

Chapter 4 – Parent Safety

Little League Parent Code of Conduct

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship*. I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the Coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of our Little League.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy and by demonstrating positive support for all players, Coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, Coach, player or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. I will demand that my child treat other players, Coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
9. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
10. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard and make my child feel like a winner every time.
11. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
12. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
13. I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.

14. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss or confront Coaches at the game field and will take time to speak with Coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
15. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
16. I will refrain from Coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official Coaches of the team.

Medical Release Form

The Official Little League *Medical Release* form is required to be completed and signed by all parents at registration.

The Little League *Medical Release* must be carried at all times by the Manager of the team. This form should list all conditions the player currently has along with any medications the player is taking. If the player is hurt and needs medical attention, this form will greatly help medical personnel in giving the proper care to the injured player.

Safety Common Sense

Playing safe boils down to using *common sense*. For instance, if you witnessed a strange person walking around the complex who looked like he/she didn't belong there, you would report the incident to a Board Member. There will always be a Board Member(s) on site during the season.

The Board Member, after hearing your concerns, would investigate the matter and have the person in question removed before anything could happen if, indeed, that person did not belong there.

Another example of *common sense*: you witness kids throwing rocks or batting rocks on the complex. They are having fun but are unknowingly endangering others. Don't just walk on by figuring that someone else will deal with the situation. Stop and explain to the kids what they are doing wrong and ask them to stop.

Webster's Dictionary definition of **common sense** is: *Native good judgment; sound ordinary sense*. In other words, to use common sense is to realize the obvious.

We encourage all volunteers and parents: *if you witness something that is not safe, do something about it!*

General League Safety

Access

Controlling access to areas where children are present—such as the dugout or restrooms—protects them from harm by outsiders. It's not easy to control the access of large outdoor facilities, but visitors should be directed to a central point within the facility or to the concession stand.

Individuals should not be allowed to wander through the area without the knowledge of the Managers, Coaches, Board Directors or any other Volunteer.

Lighting

Child sexual abuse is more likely to happen in the dark. The lighting of fields, parking lots and any and all indoor facilities where Little League functions are held should be bright enough so that participants can identify individuals as they approach, and observers can recognize abnormal situations.

Buddy System

It is an old maxim, but it is true: *There is safety in numbers*. Encourage your children to move about in a *group* of two or more children of similar age, whether an adult is present or not. This includes travel, leaving the field, or using the restroom areas.

It is far more difficult to victimize a child if they are not alone.

Toilet Facilities

Generally speaking, Little Leaguers are capable of using toilet facilities on their own, so there should be no need for an adult to accompany a child into rest room areas. There can sometimes be special circumstances under which a child requires assistance to use toilet facilities (e.g., the Tee Ball and Challenge divisions), but there should still be adequate privacy for that child.

It is also best for all children to use the buddy system when going to the restrooms, if the child is old enough to go to the restroom by themselves.

Parents need to ensure that when their children use the restroom, they wash their hands thoroughly. Let someone in the Concession Stand know if there is not enough toilet paper, soap or towels in the restrooms.

Player Safety

- Make sure that players are healthy, rested and alert.
- Make sure that players returning from being injured have a medical release form signed by their doctor. Otherwise, they can't play.
- Make sure players are wearing the proper uniform and catchers are wearing a cup.

What Parents Should Know About Little League Insurance

The Little League Insurance Program is designed to afford protection to all participants at the most economical cost to the local league. The Little League Player Accident Policy is an excess coverage, accident only plan, to be used as a supplement to other insurance carried under a family policy or insurance provided by parent's employer. If there is no primary coverage, Little League insurance will provide benefits for eligible charges, up to Usual and Customary allowances for your area, after a \$50.00 deductible per claim, up to the maximum stated benefits.

This plan makes it possible to offer exceptional, affordable protection with assurance to parents that adequate coverage is in force for all chartered and insured Little League approved programs and events.

If your child sustains a covered injury while taking part in a scheduled Little League Baseball or Softball game or practice, here is how the insurance works:

1. The Little League Baseball accident notification form must be completed by parents (if the claimant is under 19 years of age) and a league official and forwarded directly to Little League Headquarters within 20 days after the accident. A photocopy of the form should be made and kept by the parent/claimant. Initial medical/dental treatment must be rendered within 30 days of the Little League accident.
2. Itemized bills, including description of service, date of service, procedure and diagnosis codes for medical services/ supplies and/or other documentation related to a claim for benefits are to be provided within 90 days after the accident. In no event shall such proof be furnished later than 12 months from the date the initial medical expense was incurred.
3. When other insurance is present, parents or claimant must forward copies of the Explanation of Benefits or Notice/ Letter of Denial for each charge directly to Little League Headquarters, even if the charges do not exceed the deductible of the primary insurance program.
4. Policy provides benefits for eligible medical expenses incurred within 52 weeks of the accident, subject to Excess Coverage and Exclusion provisions of the plan.
5. Limited deferred medical/dental benefits may be available for necessary treatment after the 52-week time limit when:
 - Deferred medical benefits apply when necessary treatment requiring the removal of a pin /plate, applied to transfix a bone in the year of injury, or scar tissue removal, after the 52-week time limit is required. The Company will pay the Reasonable Expense incurred, subject to the Policy's maximum limit of \$100,000 for any one injury to any one Insured. However, in no event will any benefit be paid under this provision for any expenses incurred more than 24 months from the date the injury was sustained.

- If the Insured incurs Injury, to sound, natural teeth and Necessary Treatment requires treatment for that Injury be postponed to a date more than 52 weeks after the injury due to, but not limited to, the physiological changes of a growing child, the Company will pay the lesser of:
 - a. A maximum of \$1,500; or
 - b. Reasonable Expenses incurred for the deferred dental treatment.
Reasonable Expenses incurred for deferred dental treatment are only covered if they are incurred on or before the Insured's 23rd birthday. Reasonable Expenses incurred for deferred root canal therapy are only covered if they are incurred within 104 weeks after the date the Injury occurs. No payment will be made for deferred treatment unless the Physician submits written certification, within 52 weeks after the accident, that the treatment must be postponed for the above stated reasons. Benefits are payable subject to the Excess Coverage and the Exclusions provisions of the Policy.

Your League Safety Officer has copies of the *Claim Forms* and *Instructions* needed to file an injury claim with Little League Baseball. Please refer all questions to your League Safety Officer, **Terry Childers** at: **(813) 368-7799**

If your child/player has been injured, make sure the Manager fills out the *ASAP Incident/Injury Tracking Report* form and forwards it to the League Safety Officer, no matter how small the injury was.

Submit Your Ideas for Safety

Your safety ideas are welcome at **East Point Seffner Little League**. Please submit them via email to: **contact.eastpoint@gmail.com**, or give to the Safety Officer or one of the Board Members. If your safety idea warrants further investigation, you will be contacted. Don't forget that players are also welcome to submit safety suggestions.