

## ARTICLE 4 – DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 4.1. **DISCIPLINARY ACTION** shall be to further the interests of softball.
- 4.1.1. **AUTHORITY** Disciplinary action may be taken against any member by:
- a. an affiliated Association/League
    - i) This will only affect a member’s eligibility to participate in games against other teams belonging to the Association/League.
    - ii) Suspensions issued by Association/Leagues shall not exceed one year. A detailed written or electronic report of any suspension exceeding 30 days must be submitted to the Softball BC office.
  - b. any member of the Board of Directors;
- 4.1.2. **GROUNDS** Conduct of a member that might reasonably lead to disciplinary action includes (the list is not exhaustive):
- 4.1.2.1. Verbally and/or physically abusing an umpire or other member;
  - 4.1.2.2. Knowingly playing with or against a suspended coach, player or team;
  - 4.1.2.3. Knowingly playing an ineligible player;
  - 4.1.2.4. Misconduct in hotels, restaurants, and/or drinking establishments while attending exhibition, league, playoff, tournament, Provincial Championship and extra-Provincial Championship events;
  - 4.1.2.5. Not returning uniforms or equipment to teams, Associations or leagues within a reasonable time after being requested to do so;
  - 4.1.2.6. Competing under an assumed name;
  - 4.1.2.7. Committing fraud involving the game of softball;
  - 4.1.2.8. Violating the Constitution, By-Laws and/or Operating Rules of an affiliated Association, League or Softball BC;
- 4.1.3. **NOTIFICATION** of disciplinary action shall be delivered to the member and copied to the member’s team and Association/League in writing or electronic form.

- 4.1.4. PRO TEM (interim) suspensions of less than 31 days may be issued, in writing by priority courier, or in person in exceptional circumstances (i.e. flagrant abuse (verbal or physical) of an umpire, player, fan or official; criminal or civil misbehaviour; gross misconduct relating to, and/or defiance of, established Special Operating Rules):
- a. Upon agreement between the appropriate District Umpire-in-Chief and District Coordinator;
  - b. In the case of Provincial Championship, by the Board Member, or their designate in charge of the Championship.
- 4.1.5. EXPIRY Disciplinary actions, including Pro tem suspensions, shall be deemed to have expired 31 days after they have been issued at 2400H, however further disciplinary action could be imposed in accordance with Article 4.1.
- 4.1.6. INVESTIGATION barring exceptional circumstances, a full investigation, in adherence with the principles of "Natural Justice", shall be undertaken before any disciplinary action is taken. Where a Pro tem suspension is issued, such an investigation shall be commenced as soon as possible and ratified, revoked or revised where the investigation results deem it appropriate.
- 4.1.7. SUBJECT TO APPEAL Disciplinary action may be appealed as provided in Article 5.
- 4.1.8. NOT IN GOOD STANDING When a member is suspended according to Article 4.1, they shall be considered a member not in good standing with Softball BC and lose all rights granted to a member in good standing. If they are found to have had contact with any member of their team or executive, they may be subject to further disciplinary action.
- 4.1.9. POSTING When a member is suspended, they will have their name posted on the Softball BC website until the conclusion of the suspension. The information will include the reason for suspension and the length of the suspension. The notice of suspension, if not for bad debt, will also be forwarded to Softball Canada with a request that it be forwarded to the ASA and its affiliates, as well as all Provincial/Territorial associations.