



SOFTBALL DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

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Softball Disciplinary Regulations

2024

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1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1. SE is committed to providing a sport environment which is athlete-centered, and which is characterized by open and clear communication, honesty, fairness and mutual respect.
- 1.2. Membership in SE brings with it many benefits and privileges. At the same time, members are expected to fulfill certain responsibilities and obligations, including but not limited to, complying with the Code of Conduct, policies, rules and regulations of SE.
- 1.3. The SE Code of Conduct identifies *WBSC Rules of Softball, WBSCE and the Softball Commission determine the standards of behavior which are expected of members of SE.* Members who fail to meet these standards will be subject to the disciplinary sanctions identified within this policy.

2. APPLICATION

- 2.1. This policy applies to all categories of members in SE, as well as to all individuals engaged in activities with or employed by SE, including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, directors, officers, team managers, team captains, medical and paramedical personnel, administrators and employees.
- 2.2. It applies to discipline matters which may occur during the course of all SE business, activities and events, including but not limited to, tournaments, training camps, exhibitions, meetings and travel associated with these activities.
- 2.3. Discipline matters arising within the business, activities or events of provincial/territorial softball associations, teams, or affiliated organizations of SE shall be dealt with using the discipline policies and mechanisms of such organizations.

3. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 3.1. **Infractions during tournaments:**
 - 3.1.1. By players, coaches, managers or other team members authorized to be on the playing field during a game.

3.1.1.1. **Only the umpire crew** can take decisions for infractions on the field during a game.

In the case of any ejection of a team member the umpire will submit a completed **SE Ejection Report** to the game TC member, who will then determine what minimum sanction, if any, is required by **SE Disciplinary Regulations 3.4**.

A technical ejection – a penalty for illegal re-entry etc – will not be grounds for further sanctions under para 3.1.1.

An ejection falling under the category ‘Other Infractions’ may not require formal sanction.

The TC member will as soon as possible inform the Manager that the ejected person is subject to the minimum penalty as required by the Appendix and that the incident will be reported to the Technical Commission to determine whether any further sanction is to be applied.

The Report, with a note of the minimum sanction already applied, will then be promptly submitted to the Technical Commission to consider whether any further sanction should be imposed.

The Commission will take into account the actions of the ejected player / manager following the incident, including reluctance or refusal to go to the specified area upon ejection, or returning to confront the umpire(s) after the game. They will also note whether this was the first or further such incident involving the individual(s) concerned.

3.1.1.2. **Prior to the game**, the Team Manager / Head Coach is responsible for delivering the Line-up card as required by the Competition TC.

Should they, or the member of the dugout team designated at the TC meeting as the person responsible for delivery of the line-up, fail to do so persistently or blatantly, the responsible individual is subject to exclusion from the dugout for one game.

The procedure to be followed requires Scorers to keep the Scorer-in-chief of the event informed of time violations as they occur. If in the judgement of the SiC they provide a serious obstacle to the scorers in fulfilling their responsibilities, this will be reported to the TC, who will issue an Official Warning. A further Reported incident will result in a minimum one-game exclusion.

3.1.1.3. **If a further sanction is determined** due to a second or further repetitions of an offence, a written Statement of that sanction will be provided to the individual, and to their team manager.

Within two hours of receiving the Statement they may request a hearing to appeal against the further sanction applied. This hearing will be chaired by the Executive Commissioner present or their substitute and may hear from the individual involved (who may be accompanied by a representative) and Technical Commissioner(s).

There is no appeal against the decision of the EC.

3.1.2. By any person not on the playing field.

Any member of SE mentioned in para 2.1 above, being a witness of an infraction occurring within the jurisdiction of the SE, may submit a report to the TC chair of the tournament,

The TC chair shall give a copy of that report to the person involved, who can ask for a hearing. This request should be made to the TC chair within an hour after receiving the report.

At this hearing he / she may be accompanied by a representative.

Upon receipt of such report, the TC chair shall convene the Disciplinary Committee, no later than the end of that same day. The Committee then rules and decides the sanction, to be published after the hearing.

NOTE: In situation 3.1.2. the person involved may continue to play / manage their team, until the ruling from the Disciplinary Committee and any subsequent appeal to the EC present, is published

- 3.1.3. Appeal to the decision of the Disciplinary Committee of the tournament.
An appeal against the ruling or sanction of the Disciplinary Committee of that tournament must be sent to the SE responsible Executive Commissioner within 2 hours. The appeal will be considered 'as soon as possible, it may take overnight for Executive Commissioner to consider / decide) and the result of this appeal will be sent to the offender.

There is no appeal against the decision of the Executive Commissioner

- 3.1.4. All infractions which result in discipline shall be recorded on a Individual Sanction Record.
All sanction reports will be made available to the TC Chair at future events.

3.2. **Infractions by any member not during tournaments**

Any member of SE mentioned in para 2.1. above, being a witness of an infraction occurring within the jurisdiction of SE, can send in a report to the Disciplinary Commission.

The Chairman and the members of this Disciplinary Commission will be appointed for a period of one year by the Executive Board at the post-congress meeting.

The Disciplinary Commission examines all disciplinary cases brought to their attention by any report relating to violations by players, officials or spectators, Within 7 days of receiving the incident report, the Chair shall forward this report to the members of the Disciplinary Commission, with a proposed date for the meeting, which can be electronic, via SKYPE or equivalent.

They shall also send a copy of the report to the accused person.

This person has the opportunity to provide information concerning the incident NO LATER than 14 day after receiving the report, by sending all the arguments in defense to the Chair of the Disciplinary Commission.

The meeting of the Disciplinary Commission shall take place after this deadline has passed

The Disciplinary Commission shall rule, provided that:

- a. a quorum of at least 3 qualified Commissioners is required to consider the case.
- b. no member shall be qualified to vote if:
 - the examined case concerns them personally
 - they were part of the game as player, coach or official
 - the accused is from the same country.
- c. the Panel may request that witnesses to the incident submit written evidence;
- d. decisions shall be by majority vote; the Chair carries a vote;

The Disciplinary Commission shall communicate their decision to the accused person.

Appeals against the ruling of the Disciplinary Commission must be sent to the Secretary General within 14 days after receiving the ruling of the Disciplinary Commission. The appeal will be dealt with at the next Executive Board meeting and the result of this appeal will be sent to the offender.

The accused has the right to be personally present at that meeting, but will be responsible for their travel and all other costs.

If the individual being disciplined does not participate in that meeting, the meeting shall proceed.

All infractions which result in discipline shall be recorded on an Individual Sanction Record.

All sanction reports will be made available to the TC Chair at future events.

3.3. **Modification of provisions**

may be modified or added to, as required by the provisions of any other pertinent SE policy, such as those dealing with harassment, doping, personnel or event-specific matters.

3.4. Table of game suspensions:

	Number of games suspension:	
	Minimum	Maximum
Player, coach or team member to another:		
Verbal		
Indecent language	1	2
Insulting language	1	3
Threats	1	4
Inciting spectators to abuse another player	1	3
Physical		
Deliberate contact	1	2
Fights:	2	3
Fights: Actual injury	3	6
Throwing material	1	2
Spitting	2	4
NOTE: Fights during bench clearing will be handled as fights mentioned above		
Player, coach or team member to official:		
Verbal		
Indecent language	1	2
Insulting language	2	3
Threats	2	4
Inciting spectators to abuse officials	1	3
Physical		
Deliberate contact	1	2
Attempted injury	2	3
Actual injury	3	6
Throwing material at a person	2	4
Spitting	2	4
Other infractions		
Disputing judgement calls, Late delivery of line-up, <i>displaying influence of alcohol</i> , etc.	0	2

If in the TC's judgement the Umpire's Report indicates that the ejection itself was sufficient AND there are no previous incidents on record, OR if the SiC Report on the late delivery of a line-up is the first recorded, an 'Official Warning' may be issued. For repeat infringement(s), the penalty may be increased.

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