



ASAPnews

May 2000

Volume 7 Number 5

Continuing the Little League tradition of making it "safer for the kids."

Now Available!

ASAP News Goes On-Line

Newsletter joins Safety Officer Manual on Little League's site

If you haven't looked at Little League's Web site lately, you've missed a big safety addition. The ASAP News is now on-line: <http://www.littleleague.org/manuals/asap/newsletters/index.htm>

Little League's Web site home page has a link to the newsletters also, but the URL address above will take you directly to them.

The ASAP News will most likely be posted to this site before it is physically printed, so people who visit the Little League Web site may see the newest newsletter before it arrives in the mail. In addition, the site currently has past editions going back to October, 1998, for over a year and a half of safety tips, suggestions and practical experience from coaches, managers and safety officers around the country. Now any member of your league can read and make copies of newsletters.

The ASAP News joins the 2000 Safety Officer Manual on Little League's site, combining the best ASAP has to offer to help you develop a safety plan for your league. Demand for the 2000 Safety Officer Manual has been huge, and

we are now out of stock in the CD, but the Little League Web site has all the same information. Go to: <http://www.littleleague.org/manuals/asap>

We do still have a supply of the 1999 Safety Officer Manual on CD, so if you are just getting started and your league doesn't have any information for you, call the ASAP Hotline at 800/811-7443, leave your name, address and league name and we'll get the 1999 CD to you. Then use the information on Little League's Web site to update the information for the most recent revisions.

The newsletters and Safety Officer Manual all open using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software which comes on the CD's. If you do not have the Acrobat Reader software, you can download it from Adobe's site at:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

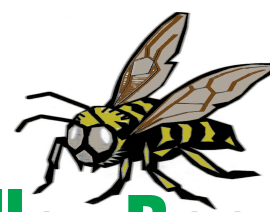
The software is free and loads on any type computer.

Web access has been long in coming and greatly anticipated. ASAP wants to thank Little League Webmaster Steve Connelly for making it a reality.



Over 2,000 in 2000

Congratulations, safety officers! A late surge in safety plans carried the total to 2,095 as of press time. That's roughly one-third of all leagues in the country with a safety plan in effect for this season. That's great! Last year safety officers submitted over 1,635 plans, or just at one in four leagues in the country participating in Little League. Judging of the plans has begun, and leagues should soon be notified of their safety plan's status. Pictured above are the Little League staff who received over 1,000 plans in just five days right around the May 1 deadline. Staff, back row from left, are: Sue Logue, Dianne Fisher, and Bobbie Grimes; in front from left are: Sandy Giacomo, Karen Klementovich and Karen Thomas.



'What can be done about Killer Bees?'

Africanized honey bees are crossing more state lines

Africanized Honey Bees are a different subspecies from the same species as the familiar European honey bees used to produce honey and pollinate crops. They are called “Africanized Honey Bees” (abbreviated AHB) because they are the result of interbreeding between European bees and bees from Africa inadvertently released in Brazil in the 1950’s. They have been referred to as “Killer Bees” in the media because of their aggressiveness defending their hive.

These bees came from the southern part of Africa. They were brought to southern Brazil, and have since spread as far south as Argentina, and northward throughout South and Central America, and Mexico. They entered the US in Texas in 1990, Arizona and New Mexico in 1993, California in 1994 and Nevada in 1999.

How they are recognized

AHB look nearly identical to the common (EHB) honey bees. Honey bees are about 3/4-inch long, brownish, and a little fuzzy. Their nests are normally hidden in cavities.

Less fuzzy insects with bright yellow and black markings, or with gray paper nests are probably wasps, not bees.

State departments of agriculture identify Africanized bees as they enter new areas. *After an area is well colonized, it is assumed all honey bees not under the care of a beekeeper should be treated as Africanized bees.*

Beekeepers will continue to keep European honey bees in their hives (the familiar white boxes) so these are not a threat if well maintained. In fact, EHB provide the best defense against AHB, by providing competition, and genetic dilution between AHB queens and EHB males.

PROBLEMS THEY CAUSE

Stinging: Africanized bees defend their colonies much more vigorously than do European bees. The colonies are easily disturbed (sometimes just by being nearby). When they do sting, many more bees may participate, so there is

“The ‘Killer Bee’ issue has come up for discussion with the board. The bees have now been located in the local area and have attacked people and animals. Have any other programs taken actions, which would help prevent a serious incident and what are the preventative actions?”

**Steve Newlander, safety officer
Las Vegas, NV**

a danger of receiving more stings. *This can make them life threatening, especially to people allergic to stings, to confined livestock or pets and to those with limited capacity to escape (the young, old, and handicapped).*

Once disturbed, AHB will continue the attack for a long distance.

Swarming and nesting: Africanized bee colonies are likely to be more common than European bees have been, and they swarm more frequently. They nest in places European bees did not, including small cavities near the

ground like water meter boxes or overturned flower pots.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Most people will probably never see a colony of Africanized bees. However, the following things may help:

Beeproofing: Look for cracks and holes in your house or facilities that might lead to wall voids or other cavities a colony could occupy. Screen or caulk these holes, or fill the cavity with insulation, and bees will not move in.

Clean up debris (tires, pots) that might provide nesting sites on your property.

Be alert: Look before disturbing vegetation. Many bees coming and going from a single spot (not just at flowers) may indicate a nest.

Get help: Contact trained and equipped personnel (see “bee removal” in the Yellow Pages) if you discover a honey bee colony. *Don't try*

to remove them alone.

If stung: First, get away/run to shelter of a car or building, and stay there even if some bees come in with you (there are more outside). Do not jump in water (bees will still be in the area when you come up). Once safe, remove stings from your skin — it doesn't matter how you do it — as quickly as possible to reduce the amount of venom they inject. Research on bee stings shows that the faster a stinger is removed, the better. Research showed no difference in the severity of the sting between scraping (conventional advice) and pinching the stinger out.

Deaths in US from Africanized bee stings			
When	Where	Who	How
August, '93	Texas	82-year-old	40 stings
June, '94	Texas	98-year-old	50 stings
October, '95	Phoenix, AZ	88-year-old	over 1000
October, '95	Phoenix, AZ	66-year-old	66 stings
April, '97	Casa Grande, AZ	72-year-old	? stings
September, '99	Long Beach, CA	83-year-old	~50 stings

Organization educates about pesticides

A Missouri non-profit organization is trying to help educate people about the dangers of pesticides to children. Missouri-SMPL (Safer Management of Pests and Landscapes), a non-profit educational organization, advocates using safer methods of pest control to protect children from toxic exposures.

According to Sue Carroll, project manager, Missouri-SMPL, Inc., “Pesticide exposure has been linked to a

number of chronic health problems that include cancer, birth defects, endocrine disruption, asthma, neurological and psychiatric disorders, immune system deficiencies and even reduced intellect.”

“President Clinton has issued a federal mandate that children’s health and environmental issues be given national priority. Because of this national agenda, (<http://www.epa.gov/children/whatwe/executive.htm>). the Environmental Protection Agency now has an Office of Children's Health Protection (<http://www.epa.gov/children>). As a protection for children from environmental threats they state: “Don’t use pesticides if you don't have to — look for alternatives” and “Don’t allow children in fields, orchards and gardens after pesticides have been used.” (<http://www.epa.gov/children/whatwe/tips.htm>)

“The point is children are not little adults, their systems are still developing and they do not have detoxification systems that adults have. There are so many alternatives that are cost effective and safer to use if people are just made aware of them, such as using a flamer instead of herbicides along the fence lines and backstops,” she said.

“People don’t realize pesticides are absorbed through the skin as well as inhaled. Children, because of their typical behavior such as playing in the dirt, on the ground; not washing their hands before eating; putting their fingers in their eyes, ears, nose and mouth; and wearing less clothing, etc., make them more susceptible as well.

“Pesticides on the ground can take many months to go to half life (roughly half potency), have the potential to drift and have been proven to be carried in on shoes indoors where there is no-where for it to go. In the home, it can also be absorbed and also resuspended into the air as someone walks back through,” according to Carroll.

“Even with these reports, studies, conferences, press releases, children’s EPA and the President’s federal directives and priorities, many athletic fields and many schools continue to use pesticides in a regularly scheduled maintenance program.

“Not only do we need to educate groups but also provide some assistance and incentive to learn new ways to enable them to to accomplish these goals and protect our children,” Carroll concluded.

“Missouri-SMPL hopes to create incentives, provide assistance and promote awareness of these issues to demonstrate to our communities how these goals can be accomplished in Missouri and around the world.”

To contact Carroll, email: scarro01@mail.win.org or write to: PO Box 27, Morse Mill, MO 63066-0027.

League reduces risk by reducing chemicals

“I am the safety officer for the Northwest Athletic Association-Little League. I would like to share with you some safety issues we have encountered and the solutions we have found.

“After becoming aware of the safety/hazard issues surrounding pesticide use around children, we have adopted the following goal: ‘To provide the safest environment for the children utilizing available pest control alternatives.’ We are striving to be a role model for other associations and our community by providing fields free of the toxic chemicals in pesticides, herbicides and synthetic fertilizers. We support the national agenda to protect our children from environmental toxins and want to protect our natural resources and promote sustainable growing/agricultural practices on association property.

“We had previously used herbicides for soccer, football and baseball field lines along with chalking. We now use paint which is far less laborious and safer for the kids. We also stopped using herbicides along fences and backstops. We now use a propane flamer for as good or better results. In addition we put down rock salt for additional control assurances. This has been a cost saver. Propane gas and salt only cost \$12 this year.

“Providing safer fields without toxic chemicals is just a matter of education, commitment to protecting the kids and seeking out the solutions. Perhaps letting others know of these alternatives will help other associations switch to safer ways of controlling pests and better protection for the kids.”

**Bryan Carroll, safety officer
Northwest Athletic Association Little League
Jefferson County, Missouri**



'Background checks for everyone?'



"I am the safety director for Half Hollow Hills Little Leagues. We recently had a board meeting and the subject of background checks came up. Some of the board suggested that only new coaches/managers/volunteers be made to fill out the forms. I think that all should in the interest of fairness. The point was then made that this could be very costly since the county told us that it would cost \$15 per inquiry. They also told us that the background check usually only extends throughout the county we are in. So that if someone had a record out of state it could possibly be overlooked. At any rate, we would like all info available on this topic."

**Jeff McCausland, safety officer
Half Hollow Hills Little League, NY**



The Central Region Headquarter's Spring Seminar discussed situations like yours, where the county background check is just that, for your county. Each state has been given its own discretion on how to address making information available under the new law. However, Little League is considered in the same category as day cares when it comes to doing background checks, allowing reduced fee or waived fees for checks. Although it may not make a difference, you may want to check with the state police, the district attorney or state attorney general's office (depending on what it's called in your area) for information on whether you have any other options. It is recommended that you perform background checks on ALL volunteers, new or existing, just for the equity issue, but also just because you don't know of any problems, there is no guarantee that there may not be a problem, or one waiting to happen. However, if the cost is prohibitive for your league, at the very least have everyone fill out the Volunteer Application Form sample provided by Little League — new and old volunteers. Good luck with your season. Remember, just starting a program like this is half the battle. Every year you can build on what came before, until you get your league where you want it, and where it needs, to be.



"How can we enforce the 'no dogs' and 'no smoking' rules at our facilities?"

**Cindy Hill
East Dale Little League, Albuquerque, NM**



It's difficult if you are using someone else's property, like a city or school district field. Your only relief if you aren't the property owner is to go to the owner and ask for the ban of the items. If your league does own the property, simply go through the proper steps of initiating a change to your bylaws, banning the use of tobacco or bringing dogs on your property. Then post signs in the complex asking for cooperation on the subject, and have board members help police compliance.



"Do girl catchers need protective cups?"

**Robert Bry, safety officer
American Little League of Rome, NY**



According to Little League rules, it is not mandatory for girls to wear a cup, although there are some pelvic protector models available for girls who choose to wear one. Girls should consider wearing such an item, because they can sustain injuries to this sensitive area.



"If there is an injury on a league's field, but the team is from another area (league), who files the injury report?"

**Diane Kraus, safety officer
Pequay Valley Little League**



Accident insurance is covered by the team of which the player is a member, according to Risk Management Director Dan Kirby. Any team playing in inter-league play is required to have accident insurance for its players, whether home or away. If it is a facility issue which caused an injury, such as a seat in the stands breaking, the host team should submit a claim to their liability insurance carrier.



'Do catcher's masks need guard?'

Q: *"The new catcher masks that look like hockey goalie masks do not have a 'dangling' throat guard. The goalie mask does have a part that goes down low and meets the chest protector. Does this meet Little League rules?"*

Scott Burris, safety officer
— via email

A: Several of the goalie-style catchers masks have been approved for use by Little League players. Check the equipment list sent to your president to make sure your helmets are approved. The helmets must be marked either "NOCSAE approved," or carry the Little League trademark to show Little League approval. But according to rule 1.17, "...Catchers must wear a mask and catcher's helmet with 'dangling' type throat guard during practice, pitcher warm-up and games..." Little League has affirmed this to mean even the goalie-style catchers masks must have a dangling throat guard, since the throat could be exposed if the catcher lifts his/her head. This vulnerable area must be protected.

Q: *"I am the new safety officer at our park. Last night I had a Senior League player with a skull cap on. I made the child remove it and use the equipment that meets Little League approval that was issued by our equipment manager. The parents of the child are complaining and I need proof the decision I made was the right one. Please send me the specs on helmets, and anything specific that says the ears must be protected."*

Brenda Wade, safety officer
Athens, Ga.

A: If you consult your Official Regulations and Playing Rules book, Section 1.17 contains the specific information on requirements for several items of safety equipment, beginning with the male supporter cup, and then going into all the equipment a catcher must wear. The "NOTE" under this rule clearly states "NOTE: Skull caps are not permitted." Good call on preventing a possible injury from occurring. Skull caps have been deemed by Little League as insufficient to properly protect the head from injury in case of a ball deflection or inadvertent bat swing, and so are not allowed. The rule book contains the necessary backing for your call, and all managers and coaches should know these rules and enforce them.

Q: *"Unfortunately, I tried to access the link for the article on 'Who's coaching your kids' but could not achieve back issue. Can you e-mail me a copy? Also, want to develop a policy and procedure for the league for the safety manual... any guidelines available?"*

— via email

A: The article you are inquiring about was moved from Sports Illustrated's current week's active publication area to its archives after that month. So they changed the link the newsletter gave as the address. I checked to see where they moved it; if you go to: <http://www.cnni.com/features/cover/99/0913/> you will find the full story with photos and full coverage. Good luck this year in working with your league to develop procedures to handle this complex and serious issue. The 2000 Safety Officer Manual has many resources to help you develop a safety manual.

Have a question or tip to share?
Call the ASAP Hotline:
800-811-7443,
or e-mail: asap@musco.com



Or write to us at:
ASAP
100 1st Ave. West
Oskaloosa, IA 52577



Little League Baseball, Inc.
P.O. Box 3485
Williamsport, PA 17701

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 4053

What's Inside

PAGE

1

SAFETY ON-LINE
ASAP News is
now available
on the Web!



PAGE

2

KILLER BEES?
Africanized
bees invade
Southwest US



PAGE

4

SAFETY CHATTER
Two pages of
questions and
answers



HOTLINE IDEAS

FROM READERS

"Here are a few words that I read from a safety sign:

"SAFETY

"It's not automatic...

"THINK ABOUT IT"

Lee Joyce, Virginia State Safety Director/District 7 Safety Officer

"I wanted to share something that our league instigated this year. We made it mandatory that at least two people from each team take the Red Cross Sports Training class, which certifies you not only in CPR and rescue breathing but in first aid. It also concentrates on how to prevent injuries, not only how to treat them but to prevent them. I think it's a great class and I think it would be a great suggestion for other leagues to look into it. I know that a lot of our coaches were reluctant at first, but I think they are all happy to do it. And I am proud to report that we are in 100 percent compliance with that as all of our board members, coaches and managers have been certified."

**Becky Linerd, president
Oglesby, Ill., Softball Little League**

These safety officers will receive ASAP caps for calling in safety ideas. What is your league doing to become safer for the kids? Call the ASAP Hotline, or email asap@musco.com!

ASAP HOTLINE
24 HOUR TOLL-FREE
800-811-7443

The 2000 Safety Officer Manual
has been delivered! Didn't get it?
Call the ASAP Hotline!

ASAP News

ASAP News is a service of
Little League Baseball®, Inc.
facilitated and published by
Musco Lighting, Inc.
P.O. Box 808
Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577

© May, 2000, Little League Baseball
and Musco Lighting
Hotline: 800/811-7443
Fax: 515/673-4852
E-mail address: asap@musco.com