

Resolution 16 Explained

Resolution No. 16 NEC Oct 2012, “Mandatory Background Check Screening For Coaches, Managers and Volunteer Staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball Teams” mandates that coaches, managers and volunteer staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball teams must have background check screening conducted each season prior to any meetings, events, practices or games that involve youth participants, and must comply with the risk management policies of The American Legion established for the enhanced protection of children and youth.

Team Sponsor.

The Legion post or other organization sponsoring a Junior or Senior American Legion Baseball team. Each Sponsor is urged to identify those individuals who they feel fit the “Designated Individuals” category. The number and position may vary from team to team.

Designated Individuals to be Screened.

Background check screening will be conducted on all coaches, managers and volunteer staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball teams, **who work directly with youth participants** of American Legion Baseball and are hereafter referred to as “Designated Individuals”.

Authorized Background Check Provider.

All background checks for Designated Individuals will be conducted by the exclusive commercial vendor engaged by The American Legion National Headquarters to conduct background check screening of Designated Individuals, and is hereafter referred to as the “Provider”:

Priority Research Services, Inc., DBA “Protect Youth Sports”
14499 N. Dale Mabry Hwy, Ste 201 South
Tampa, FL 33618
(877) 319-5587 (8 am to 6 pm EST)
www.protectyouthsports.com

The Provider is responsible for complying with the Fair Credit Reporting Act, storage of information and records consistent with applicable laws, and maintaining confidentiality of information obtained through the background check process.

Applicability of Background Checks.

Although a Designated Individual may have the ability to provide proof of a background check having been previously conducted through a source other than the Provider, background check screening as mandated in Resolution No. 16 NEC Oct 2012, “Mandatory Background Check Screening For Coaches, Managers and Volunteer Staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball Teams” will still be conducted by the Provider in order to provide screening consistency and enhanced confidentiality.

Frequency of Background Checks.

Background checks will be conducted on all Designated Individuals each season prior to any meetings, events, practices or games that involve youth participants.

Level of Information to be Checked.

All background check screenings conducted on Designated Individuals will include:

- Social security number verification and address history trace
- Alias names national search
- National criminal database search
- National sex offender registry search

The American Legion, Department of Nebraska, has negotiated with the Provider to ensure the best pricing possible without sacrificing the integrity or quality of services. Background checks will be \$12.00 per designated individual and is the responsibility of the designated individual or team sponsor.

Background Check Disqualifying Criteria.

Disclosure during a background check screening that contains one or more of any of the following disqualifying criteria will prohibit an individual from serving as a coach, manager or volunteer staff of a Junior or Senior American Legion Baseball team:

- 1) Conviction of a felony
- 2) Conviction of a crime involving a minor, regardless of the offense
- 3) Conviction of a crime involving force or threat of force against a person
- 4) Conviction of a crime in which sexual behavior is an element; including “victimless” crimes of a sexual nature (including pornography)
- 5) Conviction of a crime involving controlled substances (not paraphernalia or alcohol)
- 6) Conviction of a crime involving cruelty to animals
- 7) Any sex offender registrant
- 8) Refusal to undergo background screening

Findings.

The findings generated by the Provider will reflect an “accept” or “reject” designator. An “accept” designator means the background check of a Designated Individual does not contain disqualifying criteria previously set forth and may have contact with youth participants of the American Legion Baseball team. A “reject” designator means the background check of a Designated Individual contains disqualifying criteria and that individual is prohibited from having contact with youth participants of the American Legion Baseball team. This system of reporting eliminates the need to disclose specific criminal history details.

Verifications.

During the online American Legion Baseball registration process Department Nebraska validates that Designated Individuals of a Junior or Senior American Legion Baseball team have been verified as having successfully passed the mandated background screening requirements. The online registration process for ALB will be unable to continue until such time the acknowledgment statement is checked off that all required background checks have been verified as successfully complete and an electronic signature of the verifier provided. If during the background screening process it is revealed that a Designated Individual is charged with or has a case pending that involves any disqualifying criteria as previously set forth, that individual will be prohibited from having contact with the American Legion Baseball team until legal adjudication has been made and the screening has been confirmed/verified as successfully completed; it is strongly urged and recommended that the respective Legion department and/or Team Sponsor assume responsibility for oversight of an appropriate disposition in this situation

Appeals.

The American Legion will not intercede if a Designated Individual has concern with the outcome of their background check report of findings; direct contact with Priority Research Services, Inc. at (877) 319-5587 or www.protectyouthsports.com for any discussions or appeals.