

# PAROCHIAL ATHLETIC LEAGUE

## Guidelines and Policies

### 2015 – 16



Catholic School Department  
Diocese of Sacramento

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# Parochial Athletic League (PAL)

## Mission Statement

The **Parochial Athletic League (PAL)** is an integral part of the educational mission of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Sacramento. The PAL is dedicated to fostering **Christian** and **Human** development, encouraging a **positive vision** in our boys and girls through **exercise, example** and **athletic competition** and **fully recognizing the dignity of each student in Christ's image**.

With this Mission in mind, the following goals have been determined:

- a. To build a community which strives to image Christ;
- b. To develop Christian spirit, school spirit, team spirit and personal acceptance;
- c. To instill Christian sportsmanship in the life-styles of the participants;
- d. To teach the participants the proper attitude towards winning, losing and competing with dignity;
- e. To develop acceptance and appreciation of others;
- f. To train, instruct and follow athletic/sport rules;
- g. To develop the students' physical abilities and coordination;
- h. To help form well-rounded students by fostering good health habits;
- i. To provide a Christian environment and outlet for youthful energy;
- j. To teach the positive value of athletic participation
- k. To show the necessity of practice, hard work and time management.

These goals are founded upon the principle of the **infinite worth of each person** because he/she is created in the image and likeness of God.

# Programs and Calendar

<u>Season</u>	<u>Girls Programs:</u>	<u>Boys Programs:</u>
Fall	Volleyball, Cross Country	Flag Football, Cross Country
Winter	Basketball	Basketball
Spring	Flag Football, Track & Field, Golf	Volleyball, Track & Field, Golf

## Calendar Items (dates will vary - see specific websites for more information):

- August: Volleyball, Flag Football and Cross Country practice may begin on August 17, 2015.  
 Athletic Director Meeting @ CB (**Mandatory** - August 18, 2015 – 6:30pm)  
 Girls Volleyball Coaches Meeting @ CB (**Mandatory** – September 1, 2015 – 6:00pm)  
 Boys Flag Football Coaches Meeting @ Jesuit (**Mandatory** – September 2 – 7pm)  
 Co-ed Cross Country @ Jesuit (**Mandatory** - September 2 – 7pm)
- September: League play begins for Girls Volleyball, Cross Country and Boys Flag Football
- October: TOC for Girls Volleyball, Cross Country & Boys Flag Football.
- November: TOC for Girls Volleyball, Cross Country & Boys Flag Football.  
 Basketball Practice may begin on the Monday of the week of November 15<sup>th</sup> - Sunday begins the week. (**November 15, 2015**)  
 PAL Commission Meeting
- December: Girls Basketball Coaches Meeting @ CB (**Mandatory** – December 2, 2015 - 6:00pm)  
 Boys Basketball Coaches Meeting @ Jesuit (**Mandatory** – December 6, 2015 – 2:00pm)
- January: Basketball League Play Begins
- February: Basketball Playoffs
- March: Basketball Playoffs  
 Spring Sports Practice may begin on the Monday of the week of March 1<sup>st</sup> (**February 29, 2016**)  
 PAL Commission Meeting  
 Girls Flag Football Meeting @ CB (**Mandatory** – March 8, 2016 – 6:00)  
 Boys Volleyball, Co-ed Track and Field, Co-ed Golf Coaches Meetings (**Mandatory** – March 8, 2016 – 6:00pm)  
 Spring Sports League Play Begins
- May: PAL Commission Meeting  
 Golf & Track Championships, Boys Volleyball and Girls Flag Football TOC's

**Summer Months:** As per the CIF High School rules, the responsibilities, rules and guidelines found in this document apply only during the academic(\*) school year. All summer activities involving sports are the responsibility of the school principal. The PAL rules and guidelines are in effect from Monday of the week of August 15 until the end of May, each school year.

# Administration

The Parochial Athletic League (PAL) is supervised by the Catholic Schools Department (CSD), under the direct supervision of the Diocese of Sacramento. The PAL is managed by a Boys Director and a Girls Director. These two individuals supervise, schedule and delegate each of the programs offered during the school year. They report to the PAL Commission and the Sacramento Diocese. The PAL Commission assists the directors with the ratification of policies, approval of budgets and the update and revision of the league guidelines.

- I) Catholic School Department.- Diocese of Sacramento
- II) PAL Girls' and Boys' Directors
- III) PAL Commission
- IV) Principals and Athletic Directors - Member Schools
- V) Site Directors, Coaches and Officials
- VI) Parents

## **Responsibility:**

- 1) **Sacramento Catholic School Department:** Supervise the PAL Directors and commission meetings. Supervise and report budget issues and items. Assist with conflict resolution as presented by Directors regarding issues directly affecting the PAL and our member schools as they pertain to the League.
- 2) **Directors:** In charge of the various sports (scheduling, rule clinics, coaching clinics, Championship game/meet supervision, scheduling officials and conflict resolution) and responsible for implementing the policies of the PAL and the PAL Commission. The Directors are the link to the PAL for all member schools including reporting budget items and billing process to school's AD's and diocese. The Directors report directly to the Catholic School Department.
- 3) **PAL Commission:** The Commission assists the Directors in formulating the policies for the PAL. They are responsible for a review and update of the PAL Guidelines and the general policy-making of the league and its overall character. The PAL Commission can be made up of: 3 directors (Boys, Girls and Little Dribblers), 4 principals (one from each cluster involved), 4 athletic directors, 4 coaches (2 boys' and 2 girls').
- 4) **Principals:** The school Principal (Director/Head Master) is responsible for the students, parents, coaches, athletic directors and the school's reputation as regards to those **participating** in and **attending** PAL athletic competitions. For this reason a schedule of all practices, tournaments, non-league or practice games and league games must be on file in the Principal's office for each season/sport. The Principal will select a responsible Athletic Director(s) who will communicate with league directors regarding any issues that may arise. Each Principal/Athletic Director will ensure that their coaches follow the PAL Guidelines.

- 5) **Athletic Director (AD):** Each Principal is required to designate an Athletic Director or Directors to represent their school
- a. The AD must attend the mandatory AD meeting scheduled for mid to late August each year.
  - b. The AD will be the contact person for the PAL Directors and will provide communication between the school Principal, coaches and parents regarding PAL guidelines, schedules, meetings, permission forms, physicals, mandatory Diocesan Fingerprinting procedures, Blood Pathogen Certification, Coaching / PCA Certification, etc. **An email address is required for each AD.**
  - c. The AD maintains the active roster for all PAL sports their school participates in. This includes the standardized PAL Emergency Card and medical permission forms signed by a parent and a physician.
  - d. **The AD is required to host a parent information meeting prior to each PAL sport to inform all parents and interested parties as to the schedule (if available), league guidelines, Coaching / PCA guidelines, school guidelines, etc. for participating in PAL sports.** This meeting is especially important to inform parents about the standards for participation, academic eligibility, and especially - **GOOD CONDUCT** - at all PAL events. Special emphasis should be placed on good sportsmanship, lending support to school coaches, respecting your opponent (Honoring the Game - Positive Coaching Alliance), and respecting the work of the officials in assisting with the administration of various athletic contests. As the direct representative of the PAL and their school, the athletic director(s) will report (and in extreme cases - suspend a game or match) if they witness any un-sportsman like or detrimental behavior. These actions cannot be taken lightly and should be tempered by the good judgment of the person/persons involved.
- 6) **Site Directors, Coaches and Officials:**
- a. **Site Directors** will be responsible for directives as listed in the appendix - Page 14.
  - b. **Coaches** will be given a copy of these guidelines prior to beginning their coaching assignment. **Review of the guidelines, review of your school guidelines and attendance at all mandatory PAL coaches meetings is required.** A schedule of all practices, league and non-league games, tournaments and TOC schedules must be provided to your school AD and the Principal's office at the beginning of the season and updated as necessary during the season. Each coach is responsible for monitoring the All-Play rule as noted in section 4 under PAL Rules. Teams for each sport should be as reasonably large as possible while still enabling every member to play. Coaches must have a copy of the standard PAL Emergency cards and the Coaching / PCA Certification at all times
  - c. **Officials** are hired by the league directors. They are instructed on any unique rules that pertain to the PAL. As the officials are part of the team that administers games, matches, etc., we rely on them to keep control of each contest. They are hired as intermediaries of the PAL and should be treated with respect by coaches, players and fans. Any concerns regarding the officials should be directed to the league directors by the AD.
- 7) **Parents:** The PAL exists to provide the students in our member schools with the opportunity to participate in athletics as part of the whole educational experience within the school curriculum. As such, we **expect** the parents to be positive role models of support while they are involved in

PAL athletics. As members of the **Play Like A Champion Today**, we ask that parents support their children role modeling positive behaviors using the GROW approach.

**Goals** Encourage individual goals and provide opportunities to try new things.  
**Relationships** Provide unconditional love and model positive relationships and respect for others.  
**Ownership** Allow children to play, have fun and has opportunities for responsible decisions.  
**Winning** Support children win or lose, emphasizing good play over winning.

Parents are encouraged to explore the PLACT website for further information.

[www.playlikeachampion.nd.edu](http://www.playlikeachampion.nd.edu)

- 8) **Videotaping:** The PAL allows schools to record their games. **The only clarification is that the recording/taping will be of game action only; not the opposing team's timeout huddle or pre/post game team meetings/huddles, and will not include panning bleachers or stands.** The PAL wants to be clear that sportsmanship is paramount and that how we treat each other, as fans, coaches, site directors, game officials and participants needs to begin with respecting each other and the game. (12/18/2014)

# Guidelines

- 1) **Blood borne Pathogen In-service:** Required for all head and assistant coaches and will be administered and verified by each individual school.
- 2) **Fingerprinting:** It is required (under State Law) that all head and assistant coaches (paid & volunteer) be fingerprinted prior to coaching a school team. Fingerprinting is also mandated for all school site directors.
- 3) **Medical Release / Physical:** Each school will be responsible and monitor physical exam / medical release forms (not to be confused with the Emergency Card) for each student participating in PAL sports. These must be verified by the AD / Principal. Parents must sign the PAL emergency form allowing each child to participate in PAL sports. No games/matches may be played without a signed Emergency Card.
- 4) **Coaches / PLACT Certification:** Mandatory for all coaches. See addendum 'PAL Guidelines for Coaching Certification Process' on page 13
- 5) **Tournaments:** Member schools can host tournaments provided they follow the proper procedure. A school (AD) must contact the appropriate PAL Director (Boys or Girls) **in writing** with a request to host a tournament. Preference will be given to schools who have historically hosted an event. PAL member school teams are allowed to participate in up to three (3) PAL sanctioned tournaments per season. Non-PAL school teams may participate in PAL tournaments with prior permission of the Director as long as no PAL member school is excluded. The entry fee for tournaments may not exceed \$150. Daily admission fees are not regulated; however the PAL **strongly suggests** that the fee not exceed \$3.00 per adult and \$2.00 per student.
- 6) **Admission Cost at League Contests:** Admission is not to exceed \$2.00 per adult or \$1.00 per student for league contests.
- 7) **Uniforms:** All student participants must wear a regulation uniform for all PAL sports, consistent with the other members of the team. The PAL does not allow the wearing of face paint, hair paint, jewelry, headbands, wrist bands, arm sleeves, leg sleeves, wraps, gloves (football) etc. Any exception to this guideline must be approved in writing by the league director prior to the season. 12/15/2014
- 9) **Sunday:** Practices are NOT to be scheduled on Sunday morning. Athletic contests may take place on Sundays provided:
  - a. PAL activities do not begin before 1 p.m.
  - b. Teams should not assemble more than one hour prior to a contest. It is the suggestion of the CSD & the PAL that teams meet at their designated location and not at the school (church.)
  - c. It is the responsibility of the AD and the Principal to see that the above directives are followed.



# PAL Rules

- 1) The PAL, in addition to the guidelines and rules enclosed in this document, will utilize the National High School rules (and rule books) for all contests. Specific rules governing Flag Football are published by the PAL – Addendums on pages 16 - 23. National & CIF High School Rules provide the foundation and guide for other PAL sport related issues (ie. disqualification of a player or coach, etc.) If any questions/conflicts arise, the PAL Directors and the CSD liaison will meet to decide a course of action/decision.
- 2) **Game time:** (as listed on published website schedules) is forfeit time. Teams are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes early for scheduled games/matches. Coaches are encouraged to check game times on their respective web sites weekly (at a minimum).
- 3) **Communication:** Main communication between directors and schools will be in the form of websites and email. Email communication may supersede postings on the websites.
- 3) **Game Responsibilities:** Most contests are conducted at school ‘Host Sites.’ While the host site is responsible for providing supervision, facilities and a scoreboard operator for each contest, the home team is required to provide a score keeper (official book.) Coaches are required to show evidence of the PAL emergency cards and coaching certifications to the site director prior to each game/match. Failure to do so is grounds for a forfeit. Coaches are also required to submit a roster of their team to the Site Director at the first game/match. Changes to the official roster can be made by the coach as long as the Site Director is notified prior to a game/match.
- 4) **All Play Rule:** All members of the team must play in all games. This includes all tournament and playoff/TOC games. Each team should be no less than 10 players, especially if a team offers a Recreation team (Basketball.) Any team with fewer than ten must receive prior permission from their respective PAL director.
- 5) **Eligibility to Play**
  - a. National, California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) and published PAL rules as described above (PAL Rules, Section #1.)
  - b. Questions and or conflicts will be addressed by the PAL Directors and the CSD Liaison if a conflict or question arises.
  - c. **Academic qualifications, team and individual eligibility issues are the jurisdiction of the individual member school.** Any question about eligibility regarding academic suspension will be directed back to the individual school administration (AD and Principal.) The PAL has **NO** jurisdiction over this issue.
  - d. For sports open to Varsity competition only, girls and boys in grades 6, 7 and 8 are eligible to play. Fifth graders may participate in Golf and Cross Country.

- e. For sports open to Varsity **and** Junior Varsity competition, girls and boys **ONLY** in grades 6, 7 and 8 are eligible to compete on the Varsity level team; girls and boys **ONLY** in grades 5 and 6 are eligible to compete on the Junior Varsity team. **Students in grades 4 and below are not eligible to compete on Varsity and/or Junior Varsity teams.**
  - f. **Boys/Girls Teams:** Whenever the league/school provides a team for a particular sex in a sport, members of the opposite sex shall not be permitted to qualify for that team unless opportunities in the total school sports program for either sex are limited in comparison to the program for the opposite sex in that school. Permission for boys to qualify on a girl's team or girls to qualify on a boy's team must be secured through formal written petition by the school Principal and Athletic Director to the Directors of the Parochial Athletic League.
  - g. Only students enrolled in a PAL member school during the academic school year are eligible to participate in the PAL and only for the school of current enrollment.
  - h. **Age limitation:** Varsity level students shall not turn 15 before November 1<sup>st</sup>. Junior Varsity players shall not turn 13 before November 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - i. Once league play begins, a student playing at the Varsity level (or the JV level) must remain at that level. This includes tournaments as well. Players on Recreation teams are not allowed to move from Recreation to Competitive teams (or vice-a-versa) unless special permission is obtained from the league directors on a case by case evaluation. **Players must participate in at least half of the league contests to be eligible for playoffs.**
- 6) **Coach / Player Ejection:**
- a. **Player:** A player ejected from a league or tournament game/match (including playoffs) will be suspended for the duration of that contest and the next league or tournament game, whichever comes first. A second ejection will bring an automatic suspension for the remainder of the season (including playoffs).
  - b. **Coach:** If a coach is ejected from a game, that immediate game/match shall not continue unless a certified (Coaching / PCA certification) coach or AD from that school, is available to take over for the remainder of that game/match. The disqualified coach will not be allowed to coach for the remainder of the current game/match and the very next league or tournament game/match, whichever comes first. Any coach disqualified from a second game will not be allowed to coach for the remainder of that season and show cause to current school administration as to why they should be allowed to coach in the PAL in the future. Additional ejections become the jurisdiction of the PAL directors in consultation with the PAL commission. The school is responsible for providing another certified coach (or AD) to replace the suspended coach.
- 7) **Schedule Conflicts:** League and Tournament schedules are set and usually cannot be changed. However, if a scheduled game/match conflicts with a school event, the PAL Directors will try, within reason, to accommodate a re-schedule of that game/match. AD's and coaches should consult with the school calendar, teachers, etc. to verify possible conflict dates as early as possible to allow the directors ample time to schedule around possible conflicts. ***A minimum of 72 hours notification is required by the AD or Principal.*** League contests take precedent over any tournament games/matches.
- 8) **Protest:** A protest will be considered for any league or playoff contest. School sponsored tournaments are not covered by this rule. Any protest of a game/match can only be made if there was a mis-application of a playing rule. Official's judgment is **NOT** grounds for a protest. If a

protest occurs, the coach must notify the game official and the site director immediately if they feel there has been a mis-application of a rule. The site director and the game official should stop play and take note of the specific rule, circumstances, etc. for reporting to the league director. The report/protest must be filed by the protesting coach with the director within 24 hours. Athletic Directors are also required to contact the league director within 48 hours to verify an official protest has been filed.

- a. The written protest must include the following
    - i. Date, time, place of game and opponent
    - ii. Names of the officials, the scorer, the site director
    - iii. The rule and section of the Official Rules or Local Rules (ie. Flag Football) under which the protest is made
    - iv. The original decision and conditions surrounding the making of the decision
    - v. The essential facts involved in the matter protested
    - vi. Signature of the principal involved
  - b. **Possible Decisions:**
    - i. The protest is found invalid and the game score stands as played
    - ii. If a protest is upheld for a misinterpretation or application of a playing rule, the game is replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made with the decision corrected.
- 9) **Tiebreaker** – Each sport has a tie-breaker system. Check with League Directors to verify the type and process used for each sport.
- 10) **Sport specific rules:**
- a. Boys Flag Football Guidelines - See addendum on pages #16 – 19
  - b. Basketball - JV Girls, JV Boys and Varsity Girls (competitive and recreation) play with the 28.5" Women's Official size basketball. Boys Varsity (competitive and recreation) plays with the Men's Official size basketball.
  - c. Girls Flag Football Guidelines – See addendum on page 20 – 23

# Addendums

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# PAL Guidelines for Coaching Certification Process

## NEW for 2015-2016

The PAL has adopted a multi-year certification process for member coaches. While coaches are still **REQUIRED** to be certified, the process beginning this school year (2015 – 16) allows a longer certification for the various options available.

At least one coach representing a team at a competition is required to provide evidence of coaching certification. The PAL has two different programs that a coach can receive certification with multi year recognition. The PAL will **not** reimburse a coach for their required certification process.

- 1) **Play Like A Champion Today** – A faith based certification emphasizing coaching as a ministry. This certification will last 4 years.
- 2) **National Coaching Certification** - High School level certification with lifetime certification.  
Provided through:
  - a. American Sport Education Program (ASEP) (\$59)
  - b. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) (\$52)

These coaching certification programs are offered in compliance with the PAL requisite for coaching training and preparation for coaching, training and working with the youth in the Parochial Athletic League. Coaches are encouraged to evaluate their own coaching aspirations and desires before selecting one of these certification programs. Each is unique and especially helpful in preparing for the tremendous responsibility for the care and direction of our youth program.

# PAL Site Director Duties

The PAL contracts with your school to identify a person as the Site Director. You will be the liaison between the site of competition and the PAL Director, and will monitor games at your site, make sure the games run smoothly, identify concerns and forward those concerns to the League Director. Site Directors must have fingerprint clearance through the Diocese. As a site, you must provide a score board operator for the games scheduled at your site. It may be the site director or another person designated by the site director. If you have a problem with a coach who is abusive, uncooperative or not adhering to the PAL Guidelines and Policies (a copy of which you should receive from your Athletic Director), you must identify the school, coach and situation to the League Director as soon as possible. Each coach has been required to sign the "Coaches Agreement" acknowledging their agreement to "...uphold the mission and philosophy of the Parochial Athletic League by insisting on fair play, support of the officials and exemplary sportsmanship at all times." Coaches are also required to complete the Coaching / PCA certifications. Other site director responsibilities include:

- 1) Open all facilities and or gates; open bathrooms and make sure they are clearly marked. Admission prices: (No more than) Adults \$2.00; students \$1.00.
- 2) **Greet coaches and officials** prior to game time; direct them to any facility for their use.
- 3) Check with each coach for a copy of their roster and emergency cards for ALL team members. Count and verify against the number of students suiting up. Any team or coach without emergency cards will have to forfeit that game. In addition, **they may NOT scrimmage at the site if they do not have the emergency cards/forms**. Also check to see if the team has some kind of first aid equipment to deal with minor emergencies, especially cuts or blood exposure.
- 4) Check with officials to see if they have questions about the game rules or local ground rules. Inform the league director if officials are late or do not show.
- 5) **USE PREGAME SCRIPT (FOR SITE DIRECTOR) TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AND EXPLAIN EXPECTATIONS OF PLAYERS, COACHES AND FANS:**

## *Good Evening*

*My name is (name) and I am the site director here at (school name).*

*(School site) welcomes (Team 1) and (Team 2) for this Parochial Athletic League (sport) contest.*

*As members of the Parochial Athletic League we recognize the value of competition and sportsmanship in the development of our student-athletes. These same expectations also holds true for our fans; please be loud in support of your team and keep things positive to motivate the athletes competing.*

*Along this line please remember these expectations:*

1. *Do not approach the officials during or after the game*
2. *Let the coaches and officials do their job coaching, so our athletes are not confused or conflicted during the game.*
3. *All concerns should go through the coach*

*Again, my name is (name), please let me know if I can assist in providing a positive environment for our teams competing.*

*At this time we ask you join both schools in prayer.*

- 6) Circulate during games – **BE VISABLE AND VIGILANT**. Watch the crowd and make sure behaviors are appropriate. If any fan, coach or player gets out of hand, **BE PROACTIVE**; warn them and possibly remove them from the game or from the site if necessary. Please file a written report with the league director and the offending school AD if you have this type of problem.
- 7) Along with the coaches from both teams, sign the official book to record that the game followed PAL guidelines. (Home book is considered the “official” book.) Site provides the score board operator.
- 8) Keep the games flowing efficiently with a minimum of delay.
- 9) Keep track and post league results each week. Also post any changes to the schedule. Please inform league director with results after each completed league date.

Girls Director: Jill Bennett      733-3673      [jbennett@girlspaleague.com](mailto:jbennett@girlspaleague.com)  
Boys Director: Gerry Lane      428-6060, ext. 203      [Gerry.Lane@jesuithighschool.org](mailto:Gerry.Lane@jesuithighschool.org)

**Note:** *Any player, coach or fan who swears at an opposing player, official or coach or who causes a fight will be removed from the game. **Players must remain on the bench, coaches and spectators must leave the facility.** If the coach is removed or ejected, the game can only continue if the team has a Coaching / PCA certified assistant coach or school AD. (The assistant coach must be identified prior to the game, no walk-ons are allowed with the exception of the school AD).*

### ***Special Note:***

**Videotaping:** The PAL allows schools to record their games. The only clarification is that the recording/taping will be of game action only; not the opposing team’s timeout huddle or pre/post game team meetings/huddles, and will not include panning bleachers or stands. The PAL wants to be clear that sportsmanship is paramount and that how we treat each other, as fans, coaches, site directors, game officials and participants needs to begin with respecting each other and the game. (12/18/2014)

# Little Dribbler Program

## LITTLE DRIBBLER PROGRAM

The Little Dribbler Program is for students in grades 1-4. The overall purpose of this program is for students to have fun while developing basketball skills, teamwork, a sense of community spirit, and to foster physical fitness a part of the overall educational mission of the PAL. The PAL Little Dribbler Program is an instruction based, recreational program.

## LITTLE DRIBBLER DIRECTOR

The director is a member of the PAL Commission and is in charge of the entire Little Dribbler Program. He/She is responsible for implementing the policies of the PAL Commission. The director reports directly to the Commission and the Catholic School Department.

## GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. All Catholic schools within our diocese and members of the PAL who have this program must follow the set mission and guidelines of the PAL. All coaches must adhere to the guidelines and policies set forth in this document including training, blood borne pathogens, fingerprinting, etc. All Little Dribbler Program coaches must attend the preseason meeting.
2. The Little Dribbler Coordinator is accountable to the athletic director and principal.
  - a. Host coordinator must contact visiting coordinator by Tuesday of the week in which schools play
  - b. Be present at the site all day
  - c. Make a sportsmanship announcement prior to each game.
  - d. Check all PAL paperwork prior to each game.
  - e. Make sure all games run on time.
3. A school will field 8 separate teams divided by **grade and gender**, 1<sup>st</sup> grade boys, 1<sup>st</sup> grade girls, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade boys, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade girls, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade boys, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade girls, 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls.
  - a. Combined grade teams are allowed provided that:
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students of the same gender play on the same team and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students of the same gender play on the same team.
    - ii. There are not five players from the appropriate grade.
4. Each team has use of the court for a one-hour period, including warm ups.
5. Rules and modifications for 1st and 2nd grade.
  - a. Lowered baskets (8 to 8 1/2 feet) and a junior size, 27.5 inch basketball shall be used.
  - b. The court hour is broken up into as many five-minute periods as possible. A new group of five players must be substituted every five minutes. If there are less than ten (10) players on the team, all the players that are on the bench must be substituted in.
  - c. There is no tracking of score, either by a scoreboard mechanism, coaches, parents or players.
  - d. Coaches from both teams should meet with the referee(s) before each game to discuss guidelines.
  - e. All rules violations during play result in the offensive team retaining possession. Play will resume with a sideline inbound at mid-court.
  - f. On a ball out of bounds, the ball will be awarded to the team that did not touch the ball going out of bounds and will be inbounded from the spot that it went out of bounds.
  - g. Each participating school must provide a referee. Coaches are allowed to both coach and referee.
  - h. Coaches should do their best to give all players at least one opportunity to score in every game.
  - i. Teams do not wear official uniforms. The attire would be their P.E. uniform or something similar.
  - j. All 1<sup>st</sup> grade teams, boys and girls, will play a zone defense. The defense will be a 1-2-2 alignment with one player between the top of the key and the free throw line, one player on each elbow, and one player on each block. Host school is responsible for marking the defensive spots with tape or a in similar manner. Defensive players may take one step from their defensive spot in any direction.
    - i. No reaching in – defense may not steal the ball from a player with the ball. Defense may steal passes within the player’s one-step defensive zone.
    - ii. No double teaming at any time.
    - iii. Defense may leave their spots to rebound
    - iv. Defense may leave their spots to pursue loose balls.
  - k. All 2nd grade teams, boys and girls, will play a 1-2-2 defense. All defensive players must remain inside the 3 point line at all times.
    - i. No reaching in - defense may not steal a ball from a player with the ball.
    - ii. Defense may steal passes.
    - iii. No double teaming at any time.



- iv. Shot blocking is allowed provided that the defensive player's arms are straight up and the ball has left the shooter's hand.
6. Rules and modifications for 3rd and 4th grade.
- a. Regulation basketball rules. Basic basketball rules will be adhered to with certain exceptions.
  - b. Regulation 10 foot baskets and a junior size 27.5 inch ball shall be used.
  - c. An official will be scheduled for each game through the PAL assigning process.
  - d. Man to man defense is required at all times within the half court of the offense.
    - i. No double teaming at any time.
    - ii. No pressing at any time.
  - e. Game length
    - i. The game will consist of four quarters: Each quarter will be 10 minute running time. The clock will stop on any time-out or player injury.
    - ii. 30 seconds in between quarters and a two minute half time.
    - iii. Games must start promptly at the top of the hour.
    - iv. Games must end promptly at five (5) minutes before the hour.
  - f. Substitution
    - i. Play will be stopped, when appropriate at the five minute mark of the quarter. A new five players must be substituted at this time. If there are less than ten (10) players on the team, all the players that are on the bench must be substituted in.
    - ii. A new five must be substituted at the beginning of each quarter.
  - g. Time Outs
    - i. Each team will have two (2) 30 second time outs per half (no carry over)
  - h. Foul modifications
    - i. The free throw line mark used will be the official PAL JV Girls mark unless the player wishes to shoot from the regulation free throw line (player's choice).
    - ii. A player fouled in the act of shooting will be awarded one point and must shoot a free throw for the other point.
    - iii. If a player is fouled in the act of shooting and makes the basket, the team will be awarded two points for the basket and one point for the foul. There will be no free throw in this event.
    - iv. All other common fouls will result in the ball out of bounds.
  - i. The host team will provide a scoreboard and an official scorekeeper.
    - i. Scorekeeper will keep track of individual player fouls and players can foul out.
    - ii. Team fouls will not be kept. (See bonus rule above.)
  - j. Uniforms
    - i. Teams must have shirts with a number.
  - k. Mercy rule
    - i. A mercy rule will take effect when one team builds a lead of 20 points. At that point, play continues but baskets made by the leading team do not increase the margin. Score will not be kept either on the scoreboard or in the scorebook until the team that is behind scores to make the lead less than 20 points.
  - l. All other rules will follow the same rules as PAL/High School Federation.

Update: May 5, 2014

# PAL BOY'S FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

## A. Equipment:

1. 9 players, offense or defense (8 minimum to start the game, 7 or less - team forfeits). Uniform shirts (tucked in) required. **Mouth guards are required.** Molded cleats (no screw-on). Game-time (on schedule) is forfeit time.
2. Teams provide their own football and flags. (Ball may be regulation or intermediate, not junior size. No colored footballs. Flags (2) must be standard length and width = 16" x 2" and easily detachable by velcro. All players **must have flags of an alternate color from pants/shorts.**)
3. Pads are not allowed unless covering an injury (soft pad only, **up to the official if OK'd prior to game**).

## B. Periods/Time factors:

1. Game time = four 10 minute periods with running time, last 2 minutes of half and game are stop.
2. 25 seconds allowed between plays; delay of game = 5 yard penalty.
3. Stop clock for penalty, restart when ball is **spotted** after foul.
4. Halftime is 8 minutes (or less by agreement of coaches).
5. Time outs (1 minute) - each team gets 2 timeouts per half, no carryover. 1 coach may go on field.

## C. Field/First down:

1. Field total = 80 yards. 60 yard field (divided into 4 - 15 yard increments) & 2 - 10 yard end zones. **(Field width will vary according to site. We hope that the field width will be no less than 120' if possible.)**
2. First down every 15 yards. First down when offense passes mark on play or penalty within 4 downs.

## D. Kickoffs:

1. Kickoff from 15 yard line. Kickoff into end zone, ball is dead, automatically placed at 15 yard line.
2. First kick OB - receiving team option - **re-kick or spot**. Second attempt OB - ball placed at midfield.
3. Dropped kick - ball is dead, team starts from spot where ball touches ground, if in end zone, 15 yard line.
4. Onside kick - Ball must travel **15 yards** before it is live. First team to touch after 15 yards, gains possession.

## E. Punts:

1. Kicking team has to declare intention to punt and must have 5 men on the LOS. No rush or block allowed.
2. Receiving team - not less than 3 men on the LOS (cannot form a wedge, screen block OK.) Penalty = 5 yards.
3. Fair-Catch rule is in effect (also on kickoffs), bad snap on punt allowed, punter can pick up ball and kick. Teams cannot move until the ball is punted. Penalty = 5 yards.
4. Officials allow time for change of personnel, up to individual official's discretion (no quick kicks!)

## F. Scoring / Points after touchdown (PAT):

1. Touchdown = 6 points. Offense must declare intention to go for 1 or 2 points. **Captain's** first decision is final.
2. 1 point from 3 yard line, 2 points from 5 yard line.

## G. Line of scrimmage (LOS) / Stance / Shift:

1. Offense must have 5 men on LOS; Penalty = 5 yards. 3 interior linemen (Gd, Center, Gd) are ineligible. **No unbalanced lines (Guard position is never eligible).**
2. Defense must have 3 men on LOS minimum; outside defensive lineman inside shoulder must align with the outside shoulder of the offensive lineman. (Use the interior box as a guide - if WR's are up and only three interior G-C-G, defense must line up on their outside shoulder.) No 3 or 4 point stance allowed (all players standing); penalty = 5 yards.
3. No direct dive within **five yards on either side of center** (draw or misdirection, OK). QB must clearly show ball above the shoulder as if to pass in order to run a draw (QB or RB) inside this **10 yd. zone**, RB/WR may reverse field from outside the **10 yd. zone**, in order to cut up field within the **zone**. Penalty = 5 yards.
4. All players, except one man in motion, on offense must be set before ball is snapped. Defense cannot try and draw offense offside with **words or actions**. Penalty = 5 yards.
5. Offensive player goes in motion only after all players set for 1 count before ball is snapped. Penalty = 5 yards.
6. Encroachment / off-side (offense or defense) into the neutral zone - **automatic** 5 yard penalty.

## H. Blocking:

1. No blocking below the waist or from behind; No contact by any player above the shoulders; Penalty = 10 yards.
2. No drive blocking - bending at waist and leading with head or shoulder; Penalty = 10 yards.
3. Downfield Shield or Screen block only-can move but not initiate contact-no extension of hands/fists away from body; arms roughly parallel to ground; blocker may not lower his shoulder or "throw a block"; Penalty = 10 yards.
4. Pro pass block allowed behind the LOS - key points - palms face forward, arms can be extended / locked - no fists in punching motion. No grabbing of jersey to control rusher. Holding - 5 yards.

### **I. Grabbing the flag / dead ball / tackling:**

1. No tackling allowed - defense must make an attempt for the flag, no encircling of arms, holding up the ball carrier. Ball carrier must tuck shirt and have alternate flag color from shorts or pants. Flags need to be on the players hips. If belt is pulled, official has judgment if intentional. Initial contact must be with hands, not head or shoulder. Penalty = 10 yards or play and automatic first down.
2. Intentionally pulling flag - 1 flag, player is live, can advance ball - option of penalty or play. (Penalty = 10 yds)  
- 2 flags ball is down at point of reception, option of penalty or play. (10 yards)
3. Accidental drop of flag(s) - receiver or DB is eligible; ball is down at point of reception. Official's judgement.
4. QB/RB with one flag - ball is down at point flag drops while player has ball, or at reception if prior to contact.
5. Ball is down anytime the ball is dropped to the ground (except by punter). Ball is placed where it was dropped.
6. **Stripping of the ball is not allowed.** Penalty is 10 yards from spot of foul.
7. **Ball carrier (offensive player) must avoid contact** with a defensive player who is in position directly in front of him. Judgement of the official if this is intentional or accidental. Penalty = 10 yards.
8. Coach and team captain will take responsibility for reminding players to keep flags on their side

### **J. Pass completion / Interference / Eligible receiver:**

1. Receiver must have one foot in bounds when making a legal catch. If receiver has control of ball and would land in bounds but is forced out by defense while in air, a catch can be allowed; decision of official.
2. **DB can bump receiver within 5 yds of LOS** - must not hinder receiver from catching ball before ball reaches receiver while in air. Official's judgement - Penalty = 10 yards and automatic first down.
3. All backs are eligible pass receivers - outside ends (not guards or center), uncovered, on LOS are eligible. Penalty = 10 yards & Loss of down.
4. Linemen must remain behind the LOS until the ball is thrown, if the pass is beyond the LOS. Penalty = 10 yards.

### **K. Other Penalties:**

1. No pushing of ball carrier out of bounds without going for flags. Penalty = 10 yards from spot of foul.
2. No flag guarding of any sort, including straight arms, jumping, spinning in the air. **Pivoting on the ground is allowed.** Penalty = 5 yards from spot of foul.
3. No leaving your feet by ball carrier or blocker. Penalty = 5 yards from spot of foul.
4. Swearing or rude behavior is not allowed. Official's discretion! (Unsportsmanlike behavior - 10 yd. penalty)
4. Pass rushers **may raise hands during rush** cannot use them to strike an opponent, merely to distract the QB.
5. **Officials must make a declaration of penalties to both captains (not coaches) upon assessment of a penalty.**
6. All other penalties are applied according to high school rules; 15 yard penalties become 10, etc.
7. Players must wear a regulation uniform, including flags, consistent with other members of the team. No player may wear any jewelry, headbands, arm sleeves, wraps, gloves, pads, face paint, hair paint, etc. Additional items brought to the attention of the league director may be disallowed. An official ruling is final. Penalty = 10 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct.
8. **No sleeper plays or unbalanced lines - a team must have a guard on either side of center, they are not eligible.**

### **L. Team Box:**

In order to alleviate the congestion and confusion surrounding the team / coach(es) there will be an established team box which will extend from the 15 yard line to the opposite 15 yard line when teams are on opposite sides and from 15 yard line to mid-field at sites with only same side space. No spectators are allowed inside this area during the game. Only teams and coaches are allowed in this area and are limited to this area during the game. Coaches are required to instruct their spectators prior to the season and at each game about restriction of spectators in the team box. Violations will cause the team the following penalties; First Offense - Warning; Second Offense - 5 yard penalty; Third Offense - 10 yard penalty and loss of down.

### **M. Player / Coaches Conduct:**

As the PAL is a league established to foster positive Christian attitudes and encourage healthy sportsmanlike conduct, each coach is expected to foster these ideals in dealing with officials, players, opposing teams and parents. To this end, prior to each game, both teams will meet at mid-field to conduct a group prayer. The home team (first team listed on the schedule) will be responsible for the prayer. At the conclusion of each game, teams will shake hands.

Coaches are also responsible for their team's conduct, especially with regard to officials. Officials will be doing all that they can to keep control of the game. Each coach must take responsibility for their actions; **refrain from yelling at officials, make positive comments to and coach your players**, and enjoy the game. Any player or coach who is ejected will serve a one game suspension beginning with the next league contest and may not return to the contest in progress. If no other **certified** coach is in attendance, the game will be declared a forfeit.

# **PAL Boy's Flag Football**

## **Tie-Breaker System**

The PAL will use a modified California High School Tie-Breaker Rule. This rule will be used during the regular season and playoff games that end in a tie. A regular season tie still counts in the standings but the tie-breaker results will be used in the case of a tie for a playoff spot at the conclusion of the season.

At the end of regulation time in a playoff game (or at the end of a league game), if two teams are tied, the officials will conduct a modified California High School tie-breaker. This process entails:

- 1) The team captains and the head coach will meet with the game officials. The officials will hold another coin toss to determine which team will get the choice (offense or defense first.) Game officials will determine which end of the game field will be used for this playoff format. Both teams will have a possession at that end in order to score. Each team will be given four downs to score from the 15 yard line (first cone) into the nearest end zone. A possession for each team will constitute a quarter. One team first, then the other, to try and match or beat the first team's total. The OT will consist of only one possession for each team.
- 2) Should a team score, they will have the option to try a 1 or 2 point extra-point. Winner only by point difference not net yards.
- 3) In the case of an interception, the team that had the ball forfeits the remainder of its possession. If the interception occurs on the first possession, and the intercepting team returns it for a TD, the game is over. The team retains possession of a fumble at the spot the ball hit the ground per PAL rules. The team must maintain possession during the four downs to compare its points to the other team. (Interception on an extra point results in a failed XP as no points can be scored by the defense in this case.)
- 4) Each team will have possession for four downs (unless they score on an earlier down or the ball is intercepted.) After a TD, the team will try for the extra-point. Once a team has established a point total, the other team in sequence (if it is their turn) will have four downs to match. It does not affect the outcome for comparison if a team scores on first down and the other team scores on fourth down. It is still total points for their full possession.
- 5) This format will continue until one team is a clear winner based on points scored and the end of a quarter (possession.)

The rule is in place to settle the contest on the field. Coaches cannot protest the results based on this format. It is understood that both teams will be given equal opportunity to score (per PAL flag football rules) during this

extra period based on each team having one possession each overtime period. Official's decision is final. A protest

can only be filed if a rule was not applied correctly, and not the interpretation/judgment of a rule or penalty.

# PAL *GIRL'S* FLAG FOOTBALL RULES

## A. Equipment:

1. 7 players, offense or defense (7 minimum to start the game, can finish game with 5). Uniform shirts (tucked in) required. **Mouth guards are required.** Molded plastic soccer or football cleats (no baseball or softball). **NO jewelry of any kind allowed.** Game-time (on schedule) is forfeit time.
2. Teams provide their own football and flags. (Ball may be regulation or intermediate, not junior size. No colored footballs. Flags (2) must be standard length and width = 16" x 2" and easily detachable by velcro. All players **must have flags of an alternate color from pants/shorts.**)
3. Pads are not allowed unless covering an injury (soft pad only, **up to the official & OK'd prior to game**).

## B. Periods/Time factors:

1. Game time = four 10 minute periods with running time, last 2 minutes of half and game are stop. With 18 point differential there is no stop time.
2. 25 seconds allowed between plays; delay of game = 5 yard penalty.
3. Stop clock for penalty, restart when ball is **spotted** after foul.
4. Halftime is 8 minutes (or less by agreement of coaches).
5. Time outs (1 minute) - each team gets 2 timeouts per half, no carryover. 1 coach may go on field.

## C. Field/First down:

1. Field total = 80 yards. 60 yard field (divided into 4 - 15 yard increments) & 2 - 10 yard end zones. **(Field width will vary according to site. We hope that the field width will be no less than 120' if possible.)**
2. First down every 15 yards. First down when offense passes mark on play or penalty within 4 downs.

## D. Kickoffs:

1. Kickoff from 15 yard line. Kickoff into end zone, ball is dead, automatically placed at 15 yard line.
2. First kick OB - receiving team option - **re-kick or spot**. Second attempt OB - ball placed at midfield.
3. Dropped kick - ball is dead, team starts from spot where ball touches ground, if in end zone, 15 yard line.
4. Onside kick - Ball must travel **15 yards** before it is live. First team to touch after 15 yards, gains possession.
5. The kicking team uses their ball for kickoffs.

## E. Punts:

1. Kicking team has to declare intention to punt and must have 5 players on the LOS. No rush or block allowed.
2. Receiving team - not less than 3 players on the LOS (cannot form a wedge, screen block OK.) Penalty = 5 yards.
3. Fair-Catch rule is in effect (also on kickoffs), bad snap on punt allowed, punter can pick up ball and kick. Teams cannot move until the ball is punted. Penalty = 5 yards.
4. Officials allow time for change of personnel, up to individual official's discretion (no quick kicks!)

## F. Scoring / Points after touchdown (PAT):

1. Touchdown = 6 points. Offense must declare intention to go for 1 or 2 points. **Captain's** first decision is final.
2. 1 point from 3 yard line, 2 points from 5 yard line.

## G. Line of scrimmage (LOS) / Stance / Shift:

1. Offense must have 4 players on LOS; Penalty = 5 yards. Inside 3 players are ineligible (Gd, Center, Gd. No unbalanced lines. 1 yard cushion.
2. Defense must have 3 players on LOS minimum; defensive interior lineman must be staggered with offensive interior lineman. (Use the interior box as a guide - if WR's are up and only three interior G-C-G, defense must line up on their outside shoulder.) No 3 or 4 point stance allowed (all players standing); penalty = 5 yards.
3. No direct dive within **three yards on either side of center** (draw or misdirection, OK). QB must clearly show ball above the shoulder as if to pass in order to run a draw (QB or RB) inside this **6 yd. zone**, RB/WR may reverse field from outside the **6 yd. zone**, in order to cut up field within the **zone**. Penalty = 5 yards.
4. All players, except one person in motion, on offense must be set before ball is snapped. Defense cannot try and draw offense offside with **words or actions**. Penalty = 5 yards.
5. Offensive player goes in motion only after all players set for 1 count before ball is snapped. Penalty = 5 yards.
6. Encroachment / off-side (offense or defense) into the neutral zone - **automatic** 5 yard penalty.

## H. Blocking:

1. No blocking below the waist or from behind; No contact by any player above the shoulders; Penalty = 10 yards.
2. No drive blocking - bending at waist and leading with head or shoulder; Penalty = 10 yards.
3. Downfield Shield or Screen block only-can move but not initiate contact-no extension of hands/fists away from body; arms roughly parallel to ground; blocker may not lower his shoulder or "throw a block"; Penalty = 10 yards.
4. Pro pass block allowed behind the LOS - key points - palms face forward, arms can be extended / locked - no fists in punching motion. No grabbing of jersey to control rusher. Holding - 5 yards.

### I. Grabbing the flag / dead ball / tackling:

1. No tackling allowed - defense must make an attempt for the flag, no encircling of arms, holding up the ball carrier. Ball carrier must tuck shirt and have alternate flag color from shorts or pants. Flags need to be on the player's hips. If belt is pulled, official has judgment if intentional. Initial contact must be with hands, not head or shoulder. Penalty = 10 yards or play and automatic first down.
2. Intentionally pulling flag - 1 flag, player is live, can advance ball - option of penalty or play. (Penalty = 10 yds)  
- 2 flags ball is dead at point of reception, option of penalty or play. (10 yards)
3. Accidental drop of flag(s) - receiver or DB is eligible; ball is dead at point of reception. Official's judgment.
4. QB/RB with one flag - ball is dead at point flag drops while player has ball, or at reception if prior to contact.
5. Ball is dead anytime the ball is dropped to the ground (except by punter). Ball is placed where it was dropped.
6. **Stripping of the ball is not allowed.** Penalty is 10 yards from spot of foul.
7. **Ball carrier (offensive player) must avoid contact** with a defensive player who is in position directly in front of her. Judgment of the official if this is intentional or accidental. Penalty = 10 yards.
8. Coach and team captain must take responsibility for reminding players to keep flags on their side

### J. Pass completion / Interference / Eligible receiver:

1. Receiver must have one foot in bounds when making a legal catch. If receiver has control of ball and would land in bounds but is forced out by defense while in air, a catch can be allowed; discretion of official.
2. **DB can bump receiver within 5 yds. of LOS** - must not hinder receiver from catching ball before ball reaches receiver while in air. Official's judgment - Penalty = 10 yards and automatic first down.
3. All backs are eligible pass receivers - outside ends (not guards or center), uncovered on LOS are eligible. Penalty = 10 yards & loss of down.
4. Linemen must remain behind the LOS until the ball is thrown, if the pass is beyond the LOS. Penalty = 10 yards.
5. No double forward pass. Lateral or backward pass and then forward pass is acceptable.

### K. Other Penalties:

1. No pushing of ball carrier out of bounds without going for flags. Penalty = 10 yards from spot of foul.
2. No flag guarding of any sort, including straight arms, jumping, spinning in the air. **Pivoting on the ground is allowed.** Penalty = 5 yards from spot of foul.
3. No leaving your feet by ball carrier or blocker. Penalty = 5 yards from spot of foul.
4. Swearing or rude behavior is not allowed. Official's discretion! (Unsportsmanlike behavior - 10 yd. penalty)
4. Pass rushers **may raise hands during rush** cannot use them to strike an opponent, merely to distract the QB.
5. Officials must make a declaration of penalties to both captains (not coaches) upon assessment of a penalty.
6. All other penalties are applied according to high school rules; 15 yard penalties become 10, etc.
7. Players must wear a regulation uniform, including flags, consistent with other members of the team. No player may wear any jewelry, headbands, wraps, face paint, hair paint, etc. An official ruling is final. Penalty = 10 yards for unsportsmanlike conduct.
8. No sleeper plays or unbalanced lines - a team must have a guard on either side of center, they are not eligible.

### L. League and Playoffs

1. Participating schools will be placed in 6 team leagues.
2. The top two teams in each division will advance to playoffs.

### M. Team Box:

In order to alleviate the congestion and confusion surrounding the team / coach(es) there will be an established team box which will extend from the 15 yard line to the opposite 15 yard line when teams are on opposite sides and from 15 yard line to mid-field at sites with only same side space. No spectators are allowed inside this area during the game. Only teams and coaches are allowed in this area and are limited to this area during the game. Coaches are required to instruct their spectators prior to the season and at each game about restriction of spectators in the team box. Violations will cause the team the following penalties; First Offense - Warning; Second Offense - 5 yard penalty; Third Offense - 10 yard penalty and loss of down.

### N. Player / Coaches Conduct:

As the PAL is a league established to foster positive Christian attitudes and encourage healthy sportsmanlike conduct, each coach is expected to foster these ideals in dealing with officials, players, opposing teams and parents. To this end, prior to each game, both teams will meet at mid-field to conduct a group prayer. The home team (first team listed on the schedule) will be responsible for the prayer. At the conclusion of each game, teams will shake hands.

Coaches are also responsible for their team's conduct, especially with regard to officials. Officials will be doing all that they can to keep control of the game. Each coach must take responsibility for their actions; **refrain from yelling at officials, make positive comments to and coach your players**, and enjoy the game. Any player or coach who is ejected will serve a one game suspension beginning with the next league contest and may not return to the contest in progress. If no other **certified** coach is in attendance, the game will be declared a forfeit.

# **PAL *GIRL'S* Flag Football**

## **Tie-Breaker System**

The PAL will use a modified California High School Tie-Breaker Rule. This rule will be used during the regular season and playoff games that end in a tie. A regular season tie still counts in the standings but the tie-breaker results will be used in the case of a tie for a playoff spot at the conclusion of the season.

At the end of regulation time in a playoff game (or at the end of the league season), if two teams are tied, the officials will conduct a modified California High School tie-breaker. This process entails:

- 1) The team captains and the head coach will meet with the game officials. The officials will hold another coin toss to determine which team will get the choice (offense or defense first.) Game officials will determine which end of the game field will be used for this playoff format. Both teams will have a possession at that end in order to score. Each team will be given four downs to score from the 15 yard line (first cone) into the nearest end zone. A possession for each team will constitute a quarter. One team first, then the other, to try and match or beat the first team's total. The OT will consist of only one possession for each team.
- 2) Should a team score, they will have the option to try a 1 or 2 point extra-point. Depending on the coin toss, and the total points accrued, that team will either be the winner (if they defended first and have more points) or they will play defense against the other team. If a team scores, they will have the choice as to the amount of the extra-point (1 or 2.) This will have to be matched or bettered by the other team, unless a team was held scoreless on their possession, in which case the team that scores will be declared the winner. Winner only by point difference not net yards.
- 3) In the case of an interception, the team that had the ball forfeits the remainder of its possession. If the interception occurs on the first possession, and the intercepting team returns it for a TD, the game is over. The team retains possession of a fumble at the spot the ball hit the ground per PAL rules. The team must maintain possession during the four downs to compare its points to the other team.
- 4) Each team will have possession for four downs (unless they score on an earlier down or the ball is intercepted.) After a TD, the team will try for the extra-point. Once a team has established a point total, the other team in sequence (if it is their turn) will have four downs to match. It does not affect the outcome for comparison if a team scores on first down and the other team scores on fourth down. It is still total points for their full possession.
- 5) The format for extra points is as follows:
  - a) 1<sup>st</sup> quarter teams must go for win
  - b) 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter until end teams must go for 2 point conversion
- 6) Each team will be allowed 1 tie-out for overtime. No carryover timeouts from regulation can be carried to overtime.
- 7) The game can only be postponed because of darkness and resume at the point of stop at the next available date.

The rule is in place to settle the contest on the field. Coaches cannot protest the results based on this format. It is understood that both teams will be given equal opportunity to score (per PAL flag football rules) during this extra period based on each team having one possession each overtime period. Official's decision is final. A protest can only be filed if there is a rule was not applied correctly, and not the interpretation/judgment of a rule.

# Parochial Athletic League Prayer Suggestions

These are suggested prayers that can be used before each athletic contest. Please be respectful of the difference in faith traditions in our community. Thank you for your leadership role by modeling positive values for our youth.

- #1 In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit:  
God, our friend, you are with us as we pray. We thank you for the gifts you have given us. Allow us to use these gifts to serve you and to serve one another. Be with us as we play today. Let us understand the purpose of competition with love and compassion. We pray that you will protect us during this time. Amen.
- #2 In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit:  
Thank you God for the life and talents you have given us. Let each of us always be deserving of your love. Let us remember that you created all of us in your image. We are all your children. Be with us as we play today. Let us understand the purpose of competition with love and compassion. We pray that you will protect us during this time. Amen.
- #3 In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit:  
Dear Jesus, help us to come closer to you and to each other. Swim into our mind, step into our soul. Thank you for today and everyday. Thank you for the challenges you have given us. Thank you for your love, which shows us that we can make it through anything as long as we believe in you. Be with us as we play today. Let us understand the purpose of competition with love and compassion. We pray that you will protect us during this time. Amen.
- #4 In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit:  
Coach's option to use - Hail Mary or Our Father.



# Coaches Agreement

## Parochial Athletic League

I, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Parochial Athletic League Guidelines for the Diocese of Sacramento.

I agree to attend all mandatory meetings, workshops, etc. as directed by the PAL.

I agree to uphold the mission and philosophy of the Parochial Athletic League by insisting on fair play, support of the officials and exemplary sportsmanship at all times.

I further agree that when our school is the Home team, it is my responsibility to begin each game/match with a group prayer. At the conclusion of the game I will make sure that we offer a firm handshake to the players and coaches of the other team.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_