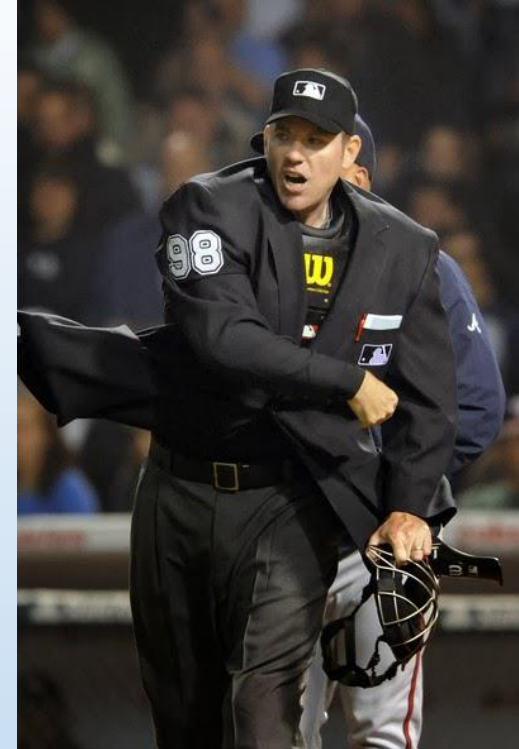
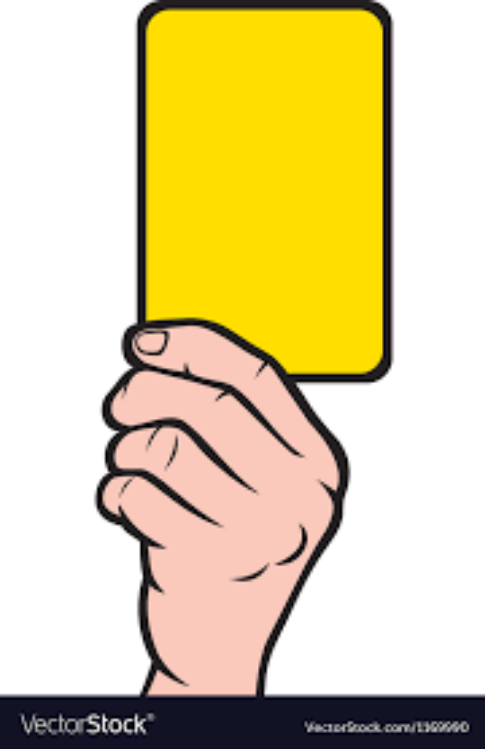




Baseball Canada Committee

Saskatchewan Sanctions: The Yellow Card

What can we do to deal with behaviour on a baseball field?

- Presently when misconduct occurs an umpire has only two options:
 - first is to do nothing
 - second is an ejection
- There is a limited number of situations where umpires have the authority to issue an official warning according to the rules, but these warnings are for rule violations, not behaviour.
- As part of good officiating, most umpires will warn players, coaches, managers, etc. to cease certain actions or behaviours prior to ejection, but this is taught as a game management skill and is not a part of the official rules of baseball.

- Saskatchewan decided to make some changes to how baseball deals with misconduct and were implemented after consultation with coaches, players, umpires and administration in the sport.
- Also, the “best practices” and methods of how other sports deal with misconduct was investigated.

- The new sanction system that was created provides two distinct levels of discipline providing more options to deal with misconduct. Umpires will use an established set of guidelines to determine what sanction should be applied for each misconduct.
- The new system will allow a participant in the game to have a minor misconduct indiscretion which in the past might have resulted in an ejection now to remain in the game. A major misconduct indiscretion would still result in an ejection under the new system.
- This new system should provide all participants, coaches, players and umpires a clearer and more defined set of guidelines in what are a misconduct action and the penalties for different levels of misconduct.

So why a Yellow Card?

- A yellow card was chosen for a several reasons, but the 3 main ones are:
 1. It was already used in other sports as a way to denote inappropriate behaviour.
 2. It is an easily visible tool that can be seen by game participants and spectators.
 3. Due to its visibility, it can be used at a distance as baseball fields can be spacious and at times verbal warnings are not effective.

So how does this work?

How is it used?

What do sanctions look like?

Yellow Card Sanctions

- The purpose of this system is an attempt to make the sanctions for misconduct more evenly applied by umpires and make the system fairer to the participants in the game.
- This sanction system provides two distinct levels of discipline providing more options to deal with misconduct. Umpires will use an established set of guidelines to determine what sanction should be applied for each misconduct.
- Misconduct by a team towards umpires, opponents, team mates and spectators will be classified in two categories:

Yellow Card Sanctions

- Minor Misconduct (a yellow card) - actions contrary to good manners , moral principles, or expressing contempt.
 - The result of such sanction is the misconduct will be reported to Baseball Saskatchewan.
 - The offending individual will be allowed to continue to participate within the game.
- Major Misconduct (an ejection) – defaming or insulting words or gestures and actual physical contact or aggressive or threatening behavior

Yellow Card Sanctions

Minor Misconduct (Yellow Card) Looks Like....

- arguing of judgement calls (balls/strikes, fair/fouls, outs/safes etc.)
- gestures or words used to show disagreement with an umpires decision
- warning a coach or manager to control a team's behavior
- imitation in words or actions directed towards any participant in the game
- personal derogatory comments directed to any participant in the game.
- Any comments that make you feel uncomfortable could be subject to a yellow card.

Note: incidental misconduct may not be subject to sanctions. An umpire may issue a verbal warning to a participant to stop the misconduct and if ignored, then a sanction would be issued.

Yellow Card Sanctions

For a major misconduct an ejection would occur. Such actions include but are not limited to:

- Any time you feel threatened or intimidated by a player or coach
- while arguing calls an individual uses profane language; or argues too loud or prolonged.
- An individual uses gestures determined to be profane or threatening
- an attempt or intent to injure a participant in the game
- physical contact with an umpire including spitting, bumping, etc.

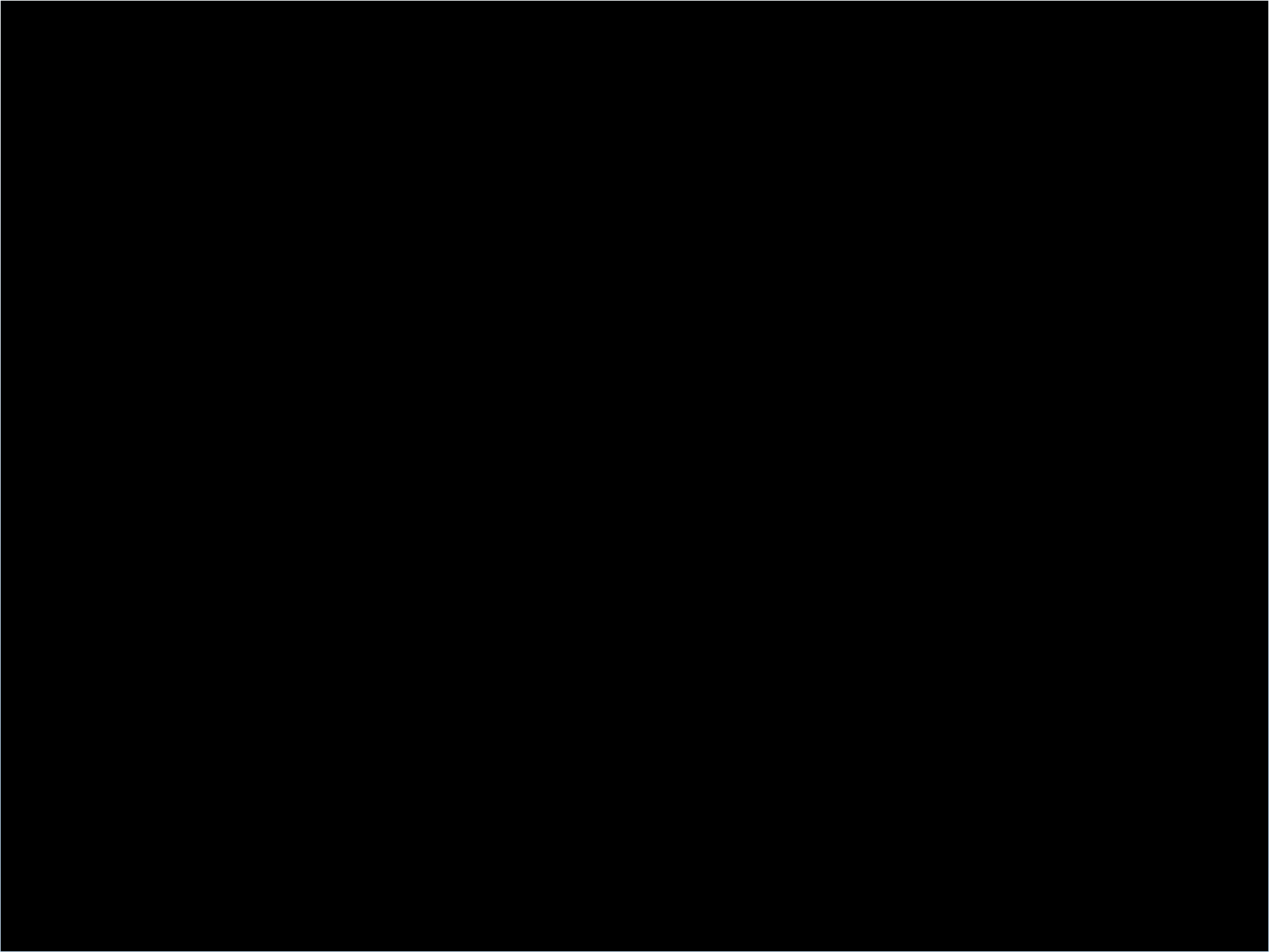
Yellow Card Sanctions

Major Misconduct continued:

- Equipment is thrown in direct response to a call that was made.
- Thrown equipment (bat, helmet) when thrown in frustration makes contact with a game participant.
- Where Baseball Canada rules provide for an ejection under the rules (tobacco rules, contact rule, etc.)
- A second yellow card in the same game.
- Argues the issuance of a yellow card (Be aware when they are arguing and when they are asking a question about the card.)

Yellow Card Sanctions

- **Baseball Saskatchewan upgraded it's on-line reporting system. If a sanction is issued (yellow card or ejection) immediately after the game the umpire shall go on-line and report it.**
- **Ejection Report Form Link**



So has this system been effective?

- **This program was first implemented province wide in 2013 and was to be used in all divisions.**
- **In the first 3 years of the program we saw a drop in the number of ejections in the first year by 25% and then it remained relatively consistent from 2013 – 2017.**
- **In 2018 we decided to focus more on its use in the minor divisions (18U AAA and lower) as there was mixed results from levels above that.**

So has this system been effective?

	Baseball Saskatchewan Sanctions		
	2017	2018	2019
Yellow Cards	50	75	59
Ejections (No Yellow Card)	66	50	79
Ejections (Following Yellow Card)	7	21	3
Other Incident	Was not used	Was not used	12

So has this system been effective?

Overall this program has been successful, especially for minor division umpires.

The message it sends to game participants is very clear – “That behaviour is inappropriate!”

Now everyone in the ballpark knows it is and it is no surprise when someone is ejected for that behaviour.

Questions??

