

ASAP news



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

Low-Cost, Multi-State Checks

Little League baseball and softball leagues in 44 states and the District of Columbia now have online access to low-cost background checks that meet or exceed the requirements set forth in Regulation I(c) of the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules.

Little League Baseball has announced an agreement with Investigative Technologies, LLC, of Memphis, Tenn., to provide the background checks for local leagues in the District of Columbia and all states except California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, South Dakota and Vermont. The background checks will cost leagues just \$1.50 per background check. This fee is a special offer only available to Little League programs. The regular price of this check is \$19.95 per check with an additional monthly maintenance fee.

These background checks can be conducted by appropriate league officials through the Investigative Technologies web site, rapsheets.com. A special web site has been created for Little League programs. To access it, go to <http://www.littleleague.org/childprotect/rapsheets.htm>. The background checks will instantly review all of the Sex Offender Registries and/or criminal records of 44 states and the District of Columbia. By using Investigative Technologies' broader database of criminal and sex offender records, leagues take an extra step in protecting their players. In many cases, they can also save money for their leagues.

"The instant multi-state accessibility with such an affordable cost is a benefit for

NOW AVAILABLE

any league," said LLB Risk Management Director Dan Kirby.

Kirby told of a Connecticut league which was faced with a suspended on-line state SOR registry. They visited rapsheets.com and saw the firm was developing a Little League program. This first test league had 225 volunteers, which would have cost about \$4,500, and saved \$4,000 by using the special Little League pricing.

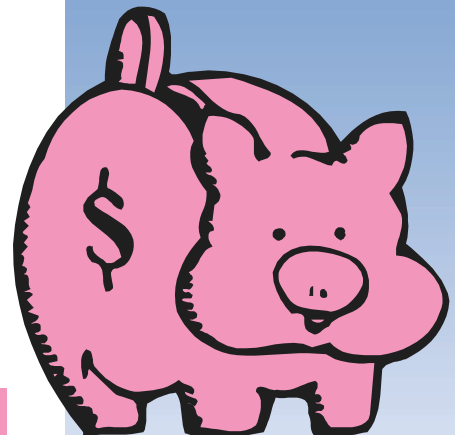
That league found one person had lied on their volunteer application about a conviction for assault in Florida, as well as two others who had lied about previous convictions.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: The checks will NOT review records in California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, South Dakota and Vermont. Leagues in these six states still have the option of using the rapsheets.com service at a cost of \$1.50 per check of the 44 states. However, leagues in these states must contact the official Sex Offender Registry in the state to satisfy the minimum requirements of Reg. I(c).

Little League recommends that League Presidents immediately meet with their committee conducting the league's background checks to determine how this new service can benefit their league. Again, you are encouraged to go to <http://www.littleleague.org/childprotect/rapsheets.htm> for information.

"The instant multi-state accessibility with such an affordable cost is a benefit for any league."

– Dan Kirby



Remember: Submit Your Safety Plan by May 1st!

Supreme Court Ruling

The Supreme Court ruled on March 5 that information such as addresses and photos of convicted sex offenders may be posted on the Internet, a victory for leagues using their state sex offender registries to do background checks on potential volunteers. This is a new requirement for all local leagues in Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

In a separate ruling, the court denied a challenge from sex offenders who argued they deserved a chance to prove they aren't dangerous, to avoid having their pictures and addresses put on the Internet.

The decisions came in the Supreme Court's first review of what are known as Megan's Laws. They have far-reaching implications because every state and the federal government have sex offender registry statutes.

The laws are named for 7-year-old Megan Kanka, a New Jersey girl kidnapped, raped and killed in 1994 by a convicted sex criminal who lived in her neighborhood.

"Little League applauds the decision today by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding state sex offender registries. Earlier this year, Little League became the first national youth sports organization to require these types of background checks, as a minimum, for managers, coaches, and certain other volunteers,"

wrote Lance Van Auken, Director of Media Relations and Communications for LLB.

"This decision will help to further strengthen Little League's Child Protection Program, and will help maintain Little League as a hostile environment for child sex offenders. This is the best news we could receive, short of Federal legislation that would allow affordable access to a database of criminal information on a nationwide basis."

Complete details of Little League's Child Protection Program can be found at: <http://www.littleleague.org>

The Supreme Court cases, from Alaska and Connecticut, required justices to balance the rights of offenders with the public safety interest in keeping tabs on people who may commit future sex crimes. The court came down on the side of public safety in both cases.

By a 6-3 vote, justices rejected arguments by two Alaska sex offenders who contended they already served time for sex crimes before the Alaska registration law was passed and were punished a second time with the registry.

Writing for the court majority in a case from Alaska, Justice Anthony Kennedy said, "The purpose and the principal effect of notification are to inform the public for its own safety, not to humiliate the offender."

Putting the information on the Internet makes no difference, Kennedy added. "The Internet makes the document search more efficient, cost effective and convenient for Alaska's citizenry."

The court also ruled 9-0 that Connecticut did not have to hold separate hearings to determine the risk posed by sex criminals who have completed their prison sentences before putting them in a registry.

"The court has made a very powerful and compelling statement about the need for objective, accurate information being as available as possible," Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said.

The Connecticut Department of Public Safety published this notice on their web site soon after the ruling, stating that the sex offender registry would soon be back on-line, with "accurate information regarding registered sex offenders in Connecticut... The public may access sex offender registry information at their local police department or state police barracks."



First Aid Training Classes

"I just got a phone message from Little League headquarters that the EMTP Program (Emergency Management Training Program) is no longer available. I find this very frustrating since they say we have to provide the training in order to have a 'qualified' safety program.... so, do you by any chance have a copy that you could outline for me? I mean, if I can at least get an outline then I probably can fill in the pieces. I am a certified CPR/First Aid instructor but I want the baseball specific information. Most of my coaches carry current CPR/FA cards because of their jobs. So I think all I really need is an outline. Please let me know if that is something you could help with. Thanks! Sorry to pester you so much!"

Tracy Wilson, Safety Officer
Grayling, Mich., Little League

First, you should know Little League is phasing out the Emergency Management Training Program in order to implement a new program next year with the most up-to-date information. The EMTP course has been used since 1989, and methods and treatments change.

However, even without the Emergency Management Training Program, you can put together a quality first aid training class to meet the requirements of first aid training for your coaches and managers. You don't have to follow the specifics of any set program, just get the PRICES – Protection, Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation, and Support (or RICE or PRICE, whatever you use) – idea into participants' heads and talk about the specifics of first aid and injury prevention for specific baseball/softball injuries.

Start with basic terminology (contusion, laceration, etc.), and give the most up-to-date techniques for preventing sports injuries. Help attendees understand and differentiate between mild, moderate and severe injuries and the appropriate actions to take in each category. Teach appropriate first aid techniques for the injuries they will encounter.

Help design an emergency plan for your league when severe injuries occur, and tell the managers/coaches what their role is in that plan. You should have medical professionals available either on-site or at most a phone call away — as well as a method to reach them, by cell phone or phone at the field — for severe or life-threatening injuries. And finally, help the coaches/managers to understand specific techniques to determine whether an injured player is ready to practice and play again; in some cases this may require a doctor's release.

The evaluation process involves determining whether injuries are mild, moderate or severe, and should address what to do in each case. The evaluation includes classifying injuries using symptoms and signs, with appropriate looking, listening and careful feeling and, if appropriate, moving of the injured part.

Basic issues with baseball/softball would be:

- Contusions
- Muscle pulls and strains
- Over-use injuries
- Sprains
- Fractures
- Injuries to small joints
- Facial injuries
- Injuries to teeth
- Eye injuries
- Insect bites and stings
- Heat illness
- Triage and Emergency Management

In conclusion, ask for managers/coaches to consider how to prevent injuries:

- Pre-participation health screenings (at least through a health questionnaire/medical release form asking for health concerns and medications);
- Proper maintenance of playing site (game and practice facilities);



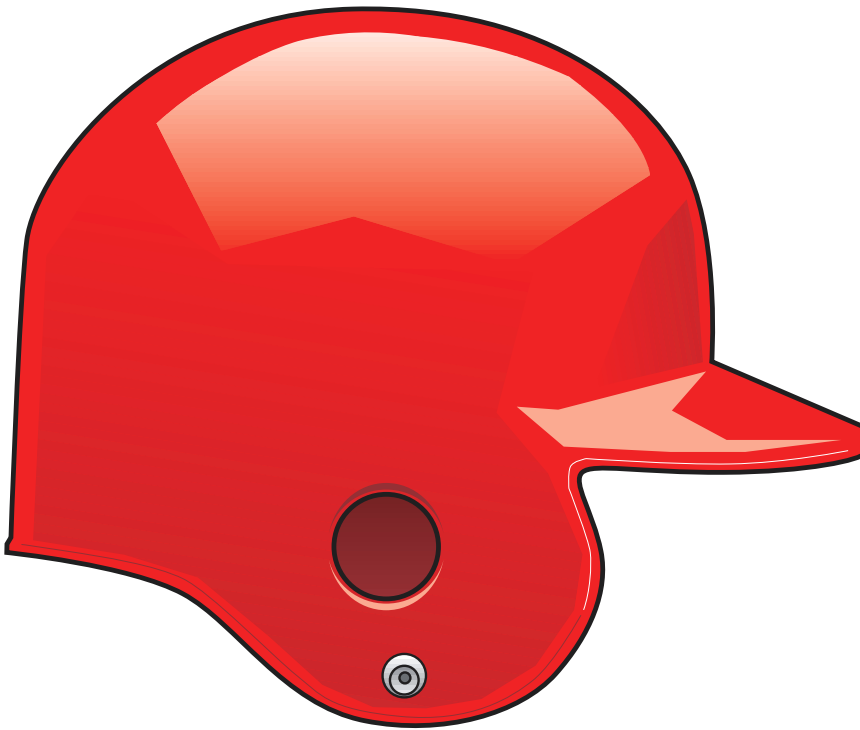
- Pay close attention to playing conditions (heat and humidity as well as severe weather);
- Make sure players know basics of good nutrition (especially water replacement on hot days);
- Proper athletic conditioning (stretching, strengthening and endurance, as well as agility and coordination drills);
- Avoid over use (pay special attention to activities outside of Little League, to allow rest to avoid over-use injuries);
- Consistent and proper use of all protective equipment;
- Close coach supervision and organization of warm-ups, practices and games;
- Careful compliance with all Little League rules having to do with safety.

This summarizes 62 pages into just a few hundred words, so you're going to want to elaborate on all the proper techniques in dealing with the different injury types and how to treat them effectively, as well as what NOT to do in given circumstances.

And remember, if anyone is ever in doubt to the nature or seriousness of an injury, they should NOT attempt treatment; a health care professional should be consulted immediately.

Finally, remind all managers and coaches to carefully evaluate all injuries and ensure the child does not require professional care. It's not worth risking a child's health just to continue the game.

Check with th



It's true that certain paints may alter the molecular structure to the point that protection is compromised. Most manufacturers will void the warranty if the helmet has been painted by someone other than themselves or their approved painter.

"I am the DSO for FL21. There is a rumor going around down here that affixing stickers to a helmet, batters or catchers, violates the NOCSAE safety rating of the helmet. I have looked thru back issues of ASAP, looked in the Little League rule book, and searched the Internet but have not found any basis for this rumor; other than a ban on anything that resembles or simulates a baseball being attached to any part of the uniform. I have been told that the adhesives used for the stickers will cause a reaction to the plastic of the helmet resulting in a change to the molecular composition that decreases the protection desired.

A similar issue has come up with airbrush paintings on softball helmets.

"Please assist with some guidance on this, and a reference if you can.

"The NOCSAE sticker is applied with an adhesive."

**District Safety Officer
Florida District 21**

Most leagues are faced with this in some form or another: personal helmets that parents want to identify with stickers or paint, teams want helmets to match jerseys, All-Star teams want the league identified with paint or stickers, and on and on. However, it's important to note that helmets are for the personal protection of the players, not for decoration. Their use must be consistent with personal protection.

Andy Konyar, LLB Umpire in Chief, posed questions on the use of paint or stickers, and here's what he found:

Can Helmets be Painted?

"Batter's helmets can be painted. NOT in a family garage. It's true that certain paints may alter the molecular structure to the point that protection is compromised. Most manufacturers will void the warranty if the helmet has been painted by someone other than themselves or their approved painter," notes Scott Halstead, with the Southern Impact Research Center, LCC. So, "if a league wants its helmets painted, they should contact the manufacturer for direction."

Can Stickers be Applied?

Regarding the application of stickers or decals on helmets: Can a single letter be applied to the front of the helmet or the sides to identify the team or league? Can a team name sticker/decals be applied to identify a team or league? One of the problems we are seeing now is young ladies applying stickers/decals of their favorite singer or group all over helmets; is this recommended or safe? Understanding here at headquarters are similar to painting the helmets, i.e. the glue on the stickers/decals could break down the helmet and make it unsafe as a protective device.

e Manufacturer First

“The first question seems to be a question for the league directors regarding logo requirements. If the league requires such logos, then I recommend they contact the helmet manufacturer for details on what type of adhesive is OK to use on the logos,” said SIRC’s Scott Halstead. “Approved decals are allowed by most manufacturers as long as the adhesives are not aggressive and do not alter the molecular structure. In general, you are correct in that many of the adhesives on stickers can have an effect on the materials the helmets are made from and therefore should not be placed on the helmets. Your understanding is correct in that the decals themselves could effect the materials’ molecular structure as does painting a helmet with the incorrect paint affects its structure.”

Manufacturer's Decision

It’s important to understand that Little League’s stand is based on the manufacturer’s positions. There is nothing wrong with paint or stickers as long as they are approved by the manufacturer. Applying either paint or stickers not approved by the specific manufacturer may make the helmets unsafe and void the manufacturer’s warranty. The best solution is to have league-wide guidelines which must be adhered to by all participants. If you have paint or stickers on helmets, make sure they are approved paint types (water-soluble, etc.) and non-aggressive adhesives for stickers.

Helmet Warranties

Helmets have been tested under stringent conditions to not break, crack or otherwise allow damage to the head of the person wearing it. The safety of and warranties for the products are based on those tests. If a substance not approved by a manufacturer is applied to a helmet and the helmet breaks, the manufacturer would not be responsible, but the person

applying that substance, as well as the league allowing the altered helmet to be worn, would be liable for injuries incurred.

Little League has contacted several helmet manufacturers, who have stated that any league wishing to apply paint or decals to helmets should contact them. If a paint or decal’s adhesive isn’t specifically approved, they will do so. As an example, Shutt Sports has said they will test any material to determine if it harms the helmet, if a league will send them a sample. Others likely would do the same.

For those leagues using approved paints to paint helmets, Little League reminds them to place a one-inch sticker over the “NOCSAE-approved” emblem on the back before painting. Then, it can be removed after painting so the symbol remains in plain view. In all cases, a

letter from the manufacturer is required for helmets which have been painted or decals placed on the front or sides of the helmet. For small stickers to identify the owner or team, Little League recommends the best place for these kinds of decals is under the bill of the helmet, since this area is less protective for the wearer and more a sun visor for the wearer’s eyes.

Manufacturers

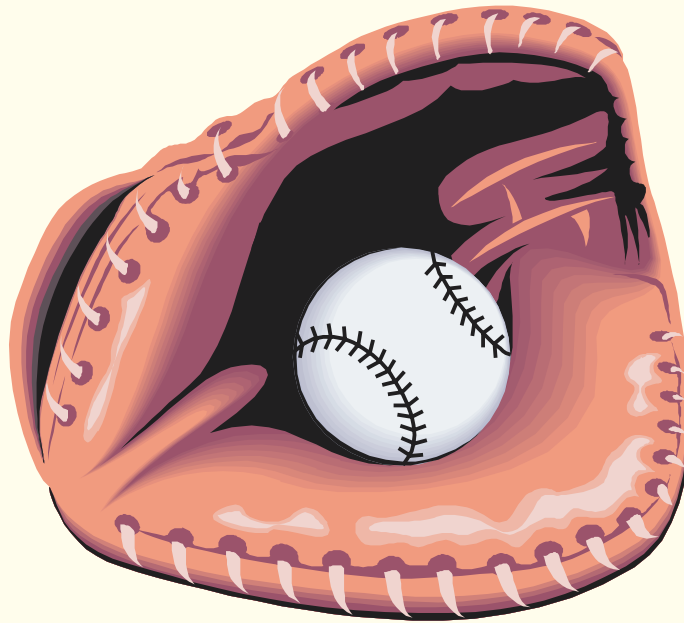
Batters’ helmets must only be approved by NOCSAE for use; contact manufacturer by calling contact information on label with helmet.

Approved catcher's helmet manufacturers are:

- All-Star Sporting Goods
800/777-3810
- Diamond Sports Co.
800/366-2999
- Nocona Athletic Goods Co.
940/825-3326
- Park View Manufacturing
618/548-9054
- Rawlings Sporting Goods Co.
314/349-3511
- Sport Supply Group
800/774-6972



Coach, Please Let Players Catch!



REMEMBER:

Coaches and managers must not warm up pitchers. Let Players Catch.

RULE 3.09

“...Managers or coaches must not warm up a pitcher at home plate or in the bull pen or elsewhere at any time. They may, however, stand to observe a pitcher during warm-up in the bull pen.”

You've Got Questions

We've Got Answers

"I am a new district safety officer. Where do I tell our league safety officers to mail their completed safety plans? Thanks!"

Sara Speicher
District Safety Officer
Minnesota District 1

Little League International Headquarters in Williamsport is the destination for all safety plans. The deadline is May 1st:

Little League Baseball, Inc.
PO Box 3485
Williamsport, PA 17701

If they are shipping other than US Postal Service, the physical address (for FedEx, UPS, etc.) is:

Little League Baseball, Inc.
539 Route 15 Hwy.
So. Williamsport, PA 17702

"Can we operate a safety program if we don't own the facilities we play on? Our past safety officer said we couldn't comply with the requirements because we don't own the fields and concession stand we use."

Rick Honaker
Board member

Safety isn't dependent on owning the fields or other facilities. It's about making sure the aspects of the game you CAN control (equipment, training, playing conditions) are as safe as possible. You can develop a great safety plan just around the areas, giving everyone information on the proper use of equipment, checking to make sure it's always in good working order, and giving everyone the best possible fundamentals training, for both managers and players. For areas you DON'T own, you can still do the basic steps of checking the facility before you play for problem spots (holes, glass, ragged edges on fences, etc.) and notifying the proper people to have

them taken care of. Of course, some of those you can and should take care of before taking the field, such as a broken glass bottle in the dugout, or holes in front of bases and similar issues. More leagues than you would think use municipal, school district or park department facilities, and still have quality safety plans.

"I am a newly appointed LL safety officer. I am new to our board of directors and volunteered to fill this important position. Unfortunately this position hasn't been filled in the last 2 years and we don't have a current Safety Plan. We do a lot of things correctly so it's not a disaster, but it's not documented (there's also a lot of room for improvement). Rather than starting from scratch, can you send me an electronic copy of a qualified plan that I could use as a document starting point. I would modify it to document the things we do currently as well as define some new things we are going to do. I will use this document for our upcoming coach/umpire training. All of the Web-based tools are in Acrobat and not modifiable. I would appreciate not having to reinvent (retype!!) the wheel. Thanks!"

Andy Kirkpatrick

The 2003 Safety Officer Manual on CD has a Word document of the 2001 national winning safety plan from Granada Hills, Calif., Little League, which you can borrow from to create your basic plan. The document should be used as a template to create your safety plan, just for activities you are doing now. Their basic plan begins on page 8, and goes through first aid kits, emergency phone numbers, code of conduct contract, and the safety code, ending on page 16. Other areas may also be helpful, but these begin the process.

"Please send me some insight. I cannot get the forms for ASAP to let me add the text for my program and league. How do you edit in the forms area? I have finished my survey, as it was in Excel, no problem. But after several hours, I am still unable to add text to the on-line forms. My district has a self imposed deadline of tomorrow; since my mother has been in the hospital for the past month in ICU I have not finished and I cannot get the online download to cooperate."

Submitted via email

The forms you speak of on the LLB website are not intended to be filled out on-line, if that is what you are asking. These are designed to be printed and filled out, to accompany your written safety manual. The forms help the staff at LLB headquarters find the relevant material in your published (copied and distributed) safety manual. This safety manual is supposed to help guide your league's volunteers from year to year in providing the most safe environment possible for players, spectators and league volunteers. The material you supply back to Little League is just a copy to show that you are meeting the 13 minimum requirements for your plan, so your league receives the 20 percent player accident insurance premium credit on your CNA/Little League Insurance. I hope that helps you finish up your plan in time for the May 1 deadline for all safety plans to be postmarked.

Have a question or tip to share?

Call the ASAP Hotline:

800-811-7443

or email: asap@musco.com

or write to us at:

ASAP
100 1st Ave. West
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

What's Inside

Hotline Ideas from Readers

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4 Painting Helmets.
It's recommended to contact the helmet manufacturer first.

"Last season I copied off the eye chart at one of the local doctor's office, taped it to the dugout and paced off 20 feet. Kids could self-test to see if they could see at least 20/30 or better. Anything worse than this went to the eye doctor for glasses check up. Helps to be able to see the ball!"

Submitted via email
without name

"In reading the ASAP news, I have found many informative articles and have implemented many of them in our league. However there are two programs which we use that I would like to share. First is a "No Smoking" policy complex wide, not that we are concerned about second-hand smoke, but rather the example it sets for our players. Second is that all board of director members must be A.E.D. (Automatic External Defibulator) certified by the American Red Cross. This a major factor in a player or spectator receiving life saving treatment within the first 30 to 60 seconds of a cardiac arrest. The chance of survival to a victim increases 60 to 85 percent and I would encourage all Little Leagues to follow suit."

Jim Ansbach
Safety Officer Toms River
NJ, Little League

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