



Tim Cordill

Tim is a highly experienced umpire who graduated as an Honor Graduate from the Jim Evans Academy of Professional Umpiring in 1998. He currently serves as an umpire for the Big 12, Big Ten, and Big East collegiate conferences, where he has officiated nine Division I Regionals and five Division I Super Regionals. He is dedicated to developing the next generation of umpires as the Director of Umpires for Johnson County 3&2 Baseball.

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“It’s Alright to Feel This Way. It’s Not Alright to Act This Way”

It’s Alright to Feel This Way

Most parents battle the same thing. You have children and it is your job as parents to raise your children to be adults. If you are lucky (unfortunately some parents are not) your children are healthy enough and have the desire to play sports. You sign your children up for a sport and it is now time to lose control. It’s all right to have anxiety around losing control. After all, you have done everything for your child up until this point and now you have to let them go between the lines where you cannot help them anymore. Your baby, who cannot do anything without your help, is suddenly without you controlling everything. It’s ok to feel these emotions. You are human!

It’s Not an Officiating Problem

Most of the time, it does not matter who the officials are. The abuse is there regardless of how talented the officials. I used to think it was an officiating problem. I dove back into youth sports in 2019 to help recruit, develop and retain baseball umpires in the Kansas City area. I had a solid plan to make umpires so good that no one will complain about the officiating. What I found was alarming. The abuse did not depend on the talent of the officiating. The abuse depended on the mental stability of fans, parents, and coaches. I knew we were not looking at the problem the right way when a friend of mine began umpiring for our group. My friend was a former professional umpire, current D1 college baseball umpire in the Big 12 and an NCAA D1 Postseason umpire. Who in their right mind wouldn’t thank him each time he came onto the youth league field to help out. I guarantee this umpire was more qualified than any other youth league umpire across the United States any day he was on the field. He would wear a normal youth league umpire uniform each time he went onto the field for us. He was as perfect an umpire that we could put on the field for our customers. IT DIDN’T MATTER! The abuse was still on his field regardless of his qualifications. That to me was staggering.

It’s Not Alright to Act This Way

Adults have a choice to make. It’s a choice to take a step back and lose control. Not the way I see each weekend, rather the adults must quit trying to control youth league sports through bad behavior. Stop the abuse of sports officials. In over 40 years in this industry, I have never been called to a field because the kids could not act right. It’s always the adults. The majority of my current umpire roster is made up of 15–18-year-old kids. The next wave of umpiring. It still amazes me how adults treat sports officials who are adults, much less the kids doing this job. Adults can continue to let their anxiety about not having control over their kids’ athletics produce bad behavior, but when does it stop? More and more videos of this kind of behavior keep coming out each year. Adult professionals are losing their careers because they are caught on video participating in abusive behaviors towards sports officials. Younger officials are quitting at record numbers because of this kind of behavior towards a young person who is just trying to have an enjoyable part-time job. When does it stop? I bet these same adults would act differently if it were their child officiating? Adults can make this type of behavior go away. But it is up to them. It is a choice. No matter how adults act, they cannot avoid losing control of their child when that child enters sports. Enjoy the fact that your child is healthy enough for sports. Enjoy the time you get to spend together as a family during this time. You will never get this time back. Use your energy for good. Stop the abuse of others. It is your choice to make.

FOR COACHES AND YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS ONLY -

Scan the QR code below to view an introduction to the BMS OFFICIALS RESPECT! PROGRAM



or go to https://thebmsproject.org/bms_officials_respect_program/

Licensing - Click on and view the 60-second BMS Project Introduction Video;

- then select and view the 3-Minute RESPECT! Introduction video that represents your interest/sport.
- After viewing the videos, if you are still interested in the RESPECT! Program, click on, complete and submit the brief "USAGE LICENSE APPLICATION." **NOTE: Completing and submitting the license application DOES NOT imply any commitments and or obligations whatsoever... it simply provides contact data to populate The BMS Holdings Group LLC's database.**
- Upon submitting the application you will be provided access to the RESPECT! Program.

The following recommendations are provided as best practice implementation suggestions; however, both the Pledge and Guest Request can be electronically transmitted based upon the users' determination works best for their situation.

Three Core RESPECT! Program Components

- **Tim's Message:** Serves as a first introduction to all adults associated with your team/youth activities. It can be transmitted electronically and/or printed and handed-out. It can be used as an attachment to a brief organization message announcing the organizations adoption of the program and requesting adults' cooperation and support of the RESPECT! Program implementation.
- **Pledge:** The Pledge is ideally intended to be part of an early season team meeting attended by coaches, athletes and parents. A fully formatted template pledge sheet is provided that can be used as provided. However, a downloadable, editable PDF is also provided with a blank area left for users to insert their own pledge copy. The Pledge is normally copied and distributed to all meeting participants, or electronically distributed as deemed most appropriate. There is safety messaging provided at the top and bottom of the front of the Pledge, as well as group discussion points provided in the body of the Pledge. The reverse side of the form constitutes the Pledge. **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEETING ATTENDEES SIGN THE PLEDGE.** Coaches will then collect copies signed by the adults and athletes (one per family). The entire coaching can sign and copy the Pledge before the meeting and distribute signed copies in exchange for Pledge copies signed and returned by the families.
- **Guest Request:** The "Guest Request" is used to solicit and secure good conduct commitments from adults associated with the team that did not attend the meeting. Blank copies (or pdfs) can be distributed at the team meeting or later and shared or electronically transmitted to adults that did not attend the meeting to be signed and returned later. It is also suggested that adults that attend early season team practices and games be asked if they attended the team meeting or not. If they did not, then their good conduct commitment(s) can be requested by agreeing and assigning to the pledge. During the season, coaches and/or officials can carry blank Guest Requests for use when needed.
- **Optional Resources:** A downloadable, editable "Incident Report" form is provided that can be used by organizations to use as an input form for incident tracks systems of their design. Tip Sheets are provided that can be used for officials, coaches, parents, guardians and grandparents at the discretion of licensees.

EMERGENCY

In a crisis call "911" immediately

• If considering self-harm, call "988"

The National Suicide Intervention Lifeline

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

To speak to a counselor,

Call (800) 656-4673

RAINN

BULLYING/HAZING, VIOLENCE, ADDICTIONS & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

For helpful resources,

thebmsproject.org/Safety

CHILD ABUSE

To report suspected child abuse,

Call (800) 422-4453

Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline

It is recommended that incident(s) of serious misconduct be reported to law enforcement.
Minors should report incidents of misconduct to their parent(s) or guardian(s).