



## CALGARY MINOR SOFTBALL UMPIRE ADVOCATE POLICY

Our young umpires should be able to work in a supportive environment that will allow them to develop their skills and confidence. Junior umpires should not feel intimidated by the coaches, players, or fans. The umpires need to establish an authoritative presence on the diamond. To create this environment and give them a sense of control, the Umpire Advocate position has been instituted by Calgary Minor Softball Association in conjunction with the CMSUA.

Calgary Minor Softball adheres to a zero-tolerance policy for the verbal or physical abuse of any game participants. The policy covers players, coaches, managers, umpires, and spectators. Failure to comply with this policy will result in penalties to the teams and/or spectators as well as possibly having a disciplinary meeting.

If a game is being umpired exclusively by junior umpires with no mentor, EACH team **MUST** supply an adult Umpire Advocate who is not a coach or manager. Each of these Umpire Advocates would be responsible for the conduct of their own team members, coaches, and fans. **No game umpired exclusively by junior umpires will be allowed to proceed until an Umpire Advocate from each team has been identified.**

### **TEAMS MUST EITHER: HAVE UMPIRE ADVOCATES OR FIND A SENIOR/ADULT UMPIRE OR A PARENT UMPIRE.**

The role of the Umpire Advocate is to support junior umpires in the conduct of the game. They are BOTH to be present at the plate meeting. On the invitation of an umpire, they will also establish their presence at any other meetings between the umpires and the coaches/managers when it is deemed necessary to protect the umpire(s) from abuse. The Umpire Advocates **ARE NOT** umpires. They will not make calls, but they may participate in discussion over a disputed call when they believe it is necessary to protect the umpire. They are there to support the umpire's decisions and may facilitate a junior umpire's explanation of the ruling of a play on the field.

The purpose of the Umpire Advocate is to give young umpires the confidence to make calls and enforce the rules without fear of abuse from the players or coaches on the field, or the spectators. In this regard, the Umpire Advocate will provide necessary support for the umpire in situations regarding calls, unruly fans, poor sportsmanship, critical/vocal parents, and/or coaches who are threatening or attempting to change the umpire's decisions. The Umpire Advocate has the right to suspend a game when they believe that the abuse of a junior umpire by their own team is beyond control. Umpire Advocates may also be consulted in decisions regarding safety, such as weather conditions, field conditions, and player injury.

In Summary: The Umpire Advocate's duties include:

- 1) Being familiar with the nature of the game and the basic responsibilities of umpires
- 2) Attending the pre-game plate meeting with the umpire(s) and coaches.
- 3) Remaining for the entire game, in a position to observe the entire field, while being available to the umpire if needed, and meeting with the umpire periodically between innings to ensure that no ill-behaviour is being missed.
- 4) Overseeing the conduct of the coaches, players, and spectators of their own team.
- 5) Following discussion with the umpire suspending the game based on the uncontrollable behaviour of anyone associated with their own team, i.e.: player, coach, manager, or spectator for persistent objection to the judgement of an umpire, for unsportsmanlike conduct, foul language, or any other reason specified in the rule book.
- 6) Assisting junior umpires in properly judging when play should be suspended due to weather conditions, field conditions, or darkness.
- 7) Ensuring that junior umpires have safely cleared the game venue without incident after the conclusion of the game.

**\*\*\*Importantly - Umpire Advocates are NOT umpires.\*\*\***

## What constitutes misconduct at each level of the new sanction system?

Misconduct by a team towards umpires, opponents, teammates and spectators will be classified in two categories:

**Minor Misconduct (a yellow card)** - actions contrary to good manners, moral principles, or expressing contempt. The result of such sanction is the misconduct will be reported to Softball Alberta. The offending individual will be allowed to continue to participate within the game.

- A second yellow card to an individual will result in immediate ejection without the second card being shown to the offending individual.

**Major Misconduct (an ejection)** – include defaming or insulting words or gestures, actual physical contact or aggressive or threatening behavior along with other behaviour that would have resulted in ejection in past years. A yellow card does not have to precede an ejection. If the misconduct is serious enough, the individual can be ejected without receiving a yellow card.

### Examples of Misconduct and Category for possible sanctioning:

#### Minor Misconduct (Yellow Card)

- Use of audible foul language
- Disputing judgment or decision of an umpire
- Minor equipment abuse
- Frivolous complaints (first incident)
- Talking Back to an Umpire
- Displays of inappropriate aggressive behavior

#### Major Misconduct (Ejection)

- Receiving a second Yellow Card in a game
- Disparaging or insulting remarks and/or the use of foul language directed toward a player/coach/official/umpire/spectator
- Failing to carry out a lawful direction of an umpire
- Abusing an umpire or official
- Deliberately barging with force
- Displays of excessive aggressive behavior
- Frivolous complaints (second and further incidents)
- Major equipment abuse where there is potential to injure participants and/or spectators
- Fighting after being provoked
- Provoking a fight but no further involvement
- Physically attacking an umpire

# ASUA YELLOW CARD PROGRAM

