



Softball Nova Scotia On-Field Conduct Disciplinary Guidelines

Incidents of official, player and spectator abuse are now commonplace in all sports. In fact, finding examples of behaviour in sport that we would acknowledge as violent is not difficult. It is not just players committing acts of violence. Although not as frequent, there has been an alarming number of violent incidents perpetrated by coaches and by spectators. Violence by and between players, officials, coaches, and spectators has been documented far too frequently (1).

Softball NS promotes Fair Play Codes for players, coaches, parents, teachers, officials, administrators, and spectators. The preferred way to reduce abuse is through education of all stakeholders; however, it appears that sanctions also play a significant role in reducing abuse (3).

Softball Nova Scotia has jurisdiction over sanctioned activities which include Provincial Leagues, Provincial team activities, Sanctioned Club Tournaments, Exhibition Games using Softball NS registered umpires, Provincial Championships, Eastern Canadians Qualifiers, and any incident reports submitted by a Sanctioned out-of-Province Club Tournament or an Eastern Canadian/Canadian Championship tournament host committee.

Submitting Complaints An incident occurring during any sanctioned Softball Nova Scotia activities that alleges a 'type of misconduct' (described below) should be reported to the Softball Nova Scotia Executive Director ,When applicable, an Umpire Ejection Report must be submitted as per the [Umpire Ejection Report Form](#) .

Complaints within the Softball Nova Scotia jurisdictions - Upon written receipt of a complaint, Softball Nova Scotia will advise the respondent in a timely manner. They may be temporarily held under review, and unable to compete in any practices and/or sanctioned games/tournaments until a formal review and decision has been rendered.

Leagues are strongly encouraged to develop their own Disciplinary Guidelines that are suited to their own needs as a method to help reduce the number of incidents



involving abuse. Leagues are welcome to adopt the Softball Nova Scotia Disciplinary Guidelines with the League Executive ruling on any incidents reported. Softball Nova Scotia will uphold all suspensions, if necessary, for any SNS sanctioned event.

Softball Nova Scotia Disciplinary Guidelines

TYPE OF MISCONDUCT	MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES (Additional Sanctioned may be applied as determined by the discipline decision maker)
<p>Verbal Abuse Abusive language directed at a player, coach, manager, umpire, or team scorekeeper by anyone involved in the game (e.g., player, coach, manager, umpire, or team scorekeeper)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st & 2nd seasonal offence Immediate ejection from those games • 3rd seasonal offence Immediate ejection from that game and a min of 1 additional meaningful game and other discipline as may be applicable
<p>Extreme Verbal Abuse Extreme abusive language directed at a player, coach, manager, umpire, or team scorekeeper by anyone involved in the game (e.g., player, coach, manager, umpire, or team scorekeeper)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st seasonal offence Immediate ejection from that game and a min of 3 additional meaningful games and other discipline as may be applicable. • 2nd seasonal offence Immediate ejection from that game and a min of 6 additional meaningful games and other discipline as may be applicable. • 3rd seasonal offence Immediate ejection from that game, an indefinite suspension, and other discipline as may be applicable
<p>Verbal Abuse Directed at a Junior Umpire Abusive language directed at a Junior Umpire by anyone affiliated with a team (i.e., players, family members, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st seasonal offence Players, Coaches, Managers, etc. - Immediate ejection from that game and a min of 1 additional meaningful game. Family members, Spectators - Senior Umpire/Tournament Chair or SNS official will give a warning to the head coach of the team who is affiliated with the individual. The head coach will be responsible for the Immediate removal of the individual from the park before the game continues. If the individual does not comply in a timely manner of leaving the ball field area (250m) the game will be forfeited. • 2nd seasonal offence A second seasonal offence by a player, coach, manager, etc. will result in an immediate ejection from that game and a



	min of 2 additional meaningful games and other discipline as may be applicable
<p>Physical Abuse</p> <p>The act, attempt or threat of physical contact (e.g., pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) directed at anyone on or around the playing field by anyone involved in a game (e.g., player, coach, manager, umpire, or team scorekeeper)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st seasonal offence Immediate ejection from that game and a min of 3 additional meaningful games • 2nd seasonal offence Immediate ejection from that game, a min 6 additional meaningful games, and other discipline as may be applicable. • 3rd seasonal offence Immediate ejection from that game, an indefinite suspension, and other discipline as may be applicable
<p>Violent Physical Assault</p> <p>The deliberate act of assaulting any individual in attendance in a violent manner, (e.g., punching, spitting, swinging a bat, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st seasonal offence Immediate ejection from that game, a min 6 additional meaningful games, and other discipline as may be applicable. • 2nd seasonal offence Immediate ejection from that game, an indefinite suspension, and other discipline as may be applicable
<p>Other Unsportsmanlike Conduct</p> <p>The deliberate act of contravening a published rule, policy, or the principles of fair play and good sportsmanship on or around the playing field (e.g., competing under an assumed name; playing a suspended or unregistered player; throwing equipment; or instructing a player to “run them over if they are in your way”, etc. Applies to anyone involved in a game (e.g., player, coach, manager, umpire, or team scorekeeper)</p>	Discipline as determined by the Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel (as applicable)
<p>Act Detrimental</p> <p>to the Game Any act away from the playing field which is deemed detrimental to the best interests of the Association / League (Committing fraud; submitting bad cheques; defaulting games without providing reasonable notice of inability to play; not</p>	Discipline as determined by the Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel (as applicable)



Returning association / League uniforms and equipment when requested. Not honouring or completing a suspension as outlined in the guidelines. Not limited to the list above.	
Sexual Harassment / Abuse Any act by anyone to take advantage of a person for his/her own sexual stimulation or gratification.	The Association/League executive shall immediately notify local law enforcement for investigations

For any infraction where the suspension will not be fully served prior to the end of the season, the remainder of the suspension will roll over and be served at the beginning of the following calendar year. **(i.e., if a suspension of 3 games is implemented during the final game of the season, then the full 3 game suspension will be served at the beginning of the following season).**

A Meaningful Game suspension- A meaningful game suspension is the suspended members participation in any of the following: Provincial league games, Provincial team games, Provincial Championships, Eastern Canadian Qualifiers, Eastern Canadian Championships, Canadian Championship, any PSO Sanctioned Club Tournaments (e.g., Softball PEI, Softball Quebec) or a League where all teams are members of SNS. Exhibition games will not count as a meaningful game. Players/Coaches under suspension are allowed to practice with their teams as long as they are not suspended from the sport.

Suspended from the Sport - Being suspended from the sport means that the suspended member will not be permitted to participate in **any sanctioned** Softball Nova Scotia. **activities** during their suspension period. This includes practices, clinics, courses, special achievement opportunities, any game officiated by Softball Nova Scotia /Canada umpires, etc.). The Internal Discipline Chair or External Discipline Panel (as applicable) will determine if an offence requires a suspension from the sport or just from a game(s).

PLEASE NOTE - Softball Nova Scotia reserves the right to review all disciplinary minimum penalties and adjust as deemed necessary (based on severity of infraction). Penalties that are not honoured by the respondent will result in additional disciplinary actions.

For more information about Softball Nova Scotia Disciplinary Guidelines, please visit Softball Nova Scotia online at www.softballns.ca or contact Caroline Crooks at Softballns@sportnovascotia.ca.