

Add to Your Safety Plan **ANNUALLY**

Make sure new safety practices are included in your plan, for future boards' use

A safety plan should be constantly improving, but don't leave out those improvements you make from your written plan. Specific approaches are often developed to fix an issue, but with board turnover and changing responsibilities, those remedies can be forgotten if not documented in your safety plan when implemented.

Just ask Debbie Murray, the new safety officer at Lewis Little League in Weston, West Virginia.

Their league has had a safety plan for several years, even receiving honorable mention in the South Region in 2008, but updates were sometimes included in the written plan and sometimes not. "I am a stickler when it comes to documentation! Record keeping is a must for any organization and especially Little League. Board members change and . . . you wind up starting from scratch," Debbie explained in an email to ASAP.

"I am currently working on the safety manual and adding materials and information to last year's safety plan," the new safety officer explained. "I am also making sure that many of the safety features that have been instituted in the past eight years are included in this year's safety manual. I do not understand

how these were left out, but I am sure that everything will be included this year."

A safety plan not only helps make sure your league is safer this year, but it helps

document what **SHOULD** be done next year, to keep your league implementing its safety program and not dropping out any crucial components. The situation is actually the reverse for Lewis Little League, but Debbie is working to fix that. "It is a shame that this 2009 manual will actually have many changes listed that have never been included in our safety plan formally," she noted. "While we practiced these safety [procedures], they just were never added to the manual."

**Remember:
creating and
following a
safety plan is for
the KIDS.
Don't drop the ball!**



FOLLOW YOUR PLAN or Don't Claim To

As safety plans grow in popularity, don't make the mistake of putting together a plan that your league isn't going to follow

With four out of every five leagues now submitting a safety plan, Little League International Risk Management Director Dan Kirby wants to make sure leagues are following their written plans.

"I don't want *anyone* to put out a plan they are not doing," Kirby stressed to a group of District Administrator recently at a regional training session. "The main point of safety plans is to make it safer for everyone." With over 4,800 leagues participating in the ASAP program, the temptation can be strong for a league to put material into a safety program they are not actually doing, to allow the plan to be approved or to make it stand out during judging.

Kirby noted leagues "have already been sued for not having a safety program" even though it is a voluntary program. A league that states they provide or maintain safety measures they really do not is asking to be sued if an injury occurs due to the false information. He urged leagues to work at improving the safety measures they do offer their players, volunteers, and spectators, and include that material in their safety plan. But don't risk falsifying the plan with material that is not being carried out.