

Protest Policy

The Brandon Valley Baseball Association (BVBA) Protest Policy provides the Head Coach with the procedure to follow to protest a game. Although every effort is made to avoid protests through the use of umpires in good standing with the league and by encouraging the coaches to read and understand the rules, some protests will occur. It is the intent of this policy to minimize protests by providing clear guidelines as to how to protest and what type of situation can be protested. The BVBA will follow the rules posted on BVBA website.

1. Only protests which involve a violation of playing rules will be accepted.
2. No protest involving an umpire's judgment will be accepted.
3. Only the Head Coach can file a protest.
4. Protests of a play during the game must be made by the Head Coach to the home plate umpire before the next pitch. The home plate umpire may consult with the base umpire (if appropriate) prior to ruling on the protest (ruling is final).
5. Protests not associated with a play (i.e., rules associated with inning pitched, all players batting, players playing in the field, length of game, etc.) MUST be submitted in writing to the BVBA President within 48 hours of the completion of the game. No protest will be accepted after 48 hours.
6. Following the game, NO protest can be made except one involving the failure to comply with the league's player participation rules

To File an Official Protest:

1. The Head Coach (Manager) or acting Head Coach of the protesting team MUST note a violation of rules on the game summary sheet. The Head Coach must also submit a written statement of protest within 48 hours to the Association President. The statement MUST include all details of the suspected violation of the playing rule and MUST cite the exact rule/s that is/are in question.
2. No additional statements (written or verbal) from the protesting team, coaching staff, players, or parents will be accepted.
3. A check in the amount of \$10 (payable to the "BVBA") MUST be included with the written statement. If the protest is upheld, your check will be returned. If the protest is denied, the funds will be deposited in the BVBA General Fund.

League Responsibility:

1. The President of the BVBA will appoint a Protest Committee which will include the President, Vice President, and Board Rep for the league in which the protest was filed (i.e., Senior Bantam).
2. The Protest Committee may obtain statements from other parties involved in the protest, such as opposing Head Coach, Umpires, or Board members attending the game.
3. The League will respond within 1 week to all parties involved.
4. The League will return the protest check if appeal is upheld.

The BVBA believes that proper player and coach education regarding rules will avoid protest situations. However, if a situation should arise that requires a protest be made, the BVBA expects that it is filed in the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play.

Coaches Misbehavior Policy

Coaching is truly a privilege. It is the prerogative of the BVBA to select and approve the coaches and assistant coaches with the advice of the appropriate league representatives and the Board of Directors. No coaching applicant or volunteer, regardless of baseball knowledge or previous baseball coaching experience, is guaranteed a coaching position with the association. Coaches are expected to be ambassadors of the association and their action is a reflection on the association and therefore behavior both on and off the field is of utmost concern to the association. The primary description of acceptable behavior for coaches is given in the Coaches' Ethics Statement distributed to and signed by all coaches (head and assistant) at the beginning of the year. Generally, we have few or no problems with coaches behaving in a manner contradictory to that described in the Code of Ethics. However, occasionally a situation does arise where the behavior of a coach becomes unacceptable. This policy is intended to describe the procedure that the Brandon Valley Baseball Association Board of Directors will follow to address such instances.

An occurrence of misbehavior must be documented before the Board will address the matter. Documentation consists of one of two forms: 1) a Board member personally witnesses the misbehavior and brings the matter before the Board, or 2) an eyewitness has observed the misbehavior and submits a written complaint (form on BVBA website) to a Board member within 1 week of the misbehavior. Within 3 days of having received the documentation of the incident, the President of the Board will appoint a Review Committee made up of the President, the Vice President, and the Board Rep for the league to which the offending coach belongs. The Review Committee will interview those filing the complaint, seek to interview others present who witnessed the behavior, and interview the coach and or coaches whose actions are in question.

The Review Committee may determine that the event was not a serious violation of the behavior code, or that circumstances dictate that the event be ignored. If such is the case, the matter will be dropped and all participating parties will be notified.

The Review Committee may determine that the violation was serious and calls for punitive action by the Board. In its discretion, if the Review Committee determines the violation warrants a letter of warning it will generally follow the procedure set forth in the paragraph. The first step in such action is for the Board to issue a letter of warning to the coach indicating the Board's disapproval of the indicated behavior, and to advise the coach that he or she is being placed on probation for the remainder of the season. The warning letter will also advise the coach that subsequent occurrences will result in further disciplinary action including but not limited to the suspension of the coach from a part of or all of the remaining season. The letter will be signed by the three members of the Review Committee and delivered to the offending coach for his acknowledgment and signature. Refusal of coach to sign the letter will result in the coach being suspended from coaching. A copy will be given to the coach, and the Board Representative from the Review Committee will present the action and a copy of the letter to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Those filing the complaint will also be notified of the actions taken by the Board.

In the event that the Review Committee finds the first offense to be serious enough to warrant a punitive action greater than a warning, the Review Committee shall call an emergency meeting of the Board of Directors to discuss the situation. At that meeting the Review Committee will present their evidence and recommendation for punitive action up to and including immediate suspension. Upon a vote of majority vote of a Quorum of the Board of Directors, that coach shall be reprimanded as recommended and suffers all consequences as determined by the Board of Directors.

If a coach behaves in such a manner as to create a second event of misbehavior during his or her probationary period, the Board will react to implement further disciplinary action. The Review Committee will investigate the incident and report its findings and recommendation to the Board. If the behavior is found to warrant action, the Review Committee will recommend suspending the coach for any or all of the remainder of the season. Written notification of the suspension will be presented to the offending coach. If it is necessary that the coach be suspended for the

remainder of the season, the Board will appoint a replacement coach and the Review Committee will meet with the parents and players of the team to advise them of the Board's actions.

Any coach that is suspended for the year will not be allowed to take a coaching position the following year.

It is our hope that these procedures will never have to be used, but as our Association grows so does the possibility that someone will abuse the privilege of being a coach. Because our main concern is for the enjoyment and recreation of the hundreds of parents, coaches, and children who are out to enjoy team and family time together, we will not be tolerant of continued violations of the Coaches' Code of Ethics.

Parents' Misbehavior Policy

The primary description of acceptable behavior for parents is given in the Parents Code of Ethics that is posted on BVBA's website. Generally we have few or no problems with parents misbehaving in a manner contradictory to that which is described in the Code of Ethics. However, occasionally a situation does arise where the behavior of a parent becomes unacceptable. This policy is intended to describe the procedure that the Brandon Valley Baseball Association will follow to address such instances.

It is not the intent of this policy to try and define every instance that might be described as constituting parental misbehavior. We will however make mention of certain types of known behavior that we have experienced in the past and will use these examples to illustrate unacceptable parental behavior. Such examples are, but not limited to, the following.

- a. Boisterous taunting of an umpire, coach, league official, or player in a negative manner
- b. The use of profanity or vulgar language
- c. Embarrassing negative remarks aimed at your own child while he/she is playing a game
- d. The use of alcoholic beverages while at ball field
- e. Threatening or aggressive remarks towards umpires, coaches, league officials, or fans
- f. Physical confrontations with umpires, coaches, league officials, or fans
- g. Failure to remove yourself from the field after you have been ejected from the stands
- h. Failure to remove yourself from Aspen Park after you have been ejected from the Park

Parents please understand that any such behavior as listed above will be dealt with by the Association in the following manner.

1. You will first be warned by the umpire or BVBA official.
2. The umpire or BVBA official will also ask the coach to speak with you about your actions.
3. If you continue to present a problem you will be ejected from the game and the game will not resume until you have left the stands.
4. If you fail to leave the stands a league official will be summoned to escort you away from the field of play. Once ejected from a game, an individual must remove him/her self from the viewing area of the game and not return to the game. If you cannot do so then you will be ejected from the park. If you fail to do so and refuse to calm down the **Police Department** will be called to arrest you and take you from the Park.

It is our hope that we do not have to initiate any of the above steps necessary to control parental behavior. It is the intent of the Brandon Valley Baseball Association to create a family atmosphere for the enjoyment and recreation of hundreds of parents, coaches, and players who are out to enjoy team and family time together. We hope to provide the basis for all players to have fun, learn the game of baseball, and most of all develop the attitudes and good behavior associated with sportsmanship, fair play, and teamwork. We are asking you as parents to help us reach our goal. Please lead by example and remember that hundreds of small eyes and ears are looking and listening to everything you say and do.

Thank you

The Brandon Valley Baseball Association

Brandon Valley Baseball Association

Coach's Code of Ethics

Baseball is a game played at numerous levels including professional, collegiate, interscholastic, community and recreational from the local to international levels of competition. The function of all players, coaches, umpires, officials and workers is to abide by only the highest level of sportsmanship and conduct.

The coach must be aware that he or she has tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the development of the baseball player, and thus, shall never place the value of winning above instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.

The coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with the athletes, umpires, officials, administrators, state and national organizations, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct. **Baseball** is a game of fun, designed for enjoyment of youngsters, not to be a hobby for adults coaching them.

- 1) "Bench jockeying" will not be allowed. Coaches are to prohibit bench jockeying, which would include personal and malicious remarks, cursing and obscene language towards the team's players and coach's opponents, umpires or spectators and pacing up and down the sideline (leaving the coach's box).
- 2) The coach shall take an active role in the prevention in drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse and under no circumstances should authorize or condone their use.
- 3) The coach shall not use alcohol or tobacco products when in contact with players.
- 4) Coaches shall not make statements that are false, deceptive, misleading, or fraudulent concerning work activities, personal and organization affiliations.
- 5) The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with the rules and is responsible for their interpretation to team members.
 - a) The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as mutual agreements.
 - b) The coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit of the rules.
 - c) Coaches shall not permit ineligible player(s) to participate, practice or be a part of any team function without first discussing eligibility with a BVBA League Representative, and without securing permission, in writing, the proper forms from the BVBA.
 - d) Players should be taught to respect the dignity of the game, umpires and opponents.
- 6) Only the Head Coach will handle discussions with the umpire regarding umpire rulings, rules interpretation, etc. Judgment calls will not be discussed.
- 7) Coaches shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by their athletes and spectators.
 - a) Before and after contests, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings in order to set the correct tone for the game.
- 8) Contest umpires will be treated with respect and supported by the coach.
 - a) The coach shall not indulge in conduct which will incite players or spectators against the umpires.
 - b) Public criticism of umpires or players is unethical.
- 9) Coaches should expect from the umpires a courteous and dignified attitude towards themselves and the players.
- 10) Coaches do not engage in sexual harassment, abuse, or any other harassment or unacceptable behavior.
- 11) The Head Coach is responsible for the actions of his players, assistant coaches, and fans.
- 12) Coaches should develop and promote a spirit of cooperation among the baseball family, including sponsors and any person connected with the program.

Baseball is a game of fun, designed for enjoyment of youngsters. I recognize the responsibility placed upon me to model ethical behavior. ***I pledge myself to observe, practice and maintain this code of ethics.***

Signed by Team Manager or Coach

League / Team Name

Date

Print Name

GREIVANCE/COMPLAINT FORM

Brandon Valley Baseball Association

The board for the Brandon Valley Baseball Association (BVBA) has instituted a procedure by which all of your grievances or complaints may be effectively dealt with.

The grievance or complaint may be filled out by a parent, coach, or youth. It is strongly encouraged that a grievance or complaint be registered within a week of the incident. The grievance or complaint form should be turned into the President of the Brandon Valley Baseball Association or a member of the Board of the Association (see association website for a list of the members of the board). Under no circumstances should a coach be approached with a complaint or grievance.

Thank you,
Brandon Valley Baseball Association
Board of Directors

Complete and return to:
President of the Brandon Valley Baseball Association or
a member of the Board of the Association

NAME _____

Date _____

PHONE _____

Greivance/Complaint _____

Suggestion for Resolution _____

Signed _____