

Protective equipment cannot prevent all injuries a player might receive while participating in Baseball

Safe Sport Act – Child Protection Program

Background Checks

For many years, Little League® has led the way among youth sports organizations in assisting local leagues to keep child sex offenders out of the program.

Little League was the first national youth baseball/softball program to mandate a check of the applicable sex offender registry. Additionally, Little League provides each local Little League with 125 free checks of a national criminal database. More information on that program can be found here: <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/>

But background checks themselves can only identify those who have already been convicted of crimes. That is why Little League also provides advice – based on information from the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) – on identifying a potential child sex offender.

Reporting Abuse

The “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Act of 2017” mandates that all amateur sports organizations, which participate in an interstate or international amateur athletic competition and whose membership includes any adult who is in regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor must report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to law enforcement.

U.S. Federal Law

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- An individual who is required, but fails, to report suspected child sexual abuse is subject to criminal penalties.
- If an individual suspects a case of abuse within their league, they should report it to the appropriate child services organization and/or local law enforcement as well as, their League President and District Administrator