



PROTECTING YOUNG VICTIMS FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND SAFE SPORT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2017 SENATE BILL 534

In response to the requirement to be in compliance with SB 534, the Southwest Ohio League LLC has developed the following plan:

BACKGROUND SCREENING

Teams are to insure that every individual associated with the team that has close and consistent contact with minor team members are to undergo a thorough background check consisting of the following components:

- Social Security Number Validation
- National Criminal Database Check
- National Sex Offender Registry Check
- A County Of Residence Search

Programs and teams will determine if the program, team, or individual will pay the fee for this check. Information obtained in the previous 12 months will be considered sufficient if an individual has recently undergone this scrutiny.

For those not having undergone a background screening within the past year, we recommend JDP with whom the AABC and CABA have made special pricing arrangements. They are also the approved provider of USA Baseball. The link to accomplish the screening is:

<https://aabc.quickapp.pro/apply/applicant/new/11073>

The responsible party for each team will report the identity of everyone associated with that team that has close and consistent contact with minor players and certify that each has undergone said background screening, along with appropriate identification of the entity doing the screening to verify

the requirement has been completed.

- Falsification of information could lead to serious legal consequences.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

USA Baseball provides the appropriate and REQUIRED training tools through SportSafe. Each individual serving in any capacity with the team must take the “Abuse Awareness Course For Adults.” The web site link for the FREE course is: <http://www.sportdev.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=OCAAA&Category=ONLINE&WebsiteKey=f50aacb2-a59e-4e43-8f67-29f48a308a9e>

It is highly recommended that parents also take the course. In addition, it is recommended that team players take the “Abuse Awareness Course For Minors.” The link for that FREE course is: <http://www.sportdev.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=OCAAA&Category=ONLINE&WebsiteKey=f50aacb2-a59e-4e43-8f67-29f48a308a9e>

Copies of the Certificate Of Completion must be presented to the team’s age level coordinator who will forward certificates to the league office for filing.

COACHES NOTE: In addition, USA Baseball provides valuable training that can lead to certification in virtually every phase of the game including First Aid, all are *FREE OF CHARGE*. http://www.sportdev.org/USAB/Certification/Coach_Certification/USAB/Certification/Coach_Certification.aspx?hkey=9b5b27e7-bb58-4b30-80e7-20d8ea4a657f

INCIDENT REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Mandatory reporting is put into effect upon learning of facts that give reason to suspect that a child has suffered an incident of child abuse, including sexual abuse. A report shall be filed within a 24-hour period upon learning of suspected abuse to a law enforcement agency with authority to take emergency action to protect the child.

- Regardless of how long ago the suspicious behavior occurred, you must still report it, even if it is in the past.

Be prepared with as much basic information as you can, however, if you do not have basic information, you still need to file a report. Some of the information you will need to tell authorities includes:

- Your name and contact information.
- The victim's name, parents' names, and parents contact information.
- What you were told or observed about the abuse.
- The offender's name and contact information.
- Whether the victim is or will be around the offender.
- **ORGANIZATION / PROGRAM AND TEAM COMPLIANCE** All athletic teams, affiliated or independent, must be in compliance with the Sexual Abuse And Safe Sport Authorization Act and must have a compliance document outlining the requirements under this law. There can be no exceptions. If desired, Southwest Ohio League teams can simply use this document to meet the criteria. In accordance with this act, the Southwest Ohio League must report anyone that, for example, becomes an independent team believed to have become such in part to avoid compliance.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY Any alleged abuse reported to this league will be taken seriously and proper steps taken in accordance with this law will be complied with. Our dilemma is: At what point does the intolerable pain of a victim trample the rights of due process of the accused IF those claims are yet unproven or not supported by corroboration. Rest assured we take this all seriously.

COURSE OF ACTION

1. Any team refusing to comply with the requirements under this bill cannot be permitted to participate in this league. This would include refusal to comply with the background check documentation or educational components of the bill. We will in addition report those persons to the appropriate entities to insure they are known, as required in the statute. *We are given no other option than total compliance.*

2. Any individual with a record of conviction, a plea of guilty, or no contest to sexual misconduct will not be permitted to coach in this league.
3. Any individual with a record of conviction, a plea of guilty, or no contest for a crime of violence will not be permitted to coach in this league.
4. Any individual with multiple DUI convictions, a plea of guilty, or no contest will not be authorized to drive minor team members to or from any team activity.
5. Any individual with claims of sexual or physical abuse filed against them while participating in this league will be immediately suspended until an investigation shows the complaint is frivolous, unsubstantiated, or false. This would also include unruly parents or players accused of bullying being barred from attending team functions until the claim is found to be frivolous, unsubstantiated, or false. (a) The league will be expeditious in the handling of any matter before us in order to get an innocent individual back in service to his/her team as quickly as possible.
6. In the event an individual in any way associated with a team is accused of emotional or mental abuse, the complaint will be presented to the league office and as appropriate, to local law enforcement. In the event law enforcement determines the matter to be actionable the league board will determine at that time what disciplinary action, in the form of a suspension, will be imposed. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
7. In accordance with instructions outlined in “Incident Reporting Compliance” (above), any claim in violation of this statute must be reported to the appropriate legal authority within the prescribed 24-hour period from learning of the offense. It is also to be reported to the league office by email at: southwesthioleague@gmail.com

Let us all work together to protect our kids and to also show what we all know to be true-that baseball is the safest sport in America.