

SVBSA - Zero Tolerance Policy for Umpire Abuse

Seneca Valley Baseball & Softball Association is committed to providing every participant with a positive baseball/softball experience. The fabric of a youth participation sports league is held together by good sportsmanship and the mutual respect of everyone involved. SVBSA believes that every participant deserves to be treated with respect. To this end, the league has developed a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR UMPIRE ABUSE**.

Across the country and throughout youth sports, there have been increasing numbers of incidents involving coaches, players and parents abusing game officials. SVBSA utilizes youth umpires and sees this program as an additional benefit to the youth of our community. This provides a secondary outlet for young people to participate and develop within SVBSA. This youth umpire program helps young people develop valuable life skills, while also filling a needed role in Youth Baseball. Because of this, the SVBSA Board of Directors has decided to implement a "zero tolerance" policy toward any cases of umpire abuse that are reported and confirmed by umpires, spectators, managers/coaches, or board members. This policy is effective immediately.

Umpire abuse at its simplest is defined as any deliberate action that makes an umpire feel physically threatened, verbally intimidated or emotionally humiliated. Disrespectfully objecting to calls, yelling at, publicly calling, constantly disagreeing with an umpire by action or verbally can be deemed umpire abuse. Coaches should always show decorum, respect, and observe all game rules whenever questioning an umpire about a call. (Board discussion/input)

The penalties for any confirmed case of umpire abuse by a manager and/or coach will be:

- 1st incident – 1 game suspension for a coach regardless of past history, coaching experience, or program involvement. This suspension will be IN ADDITION to any suspension due to an ejection from a game.
- 2nd incident – 3 game suspension for a coach.
- 3rd incident – a lifetime ban from coaching any SVBSA team.

In addition, if a coach confronts an umpire after a game to continue verbally abusing an umpire, these penalties will be increased to 2 games for the 1st and 6 games for the 2nd incident.

Any incident that involves physical abuse by bodily threatening, shoving, bumping, or harming an umpire will result in an immediate indefinite suspension and notification of proper authorities. A manager or coach wishing to be reinstated will have to appear before the SVBSA Discipline Committee for a hearing.

Parent/Team Support Umpire Abuse:

- 1st Incident – 3 game suspensions
- 2nd Incident – 5 game suspensions
- 3rd Incident – ban from attending any SVBSA event

Managers and Coaches will be asked to provide the names of any parents who abuse umpires and those who don't cooperate may face a 1 game suspension for refusing to cooperate.

Please remember that SVBSA managers and coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players and parents/spectators during games. Umpires may file an abuse report on any coach whose players and supporters are abusing an umpire.

If you have feedback on an umpire's performance, managers and coaches are encouraged to complete an umpire evaluation form and submit it to the head umpire. The Head of Umpires (svbsa.vpoperations@gmail.com) can address individual umpires' need for supervision, instruction, and additional training.

Thank you!
Board of Directors
SVBSA