



BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

The National Governing Body of Baseball

FINAL ENFORCEMENT NOTICE

BBF reference: Incident Sunday 18 July 2021 – London Capitals vs Essex Arrows (NBL)

Date: 31 August 2021

Juan Diaz
Essex Arrows Baseball Club

1. INCIDENT

- 1.1. Ejection from the game 2 of the double header at Finsbury Park in which your team, Essex Arrows, were playing against London Capitals.

2. SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

- 2.1. You were the shortstop when Louis Wampler, a London Capitals player, swore at your catcher who had reacted to him confronting one of your teammates when he felt he was obstructed as a base runner by the Essex Arrows first-baseman.
- 2.2. Following further verbal exchanges between Louis Wampler and Franklin Martinez, the benches cleared and you participated in the confrontation restarting it after if it had calmed down.
- 2.3. You were ejected from the game by the Home Plate Umpire for your actions.

3. ENFORCEMENT PROCESS

- 3.1. The incident was initially dealt with by Christian Carter, BBF Seniors Leagues Commissioner within the scope of the Disciplinary Matrix set out in the BBF handbook.
- 3.2. You did not respond to the Notice of Penalty personally, however your club submitted an appeal on your behalf.
- 3.3. Chris Deacon, BBF Officials Commissioner, has considered the appeal and the findings are detailed within this notice.

4. APPEAL

- 4.1. The appeal submitted on your behalf cites the following reasons for doing so:
 - Incorrect factual findings
 - The penalty is excessive.
- 4.2. On review, it cannot be argued the factual findings are incorrect due to errors in the umpire report as the umpire has reported what he has seen and heard. In the absence of any substantive evidence to the contrary or corroboration from persons present other than the player's own team, then the umpire's report forms the basis of the events.
- 4.3. The appeal acknowledges the following:
 - You continued to remonstrate with the Capitals players in particular Louis Wampler.
- 4.4. The umpire reported you restarted the altercation in and or around the area of the Capitals' dugout. However, it is not possible to determine from this action that there was intent to injure, though the action was itself incendiary and unnecessary.
- 4.5. Therefore, the appeal on the offenses and their consequences determined in the Notice of Penalty dated 23 July 2021 are:
 - 4.5.1. Upheld – Intent to Injure (offence number 7)

Home Plate Clubhouse, Farnham Park National Baseball and Softball Complex, Farnham Park Playing Fields,
Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Royal, Slough SL2 3BP

Web: www.britishbaseball.org Twitter: [@BritishBaseball](https://twitter.com/BritishBaseball) Facebook: [British Baseball Federation \(BBF\)](https://www.facebook.com/BritishBaseballFederation) Instagram:
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- 4.6. In reviewing the evidence, and as stated in the paragraph 5.3 of the Notice of Penalty, it has been determined that your action in restarting the altercation was unwarranted and exacerbated the situation. While it does not appear to have a direct correlation to an offence listed in the disciplinary matrix in the handbook, most penalties for actions such as throwing a piece of equipment, incur a consequence of a one game suspension. On this occasion, your actions do not meet any of these specific thresholds however they do warrant further sanction which is within the remit of the disciplinary powers of the BBF. Therefore, it has been determined you will have a one game suspension, suspended until the end of the 2022 season. This means that should you be ejected for a reason other than a technical violation (such as fielding an ineligible player, using a bat not on the bat list), a one game suspension will automatically be applied to the next game Essex Arrows or any other team, you are alternatively rostered to, plays.
- 4.7. Other matters:
- 4.7.1. Umpire status – the status of the umpire is considered irrelevant as he reported what he heard and saw. In any event, the umpire’s status does not absolve players’ responsibility to behave in line with the Code of Conduct.
- 4.7.2. Actions of opposition player – the opposition player returned to his dugout without delay while the verbal exchanges were taking place. The verbal exchanges themselves gave no cause for any action by the umpire and it was only your actions exacerbating the situation caused the umpire to eject you.

5. DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

- 5.1. The following consequences are determined:
- 5.1.1. First offence - £30 fine which must be paid before the next game to be eligible to play.
- 5.1.2. One game suspension, suspended until the end of the 2022 season.
- 5.2. For the avoidance of doubt, should you be ejected during the semi-final of 2021 championship for a non-technical reason, you will be suspended for the final should Essex Arrows proceed to it.

6. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. Please pay the fine of £30 before Saturday 4 September quoting “J Diaz fine” to:
Metro Bank
Account name: British Baseball Federation
Sort code: 23-05-80
Account number: 16841625
- 6.2. The outcome of this process will be posted to the BBF website.

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Beaconsfield Road, Farnham Royal, Slough SL2 3BP

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