



# ST. JOHN'S MINOR 'A' BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

## GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY

April 2017

### INTRODUCTION

St. John's Minor 'A' Baseball Association Inc. (SJ MBA) has a FAIR PLAY POLICY that sets out the ideals that we would like to see displayed by our various constituents (players, coaches and parents). The GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY is the companion piece that will detail how the Fair Play Policy will affect the actual playing of the game. The document outlines what we expect from players, coaches/managers, umpires and parents/spectators. We will also provide details re: the penalties/sanctions that SJ MBA will invoke should an individual flagrantly ignore our policies.

### SJ MBA MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide opportunities and exposure in youth baseball and instill discipline, teamwork, a sporting attitude, honesty and integrity. Our baseball programs teach players to respect the game, work hard and play hard. Through proper guidance and exemplary leadership from our Board of Directors, staff, coaches and on-field officials, our programs will champion the virtues of character, courage and loyalty designed to not only develop superior athletes but also superior citizens.

### REVIEW BOTH POLICIES

We expect that all players, coaches, parents and umpires will make sure that they are familiar with both the Fair Play and Game Management Policies. Ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse. **We note that both policies relate specifically to our HOUSE LEAGUE.** Some of our guidelines may change when applied to our ALL-STAR PROGRAM. **The SJ MBA Ejections Protocol applies to both House League and All-Star play.** The policies for our ALL-STAR PROGRAM are detailed in the SJ MBA All-Star Manual.

### GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY – PLAYERS

**Note:** All players as a condition of registering with St. John's Minor Baseball Association agree to abide by the Game Management Policy approved by the SJ MBA Board of Directors. The main tenets of the policy for our players are:

- Know the rules of the game and play by them. (SJ MBA publishes rules of play on our web site for each division that requires them i.e. Rookie, Mosquito, Peewee, Bantam and Midget.)
- Show respect for all participants – teammates, coaches, opposing players, umpires and spectators. Bullying will not be tolerated. Coaches are asked to contact the Executive Director should acts of bullying by one of his players continue after raising the issue in a private conversation with that player.

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- All players should know their team schedule. We expect that players will advise their coach by e-mail, text or telephone in a timely manner when they cannot make a game. Players are expected to be at the field at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the game.
- SJMBA has a 'Zero Tolerance Policy'. Although players are entitled to ask questions in a respectful manner re: any call, dissing of umpires and throwing bats and helmets will not be tolerated. As noted in this policy, SJMBA has adopted an Ejections Protocol for dealing with these incidents.
- SJMBA ensures that each player receives a team jersey and cap. Players are expected to wear their uniform to each game. Starting in Mosquito, the uniform is – team jersey, team cap, baseball pants (grey or white), glove and proper footwear.

### GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY – COACHES/MANAGERS

**Note:** All coaches as a condition of registering and/or agreeing to coach or manage with St. John's Minor Baseball Association agree to abide by the Game Management Policy approved by the Board of Directors. The main tenets of the policy for our coaches are:

- Know the rules of the game and play by them. (SJMBA publishes rules of play on our web site for each division that requires them i.e. Rookie, Mosquito, Peewee, Bantam and Midget.)
- Treat all players equally re: playing time, batting opportunities and, where possible, position preference. Our Division Rules give details as to how coaches give each player equal playing time both offensively and defensively. In all divisions, safety should be a consideration for first base, catcher and pitcher. Coaches should maintain game lineups so that batting orders can be followed game to game.
- SJMBA has a 'Zero Tolerance Policy'. We expect coaches to set an example for their players. Although coaches are entitled to ask questions in a respectful manner re: any call, dissing of umpires will not be tolerated. As noted in this policy, SJMBA has adopted an Ejections Protocol for dealing with these incidents.
- Coaches will try to ensure that he/she has enough players for each game (we require a minimum of 8 to avoid a default). If the team is short, the coach will try to recruit some 'call ups' from the division below. AAA players are not eligible to play House League.
- Catcher equipment is kept inside the dugout for safety reasons. Bats and helmets will be placed in an appropriate location. Coaches will ensure that all equipment and garbage is removed from dugouts after each game.
- Encourage mutual respect and support amongst your players. Be observant for any signs of bullying or negative attitudes and deal with them immediately. If the negative behaviour continues, the coach will discuss the player with the Executive Director. Stress the importance of 'the team'.

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- Keep your team hustling and help the umpires in keeping the game moving i.e. have your catcher for the next inning identified and the gear on if he/she is not due at bat.
- Practice for House League teams is optional. However, the SJMBA office will assist with booking a facility and providing student instructors should you wish to schedule one. We expect that you will ensure a safe environment.
- SJMBA does provide instruction to improve your coaching skills. SJMBA encourages our House League coaches to take courses. SJMBA reimburses the cost of the course.

### GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY – UMPIRES

**Note:** All umpires as a condition of employment with SJMBA agree to be conversant with and abide by the Game Management Policy approved by the Board of Directors. SJMBA will ensure that all of our umpires are not only familiar with the rules for each division, but also our Fair Play and Game Management Policies.

- Know the rules of the game. You should be knowledgeable re: the Rules of Baseball as published by Baseball Canada. We will be testing all of our umpires re: the rules for each division. SJMBA publishes rules of play on our web site for each division that requires them (i.e. Rookie, Mosquito, Peewee, Bantam and Midget). Copies will also be placed in the equipment bins at each field.
- Know your schedule and be at the park 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. If for any reason you cannot fulfil your assignment, you must contact the Baseball Coordinator or Executive Director immediately.
- When you arrive at the park, open the equipment bins and distribute equipment to team coaches. IF YOU DISCOVER THAT WE ARE MISSING TEAM OR UMPIRE EQUIPMENT, PLEASE NOTIFY THE BASEBALL COORDINATOR OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS SOON AS YOU CAN (preferably after the game). GAME BALLS ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR WARM-UPS BY PLAYERS.
- Ensure that bases and pitching rubber are properly placed (there is a measuring tape in each umpire/equipment bin.) Execute the coin toss and start game on time.
- Keep both teams hustling and keep the game moving. Remind coaches to have their catchers ready to start a new inning.
- Control the game but in a respectful manner. Coaches and players are entitled to ask questions in a respectful manner re: any call. If in doubt, discuss with the other umpire. Don't be afraid to admit you made a mistake.
- . Review and follow the SJMBA Ejections Protocol outlined in this policy. If any clarifications are required, contact the Executive Director or Baseball Coordinator.

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- Parents and spectators are part of the game and will disagree with your calls. However, if normal 'chatter' becomes abusive then you should deal with it. We recommend the following steps be taken:
  1. If the abusive spectators are behind the backstop, stop the game and ask them to move to the bleachers or 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> base lines.
  2. If you can identify which team the abusive parents/spectators are supporting, stop the game and speak with the coaches of that team to assist you.
  3. If after taking these steps, the abuse continues, call the game. Report the incident to the Executive Director or Baseball Coordinator.
- SJMBA reserves the right to monitor the performance of its umpires. SJMBA may request umpires to take additional training; suspend umpires who are not following the Game Management Policy; and discontinue using umpires who do not comply with the Policy or display ongoing poor performance.

### SJMBA EJECTIONS PROTOCOL

SJMBA has adopted the following Ejections Protocol which is modeled after the Baseball NL Ejections Protocol:

- SJMBA umpires will use the Yellow Card System at all games.
- Umpires **must** complete a Game Report or contact the Baseball Coordinator or Executive Director immediately following a game where an ejection has occurred.
- The Executive Director and Baseball Coordinator will use the Game Report and/or a discussion with the umpire in determining the level for the incident/ejection (Level 1, 2 or 3). Level 2 and 3 will result in further disciplinary actions.
- As Noted, the discipline provided under each level of this protocol cannot be appealed. However, the classification of an incident as Level I, II or III is subject to appeal to the SJMBA Appeals Committee.

#### LEVEL I

**A Level I Ejection:** The offending player/coach shall not be subject to further discipline.

Level I ejections may include:

- Receipt of a **second** yellow card - Arguing judgment calls (Balls/Strikes, Safes/Outs, Fair/Foul, Catch/No Catch)
- Foul language used in disgust of a call
- Derogatory comments directed at umpires or players/coaches

#### LEVEL II

**A Level II Ejection:** The offending player/coach shall be issued an additional **1 game** suspension

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beyond the game in which they were ejected; **this cannot be appealed.**

The Executive Director and Baseball Coordinator will meet to determine if additional discipline beyond the additional one game suspension is necessary. Level II ejections may include:

- Prolonged arguing after an ejection over judgment calls as outlined above
- Threats of harm and/or violence directed toward an umpires/players/coaches
- Ejection during the final inning of a game or extra innings if such action is deemed to be intentional due to the time of the game
- Multiple uses of foul language and/or derogatory comments audible to spectators
- The throwing of playing equipment in disgust of a call; judgment or otherwise.

### **LEVEL III**

**A Level III Ejection:** The offending player shall be suspended indefinitely with a **2 game** minimum suspension; **this cannot be appealed.** The Executive Director and Baseball Coordinator will meet to determine if additional discipline is necessary. Level III ejections include:

- Playing equipment thrown out of the playing area and into the stands
- Altercation between players resulting in the emptying of dugouts and/or bullpens
- A player or coach making **deliberate, threatening CONTACT** with an umpire
- Continued use of language or arguing once player/coach leaves the field
- Intentionally attempting to injure another player. Defined as, but not limited to: the throwing of equipment at an umpire or players/coaches; intentionally hitting a batter in the head or neck area

### **GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY – PARENTS/SPECTATORS**

**Note:** All parents as a condition of registering your child with St. John's Minor Baseball Association agree to abide by the Game Management Policy approved by the Board of Directors for our parents and any guest spectators that attend our games, practices or events. The main tenets of our policy for parents and spectators are:

- SJMBA welcomes parents/relatives/friends to all of our games, practices and events. However, as stated in our Fair Play Policy we expect that you will respect all of the participants – players, coaches, umpires and other parents/spectators.
- SJMBA has a 'Zero Tolerance Policy'. Dissing of umpires, coaches, players and other spectators will not be tolerated. If offenders can be identified, SJMBA will invoke sanctions for disrespectful behaviour up to and including cancellation of your child's registration.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER**

- **THIS IS MINOR BASEBALL – THESE ARE KIDS.**
- **BASEBALL IS A GAME – IT SHOULD BE FUN FOR ALL.**
- **COACHES ARE VOLUNTEERS**

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- **OUR UMPIRES ARE STUDENTS AND HUMAN – THEY MAKE MISTAKES.**
- **DON'T ALLOW YOUR BEHAVIOUR TO EMBARRASS YOURSELF OR YOUR SON/DAUGHTER.**

### **GAME MANAGEMENT POLICY – APPEAL PROCESS**

**As provided in this policy, the classification of an ejection (Level I, II or III) and other disciplinary measures taken under this policy are subject to appeal to the SJMBA Appeal Committee created by the Board of Directors. The SJMBA Appeal Committee will follow the procedures established by Baseball NL, where applicable. These procedures will be fully explained to the individual making the appeal.**

- Appeal requests should be e-mailed to the Executive Director within 24 hours and prior to the imposed disciplinary action being undertaken (e.g. if a 2-game suspension results from a coach being ejected, the appeal should be sent prior to the next game).
- The e-mail should state the reason that the appeal is being submitted.
- While an appeal is being considered, the disciplinary measures will be suspended.
- The Appeal Committee will consult, as appropriate, with the individual who is subject to the disciplinary action, the Executive Director, umpires, coaches, spectators and/or players.
- The Appeal Committee will issue its decision (which will be final) as soon as possible.