



## **BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION**

The National Governing Body of Baseball

### **FINAL ENFORCEMENT NOTICE**

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

Date: 31 August 2021

Franklin Martinez  
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 catcher when Louis Wampler, a London Capitals player, swore at you after you 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. In addition to a verbal altercation, you threw your catcher's helmet in the direction of Louis Wampler as he was entering or he had entered the dugout. These actions resulted in the benches clearing (the Essex Arrows players from the field and the bench) and the London Capitals to stand their ground in their dugout area.
- 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:
  - The player threw his helmet
  - The Essex Arrows bench cleared
  - There was pushing and restraining of players, but no fighting or punches thrown.
- 4.4. The umpire saw the helmet thrown towards Louis Wampler in the air and not on the ground. However, it is not possible to determine from this action that there was intent to injure, though the action itself of throwing equipment in the opponent's direction was reckless at best.

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](http://www.britishbaseball.org) Twitter: [@BritishBaseball](https://twitter.com/BritishBaseball) Facebook: [British Baseball Federation \(BBF\)](https://www.facebook.com/BritishBaseballFederation) Instagram:  
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- 4.5. 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)
  - 4.5.2. Not upheld – Throwing equipment in opponents’ direction (offence number 8)
  - 4.5.3. Not upheld – Actions causing the benches to empty (offence number 9)
- 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 continuing to advance towards the opposition dugout in pursuit of Louis Wampler and then making contact with the opposition manager who was attempting to restrain him, ending up entering the opposition dugout can be assessed under offences numbered 5, 10 or 16. Given the similarity of these offences in terms of their consequence, a further one game suspension will be added to the offences not upheld above on appeal.
- 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 in moving towards the opposition dugout and throwing of your helmet catalysed the benches to clear and the umpire to eject you.

## 5. DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

- 5.1. The following consequences are determined:
  - 5.1.1. First offence - £30 fine
  - 5.1.2. Five game suspension in total made up as follows:
    - Throwing equipment in opponents’ direction (offence number 8) - ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team play
    - Actions causing the benches to empty (offence number 9) - three game suspension in addition to any other penalties assessed
    - Offence 5, 10 or 16 - ejection from the current game, plus the next game the team plays
- 5.2. The suspension is effective immediately and applies to the next five (5) games played by any team you play for within Essex Arrows Baseball Club.
- 5.3. [The Enforcement section on the BBF website](#) lists the activities you are not permitted to undertake during the suspension.

## 6. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. Please pay the fine of £30 within 7 days of the date of this notice quoting “F Martinez 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.

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

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