

SCLL Umpire Interaction Policy

Stanwood Camano Little League (SCLL) has a zero-tolerance policy for behavior that is disrespectful, discourteous, or may in any way be construed as intimidating towards its umpires. With this policy, we want to maintain an environment in SCLL that is both umpire-friendly and teaches our players to respect those in positions of authority. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary actions including suspensions and potentially expulsion from SCLL.

Players, coaches, and fans should understand that any critical behavior towards umpires (the kind that is all too common at professional sporting events and some other youth sports programs) will not be tolerated in SCLL. Basically, we want every coach and parent to treat the umpire the way they would want to be treated if it was their son or daughter who was the umpire. It is far more productive for a player, coach, or team to react to disadvantageous umpire calls by focusing on how to overcome those "bad breaks" rather than focusing on the umpire who is just doing the best that he/she can.

Our umpire crew is comprised of adult volunteers. All of our umpires must feel they are safe and protected.

Parent Interaction with Umpires:

Parents should enter every game with the understanding that at least one "bad" call will likely be made and that some of those calls could possibly influence the outcome of the game. Even in the professional umpire ranks, including the World Series, critical calls are missed, so they will more than likely be missed at the Little League level. Over the course of a season, these calls tend to even out.

There are no questions or comments from spectator areas regarding umpire calls.

No direct questioning by parents of umpires during or after games – questions should be directed to your coach at a later time.

As stated in the Parent Code of Conduct: "Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may cause a multiple-game suspension or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games."

Coach Interaction with Umpires:

You should recognize that your actions on the field are viewed by both parents and players on both teams, and therefore, they should set the highest standard of behavior. Any and all communications with umpires should be done in a respectful and deferential manner.

Coaches are also expected to intervene if their players or parents are acting disrespectfully to umpires. We know that coaches can't guarantee parent and player behavior, but coaches are expected to give a warning as a first step before further actions are taken to correct disrespectful or discouraging behavior, whether from parents or players.

Any coach who shows disrespect to umpires should face the same consequences as mentioned above in the Parent Code of Conduct.

Any comments regarding an SCLL umpire can be submitted to the President through email.