



Medicine Hat Minor Softball Association
Box 24027, RPO Crestwood
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 8M8



Hello U14/U12/U10 Coaches, Players, Families,

We issue this letter to stress the importance of RESPECT for our Junior Umpires. We have 7 NEW umpires to MHMSA and an entire division new to having their games umpired.

The greatest resource to any Minor Sport organization is someone RETURNING.

A returning Coach, a returning Player or a returning Umpire.

All carry with them the knowledge and experience from the previous season.

MHMSA only had 2 of the 5 Junior Umpires return this year.

It is hard enough to get young men and women to participate in umpiring, but harder still when they are being abused or harassed.

MHMSA has put all teams on notice that this type of behavior will not be tolerated. The Junior Umpires are LEARNING as well, and will require Coach, Player and Spectator (family) support.

*Questioning an Umpire call is not acceptable.

*Snide or off-side remarks about strike zones or safe/out calls will not be tolerated.

*Parents are not welcome on the field to approach the Umpire to discuss calls or offer input.

Umpires have been instructed to deal with the matters as they arise, including reporting individuals who feel they should be umpiring the game from the bleachers or sidelines. Umpires may also stop the game until spectators, coaches or players who fail to comply with the Code of Conduct are removed from the ball diamond.

WE MUST SHIFT THE THINKING THAT THIS IS STANDARD IN A BALL GAME.

UNLESS YOU ARE BEHIND THE PLATE, IT IS NOT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CALL THE GAME.

Open discussion can be had, if the umpire is receptive, **at games end BY THE COACH.**

Further information on MHMSA policy can be found in part below or on our website at www.medhatminorsoftball.ab.ca.

MHMSA is excited that we have 4 U14 teams and 3 U12 teams – enough to run 2 separate divisions. Plus 8 teams in U10! Thank you to all Coaches who have stepped up to the plate to teach, challenge and foster the love of this great game!

MHMSA is certain these divisions will be fun, exciting divisions to participate in and watch.

Thank you for your attention and support of these policies.

Michelle Campbell

MHMSA President

403.548.1836

Policy No. 5-A.2 Abuse of Individuals Affiliated with the Association

Policy No. 5-A.3 Harassment of Individuals affiliated with the Association

Purpose – The Association will not tolerate abuse of umpires, players, coaches, spectators and opposing teams.

Policy – If anyone is accused of abuse of an umpire, player or coach, the following may be used as a guideline. The seriousness of the abuse will determine if harsher penalties should be imposed.

Players and Coaches

On the first offense the player or coach will be ejected from the game, and the vicinity of the ball park, by the umpire. If the umpire is intimidated by the offending individual, or is not comfortable ejecting them, the umpire must notify the President, through the umpire coordinator, immediately following the game. The offending individual shall receive an automatic one game suspension. The President will notify the offending individual of the suspension. It is understood that a suspension from a game will mean that the offending individual will not be allowed near the ball park and its immediate vicinity.

The second offense shall result in a minimum three game suspension and the offending individual will be notified in writing by the President.

The third offense shall be brought to the disciplinary committee for determination of the length of the suspension. If the disciplinary committee considers the offense to be severe enough, the punishment determined by the disciplinary committee need not be sequential as outlined above. If an Executive member witnesses an abuse, the Executive member shall report the incident to the President. The President will convene the disciplinary committee to review the incident. The disciplinary committee shall consist of the President, and each of the directors above and below the division of the offender.