

Any expulsion from any game results in an automatic suspension. At the high school level and lower, this could be an ejection for receiving two non-releasable unsportsmanlike conduct penalties in the same game, for any action deemed by the officials to be flagrant misconduct, for fighting, for tobacco use, or for leaving the bench during an altercation.

Note that a player who fouls out of the game with 5 personal fouls may not re-enter that game but is **not** suspended for subsequent games. Also note that equipment penalties are non-releasable fouls but they are **not** unsportsmanlike conduct fouls and do not count toward ejection (although they do count toward fouling out).

Generally, suspensions are enforced by the league or tournament in which the expulsion occurred, so a player waiting to serve a suspension in one league or tournament might be able to play in another tournament before the suspension is served. This is not ideal, but there's really no other good way to administer the suspensions.

For MBSLA games, the officials inform the assigner about an expulsion, and the assigner notifies the league and/or affected teams of the suspension. That typically means that I send out an e-mail notification about the suspension.

The suspensions are typically one game for the first offense and then escalate from there. For MBSLA 9/10 and lower-level games, the first offense is a 2-game suspension for players and a 4-game suspension for coaches. Just to be clear, I'm not exercising any judgment here: there are specific rules regarding the suspensions that accompany ejections and I'm just the messenger.

In the MBSLA, an expelled player or coach may not participate in any games within the league until the suspension is served at the next game of the same level. This means that if a player is ejected from a JV game, the player will not be allowed to play in the varsity game on the same day, nor in any other varsity games until the player serves the suspension in a JV game.

I believe that the YLM did **not** have automatic suspensions until the end of last year, but my understanding is that they **will** continue this policy this year. The fact that suspensions were not always automatic from YLM games may be part of the reason people were confused about this at other levels of play.

There is a record kept of ejections, and fortunately the vast majority of the ejections are isolated incidents and not repeat offenses from the same individuals.

Ejections and suspensions are serious issues, and we will add even **more** information to our training than we already have reminding officials that ejections are a last resort and should be used judiciously. We have – and will continue – to teach officials training sessions in game management and communication, and we are constantly trying to improve our officiating at all levels.

If you have any questions about how any of this works – or about other policies – please let me know. I certainly want our operations to be as transparent as possible, and I don't want people thinking that serious issues such as suspensions are being handled capriciously.

Thank you for your time.

-Harold Buck
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