



BC Amateur Baseball Association

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Hazing Policy

(1.0) Introduction

Baseball BC believes in fostering a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for participants. Hazing is an archaic and outdated practice that goes against these values and has no place in the sport. Hazing can have a serious, long-lasting, impact on athletes. Hazing tears teams apart and should be replaced with positive team building activities. Accordingly, Baseball BC condemns the practice of hazing in the strongest possible terms.

(2.0) Definition

Hazing is defined as any action, as part of an initiation of teammates, that reasonably could be foreseen to endanger the physical, mental, or social-emotional health or safety of another individual.

Hazing may be humiliating, demeaning, shameful, or degrading.

Hazing can occur in any location and with or without the consent of the participants.

There is no such thing as an acceptable form of hazing.

(3.0) Role of Coaches

Coaches have a responsibility to prevent hazing from occurring within their team. Coaches are expected to educate their athletes on this policy and to create a culture whereby hazing of any kind, is not acceptable. Coaches also have a duty to reasonably supervise their athletes for the purpose of preventing hazing incidents when athletes are under their direct supervision, such as at the ballpark and on road trips. A coach may be found to be responsible for a hazing incident, even when the incident occurs while athletes are not under the coach's direct supervision. The head coach has the primary responsibility for education and supervision.

When hazing events occur, the actions or inactions of coaches will be reviewed by the discipline committee. Coaches who are found to have not educated their athletes on hazing, or failed to provide reasonable supervision, or permitted hazing to occur in any other way, will be subject to disciplinary sanctions. A head coach who is found to have any degree of responsibility for a hazing event occurring, will be suspended for a minimum of ten-games. Other coaches may also face sanctions.



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(4.0) Consequences for Athletes – Active Participants

Athletes who actively participate in verbal or physical forms of hazing will be sanctioned under the Baseball BC discipline policy. Active participants include those who are cheering on and/or encouraging those committing the hazing. Athletes will be sanctioned based on their individual actions.

(5.0) Role of Bystanders

Bystanders are defined as athletes who are present during a hazing event but do not actively participate and are not victims of the hazing. Bystanders are expected to speak out against hazing as it occurs, remove themselves from the situation, and immediately report the incident to a coach or other responsible adult. When bystanders watch hazing occur in silence, they become part of the incident and may be subject to discipline.