

# Ejections

No umpire in the history of baseball has ever ejected a manager, coach, or player. The offenders eject themselves; the umpire just guides them to the exit. Rule 9.01 (d,e,f,g) deals with ejections.

As umpires, we really try to avoid ejections. In my 10+ year career as an umpire, I've assisted two persons to the exit; One manager who became verbally abusive in a one sided game, and one player, with the tacit approval of his manager, for throwing a helmet after striking out.

What crosses the line of ejections?

- F-bombs and other forms of cussing, depending on the actual audience.
  - If a player mutters under his/her breath a banned word after striking out, such that you, the catcher, and the batter are the only ones that hear it, that warrants a warning. A second offense can be an ejection.
  - A coach/manager dropping an F-bomb loud enough for **anyone** to hear gets the immediate heave-ho.
- Physical contact. Remember old Earl Weaver turning his cap around or removing it all together so he could get as close to the umpire's face without touching him? Classic move. But seriously, if a manager, coach, or player makes contact with an umpire, manager, coach, or player in anger, they're gone. Zero tolerance.
  - Pro tip: let the manager/coach approach you. Don't meet them half way. If (s)he's the only one moving, and contact is made, it's on them.
- Violent acts.
  - Intentional throwing of equipment (helmets, bats)
  - Intent to injure. There is no "must slide" rule in Little League baseball (7.03 (a)(3)(AR)), but lowering a shoulder to make contact with a player waiting to make a play, or sliding in spikes high, earns a trip to the parking lot.
- Disregard for safety. Often younger players will throw the bat after a hit, sometimes making contact with the catcher or umpire. On first offense, call "Time!" when the play is over, calmly approach the player explain you're giving him a warning and why. Make sure a coach/manager is there with you. Repeated offenses can result in an ejection. Use your judgement here. Safety is our #1 concern.
- Becomes personal. "I don't agree with that call" is one thing, but "you blew that call" is quite another. I don't tolerate the latter.
- Repeated violent disapproval of a decision (rule 4.08). The first such incident warrants a warning, ejection on subsequent violations.

# The Ejection Process

Players, managers, and coaches ejected from the game must leave the playing area. They cannot remain in the stands or beyond the outfield fence.

You have no control over the fans (rule 9.01(g)); your authority is limited to the field of play. If you have unruly fans, you have to recourses. 1) Alert an Almaden board member if one is present or 2) call "Time!", send the players back into their dugouts, and declare "We're not continuing this game until this person leaves" while indicating which fans you want removed. The problem usually takes care of itself.

Ejections can be emotional for all involved. If you are involved in an ejection, make sure you and your partner leave the game together and make it safely to your cars.

After you've exhausted all avenues of warnings, and you need to eject someone:

- calmly point towards the outfield at a forty-five degree angle in the air and declare to the ejected person "You're ejected. You need to leave now."
- Make note on the back of your lineup the situation, score, outs, inning, where the runners are (if any of this pertains to the ejection), and the name of the ejected person(s). You'll need this later for the ejection report. Yes, paperwork.
- Declare to the scorekeeper that manager/coach/player has been ejected.
- If a manager or coach has been ejected, make sure there is an adult in the dugout when the team is on offense. They may need to use one of the players, wearing a helmet, as a base coach.
- Wait until the ejected person(s) has left the playing area and resume the game.
- After the game is over, you'll need to write an ejection report and deliver it to the UIC and League President within 24 hours. Preferably the same day. E-mail is an acceptable form of communication.
- The report should include:
  - Describe the environment. Be as specific as possible. Include only the facts, no opinion. Cite a rule that applies and how you applied it.
  - Example: Top of the 4th. Runners on first and third, 1 out. Popup on the infield is dropped by the pitcher, BR failed to run to first, defensive team turned a 1-6-3 double play. Offensive manager Bob Waywrong insisted I needed to call an infield fly. Rule 2.00 (INFIELD FLY Definition) requires runners on first and second, or first, second, and third. Manager stated "You're an idiot for not knowing the rules". He was ejected at that point.