

# Umpires – Yellow Card System

# 2017- 2018

## Umpires 'Yellow Card' System

In conjunction with the MBL RP&D Charging and Penalty Policy



# Umpires

## Yellow Card System

### Introduction

A "Yellow Card" system is being introduced by Macarthur Baseball League on a trial basis for the 2017-2018 season.

The system is being implemented to assist with the reduction of **Umpire Abuse**.

The main focus of the system is to protect our Junior Umpires which will positively impact the subsequent retention of these Umpires, particularly at a local level.

### Process

- Identifiable yellow coloured laminated cards will be issued to each CLUB and will be kept at each CLUB's home ground.
- Allocated Junior Umpires will carry or have access to these *Yellow Cards* on game days to serve/deliver warnings when they deem it appropriate.
- Access to a *Yellow Card* must be made available to the Club Umpire Co-Ordinator/nominated Club Representative (approved by MBL) or MBL Executive Member upon request.

### Issuing of Yellow Card WARNINGS

**Yellow Card WARNINGS** can only be issued by:

- Umpires – plate or base/field;
- Club Umpire Co-Ordinator - If there is no Club Umpire Co-Ordinator, a nominated Club Representative (approved by MBL);
- MBL Umpire Co-Ordinator;
- MBL Executive Member.

**Yellow Card WARNINGS** can only be issued to:

- Players;
  - Up to two **Yellow Card WARNINGS** can be issued per player/per game without ejection.
  - If a player is issued two **Yellow Card WARNINGS** in any one game they will be reported to the MBL RP&D.
  - If a player is issued more than two **Yellow Card WARNINGS** in any one game, the player will be automatically ejected from the game and will be cited by the MBL RP&D.
  
- Coaches;
  - Upon being issued with a **Yellow Card WARNING**, the coach will:
    - immediately be restricted to the dugout or dead ball area AND allowed to continue coaching;
    - not be allowed to enter the field of play for the remainder of the game;
    - be replaced as the team representative for communication/dealings with Umpires for the remainder of the game;
    - nominate a new team representative who will represent the team to interact/communicate with the Umpire/s for the remainder of the game. ie Assistant Coach;
    - be reported to the MBL RP&D.
  
  - If a subsequent **Yellow Card WARNING** is issued to:
    - the same coach during the same game, the coach will be automatically ejected from the game and will be cited by the MBL RP&D;
    - the new team representative during the same game, this team representative will be ejected from the game and will be cited by the MBL RP&D.

**Yellow Card WARNINGS** can be issued for:

- Acting in a manner that is disrespectful to an Umpire or Game Official;
  - Continuing to question an Umpire's judgement after the umpire has explained that the decision is a judgement call;
  - Comments about an Umpire's ability or integrity from behind the plate or in the vicinity of the field or dugouts;
  - Continues to make complaints about calls that are audible to the Umpire.
- WARNINGS for unacceptable comments from Competition Participants:
    - Comments made by players or coaches should be dealt with as outlined above;
    - Where the Umpire/s can hear comments, but are unable to identify who made the comments, the umpire can issue the **Yellow Card WARNING** to one or both team coaches;
    - When issuing the **Yellow Card WARNING** the Umpire can request the coaches to control the people making the comments. Subsequent **Yellow Card WARNINGS** can be given if the comments continue;
    - The Umpire, Club Umpire Co-Ordinator/nominated Club Representative (approved by MBL), MBL Umpire Co-Ordinator or MBL Executive Member shall be the judge of what is unacceptable.
  - WARNINGS for comments from Unknown Participants:
    - The initial **Yellow Card WARNING** to a coach will be recorded as a team warning and not against the coach as an individual;
    - Any subsequent **Yellow Card WARNINGS** will be recorded as a warning given to the coach and will be counted in the consequences set out above for **Coaches**.

### **Yellow Card WARNINGS – Other considerations:**

- Initial verbal warnings can still be given if appropriate;
- A **Yellow Card WARNING** does not need to be given prior to an ejection being made, where the behaviour of a player or coach warrants immediate ejection;
- A **Yellow Card WARNING** does not replace an ejection if an ejection is warranted.

### **Recording of all Yellow Card WARNINGS:**

- All yellow cards issued during a game are to be recorded on the game *Result Sheet*.
- Recorded details are to include the following:
  - identity and role (player or coach) of the person who was issued the card;
  - identity and role/position of the person who issued the card (Umpire, Club Umpire Co-Ordinator/nominated Club Representative (approved by MBL) or MBL Executive);
  - brief details of the reason the card was issued.
- *Result sheet* to be submitted to the MBL Registrar at the completion of the game.
- Any further action to be taken will be at the discretion of the MBL RP&D.
- MBL will formally notify the Club Executive of the parties involved.
- MBL will maintain a record of all yellow cards issued for purposes including managing habitual offenders, data/statistics collection and trial system assessment.