

ASAP news



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

Background Check Mandated!

LLB requires screening to help prevent sex offenders from gaining access to players

Local Little League programs will be required to conduct background checks on managers, coaches and other volunteers who come into regular contact with players, it was announced by Stephen D. Keener, president and CEO of Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

The newest phase of the Little League Child Protection Program goes into effect immediately, for the 2003 season. Leagues worldwide are now required to either conduct a check of a sexual offender registry, or a criminal background check, for the state or country in which the volunteer resides.

Little League is the world's largest organized youth sports program, with about 2.7 million baseball and softball players ages 5-18 in the U.S. and 100,000 in other countries.

"First and foremost, this mandate is for the protection of children in Little League," Mr. Keener said. "Second, this will help maintain Little League as an environment in which children are safe from those who would seek to gain access to children and ultimately harm them. Third, it will help protect volunteers and leagues from possible loss of personal or league assets because of costly litigation."

New regulations for the 2003 season now require volunteers at the local level to complete and submit a volunteer application, giving consent to a background check. The applicant is also required to list references and prior convictions. Those required to apply include every manager, coach, board of directors member, and any other volunteer or hired worker who provides regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with, players or teams.

The local Little League board of directors must then check to determine if the

applicant is listed on the sex offender registry of the state in which he or she lives, or, if no sex offender registry is available, must conduct a criminal background check, unless prohibited by law. More than 40 state governments now provide free access, many via Internet search, to a database of registered sex offenders living in that state.

Since 1996, when it was recommended by the Medical And Safety Advisory Committee of USA Baseball, Little League has recommended use of a volunteer application and the conducting of background checks. In 2001, Little League's official web site (www.littleleague.org) began providing local league administrators in the U.S. with recommendations for conducting background checks on volunteers, as well as links to all searchable state sex offender registries. The address for the Little League Background Check Database, which includes information regarding which states offer the service for free, is:

<http://www.littleleague.org/childprotect/map.htm>

"Advances in technology and the wider availability of sex offender registry information make this the right time to expand the Little League Child Protection Program," Mr. Keener said. "It is an excellent example of how a government can make a resource available, and allow a private organization to take advantage of it. The only losers in this program will be those who would prey on our most

precious resource."

Since 1988, it is estimated that more than 10 million adults have volunteered in some capacity in Little League programs nationwide. During that 15-year period, nine individual Little League volunteers are known to have been involved in the sexual abuse of a Little Leaguer. There are currently more than 1 million adult Little League volunteers in local Little Leagues nationwide.

"Thankfully, incidents of sexual abuse of Little Leaguers by adult volunteers have been extremely rare," Mr. Keener said. "While we realize that no screening process can ever be 100 percent effective, we believe this will be a useful tool in helping our local league volunteers prevent these criminal types from gaining access to children through their local program."

Mr. Keener added that access to the Little League Background Check Database at www.littleleague.org is not limited to chartered Little League programs.

"This program is available to anyone, anywhere, who has access to the Internet," he said. "Whether it's another baseball or softball program, or any other sport or youth activity, we want to share this information with anyone who has the best interests of children in mind. And we urge all programs to follow Little League's lead in making these screenings mandatory."

Editor's Note: This entire 12-page issue is about the new rules on background checks. All the information in this issue is available online at Little League's website.



Little League Child

Volunteer Application Form

Get the 2003 Volunteer Application Form online at www.littleleague.org or check your 2003 Safety Officer Manual on CD. The new Safety Officer Manual on CD has been delivered. If you didn't receive yours, check with your league president, or call either Little League Baseball or the ASAP Hotline!

New regulations aim at protecting players; making Little League a 'hostile environment' to abusers

"Dear Little League Volunteer:

"The backbone of Little League Baseball is the adult volunteer. One million strong, it is this corps of dedicated people who coach the teams, umpire the games, work in the concession stands, serve on the local board of directors, and serve at the District level. These people, who live in every U.S. state and 103 other countries, make Little League the largest and most respected youth sports organization on Earth.

"However, we know that the greatest treasure we have is children. As adults, we must ensure that these young people are able to grow up happy, healthy and, above all, safe. Whether they are our children, or the children of others, each of us has a responsibility to protect them. They are our future, and an endless source of joy.

"Like many national youth organizations, Little League Baseball seeks to attract the most qualified volunteers to administer our program at the local level. At the same time, we must be aware that this could make us a target for child abusers.

"The Little League Child Protection Program, in place since 1997, has sought to educate children and volunteers in ways to prevent child abusers from becoming involved in the local league.

"Part of that education has been to assist local Little League volunteers in finding effective and inexpensive ways to conduct background checks. Use of the volunteer application became mandatory last year if leagues were participating in ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program).

"Background checks were optional until now. Recent advances in computer technology allowing increased access to public records make it possible for these background checks (to see if an individual is a registered sex offender in a given state) to be conducted in every U.S. state. It is now time to take the next step in that program.

"The purpose of these background checks is, first and foremost, to protect children. Second, they maintain Little League as a hostile environment for those who would seek to do harm. Third, they will help to protect individuals and leagues from possible loss of personal or league assets because of litigation."

"Starting with the 2003 season, Little League programs nationwide will be required to annually conduct a background check of: Managers, Coaches, Board of Directors members and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with, players or teams.

"The purpose of these background checks is, first and foremost, to protect children. Second, they maintain Little League as a hostile environment for those who would seek to do harm. Third,

they will help to protect individuals and leagues from possible loss of personal or league assets because of litigation.

"Failure to complete and submit the Volunteer Application Form by those required to do so will result in being barred from involvement in Little League. Failure by the local league to conduct the proper background checks may result in suspension or termination of the league's charter and/or tournament privileges.

"In the coming weeks, you will be receiving information from Little League on how to conduct these background checks. Those who will be conducting the screenings, as well as those who will be screened, will need to be properly educated. In 43 states, a check for registered sex offenders is free. (In some of the 43 states, there is a fee, but it is waived for Little Leagues because of their non-profit status.) In seven other states, the cost ranges from \$5 to \$18 per inquiry for Little Leagues.

"Whatever the cost, the local league cannot afford to ignore this new regulation. In fact, compliance is a condition of charter.

"Please take the time to review the materials you will soon be receiving. You can get started now by visiting www.littleleague.org for information on the sex offender registries available in the U.S.

"All volunteers must understand that the ONLY losers in this new initiative will be those who would prey on our most precious resource."

Sincerely,



*Stephen D. Keener
President and Chief Executive Officer
Little League Baseball, Incorporated.*

Protection Program

Modifications to Regulation I

All 2003 Little League rule books and operating manuals now include in Regulation I the following language dealing with mandatory use of the Volunteer Application and mandatory background checks.

Regulation I (b)

(new language:)

As a condition of service to the league, all managers, coaches, Board of Directors members and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with, players or teams, must complete and submit an official “Little League Volunteer Application” to the local league president. Annual background screenings must be completed prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. Refusal to annually submit a fully completed “Little League Volunteer Application” must result in the immediate dismissal of the individual from the local league.

(See also Reg. I (c) 8 and 9.)

Regulation I (c) 8 and 9.

I (c) Each league shall:

8. Require that all of the following personnel have annually submitted a fully completed official “Little League Volunteer Application” to the local league president, prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season: Managers, Coaches, Board of Directors members and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with, players or teams. The “Little League Volunteer Application” must be maintained by the president of the local league board of directors for all personnel named above, for a minimum of the duration of the applicant’s service to the league for that year. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the suspension or revocation of tournament privileges and/or the local league’s charter by action of the Charter or Tournament Committee in Williamsport.

9. Conduct an annual background check on all personnel that are required to complete a “Little League Volunteer Application” prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. No local league shall permit any person to participate in any manner, whose background check reveals a conviction for any crime involving or against a minor. A local league may prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer or hired worker, if the league deems the individual unfit to work with minors. A local league must conduct a search of the applicable government operated statewide sex offender registry. If no sex offender registry exists in a State /Province, the local league must conduct a statewide/province-wide criminal background check through the appropriate governmental agency unless prohibited by law. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in the suspension or revocation of tournament privileges and/or the local league’s charter by action of the Charter or Tournament Committee in Williamsport.

Note: Information regarding background checks is available at www.littleleague.org.

Use all available resources

This issue is designed to help you start on volunteer background checks.

The information in this issue comes from Little League’s website: www.littleleague.org and the links there go directly to the referenced resources. You may also type the web addresses into your web browser to access the information mentioned here.

If you do not find a way to conduct background checks from this state information, talk to local law enforcement and county or state prosecutor’s offices. The sheriff’s department is a good resource, as they can often direct you, if they cannot provide the background check for you.

As a volunteer organization recognized with a federal charter to work with children, Little League is often given free or discounted cost assistance, similar to day care providers’ status. Check all your local resources.

State by State: What You

No known sexual predator will be allowed access to Little Leaguers. That's LLB's stand. Now, no matter where you live, your league must at a minimum check your volunteers against your entire state's sexual offender registry. Here is what you need to get started checking in your state.

ALABAMA

Alabama allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information is located at:

<http://www.dps.state.al.us/abi>

http://www.dps.state.al.us/abi/so_doc/so_templates/browser_newer/so_content_newer.asp

ALASKA

Alaska previously allowed any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://www.dps.state.ak.us/nSorcr/asp/>

<http://www.dps.state.ak.us/nSorcr/htm/searchframe.htm>

ARIZONA

Arizona allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information is at:

<http://www.azsexoffender.com/>

<http://www.azsexoffender.com/searchName.jsp>

ARKANSAS

Information on sex offender registration in Arkansas is located at:

http://www.acic.org/registration/02-public_notification.html

http://www.acic.org/registration/04-registered_sex_offenders.htm

CALIFORNIA

"Megan's Law" makes available to adults and organizations information on "serious" and "high-risk" sex offenders in their local community.

You may access the information via the MEGAN'S LAW WEB APPLICATION for free at viewing stations located at certain law enforcement agencies. Please refer to your local sheriff's office or police department for public access to this application.

<http://caag.state.ca.us/megan/info.htm>

COLORADO

Colorado allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within the state.

<http://dcj.state.co.us/ors/>

<http://www.sor.state.co.us/default.asp>

There is additional information at:

<http://www.doc.state.co.us/Sex%20Offenders/Sexualhistory.htm>

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut previously allowed any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information is located at:

<http://www.state.ct.us/dps/Sor.htm>

For information on obtaining a general criminal background check:

<http://www.state.ct.us/dps/SPBI.htm>

Complete form DPS-846-C
Obtain form at:

<http://www.state.ct.us/dps/Forms%20and%20Applications/DPS-846-C.pdf>

then send the form and an \$18 fee (for non-profit organizations) to:

State Police Bureau of Identification
P.O. Box 2794
Middletown, CT 06457-9294

Need to Know: AL to IA

DELAWARE

Delaware allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://www.state.de.us/dsp/sexoff/index.htm>

<http://www.state.de.us/dsp/sexoff/search.htm>

FLORIDA

Florida allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within the state.

http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Sexual_Predators/search.asp

Florida also has a process by which volunteer organizations may have criminal background checks (both state and national) conducted for a fee. Additional information on these subjects is located at the site below by clicking to the right of the screen on “Sexual Predators” and/or “Background Checks”:

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/>

GEORGIA

Georgia allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://www.ganet.org/gbi/disclaim.html>

<http://www.ganet.org/gbi/sorsch.cgi>

HAWAII

Currently, Hawaii’s convicted sex offenders must register with the State; however, their registration information can only be made public on the Internet after the courts have determined on a case-by-case basis that such disclosure is necessary to protect the public.

However, information on any offender

convicted in Hawaii is still available to the public. The process to obtain criminal conviction information is to use the Public Access terminals, which are available at the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center, or at any main county police department. The individual’s name, social security number, and gender (date of birth is optional) are required in using the Public Access. There is no fee to view this information, but a \$10 fee is normally assessed for each printout requested. The fee may be waived with documented proof of the Little League’s 501(c)(3) tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

For more information, contact:

Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center
Criminal History Record
Checks Unit
465 South King Street, Room 101
Honolulu, HI 96813

Please direct questions to:
Ms. Norma Ueno, CHRC supervisor
(808/587-3349)

IDAHO

Current information on public access to registry information is available at:

http://www.isp.state.id.us/identification/sex_offender/public_access.html

Complete form SOR-4
Obtain at:

http://www.isp.state.id.us/identification/sex_offender/sor4.pdf

then send form (at no fee for non-profit organizations) to:

Idaho State Police
Bureau of Criminal Identification
P.O. Box 700
Meridian, ID 83680-0700

ILLINOIS

Illinois allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within the state. Additional information is located at:

http://samnet.isp.state.il.us/ispso2/sex_of_fenders/

- Select “Search by Name”

Illinois law does provide for conviction information being open to public inspection. Contact:

Illinois State Police Bureau of Identification, Fee Processing Unit
260 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60431-1060
(815/740-5216)

Request forms and information concerning procedure for requesting information are also available on the Illinois State Police web site at:

<http://www.isp.state.il.us/>

INDIANA

Indiana allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders (as well as those convicted of violent crimes against children), as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is available at:

http://www.state.in.us/serv/cji_sor

- At bottom of page: Click on “Yes” and submit
- Choose “RECORDS FROM ALL FOUR SECTIONS”
- Click Submit Query

IOWA

Iowa allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://www.iowasexoffenders.com/>

<http://www.iowasexoffender.com/search.php>

- Choose Registration Information – click on “At Risk”

State by State: What You

KANSAS

Kansas allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information is at:

<http://www.ink.org/public/ksag/contents/sexoffenders/registration.htm>

<http://www.accesskansas.org/kbi/ro.htm>

KENTUCKY

Kentucky allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://kpspsor.state.ky.us/>

<http://kpspsor.state.ky.us/SORSearch.htm>

LOUISIANA

Louisiana allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://www.lasocpr.lsp.org/socpr/>

<http://www.lasocpr.lsp.org/Static/Search.htm>

MAINE

Submit request with volunteer's name and date of birth along with an \$8 fee (no reduction for non-profit organizations) to:

Bureau of Identification
State House Station 42
36 Hospital Street
Augusta, ME, 04330
(207/624-7009)

MARYLAND

Information from the Maryland Department of Public Safety and

Correctional Services regarding registration of sex offenders is located at:

<http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/sor/>

http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/sor/online_view.shtml

Local leagues in Maryland can obtain information about how to apply for criminal history records checks by calling the Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository Customer Assistance Desk at 410/764-4501, or 1-888/795-0011.

MASSACHUSETTS

Information from the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board regarding registration of sex offenders is located at:

http://www.state.ma.us/sorb/Info_Page.htm

http://www.state.ma.us/sorb/info_aboutSO.htm

Complete Sex Offender Request Form Obtain form at:

http://www.state.ma.us/sorb/forms/request_tosorb.PDF

(information provided free of charge for non-profit organizations) and send to:

Sex Offender Registry Board
P.O. Box 4547
Salem, MA 01970

MICHIGAN

Information from a very extensive sex offender registration system is available to the general public by contacting:

Michigan State Police
P.O. Box 30637
Lansing, MI, 48909

Also, the sex offenders registration index can be searched at:

<http://www.mipsor.state.mi.us/>

<http://www.mipsor.state.mi.us/mipsor/default.htm>

MINNESOTA

Minnesota has a searchable database on the Internet. The site is accessed through the Minnesota Department of Corrections web site at:

<http://info.doc.state.mn.us/publicviewer/main.asp>

By selecting "Level 3 predatory offender locator" from the list on the left hand side of the main page or from the dropdown menu, a citizen can access this list. This site is in addition to the department's "offender locator" that displays the location of offenders in state correctional facilities or on supervised release. There is also another department site that identifies "wanted fugitives."

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information:

http://www.sor.mdps.state.ms.us/So_Search.asp

MISSOURI

Send request, name, date of birth, gender and social security number along with a \$5 fee to:

Missouri State Highway Patrol
Criminal Records
P.O. Box 568
Jefferson City, MO 65102

For information on receiving a background check in Missouri, contact:

State Highway Patrol Criminal Records
P.O. Box 568
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573/526-6153)

Need to Know: KS to OK

MONTANA

Montana allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information is located at:

<http://svor2.doj.state.mt.us:8010/index.htm>

- Click on Search

NEBRASKA

Nebraska allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://www.nsp.state.ne.us/sor/find.cfm>

NEVADA

Need to get fingerprinted (separate fee for fingerprinting) at a law enforcement agency and send letter requesting background check with name, date of birth, gender and social security number along with a release allowing the check and a \$15 fee (check on Special Fund to cover background checks (not including fingerprinting) for non-profit organizations, if no money in fund then individual will be responsible for all fees) to:

DPS-NHP
Records & ID Services
808 West Nye Lane
Carson City, NV 89703

School districts, private educational institutions, camps, day care centers, foster care centers, and those religious or other community organizations that care for or otherwise provide services and programs for women and children. The local law enforcement agency, using its judgment, discretion, training, and experience, is responsible for determining which individuals and organizations are reasonably likely to encounter the offender.

More information may be obtained from:

1. Local law enforcement agency;
2. Truckee Meadows Human Services Association (775) 333-8275;
3. The Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety: (800-474-7865);
4. The Nevada Division of Parole and Probation: (775-684-2646);
5. The Nevada Attorney General's Office: (775-684-1249).

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Information on background checks in New Hampshire is available at:

<http://webster.state.nh.us/soupermail/secure/cprsor.html>

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/lps/>

<https://www4.state.nj.us/NASApp/spoff/individualsearch.jsp>

- Go to bottom, click "I accept."
- Choose individual search

NEW YORK

New York allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within the state. There is also a telephone number at which sex offender information may be obtained, for a fee. Additional information on both subjects is located at:

<http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/index.htm>

http://criminaljustice.state.ny.us/nsor/search_disclaimer.htm

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

http://sbi.jus.state.nc.us/cgi-binHAHT/hsrun.hse/SOR/SOR/SOR.htx;start=HS_SORSearchFrames

OHIO

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction allows free public searches of certain convicted persons through its Internet web site at:

<http://www.drc.state.oh.us/>

<http://www.drc.state.oh.us/cfdocs/inmate/search.htm>

The release of information and other related matters regarding registered sex offenders is handled by local law enforcement agencies.

Certain municipalities in Ohio also provide lists of sex offenders:

Akron:

<http://www.uakron.edu/police/sexoff.htm>

Clark County:

<http://www.clarkcountysheriff.com/sexuloffenders.html>

Franklin County:

<http://www.sheriff.franklin.oh.us/>

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

http://docapp8.doc.state.ok.us/servlet/page?_pageid=190&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30

State by State: What You

OREGON

Oregon provides information on the registry of sex offenders at:

http://www.doc.state.or.us/faq/sex_offender_reg.shtml

The Oregon State Police maintains a registry of sex offenders. You may call their sex offender registration unit at (503) 378-3720 and ask for a list of sex offenders. You will be sent to a voice mail box. You must leave your name, address and the zip code of the area for which you are requesting a list, and they will mail to you the appropriate list.

Also, to find out if the person with whom you have concern is currently under supervision, contact the local county Community Corrections office:

<http://www.doc.state.or.us/links/welcome.shtml>

PENNSYLVANIA

Complete a request for Criminal Record Check Form (obtain form at:

<http://www.psp.state.pa.us>

then click on Forms and Documents then click on Forms Available to the Public) and send along with a \$10 fee (no reduced fee for non-profit organizations) to:

Pennsylvania State Police
Central Repository – 164
1800 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9758

Very Important: The only form you need to download is the “Request for Criminal Record Check.” On this form, look for the “Reason for Request” that appears about half way down the page. Check “Other” and write “Youth Organization” to the right of that line.

At this time, there is no need to complete the “Child Abuse” form. Taking the action above will provide both criminal and child abuse information.

RHODE ISLAND

Submit a notarized statement, on Little League letterhead authorizing the background check with the signature of the person seeking the check and a notarized copy of photo identification (no fee for non-profit organizations) to:

Department of Attorney General
Vincent McAteer Division Chief
Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation
150 South Main Street
Providence, RI 02903

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. There is also a searchable database (for a fee) of criminal records. Additional information on these subjects is located by selecting the links on the left side of the page at:

<http://www.sled.state.sc.us/SLED/>

http://www.sled.state.sc.us/SLED/default.asp?Category=SCSO&Service=SCSO_02

SOUTH DAKOTA

Information from South Dakota on sex offenders can be found at:

<http://www.sddci.com/administration/id/sexoffender/about.htm>

Complete Authorization and Release form, obtain form at:

<http://www.littleleague.org/allabout/states/replies/southdakota.pdf>

along with fingerprints (separate fee for fingerprinting) and \$15 fee (no reduction for non-profit organizations) to:

Office of the Attorney General
Division of Criminal Investigation
500 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Little League received information from the Attorney General for South Dakota listing the requirements for a background check in that state. To see these requirements, and to print a form for requesting release of information, view:

<http://www.littleleague.org/childprotect/states/replies/southdakota.pdf>

TENNESSEE

Tennessee allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

http://www.ticic.state.tn.us/SEX_ofndr/search_short.asp

TEXAS

Information regarding background checks can be obtained through the Texas Department of Public Safety, Criminal Records Division. A searchable database for the Criminal Records Division is available at the following web site:

<http://records.txdps.state.tx.us/>

<http://records.txdps.state.tx.us/soSearch/soSearch.cfm>

UTAH

Utah allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://www.udc.state.ut.us/asp-bin/sexoffendersearchform.asp>

VERMONT

A Vulnerable Populations Program Fact Sheet is available from the Vermont Criminal Information Center (Vermont Department of Public Safety) at the following Internet web site:

Need to Know: OR to WY

http://170.222.24.9/cjs/vulnerable_fact.html

Also, the Vermont Department of Public Safety (Criminal Justice Services) provides information on the sex offender registry at:

http://170.222.24.9/cjs/s_registry.htm

<http://www.dps.state.vt.us/cjs/recordcheck.html>

Complete Vermont Release Form; obtain form at:

<http://170.222.24.9/cjs/vulnerablerelease1.PDF>

(fee waived until Sept. 1, 2003) and send to:

Criminal Records Section
Vermont Crime Information Center
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101

VIRGINIA

Virginia allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within the state. Additional information is located at:

<http://sex-offender.vsp.state.va.us/cool-ice/>

<http://sex-offender.vsp.state.va.us/Static/Search.htm>

WASHINGTON

Complete a request for Criminal History Information Form; obtain form at:

<http://www.littleleague.org/allabout/states/replies/washington.pdf>

(no charge for non-profit organizations) and send to:

Washington State Patrol
Identification and Criminal History Section
P.O. Box 42633
Olympia, WA 98504-2633

Washington Sex Offender Links to county sheriff's departments' sex offender sites may be found at:

<http://ml.waspc.org/>

Little League has also determined that several municipalities within Washington offer searchable databases at these sites:

Clark County:

<http://www.co.clark.wa.us/SHERIFF/IN TER/comminfo/sexoffender/sexoffender.htm>

Bellevue:

<http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/police/>

Clark County:

<http://www.co.clark.wa.us/sheriff/inter/>

Island County:

<http://www.islandcounty.net/sheriff/sex-map.htm>

King County:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/sheriff/sxoffsch.htm>

Longview:

<http://ci.longview.wa.us/police/Services/notification.htm>

Renton:

<http://www.ci.renton.wa.us/police/sexlev13.htm>

TriCities:

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/sexoffenders/>

WASHINGTON D.C.

The District of Columbia allows any person free access to an Internet database listing sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within the District. Additional information is at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/impreminder.shtm>

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/sor/sexoffender.shtm>

For information on obtaining criminal background check information in the District of Columbia, contact:

Metropolitan Police Department

Criminal History
300 Indiana Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20001
(202/727-4245)

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia allows any person free access to an Internet database listing some or all convicted sex offenders, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://www.wvstatepolice.com/sexoff/>

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin adult criminal history information is considered public record and is available upon request and payment of appropriate fee. Additional information is located at:

<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/cib/crimback.asp>

Wisconsin criminal history is also available online. Access online criminal history at:

<http://wi-recordcheck.org>

WYOMING

Wyoming allows any person free access to an Internet database listing only convicted sex offenders whom a court has determined present a high risk of reoffense, as of a specified date, known to be living within that state. Additional information on this subject is located at:

<http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us/dci/index.html>

http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us/dci/so/so_registration.html

Local leagues can also contact the Attorney General's Division of Criminal Investigation at 307/777-7181, or by fax at 307/777-7252. A waiver form is required, signed by the volunteer, allowing the local Little League to receive the results of the record check. Under the system, a regional record (not national) for the volunteer could be obtained, covering the states of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Alaska and Oregon.

Frequently Asked Questions

(Editor's Note: The following answer many of the most frequently asked questions, from timing of the background checks, to answers on funding the potential cost. Please take as much time as necessary to read through these answers and make yourself comfortable with the new regulations, which will make all of Little League a better environment for all players.)

1. What do we, as a league, have to do to comply so that we can be chartered for the next season?

The local league is required to have all board members, managers, coaches, and other volunteers or hired workers who provide regular service to the league or/and who have repetitive access to or contact with players or teams fill out the new volunteer application. Additionally, the league will be required to conduct a background check on each of these individuals. Little League Baseball will require each league to sign an agreement on the Charter application that they will comply with Regulations I(b) and I(c) 8 & 9. The leagues will also be required to sign a statement on the tournament enrollment form verifying that the process under the regulations has been completed and implemented. Failure to sign the agreement on the charter application will result in the league not being chartered and failure to fulfill the requirements of the regulations will result in the league's status being referred to the Charter/Tournament Committee for action to revoke the league's charter and all privileges.

2. What type of background check is required by the new regulations?

The new Little League Baseball regulations require each local league to check the Sexual Offender Registry (SOR) in the state where the applicant resides. Where the Sexual Offender Registry is not available, then these leagues must do a criminal background check. However, local leagues may elect to conduct a criminal background check, which exceeds the minimum requirement by the new regulations.

For example, a background screening through the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

3. What type of offenses are we screening for when we conduct a background check?

Local leagues are conducting a search of the government state-wide Sexual Offender Registry for anyone who has committed sexual offenses involving minors. An individual who has been convicted or plead guilty to charges involving or against a minor, no matter when the offense occurred, must not be permitted to work with children.

4. Who in the local league should be responsible to process the background check information?

Little League Baseball recommends the board of directors appoint the local league president and two other individuals to handle the background checks. These individuals may be from the board or individuals outside the board. For instance, the board of directors may appoint individuals who have significant professional background in this area, such as law enforcement officers or individuals with a legal background.

5. What if an individual has previously had a background check?

Each league must conduct their own background check on the appropriate individuals annually.

6. If our volunteer base comes from multiple states, in what state do we do the background checks?

Many leagues are located close to the boundaries of other states; these leagues must conduct the background check where the individual resides. The league

must attach a copy of a government-issued photo identification to the volunteer application. The residence on the government document will determine where the check must be conducted.

7. What will result in termination of a volunteer under the new regulations?

Any background check that reveals a conviction of any crime involving or against a minor must result in immediate termination from the league. Additionally, volunteers who refuse to submit a fully completed Little League Volunteer Application must be immediately terminated or eliminated from consideration for any position. This includes individuals with many years of service to your league.

8. What if offenses involving or against minors are pending prior to or after appointment to a position in the local league?

We suggest the individual not be appointed or should be suspended from his/her current position pending the outcome of the charges.

9. What if there are convictions or other offenses NOT involving or against minors?

A local league may prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer or hired worker, if the local league board of directors deems the individual unfit to work with minors.

10. Who is to be made aware of information found on the background check?

The local league president shall only share personal information contained in the volunteer application, background check or other information obtained through the screening process with

ons of Background Checks

other members of the board of directors in order to make personnel decisions. If the information obtained through the background check is public record and causes an individual to not be appointed or to be terminated, Little League Baseball recommends this information be shared with the parents/guardians of the children who have had contact with the individual previously.

11. Where should these records be maintained and for how long?

The local league president shall retain each volunteer application, background check information, and any other documents obtained on file for the current year of service of that individual. After the local league has completed operation for the current season, the league president shall dispose of the records unless the league has taken action or made a decision based upon the information contained in the records.

12. What is the timetable for completing the screening of each individual?

The local league must complete the annual screening process prior to the individual assuming duties for the current season. This would include the individual submitting a completed volunteer application and the league completing an appropriate background check.

13. What resources are available through Little League Baseball to assist in this process?

Leagues can obtain the new volunteer application and background check information for each state through Little League's website at www.littleleague.org. The information on the Little League website contains links directly to state government

resources on conducting background checks. Little Leagues are also encouraged to use whatever local resources are available in their communities.

14. What will it cost my league to implement this new initiative ?

Thirty-five states provide a free background online check for sex offenders who have committed violent sex crimes or sex crimes involving children. Eight additional states provide free background checks through an offline process administered by the state. The remaining seven states have a fee requirement that ranges from \$5 to \$18. For more detailed information on costs, visit the Little League website at <http://www.littleleague.org>.

15. Where can I find funding assistance to pay for the background checks if necessary?

In the seven states where a fee is required, Little League suggests that the individual pay for their background check as a condition of service. The league may elect to seek other funding sources from local businesses, sponsors, civic organizations and service clubs.

16. When should local leagues begin the implementation process of this new initiative?

Immediately, so volunteer applications and background checks are completed prior to individuals assuming their duties for the current season.

17. Does this new initiative also apply to those individuals that assist managers and coaches at practices or games?

Yes. Any individual who provides regular service to the league and/or who has repetitive access to or contact with players or teams must fill out the Volunteer Application and go through the background check process.

18. Who is going to coach the team if a screened manager or coach is no longer able to fulfill his/her duties?

Any permanent replacement cannot assume their duties until the volunteer application and background check has been completed. The league may temporarily assign a board member or another screened individual to fill the vacancy until the proper process and appointment has been made.

19. Should our league wait until the entire screening process is completed to submit our Charter Application and Insurance Enrollment Form?

No. The appropriate league officers must sign the statement on the form agreeing to adhere to the new regulations requiring the use of the new volunteer application and background screening process as outlined in Regulations I(b) and I(c) 8 & 9. Once this section is completed the balance of the charter application can be completed and submitted to Little League Baseball.

20. As the league president or an official of the local league, how do I explain the need for this new initiative?

These new requirements are being implemented by Little League and your local league to:

- Protect our children and maintain Little League as a hostile environment for those who would seek to harm kids.
- Protect individuals and leagues from possible loss of personal or league assets because of litigation.
- Take advantage of current technology and laws that have made background check information accessible to leagues.

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Screening required to bar sex offenders.

2 Child Protection.
New regulations aim at protecting players.

4 State By State.
Get started checking in your state.

10 Frequently Asked.
Questions on background checks and costs.

21. What is the earliest age for conducting a background check and are background checks required for players?

Little League has determined that age 16 is the minimum age required for background checks for volunteers or hired workers who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to or contact with players or teams. Little League has come to this determination based on the following:

- 39 states and the District of Columbia consider age 16 to be the age of consent.
- States generally view the age of consent as the age in which a minor can be held responsible for their

actions in relation to sexual relations.

- Minors 16 year of age and older can be treated as adults in criminal proceedings. Minors 16 years of age and older when charged with serious crimes are often tried as adults.
- Minors 16 years of age or older would be most likely to be given more responsibility and be in a position of greater influence over younger participants in the Little League program.
- No players are required to have a background check unless they are acting in a capacity for the league outside their role of player. (For example, a 17-year-old umpiring in a younger division with adult umpires as part of the umpire crew for that game.)

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