

# SVLL - Zero Tolerance Policy for Umpire Abuse

Snoqualmie Valley Little League is committed to providing every participant with a positive baseball/softball experience. The fabric of a youth participation sports league is held together by good sportsmanship and the mutual respect of everyone involved. SVLL believes that every participant deserves to be treated with respect. To this end, the league has developed a **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY FOR UMPIRE ABUSE**.

Across the country and throughout youth sports, there have been increasing numbers of incidents involving coaches, players and parents abusing game officials. SVLL 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 SVLL. 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 SVLL 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.

***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. Coaches should always show decorum, respect and observe all game rules whenever questioning an umpire about a call. (Board discussion/input)***

The penalties for any confirmed case of referee abuse will be:

- 1<sup>st</sup> incident - 1 game suspension for a coach regardless of past history, coaching experience or program involvement. This suspension will be IN ADDITION to any suspension due to an ejection from a game.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> incident – 3 game suspension for a coach
- 3<sup>rd</sup> incident – a lifetime ban from coaching any SVLL team.

In addition, if a coach confronts an umpire after a game in order to continue verbally abusing a referee, these penalties will be increased to 2 games for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6 games for the 2<sup>nd</sup> incident.

Any incident that involves physical abuse by bodily threatening, shoving, bumping or harming a youth will result in an immediate indefinite suspension and notification of proper authorities. A manager or coach wishing to be reinstated will have to appear before SVLL Discipline Committee for a hearing.

## **Parent/Team Support Umpire Abuse:**

1<sup>st</sup> Incident – 3 game suspensions

2<sup>nd</sup> Incident – 5 game suspensions

3<sup>rd</sup> Incident – ban from attending any SVLL event

Managers and Coaches will be asked to provide the names of any parents who abuse umpires and those who don't cooperate may face a 1 game suspension for refusing to cooperate.

Please remember that SVLL managers and coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players and parents/spectators during games. Umpires may file an abuse report on any coach whose players and supporters are abusing an umpire.

If you have feedback on an umpire's performance, managers and coaches are encouraged to complete an umpire evaluation form and submit it to the head umpire. The Chief Umpire (see [www.SVLL.net](http://www.SVLL.net)) can address individual umpires need for supervision, instruction and additional training.

Thank you!  
Board of Directors  
SVLL