

GAC BASEBALL POLICY MANUAL

(01/01/2005)

This is the official GAC Baseball Policy Manual. This edition supercedes any earlier editions.

The policy manual has been developed by the Policy/Rules Committee consisting of the GAC Board of Directors, league commissioners, and coaches who volunteered to serve on this committee. This manual will always be a "work in progress" - as such, we welcome your suggestions for improvements. This manual may be amended at any time.

All policies and rules are designed to support the GAC baseball mission statement, which states, in part:

"The mission of GAC baseball is to provide the children of the Germantown area a place to play baseball in an atmosphere that promotes fun, learning, cooperation, good sportsmanship, self-esteem, and a love of baseball."

Please be sure to review these policies with the parents of your team prior to the beginning of the season.

Team Composition

Only children who are listed on the official team roster provided to the head coach/manager by the league commissioner may participate in any game or team practice. No other children may participate.

Rain-Outs/Make Up Games

Deciding whether to call a game due to rain or field conditions will be the responsibility of:

The League Commissioner: Any decision whether to play or not play a game made prior to the teams reporting to the field is the responsibility of the Commissioner and only the Commissioner.

The Umpire: Once the teams report to the field, the decision to play or not to play a game, or to call a game in progress, is the responsibility of the umpire and only the umpire. ***IN THE CASE OF T-BALL AND COACH-PITCH GAMES, COACHES SHALL MAKE THE DECISION TO PLAY OR NOT PLAY A GAME.***

For weekend games, the information line will be updated at 7:30am and again at 12 noon regarding the status of the day's games.

For weekday games, the information line will be updated at 4:30pm regarding the status of the day's games.

If a decision is made to play the game, either by the Commissioner or the umpire, the teams must play. Any team not showing up for the game or refusing to play will be charged with a forfeit.

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Forfeits

Any team that is not ready to play 10 minutes after game time (i.e., 1:10pm for a game scheduled for 1:00pm) will be charged with a forfeit. "Ready to play" means 8 players. In the player-pitch divisions, one of the 8 must be a catcher wearing a cup. A player-pitch team fielding 8 players, none of who is wearing a cup and prepared to play catcher, is not ready to play and therefore must forfeit.

Trash Bags

Home team must provide trash bags for each game. Home team must remove and properly dispose of the trash bag at the end of the game.

Coach/Parent Behavior

GAC has adopted a zero-tolerance stance toward inappropriate behavior by players, coaches and parents. Inappropriate behavior by a coach or parent will result in a one-game suspension for the head coach/manager. Inappropriate behavior by a player will result in a one-game suspension for the player. In any instance where an umpire files an incident report (see incident report form in this manual) stating that a coach or parent has violated the GAC ban on inappropriate behavior, the head coach/manager will be suspended for the following game. Suspension is automatic. In any instance where a player or coach is ejected, the individual will be suspended for the following game.

The one-game suspension must be served during the next immediate game. Serving a suspension requires that the head coach/manager NOT be in attendance, in any way, anywhere on the premises, at the game. Failure to properly serve the suspension will result in forfeiture of the game at which the suspension was to be served; the suspension must then be served at the following game.

In any case where a parent is the subject of a second incident report (a report filed for a second, separate incident of inappropriate behavior by the same parent), that parent and his or her child shall immediately be suspended from league play pending a hearing. The hearing shall be attended by at least two members of the Board, the league commissioner, and the parent. The parent and his or her child may not return to any league practice or game until the hearing takes place. The sole purpose of the hearing shall be to allow the parent an opportunity to explain to the board members present and the league commissioner why the parent and his or her child shall not be suspended for the remainder of the season. A decision regarding season-long suspension will be made within 24 hours of the hearing. ***WHEN A SECOND, SEPARATE INCIDENT OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR BY THE SAME PARENT TAKES PLACE, THE MANAGER/HEAD COACH WILL NOT BE SUSPENDED.***

Inappropriate behavior is defined as:

1. Any abusive language directed at the umpire, another coach, parent, or child.
2. Any cursing.

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3. Excessive arguing with an umpire.
4. Any arguing that becomes in any way.
5. Abusive, angry, or loud shall be considered excessive.
6. Any incident where a coach is instructed by an umpire to refrain from further arguing and/or discussion and the coach fails to do so, shall be considered excessive arguing. Ultimately, the definition of "excessive arguing" rests with the umpire.
7. Any arguing with an umpire by a parent. GAC allows coaches (and only coaches) to ask the umpire for clarification. Discussions are inappropriate.
8. Any time a parent comes on to the field.
9. Any physical abuse of an umpire by a coach or parent, including but not limited to pushing, shoving, punching, spitting, and slapping, will result in immediate suspension of that coach or parent for the remainder of the season. If a parent is suspended for such action, his or her child may not participate for the remainder of the season.

Nothing in this section shall preclude the Board of Directors from reviewing each and every incident of behavior by a coach or parent on a case-by-case basis and taking any action it deems necessary.

Child Behavior

Any child who engages in fighting shall be ejected from the game. In such a case, the child's parent shall remove the child from the playing field.

If, in the opinion of a child's coach or the umpire, a child physically acts out in a manner dangerous to himself, other children, coaches, umpires, or spectators, then that child shall be removed from the playing field by his or her parent for the remainder of the game. When a parent is instructed to remove his or her child by the umpire or the child's coach, the parent shall do so immediately.

Whenever a child is ejected from a game or removed due to acting out behavior, the child's coach must inform the league commissioner immediately following the game. Within 48 hours of the incident, the coach shall file an incident report with the league commissioner. The league commissioner shall immediately forward a copy of the incident report to the board of directors.

In any case where a child is ejected from a game or removed due to acting out behavior for a second time (a second, separate incident), the league commissioner shall consult with the child's coach and any other officials the commissioner deems necessary (e.g., the umpire) and make a recommendation to the board of directors regarding possible further action. Further action may include a one or multiple game suspension or suspension for the remainder of the season. The league commissioner may recommend that no further action be taken. The decision to take further action rests with the board of directors.

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Nothing in this section shall preclude the board of directors from reviewing each and every incident of behavior by a child on a case-by-case basis and taking any action it deems necessary.

Protests

Whenever a manager protests a game because of alleged misapplication of the rules, the protest will not be recognized unless the umpires are notified at the time of the play and before the next pitch is made or a runner is retired. Protests cannot be made on judgement calls made by the umpire.

Procedure for Protest

1. Time is called.
2. Rule infraction and protest declared to umpire. Umpire will sign scorebook noting inning, score, outs and runners on base at time of protest.
3. Manager will notify commissioner within 24 hours of protest. Commissioner will make ruling.
4. If protest is held up, play will resume from point of protest.

Smoking/Use of Alcohol and other Substances

Smoking or using alcohol or other substances at a GAC youth sports event is strictly forbidden. Coaches and parents are reminded that it is against Montgomery County law to smoke tobacco products on any county property, including school fields.

All-Star Team Selections (All-Star Games)

When teams are selecting players to represent the team in a GAC All-Star game (an all-star game for in-house league players), players are to be selected by a vote of the entire team. No other means for choosing all-star representatives will be allowed. (This does not apply to traveling or select teams that represent GAC in extra-league play).