

# Australian Baseball Federation



Peter Wood

National Development Manager



# Background

- 282 nationally accredited umpires
- 50 new per year – equal number leaving
- Exit survey concluded that 87% of umpires leaving had done so as a result of harassment suffered

# Game control

- In excess of 200 ejections per year
- Over 75% resulted in suspensions
- Depicted a scenario that was not in keeping with acceptable levels of 'theatre' in coach / umpire interaction

# Historical context



- Harassment led to:
  - Decreased control
  - Loss of confidence
  - Adversarial relationship
  - Outcome of games affected
  - Enjoyment as a spectacle and pastime affected
  - Promotion of a poor image to our youth
  - Undermining the spirit of sport

# New measures

- Control
- Competency
- Education
- Review and mediation

## New measures cont'd...

- Increased ejection powers
- Development of man-management skills
- Education of coaches and participants thru accreditation courses and communication
- Assembly of representative of all stakeholders to provide checks and balances

# Outcomes



- In elite standard play, (*national senior men's championships*) only one (1) ejection registered in 3 years
- In club level, early indications are that the policy is effective in providing balance

# Morale



- *"...no ejections relating to umpire abuse so far this season"* (SABL)
- *"...hasn't met with any resistance at this point in time"* (Central Coast NSW)
- *"Pleasure to umpire (so far!) this year"*

# Club implementation



- Difficulties experienced in acceptance
- 4 regions have adopted policy out of a possible seven
- Commitment from others to adopt in ensuing season

# Ongoing



- Weigh up the outcomes each half year
- Pull back from Control measures in the future
- Measure the impact on Umpiring numbers
- Continue education of all participants