



Bendigo Baseball Association Inc. (BBA)

Bylaw #3

Report Card Use

Yellow, Blue and Red Card

Code Of Conduct

Definitions and Glossary of Terms

"BBA" means the Bendigo Baseball Association Inc.

"BBA Form #7" means the 4 page form used by umpires and officials to report persons to the administration in relation to breaches of the rules, by laws and code of conduct as applied by the BBA.

"Code of Conduct Application" means any person who is a registered member of a Club in the BBA League, a Coach, A Scorer, A Team Manager, an Umpire, an Elected Official of the BBA, or any person who acts in any official capacity within a Club in the BBA. Includes a spectator who is readily identifiable with any Club within the BBA. See BBA Bylaw #4.

"Reported Person or Person(s)" means any persons reported by an Umpire to the BBA. The term "Person" is generic and can be a Club or Team as a whole. "Person" can also mean any spectator than is identifiable as associated with a Club or Team or Registered Player or Official of the BBA.

Definitions for reportable incident (s) contained in Schedule "A" of BBA Bylaw #3.

1. Yellow Card

Yellow Card Rule

1.1 Principle behind Rule

The principle of this rule is to allow an umpire to issue a formal warning to persons committing minor offences without the necessity of ejection from the game and subsequent Tribunal appearance.

1.2 Offences which can incur a Yellow Card

Offences for which this rule may be invoked shall include those offences listed on the BBA Yellow Card Report Form (BBA Form #7) and any other as deemed appropriate by the reporting entity (especially in relation to Code of Conduct violations).

1.3 Completion of Yellow Card Report Form (BBA Form #7) by Umpire

If, in the opinion of the umpire, an offence has occurred as provided for by the Yellow Card Report Form (BBA Form #7), the offender(s) shall be informed of a Yellow Card offence and where possible a yellow card shown to the offender with the team manager also being informed of the nature of the offence.

1.4 Register of Yellow Card Offences

1.4.1 The Umpire shall complete the details required on the BBA Yellow Card Report Form (BBA Form #7) and return it to the BBA Registration Secretary along with the match report card **or at a bare minimum of 48 hours after the game has ceased.**

1.4.2 A register of Yellow Card offences shall be maintained by the BBA Registration Secretary.

1.5 Accumulation of Yellow Card Offences

1.5.1 The first and second Yellow Card(s) issued to a person will incur no penalty.

1.5.2 The third, and any subsequent Yellow Card offence by that offender, during the currency of a season shall incur suspension of that player from participating in any team until the competition round after the next in which the team from where the third or subsequent offence occurred competes (not inclusive of any bye). For Example: A player that receives their third and fourth Yellow Card in the same will game will be subject to a 2 games suspension

1.5.3 A person who receives two Yellow Cards in the same game shall be ejected from the game after the second offence but will not be required to attend a Tribunal hearing.

1.5.4 A person suspended for receiving 3 or more Yellow Cards in a season will be notified by the BBA Registration Secretary via their Club.

1.5.5 When a person incurs a Yellow Card suspension in the last round of the season or a finals game, the matter will be referred to the Tribunal to determine the timing of the suspension.

1.6 Appeal Process Against Issue of Yellow Card

1.6.1 A person may appeal to the Tribunal Chair against the issue of a Yellow Card.

1.6.2 The appeal MUST be lodged in the following manner (Failure to comply with any of these requirements will mean the appeal will not be considered)

- i. The appeal must be in writing, stating the reasons for the appeal to the BBA Secretary within 48 hours of "time" being called in the game in which the offence occurred; and
- ii. Shall be accompanied by a \$20 deposit which will be returned only if the Tribunal Chair deems the appeal not to be frivolous. Mere denial of the offence does not constitute grounds for referral to the Tribunal and will result in loss of the deposit.

1.6.3 On the receipt of an appeal, that has been properly submitted in accordance with i and ii above, the Tribunal Chair shall decide if the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for resolution, such decision being final.

1.6.4 The Tribunal will hear an appeal referred to it by convening a hearing.

1.6.5 The Tribunal Hearing will be convened as per the normal Tribunal Hearing procedure by the BBA Secretary. The Tribunal may determine to:

- i. Uphold the appeal, cancel the Yellow Card and advise the umpire or;
- ii. Dismiss the appeal and confirm the Yellow Card; or
- iii. Consider the offence warranted an ejection and impose a penalty; or
- iv. Consider if a more appropriate offence occurred and upgrade the offence and penalty; and

Decide to return or retain the deposit.

1.6.6 The decisions of the Tribunal are final and not subject to further appeal.

2. Blue Card

Blue Card Rule

2.1 Principle behind the Rule

The principle of the rule is to allow an Umpire to issue a blue card to a player for offences committed with immediate ejection from the game without facing the Tribunal.

2.2 Offences which can incur a Blue Card

Offences for which this rule may be invoked shall include those offences listed on the BBA Blue Card Report Form (BBA Form #7).

2.3 Completion of Blue Card Report (BBA Form #7) Form by Umpire

If, in the opinion of the umpire, an offence has occurred as provided for by the Blue Card Report Form (BBA Form #7), the offender(s) shall be informed of a Blue Card offence and where possible a blue card shown to the offender with the team manager also being informed of the nature of the offence.

2.4 Penalty for Receiving a Blue Card

2.4.1 The offender(s) shall be ejected from the game.

2.4.2 A player(s) ejected under the blue card rule will serve a further one game suspension without a Tribunal appearance.

2.4.3 The umpire shall complete the details required on the Blue Card Report Form and return it to the BBA Registration Secretary with the match report card **or at a bare minimum of 48 hours after the game has ceased.**

2.4.4 A register of Blue Card offences shall be maintained by the BBA Registration Secretary.

2.4.5 A second Blue Card issued to a person will incur an automatic two game suspension.

2.4.6 A third Blue Card offence by a player during the currency of a season will mean an automatic appearance before the Tribunal.

2.4.7 An offender who is suspended for any games will be notified by the BBA Registration Secretary via their Club.

2.4.8 When a person incurs a Blue Card suspension in the last round of the season or a finals game, the suspension will be served at the start of the next season and/or the matter can be referred to the Tribunal to determine the timing of the suspension.

2.5 Appeal Process Against Issue of Blue Card

2.5.1 A person may appeal to the Tribunal Chair against the issue of a Blue Card.

2.5.2 The appeal MUST be lodged in the following manner (Failure to comply with any of these requirements will mean the appeal will not be considered)

- i. The appeal must be in writing, stating the reasons for the appeal to the BBA Secretary within 48 hours of "time" being called in the game in which the offence occurred; and
- ii. Shall be accompanied by a \$20 deposit which will be returned only if the Tribunal Chair deems the appeal not to be frivolous. Mere denial of the offence does not constitute grounds for referral to the Tribunal and will result in loss of the deposit.

2.5.3 On the receipt of an appeal, that has been properly submitted in accordance with i and ii above, the Tribunal Chair shall decide if the matter should be referred to the Tribunal for resolution, such decision being final.

2.5.4 The Tribunal will hear an appeal referred to it by convening a hearing.

2.5.5 The Tribunal Hearing will be convened as per the normal Tribunal Hearing procedure by the BBA Secretary. The Tribunal may determine to:

- v. Uphold the appeal, cancel the Blue Card and advise the umpire or;
- vi. Dismiss the appeal and confirm the Blue Card; or
- vii. Consider the offence warranted an ejection and impose a further penalty or increase the penalty; or
- viii. Consider if a more appropriate offence occurred and upgrade the offence and penalty; and

Decide to return or retain the deposit.

2.5.6 The decisions of the Tribunal are final and not subject to further appeal.

3. Red Card

Red Card Rule

3.1 Principle behind the Rule

The principle of the rule is to allow the Umpire to issue a red card to a player for offences committed with immediate ejection from the game and to appear before a properly constituted BBA Tribunal.

3.2 Offences which can incur a Red Card

3.2.1 Offences for which this rule may be invoked shall include those offences listed on the BBA Red Card Report Form (BBA Form #7).

3.2.2 The umpire shall complete the details required on the Red Card Report Form (BBA Form #7) and return it to the BBA Secretary with the match report card **or at a bare minimum of 48 hours after the game has ceased.**

3.2.3 A register of Red Card offences shall be maintained by the BBA Secretary in conjunction with the BBA Registration Secretary

3.3 Notification of Report

3.3.1 The ejection from the game for a Red Card offence indicates to the player, club official(s) etc and Club that an appearance before a properly constituted BBA Tribunal will occur.

3.3.2 The BBA Tribunal By-Laws will be in effect for a Red Card offence.

4. BBA CODE OF CONDUCT

PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

PREAMBLE

This Code shall be read in conjunction with the Statement of Purposes and Rules, By-Laws and Match Conditions (both Senior and Junior) and shall be binding on all Members of the Bendigo Baseball Association (the BBA).

4.1 REPORTING VIOLATIONS of Code of Conduct

The reporting of any violation of the Code of Conduct by any player, official, umpire, scorer or spectator will occur by the completion of the BBA Report Form (BBA Form #7) by the reporting person(s) and to the BBA by the prescribed method in Report Card Use Bylaw.

4.2 Umpire Report breach of Code of Conduct

4.2.1 All Code of Conduct contraventions, if reported by an Umpire, will be dealt with as per BBA BYLAWS – Reporting of Person(s) and Report Card system.

4.3 Report of breach of Code of Conduct by other than Umpire

4.3.1 All Code of Conduct contraventions, if reported by any person, other than an umpire (BBA player, BBA official, Club official, spectator or member of the public) must complete a BBA Report Form within 21 days of the alleged incident(s) and forward same to the BBA Secretary.

4.3.2 The BBA Secretary will seek clarification from the Tribunal Chair on the best process forward.

4.3.3 The likely appointment of a "BBA Investigations Officer" can be undertaken by the BBA Secretary prior to referral to the Tribunal Chair.

4.3.4 Failure of the reporting person to submit the BBA Report Form within the 21-day time line will invalidate the process. In exceptional circumstances, the BBA Tribunal Chair, can waive the 21-day limit if the report is deemed to be of the utmost importance to the good governance of baseball within Bendigo.

4.3.5 In the case of a breach by a spectator of the BBA Code of Conduct that spectator must be readily identifiable as associated with a club, the BBA or an allied Association. A passing member of the public or a unknown person should not be approached or contacted.

4.3.6 All endeavours should be made by the reporting Umpire or Reporting person to ascertain who the spectator is associated with (as in club, BBA or associated Association). These enquiries should be included on the BBA Report Form (BBA Form #7).

Schedule "A"

1. Purpose of Schedule

1.1 To indicate to players, officials and members of the public what are considered offences against the rules of baseball and the bylaws of the Bendigo Baseball Association (BBA).

1.2 To guide and assist persons, including those not generally aware of the rules of baseball and the bylaws of the BBA (including the Code of Conduct) on the correct wording of offences and the meaning of the terminology used.

1.3 To assist all persons, who wish to convey information, to the Pennant Committee of the BBA, of an offence against the rules of baseball, against the bylaws of the BBA including the Code of Conduct.

1.4 To assist persons in the completion of the Report Form utilised by the BBA.

2. Definitions

"Bring the game of baseball into disrepute"

"A Participant shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour." By way of example a current player convicted of a drug offence and it is known that he plays baseball could bring the game into disrepute. An administrator of a baseball club could be held to bring the game of baseball into disrepute if found to have stolen from the baseball club or others associated with baseball. A coach of a baseball side is convicted of Family Violence.

"Abuse towards umpire"

The abuse can be verbal abuse (such as name calling), or physical abuse (such as punching). In the BBA physical contact with an umpire is a reportable offence. The use of minor indecent language or threatening behaviour are reportable offences in the BBA. Abuse in general terms would be acts akin to alleging the umpire is cheating, that he has accepted a bribe or anything that impinges upon the character of the umpire. The actual abuse does not necessarily need to be heard by the umpire but would require another person to refer the charge to the Pennant Committee.

"Egregious misconduct"

Egregious meaning outstandingly bad, shocking in nature and Misconduct meaning unacceptable or improper behaviour. Example - a player is reported for using threatening language, the player before departing escalates incident by using extreme indecent language and gestures and continues to make threats. Offence to be utilised along with minor, moderate and significant incidents that may have also been committed.

"Intimidating Play"

means to frighten or scare an opponent during a game by action, deed or verbal interaction.

"Malicious Game Play"

In reference to throwing a "beanball" which is to throw at an opposing player with the intention of striking them such to cause harm, often connoting a throw at the player's head. Batter deliberately striking catcher with bat.

"Offensive Interference"

Intentional and severe contact with the catcher when play at home plate

"Sledging"

means a term to describe the practice whereby some players seek to gain an advantage by insulting or verbally intimidating the opposing player. The purpose is to try to weaken the opponent's concentration, thereby causing them to make mistakes or underperform.

Schedule "A"

"Unsportsmanlike conduct"

Unsportsmanlike conduct (also called **unsporting behaviour** or **ungentlemanly conduct** or **bad sportsmanship** or **poor sportsmanship**) is a foul or offense that violates the sport's generally accepted rules of sportsmanship and participant conduct. Examples include verbal abuse or taunting of an opponent, an excessive celebration following a scoring play, or feigning injury.

"Racial, Religious and Gender Vilification"

means a person must not, by a public act, incite hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of, a person or group of persons on the ground of their **race** by threatening or inciting other to threaten physical harm to the person, or members of the group, or to property of the person or members of the group.

Behaviour that is likely to be racial, religious or gender vilification includes -

- speaking about a person's race, religion or gender in a way that could make other people hate or ridicule them
- publishing claims that a racial, religious or gender group is involved in serious crimes without any proof
- repeated and serious spoken or physical abuse about the race, religion or gender of another person
- encouraging violence against people who belong to a particular race, religion or gender also includes damaging their property
- encouraging people to hate a racial or religious group using flyers, stickers, posters, a speech or publication, or using websites or email.

Vilification is behaviour that incites hatred, serious contempt for, or revulsion or severe ridicule of a person or group of people because of their gender, ability, cultural background, religion and sexual orientation. The legal **definition** is conduct that 'incites hatred, serious contempt, revulsion or severe ridicule'.

Schedule "A"

3. Methodology of Completing BBA Report Form

3.1 The Report Form #7 used by the BBA should be completed by inserting the following on the form –

3.1.1 How? (The information to be placed in the Description of the Incident)

- How was the offence committed or attempted?

3.1.2 Why? (The information to be placed in the Description of the Incident)

- If able, describe why you think the incident occurred
- Why were the parties involved, was there any "incident" or actions before the reported incident happened?

3.1.3 When? (The information to be placed in area on form covering Date and Time of Incident(s))

- If needed you can put between times and / or dates if required

3.1.4 Where? (The information to be placed in area on form covering Location of Incident(s))

- Location on the diamond.
- Location outside the playing field (if applicable)
- In which dugout did it occur (if applicable)

3.1.5 Who? (The information to be placed in area on form covering Reported Person, Club Associated With etc.)

- The reported person(s) details
- The reporting persons details
- Name etc of witnesses if applicable should be placed in Description of Incident under heading Witnesses to Incident (if applicable).
- If Umpire report, name of other umpire should be placed in Description of Incident under heading Witnesses to Incident (if applicable, applies also to club umpire).

3.1.6 What occurred? (The information to be placed in the Description of the Incident)

- Describe the incident
- If threatening, sledging or abusive language please put down the words used, how loud and if possible, in your opinion could they be heard outside the field of play
- If striking or kicking incident please indicate what hand or foot was used, if hand was it an open or closed fist and to where was contact made.
- The information required if a bat or ball is used is much the same, force used, what part did it strike or nearly strike
- Supply a narrative that covers the alleged offence eg "Malicious Game Play", what part was malicious, you are happy that the act was intentional.

Schedule "A"

MINOR INCIDENTS

Yellow Card Offences

Minor indecent, obscene or insulting language to Umpire

Minor indecent, obscene or insulting language to opponent, own team member or spectator

Engage in a melee with opponent (s)

Acting in manner disrespectful to Umpire (Must detail in description on page 1 the "manner")

Abuse towards umpire

Minor equipment abuse - nil damage, nil person threatened by action.

Engage in intimidating play against an opponent (Must detail "intimidating" in description on page 1)

Sledging an opponent

Code of Conduct— Minor offence (other not Listed above, see BBA Code of Conduct Section 4 Reporting of Persons By Law) List and details in description of Incident page 1 of report form)

MODERATE INCIDENTS

Blue Card Offences

Use threatening language to Umpire

Use threatening language to opponent, own team member or spectator

Sustained dissent to Umpires ruling (only mild dissent player ejected)

Sustained dissent to Umpires ruling (major dissent player and coach ejected)

Sustained argument of judgement call (balls, strikes etc) Mild then player ejected

Sustained argument of judgement call (balls, strikes etc) Major then player and coach ejected

Act in threatening manner to Umpire (Must detail in description on page 1 the "manner")

Act in threatening manner to opponent, own team member or spectator (Must detail in description on page 1 the "manner")

Minor equipment abuse—minor damage or person could have been injured or persons in vicinity of thrown equipment

Sustained audible indecent, obscene or insulting language (Minor AOL) to Umpire.

Sustained audible indecent, obscene or insulting language (Minor AOL) to opponent, own team member or spectator

Spitting on or at an Umpire

Spitting on or at an opponent or own team member

Engage in malicious contact with an opponent (Must detail in description on page 1 the "malicious")

Intentionally trip an opponent

Attempt to trip an opponent

Unnecessary "rough" tactics in play

Disobeying an umpire's direction

Unsportsmanlike conduct

Code of Conduct—Vilification—(List either racial, gender or religious) Full details in description Page 1

Schedule "A"

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

Red Card Offences

Major equipment abuse—Property damaged, person injured, or person endangered to be injured

Conduct that endangers safety and / or wellbeing of another (player, umpire, official or spectator)

Attempt at conduct that endangers safety and / or wellbeing of another (player, umpire, official or spectator)

Contact with Umpire

Strike an Umpire

Attempt to strike an Umpire

Strike another player or person (identify in description) Attempt to strike another player or person (identify in description)

Offensive interference – deliberate contact with catcher on play at plate

Sustained wrestling with an opponent or any other person

Opponent charging the pitcher's mound with pitcher in place

Pitcher leaving mound to remonstrate with opponent

Malicious game play (Pitcher deliberately striking or attempting to strike a batter or manager ordering pitcher to strike a batter)

Egregious Misconduct. Includes major Code of Conduct Breaches.

OTHER INCIDENTS (Incidents covered by Code of Conduct or may be recorded by persons other than Umpires which are not included in Minor, Moderate or Significant Incidents as above)

Bring game of baseball into disrepute

Use abusive hand signals or gestures

Use abusive body language or gestures

Umpire, player(s) or scorers consume alcohol during game

Umpire, player(s) or scorers use performance enhancing drugs or stimulants during or before play

Smoke tobacco while in uniform

Smoke tobacco within 100 metres of playing field (baseball is a smoke free zone)