SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

**SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS CODES OF CONDUCT**

**Portage Youth Baseball Club, Inc.**

Aspects of sanctions for PYB sportsmanship violations:

**I.**  Categories of offenses

**II.** Types of warnings, penalties & duration

**III.** Communication & decision process re: sanctions

**IV.** Appeal process once penalties assessed

**V.**  Training of umpires re: sportsmanship rules and penalties

**I. Categories of Sportsmanship Offenses - for Coaches, Parents, Players & Spectators**

**A.** Words/gestures/tone of voice – violations of codes of conduct by Coaches, Parents or Players include:

o Swearing or obscene gestures

o Verbal threats of physical violence

o Gestures indicating threat of physical violence (e.g. punching gesture; neck slit gesture)

o Angry tone of voice with elevated volume (as compared with frustrated tone, which is not a violation). Note: this is clearly subjective and may require Rules Committee (RC) consultation.

**B.** Physical contact - with other players, umpires, other parents & other coaches

* Pushing/shoving
* Spitting at
* Grabbing
* Punching
* Kicking
* Bumping during heated argument

**C.** Rules of Play Violations, including extent of player participation

o See separate sets of rules of play

**II. Types of Warnings, Penalties & Duration**

**A.** Warning for all types of offenses except physical contact

o Warning by umpire, if during game

o Warning by RC Chair, if decided after game

o No warning needed if violation involves physical contact, or if offense is severe

o If warnings are followed by further violations, range of penalties below applies

**B.** Request to leave the complex - for physical contact and words/gestures/tone of voice offenses

* To be used if umpire warning is followed by an additional violation during game
* If a Coach, Player or spectator is ejected from a game, he/she is suspended for the teams next contest and not allowed at the park.

**C.** 1 game suspension

o To be decided by consultation within RC, followed by final Board decision

o Minor first offenses = 1 game suspension

**D.** 2 game suspension

o Next level of penalty for 2nd offenses, after warnings & 1st offense penalties are applied

o Severe first offenses = 2 games (These include: physical contact, as described above, or unethical behavior, as determined by Rules Committee based on rules violations for each division.)

**E.** Remainder of season or permanent suspension from league

o Appropriate after all above penalties are applied and if another violation occurs

o May also be applied in severe situations such as physical contact, gross misconduct or disorderly conduct requiring police intervention.

**III. Communication & Decision Process re: Sanctions**

**A.** **Pre-season Communication**

o Codes of conduct are required and signed by all players and parents

o Posting on PYB website

o Distribution to all coaches and discussed at Coaches Meeting prior to the start of the season

**B. Notification Methods for Reporting of Violations**

o Direct observation by Board member

o Calls/messages/in-person reports from Coaches, Parents, Players or spectators

**C.** **In-season Decisions**

* + Quick consultation process by rules committee when offenses occur
    - Initial calls from the field, when alleged offenses occur, contact President and V.P.
    - One board member "on call" every night of season to consult with RC chair re: offenses when they occur
    - If RC chair/on-call Board member have questions about decision - email to all RC members asking for input within 24 hours; 2 responses required to serve as adequate input
    - RC chair calls Board members with decision for approval
  + After a warning is issued, or after a game suspension, when coach/player/parent/spectator returns to the field, one Board member will be present for a minimum of 1 game to observe coach/parent/player in action.

**D. Communication re: Offenses & Sanctions by Rules Committee**

o Email first to all alleged violators from RC chair. (Message can be drafted by any RC member.)

o E-messages will include request to discuss violation by phone call within 24 hours as an attempt to understand the situation and hopefully reach a solution involving a lower-level sanction. (Phone calls can be made by any RC member appointed by RC chair, who will then send e-message summarizing conversation to rest of RC.)

o Final sanction decisions will be sent to violators via email, again with an offer to discuss by phone if desired.

o Rules Committee will establish a log of offenses, maintained by the RC chair, that will track warnings & sanctions issued, to enable accurate assessment of additional sanctions, when necessary.

**IV.** **Appeal Process once Penalties Assessed**

**A.** Written appeal to Board

**B.** At Board’s discretion, an in-person appeal to Board for certain more serious offenses, however, penalties may be served prior to the resolution to the appeal.

**C.** Decision time frames - 1 week (if offenses happen during season, i.e. before tournament start); 1 day (if offenses happen during tournament); 1 month (if offenses happen in last game of tournament or for any reason go undecided before end of season)

**V. Training of umpires re: sportsmanship rules and penalties**

**A.** Instruct umpires to go over key sportsmanship guidelines with coaches & players before each game

**B.** Also instruct umpires to explain key rules and their own style of umpiring to both teams’ players and coaches before each game.

**C.** RC Chair will ensure that umpire training includes a review of all Codes of Conduct and of the above Sanctions report.

o RC members attending any game may approach umpires for that game to remind them of Codes of Conduct and Sanctions, as appropriate.

o Umpires will be instructed to report sportsmanship violations to their supervisor within 24 hours of occurrence, who in turn will be instructed to report them to the RC Chair within 24 hours of notification.