



BC Amateur Baseball Association

#310 – 15225 104th Avenue, Surrey, BC V3R 6Y8

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Discipline Policy

(1.0) Introduction

Baseball BC believes in fostering a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for participants. As part of creating a safe environment, Baseball BC must hold individuals accountable for their conduct when it is in violation of Baseball BC policies. The purpose of this policy is to create a fair process for investigating accusations of misconduct, administering discipline, and to communicate the range of disciplinary sanctions individuals may face.

(2.0) Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction over disciplinary cases is shared between the Baseball BC Discipline Committee and an Independent Third Party as detailed in the Baseball BC Reporting Safe Sport Concerns Policy. Very serious allegations of misconduct shall be handled by the Independent Third Party, while other misconduct will be handled by the Discipline Committee.

The disciplinary processes and timelines described in this document shall apply to cases handled by the Discipline Committee. The Independent Third Party shall have the ability to establish its own timelines and processes as they investigate complaints.

Notwithstanding the above, the discipline committee shall have jurisdiction over the following matters:

a) Ejections, safe sport complaints, and other reports of misconduct on the part of any athlete, coach, or spectator, arising from any event organized or directly sanctioned by Baseball BC.

Events organized or directly sanctioned by Baseball BC include, but are not limited to, identification camps, high performance tournaments, western & national championships, and Baseball BC qualifiers & provincial championships.

b) At the request of a local sports organization or member, a safe sport related complaint.

c) At the request of a member, other conduct, including but not limited to, umpire ejections.

d) When a member does not initiate and complete a discipline process.

e) When the conduct occurs at any event in British Columbia where the event organizers or Baseball BC member do not have an approved discipline policy.

f) When the conduct involves an individual associated with a team based outside of BC.



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Note: per paragraph B & C above, only the member organization with whom the individual potentially facing discipline is affiliated with, can make such a request. In these cases, the Baseball BC Discipline Committee will follow the member's discipline policy. This also applies to section 2D.

(3.0) Discipline Committee Composition

Baseball BC will establish a discipline committee on an annual basis.

When hearing individual cases, the committee shall be comprised of a chairperson and two additional members.

(3.1) Chairperson

The chairperson shall be appointed annually and should assume the role for all cases the committee presides over. If the chairperson is unavailable or is in conflict, the president (or designate) shall appoint another discipline committee member as chairperson. The chairperson is responsible for all written communications on behalf of the committee.

(3.2) Committee Members

A pool of discipline committee members shall be established. The chairperson shall select two members from this pool to preside over each case.

(4.0) Decision Making

When deliberating, the discipline committee shall seek to achieve consensus. When consensus cannot be achieved, the committee shall make decisions by majority vote.

(5.0) Discipline Process – Umpire Ejections

This process shall be used in any case that involves a coach, athlete, or spectator being ejected from a game by an umpire.



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This process shall be initiated by the reception of an umpire's ejection report. In considering individual cases, the discipline committee may consider and seek witness and victim testimony as deemed necessary by the committee. The committee may invite the umpire(s) to speak to the discipline committee if an online hearing is conducted.

Upon receiving an ejection report from an umpire, the discipline chairperson shall determine which of the three discipline pathways (5.1-5.3) will be initiated.

Note: The standard procedure for removing spectators from a game is for the umpire to advise the coach that the spectator needs to leave. This section shall apply to these scenarios, regardless of whether they are classified as an incident or an ejection.

(5.1) Pathway One: Automatic One Game Suspension - No Further Action

Per section 11 of this document, ejections result in a minimum of a one game suspension. The ejected individual is automatically suspended for their next game and must serve that suspension without notification.

When the chairperson determines that no further action is required beyond the automatic one game suspension, all parties will be advised, and the case will be closed.

(5.2) Pathway Two: Suspensions of 2 or 3 Games

When the chairperson determines that a suspension of 2 or 3 games may be considered, a discipline committee shall be convened. The committee shall review the umpire's report and may take the following action:

- a) Determine that no further discipline is required.
- b) Issue a two-game suspension (automatic plus one additional game)
- c) Issue a three-game suspension (automatic plus two additional games)
- d) Determine that a suspension of four games or more will be considered and initiate the process described in section 5.3 of this document.

The decision of the discipline committee to issue a suspension of up to 3 games is not subject to appeal. The chairperson will advise all parties of the action taken.



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(5.3) Pathway Three: Suspensions of Four Games or More

When the chairperson determines that a suspension of 4 games or more may be considered, a discipline committee shall be convened.

The chairperson shall provide written notice of an investigation to the ejected individual. The notice will include the following:

- a) A summary of the accusations made against the individual in the umpire's ejection report.
- b) That per section 11 of the discipline policy, the discipline committee is considering a suspension of four or more games.
- c) That the individual is entitled to submit a written response to the accusations or request an online hearing.
- d) That the individual has 48 hours to respond to the accusations and that if no response is received within that timeframe, the discipline committee will adjudicate the case.

The committee shall adjudicate the case and the chairperson shall advise all parties of the action taken.

(5.4) Indefinite Suspensions

If, based on the umpire's report, the chairperson determines that, per section 11 of this document, a category C offense is alleged to have occurred, the individual will be issued an indefinite suspension with immediate effect.

(6.0) Discipline Process – Safe Sport Complaints & Conduct Not Resulting in an Ejection

This process shall be used in any case that involves the conduct of an individual that did not result in an ejection by an umpire.

Examples of such cases include:

- Off-field conduct (during practice, travel, etc.)
- An alleged violation of safe sport policy
- On-field conduct that did not result in an ejection
- Any other matter



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Such complaints may be made to Baseball BC in writing to the Executive Director, President, Chairperson of the discipline committee, or through any of the methods listed in Baseball BC's reporting safe sport concerns policy.

In considering individual cases, the discipline committee may consider and seek witness and victim testimony as deemed necessary by the committee. The committee may invite the complainant to speak to the discipline committee if an online hearing is conducted.

Upon reception of a complaint, the chairperson shall provide written notice of an investigation to the ejected individual. The notice will include the following:

- a) A summary of the accusations made against the individual.
- b) That the discipline committee is opening an investigation into the incident.
- c) That the individual is entitled to submit a written response to the accusations or request an online hearing.
- d) That the individual has 48 hours to respond to the accusations and that if no response is received within that timeframe, the discipline committee will adjudicate the case.

If, based on the accusations, the chairperson determines that, per section 11 of this document, a category C offense (or equivalent for a non-game related offense), is alleged to have occurred, the individual will be issued an indefinite suspension with immediate effect.

The committee shall adjudicate the case and the chairperson shall advise all parties of the action taken.

(7.0) Online Hearings

Per sections 5.3 and 6 (C) of this document, an individual is entitled to an online hearing when facing a potential suspension of 4 or more games or when facing sanctions because of conduct that did not result in an ejection. The chairperson shall schedule a hearing which shall be attended by all discipline committee members. The chairperson shall determine the process for the hearing. The process must include the opportunity for accused individual to present their perspective on the incident.

When conducting online hearings, the committee may choose to invite witnesses, the complainant, or any other individual to speak, as deemed necessary. Typically, individuals will speak privately to the discipline committee.



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(8.0) Communication

(8.1) Written Rulings

The chairperson shall communicate all discipline committee decisions in writing.

(8.2) Copy of Notification and Rulings

Where possible, the chairperson shall communicate directly with the accused, or in the case of a minor athlete, with the accused parents/guardians. Copy on the initial notice of investigation and the discipline committee's ruling will be made to the following:

- A) Head coach
- B) Association president
- C) Provincial level member
- D) BCBUA – when the ruling involves umpires

(9.0) Serving Suspensions

Unless noted otherwise in a disciplinary decision, suspensions shall be served during league or provincial championship games.

Exception: when an individual is ejected from a tournament or exhibition game, they shall serve their automatic one game suspension in their next tournament, league, or provincial championship game, whichever comes first.

Suspensions cannot be served during exhibition games. Per section 9.1 of this document, individuals serving a lengthy suspension, are not permitted to participate in exhibition games and the exhibition games do not count as games served.

Suspensions carry forward from one season to another.

(9.1) Serving Lengthy Suspensions

When an individual is in the process of serving a lengthy suspension, they are not eligible to participate in tournament or exhibition games until the suspension is served. The tournament or exhibition games do not count as games served towards the suspension.



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Additionally, per Baseball BC policy (Honoring Members' Suspensions), an individual who is serving a lengthy suspension is suspended from all game related baseball activity for other Baseball BC member associations. Individuals who have multiple roles (coach, player, umpire) within one or more organization(s), are suspended from all their roles, with all organizations, while serving a lengthy suspension.

A lengthy suspension is defined as 4 or more games. When the term of a suspension is issued as a period of time, a lengthy suspension is defined as one week or more.

(10.0) Offense Categories

Per section 11 of this document, offenses are categorized as either A, B, or C based on severity.

Category A offenses = unacceptable conduct

Category B offenses = serious conduct

Category C offenses = very serious conduct

(10.1) Determining Offense Number

Conduct will be sanctioned as a first, second, or third offense.

When an individual is being sanctioned for a category B or C offense, lower category offenses on the individual's current disciplinary record will not be considered for the purpose of determining the offense number. Lower category offenses will be considered when determining the length of a suspension within the recommended range.

The purpose of this process is to ensure that an individual with a lower category offense on their current record, is not subjected to 2nd or 3rd offense sanctions for a more serious offense, which may result in excessive discipline.

Example One: An individual is facing discipline for a category A offense. They have two category B suspensions on their current record. They will be subjected to discipline at the applicable category A level – 3rd offense.

Example Two: An individual is facing discipline for a category C offense. They have one category A suspension on their current record. They will be subjected to discipline at the applicable category C level – 1st offense.



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(10.2) Current Disciplinary Record

Past discipline shall be removed from an individual's current record as follows:

- a) Category A offenses – removed one year after date of the offense.
- b) Category B offenses – removed two years after the date of offense.
- c) Category C offenses – removed five years after the date of offense.

Note: Category C+ offenses are never removed from an individual's record.

(10.3) Joint Record

An individual has a joint disciplinary record as a coach and as a player.

(11.0) Recommended Sanctions

The sanctions in section 11.1 and 11.3 of this document, are strongly recommended to the disciplinary committee; however, the committee has the ultimate authority to issue suspensions outside of the prescribed range when aggravating or mitigating circumstances are cited.

Discipline sanctions are typically issued in games, or a timeframe (weeks/months) and individuals are permitted to continue practicing while suspended. In exceptional cases, the discipline committee may suspend individuals from all baseball related activities, including practices and administrative activities.



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(11.1) Offenses Against Umpires

<u>Offenses</u>	<u>1st Offense</u>	<u>2nd Offense</u>	<u>3rd Offense</u>
<u>Category A: Level One Offense</u> Comments that are short in duration; likely directed at the umpire's decision; may be non-verbal, such as showing up umpires by drawing a line.	1 game	2 games	5 games
<u>Category A: Level Two Offense</u> Personally insulting comments that were short in duration; likely do not include profanity.	1 to 2 games	2 to 4 games	3 to 5 games
<u>Category B: Level Three Offense</u> Profane, insulting comments towards the umpire; or persistent arguing after being ejected.	3 to 5 games	5 to 8 games	8 to 15 games
<u>Category B: Level Four Offense</u> Persistent comments that are profane, personal, and public.	5 to 10 games	8-15 games	10-20 games
<u>Category C: Level Five Offense</u> Threatening, racist, or homophobic insults directed at the umpire.	6 to 12 months	1 to 2 years	2 to 5 years
<u>Category C: Contact Against Umpires</u> May include light bumps, or unintentional conduct during arguments.	5 to 10 games	10-20 games	1 to 2 years
<u>Category C+: Intentional Contact Against Umpires with Potential for Injury</u> May include a push or punch.	1 to 3 years	3 to 5 years	10 years to life

(11.2) Adult Offenses Against a Minor Umpire

In cases where an adult commits an offense against a minor umpire under the age of 19, the recommended sanctions in section 11.1 of this document, shall be doubled.

Failure on the part of the coach to identify an umpire as a minor will not be considered as a mitigating factor.



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(11.3) Player Conduct Towards Opposition

<u>Offenses</u>	<u>1st Offense</u>	<u>2nd Offense</u>	<u>3rd Offense</u>
<u>Category A: Trash Talking</u> Disrespectful comments towards opposition; taunting	1 game	2 games	5 games
<u>Category B: Insulting Language</u> Profane comments or gestures towards opposition	1 to 2 games	3 to 5 games	5 to 10 games
<u>Category B: Reckless Contact</u> Contact without the intent to injure; may include an aggressive slide, a low intensity push, etc.	1 to 2 games	3 to 5 games	5 to 10 games
<u>Category C: Abusive Language</u> Threatening, racist, or homophobic insults towards opposition	5 to 10 games	10 to 15 games	20 games to one year
<u>Category C: Intent to Injure</u> Fighting, slide or avoid violations with intent, pitchers throwing at hitters	5-10 games	10 to 15 games	20 games to one year

(11.4) Coach Conduct Against Opposition

When sanctioning a coach's conduct against their opposition, the table contained in section 11.3 of this document, shall be used with each range doubled. Furthermore, in the case of a category C offense, committed by an adult coach against a minor athlete, the upper limit of the recommended sanction shall be life.

(11.5) No category Listed

The recommended sanctions in section 11 of this document, are not intended to encompass every potential offense. The discipline committee shall have the authority to determine the appropriate category and length of suspension for any offenses not specifically listed.

(11.6) Subsequent Offenses

The discipline committee shall sanction fourth and subsequent offenses at double that prescribed for the third offense.



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(12.0) Considerations for the Discipline Committee

The discipline committee shall categorize each offense and consider the recommended range of suspension. When determining where the individual's conduct falls within the recommended range, the committee should consider the following:

(12.1) Verbal Offense Considerations

Was a single comment made or were the comments **persistent**?

Did the individual **persist** after being ejected?

Were the comments **personally** insulting?

Was **profanity** used?

Were the comments **public**?

(12.2) Physical Contact Offense Considerations

What was the intent of the offender?

What degree of force was used?

Did injury occur?

What was the likelihood of injury occurring?

What part of the opponent's body was targeted?

Were there additional verbal offenses in addition to the physical offense?

(12.3) Mitigating & Aggravating Circumstances

The discipline committee shall consider any applicable mitigating or aggravating circumstances. Such circumstances may include:

- Whether the individual has accepted responsibility, expressed remorse, or apologized for their conduct.
- Any educational programs (anger management, diversity training) completed to reduce the likelihood of the conduct reoccurring.
- The age of the athlete
- Medical conditions
- Provocation



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(13.0) Event Discipline Process

(13.1) Application

This process shall apply to any Baseball BC event, typically a qualifying tournament or provincial championship, where an on-site technical director is assigned to supervise the administration of the event.

During a Baseball BC event, an on-site disciplinary process is used so that immediate disciplinary decisions can be made prior to a team's next game.

(13.2) Authority of Technical Director

The Baseball BC on-site technical director, has the authority and responsibility to rule on any disciplinary matters, including ejections, safe sport complaints, and other conduct.

The technical director shall have the authority to suspend any individual for any number of games up to the end of the event. Such a decision is not subject to appeal.

The technical director shall have the authority to intervene during any game to warn or eject any individual whose conduct is in violation of the Baseball BC Code of Conduct and who has not been sanctioned by the umpires.

(13.3) Process

Upon receiving an ejection report, complaint, or personally witnessing misconduct, the technical director shall convene a disciplinary hearing. The individual being subjected to potential discipline is required to attend the hearing and failure to attend may result in the individual being indefinitely suspended. The head coach of the individual's team shall be entitled to attend. The parents/guardians of a minor athlete being subjected to discipline are entitled to attend. A minor athlete must be represented by an adult.

During the hearing, the technical director shall advise the individual of the accusations against them and in the case of an ejection, allow them to read the umpire's report. The accused individual shall have the opportunity to present their perspective.

The technical director may include other Baseball BC staff or directors in the disciplinary process.



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The technical director may interview witnesses and investigate further as deemed necessary. Once that process is complete, the technical director shall advise the individual's head coach of any disciplinary sanctions.

(13.4) Carry-Over Discipline

Any suspensions not completely served during an event or conduct that may require further discipline beyond the event, shall be forwarded to the discipline committee for review.

(13.5) Category C & D Offenses

Any individual who is found to have committed a category C offense shall be suspended for the duration of the event. The matter will be forwarded to the discipline committee for review.

(13.6) Determining Offense Number

During an event, offenses shall be treated as a first offense within the applicable category unless an individual commits a second offense during that event.

When conduct is referred to the discipline committee after the event, the individual's current record will be considered, and additional sanctions may be issued.

This process is necessary because the technical director is not likely to have an accurate discipline history for all participants at a championship.

(13.7) Reduction in Discipline

At Baseball BC events, the technical director has the authority to issue suspensions outside of the prescribed ranges provided sections 11.1 and 11.3 of this document, for category A and B offenses, based on the totality of the circumstances.



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(14.0) Appeals

The discipline committee chairperson shall communicate the right to appeal in all written rulings, with reference to submitting the appeal, the deposit, and deadline.

See the Baseball BC appeals policy for complete details.