



BASEBALL PEI NON-CONFRONTATION POLICY

Revised 2026

1.1 **Overview**

This policy aims to foster a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all on-field officials, players, coaches, and spectators. It responds to the ongoing shortage of officials and the need to protect all umpires, especially minors, by promoting a culture of respect and understanding. All participants are expected to uphold the highest standard of conduct, ensuring the game is fair, engaging, and enjoyable for everyone.

1.2 **Official Rule**

- 8.02 (a) Any umpire's decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final. No player, manager, coach, or substitute shall object to any such judgment decisions.

*Comment: Players leaving their position in the field or on base, or managers or coaches leaving the bench or coaches box, to argue BALLS AND STRIKES will not be permitted. They should be warned if they start for the plate to protest the call. If they continue, they will be ejected from the game. (*This protocol will be followed at 15U AAA and above levels where seasoned high-performance umpires are officiating the games.)*

1.3 **Modification**

- BPEI will modify this rule for novice umpires and state that:
 - No warning will be issued for arguing judgement at the 15U AA and below level of baseball – ejection will be upon violation of the rule.
 - a. A further application of this rule is that ANY argument (of judgement) regardless of whether the player, coach or manager leaves their position or not is an infraction of this rule.
 - i. Ex. A manager in a coach's box or in a dugout commenting or gesturing disagreement with a judgement call by an umpire.
 - A **manager/Head coach* (not a player or assistant coach!) may ONLY request a conference with an umpire if *an interpretation of the rules* is being requested. Under no circumstances can the manager appeal the judgement call of the umpire. In circumstances where there is a *legitimate question regarding the application or interpretation of a rule*, the manager must:



- a. Approach the half-way point on the foul line of their respective side the field and wait for the umpire.
- b. The manager may NOT cross the foul line.
- c. The manager may NOT approach the umpire at home plate.
- d. The manager must respect the wishes of the umpire in whether the umpire chooses to approach the manager to discuss the situation. If the umpire declines to approach the manager, they must return to their dugout.
- o The Manager/Head Coach is responsible for managing team parent conduct. Umpires will not deal directly with a spectator- but are not required to listen to abuse from them either. Where an umpire identifies an issue “behind the screen or fence” the following will happen:
 - a. The umpire will approach the manager/HC of the offending spectator and identify the issue.
 - b. The Manager/HC will either deal with the situation or appoint another member of their coaching staff to act as the communicator.
 - c. The 1st communication to a spectator is that negative comments or criticism of the officials is not tolerated by Baseball PEI and violates the spirit and integrity of the game. They will be asked to keep their comments positive.
 - d. On a 2nd complaint (of the same individual) by an umpire, the offending spectator will be asked to leave the spectator area of the field (the parking lot is acceptable). The game will not resume until the spectator has complied with this requirement.

1.4 **Approaching the Umpire**

- o What can a manager or coach approach an umpire for:
 - a. Home plate meeting
 - b. Request that the umpire call “Time”
 - c. Line-up changes and substitutions
 - d. Injury/safety concerns or checks
 - e. Ask the HP umpire to ask their partner for help (Appeal) a half-swing (Check-Swing: *once a ruling has been made the manager must accept the outcome without further comment)
 - f. Rule applications and Interpretations (*subject to the above foul line protocol)
 - g. Shake hands with the umpire(s)
 - h. Offer words of encouragement or thanks for service



1.5 **Green Armband Initiative**

All umpires under the age of 18 are required to wear a green armband while on the field to clearly indicate that they are minors.

- The purpose of the green armband is to promote awareness among participants, coaches, and spectators, supporting the league's commitment to youth protection and positive engagement.
- This initiative is designed to encourage understanding, patience, and mentorship towards young officials while maintaining their visibility and safety at all times.

1.6 **Enhanced Discipline and Consequences for Violations where Green Armband officials are present**

While the non-confrontation policy applies to all officials, any violation of this policy involving a youth umpire (under 18 years of age, as indicated by the green armband), whether the youth is directly or indirectly involved, will result in double consequences as outlined in the BPEI Discipline Policy. This enhanced measure underscores the league's dedication to safeguarding minors and ensuring that youth umpires are supported, respected, and encouraged to remain active in officiating.

1.7 **Bench Restrictions as a Preventative Measure**

Bench restrictions may be issued by any official as a preventative measure to address or avert problematic behavior, conflict, intimidation, or negative demonstration by coaches or managers on the field. The primary focus of bench restrictions is to prevent escalation, support positive engagement, and keep all participants—including officials, coaches, and players—actively involved in the game. Bench restrictions are not intended as punitive action but as a tool to maintain a safe and constructive sporting environment for everyone.

- Bench restrictions will be monitored by BPEI.
- BPEI reserves the right to escalate a bench restriction to a disciplinary action based on the circumstances of the incident report.
- Any coach issued 3 bench warnings in a season will be issued an automatic 1 game suspension
- If, after a 1 game suspension is served, a coach is issued a 4th bench restriction, they will be suspended indefinitely pending a board of review with the BPEI Discipline committee.

When an umpire states, "**Bench Restriction**" to a coach, the coach must **immediately and without argument** return to the dugout or bench area and remain there for the remainder of the game.



A coach under Bench Restriction:

- May remain in the game and continue coaching and supporting players from the dugout.
- May **not** occupy on-field coaching positions, including first or third base coaching boxes.
- May **not** enter the field of play or foul territory to question or communicate with umpires.
- May **not** leave the dugout to engage in discussions the other team or coaching staff. If the restricted coach is the **only coach present**, they may request time from the dugout for necessary duties such as player substitutions or attending to an injured athlete. If another coach is present, that responsibility must be handled by the non-restricted coach.

Note: The manager of both teams must indicate on the lineup cards who is the manager by adding an (*) to the name on the line-up. This will indicate to the umpire crew who is allowed to request a conference from the foul line. Whomever is identified as the Manager/Head Coach must attend the plate meeting, so the umpires know who they are.