



Boston Metro Baseball League

Unified Code of Conduct

UPDATED APRIL 2022

BMBL CODE OF CONDUCT

The Boston Metro Baseball League (“BMBL”) is a non-profit recreational baseball organization centered in the greater Boston, Massachusetts metro area, consisting of 18+, 28+, 38+, and MetroWest Divisions.

As a general guideline, Division Commissioners are responsible for upholding this protocol. More serious player offenses will be evaluated by the BMBL Board of Directors. Anyone who abuses the league's code of conduct is subject to suspension or expulsion at the sole discretion of the league officers.

This Code of Conduct applies across all age divisions and takes precedence over any individual age division’s rules or regulations.

1. PLAYER BEHAVIOR AND TEAM RESPONSIBILITY

- 1.01 General Suspension/Expulsion Rule: The BMBL sets its own standard for sportsmanship and will enforce suspensions/expulsions for all conduct deemed inappropriate for league members. All interactions with umpires, spectators, and other players fall under this purview.
- 1.02 Alcoholic Beverages: The consumption of alcoholic beverages on or in the vicinity of any BMBL playing field is prohibited. This rule is always in force before, during and after each game.
- 1.03 Umpire Authority: An umpire has sole discretion to eject any player or manager from a game.
- 1.04 Prohibited Conduct: Players shall always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. No player shall commit the following:
 - (a) Initiate ANY contact with or threaten an official. Players guilty of such conduct shall immediately be suspended from further BMBL participation until a full review has been completed by the Board of Directors.
 - (b) Refuse to abide by an official's decision. Objectionable demonstrations of dissent at an official's decision may be grounds for ejection and further penalties.
 - (c) Use unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game against the body or person of an opposing player.
 - (d) Be guilty of any physical attack as an aggressor upon any player, manager, official, or spectator, before, during, or after a game.

(e) Be guilty of a verbally abusive attack or abusive gesture toward any player, manager, official, or spectator, before, during, or after a game.

(f) Smoke on the field of play or in the dugout.

2. EJECTIONS

- 2.01 Incident notifications: Following any game where an ejection has occurred, Umpires must notify the Umpire Assigner via email; depending on the situation, a written report may be warranted. The Umpire Assigner will notify the Division Commissioner.
- 2.02 Commissioner notifications: The Division Commissioner will make a written report of his findings to the following individuals:
 - The player or coach in question.
 - The Manager of that player's team.
 - The BMBL Board of Directors.
 - The Umpire Assigner.
 - Manager/Commissioner of any other BMBL age division where the player plays.
 - The managers of all opposing teams to be faced while the player is under suspension
- 2.03 Suspension Schedule: Any player who is ejected from a game will receive an automatic suspension as outlined in the schedule below. This penalty is effective beginning with the very next scheduled game. Regular season and post-season will be considered as the same season. Suspensions can carry over from one year to the next.

(a) EXCEPTION: If the player designated at the beginning of the season as the team manager is ejected from a game due to his actions as a manager rather than a player (such as questioning a call on the field), there will be no automatic game suspension. However, the league reserves the right to introduce a suspension or expulsion on the basis of further review.

OF SEASONAL EJECTIONS

1st Ejection

2nd Ejection

3rd Ejection

AUTOMATIC GAMES SUSPENDED

1 game

2 games

Suspended for remainder of season, inc. playoffs

Any player who participates in a league game while under automatic suspension will be subject to additional penalties, and his team will be stripped of any wins gained during the use of an ineligible player.

- 2.04 Further action: The league reserves the right to review any ejection for further disciplinary action. Additional suspensions may be administered by the Commissioner upon examination of the umpire report and consultations with both managers.

- 2.05 Cumulative across divisions: The number of ejections is cumulative across age divisions, but the penalty is served in the division where the penalty occurred.

Example: A player is ejected from 28+ Division in April and 38+ Division in June. For the 2nd ejection, the player will serve a 2-game suspension in the 38+ division.

- For suspensions of three or more games, the Umbrella Policy below takes effect.
- 2.06 Appeals: Please refer to rule section 4.

3. PENALTIES/DISCIPLINE

- 3.01 The league, by majority vote of its Board of Directors, may suspend any player or manager for such a period and upon such terms as it may propose, as a direct consequence for conduct deemed detrimental to the welfare, interest, reputation, or character of the league.
- 3.02 The league shall promptly investigate each reported offense to determine the precise nature of each violation on the basis of league rules and, accordingly, deliver a penalty that is proportionate to these actions.
- 3.03 While each situation is uniquely judged on its own merits, a baseline for first-time disciplinary action is provided below. These penalties lay atop the automatic ones presented in Section 2.03.

OFFENSE

RECOMMENDED PENALTY

Excessive arguing and foul language

1-2 games

Umpire contact

3+ games

Fighting before, during, after game

6+ games

Physical attack against an umpire

1 year+

- 3.04 Once the Board of Directors has completed its deliberation, its decision and underlying rationale shall be conveyed to any players involved, as well as their managers.
- 3.05 Once a player has been placed on probation for the remainder of the season, any subsequent violation of the Code of Conduct shall result in that player's suspension for the remainder of the season, including playoffs.
- 3.06 Umbrella Policy: For serious offenses involving three or more games, player penalties are subject to the BMBL umbrella where the league may apply suspensions across all age divisions. Under this umbrella policy, a player will not be able to play in another age division until the original penalty is served in full.

4. Grievances, Protests, and Appeals

- 4.01 Anyone suspended for 3 or more games may file an appeal of the Commissioner's decision. Single or two game suspensions are not subject to appeals.
- 4.02 Grievances may be filed by an individual player or by his manager provided that a said grievance is formally submitted to the Board of Directors in document form. The league Commissioner shall settle all such grievances and shall report any action taken to the Board of Directors.
- 4.03 Affected players or managers may appeal any action or ruling via the submission of a formal appeal, delivered to the BMBL Board of Directors in a timely manner via written or electronic communication.