



BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

The National Governing Body of Baseball

FINAL ENFORCEMENT NOTICE

British Baseball Federation (BBF) reference: Incident Game 1 30/08/2020 - Kent Bucs AAA vs London Mammoths AAA – Interaction between London Mammoths no. 5 and umpire.

Date: 31/08/20

1. ACTION

- 1.1. For the reasons provided below, the British Baseball Federation (BBF) imposes the following enforcement action on SB (*) of the London Mammoths.

2. SUMMARY OF REASONS

- 2.1. SB (*) a player (third baseman) for the London Mammoths (Triple-A team) in game one of a doubleheader (BBF 2020 Open Tournament) on Sunday, 30th August 2020 at the home field of the Kent Buccaneers, was involved in a material incident.
- 2.2. On the last play of the game, the home team (Kent Buccaneers) were up to bat. The batter for the Kent Buccaneers hits a ball to the pitcher. The pitcher fielded the hit ball and held the runner on third, and then turned to throw the batter out at first. On the throw from the pitcher to the first baseman, the runner on third for the Kent Buccaneers ran home to attempt to score the winning run. The first baseman for the London Mammoths caught the throw from the pitcher on first and after making the play threw home to catch the runner attempting to score. The runner trying to score was called safe by the umpire and the game ended with the Kent Buccaneers winning the game.
- 2.3. Immediately after calling the runner for the Kent Buccaneers, the person held responsible playing third base for the London Mammoths ran towards the umpire and bumped the umpire while arguing the judgement call to end the game.
- 2.4. After the game had ended, SB (*) apologised to the umpire. Game 2 was then played without further incident. SB has continued to apologise for the incident saying *“I’m really sorry. I have never acted like that on the baseball field before and don’t plan to again”. “...I really regret it and understand it’s not acceptable behaviour for any player or coach...”*.

3. FACTS AND CONTEXT

- 3.1. The BBF makes use of several rules (MLB etc) which are aggregated and noted in their Handbook [link](#).
- 3.2. MLB rule **8.02 Appeal of Umpire Decisions**
(a) *Any umpire’s decision which involves judgment, such as, but not limited to, whether a batted ball is fair or foul, whether a pitch is a strike or a ball, or whether a runner is safe or out, is final. No player, manager, coach or substitute shall object to any such judgment decisions.*
- 3.3. BBF COVID-19 Safety Guidelines [link](#) are in effect. For example, coaches, managers, and scorekeepers *“avoid arguing with officials.”*
- 3.4. All participants taking part in the BBF Tournament signed terms and conditions, e.g. *“You agree to follow all BBF rules and guidelines for the tournament and beyond where applicable.”*



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3.5. The BBF Handbook [link](#) contains a Discipline Matrix at the end, which notes specific offences, followed by the enforcement action for the first offence, second offence and third offence. For example,

3.5.1. BBF Handbook Discipline Matrix no. 34: “**Contacting an umpire** (*Physical contact by bumping, pushing, tripping, punching, shoving, spitting on, or striking an umpire with equipment/debris*).” *The consequence for first offence is: “Ejection from the current game, plus the next six (6) games the team plays.”*

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. BBF: British Baseball Federation.

4.2. BBF Handbook: The BBF Handbook is the officially recognised rulebook for the British Baseball Federation, to play the sport of baseball in the UK.

4.3. MLB rules: Major League Baseball Rules. The BBF defers to one year preceding current year, i.e., MLB 2019 rules are in affect.

4.4. BBF Discipline Matrix: The BBF Discipline Matrix accompanies the BBF Handbook and can be found in the back. The BBF Discipline Matrix aims to provide a description on a number of breaches to the BBF rules and the subsequent penalties.

4.5. Responsible person: The person who is subject of a review for enforcement is called the responsible person.

5. PENALTY

5.1. The BBF followed its enforcement process [link](#).

5.2. The BBF has the authority to impose penalties for any breach to its policies, rules and procedures.

5.3. BBF guidelines [link](#) “**No excuse to abuse an official.**” *There are a limited number of umpires available at any level. We promote a culture where umpires should be treated with respect, admiration, patience, kindness and understanding. Umpires do make mistakes (judgement calls); however, the rules clearly state you cannot argue judgement calls. If anyone breaches our rules, you can expect enforcement action. Without umpires there would be no organised games. So, we expect participants in our sport, to understand the rules and the differences between judgement calls and rules violations. The aforementioned pre-empt arguments during a game. Moreover, anyone who accepts to play our game under our rules should accept the consequences of any breach. “*

5.4. All participants involved in the BBF must adhere to its rules.

5.5. In determining the penalty for the person responsible, the BBF reviewed the game report, interviews and considered video evidence of the incident.

5.6. As a result of the above, it was determined the person responsible breached our rules and made physical contact (bumped) with the umpire at the end of the game.

5.7. The BBF followed its Discipline Matrix as listed in the back of its Handbook to make an enforcement decision. For example, the BBF is penalising SB (*) with a suspension of six games (which include this and followed into next season or when the six-game suspension is exhausted), plus a fine of £30 (to be paid directly to the NHS Charities Together [link](#)) within the next seven calendar days.



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- 5.8. The suspension means, the person responsible (for the breach) cannot take part or attend any BBF activities (games, etc.) until he serves his penalty. The London Mammoths will be suspended from a BBF sanctioned games until proof of payment of the fine is supplied to the BBF.

6. DISCLOSURE

- 6.1. We want to acknowledge the person responsible for the breach to our rules was co-operative in our review and apologetic for his actions. Further, this is his first breach of our rules on record for SB (*). Hence, we took the mentioned co-operation and conduct into consideration in our decision; otherwise, the penalties could have been more severe.
- 6.2. The public disclosure of this penalty is required and is deemed appropriate.

(*) SB: At the time of this report, we have not disclosed the name of the person, until he has reviewed the report and commented.