



# **Bendigo Baseball Association**

**Governing Document #5.1**

**Schedule of Offences**

## 1.0 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 Governing Documents 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 Committee of the BBA, of an offence against the rules of baseball, against the Governing Documents of the BBA including the Code of Conduct.

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

## 2.0 Definitions

2.1 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.

2.2 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 Committee.

2.3 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.

## 2.4 Intimidating Play

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

## 2.5 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.

## 2.6 Offensive Interference

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

## 2.7 Sledging

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.

## 2.8 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Unsportsmanlike conduct (also called unsporting behaviour or ungentlemanly conduct or bad sportsmanship or poor sportsmanship) is a foul or offence 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.

## 2.9 Racial, Religious and Gender Vilification

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'.

## **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 Person) List and include 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
- Mild dissent to umpire's ruling
- Mild argument of judgement call (balls, strikes, out, safe, etc.)
- 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
- Attempt to trip an opponent
- Unnecessary “rough” tactics in play
- Disobeying an umpire’s direction
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Code of Conduct—Vilification

## **SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS**

### **Red Card Offences**

- Major equipment abuse—Property damaged, person injured, or person endangered to be injured
- Sustained dissent to umpire's ruling (player and coach ejected)
- Sustained argument of judgement call (balls, strikes, out, safe, etc.) (player and coach ejected)
- Conduct that endangers safety and / or wellbeing of another (player, umpire, official or spectator)
- Engage in malicious contact with an opponent (Must detail in description on page 1 the “malicious”)
- Intentionally trip an opponent
- 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 which are not included in Minor, Moderate or Significant Incidents above and are covered by Code of Conduct may be reported by umpires as well as by persons other than umpires)**

- 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 10 metres of outdoor sporting venues during organised under 18s sporting events (includes pre-arranged matches, training or practice sessions and breaks during the event or training session where most of the people participating are under 18 years old).