

PMBA Umpire Concern & Conduct Policy

Approved by PMBA Executive: January 15, 2026

Applies to All Baseball and Softball Divisions

Purpose

This policy provides guidance on how to handle concerns related to umpire professionalism, conduct, and rule application during PMBA-sanctioned games. It is not intended for disagreements over judgment calls (e.g., balls/strikes, safe/out), which are part of the game and final once made.

1. General Expectations

PMBA values and respects the role of umpires in youth sports. All umpires, whether new and inexperienced or older and experienced, are to be treated with professionalism and respect at all times by players, coaches, parents, and spectators.

Umpires are expected to:

- Arrive on time and in appropriate uniform,
- Officiate consistently and within Baseball Alberta and Softball Alberta rules,
- Maintain professional conduct throughout the game.

2. What Is *Not* Grounds for a Complaint

The following are **not valid reasons** to submit a concern:

- Disagreeing with strike/ball, safe/out, or tag calls,
- Believing an umpire is “favouring” a team without clear misconduct,
- A single missed call that does not involve safety or rule misapplication.

3. Valid Grounds for a Concern

Concerns may be raised if an umpire:

- Repeatedly demonstrates unprofessional behaviour (e.g., swearing, sarcasm, dismissive attitude),
- Fails to follow major rules of play (e.g., incorrect base awards, protest procedures),
- Makes repeated safety errors or fails to intervene in unsafe conditions,
- Engages in conflict with players, coaches, or parents beyond acceptable interaction.

4. How to Submit a Concern

- All concerns must be submitted **in writing** within **72 hours** of the game.
- Concerns should be sent to the **PMBA Umpire Coordinator**, with optional CC to the appropriate **division coordinator** or VP.

Include the following:

- Date, time, and location of the game
- Teams involved
- Names or descriptions of the umpire(s) if known
- A brief summary of the concern
- Any witnesses (if applicable)

5. Review Process

- The Umpire Coordinator will review the concern and determine if follow-up is warranted.
- For minor concerns, follow-up may include education or mentorship for the umpire.
- For serious or repeated concerns, PMBA may refer the matter to **Baseball Alberta** or **Softball Alberta** for formal review.
- If needed, the Umpire Coordinator may request input from neutral executive members.

6. Baseball Alberta and Softball Alberta Umpire Complaints

If the issue involves a **Baseball or Softball Alberta-assigned official** or you feel the matter is serious (e.g. verbal abuse, discriminatory comments), you may also submit a complaint directly to:

<https://www.baseballalberta.com/officials/complaints>

<https://www.softballalberta.ca/complaintform/>

PMBA will assist if requested but will not submit complaints on behalf of others unless it involves a breach of our own internal standards. Complaints that directly involve a breach of PMBA policies (e.g., safety expectations, code of conduct violations, or repeated unprofessionalism) may result in internal follow-up even if Baseball Alberta or Softball Alberta are also involved.

7. Related Policies

This policy may intersect with other PMBA policies. Depending on the nature of the concern, the following documents may also be referenced during the review process:

- PMBA Coach Code of Conduct
- PMBA Parent Code of Conduct
- PMBA Discipline & Complaints Policy
- PMBA Safety & Incident Reporting Policy

8. Reminder for Coaches & Parents

- Coaches should **never confront umpires** during or after a game. Concerns must be addressed through the proper channels.
- Spectators who engage in abusive or inappropriate behaviour toward umpires may be subject to removal or further action under PMBA's **Parent/Guardian Expectations** and **Discipline Policy**.
- Posting publicly about umpire concerns, whether on social media or other platforms, is strongly discouraged. Such posts may violate PMBA's Social Media & Public Conduct Policy and could result in disciplinary action.