



2026 NJLL FIGHTING / ALTERCATION POLICY v1

The policy below is a guide of the duties and responsibilities when a fight or altercation between players occurs during a game. This includes what is expected of the: Coaches, Officials, Players, Parents and other spectators.

While some altercations do not rise to the level requiring players to be ejected, game officials should use discretion and best efforts to determine the seriousness of each incident and handle them accordingly.

Officials Responsibilities

- 1) Official closest to bench area shall use their best efforts to:
 - a. FREEZE both team benches with the help of the coaches to prevent players from moving towards the fight/altercation.
 - b. Quickly move to the area of the fighting players/altercation.
 - c. Assist the other official in stopping the fight/altercation using verbal commands and blowing the whistle repeatedly.
- 2) Far-side official shall use their best efforts to:
 - a. Move immediately to the fight/altercation and attempt to break up the fight/altercation using verbal commands and blowing the whistle repeatedly.
 - b. Verbally warn other players to stay away, and return to their bench area, even those players hoping to help the situation.
- 3) Both officials shall use their best efforts to:
 - a. Keep other players from moving towards the fight/altercation.
 - b. Write down the jersey numbers of player(s) involved.
 - c. Write down the jersey numbers of any player(s) leaving the bench area.
- 4) After the incident is under control:
 - a. Send all players to their bench area.
 - b. Have coaches get their players under control.
 - c. Communicate with your partner about what was observed.
 - d. Announce penalties.
 - e. Clearly communicate your expectations about behavior to both benches and to players in the penalty area.
 - f. Warn both teams that the game is in danger of being terminated.
 - g. Terminate the game if necessary.
- 5) After the game:
 - a. Contact the Head League Assignor immediately after the game and make them aware of the incident via text or phone call.
 - b. Prepare a written report to be sent to the Head League Assignor within 24 hours.
 - i. In the report just state the facts, do not include personal opinions about any player.
 - ii. Specifically indicate any player ejections by team and jersey number (name also if possible).

Coaches Responsibilities

A Head coach is responsible for the conduct of their teams' coaches, players and spectators.

It is critical that coaches go over these procedures with their players for these situations, so the players know exactly what is expected of them if an incident occurs.

If a fight/altercation occurs, Coaches should attempt to:

- 1) FREEZE their sidelines to make sure no players leave the bench area.
- 2) Enter the field and move immediately to the fight/altercation.
 - a. Coaches should attempt to remove THEIR PLAYER(S) from the situation.
 - b. A coach should avoid touching any player from the opposing team unless required to prevent a player from serious bodily injury.
 - c. If multiple coaches are available, one should stay in the bench area to ensure no players enter the field.
- 3) Order all their players to immediately move to their bench area without engaging the other team's players.
- 4) Not engage the other team's players or coaches verbally or otherwise.
- 5) Return to their sideline when the altercation is over and speak to their team.
- 6) Wait for the officials to announce the penalties to be enforced, do not debate, argue or otherwise engage the officials in a negative manner.
- 7) Wait for the officials to announce the status of the game (possible termination).
- 8) If the game is continued, coaches must monitor the tension level of their player to make sure it is safe to continue.
- 9) If the game continues, coaches shall monitor their players to assure they act appropriately.
- 10) If the game is terminated, coaches must assure their players act appropriately and leave the field area without any negative comments towards the opponent or the game officials.
- 11) Post game handshake may be cancelled at the discretion of the coaches to avoid further issues.
- 12) After the game:
 - a. The Head Coach shall notify their program director of the incident immediately after the game.
 - b. The Program Director shall notify their Conference Coordinator of the incident immediately via text or phone call.
 - c. The Coach shall prepare a written statement within 24 hours to be forwarded to their Program Director who shall immediately forward the report to the Conference Coordinator.
 - d. The coaches should determine whether any videos of the incident are available.
 - i. Submit any videos to the Division Director or League President via email asap.
Note: Complete videos must be submitted, not short clips.

Players Responsibilities

- 1) It is critical that coaches have previously advised their players of what to do if a fight/altercation occurs during a game.
- 2) This includes making them aware that it is never okay for them to move towards the fight/altercation, even if it is an attempt to "break up" the fight/altercation or just remove their teammate.

- 3) Players need to understand that if they move towards the fight/altercation the opposing team's players are not aware of their intentions, and as such may also move towards the fight/altercation potentially making things worse.
- 4) Any player who leaves the bench area and enters the field during a fight/altercation, regardless of their intention shall be subject to ejection as per NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rule 5.12 at the referee's discretion.

If a fight/altercation occurs,

Players shall:

- 1) Immediately move away from the fight/altercation, directly to their bench area.
- 2) Do not attempt to separate the fighting players, even with good intentions.
- 3) Encourage their teammates to also move back to the bench area.
- 4) Not engage with the other team's player or coaches, verbally or otherwise.
- 5) Wait in the bench area for further instructions from their coaches and game officials.

Parent & Spectators Responsibilities

- 1) If a fight/altercation happens on the field all parents and spectators shall remain in the spectator area and not approach the field.
- 2) Should not engage with either team's coaches, players or officials on the field.
- 3) Should not engage with the other team's spectators, verbally or otherwise.
- 4) No parent or spectator shall enter the field area unless instructed by a game official due to an injury.
- 5) If a parent or spectator has video of the incident available, they should make their team's head coach aware.