

Good Procedures to Implement

Checklist for Managers, Coaches, and Umpires

Here are some good procedures for your league to implement and follow on several required areas of the safety plan. Requirements 7, 10, 12 and 13 are all included in the checklists below. These come from several leagues whose volunteers are providing safety leadership through their efforts to increase awareness and help volunteers do the right thing at the right time.

A. Safe Playing Areas

Regular safety inspections of all fields, (practice and game), structures, and dugouts, is the best way to eliminate conditions that cause accidents. Managers, coaches, and umpires should routinely check playing area for:

1. Holes, damage, rough or uneven spots, slippery areas, and long grass
2. Glass, rocks, foreign objects
3. Damage to screens or fences, including holes, sharp edges, or loose edges
4. Unsafe conditions around backstop, pitcher's mound, or warning track
5. Proper attire by the catcher at all times, including in the bull pens and in between innings

B. Safe Equipment

All equipment shall be inspected before each use. Regular safety inspection of equipment is essential. Managers, coaches, and umpires should:

1. Be sure all equipment is LL approved
2. Inspect all bats, helmets, and other equipment on a regular basis. Dispose of unsafe equipment properly.

3. Keep loose equipment stored properly
4. Have all players remove all personal jewelry
5. Parents should be encouraged to provide safety glasses for players who wear glasses
6. Repair or replace defective equipment

C. Safe Procedures

Managers and coaches must:

1. Have all players' medical release forms with you at every practice and game
2. Have a first aid kit with you all practices and games
3. Have access to a telephone in case of emergencies
4. Know where the closest emergency shelter is in case of severe weather
5. Ensure warm-up procedures have been completed by all players
6. Stress the importance of paying attention, no "horse playing allowed"
7. Instruct the players on proper fundamentals of the game to ensure safe participation
8. Each practice should have at least 2 coaches in case of an emergency

D. Weather Conditions

Before the Storm

1. Check the weather forecast before leaving for a game or practice
2. Watch for signs of an approaching storm
3. Postpone outdoor activities if storms are imminent

Approaching Thunderstorm

1. Take caution when you hear thunder. If you hear thunder, you are close enough to get struck by lightning. During a game, the umpire will clear the field in the event of an approaching storm.

2. Move to a safe environment immediately. Do not go under a tree or stay in the dugout.
3. If lightning is occurring and there is not sturdy shelter near, get inside a hard top automobile and keep the window up.
4. Stay away from water, metal pipes, and telephone lines.
5. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information. Avoid the telephone except for emergency use only.
6. Turn off air conditioners.

If caught outdoors & no shelter exists

1. Find a low spot away from trees, fences, light poles, and flagpoles. Make sure the site you pick is not prone to flooding.
2. If in the woods, take cover under shorter trees.
3. If you feel your skin begin to tingle or your hair feels like it's standing on end, squat low to the ground, balancing on the balls of your feet. Make yourself the smallest possible target, tuck your head between your legs, and minimize your contact with the ground.

What to do if someone is struck by lightning

1. The person who has been struck will carry no electrical charge; therefore, they are safe to touch.
2. Call 9-1-1 as soon as possible for help.
3. Check for burns to the body.
4. Give first aid as needed.
5. If breathing and/or heartbeat have stopped, perform CPR until EMS arrives.
6. Contact the league Safety Officer or President ASAP.