

# **Santa Clara PAL Code of Conduct**

Santa Clara PAL is committed to a safe and healthy environment for all of its players, coaches, parents, and fans. To ensure we meet our commitment, Santa Clara PAL has instituted the following set of principles and expectations, which are considering binding on any person involved with Santa Clara PAL.

**Note:** The term *participant* shall include players, coaches, parents, and fans, where appropriate. Managers are responsible for the actions of their fans.

1. NO PARTICIPANT OR SPECTATOR SHALL be guilty of a physical attack, lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, or kick and official, participant, coach agency representative, manager, or another spectator. Officials are required to immediately suspend participant from further play and report participant to League Director. The participant shall remain suspended until his or her case is considered by the League Director.  
MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from one (1) league game and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Lifetime suspension and/or felonious assault charges filed. (CA Penal Code Sec. 243.8).
  
2. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL be guilty of leaving his or her offensive, defensive position or respective dugout areas to further incite any verbal or physical confrontation between players on the field or court.  
MINIMUM PENALTY: Immediate ejection with possible further sanctions dispensed by league office.  
**Note:** In the event said player(s) cannot be identified, the first, second, third, and so on player(s) in the line-up are subject to being removed from the game.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Forfeiture and/or double forfeiture of game and player suspensions as determined by the league office up to life and/or felonious assault charges filed.
  
3. NO PARTICIPANT OR SPECTATOR SHALL be guilty of damaging or defacing agency, school district, or sanctioned facilities. Officials or agency representative are required to immediately suspend individual and report incident to League Director.  
MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from further play until financial responsibility is met by individual and/or team AND probation for remainder of the season.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Lifetime suspension.
  
4. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL be guilty of an abusive verbal attack, including “trash talking” or taunting any participant, official, agency representative, or spectator. Officials are required to immediately suspend the participant from further play. The infraction will be reported to the League Director. This violation additionally includes “after the incident” communication or correspondence in follow up discussions.  
MINIMUM PENALTY: One (1) game suspension.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Four (4) game suspension and/or one year from time of incident.

5. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL use deliberately rough tactics during a game against the body and person of an opposing participant. Officials are required to immediately suspend participant from further play and report the incident to the League Director.  
MINIMUM PENALTY: Removal from the game.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.
6. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL refuse to abide by an official's decision or be guilty of verbal or forceful demonstrations of dissent to an official's decision. The degree of infraction shall, in the official's judgment, draw:  
MINIMUM PENALTY: Removal from the game.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.
7. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL be guilty of intentionally throwing a bat or item of playing equipment. Officials are required to immediately suspend the participant from further play and report such player to the League Director.  
MINIMUM PENALTY: One (1) game suspension.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.
8. NO PARTICIPANT SHALL appear in, on, or around a facility at any time under the influence or in possession of a controlled substance or any alcoholic beverage, or in an intoxicated condition. Officials are required to suspend participant from further play and report such player to the League Director.  
MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension from two (2) league games and placed on probation for the remainder of the season.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.
9. NO TEAM OR TEAMS SHALL engage in physical aggression upon each other, officials, agency representatives, field supervisors, or spectators. Officials shall immediately suspend play and report, in writing, the incident to the League Director. Decision by League Director shall involve:  
MINIMUM PENALTY: Forfeiture of game by one or both teams involved with suspension of one additional game and probation of one year from time of incident.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Dropping of one or both teams from Santa Clara PAL member leagues for life.
10. NO MANAGER, PARTICIPANT, CAPTAIN, OR TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SHALL, at any time, be guilty of utilizing a non-roster or ineligible participant; or falsify the identification or age of any participant or person an official league or tournament sports roster. Such falsification, intentional or otherwise, and with or without that participant or person's knowledge, shall be just cause for disciplinary action. The infraction will be reported to the League Director.  
MINIMUM PENALTY: One year probation from time of incident.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: One year suspension from time of incident.

11. NO MANAGER, TEAM REPRESENTATIVE OR PARTICIPANT SHALL, at any time use illegal equipment (for example, altered, ASA banned or illegal bat, metal cleats, exposed, dangerous jewelry).  
MINIMUM PENALTY: Immediate ejection from the game AND one (1) game suspension.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Lifetime suspension.

12. NO MANAGER, TEAM REPRESENTATIVE OR PARTICIPANT SHALL, at any time, commit a fraudulent act (including gambling on any play or outcome of a game) concerning any organized Santa Clara PAL event, function, or sports tournament. Such act shall be cause for disciplinary action.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Probation for the remainder of the season.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Suspended for one year from time of incident.

13. EACH TEAM MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE for ensuring that payments made to Santa Clara PAL, ASA, or member cities (for example, entry fees, tournament fees, facility costs, and so on) are valid, and any costs incurred due to insufficient funds and the entire team's responsibility.

MINIMUM PENALTY: Suspension of further play until financial responsibility is met.  
MAXIMUM PENALTY: Lifetime suspension.

## Special Notes

1. THE LEAGUE DIRECTORS SHALL have the power and full discretion of imposing penalties on any and all violations of the Players Code of Conduct. In any violation not included in said Code, the penalty shall be at the discretion of the League Director.
2. Any decision made by the League Director can be appealed by contacting the PAL Board of Directors, in writing, within 48 hours of notification of the decision.
3. Any participant removed from a game must leave the park or school facility immediately. Failure to do so will carry a maximum penalty of one year suspension.
4. Any participant having been once penalized by enforcement of the *Code of Conduct* and reported again for violating the *Code of Conduct* will be subject to additional penalties open to the determination of the Santa Clara PAL Board.
5. Managers are responsible for actions of their participants and spectators at all times during a Santa Clara PAL activity or event and will be disciplined accordingly.
6. Any individual or team who is placed on probation or suspension for violation of items aforementioned in this Code of Conduct is automatically on probation or suspension for *all activities* sponsored by Santa Clara PAL during the effected period.

SANTA CLARA PAL CODE OF CONDUCT IS ENFORCED AND HONORED BY ALL SANTA CLARA PAL AGENCIES, LEAGUES, AND TOURNAMENTS. PARTICIPANTS ATTEMPTING TO PLAY IN SANTA CLARA PAL-SANCTIONED EVENTS AFTER BEING SUSPENDED WILL BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.