

# NABNE Irregular Behavior and Examination Security Policy

Effective: April 1, 2026

## 1. Purpose

NABNE is committed to protecting the confidentiality and fairness of the NPLEX examinations. This policy establishes standards governing irregular behavior in connection with computer-based examinations administered at authorized test centers. Protecting examination content and maintaining public trust in licensure/registration decisions are essential responsibilities of NABNE.

## 2. Authority Structure

Prometric personnel are responsible for administering examinations and enforcing test center rules during the testing session.

NABNE retains exclusive authority to:

- Determine whether irregular behavior occurred;
- Impose sanctions; and
- Release, withhold, or nullify examination results.

Dismissal by test center personnel is considered a reportable incident but does not constitute a final determination by NABNE. All incident reports are independently reviewed by NABNE.

## 3. Definition of Irregular Behavior

Irregular behavior includes any action, attempted action, or failure to comply that may compromise:

- Examination security;
- Confidentiality of examination content;
- Fairness of the testing process; or
- Compliance with test-center rules.

Irregular behavior may occur before, during, or after the examination session.

NABNE carefully reviews all available information before making a determination. Decisions are not based solely on unclear or isolated observations.

NABNE carefully reviews all available information before making a determination. Decisions are not based solely on unclear or unreliable observations.

## 4. Tiers of Irregular Behavior

Irregular behavior is evaluated according to the following tiers (categories). The examples listed below are illustrative and not exhaustive. Other conduct that compromises examination security, fairness, or integrity may also constitute irregular behavior.

### Tier I: Administrative Noncompliance

Minor procedural deviations that do not implicate examination content security, including:

- Failure to follow routine instructions.
- Minor break timing deviations.
- Disruptive behavior that interferes with the testing environment.

Sanctions, if any, are proportionate and may include warning or notation.

## **Tier II: Prohibited Possession**

Verified possession of unauthorized materials or devices within the secure testing room after admission constitutes Tier II irregular behavior, regardless of intent or actual use. Examples include:

- Mobile phones
- Smart watches
- Electronic devices
- Notes or written materials
- Recording devices

Prohibited items discovered during initial security screening or prior to admission to the secure testing room do not automatically constitute irregular behavior.

Accessing unauthorized materials or electronic devices during any scheduled or unscheduled break prior to exam completion constitutes irregular behavior.

## **Tier III: Unauthorized Access or Attempted Access and Interference**

The following behaviors, when occurring within the secure testing environment or in connection with the examination session, may constitute irregular behavior:

- Accessing written notes or electronic content.
- Attempting to view another examinee's screen or materials.
- Attempting to bypass or defeat security procedures.
- Reconstructing, pre-writing, or recording memorized content intended for use during the examination before the first scored section begins.
- Intentional conduct that interferes with or distracts other examinees.
- 

Repeated or deliberate attempts to view another examinee's screen may constitute irregular behavior regardless of whether content transfer can be conclusively established.

## **Tier IV: Content Compromise**

Tier IV involves intentional conduct aimed at compromising examination content. Examples include:

- Reproducing or attempting to reproduce examination content.
- Removing examination content from the test center.
- Distributing, sharing, selling, or soliciting specific examination questions.
- Participating in organized reconstruction of examination content after the exam.
- Coordinated or organized misconduct intended to compromise examination integrity.

Tier IV findings require evidence demonstrating deliberate content compromise or coordinated misconduct.

## **5. Medical and Accessibility Devices**

Possession of medically necessary devices with wireless or communication capability does not constitute irregular behavior when:

- The device has been declared in accordance with NABNE or test center procedures; and
- The device is used solely for medical purposes.

NABNE may require documentation supporting medical necessity. Unauthorized use of such devices for non-medical purposes constitutes irregular behavior.

## **6. Immediate Response and Reporting**

Prometric personnel may:

- Issue warnings.
- Remove unauthorized items.
- Dismiss examinees.
- File formal incident reports.

All reported irregular behavior is subject to review by NABNE.

## **7. Result Holds and Review Process**

If NABNE receives an incident report alleging irregular behavior:

- Examination results may be placed on administrative hold pending review.
- An administrative hold is a precautionary measure and does not constitute a finding of irregular behavior.
- The examinee will receive written notice describing the nature of the concern.
- The examinee will be given an opportunity to submit a written response.

Failure to submit a written response does not constitute an admission and does not independently establish irregular behavior.

## **8. Evidentiary Standard**

A finding of irregular behavior may be made when NABNE determines, based on a preponderance of the evidence, that it is more likely than not that a violation occurred.

NABNE may consider any relevant information, including but not limited to:

- Incident reports from test center personnel.
- Direct observation.
- Video surveillance or digital monitoring records.
- Physical evidence.
- Access logs and activity records.
- Statistical, psychometric, or forensic analyses.
- Examinee statements.
- Credible witness testimony.

No single type of evidence is required in every case. Evidence may be considered individually or in combination.

Statistical or psychometric analyses may be reviewed in accordance with accepted professional standards and considered alongside all other relevant information.

NABNE is not required to disclose proprietary methodologies, confidential security procedures, or examination content as part of its review process.

## **9. Determination and Sanctions**

Sanctions are imposed only after a determination of irregular behavior has been made in accordance with the evidentiary standard described in this policy.

Sanctions are proportionate to the category and severity of the conduct. While each case is evaluated individually, sanctions generally correspond to the tier classification of the irregular behavior. Sanctions increase in severity across tiers, reflecting the nature and impact of the conduct.

NABNE maintains internal records of irregular behavior for operational and decision-making purposes. Notations on score reports are separate and may be disclosed to third parties, including regulatory authorities, as described below.

### **Tier I: Administrative Noncompliance**

Will result in a warning or notation on the examinee's record or exam results.

### **Tier II: Prohibited Possession**

Verified possession of unauthorized materials or devices within the secure testing room after admission will typically result in score nullification. In limited circumstances, NABNE may consider mitigating or aggravating factors in determining whether score nullification is appropriate. Where score nullification is not imposed, a notation will be applied to the examinee's record and may be applied to exam results.

### **Tier III: Unauthorized Access or Attempted Access**

Will result in score nullification and may result in suspension from future testing for one or more administrations or a defined period of time. If an examinee is permitted to test again and achieves a valid score, NABNE will apply a notation to the examinee's record and a notation to subsequent exam results.

### **Tier IV: Content Compromise**

Will result in score nullification and may result in extended or multi-year suspension, permanent prohibition from future NABNE examinations, and notification to legitimately interested entities when appropriate. Sanctions may be applied regardless of when the conduct is identified. If an examinee is permitted to test again and achieves a passing score, NABNE will apply a notation to the examinee's record and will apply a notation to subsequent exam results.

Sanctions may be imposed even if dismissal did not occur at the test center.

NABNE reserves the discretion to impose other actions as appropriate based on the circumstances of a case.

## **10. Confidentiality**

NABNE may consider confidential security materials in its review process. NABNE is not required to disclose proprietary examination content, security protocols, or forensic methodologies.

## **11. Examinee Responsibility**

By registering for and taking a NABNE examination, examinees agree to comply with:

- Prometric Candidate Rules and Test Center Rules.
- NABNE examination security policies.
- All instructions provided by test center staff.

Failure to comply may result in sanctions under this policy.

## **12. Appeals**

An examinee may appeal a final determination of irregular behavior by submitting a written request for review.

Appeals must:

- Be submitted in writing by email to [info@nabne.org](mailto:info@nabne.org) or by mail;

- Clearly state the basis for the appeal; and
- Include any supporting documentation the examinee wishes NABNE to consider.

Appeals must be received within the timeframe specified in the notice of determination.

NABNE will acknowledge receipt of the appeal and will conduct an administrative review of the matter.

Examinees should expect that a written decision will be issued within approximately ten (10) weeks of receipt of the appeal, although additional time may be required in complex cases. The decision issued following appeal review is final.