



TASO BASEBALL RGV CHAPTER

STATED POLICIES

GENERAL POLICIES

1. These policies, in association with the RGV OP, shall govern the operations of the TASO Baseball RGV Chapter.
2. All umpires are expected to know the meaning and application of the appropriate rules and mechanics of baseball.
3. All umpires are expected to be physically, mentally, and emotionally fit to discharge their duties on the baseball field.
4. All members are required to attend 70% of the scheduled regular Chapter meetings. ***Unexcused absences will be subject to discipline/possible game suspension at Board discretion.***
 - A. NOTE: Missing a meeting as a result of officiating a baseball game as scheduled by RGV Chapter Assignor is automatically an excused absence.
5. No umpire shall discuss fellow umpires of the RGV Chapter with coaches, school authorities, fans, news media, other Chapter members, or post on social media except as specifically authorized by the Board of Directors.
6. Umpires must refrain from providing comments to or discussing matters regarding any incident(s) during a contest with members of the news media or within social media. No posting of comments on Facebook. Possible discipline by the Board of Directors.

USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS

1. All umpires must refrain from the use of illegal drugs. Use of illegal drugs may result in the loss of membership status in the RGV Chapter.
2. All umpires must refrain from drinking any intoxicating or alcoholic beverages on the day of the game, during, or immediately after the game (i.e. while still at the baseball facility). Further, all umpires must refrain from drinking in public or purchasing alcoholic beverages after a game while still recognizable as an official.
3. There shall be no use of alcoholic beverage products or unlawful use of tobacco or drugs by umpire on or in the vicinity of baseball fields or facilities.

UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

1. Each umpire is expected to furnish their own equipment and go to the game fully equipped to carry out their duties for the game.

2. Each umpire should anticipate the possibility of working a position other than scheduled, or of working the game alone, and is thus encouraged to carry necessary equipment to the game to allow work at any position.
3. All umpires are expected to be well groomed, including clean, neat, complete regulation uniform and shined shoes.
4. Regulation uniform shall be that as set forth in the TASO Uniform Policy. Violations are subject to discipline by the Board of Directors.
5. TASO hats or identification may be worn while officiating non-high school games, off season, games, etc.

GAME ASSIGNMENTS

1. No umpire will personally secure a replacement for a scheduled assignment without the specific permission from the Chapter Assignor.
2. No member of the RGV Chapter shall work a Chapter assigned game of any kind with a suspended official or a non TASO member.

ACCEPTING GAME ASSIGNMENTS

1. Members are expected to keep their availability calendars updated with Chapter Assignor.
2. Members who decline an assignment when they show open availability on their calendar may be subject to discipline by the Board of Directors.
3. Members who are on call or standby should refrain from accepting game assignments. If they are called away, the scheduled game is in jeopardy of not being completed.
4. Members accepting game assignments are considered to have entered into a contract to umpire the game(s). Any umpire who cancels any previously accepted game assignment may be subject to discipline by the Board of Directors.
5. Repeated cancellations without a valid excuse shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors and shall be subject to further disciplinary action.
6. CANCELLATION ON THE DAY OF THE SCHEDULED GAME SHALL BE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE DISCIPLINE BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. *Contact with the Chapter Assignor MUST be made via phone conversation.*
7. If an umpire misses an assignment because of neglect and not contacting their partner(s) may be subject to possible discipline by the Board of Directors.
8. Umpire tardiness, without a valid excuse, which results in the delay of the game start time or causes the game to be started with less than the assigned number of umpires may be subject to discipline by the Board of Directors.
9. **Upon arrival at the game site, umpires shall contact head coaches of both teams immediately to announce their arrival, confirm start time, etc.**
10. In the event of an accident, injury, traffic delay, etc., on the way to the game site which might prevent a timely arrival, umpires shall attempt to directly notify the Chapter Assignor.

GAME CONDUCT

1. Umpires should refrain, as far as courtesy permits, from visiting (talking) with fans, players, or coaches before, during, or after the game(s). All contacts in the vicinity of the field should be maintained on a friendly, but restrained, neutral, professional manner.
2. Umpires should refrain from being in dugout areas, along base line fences, etc. while attending games which they are not officiating. They should remain strictly in the spectator areas only.
3. Umpires should neither avoid nor seek out coaches and/or school authorities after the game. They should transact necessary game business and then leave the game vicinity immediately without delay.
4. Umpires are to refrain from using cell phones, cameras, headphones, etc. while officiating any scheduled game. Only members allowed to have cell phones for use on the field of play are the President and Chapter Assignor. Those officials in violation may be subject to discipline by the Board of Directors.

REPORTING EJECTIONS AND INCIDENTS

1. All umpires shall contact the President and Chapter Assignor ASAP regarding any unusual or reportable incident/ejection on or off the field by any player, coach, fan, team staff, major injury, field issue (lights/weather), etc.
2. Written reports are due to UIL or TAPPS within 48 hours. Failure to do so may be subject to discipline by the Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. It shall be the duty of the RGV Chapter Board of Directors to consider all applications for membership, accept/decline, into the RGV Chapter. A two-thirds majority decision of the member of the Board of Directors present will be required for admission of the candidate to membership. Application for membership may be made only once per season by the same candidate.
2. When the Board of Directors is considering a member for possible permanent suspension, a quorum of voting members of the Board of Directors must be present.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF POLICIES

1. These Stated Policies were adopted by the Board of Directors of the RGV Chapter at a Board of Directors Meeting on November 14, 2017.