

# Umpire Treatment Policy

North Texas Fast-Pitch Coaches Association (NTFCA) has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to the abuse or mistreatment of umpires. What we need to remember is that the majority, if not all of the umpires in our association also play in our association, they are someone's child.

NTFCA has strict guidelines when it comes to contact between coaches and umpires, including that it is not a right to speak to an umpire, it is something that they grant. If there is a call that you want clarification on, you must first ask for permission to approach the umpire. If granted you may then follow the below guidelines. If denied you must accept the fact and return to your coaching position and let the game resume.

Public displays of disagreement, and intimidation or abuse of an official may result in immediate suspension.

The NTFCA has provided an avenue for you to raise your concerns about an umpire's conduct during the game. At no time is it acceptable for a coach to approach an umpire and provide them with their views on the game, whether it be before, during or after. Concerns about umpiring should be addressed to NTFCA officials.

These are young children themselves trying to learn a new trade, and we should be completely supportive of them.

Non-Confrontational or Verbal Abuse between Coaches, Players and Umpires

## **Coaches may call time and calmly approach an umpire to**

1. Request an interpretation of a rule and/or respectfully communicate to the umpire the rule that the coach believes applies in the situation.
2. Request an explanation of a judgment call for the purpose of understanding what the umpire actually judged to have happened on a play in order to determine if the umpire applied the correct rule.

3. Request that an umpire seek help from his/her partner on a play where an umpire typically may get help (such as a dropped ball, rule interpretation, pulled foot, etc). The umpire is not required to get help and his decision to get help cannot be argued.
4. Make a substitution
5. Raise a safety concern

Coaches, Players and spectators may NOT

1. Argue any judgment call by an umpire
2. Make any comments regarding balls and strikes
3. Request an interpretation of a rule, an explanation of a judgment call, or request any umpire get help by yelling at the umpire from the coach's box or dugout or on the way to speak to the umpire.
4. Argue any call by making comments to a third party
5. Make any gesture that shows public disagreement with an umpire decision

### **Automatic Suspension**

If a member of the coaching staff and/or player is ejected from a game, they may not participate in their next scheduled game.

If a member of the coaching staff and/or player is ejected from the first game of a double header, the coach may not participate in the second game of the double header.

Suspensions:

1. Any player, coach or spectator who is ejected from a game is automatically suspended for one additional game.
2. In the event of a second ejection during the season, the individual will automatically be suspended for three additional games.
3. In the event of a third ejection during the season the individual will automatically be suspended indefinitely pending the review of the NTFCA Board of Directors