



Zero Tolerance Policy of Umpire Abuse

Zero Tolerance Policy

“Zero Tolerance Policy” should read: “Ensuring a fair, safe, healthy and fun game environment is our top priority.” Kindersley Minor Sports has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for arguing judgment calls, umpire abuse or call-related displays of poor sportsmanship. The Zero Tolerance Policy of Umpire Abuse highlights the special circumstances for youth as umpires. One of the founding principles of Kindersley Minor Sports is positive coaching. This includes umpires that work at Kindersley Minor Sports ball games. Youth and adult umpires should only be talked to positively and constructively. Coaches will not challenge judgment calls made by the umpires. **It is acceptable to question the interpretation of a rule, but only in a courteous, non-confrontational manner.**

Umpire Abuse as Defined in this Policy – *umpire abuse at its simplest, is defined as any deliberate action that makes an umpire feel physically threatened, verbally intimidated or emotionally humiliated. Disrespectfully objecting to calls, yelling at, publically calling, constantly disagreeing with an umpire by action or verbally can be deemed umpire abuse. Coaches should always show decorum, respect and observe all game rules whenever questioning an umpire about a call.*

Judgment Calls - *a judgment call is a decision made by an official in a competition using their own opinion of what they have seen. An umpire's judgment call is final. Most calls are based on the judgment of the umpire. Example: You may see it one way and the umpire may see it differently. Missed calls are going to happen in every game, that's ball. Judgment calls include; balls & strikes, safe/ out calls on bases (force and tag), catch/ no catch calls, fair/foul, etc. For reference only - non-judgment calls include; interference, baserunners hit by batted balls, etc..*

Guidelines for disciplinary action range from a written reprimand for verbal abuse, to expulsion from Kindersley Minor Sports ball programs for flagrant or repeat offenders. The details are outlined in the policy below.

Purpose of the Policy

This policy has been implemented to eliminate umpire abuse, both physical and verbal, and to discourage public dissent of an umpire at all Kindersley Minor Sports ball games. Even though public dissent may not be considered abuse, it is not in keeping with Kindersley Minor Sports principles of positive coaching and good sportsmanship and therefore will not be tolerated.

It is never acceptable to verbally abuse an umpire in any situation. There are appropriate avenues for coaches and spectators to share concerns about the quality of officiating. The Kindersley Minor Ball Umpire Coordinator is welcome to hear any constructive comments on umpires. **Any criticism or critique relating to the performance of a youth umpire should be communicated to the youth umpire only by the Kindersley Minor Ball Umpire Coordinator.**

Youth umpires are an integral part of the Kindersley Minor Sports ball program. This includes development of all youth umpires. All Kindersley Minor Sports guidelines and policies on providing a Safe, Fair and Fun environment for players also applies to our umpires. Only Positive, Instructive, and Encouraging comments are allowed to be directed at both players and umpires. Verbal abuse of umpires is as unacceptable as verbal abuse of youth players. The purpose of this policy is to make clear that abuse (as defined in this policy) of any umpire is unacceptable, and to adopt basic standard sanctions for improper conduct based on a “three-strikes-you’re-out” framework.

This policy is not intended to imply that the umpire is always right and the spectator, coach or player is always wrong. We must simply remember that just as youth players will make mistakes during play, adult/youth umpires will also make mistakes in officiating, particularly in the younger divisions where they are learning how to umpire. Please remember, young umpires receive minimal instruction before being sent out to officiate. Also, please keep in mind that they do not attend practices nor do they have a coach on the field to guide them from game to game. Given that the rules of baseball are numerous and in any given game many difficult scenarios could unfold, it is in all of our best interests to judge officials fairly and with reasonable expectations. After all, we cannot play this game without these courageous individuals.

Disciplinary Guidelines

The penalties for any confirmed case of umpire abuse by coaches, players, parents, or spectators for **both home and away teams** on all Town of Kindersley ball fields that are maintained by Kindersley Minor Ball and all suspensions will be IN ADDITION to any suspension due to an ejection from a game;

- **1st Incident** - Kindersley Minor Ball Disciplinary Committee **reprimand in writing**.
- **2nd Incident – 30-day suspension** from all Kindersley Minor Ball activities for any offending coach or player, regardless of past history, coaching experience or program involvement, and for any 2nd incident offender, a formal letter will be sent by the Kindersley Minor Ball Disciplinary Committee, to the Town of Kindersley, to request the First Offence penalty, which includes (but is not limited to) a 30-day suspension from each of the Town's ball fields or all Town of Kindersley facilities under the Town of Kindersley's Zero Tolerance Policy.
- **3rd Incident – 365-day suspension** from all Kindersley Minor Ball activities for any offending coach or player, regardless of past history, coaching experience or program involvement, and for any 3rd incident offender, a formal letter will be sent by the Kindersley Minor Ball Disciplinary Committee, to the Town of Kindersley, to request the Second Offence penalty, which includes (but is not limited to) a 365-day suspension from each of the Town's ball fields or all Town of Kindersley facilities under the Town of Kindersley's Zero Tolerance Policy.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Kindersley Minor Ball Disciplinary Committee holds the right to skip the 1st or 2nd incident penalty, and enforce a stronger penalty, if they rule that the coinciding incident penalty is not a sufficient penalty for the nature of the violation.

Ejected coaches, players and spectators are **not** permitted to remain on the surrounding field areas, including grandstands, and must vacate all field areas in a timely manner.

In addition, if the offending person confronts an umpire after a game in order to continue verbally abusing an official, the penalties will include an extra 3 game suspension for the 1st incident and an extra 6 games for the 2nd incident.

Any incident that involves physical abuse by bodily threatening, shoving, bumping or harming a youth will result in an immediate indefinite suspension and notification of proper authorities. Any offending person wishing to be reinstated must appear before the Kindersley Minor Ball Disciplinary Committee for a hearing.

The Kindersley Minor Ball Disciplinary Committee will enforce any and all disciplinary action. The Disciplinary Committee will consist of 3 Kindersley Minor Ball Executive Members or Directors. In the event three members of Kindersley Minor Ball cannot be appointed, the President will endeavor to find three independent members of Kindersley Minor Sports to sit on the committee. The Kindersley Minor Ball Umpire Coordinator will follow-up to ensure the offending spectator or coach is not in attendance at any of the games during his/her suspension.

All Kindersley Minor Sports members (coaches, parents, board members, players, umpires) are bound to report any incident of abuse of umpires to the Kindersley Minor Ball Board of Directors within 24 hours of the incident occurring (if possible).

The Disciplinary Committee, upon investigating the incident and after hearing from all parties, shall implement any appropriate penalties before the next game (if possible). The offending persons, board members, and the Umpire Coordinator shall be notified of any disciplinary action.

Exemptions to this policy will be defined as, teams that are registered in Senior Ball Leagues. These teams will be exempt from this policy and will be governed by the policies and procedures of the league that they are playing in.

Thank you for your cooperation in the development of youth umpires in our community.