

ASAP news



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

Tournament Pitching Rule Changes

The tournament pitching rule has been changed for 2003 for the Little League Baseball (Majors) and 9- & 10-Year-Old Baseball Divisions. The new rule (also on the 2003 Tournament Affidavits) is below.

4. Pitching Rule Changes to Little League Baseball and 9- & 10-Year-Old Baseball Division

These rules replace the regular season pitching regulations. Violation of these pitching rules is subject to protest and forfeiture by decree of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport if protested before the umpire(s) leave the playing field.

- a. Any player on a tournament team may pitch. (**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of pitchers a tournament team may use in a game.)
- b. A tournament pitcher may not pitch in regular season or Special Games while the team is still participating in the tournament.
- c. Delivery of a single pitch constitutes having pitched an inning.
- d. Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers.
- e. A player may not pitch more than **six (6) innings** in a game.
- f. If a player pitches in less than four (4) innings **in a game, one (1)** calendar day of rest must be observed.
- g. If a player pitches in four (4) or more innings **in a game, two (2)** calendar days of rest must be observed.

NOTE: f. and g. also apply between regular season games and the opening of the Tournament as well as resumption of regular season games following Tournament elimination or Special Games following the Tournament.

EXAMPLE 1: A player may pitch in four (4) or more innings on Saturday in regular season play, then after two (2) calendar day's rest, pitch again in the first game of the district playoffs on Tuesday.

EXAMPLE 2: A player may pitch in four (4) or more innings on Saturday in the final district game, then after two (2) calendar day's rest, pitch again in the next level of tournament play on Tuesday.

- h. A player may not pitch in consecutive games within any level of tournament play. Levels are District, Section, State, Division, Region and World Series.

EXCEPTION 1:

A player may pitch on consecutive calendar days if only one (1) inning was

pitched in the previous calendar day.

EXCEPTION 2:

A player may pitch in consecutive games

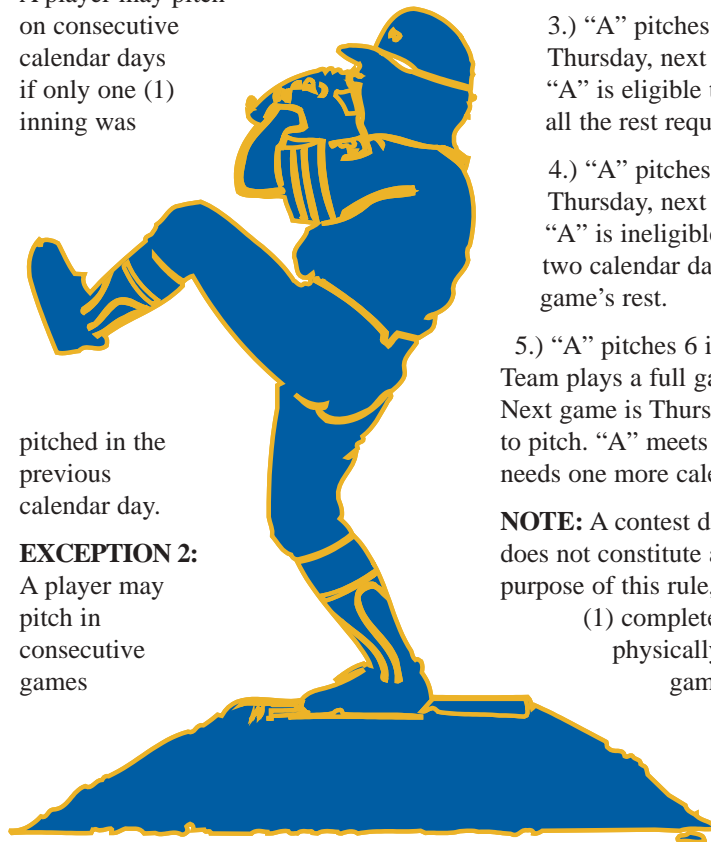
if only one (1) inning was pitched in the previous game.

EXCEPTION 3: In a game suspended by darkness, weather or other cause and resumed the following day, the pitcher of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of the remaining eligibility for that game.

EXAMPLES (f., g., & h.)

- 1.) "A" pitches 6 innings on Thursday, next game is Saturday. "A" is ineligible to pitch. "A" needs both a game's rest and a calendar day's rest.
- 2.) "A" pitches 3 innings on Thursday, next game is Saturday. "A" is ineligible to pitch. "A" meets one calendar day's rest, but still needs a game's rest.
- 3.) "A" pitches 1 inning on Thursday, next game is Saturday. "A" is eligible to pitch. "A" meets all the rest requirements.
- 4.) "A" pitches 4 innings on Thursday, next game is Tuesday. "A" is ineligible to pitch. "A" meets two calendar day's rest but needs a game's rest.
- 5.) "A" pitches 6 innings on Tuesday. Team plays a full game on Wednesday. Next game is Thursday. "A" is ineligible to pitch. "A" meets one game's rest but needs one more calendar day's rest.

NOTE: A contest decided by a forfeit does not constitute a "game" for the purpose of this rule, unless at least one (1) complete inning was physically played before the game was forfeited.



Must Carry Residency Proof

Residence Eligibility Requirements for Tournament Teams After They Have Advanced Beyond District Play

Starting with the 2003 International Tournament in all levels of baseball and softball, all teams advancing beyond district play will be required to carry the documents used to establish residency of the parent(s) or legal guardian (as assigned by a judge) for each player on the team.

Little League International will provide each District Administrator with enough envelopes (9-by-12 inch) for each team in the district that advances beyond district play, to accommodate the residency documents. Each envelope will include instructions on which documents must be included, which reflects the information under "Residency Eligibility Requirements" (pages 14-15 in the Rules and Regulations). One envelope will be carried by each team manager, along with his/her Tournament Eligibility Affidavit, and copies of birth records.

Each envelope must include documents from **THREE OR MORE** of the following categories to determine residency of the parent(s) or guardian for each player named on the Tournament Eligibility Affidavit:

1. Driver's License.
2. Voter's Registration.
3. School Records.
4. Welfare Records.
5. Federal, state and local records.
6. Support payment records.
7. Homeowner or tenant records.
8. Utility bills.



Example: If the parent or legal guardian supplies two utility bills and two copies of school records, it DOES NOT satisfy the requirement. In this case, the parent or legal guardian has only supplied documents from TWO categories.

This applies to all players, including those covered by written waivers from the Charter Committee in Williamsport, which are the only acceptable waivers. Copies of such waivers, if any, must be included with the residence documentation carried by the team.

A team will not be permitted to advance beyond district play without the proper documentation.

If the team is unable to produce the proper documentation before beginning play at the next level, the team or individual players may have further tournament privileges revoked or suspended by action of the Tournament Committee in Williamsport. Any exceptions to this can only be approved by action of the Tournament Committee.

Optional for District Administrators:

Each district may decide for itself to have some or all teams carry the residency documentation before the end of the district tournament. For instance, the District Administrator may require all teams to have the documentation before the tournament starts, or he/she may require only the final two, three, four, etc., teams left in the tournament to have the documentation.

NOTE: Copies of records used to establish date of birth for all players on the Tournament Eligibility Affidavit must be carried by all tournament teams at all times, including district play.



Safety Plans: **Top 47%**

Safety Plans are still coming in for a record participation

New records are popping up across the country, as leagues have adopted safety programs in almost half the leagues in the nation. And you still have time to send in your safety plan if you act now.

As of the end of May, over 2950 leagues have submitted safety plans outlining how they are “making it safer for the kids.” That includes 627 leagues which submitted safety plans for the first time, for 21 percent of all plans submitted. That’s great!

But if all leagues who submitted safety plans had resubmitted them this year, we’d be well over 50 percent. You can check to make sure your safety plan was received and accepted by going online to:

<http://www.littleleague.org/plans.asp> to check. If it wasn’t received, get a copy in the mail quickly.

Also, remember to make copies and hand them over to the new board (if it changes) this fall, so your league will be part of the growing majority of leagues who are committed to providing a playing environment for their kids that is *ASAP*: “as safe as possible!”

In all, while the national average increased about 5 percent so far, 14 states recorded double-digit increases, with the largest being a 19 percent increase by Montana, while both Kentucky and West Virginia increased their totals by 17 percent.

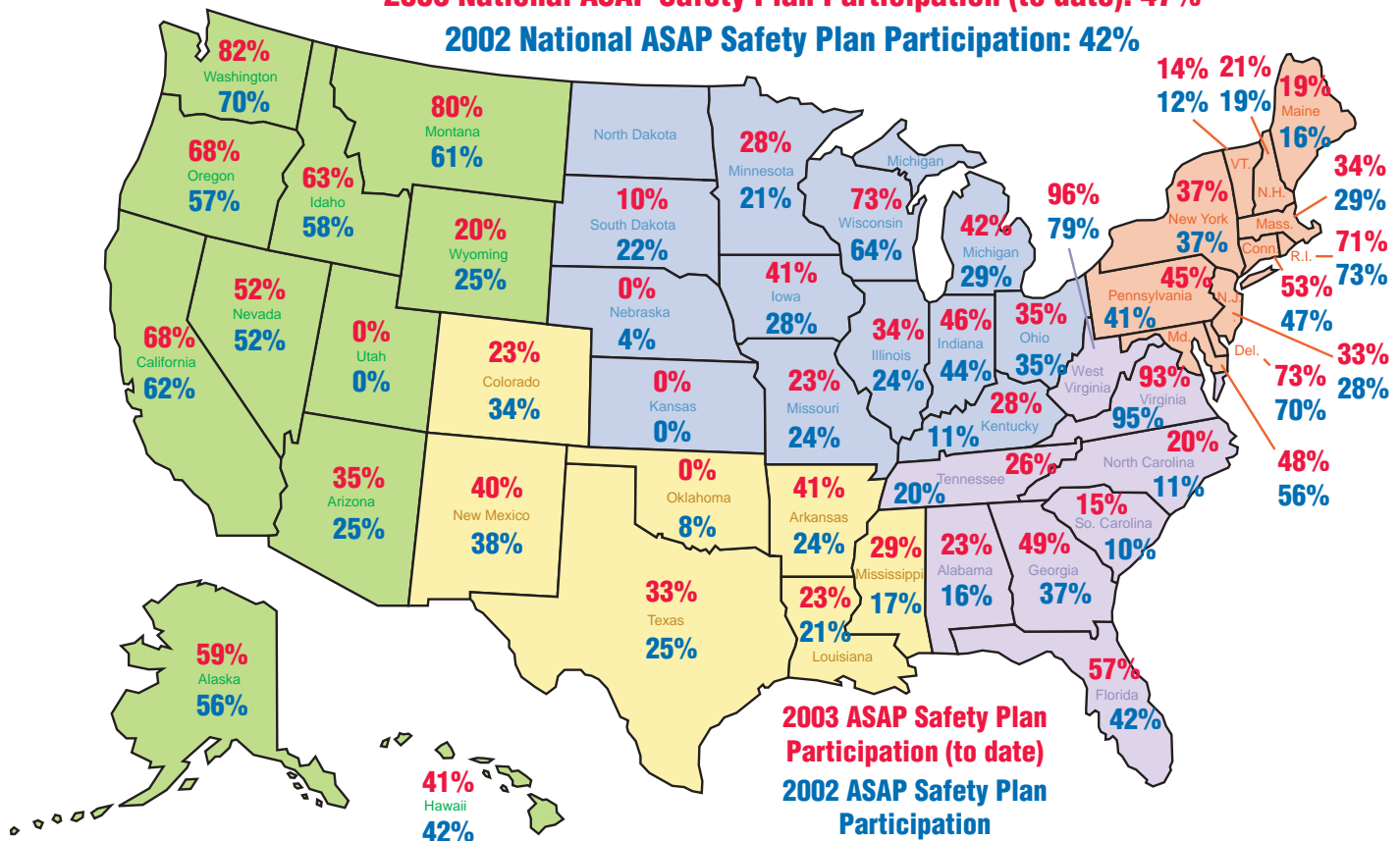
West Virginia now leads all states

with 96 percent, following by Virginia at 93 percent, and Washington and Montana at 82 and 80 percent, respectively. Fourteen states now top 50 percent safety participation, while only ten states are now at or below 20 percent of leagues with safety programs.

Don’t forget, if you had a safety program last year, and forgot to send it in this year, it must be submitted every year for your league to receive the percent player accident insurance credit if you carry CNA/Little League Insurance. This is your last chance to earn the credit with your qualified safety plan. Credits will be issued in July, so you need to send your safety plan in NOW to qualify.

2003 National ASAP Safety Plan Participation (to date): 47%

2002 National ASAP Safety Plan Participation: 42%



Heat & Humidity: DANGER

High heat with humidity form dangerous combination for players, even at practice

Most coaches understand they need to take breaks between innings of games when the temperatures soar, giving their players a chance to rehydrate and dissipate their extra body heat. But be careful with practices, too.

High school to professional athletes have died of heat illness in the last several years during practices in hot, humid weather. Cory Stringer of the Minnesota Vikings NFL team is the most famous case,

but the combination of high heat and humidity can create an atmosphere where the athletes' bodies cannot properly dissipate the heat they generate in even normal activities.

Take breaks every 20 minutes for water and rest in the shade or with cool, wet clothes to drape over necks and promote evaporation to help the skin cool the body's interior.

Take a cooler with ice and water for players to use throughout practice and games. In severely hot areas like southern California, Arizona and New Mexico, some leagues have set up misters in the dugouts to spray a light water mist over the players to help cool them each inning.

Children's heat regulating processes are not fully developed, and their skin surface is proportionately greater than that of an adult's. So don't expose players to prolonged workouts or games in high heat, or moderate heat with high humidity; it's a risk you shouldn't take.

Because their body surface to weight ratio is high, a child's skin actually works against them, taking in more heat than they can absorb internally; so where an adult's temperature might slowly climb as they become overheated, on a hot, humid day a child's will skyrocket, leaving little time to react.

To protect players from heat illnesses — heat stress, heat exhaustion and heat stroke — make sure all your players are properly hydrated before games and practices.

What, When to Drink

- Drink 10 to 16 ounces of cold fluid about 15 to 30 minutes before workouts.
- Drink 4 to 8 ounces of cold fluid during exercise at 10 to 15 minute intervals.
- Drink a beverage that contains a small amount of sodium and electrolytes like potassium and chloride.
- Start drinking early in your workout

Relative Humidity (%)

°F	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
110	136												
108	130	137											
106	124	130	137										
104	119	124	131	137									
102	114	119	124	130	137								
100	109	114	118	124	129	136							
98	105	109	113	117	123	128	134						
96	101	104	108	112	116	121	126	132					
94	97	100	102	106	110	114	119	124	129	136			
92	94	96	99	101	105	108	112	116	121	125	131		
90	91	93	95	97	100	103	106	109	113	117	122	127	132
88	88	89	91	93	95	98	100	103	106	110	113	117	121
86	85	87	88	89	91	93	95	97	100	102	105	108	112
84	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	92	94	96	98	100	103
82	81	82	83	84	84	85	86	88	89	90	91	93	95
80	80	80	81	81	82	82	83	84	84	85	86	86	87

**Heat Index
(Apparent Temperature)**

With Prolonged Exposure and/or Physical Activity

Extreme Danger

Heat Stroke or Sunstroke highly likely

Danger

Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion likely

Extreme Caution

Sunstroke, muscle cramps, and/or heat exhaustion possible

Caution

Fatigue Possible

Make sure your coaches know to schedule drink breaks every 15 to 30 minutes during practices on hot days, and to encourage players to drink between every inning.

When to Play

With All-Star games nearly upon us, make sure coaches aren't over-scheduling practices. Practices should occur in the morning before noon or in the evening, as temps start to drop.

On hot days, many leagues have a mandatory break every three innings for all participants — especially needed for umpires, catchers and pitchers — to cool off and rehydrate. On especially hot days, take a break more often.

because you will not feel thirsty until you have already lost two percent of your body weight; by that time you will already be significantly dehydrated.

- Avoid carbonated drinks, which can cause gastrointestinal distress and may decrease the fluid volume.
- Avoid beverages with caffeine due to its diuretic effect.
- Research has found that sports drinks containing between 6% and 8% carbohydrate (sugars) are absorbed into the body as rapidly as water and can provide energy to working muscles that water cannot.

Detect & Prevent Heat Injuries

Know how to recognize and treat heat injuries to keep your players safe

Heat Stress:

What is heat stress? Basically take a hot job, add a hot day, and high humidity and it can add up to heat stress!

This condition occurs when the body is unable to regulate its temperature. This is the body's way of saying, "I can't take the heat anymore." There are three kinds of heat-related problems you may experience: heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and heat cramps. They can occur separately or in combination.

Heat Stroke:

Heat stroke is a medical emergency! Heatstroke occurs when the body's heat regulating system breaks down under stress and sweating stops. Unless the victim receives quick treatment, death can occur.

Symptoms:

- No sweating (or victim may be sweating profusely)
- High body temperature (105° or more)
- Hot, dry, flushed skin
- Confused, delirious behavior
- Loss of consciousness or coma

First Aid:

- Immediately call for medical help, and then start first aid
- Move the victim to a cool place
- Cool the victim quickly by giving a cool bath (sponging with cool water) and by fanning
- Treat for shock
- Offer a conscious person half a glass of water every 15 minutes

Heat Exhaustion:

This is a more serious disorder that develops when the body loses more fluid through sweating than it is taking in.

Symptoms:

- Sweating profusely
- Weakness
- Clammy skin
- Dizziness
- Pale or flushed face
- Nausea
- Near normal body temperature

First Aid:

- Move the person to shade or a cool place.
- Have patient lie on their back with feet elevated.
- If conscious, give half a glass of water every 15 minutes.
- Get medical help.

Mild Disorders

(Warning Signs):

Heat Cramps:

Tend to attack the muscles that do the hardest work, especially when it is hot. A good rule is to drink half a glass of water every 15 minutes for an hour if you experience heat cramps.

Fainting: Lets you know your body is having difficulty coping with the heat. As you know when you faint, you fall and when you are on the field and fall you can get hurt or hurt others.

Prickly Heat: A rash caused when sweat can't evaporate. Sweat ducts become clogged and sweat glands become inflamed.

Hot Weather Tips

Safety Concerns:

There are other problems with heat that you may not realize until it is too late. Heat stress can alter your coordination, lessen your concentration, reduce strength and alertness, and make you irritable.

Ways to Avoid Heat Stress:

Acclimatize: This means allow your body to adjust to the heat naturally. The best way to do this is to gradually increase the time you spend in the heat until you reach the total amount of time desired.

Drink Water! One of the most important things to do is drink plenty of water during hot weather. The body can lose as much as three gallons of fluid a day while working in hot, humid weather. Drink some cool water every 15-20 minutes.

Use Salt: Add salt to your food but don't over-do it, such as taking salt tablets. If you have high blood pressure, heart problems or circulatory ailments, consult your doctor.

Eat Lightly: Light, nutritious meals, preferably cold are better for you due to the fact that they are easier to digest. Fatty foods are hard to digest, and hot weather makes them that much harder to digest.

"With the heat approaching in some areas and already there in other areas, here is something to be alert for. Not only should you keep an eye on the players, during a game, but also the umpires. Hopefully we will not have any problems as long as we follow the advice below."

Lee Joyce
District Safety Officer
Virginia District 7

Lee Joyce is the Virginia District 7 safety officer. This article is one of the e-mail newsletters Joyce prepared as District Safety Officer.

To join the e-mail list, email Lee at: vastatell_safety@dpll.org and ask to be included on future email.

Dealing with a LOUD Parent

“We have an issue that we are not sure on the proper way of handling. Below is a copy of an email that everyone on our Board received from our League President. Suggestions wanted:

“Tonight was another one of those fun nights that I am beginning to expect daily. There is a parent in the Minor League Softball program that insists on making rude and unnecessary comments to the manager and coach. She has a tendency to be very vocal (LOUD). This parent seems to think that she can yell from the sidelines and tell the players what to do. This has become a distraction to both the players and the coaching staff.

“Tonight I asked this parent to let the coaches coach. She asked if she could not yell at her own child. Again I asked her to let the coaches do their job. The coach informed her that her voice was louder than the coaches and that the players could not hear the coaches’ instructions.

“This parent then went off on me... If this person continues to act in this manner, I need to know what the board thinks that I should do to resolve this.”

“Thanks,”

Ken Maltese
Safety Officer
Thompsonville, Conn., Little League

“I’ve dealt with ‘those parents’ before. I use a standard lecture then I walk away. DON’T ENGAGE PEOPLE LIKE THIS — use the power you have and let

the OTHER PARENTS bring her into line.

“This program is for the benefit of all the children, including yours. When you interfere with it, you are interfering with the coach’s ability to instruct the players. This is a safety issue. If you are going to insist on jeopardizing the safety of the kids, we’ll ask you to leave. If you don’t, the game will stop so as not to risk any players.”

“Then WALK AWAY and don’t look back. Go to the umpire and remind them that they have the authority to eject a disruptive spectator. REMEMBER, an umpire cannot declare a forfeit - so tell him NOT to do that. Simply tell him that when he ejects a

parent, the game does not continue until the parent leaves. If the parent does not leave, do not allow another pitch until he/she does. If nothing has changed after ten minutes, suspend the game.

“I have NEVER had it take 10 minutes. Within a minute, the other parents are all over the loudmouth telling them to leave so their kids don’t suffer.

“Best of luck!”

Jon Toner

“Hopefully your league has provided the parents with a ‘Spectators Code of Conduct.’ It will make your job a great deal easier. Regardless, any league should not have to tolerate parents like the one you are dealing with. The clear message you need to send out immediately is that your league will not tolerate such behavior. Especially since it goes against what you are trying to teach the kids (sportsmanship, etc.).

“I would very calmly (no matter how

much she attacks you) tell her that her behavior will not be tolerated and if she doesn’t change it, then you will have no choice but to ask her to leave the field (that day, and maybe future games). If you stop the game until she leaves, believe me, the other parents will put pressure on her to leave also. Who knows, they would probably clap as she leaves, and thank you for handling the situation.

“By the way, the board has more power to stop a game than an umpire. In fact, our umpires prefer not to eject a spectator. They prefer that the board do that. Of course, they will stop a game and not resume it until the unwanted spectator leaves. But, usually, at our league, there is a board member present. The board has a great deal of power. Use it.”

Linda Orozco
Tri-Cities Little League
Rocklin, Calif.

“I think it would be much better for all concerned if the umpire was not involved. I think that two or three board members should attend the next game for that team. If the poor behavior is observed, then the board members need to take her aside and speak with her. If she escalates or if it is decided that she needs to leave, and doesn’t, then a board member should ask the umpire to stop the game, send both teams to their dugouts (they’ll be subject to less there) and then wait until she leaves. I agree that the other parents will likely take care of it and also would be appreciative of having the behavior addressed.

“At some point a decision needs to be made about future games and participation. One effective strategy we have used is after a short time has elapsed and she has cooled off, invite her to join the board for the next season. We have been successful with this in the past...and they rarely take you up on it.”

Valerie Linke
DSO Nevada I
LSO Carson Valley LITTLE LEAGUE



**WHEN IT'S HOT,
DRINK BEFORE
YOU'RE THIRSTY.**

Drinking Guidelines For Hot Day Activities

Before: Drink 8 oz. immediately before exercise

During: Drink at least 4 oz. every 20 minutes

After: Drink 16 oz. for every pound of weight lost

Dehydration signs: Fatigue, flushed skin, light-headed

What to do: Stop exercising, get out of sun, drink

Severe signs: Muscle spasms, clumsiness, delirium

Volunteers Identify Child Molester

Why is it important to check the background of potential volunteers? It may make all the difference for your league's children. While child molesters take different paths to approach children, all leagues need to be vigilant.

A story has just come out of Florida about a registered sex offender who was apprehended with the help of a local Little League volunteer who was suspicious of the man's behavior at the sports complex where they hold their games. The man, William Lee Salisbury, 32, has been charged with the abduction and attack of two local 6-year-old boys over the last six months. DNA samples taken from the two abductions have been positively identified as Salisbury's, according to police officials.

Salisbury was released from prison last year and was on five years probation for assaulting a 10-year-old boy. Salisbury was on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement web site as a registered sex offender. Salisbury is currently being held without bail in the Collier County Jail.

According to reports published in the *Naples, Fla., Daily News*, George Tracy, who coaches Little League Baseball at the park five or six nights each week, said he was near the batting cages when he looked to see what his son was watching.

"I looked over there and I saw (Salisbury) standing there by this big

gray wall there," Tracy said in the *Daily News*. The man, later identified as Salisbury, walked away when Tracy looked at him. He didn't say anything to Tracy's 12-year-old son, but appeared to be watching the kids on the field around 8 p.m.

"I think I must have spooked him," he said. Tracy said he followed about 20 feet behind him as he walked to where Salisbury was parked in the back of the park near other Little League fields.

"He tried to mingle in with the crowd," he said.

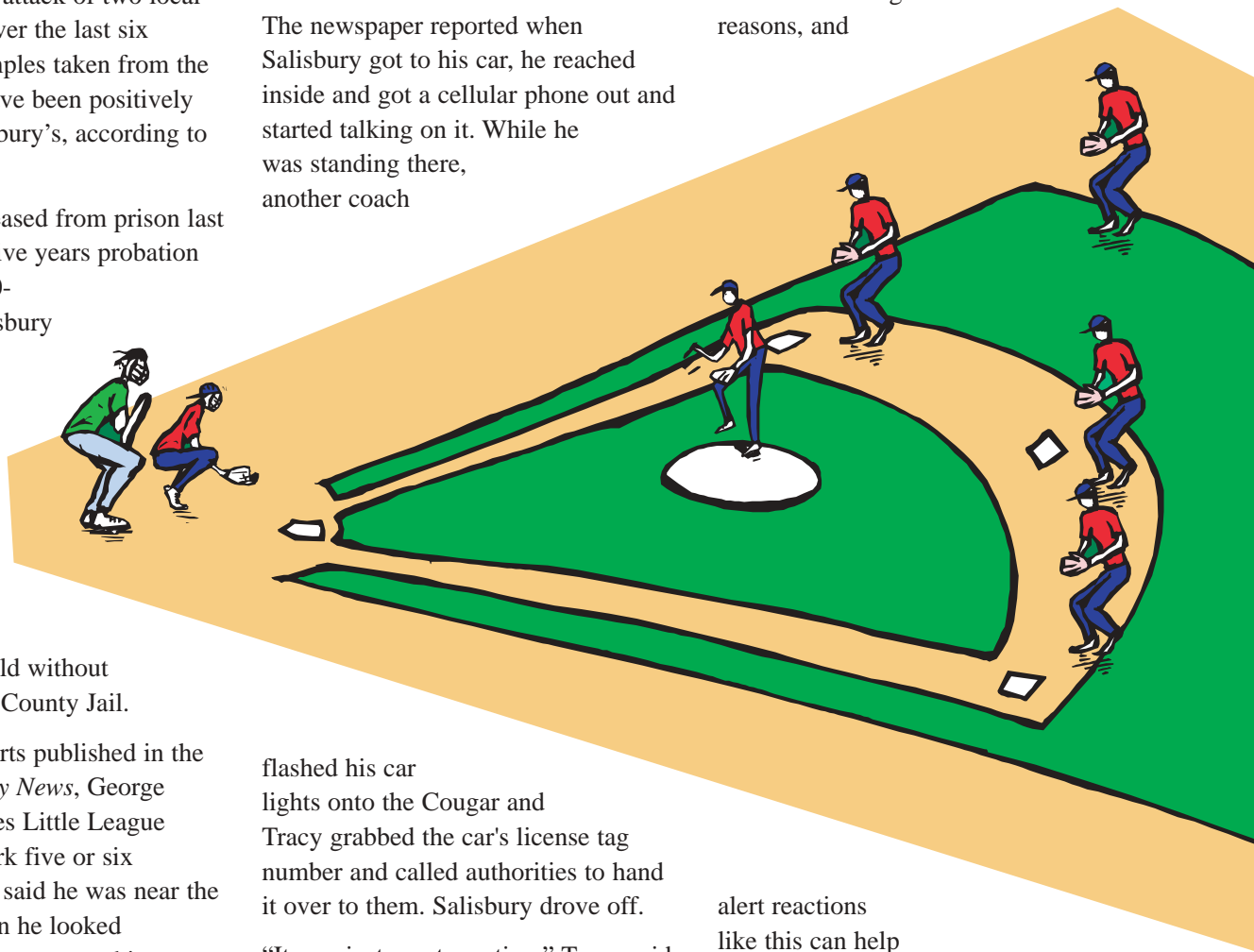
The newspaper reported when Salisbury got to his car, he reached inside and got a cellular phone out and started talking on it. While he was standing there, another coach

Tracy told the newspaper that authorities told him his tip had helped lead them to Salisbury. Salisbury was arrested in early June when the DNA samples from the two abductions were found to be his, according to officials.

Tracy said he was just trying to help out.

"There's 200 or more kids there," he told the *Naples Daily News*. "So it's in the back of your mind. You're alert to it."

Remind your volunteers that everyone who attends Little League games may not be there for good reasons, and



flashed his car lights onto the Cougar and Tracy grabbed the car's license tag number and called authorities to hand it over to them. Salisbury drove off.

"It was just a gut reaction," Tracy said. "I was thinking, 'Why is he standing back there?'"

alert reactions like this can help eliminate a potential threat to your league's children.

Background Checks Ideas

To Eastern Region Headquarters:

"I'm the President of the Kennebunk-Kennebunkport Little League in Maine — I've met you a few times informally at the Eastern Region Clinic in Bristol over the past few years. I wanted to pass along a 'best practice' we've come up with in our league for the background check process. We have about 600 kids in the league and somewhere around 150 volunteers/coaches/managers. My biggest issue in implementing the Background Check policy was figuring out how I was going to know, on a day to day basis, who had been screened and passed. I obviously can't get to know all 150 volunteers personally or by sight!

"I came up with a button that I designed, with our league logo, that is personalized with each

volunteer's name and the current year.

"Anyone on field (practice or game) with the players at any level, at any time, must have their customized button either on their hat (where most coaches/managers keep them) or on their chest on the left front. They have to be in full view if they are on the field, or else they can't be on the field. I found an internet vendor (Buttonstar) that helped me with the button — it's really been great. Opening day was Saturday and I drove around throughout the day to different fields - everyone had their buttons on and I was assured that our league had done its job on the Background Check policy. Next year we'll do the same thing — we'll just change the button's background color and put 2004 on it so that it stands out from this year's button.

"I actually had the button company make up a sample button and send it to your attention - you'll probably get it tomorrow. I just wanted to pass this along — I don't know what other leagues are doing; we've started to get inquiries about our buttons from other area leagues that we interleague with, asking how we came up with it and where we got it. I'm sure there are other vendors out there - Buttonstar has worked great for us - they're extremely responsive and very reasonably priced (\$1.50/button). We actually increased our sponsors fees this year to cover the cost of the background

checks and implementation, so we're all set from a budget perspective.

"Let me know if you have any questions — as I said, this is working out really well for us and I thought I should pass it along."

Brad Paige, President
Kennebunk-Kennebunkport Little League

"Brad:

"Great idea. Absolutely wonderful, thought-out concept. I did receive the button today by the company. I am going to forward it along with the letter from the company and your email to Lance VanAuken at LLB International Headquarters. He is our Director of Media Relations and has had/contributed an integral part to the

Next Phase of the Child Protection Program. Once again, thank you and great job! Keep me posted."

Corey M. Wright
Assistant East Region Director
Little League Baseball Incorporated

Editor's Note: Thanks to Corey and Lance for passing on this great tip, but especially Brad for sending it in. Little League has also heard from leagues who use photo ID cards like Little League uses at the World Series for the same purpose of quick identification at the games and more importantly at practices. The badges carry the person's name, team affiliation and photo. It allows leagues, just like the buttons above, to identify the volunteers who have been approved to work with and around the players, and to allow parents and other league officials to easily identify anyone who hasn't been approved.



Tournament Tips

Traveling Tips:

For safe play wherever you go, make sure your All Star teams, whether A or B, are ready. Make sure:

- Travel guidelines are clear: Where are the teams going, with whom and under what supervision? Is a responsible adult driving players? Are there enough seat belts for all passengers?
- More than one adult is supervising players at all times, for both the players' and adults' safety and well being.
- Your team has adequate water and/or sports drinks available before and during the game.
- You carry at least a basic first aid kit with your team. Don't count on others to provide essential needs.
- You inspect the fields prior to playing. Don't rely on someone else to handle this basic requirement.
- You inspect all equipment prior to play; so it is in proper working order and has no cracks, holes or other defect which could endanger players or by-standers.
- You follow the rules for safe play: Know and respect the rules for pitching

eligibility and proper rest between outings. Also, never allow adults to warm up pitchers before or during a game, and make sure catchers have on a helmet and facemask during infield warm-ups.

Hosting Tips:

Hosting a tournament is important, from many standpoints. Make sure:

- All lighting meets Little League's standards for play. See the Little League Standards and Lighting Audit if you have questions.
- Trained medical care is available, up to having an ambulance waiting for worst-case scenarios.
- First aid kits are stocked and available to everyone, from concessions workers to spectators.
- Clear, precise directions are available to area medical facilities, in case of an emergency. This could be used for either the family of a player to follow an emergency vehicle, or the family to take a non-critically injured player directly themselves.
- Fields are inspected prior to playing.

Remove any foreign objects or hazards and fix any problems before play begins. Make sure the fields stay in proper game condition during the game – i.e., fix any holes as they develop.

- All equipment is inspected prior to play; that it is in proper working order and has no cracks, holes or other defects which could endanger players or by-standers.
- All rules are enforced, including proper equipment on catchers and no adults warming up pitchers.
- You supply proper security. This could be just making sure access to fields is restricted, to keep unhappy fans from creating incidents to a plan for monitoring all spectators by either local league volunteers or professional law enforcement. Provide a safe environment for your games.
- You set clear guidelines on when play is stopped for bad weather, including heat, lightning and darkness procedures. Don't allow coaches' enthusiasm for playing the game over-ride common sense in pausing or halting a game to wait out dangerous conditions.



You've Got Questions

We've Got Answers

"I've been affiliated with Little League for many many years going back as a youth player (1959) and at the current time as a coach. All three of my sons are or were very actively playing in the Little League. I have a son (will be 9 on September 14th) who has been involved with our current Little League team for the past two years as our team batboy. He's also participating in Little League in our Minor League program and will begin play as soon as school is out for the summer.

"We were just informed by our Safety Director, who knows my son was our batboy last year and one of our All Star team's batboy, that he can no longer be a part of our team as batboy. Our division has no specific rule stating we cannot use batboys/girls. In fact over the last 10 years that I've been involved with this division and knowing managers and coaches of our other city divisions, the use of batboys/girls has 'never' been an issue until now. My son wears a team uniform, abides by all the player rules, wears a helmet at 'all times' when on the field to retrieve bats, and when not on the field is inside the dugout with the coaches and managers. He is very mature for an 8-year-old, in fact he can out-throw and -catch several of our 10- and 11-year-old players.

"My question is this: what exactly is the Little League view/rule on the use of bat boys/girls? We, the parents, coaches, and managers view this as an opportunity to involve the younger children, prepare them for Little League, acquire some early awareness/coaching and help draw more kids to baseball rather than soccer. I thank you in advance for your reply."

Mike Waters, Coach
Outback Steakhouse LITTLE LEAGUE Team
Talulah Division
Appleton, Wisconsin

I can understand your resistance to changing the way you have done things in the past, but you need to understand the rules are what they are for the safety and protection of ALL children, the players and the "batboys/girls." Little League has seen injuries and the potential for injuries to children who are not old enough to be formally involved in the division from all directions: going out too soon to retrieve a bat and getting hit by a thrown bat or ball, coming into contact with players warming up in the on-deck circle in the older divisions, not paying attention/not being paid attention to by those around them and being hurt because they're knocked down, stepped on, hit with equipment, etc. We're not saying that in a perfect world any of these things aren't avoidable, but if you allow it as a generally accepted standard, the injuries will occur and for no good reason. You have people in your dugout who can do this function, and Little League doesn't allow anyone but the team players and one manager and two coaches in the dugout. Regulation III (b) specifically states that: "No more than the number of players established by the league under Regulation II (a) may be in uniform during any game. Batboys and/or batgirls are not permitted." (Page 26 of the 2003 LLB Official Regulations and Playing Rules.) These younger children have divisions they can play in before they get to the Little League (Majors) division, and should be learning the appropriate skills while playing in their division, rather than sitting the bench watching in an older division. If they are interested in the games, they will get a similar view from the stands with the other spectators, while being at a safe distance from the players and protected by fences.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

"Our league has suffered three accidents this year involving broken and or dislocated bones. Two broken ankles seem to be recovering nicely and are expected to return to action soon. The 3rd fracture involved a hip and was associated with a dislocation. The player was admitted to the hospital and taken to the operating room overnight. I have completed the accident tracking forms for each injury and would like to know where to send them. The last injury I am also completing a CNA claim form and will be sending that in soon once all the information has been completed."

Submitted Via Email

You should always submit all injuries such as broken bones to Little League headquarters, by way of the CNA Accident Notification form. This should be filled out for every injury which MIGHT result in a claim, so you have documented the injury to the best of your ability so there is no confusion later about how, when, or why an accident occurred. This protects your league and the parents and player's interests. The ASAP Injury Tracking form is for your league to use to monitor how and where accidents happened, to allow you to plan ways to avoid these in the future (more sliding training, breakaway bases, etc.). The CNA Accident Notification form should be sent to the Little League International Headquarters in Williamsport:

Risk Management Department
c/o Little League Baseball
PO Box 3485
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

1 Rule Changes.
The tournament pitching rules have been changed for 2003.

4 Heat Danger.
High heat and humidity form dangerous combo.

6 LOUD Parents.
Parents who make rude and unnecessary comments.

10 Tournament Tips.
For safe play wherever you go.

“Although many of our managers have home computers, not everyone has access to the Internet. In order to ensure that each Manager had access to copies of the reporting and claim forms, I created a ‘Safety Plan’ CD—which was then distributed to each of our 41 managers. In addition to our local safety plan, the CD included LLB and ASAP forms, along with copies of the educational materials found on the two web sites Total cost: \$8.20 (41CD-R’s @ \$0.20 each).”

Steve Heffelfinger
Safety Officer
Derry (NH) LITTLE LEAGUE
229-01-05/24

“Stop West Nile Virus from spreading. The season for mosquito bites is upon us. If you live in an area where mosquitoes are a problem a quick check can prevent the culex mosquito from having a breeding grounds on or near your athletic fields. Since they breed in quiet standing water make sure you are diligent when it comes to any receptacles or areas that allow this situation. Furthermore in view of the very wet spring season thus far in certain regions this precaution is basic. Players may get the West Nile virus and a mild case may not be recognized. We will continue to immediately remedy any standing water that accumulates at the Great Kills Little League.”

Susan Adone
Great Kills Little League
District 24
Staten Island, NY

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