



## Baseball Nova Scotia Umpires Division Code of Conduct

### I. Declaration of Policy

Baseball sanctioning bodies have entrusted us to assist them in the development of their players through the proper application of the rules. The operation of such a process requires that umpires be independent, impartial and responsible to the people, with whom they interact, including both the public and fellow officials. The purpose of the Baseball Nova Scotia Umpires Division (BNSUD) Code of Conduct is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all umpires. The Code of Conduct does not exhaust the moral and ethical considerations of professional behaviour and attitude. Compliance with this Code of Conduct depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peer and public opinion, and finally, when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary proceedings.

### II. Ethical Standards

- A. Members must be free of obligation to any interest other than the impartial and fair judging of competitions. Without equivocation, game decisions that are slanted by personal bias are dishonest and unacceptable.
- B. Members recognize that anything that may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Gifts, favors, special treatment, privileges, employment or a personal relationship with a team, association or school that can compromise the perceived impartiality of umpiring must be avoided.
- C. Members have an obligation to treat other umpires with professional dignity and courtesy and recognize that it is inappropriate to criticize other umpires.
- D. Members have a responsibility to continuously seek self-improvement through study of the game, rules, mechanics and the techniques of game management. They have a responsibility to accurately represent their qualifications and abilities when requesting or accepting umpiring assignments.
- E. Members shall protect the public (fans, administrators, coaches, players, et al) from inappropriate conduct and shall attempt to eliminate from the umpiring avocation/profession all practices which bring discredit to it.
- F. Sports officials shall not be party to actions designed to unfairly limit or restrain access to officiating, officiating assignments or association membership. This included selection for positions of leadership based upon economic factors, race, creed, color, age, sex, physical handicap, country or national origin.

### III. Affirmations:

- A. I devote time, thought, and study to maintain the highest standards of our sport. I strive to perform in as professional a manner as possible:
  - a. By acting within the governing rules and mechanics of competition.
  - b. By acting in a spirit of good sportsmanship.
  - c. By having a protective rather than punitive attitude toward enforcement of the rules.
  - d. By being impartial.
  - e. By maintaining my focus on observation, not expectation, not anticipation, not preference.



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- f.** By ensuring the conditions of a competition are fair and equitable for all participants.
  
- B.** I strive to work with fellow umpires in a spirit of harmony and cooperation. I am respectful and courteous of others, cognizant that difference of opinion and interpretation may occur.
  
- C.** I resist every temptation and outside pressure to use my position as an official to benefit myself. Under all circumstances, I avoid promoting the special interests of any person or group of athletes we serve. I recognize that it is important to honour contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.
  
- D.** I do not use legal, illegal or recreational drugs or alcohol immediately before or during any competition session where I am working or in attendance as an observer.
  
- E.** I have not engaged nor will I ever engage in any behaviour that utilizes the influence of my position to encourage inappropriate sexual intimacy with any minor, any athlete, any coaching staff or any facility staff.
  
- F.** I agree to abide by the Code of Conduct. Failure to follow this polity may result in disciplinary action with BNSUD.
  
- G.** Further, I acknowledge that I am an independent contractor and BNSUD has no responsibility to guarantee employment as a result of my membership or training received.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_