



## **PALL Umpire Zero Tolerance Policy**

Poway American Little League is committed to providing every participant with a positive baseball experience. The fabric of a youth participation sports league is held together by good sportsmanship and the mutual respect of everyone involved. PALL believes that every participant deserves to be treated with respect.

Our sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, and grandchildren far too often watch many of us forget the real reason for being involved in youth sports. In the Board's opinion, this is reason for a "Zero Tolerance" policy. We must promote fair play, good sportsmanship and teach our children how to play the game. We feel it is everyone's responsibility to teach the players that there is more to the game than winning or losing and the final score. The entire Board of Directors takes this responsibility seriously.

Across the country and throughout youth sports, there have been increasing numbers of incidents involving coaches, players and parents abusing game officials. PALL utilizes youth umpires and see this program as an additional benefit to the youth of our community. This provides a secondary outlet for young people to participate and develop within PALL. This youth umpire program helps young people develop valuable life skills, while also filling a needed role in the Little League. Because of this, the PALL Board of Directors has decided to implement a "zero tolerance" policy toward any cases of umpire abuse that are reported and confirmed by umpires, spectators, managers/coaches or board members. This policy is effective immediately.

All persons involved with PALL including parents/guardians, players, managers/coaches, Board Members and umpires/officials shall abide by the Zero Tolerance Policy and all the rules governing the league. It is the duty of all managers/coaches to control their players and spectators at all times.

Coaches should teach their players to respect the dignity of the game, the authority of its officials, the value of the opponent and the institutions they represent. Coaches should always show decorum, respect and observe all game rules whenever questioning an umpire about a call.

Coaches shall confine their discussions with the opposing team and game officials to interpretation of the rules and NOT challenge an umpire's judgment call. A judgment call is considered, ball/strike, safe/out, and/ or fair/foul.

Umpire abuse at its simplest is defined as any deliberate action that makes an umpire feel physically threatened, verbally intimidated or emotionally humiliated. Disrespectfully objecting to calls, yelling at, publicly calling, constantly disagreeing with an umpire by action or verbally can be deemed umpire abuse. Cursing, obscene or threatening gestures or language, harassment of any kind, malicious or personal remarks between opponents, players, spectators or officials on or off the field will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action. Anyone in violation will be immediately removed from the field or field area and forbidden to return until disciplinary action(s)/decision(s) have been made.

All participants will in no way criticize, demean, belittle, mock, taunt or attempt to communicate with any umpire, before, during or after a game or PALL activity. However, they may offer genuine praise and thanks for an umpire's performance as would be expected in and recognized as a showing or example of good sportsmanship.

In enacting this policy, it is the Board's intent to provide a safe and positive environment for our children to learn the game of baseball. Parents, coaches, and managers can do their part by learning to respect an umpire's decision. If you have a problem with an official's attitude or actions, it is advised that you do not take matters into your own hands. File a complaint with the Umpire-in-Chief or a member of the Board of Directors. All complaints will be reviewed and appropriate action taken. If it is a problem, let us correct it through the proper channels, not on the baseball field.