

BWA Baseball Etiquette – A Participants Guide

Based on the discussions from Officiating Forums held during the 2003/04 season with all Baseball WA stakeholders invited.

The Intent: To be a guide for all baseball participants playing at any level and competing in BWA competitions. Any behaviour not in keeping with this guide may result in exclusion from the game and possible further penalty as per BWA Regulations.

Note: Not all of the following situations are prevalent in all levels of BWA competitions, however such behaviours should be encouraged, or discouraged, as and where appropriate.

The following Behaviours amongst Players are to be avoided:

1. Fake Tags
2. Raised Elbows while running bases
3. Dropping the shoulder tags
4. Barrel Roll or raised foot sliding to break up double plays
5. Batter gesturing or commenting to pitcher after hitting Home Run
6. Batter complaining when hit by slow pitch
7. Batter attempting to view catcher's signs to the pitcher
8. Stealing when more than 10 runs ahead
9. Picking off runners when more than 10 runs behind
10. Derogatory comments passed between any player
11. Equipment abuse
12. Violent disapproval of any call from any participant (including the dugout and coach's box)
13. Constant sniping from any participant (including the dugout and coach's box)

The following Behaviours by Players should not be demonstrated towards an Umpire:

1. Demonstratively questioning balls and strikes – i.e.:
 - a. Pitcher indicating from the mound
 - b. Batter indicating with line on the ground or with the bat
 - c. Catcher turning to question calls
 - d. Catcher indicating by leaving glove up after the call
2. Batter not immediately returning to dugout after called out
3. Kicking dirt, grass etc on home plate or at the umpire
4. Equipment abuse as a result of umpires decision
5. Continued audible and visible disagreement after being told "that's enough"

The following behaviours should be demonstrated during Player-Umpire communications:

1. Calm, Considered and Respectful discussions.
2. All questions regarding rules interpretation via the Manager
3. Manager is entitled to inquire regarding a rules interpretation
4. Manager must not prolong his approach once the Umpire has declared his decision
5. Personal space respected

The following behaviours must be demonstrated by the Umpire:

1. Respect towards all participants
2. Listen fully to any reasonable request and provide reasonable explanation
3. Confer with his partner when reasonably asked when a possible unseen event could have occurred
4. Never over-rule his partner
5. Assume complete control and authority of the game
6. Assume authority to rule on anything not in the rules with good judgement and fair play in mind

ALL participants in baseball for the "Love of the Game" should demonstrate the following Behaviours:

1. All Participants in club uniform (including while in Dugouts): i.e.
 - a. Same colour and style club hat
 - b. Same colour and style club playing shirt
 - c. Same colour and style pants
2. Participate with passion, enthusiasm and good sportsmanship
3. Enjoy the occasion