



**Yellow Card Sanction System**

# Introduction

- Saskatchewan Baseball for the 2013 season will introduce a new sanction system when dealing with discipline issues.
- The purpose of the new 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.



# WHY

- Presently when misconduct occurs an umpire has only two options:
  - **first is to do nothing**
  - **second is an ejection**
- These changes to how baseball deals with misconduct are being 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.



# What is it?

- The new 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.



# What is it?

- 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.



# What is it?

- 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.



# SANCTIONS

- Misconduct by a team towards umpires, opponents, team mates and spectators will be classified in two categories:
- Minor Misconduct (a yellow card) - actions contrary to good manners ,moral principles, or expressing contempt.
- Major Misconduct (an ejection) – defaming or insulting words or gestures and actual physical contact or aggressive or threatening behavior



# **Minor Misconduct**

## **(Yellow Card)**

- The result of such sanction is the misconduct will be that the violation will be reported to Saskatchewan Baseball.
- The offending individual will be allowed to continue to participate within the game.



# 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.**

# Minor Misconduct (Yellow Card)

Looks Like....



**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.

**DO NOT** use the yellow card to replace good umpire game management techniques such as talking to players and coaches, warnings, etc.

# Examples

During an at Bat.....

- drawing a line by a batter that is not followed with a verbal complaint or threatening gesture.
- catcher standing and turning around to question a pitch
- pitcher moving arms and questioning location of a pitch.

# Examples

During an at Bat.....

- Player throws a bat on way back to the dugout.
  - If a bat is thrown due the player being mad at himself and does not make contact or come close to making contact with another game participant with the thrown bat.
- Repeated comments from a distance from players or coaches about judgment calls that do not involve profanity may be subject to a yellow card. The first comments could result in a warning before issuing a yellow card.

# Examples

After a play on bases or after a pitch.....

- Minor profanity or negative comments
  - that's a brutal call
  - that's horses\*\*t



# Examples

After a play on bases or after a pitch....

- Comments about judgment calls from the bench and the individual is not identified a yellow card could be issued to the manager for lack of bench control.
- A player throws his helmet in frustration after a close call on the bases and it is not thrown at a game participant. (Recognize when a player is tossing a helmet to a coach after the third out of an inning and when it is done in frustration so an unnecessary yellow card is not issued)

# Examples

After a play on bases or after a pitch....

- Minor profanity or negative comments
  - that's a brutal call
  - that's horseshit
- Any time a player approaches another game participant (player coach or umpire) and stares them down.

# Examples

Comments to other people.....

- Players saying or using disrespectful comments to opponents and fans
- after being hit by pitch player heads towards mound (a few steps) and comments are made to pitcher.  
This also would apply to pitcher if comments back
- Opposing players exchanging disrespectful comments



# Major Misconduct (Ejection)

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.
- uses gestures determined to be profane or threatening
- an attempt or intent to injure a participant in the game



# Major Misconduct (Ejection)

- physical contact with an umpire including spitting, bumping etc.
- 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.
- Thrown equipment followed by profanity or threatening remarks about a call.
- Player draws a line after a strike call and includes a verbal complaint/profanity and/or a threatening gesture.

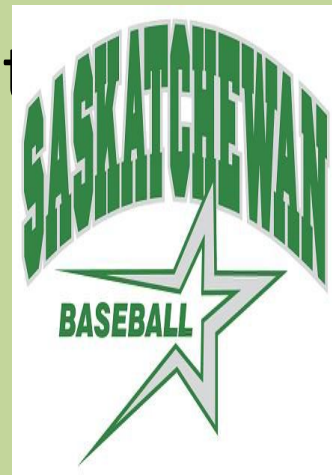
# Major Misconduct (Ejection)

- Where Baseball Canada rules provide for an ejection under the rules (tobacco rules, slide and avoid 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.)



Any of the following ejections will be  
subject to review by the  
commissioner's office

- threatening comments or gestures
- attempt or intent to injure
- any physical contact with an umpire
- prolonged or continuous arguing after being ejected or refusal to leave the field of play
- any actions which are not in the best interest of the game



# REPORTING

- Saskatchewan Baseball's Zero Tolerance Policy remains in place as written.
- Sask Baseball has upgraded the present 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.



# REPORTING

## Programs > NOCP (Umpires) > Umpire Report

Type of  
Offense

☐ Yellow Card  
☐ Yellow Card, followed by ejection  
☐ Ejection, no card given

Game Date:

Teams involved and location of game @ time of ejection:

Home:

Visitor:

Location:

Name(s) of the Player(s) or Team Officials Who Committed the Offense:

Name:

Team:

Check one: ☐ Player  
☐ Coach  
☐ Manager

Official/Person filling out report:

Name:

Address:

Phone (days):

### Programs

NOCP (Coaches)

NOCP (Umpires)

Rally Cap

Winterball

Girls Baseball

Camp & Clinics

RBI Program


LTAD

Pitch Count

Search here...



# Mechanics

- When a Yellow Card is warranted
  - Delivering a Yellow Card...
    - Visibly show card to offending player or coach
    - Card will be in right hand
    - Similar to a strike call
      - a) 90 degree elbow
      - b) 45 degree in front.
      - c) Card is eye level.
  - VERBAL = “ Coach – Yellow Card ”  
“ #13 – Yellow Card ”



# Mechanics

- After the Yellow Card has been issued:



- Record on back of offenders Line-up Card
  - » # and name of offender
  - » When sanction occurred
  - » Nature or why sanction occurred



# QUESTIONS??

