

Minor League Baseball Player Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Policy

Major League Baseball takes an absolute stand against domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse, and recognizes the need to provide assistance and resources to victims and families. In furtherance thereof, Major League Baseball hereby establishes this Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Child Abuse Policy for Minor League Baseball Players ("Policy"). This Policy covers all players signed to a Minor League Uniform Player Contract ("UPC"), or otherwise under reserve to a Minor League club ("players"), other than 40-man roster players.

I. Definitions.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any intimate relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. It occurs in heterosexual and same sex relationships and impacts individuals from all economic, educational, cultural, age, gender, racial, and religious demographics. Domestic violence includes, but is not limited to, physical or sexual violence, emotional and/or psychological intimidation, verbal violence, stalking, economic control, harassment, physical intimidation, or injury. Notwithstanding this definition, a single incident of abusive behavior in any intimate relationship, or a single incident of abusive behavior involving a member of a player's family who is domiciled with him, may subject a player to discipline under this Policy.

Sexual assault refers to a range of behaviors, including a completed nonconsensual sex act, an attempted nonconsensual sex act, and/or nonconsensual sexual contact. Lack of consent is inferred when a person uses force, harassment, threat of force, threat of adverse personnel or disciplinary action, or other coercion, or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, unconscious or legally incapable of consent.

Child abuse is any act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation of a child who is under the age of 18 or not an emancipated minor, or any act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of such harm to such a child.

This Policy covers acts of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault (together, "Covered Act") as defined above.

II. Investigation of Incidents.

A. Process. The procedures set forth in this Policy shall be triggered when the Commissioner's Office learns that a player is alleged to have engaged

in a Covered Act ("Notification"). In addition to any applicable reporting obligations under federal, state, or local law, Clubs are required to immediately report any and all allegations of Covered Acts to Major League Baseball's Department of Investigations.

B. Administrative Leave. The Commissioner may immediately place a player accused of a Covered Act on Administrative Leave, effective as early as the date of the Notification. The Commissioner's Office may defer placing the player on Administrative Leave until the player is either charged with a crime by law enforcement, or the Commissioner's Office receives credible information corroborating the allegations. The Commissioner's placement of a player on Administrative Leave shall not be considered disciplinary under this Policy.

- 1. Player Status on Administrative Leave.** A player placed on Administrative Leave shall be placed on the Temporarily Inactive List, or the Restricted List, as appropriate under the circumstances. Salary and benefit continuation during any period of Administrative Leave is within the sole discretion of the Commissioner's Office. A player on Administrative Leave shall be ineligible to participate in any of his Club's games. At the request of the Club and with the consent of the Commissioner's Office, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, the player may participate in non-public practices or workouts, or at the Club's Spring Training facility.
- 2. Evaluation.** The Commissioner may refer a Player to be evaluated by the Treatment Board pursuant to Section IV below. The Commissioner may also require a player to be evaluated by the Treatment Board as a condition of deferral of Administrative Leave.
- 3. Family Outreach.** Immediately following Notification, the Treatment Board, pursuant to internal procedures that it will adopt, will refer affected persons to intervention services under Section IV below, including the Club's Employee Assistance Program, and/or the Minor League Player, Partner and Family Helpline.
- 4. Investigation.** The Commissioner's Office may conduct an investigation of the player's alleged conduct during the period of Administrative Leave. The player shall provide reasonable cooperation with the investigation, including but not limited to producing documents and information. The Office of the Commissioner may conduct investigatory interviews of players. Except where circumstances require expeditious handling, the player shall receive reasonable advanced notice of any investigatory interview. Where circumstances requiring expeditious handling are present, the player shall receive as much advanced notice as possible.

It shall be deemed a failure to cooperate for any player (or any individual acting on the player's behalf) to directly or indirectly engage in conduct that is aimed at, or has the effect of, intimidating or tampering with an alleged victim or witness, or of discouraging or preventing the cooperation of such person, during an investigation conducted pursuant to the Policy. In addition, it shall be deemed a failure to cooperate under the Policy if a player enters into a settlement agreement or other agreement with an alleged victim or witness that, because of a confidentiality or other non-disclosure provision in that agreement, prevents that person or the player from cooperating with an investigation, including the disclosure of documents, testimony, or other information concerning an alleged Covered Act. However, it shall not be deemed a failure to cooperate under the Policy if a victim or witness's decision not to cooperate with a Commissioner's Office investigation is reached of his or her own volition.

A player's failure to cooperate as described in this provision shall serve as an independent basis for just cause discipline, separate and apart from any discipline the player may receive as a result of committing a Covered Act under the Policy.

- 5. Timing of Potential Discipline.** Upon the conclusion of the period of Administrative Leave, if any, the Commissioner may reinstate the player from the Temporarily Inactive or Restricted List and return him from Administrative Leave, may impose immediate discipline on the player, may defer a disciplinary determination until a later date, or may impose a paid suspension pending resolution of legal proceedings as described in Section III below.

a. Immediate Discipline. If the Commissioner elects to discipline the player upon the conclusion of the Administrative Leave, the Commissioner's Office shall notify the player in writing, by no later than 6 P.M. (ET) on the last day of the player's Administrative Leave, of the discipline that the Commissioner is imposing. The discipline shall become effective immediately, and shall be governed by Section III below.

b. Deferral of Discipline. Upon the conclusion of the Administrative Leave, the Commissioner may decide to defer discipline of a player under the circumstances, including during the pendency of a criminal or civil matter arising out of the conduct, or in order to complete its investigation. The player shall be notified in writing, by no later than 6 P.M. of the last day of the player's Administrative Leave, of the Commissioner's decision to defer discipline. The Player shall be removed from the Temporarily Inactive or Restricted List on the following day.

III. Discipline.

- A. Commissioner Discipline.** The Commissioner may discipline a player who commits a Covered Act under this Policy. In addition, a player's failure to comply with his Treatment Plan adopted pursuant to Section IV below may be an independent violation of this Policy. A player's failure to fully cooperate with an investigation, as described in Section II.B. above, shall constitute an independent violation of this Policy. The Commissioner may decide to defer discipline of a player under the circumstances, including during the pendency of a criminal or civil matter arising out of the conduct, or in order to complete its investigation. The decision of the Commissioner to defer discipline shall be without prejudice to the Commissioner's ultimate authority to issue discipline for any Covered Act pursuant to this Policy.
- B. Club Discipline.** Initial authority to discipline players for events that include violations of this Policy (including all aspects of the incident from which the alleged violation arose) shall repose with the Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner's Office will retain authority to discipline players under this Policy until it provides the player's Club with notice that it is transferring such authority to the Club. Such a transfer may occur at any time before the issuance of discipline to the player by the Commissioner's Office. If the Commissioner's Office does not transfer its authority, no Club may take any disciplinary or adverse action against a player arising from an incident involving a Covered Act; except that, irrespective of any disciplinary action taken by the Commissioner, (i) a Club is permitted to terminate a player's contract for violating this Policy (including the recoupment of any signing bonus in connection therewith), (ii) a Club may take adverse action in response to a player's failure to render his services due to a disability resulting directly from a physical injury or mental condition arising from his violation of the Policy, and (iii) a Club may withhold salary from a player for any period he is unavailable because of legal proceedings or incarceration arising from his violation of the Policy. If the Commissioner's Office notifies a Club that the Commissioner's Office will not impose discipline, a Club may discipline a player who commits a Covered Act, regardless of whether the Commissioner's Office had previously placed the player on Administrative Leave pursuant to this policy or conducted an investigation. A decision by the Commissioner to defer his disciplinary decision shall not trigger a Club's right to discipline in an absence of a notification to the Club that the Commissioner will not impose discipline.
- C. Forms of Discipline.** The discipline imposed by the Commissioner or a Club may include any discipline authorized by the Major League Constitution, Major League Rules, or Minor League Uniform Player Contract ("UPC").

D. Process for Appeal. In order to file an appeal based on discipline issued under this Policy, the player must submit a written request stating the basis for the appeal within one week of being informed of the discipline imposed. The written request must be sent by e-mail to:

Daniel R. Halem
Chief Legal Officer
Office of the Commissioner
245 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10167
dan.halem@mlb.com

If requested by the player, and granted in the discretion of the Commissioner or his designee, the player may be afforded a telephonic hearing to allow him an opportunity to present any evidence or witnesses he believes is relevant to the appeal. The telephone hearing will be informal and non-adversarial. All evidence must be presented by the player to the Commissioner's Office within 48 hours of the conclusion of the telephonic hearing. The Commissioner or his designee will make the determination whether the discipline imposed should be sustained, modified, or rescinded.

All decisions regarding appeals of discipline shall be within the sole discretion of the Commissioner or his designee. A player's discipline will be held in abeyance until the Commissioner or his designee renders a decision. The Commissioner or his designee shall render a written decision to the player as soon as practicable, and may sustain, modify or rescind the discipline originally imposed. The decision by the Commissioner or his designee shall constitute full, final and complete disposition of the appeal and shall not be appealable in any forum.

E. Suspensions.

1. Unless otherwise provided herein, all suspensions under this Policy shall be without pay, and the player will be placed on the Restricted List during the term of any suspension.
2. At the request of the Club and with the consent of the Commissioner's Office, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, the player may participate in non-public practices or workouts, or at the Club's Spring Training facility.
3. A Player who is suspended while in the Minor Leagues who is then selected to or otherwise placed on the 40-Man Roster before such suspension is complete shall continue his suspension at the Major League level.

IV. Treatment and Intervention.

- A. Treatment Board.** The Treatment Board shall consist of a three-person board appointed by the Commissioner or his designee to supervise treatment and interventions under this Policy. The Treatment Board shall be responsible for evaluating, and where treatment is appropriate, supervising the treatment of players who have committed or are alleged to have committed Covered Acts. It may also provide evaluation and treatment to players who voluntarily request the Treatment Board's assistance.
- B. Referral to Treatment Board.** A player will be referred to the Treatment Board when the Commissioner's Office receives the Notification referenced in Section II.A above.
- C. Treatment Plan.** If appropriate under the circumstances, the Treatment Board shall develop a Treatment Plan for the player. Among other things, the Treatment Board shall identify appropriate health care professionals in the player's home city to provide counseling and intervention. The health care professionals treating the player must provide the Treatment Board, at a frequency identified in the Treatment Plan, with regular, standardized written status reports that detail the player's progress and compliance with the Treatment Plan.
- D. Treatment Plan Content.** The Plan prescribed by the Treatment Board for the player may include the following non-exhaustive list of prescribed and/or prohibited actions by a player:
1. Submission to psychological and other evaluations (including but not limited to those assessing domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and drug and/or alcohol testing if separately directed or required under another Minor League Policy) as deemed necessary;
 2. Attendance at prescribed counseling and other therapeutic sessions;
 3. Participation in educational training specific to understanding the effects of abuse on victims and their families, including children, and the components of healthy relationships and healthy confrontation;
 4. Compliance with relevant court orders and/or agreements between the player and alleged victim, including but not limited to support;
 5. Relocation from shared a home temporarily or indefinitely;
 6. Acceptance of limits on the contact methods, frequency, and subject matter with partner/spouse/children, and designated others;
 7. Relinquishment of all weapons and agreement not to secure more;

8. Compliance with any other reasonable direction designed to promote safety for the partner/spouse, children, player, and any other person at risk; or
9. Any other relief designed to promote safety and further the objectives of this Policy.

E. Treatment Plan Non-Compliance.

1. The Commissioner may discipline a player who commits a Covered Act (whether or not the same person was involved in the initial complaint), including a player in a Treatment Plan under this Policy.
2. The Commissioner or his designee may also determine, in his sole discretion, that a player has not complied with an Initial Evaluation or his Treatment Plan. The Commissioner or his designee shall make a determination whether a player has failed to cooperate with an Initial Evaluation, or comply with a Treatment Plan, by applying the following criteria:
 - a. A player who refuses to submit to an Initial Evaluation, including any follow-up meetings or requested tests will be deemed to have violated his Treatment Plan.
 - b. A player who consistently fails to participate in mandatory sessions with his assigned health care professional will be deemed to have failed to comply with his Treatment Plan.
 - c. Absent a compelling justification, a player will be presumed to have failed to comply with his Treatment Plan if his assigned health care professional informs the Treatment Board in a status report that the Player is not cooperating with the requirements of his Treatment Plan.

F. Treatment Plan Modification. The Treatment Board may periodically revise a player's Treatment Plan or extend its end date on its own initiative, or on the recommendation of the player's assigned health care professionals.

V. Communication. The Treatment Board shall make available a general partner/spouse and family information and referral package when a Plan is implemented for a player. The player's Treatment Plan will not be shared with the partner/spouse absent agreement of the Player.

VI. Return to Active Status. All returns to active status for a player from a suspension are subject to a certification of fitness from his assigned health care professional and an agreement by the player to adhere going forward to any Plan prescribed by the Treatment Board.

VII. Confidentiality.

A. Definition. All information related to, arising from or considered in connection with the evaluation, counseling and treatment of a Player by the Treatment Board is confidential, provided that this confidentiality provision excludes information that has previously been made public or is made public by a source other than the Commissioner's Office.

B. Prohibition on Disclosure. The Commissioner's Office, the Clubs, the Treatment Board and any third parties who are consulted under this Policy are prohibited from disclosing confidential information that they already possess as defined above, except (i) in connection with or in anticipation of an appeal or potential appeal involving discipline or potential discipline under this Policy; (ii) to inform the player's Club of the player's treatment under the Policy; (iii) where necessary to effectively administer a player's treatment under the Policy; (iv) in response to statements made by a player or his representative challenging Administrative Leave or discipline, or denying the alleged conduct; or (v) where disclosure is required by law, including court order, and is not subject to any claim of privilege.

VIII. Training, Education and Community Outreach.

The Office of the Commissioner shall establish a Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Prevention and Response Team ("DVPRT") that shall determine appropriate education and training programs for players and their families. All aspects of the training and education program, including the frequency and content of training and the selection of the training staff, shall be determined by the DVPRT. To the extent necessary and practicable, all training and education shall be presented in English and Spanish.

IX. Resources for Players and Their Families.

A. Confidential Assistance Program. The Commissioner's Office shall offer support services to players and their families on a confidential basis through the Minor League Family Support Program. With the exception of general usage statistics, the Commissioner's Office shall not be provided with any confidential information regarding usage of the service by players or their families.

B. Family Resources. The Commissioner's Office shall develop a plan for the publication of referral information, websites, and resources (including hotlines, shelters and outreach facilities) for spouses, partners and families of players.

X. Conformity with Law.

The Office of the Commissioner will implement and enforce this Policy in a manner consistent with federal, state and local laws, and, where necessary, modify the Policy in certain jurisdictions to conform to local law.