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DISCIPLINARY ACTION - CLEMSON CLUB BASEBALL PLACED ON PROBATION

The Clemson Club Baseball Team has been placed on probation for the remainder of the 2017-2018 season as well as the entire 2018-2019 season for violation of NCBA Rule 25.01.0. Specifically, for conducting their baseball operations in a manner not considered acceptable by NCBA standards.

During the semi-final game in the Greenville Fall Invitational Tournament on November 3-5, the Clemson Club Baseball Team became upset with the umpiring crew officiating their game. They became so upset and verbally aggressive, the umpiring crew had to call the game before the start of the bottom of the 7th inning. This led the Clemson Team and fans to turn their verbal aggression onto an NCBA employee working the event. Many players and fans began cursing at the NCBA employee and would not stop after several attempts from NCBA employee asking them to do so. The Sports Tourism Manager for Greenville, SC Parks and Recreation who was in attendance during the incident stepped in to aid the NCBA Employee to no avail. After some time, the cursing and hostility did not de-escalate and he decided that a police presence was needed to calm the Clemson players and fans down. Police arrived and Clemson players and fans left the facility.

The behavior demonstrated by the Clemson Club Baseball Team is not acceptable. There are professional and respectful ways to going about voicing concerns, and that type of professionalism and respect was not demonstrated by Clemson. It is also the responsibility of the team to attempt to control their fan-base especially in situations like the one above.

Being viewed as a legitimate organization is one the NCBA always strives for. However, the behavior shown by the Clemson Club Baseball Team only hurts our efforts to be viewed as such. Allowing Clemson to participate in the Greenville Fall Invitational for future seasons will be left up to discretion the NCBA Tournament directors running the event. The NCBA will also be closely monitoring the Clemson Club Baseball Program throughout this season. If the NCBA is informed about Clemson demonstrating any behavior that even slightly resembles the actions shown above, it will strongly consider not allowing them back into the NCBA for future seasons.

Christian Smith
Vice President of Baseball Operations
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