

West Terre Haute Little League
League ID #01140417



2018 Season

WTHLL 2018

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WTHLL 2018 Safety Plan

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WHO To CALL:

FIRE: 911

POLICE:	911
AMBULANCE:	911
SHERIFF:	911
POISON CONTROL:	800-382-9097
STATE POLICE:	812-299-1151
BOARD PRESIDENT:	812-208-4385 / Steve Shaffer
SAFETY DIRECTOR:	812-264-1941/Brandon Stevens

OFFICERS / BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President	Steve Shaffer
Vice President	James Bell
Secretary	Angel Stevens
Treasurer	Kevin Vinardi
Player Agent	Marty Marrs
Umpire in Chief	open
Junior Director	Ricky Beck
Major Director	Matt Pape
Minor Director	Jason Elkins
Coach Pitch	open
T-Ball	open
Fundraising	Jason Elkins
Concessionaire	Kerri Wasson
Softball Player Agent	Kristen Tarwater

SAFETY IS A RESPONSIBILITY

In order to understand the reasons for a Safety Program, we should look at why Little League has been so successful.

Little League Policy:

One of the reasons for Little Leagues' wide acceptance and phenomenal growth is that it fills an important need in our free society. As our program expands, it takes, more and more, a major part in the development of young people. It instills confidence and an understanding of fair play and the rights of other people. Many of the younger children who develop slower than others are given an opportunity not only to develop their playing skill but also to learn what competition and sportsmanship are all about. All who take part in the program are encouraged to develop a high moral code along with their improvement in physical skills and coordination. These high aims of Little League are more for the benefit of the great majority of children rather than the few who would otherwise come to the top in any competitive athletic endeavor.

Safety Responsibility:

The very fact that it is a basic principle of Little League to provide an opportunity for most of the youngsters who sign up for a team to receive these benefits, multiplies the exposure to accidental injury. Having accepted this large group of partly developed fledglings, we must also accept the moral responsibility for their safety. This obligation rests with every adult member of the league organization as well as with inactive parents who have entrusted their children to us.

Other Reasons:

In addition to our basic moral responsibility, other significant reasons for an organized effort to prevent accidents are to:

1. Stimulate public confidence in this high caliber youth program.
2. Hold insurance costs to a minimum.
3. Reassure parents as to the safety of their children.
4. Develop safety-mindedness for their protection in later life.

The administration of an effective safety program is the responsibility of all who operate the Little League system on all levels. All members, coaches and managers will receive and review West Terre Haute Little League's safety manual.

Ten Commandments of Safety

- 1. Be Alert!**
- 2. Check playing field for safety hazards**
- 3. Wear proper equipment**
- 4. Ensure equipment is in good shape**
- 5. Ensure first aid is available**
- 6. Maintain control of the situation**
- 7. Have medical releases at all times**
- 8. Have a telephone available**
- 9. Be organized**
- 10. Have fun!**

Responsibility:

The League President has the primary responsibility for safe conditions. However, it is not possible to cover all details personally, so it is necessary to delegate most of this responsibility to others.

1. Safe maintenance of fixed ball field property, including structures, too the head groundskeeper.
2. Procurement and upkeep of practice and playing equipment, particularly personal protective equipment, to the equipment manager.
3. Each manager should see that the use of the field and playing equipment by players does not create hazards.
4. The umpire should take the initiative to insure unsafe conditions are corrected on the playing field and in foul territory during and before games.
5. The responsibility for maintaining safe conditions for the entire league falls on the shoulders of the president. Some important safety jobs can be delegated to whoever is most suited to handle them.

Safety Inspection:

Regular safety inspection of the field, permanent and temporary structures, ball playing equipment and personal protective equipment is the best way to determine which unsafe conditions require corrections. All umpires and/or managers and coaches will check for the following conditions than can cause accidents.

1. Unsafe field conditions such as holes, ditches, rough or uneven spots, slippery areas and long grass. Foreign objects like stones, broken glass, sticks etc.
2. Fencing should be checked regularly for defects, which could injure a participant.
3. Board fences should be free of protruding nails, loose boards, and splintered wood.
4. Forty (40) feet in the center section of the outfield fence should be painted a dark color and kept free of signs to provide a contrast with balls thrown toward home.
5. The warning track should be well-defined and not less than 10 feet wide.
6. The backstop should be padded and painted green for the safety of the catcher.
7. The dugout should be clean and free of debris.
8. Dugouts and bleachers should be free of protruding nails and wood slivers.
9. Home plate, batter's box, bases and the area around the pitcher's rubber should be checked periodically for tripping and stumbling hazards.
10. Personal jewelry can be a hazard to the wearer and should not be permitted.
11. Bats should be inspected for orderly storage, secure grips and freedom from cracks. Cracked or broken bats should never be used.
12. The greatest, although the least frequent, hazard in connection with weather conditions is exposure to lightning. Chances of surviving being struck by lightning are so slight that managers and umpires must not take any chances on continuing a practice or game when an electrical storm is approaching. At the first indication of such a storm, everyone should leave the playing field.
13. All equipment must be inspected before use and all bad equipment is to be destroyed.

Little League Safety Code:

- Responsibility for safety procedures should be that of an adult member of the local league.
- Arrangements should be made in advance of all games and practices for emergency medical services.
- Managers, coaches and umpires should have some training in first-aid. First-aid kits should be available at the field.
- No games or practices should be held when weather or field conditions are not good, particularly when lighting is inadequate.
- Play area should be inspected frequently for holes, damage, glass and other foreign objects.
- Dugouts and bat racks should be positioned behind screens.
- Only players, managers, coaches, and umpires are permitted on the playing field during play and practice sessions.
- Responsibility for keeping bats and loose equipment off the field of play should be that of a regular player assigned for this purpose.
- Procedure should be established for retrieving foul balls batted out of the playing area.
- During practice and games, all players should be alert and watching the batter on each pitch.
- During warm-up drills players should be spaced so that no one is endangered by wild throws or missed catches.
- Equipment should be inspected regularly. Make sure it fits properly.
- Batters must wear approved protective helmets during practice and during games.
- Catchers must wear catcher's helmet, mask, throat protector, long model chest protector, shinguards, and male catchers must wear a protective supporter at all times.
- Except when a runner is returning to base, headfirst slides are not permitted. (ages 12 years old and under)
- At no time should "horse play" be permitted on the playing field.
- Parents of players who wear glasses should be encouraged to provide "safety glasses".
- Players must not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry or other metallic items.
- Catchers must wear catcher's helmet and mask with a throat protector in warming up pitchers. This applies between innings and in bullpen practice.



West Terre Haute Little League Code of Conduct



- No swinging bats or throwing baseballs at any time within the vicinity of the concession stand or the bleachers.
 - No climbing fences or bleachers at any time.
 - No Horse play.
- Speed limit of 5 mph in and around the parking lot, watch for small children around parked cars.
 - No alcohol allowed in the park.
 - No Profanity.
 - No throwing rocks.
- During games players must remain in the dugout area at all times.
 - After each game each team must clean up trash in dugouts and around bleachers.
 - All gates to the field must remain closed at all times.

PLAYER SAFETY Tryouts:

To reduce the chances of accidents to inexperienced beginners, tryouts should be guided by the following:

1. Players should be scheduled to report for tryouts by age groups. This will not only give the younger applicants more confidence but will reduce their exposure to the harder play of older participants.
2. Since a youngster's lack of ability to handle a ball is the most likely way for the players to get hurt, a test should be made first with some short underhand throws to check skill in catching a ball before the player is exposed to normal throws or batted balls.
3. Running form and speed should be observed.

Conditioning:

This important phase of Little League training has a direct bearing on developing a safe personal condition. Extensive studies on the effect of conditioning, commonly known as "warm-up," have demonstrated that:

1. The stretching and contracting of muscles just before an athletic activity improves general control of movements, coordination and alertness.
2. Such drills also help develop the strength and stamina needed by the average youngster to compete with minimum accident exposure. These warm-up skills are most effective when the motions are patterned after natural baseball movements such as reaching for a ball, running and similar footwork. This is a good place also to "drive home" the basic safeguard of keeping the eye on the ball.

Warm-Up Drills:

The subject of warming up before a practice session has been covered as a means of safeguarding youngsters, at least to a degree, from poor physical condition and lack of limbering up. Use of the term "warming-up drills," in connection with unsafe acts, refers to ball handling practice rather than calisthenics. This involves a serious accident exposure to misdirected balls. The following will reduce the danger of being struck by a misdirected ball:

1. All unauthorized people should remain off the field during drills.
2. After the number of targets has been reduced to minimum, one of the best preventive measures is to stress that the eye must be kept on the ball. This safe practice should be drilled into both adults and youngsters so continuously that it becomes a reflex action.
3. Another danger from misdirected balls is the exposure of inexperienced batters to wild pitchers. The use of batter's helmets is a must. However, it does not justify permitting a potential pitcher throwing to an inexperienced batter until control is demonstrated.
4. The danger of being struck by a ball can be further minimized by the following plan: (a) Throwing and catching drills should be set up with players in two lines facing one another.
(b) Random throwing should be permitted only to designated players.

Safe Ball Handling:

1. Misjudging the flight of a batted ball may be corrected by drilling with fly balls which begin easy and made more difficult as a player's judgment and skill improves. Everyone should eventually be able to handle balls that go overhead.
2. In addition to a player never losing sight of a ball from the time it leaves the bat, the players should keep the glove positioned and the body relaxed for a last split second move.
3. An infielder can best be protected by an aggressive short-hop fielding play by always keeping the "nose pointed at the ball" and the eyes glued on it. Also, if moving forward, the player is in a better position to make a throw.
4. It is safer for the player to knock a ball down and re-handle it than to let the ball determine the play.

Collisions:

Collisions result in more injuries than is the case with most other types of accidents. They are usually caused by errors of judgment or lack of teamwork between fielders. It is important to establish zones of defense to avoid collisions between players. It is particularly important when players are chasing high fly balls. Once the zones are established, play situation drills should be held until these zones and patterns become familiar to the players. The responsible player should call out the intentions in a loud voice to warn others away. Here are some general roles to follow:

1. The fielder at third base should catch all balls which are reachable and are hit between third and the catcher.
2. The fielder at first base should catch all balls reachable which are hit between second and the catcher.
3. The shortstop should catch all balls reachable which are hit behind third base.
4. The fielder at second base should catch all balls reachable which are hit behind first base.
5. The shortstop has the responsibility for fly balls hit in the center of the diamond and in the area of second base. Since the glove is on the left hand it is easier for the shortstop than the fielder at second to catch fly balls over second base.
6. The centerfielder has the right of way in the outfield and should catch all balls which are reachable. Another player should take the ball if it is seen that it is not reachable by the centerfielder.
7. Outfielders should have priority over infielders for fly balls hit between them.
8. Priorities are not so easy to establish on ground balls, but most managers expect their base player to field all ground balls they can reach, cutting in front of the shortstop on slow hit grounders.
9. The catcher is expected to field all topped and bunted balls which can be reached except when there is a force play or squeeze play at home plate.

Warning Track:

In addition to collisions between players, occasionally a player chasing a fly ball will crash into the fence. These accidents also can be controlled by suitable drill work. In this case it is simply a matter of giving the outfielders an opportunity to practice getting the feel of the warning track under their feet. They must learn to judge their distance from the fence and the probable point where the ball will come down. It would be worse than futile to not only miss catching the ball by a wide margin but also be injured by a collision with the fence.

Sliding Safety:

As is the case with other baseball fundamentals, a correct slide is also a safe one. It is well, too, to guard against the accident of a collision and the possibility of a player being struck by a thrown ball as that player "hits the dirt" It goes without saying that steel spikes are not being worn. The following can make the learning period safer:

1. Long grass has been found to be better than a sand or sawdust pit to teach sliding.
2. The base must not be anchored down.
3. The player should make approaches at half speed and keep constantly in mind that hands and feet should be in the air. Once committed to slide, the player must not change strategy. Last minute hesitation causes most sliding injuries.
4. Tennis shoes are suggested for beginning sliding and tagging practice to avoid injury to the defensive player.
5. It should be kept in mind that headfirst sliding* is not recommended except when returning to a base.

Batter Safety:

A batter's greatest accident exposure is from the unsafe acts of others, namely wild pitches, which account for a major portion of all accidents. Again, the best defense is an alert, confident concentration on the ball. This type of injury is more prevalent in Regular than in Minor League play. Since the danger is increased as pitchers learn to throw with greater force and as more games are played, it is doubly important to take whatever counter measures necessary to offset this exposure.

1. Approved helmet is the first requirement.
2. The unsportsmanlike practice of crowding the plate or jumping around to rattle the pitcher must not be tolerated. This could endanger the batter if it causes the pitcher to lose control. Umpires should stop such actions.
3. Painful finger and hand injuries can be reduced by making sure the batter holds the bat correctly when bunting. Youngsters have a tendency to lean too far over the plate and not keep the ball well out toward the end of the bat. This should be corrected.
4. When the batter becomes a base runner, that player should be taught to run outside the foul lines when going from home plate to first and from third to home, to reduce the chance of being hit by a thrown ball.

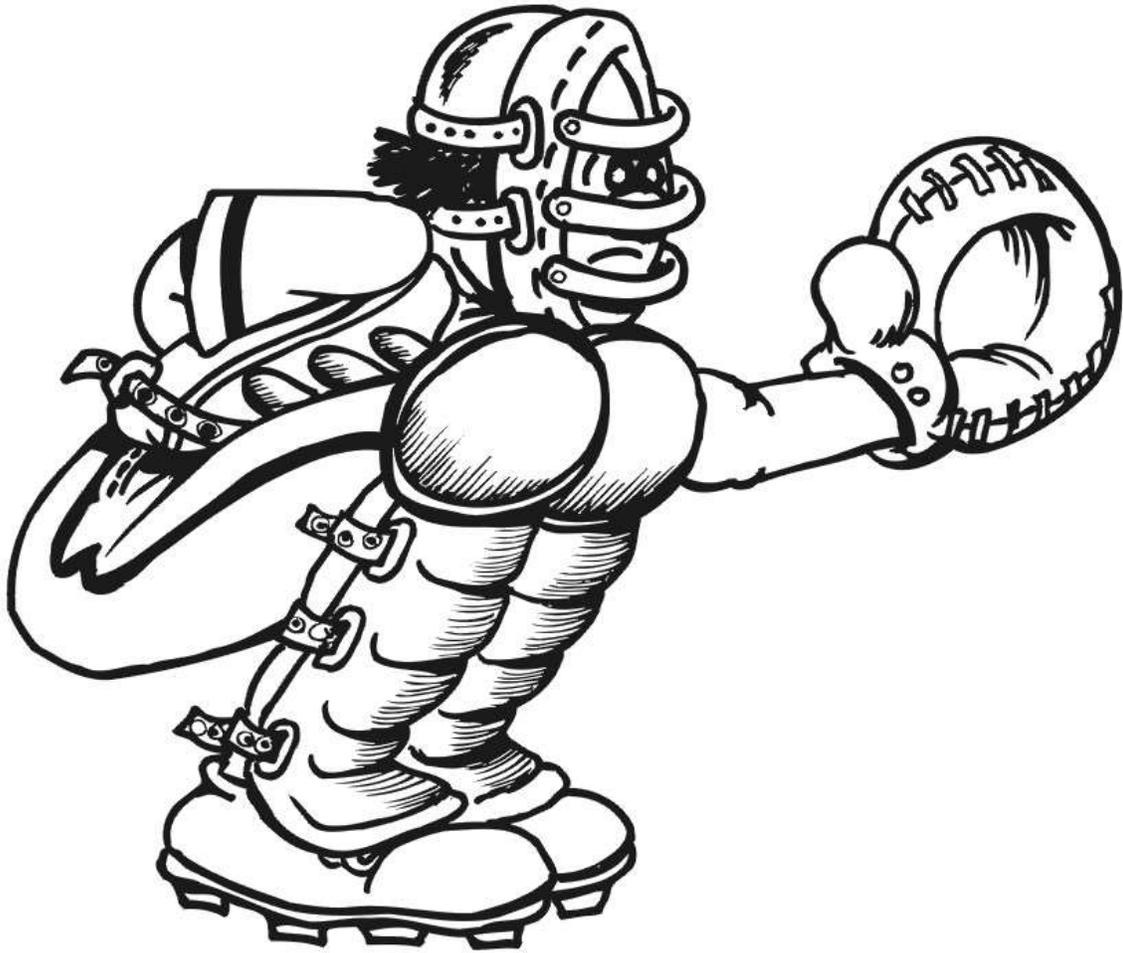
Safe Handling of Bats:

A review of the batter's potential for causing injuries to others points up the following:

1. The most easily prevented type of accident is the too frequent fault of beginners throwing the bat while running to first base. This unthinking act may be corrected.
2. Headfirst sliding has been eliminated for ages 12 and below, except for when returning to base.
3. Through individual instruction to drop the bat safely by:
 - a. Having the player hand the bat to the coach will serve as a reminder before each ball is pitched.
 - b. Having the player drop the bat in a marked-off circle near where running starts.
 - c. Counting the player "out" in practice whenever the player fails to drop the bat correctly.
 - d. Providing bats with grips that are not slippery.
4. Coaches and umpires should be on the alert to correct batters that have a tendency to step into the catcher as they swing.

Catcher Safety:

1. The catcher, as might be expected from the amount of action involved has more accidents than any other player. Statistics show that the severity of injuries is less in Regular than in Minor League play. Again, this bears out the fact that the more proficient the player, the less chance of injury. Assuming that the catcher is wearing the required protection the greatest exposure is to the ungloved hand. The catcher must learn to:
 - a. Keep it relaxed.
 - b. Always have the back of the throwing hand toward the pitcher when in position to catch.
 - c. Hold all fingers in a cupped position near the mitt, ready to trap the ball and throw it.
2. The catcher should also be taught to throw the mask and catcher's helmet in the direction opposite the approach in going for a high fly.
3. As the catcher learns to play this difficult position, a good habit is to keep a safe distance back from the swinging bat. Estimate this as one foot farther from the batter than the ends of the outstretched fingers.
4. To repeat, the best protection is keeping the eye on the ball.
5. Managers and coaches are not allowed to catch pitchers.



Little League Volunteer Application - 2016

Do not use forms from past years. Use extra paper to complete if additional space is required.



A COPY OF VALID GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO IDENTIFICATION MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION.

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Social Security # (mandatory with First Advantage or upon request) _____
 Cell Phone _____ Business Phone _____
 Home Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Occupation _____
 Employer _____
 Address _____
 Special professional training, skills, hobbies: _____
 Community affiliations (Clubs, Service Organizations, etc.): _____

Previous volunteer experience (including baseball/softball and year): _____

Do you have children in the program? Yes No If yes, list full name and what level? _____
 Special Certification (CPR, Medical, etc.): _____
 Do you have a valid driver's license: Yes No
 Driver's License#: _____ State _____
 Have you ever been convicted of or plead guilty to any crime(s) involving or against a minor? Yes No
 If yes, describe each in full: _____

Are there any criminal charges pending against you regarding any crime(s) involving or against a minor? Yes No If yes, describe each in full: _____

Have you ever been refused participation in any other youth programs? Yes No If yes, explain: _____

In which of the following would you like to participate? (Check one or more.)
 League Official Coach Umpire Field Maintenance
 Manager Scorekeeper Concession Stand Other

Please list three references, at least one of which has knowledge of your participation as a volunteer in a youth program:

Name/Phone _____

IF YOU LIVE IN A STATE THAT REQUIRES A SEPARATE BACKGROUND CHECK BY LAW, PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THAT STATE'S BACKGROUND CHECK. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON STATE LAWS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.littleleague.org/learn/programs/childprotection/state-laws-background-checks.htm>

AS A CONDITION OF VOLUNTEERING, I give permission for the Little League organization to conduct background check(s) on me now and as long as I continue to be active with the organization, which may include a review of sex offender registers (some of which contain name only searches which may result in a report being generated that may or may not be me), child abuse and criminal history records. I understand that, if appointed, my position is conditional upon the League receiving no inappropriate information on my background. I hereby release and agree to hold harmless from liability the local Little League, Little League Baseball, Incorporated, the officers, employees and volunteers thereof, or any other person or organization that may provide such information. I also understand that, regardless of previous appointments, Little League is not obligated to appoint me to a volunteer position. If appointed, I understand that, prior to the expiration of my term, I am subject to suspension by the President and removal by the Board of Directors for violation of Little League policies or principles.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____
 If Minor/Parent Signature _____ Date _____
 Applicant Name (please print or type) _____

NOTE: The local Little League and Little League Baseball, Incorporated will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

LOCAL LEAGUE USE ONLY:
 Background check completed by league officer _____
 System(s) used for background check (minimum of one must be checked): _____
 Sex Offender Registry Criminal History Records *First Advantage
 *Please be advised that if you use First Advantage and there is a name match in the few states where only name match searches can be performed you should notify volunteers that they will receive a letter directly from Lexipol in compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act containing information regarding all the criminal records associated with the name, which may not necessarily be the league volunteer.
Only attach to this application copies of background check reports that reveal convictions of this application.

Volunteer Eligibility:

As a condition of service to the league, all managers, coaches, Board of Directors, members and any other persons, volunteers, or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with players or teams, must annually complete and submit an official "Little League Volunteer Application" to the local league president. Annual background screenings must be completed prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. Refusal to annually submit a fully completed "Little League Volunteer Application" must result in the immediate dismissal of the individual from the local league, 'See Regulation I (b) and I (c) 8 and 9.

Concession Stand Safety:

1. No person under the age of *fifteen* will be allowed behind the counter in the concession stand.
2. People working in the concession stands will be trained in safe food preparation.
3. Training will cover safe use of the equipment.
4. Cooking equipment will be inspected periodically and repaired or replaced if need be.
5. Cooking grease will be stored safely in containers away from open flames.
6. Carbon Dioxide tanks will be secured so they stand upright and can't fall over. Report damaged tanks or valves to the supplier and discontinue use.
7. Cleaning chemicals must be stored in a locked container.
8. All concession stand workers are to be instructed on the use fire extinguishers.
9. A fully stocked First Aid Kit will be placed in each concession stand.
10. The concession stand main entrance door will not be locked or blocked while people are inside.

First Aid:

First Aid is an important part of any safety program. Like insurance coverage, it is a form of protection that must be available in case of an emergency involving any injury.

DEFINITION: First aid is the immediate, necessary, temporary, emergency care given for injuries.

SELECTION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF FIRST AID INDIVIDUALS

It is recognized as impractical to have a completely trained and experienced first aider on duty at all times. However, every effort should be made to have several alternate first aiders, preferably adults whose duties keep them at the field, trained in basic requirements of first aid treatment. Ideally, this training should be from an accredited agency such as the American Red Cross. The alternative is to have them trained briefly and specifically for this purpose by medical doctor or a registered nurse who is familiar with Little League operations. Minimum first aid training should include the handling of extreme emergencies such as the usage of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and external cardiac massage.

TRAINING

A fundamentals and first aid training session will be held at West Terre Haute Little League Park on February 28th, March 13th and March 26th for all managers and coaches. At least one manager or coach per team must attend each year. All managers and coaches must attend at least one training session every 3 years.

Do ...

- Access the injury. If the victim is conscious, find out what happened, where it hurts, watch for shock.
- Know your limitations.
- Call 9-1-1 immediately if person is unconscious or seriously injured.
- Look for signs of *injury (blood, black-and-blue, deformity of joint etc.)*
- Listen to the injured player describe what happened and what hurts if conscious. Before questioning, you may have to calm and soothe an excited child.
- Feel gently and carefully the injured area for signs of swelling or grating of broken bone.
- Talk to your team afterwards about the situation if it involves them. Often players are upset and worried when another player is injured. They need to feel safe and understand why the injury occurred.

Don't ...

- Administer any medications.
- Provide any food or beverages (other than water).
- Hesitate in giving aid when needed.
- Be afraid to ask for help if you're not sure of the proper procedure, (i.e., CP~ etc.) ➤ Transport injured individual except in extreme emergencies.

EMERGENCIES:**When to call:**

- If the injured person is unconscious, call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Sometimes a conscious victim will tell you not to call an ambulance and you may not be sure what to do. Call 9-1-1 anyway and request paramedics if the victim.
- Is or becomes unconscious. .
- Has trouble breathing or is breathing in a strange way.
- Has chest pain or pressure.
- Is bleeding severely.
- Has pressure-or pain in the abdomen that does not go away.
- Is vomiting or passing blood.
- Has seizures, a severe headache, or slurred speech.
- Appears to have been poisoned.
- Has injuries to the head, neck or back.
- Has possible broken bones.

If you have any doubt at all, call 9-1-1- and request paramedics. Also call 9-1-1 for any of these situations:

- Fire or explosion
- Downed electrical wires
- Swiftly moving or rapidly rising water
- Presence of poisonous gas
- Vehicle Collision
- Vehicle / Bicycle Collisions
- Victims who cannot be moved easily

Notification of Family:

It is extremely important that, as soon as provision has been made for the care of injured or ill people who require outside treatment their family be notified in as tactful a manner as possible.\

Follow-Up on First Aid Cases:

Care of an ill or injured individual must always be the first consideration. In concern for their welfare, however, do not neglect the following:

1. A thorough investigation should be made to find the cause(s) of an accident and action started to prevent reoccurrence.
2. An insurance claim should be filed when outside medical attention is required. Do not wait for medical bills to arrive. They can be submitted as they become available. They must be identified by including the person's name, league name and number, date of injury, and city and state of residence. Bills should be itemized to show dates and type of treatments.
3. Any player under the care of a doctor should be required to bring a note from the doctor to the manager releasing the player to play ball before being allowed to return to the lineup.
4. Another ill effect is unfavorable publicity from news releases, which are sometimes of a sensational nature. They can damage the public good will which has taken years to build.

MAKING USE OF ACCIDENT REPORTING:

In the effort to prevent accidents to Little Leaguers one must deal with the unpredictable actions of many small athletes. One of the most widely accepted ways to counteract the unsafe acts, which are so often a part of such uncertain behavior, is to inquire into the reasons behind such acts and take suitable counter measures. Since we cannot eliminate all of these disturbing and sometimes tragic mishaps, one must use them as tools to help control similar or related accidents. Also, alert operation makes it possible to get at the causes of "near misses" so that something can be done to prevent the occurrence of injury-producing accidents.

Which Accidents to Analyze:

Good judgment must be used in deciding which accidents to analyze. The severity of an injury should not be the only basis of deciding to determine reasons for an accident and what can be done to reduce the chances of its reoccurrence. The possibility of a similar and more severe accident **occurring** should be our main reason for getting at the causes and taking suitable corrective action. Examples of cases

that probably would not require detailed checking would be a "strawberry" from sliding or minor strains and bruises, not associated with serious unsafe acts or conditions.

Examples of accidents requiring thorough study are:

1. A collision when two players go after the same fly ball, even though no one is hurt, has the possibility of resulting in a serious injury. Questioning players may reveal they had forgotten ball priority assignments in the excitement of trying to make the catch. The corrective measure might be to hold additional ball priority drills. A completed accident cause report passed on to the Safety Officer will serve as a warning to managers of other teams.
2. If a player should trip and fall over a bat left on the ground and suffer a small abrasion, the cause and correction of this type of accident may be obvious. A report, however, would serve as a reminder, not only to this team, but also to others in the league that equipment left on the field can cause falls, some of which can result in fractures.
3. Although it may be embarrassing to a manager, should a relief catcher have front teeth knocked out because of neglect to always wear a mask and catcher's helmet when warming up a pitcher, the report on such a violations should be passed along as a warning to others.
4. Let's assume a player turns an ankle chasing a fly ball. Upon checking, it is found there is a hole in the outfield. A copy of the accident report passed on to the grounds keeper would reduce the chances of that person forgetting to correct the hazard.

Other Uses for Accident Reports:

1. The need for corrective measures, of course, is most evident when an injury is severe enough to require professional services. In addition to the need for immediate preventative action, it is very important to have accurate information to complete the insurance claim report. This may be done by the Safety Officer.
2. As in any organized endeavor, communications among teams in a league and leagues in a district is important. The safety program can be effective for everyone if each adult, with some safety responsibility, is given a brief report on serious or unusual hazards and the corrective action that has been taken to counteract them. In order to accomplish this, the League Safety Officers and the District Safety Officer must be kept informed about all significant accident cases.

Further Follow-Up on Accident:

Even after corrective measures have been put into effect, responsible adults should continue to check back to make sure that unsafe habits have not been resumed and conditions are not allowed to slip. We advise youngsters to keep their eye on the ball. Let's do the same with safety precautions, it may save their lives when temptation is stronger than the voice of authority.

1. A surprising number of accidents also occur when youngsters reach the vicinity of the field but it is not yet time for practice or a game. In this situation it is the direct responsibility of any adults who are nearby to stop such activities as climbing trees, chasing each other, running up and down the grandstands, etc.
2. Volunteers should make local authorities aware of potential risks in the area, i.e. unfenced excavation or quarries and lakes with unsecured boats.

Public Liability:

The responsibility of all organizations and their individual members for the safety of the general public has become an increasingly important factor in present-day society.

Little League's Obligation:

As a non-profit organization supported by public funds and operated by volunteers we should have a deep interest in the safety of the general public as well as the protection of our Little League volunteers from lawsuits. Even though we cannot fully protect the public from all situations arising out of the operation of a league, we can safeguard them from our own unintentional negligence.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE:

A complete safety program must be backed up by adequate accident insurance coverage.

Responsible organizations providing athletic programs assume a moral obligation to assure each injured player adequate medical attention and to help parents or families of injured players by easing the burden of medical expenses. In addition, adults who volunteer to assist in the operation of the league are entitled to protection from possible costs of accidental injuries.

Accident Insurance:

This coverage is a requirement for chartering a league and is not to be confused with public liability insurance described in the foregoing chapter. Liability insurance protects a Little League against suits arising out of accidents to the general public. Adequate accident insurance provides reimbursement for actual eligible medical costs arising out of accidental injuries to eligible individuals in the Little League organization directing or assisting with the games, tournament, practices, and when traveling directly to and from the field. See your League President for pamphlets that provide a detailed description of these insurance coverages.

INSURANCE POLICIES:

Little League accident insurance covers only those activities approved or sanctioned by Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

Explanation of Coverage:

The *CNA Little League's insurance policy* (see in Appendix) is designed to afford protection to all participants at the most economical cost to WTHLL. It can be used to supplement other insurance carried under a family policy or insurance provided by a parent's employer. If there is no other coverage, CNA Little League insurance, which is purchased by the WTHLL, not the parent - takes over and provides benefits, after a *\$50 deductible* per claim for all covered injury treatment costs up to the maximum

stated benefits. This plan makes it possible to offer exceptional, low-cost protection with assurance to parents that adequate coverage is in force.

How the insurance works:

1. First have the child's parents file a claim under their insurance policy; Blue Cross, Blue Shield or any other insurance protection available.
2. Should the family's insurance plan not fully cover the injury treatment, the Little League CNA Policy will help pay the difference, after a *\$50 deductible* per claim, up to the maximum stated benefits.
3. If the child is not covered by any family insurance, the Little League CNA Policy becomes primary and will provide benefits for all covered during treatment costs, after a *\$50 deductible* per claim, up to the maximum benefits of the policy.
4. Treatment of *dental injuries* can extend beyond the normal fifty-two week period if dental work must be delayed due to physiological changes of a growing child. Benefits will be paid at the time treatment is given, even though it may be some years later. Maximum dollar benefit is \$500 for eligible dental treatment after the normal fifty-two week: period, subject to the \$50 deductible per claim.

Filing a Claim:

When filing a claim all medical costs should be fully itemized. If no other insurance is in effect, a letter from the parent's / guardian's or claimant's employer explaining the lack of Group or Employer insurance must accompany a claim form. On *dental claims*, it will be necessary to fill out a Major Medical Form, as well as a Dental Form; then submit them to the insurance company of the claimant, or parent(s)/guardian(s), if claimant is a minor. "Accident damage to whole, sound, normal teeth as a direct result of an accident" must be stated on the form and bills. Forward a copy of the insurance company's response to Little League Headquarters. Include the claimant's name, League JD, and year of the injury on the form. Claims must be filed with the WTHLL Safety Officer. He / she forwards them to Little League Baseball, Incorporated, PO Box 3485, Williamsport, PA, 17701. Claim officers can be contacted at (717) 327-1674 and fax (717) 326-1074. Protective equipment cannot prevent all injuries a player might receive while participating in baseball.

Protective Measures:

1. Obviously our best protection against the relentless attacks of a few claim-minded individuals is to have adequate liability insurance coverage from a reputable company. This will protect local league officials but not the good name of the league and its members.
2. Some legal protection can be obtained by incorporating a league under the laws of the state in which it operates. This is not to be confused with Little League Baseball, Incorporated, which cannot pass the advantages of its incorporation on to individual Little Leagues. They must be incorporated under the laws of the state in which they operate. This relatively inexpensive protection will safeguard the league as a whole and its members, to a degree, from unlimited financial responsibility for a judgment against the league. However, it will not relieve anyone from the legal expenses required to defend against a suit, nor will it limit the legal responsibility

of persons who may be sued as individuals. A league desiring to use the words "Little League" in its corporate title must first obtain consent from Little League Headquarters.

3. As in the case of player accidents, we can go a long way toward safeguarding the good name of Little League and the best interests of all individuals by taking a few common-sense precautions.

Conclusion:

In brief, we will make our little league safer for our children, the general public and the welfare of the league and its members by following all Little League roles and regulations and using proper equipment at all times and by providing a reasonably safe place for spectators and maintaining it in good condition at all times.