovascotia.ca) under **Policies**.



STANDARD MISCONDUCT PENALTY GUIDELINES

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Basketball Nova Scotia (BNS), through its Discipline Panel, shall have authority to suspend or otherwise penalize any athlete, coach, member or spectator for misconduct associated with these guidelines, in addition to any violations of BNS's Code of Conduct & Ethics policy. Where the misconduct or violation is not fully prescribed, the period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of BNS.*

Members are also encouraged to review the **Serving Sanctions** section of the *Discipline & Complaints Policy*.

PLAYER:

Misconduct	Min. Sanction/ 1 st Seasonal Offence	2 nd Seasonal Offence	3 rd Seasonal Offence
Ejection from a game administered by game officials	1 game suspension	3 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.
Flagrant act or foul	2 game suspension	4 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.
Spitting	2 game suspension	4 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.
Verbal abuse or threats (verbal or non-verbal)	2 game suspension	4 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.

Verbal abuse or threats (verbal or non-verbal) towards a game official at any point. Includes profanity.	2 game suspension	4 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.
Disregard or disrespect for authority (including game management, staff or facility personnel) at any point. Includes profanity.	1 game suspension* * 2 game suspension if the offence is not part of a current game.	Referred to Discipline Panel for further sanctioning.	
Physical or attempted violence	3 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	

Physical or attempted violence for any players leaving the bench.	4 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
Players who leave the bench but do not participate in any physical or attempted violence.	1 game suspension	3 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.
Intentional contact with a game official	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.		
Physical violence or attempted physical violence towards a game official	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.		

Any objectionable behaviour that goes against BNS's Code of Conduct & Ethics policy.	4 game suspension and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.		
Falsified information (e.g. signature, date of birth, false name, etc.)	1-to-3-month suspension and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	Suspended for remainder of season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
Failure to act in accordance with governing bodies' rules, policies, or practices	2 game suspension	5 game suspension	Suspended for remainder of season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.
Safety violations including intentional damage to facility	2 game suspension Financial reimbursement for property damage.	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	

Violation of suspension rules (e.g. participating in a sanctioned game or event while suspended)	2 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
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STAFF (COACHES, MANAGERS AND ADMINISTRATORS)

Misconduct	Min. Sanction/ 1 st Seasonal Offence	2 nd Seasonal Offence	3 rd Seasonal Offence
Ejection from a game as administered by game officials.	1 game suspension	3 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.
Spitting	2 game suspension	4 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.
Verbal abuse or threats (verbal or non-verbal). Includes profanity.	2 game suspension	4 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.
Verbal abuse or threats (verbal or non-verbal) towards a game official at any point.	4 game suspension Referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	

Includes profanity.			
Disregard or disrespect for authority (including game management, staff or facility personnel) at any point. Includes profanity.	1 game suspension* * 2 game suspension if the offence is not part of a current game.	Referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
Physical violence or attempted physical violence.	Immediate game disqualification 5 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
Intentional contact with a game official	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.		
Physical violence or attempted physical violence towards a game official	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.		

Any objectionable behaviour that goes against BNS's Code of Conduct & Ethics policy.	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.		
Played an ineligible player (Overage, call-up rule violation)	Game Forfeit 1 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
Played an ineligible player (suspended)	Game Forfeit 3 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
Played an ineligible player (unregistered)	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.		
Failure to act in accordance with governing bodies' rules, policies, or practices	2 game suspension	5 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.

Safety violations including intentional damage to facility	2 game suspension Financial reimbursement for property damage	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
Violation of suspension rules (e.g. participating in a sanctioned game or event while suspended)	4 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	

SPECTATORS:

Misconduct	Min. Sanction/ 1 st Seasonal Offence	2 nd Seasonal Offence	3 rd Seasonal Offence
Ejection by a game official for issuing verbal abuse or threats (verbal or non-verbal) at any point to anyone within the playing facility. Includes profanity.	Immediate removal of facility 4 game suspension	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
Physical violence or	Immediate removal from the facility		

attempted physical violence of any kind within the playing facility.	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.		
Intentional contact with a game official	<p>Immediate removal of facility</p> <p>Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.</p>		
A spectator coming onto the playing field at any time without consent from a team or game official.	<p>Immediate removal of facility</p> <p>4 game suspension</p>	Suspended for the remainder of the season and referred to Discipline Panel for possible further sanctioning.	
A spectator's disregard or disrespect for authority (including game management, staff or facility)	<p>Immediate removal of facility</p> <p>2 game suspension and automatic Discipline Panel</p>		

personnel) at any point. Includes profanity.	review for further sanctions.		
Any objectionable behaviour that goes against BNS's Code of Conduct & Ethics policy.	Immediate removal of facility 2 game suspension and automatic Discipline Panel review for further sanctions.		
Conduct that potentially violates the Criminal Code of Canada	Indefinite suspension Automatic Discipline Panel review.		

DEFINITIONS:

Abuse – Verbal

Verbal abuse is a means to diminish or intimidate using, but not limited to, some of the following forms:

- *Slandering, ridiculing, bullying, gossiping, or defaming someone.*
- *Persistent name calling, which is hurtful, insulting, or embarrassing.*
- *Chronic teasing, belittlement, or frequent criticism that undermines the victim's ability to perform.*

Abuse – Nonverbal

Non-verbal abuse can be an act or gesture including but not limited to:

- *Threatening gestures, actions, or glances.*
- *Shunning, excluding, or disregarding a person.*
- *Offensive depictions of another through a visual medium such as a drawing.*

- *Mimicking another in an offensive manner.*

Code of Conduct & Ethics is a BNS policy and guiding principle that defines the rules around expected behaviour at all times, aligning with BNS's core values, mission and policies.

Discipline Panel refers to a group of individuals appointed to oversee discipline processes and decisions as indicated by policy.

Game officials are referees assigned to officiate a basketball game.

Ejection is the act of removing a player or coach from the game by a referee for serious offenses, such as accumulating two technical fouls, committing a flagrant foul, or engaging in a fight or other serious unsportsmanlike conduct.

Falsified Information means providing information that is not correct or in the attempt to mislead.

Flagrant Act or Foul is unnecessary or excessive contact that could result in injury to a player, as determined by the referees.

Ineligible Player means an athlete not qualified to participate.

Intentional Contact is a deliberate physical action or touch that is performed with a specific purpose or awareness of causing that contact.

Objectionable Behaviour is action or conduct that is considered offensive, inappropriate, and/or unacceptable.

Player refers to an individual who is an athlete participant and therefore subjected to the policies of Basketball Nova Scotia and to the Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Safe Sport Policies are regulations and codes of conduct designed to create and preserve a sport environment that is physically, psychologically, emotionally, and culturally productive, positive, and safe for all participants.

Sanctioning means the infraction or penalty related to an action.

Season means the BNS designated seasons including Fall/Winter: September 1-April 30; and Spring/Summer: May 1-August 31.

Seasonal Offence includes infractions or discipline within the same season.

Spitting means the intent to eject saliva forcibly from one's mouth in a gesture of contempt, anger or frustration.

Standard Misconduct Penalty Guidelines lists the sanctions involved with misconduct related to players, team staff and spectators.

Team Staff refers to any coach, trainer, manager, agent, team staff, official, medical, paramedical personnel, parent, or any other person working with, treating or assisting an Athlete participating in or preparing for sports competition.