

Brandon Valley Baseball Association

Disciplinary Policy

Disciplinary Policy Goals

The goals of the Association Disciplinary Policy are to 1) provide definition of activities or behavior considered unacceptable by the Association; 2) provide for specific penalties in response to unacceptable behavior and/or actions; 3) clearly state for the membership the intent of the Association to develop young men both on and off the field of play. The Association expects all players to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, in addition to those rules established in the Brandon Valley School District athletic participation guidelines.

Applicability

This policy applies to the off-field behavior and/or activities of all players participating in BVBA sanctioned activities. On-field activities related to both practices and games are addressed in the BVBA Player/Parent Agreement.

Activities/Violations Covered

This disciplinary policy covers violations of training rules, including but not limited to the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. The definition of the term “drugs” shall include, but is not limited to illegal narcotics, pharmaceutical drugs without a doctor-issued prescription, and steroids and other performance enhancing drugs (PEDs).

In addition, this policy covers violations of state and local laws, including both felonies and misdemeanors, including but not limited to crimes against persons and property, curfew violation, and any other offense actionable by federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities.

Applicable Penalties

The Director of Baseball Operations (DBO) shall determine if a violation of Association rules has occurred.

Violations subject to penalty shall be divided into two categories: substance abuse violations and “other” violations. “Other” violations shall include both misdemeanor and felony violations, ranging from curfew violations to crimes, both violent and non-violent, against persons or property apart from substance abuse.

Substance Abuse Violations

The following is the penalty schedule for substance abuse violations:

1. First Violation

After confirmation of the first violation, the student shall be suspended from participation in all baseball events (i.e. games, including interscholastic scrimmages or practices) for

fourteen (14) consecutive calendar days or two baseball events, whichever is greater. Players are expected to participate in all practices during all suspensions.

Weeks of practice, which are absent of competition will not be counted.

2. **Second Violation**

After confirmation of the second violation, the student shall be suspended from participation in all baseball events for 28 consecutive calendar days, or four games, whichever is greater. Weeks of practice, which are absent of competition/performance, cannot be counted.

3. **Third Violation**

After confirmation of the third or subsequent violations, the student shall lose eligibility for one full year from the date of the violation.

It is mandatory that before being readmitted to activities following suspension for a third violation, the person participates in an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor or completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program. If the assessment indicates the need for a higher level of care, the student is required to complete the prescribed program before becoming eligible to participate in sanctioned Brandon Valley Baseball activities.

”Other” violations

Penalties for non-substance abuse related offenses shall be determined by the Director of Baseball Operations, dependent upon the severity and number of the offense(s) involved, the span of time involved for multiple offenses, and any other extenuating circumstance deemed relevant by the Director.

Penalties for minor offenses, e.g. curfew violations and other misdemeanors may range from an Official Warning to a two week suspension. Penalties for major offenses and/or felonious criminal activity may range from a suspension of two weeks to a full calendar year. If in the opinion of the Director the nature of an offense or a series of offenses merits a lifetime ban from Brandon Valley Baseball activities, the Director shall request approval of such ban from the Board of Directors of Brandon Valley Baseball. A majority vote of the Board shall be required to enact a lifetime ban.

Considerations

- a. Violations and penalties apply during the off-season.
- b. Violations are cumulative throughout the entire competitive league career (ages 13-18). A student who has one violation and then remains violation-free for twelve (12) consecutive months will start over with clean slate. This opportunity applies only once during a player’s competitive league career (provision does not apply to suspension for a drug conviction.)
- c. Practice weeks, in which no games are scheduled, cannot be counted as penalty weeks.
- d. Scrimmages and interscholastic practices will not count towards penalty reduction.
- e. Violations carry over from one season to the next. If the violation occurs during the off-season, the suspension will be invoked at the beginning of the next baseball season.

- Example: First violation occurs during the off-season in the winter. The suspension will be enforced during the first baseball season the student shall participate in, either high school or summer. If the season does not allow the athlete to successfully complete the suspension, the suspension will carry over to the next season in which the student participates and competes. For the suspension to be fulfilled, the student must complete the season in which the suspension is being carried out, including participating in all practices. Any absences must be approved beforehand by the head coach, Director, or League Representative.
- f. The suspended player is expected to attend any games, scrimmages, or interscholastic practices during the suspension period, unless approved beforehand by the head coach, Director, or League Representative. The individual would, in no way, be able to participate in the activity and may not wear the team uniform (cap and jersey is allowed). A student may not practice or attend any team events during a suspension for the third violation.
 - g. Suspensions may include more than one season (high school or summer) depending upon the time of the violation.
 - h. Suspension rules apply to any player participating in any Brandon Valley Baseball activity. Further, any player ineligible, due to an activities violation in a former baseball program or at a former school, will have that suspension according to Brandon Valley Baseball Rules.
 - i. A single day's worth of baseball activities, e.g. a double-header, shall constitute a "baseball event".
 - j. The disciplinary policy for the Brandon Valley School District is distinct and separate from the disciplinary policy for Brandon Valley Baseball. Failure to fully serve a disciplinary action within the high school season requires later completion during the next school athletic activity in which the athlete competes, even if Brandon Valley Baseball continues the disciplinary action during the summer season.
Example: A participant suspended for two weeks with one week remaining in the high school season would continue his suspension for the first week of the summer season. That participant would then be required to complete the second week of the school suspension during the next school sport, be it football, basketball, or another school sponsored sport, including high school baseball, assuming the suspended athlete had not graduated from high school in the meantime.

Individual coaches may enact, with permission of the Director or League Representative, their own rules and guidelines regarding practice and game behavior, and may, in certain circumstances, implement their own penalties beyond those specified herein. Such penalties shall be approved before implementation by the Director or League Representative.

Reporting

The above rules apply if the report is made and substantiated by a Brandon Valley Baseball coach, Director, or Board Member, legal authorities, parent(s) of the individual involved or the individual's voluntary admission.

A player who violates the terms of the activities rules, and is cited by law enforcement, shall inform Association officials of the violation and serve the required suspension. If the player is found to be in violation, without notification to Association officials, the player may be dismissed from that activity for the remainder of the season. Therefore, with notification being

provided by the city, county or state, a player shall report to Association or team officials as soon as possible after the citation.

Appeal Process

Players and/or parents may appeal the decision(s) of the Association representative to the full BVBA Board. Written notice must be given either to the President, the Director, or the appropriate league representative of the intent to appeal. This notice may be provided electronically. Such notice must be provided no less than 7 calendar days prior to the next scheduled board meeting. In the event that the next scheduled board meeting occurs after the conclusion of the applied disciplinary action, the President will impanel a special committee to address the appeal. This special committee shall consist of the President, or Vice President if the President is unavailable, plus any other two board members.

In as much as this appeal is considered a personnel matter, the appeal to either the full board or to the special committee shall be conducted in a “closed” (not open to the public) session.

The appealing party or parties may present to either the full board or the special committee evidence supporting such appeal, including any witnesses or documents the appealing party believes directly supports the appeal.

A final decision pursuant to the appeal will be determined by a simple majority vote of either the board or the special committee. Both the board and the special committee will have authority to alter any penalties assessed to the player, including but not limited to increasing or decreasing suspension times.

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