

**NICEVILLE/VALPARAISO  
LITTLE LEAGUE**

**2001 SAFETY MANUAL**

## **NVLL Safety Program Introduction**

Our 2001 Niceville/Valparaiso Little League season marks the fourth year of our Safety Program. The program is guided by Little League, Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the program is to heighten safety awareness. We will train our managers and coaches in proper first aid. Players and parents will be actively involved in the league safety training and prevention program too. With proper training and increased awareness, the league hopes to prevent injuries from occurring. With all of us working together, our players will be safer. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Greg Hasty  
Safety Officer

# Niceville/Valparaiso Little League Safety Code

## **Our #1 goal is accident prevention!**

- Responsibility for safety procedures should be that of an adult member of the local league.
- Make arrangements for emergency medical services before all games and practices.
- Train managers, coaches, and umpires in first-aid. First-Aid Kit should be available at all fields.
- No games or practices should be held when weather or field conditions are not good, particularly when field lighting is inadequate.
- Play area should be inspected frequently for holes, damage, glass and other foreign objects.
- 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.
- All players should be alert and watch the batter every pitch during practice and games.
- Inspect equipment regularly and make sure it fits properly.
- Catcher must wear catcher's helmet, mask, throat protector, shin guards, long model chest protector and protective supporter (boys) at all times.
- "Horse play" is not permitted on the playing field at any time.
- Players must not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry, or other metallic items.
- Catchers must wear catcher's helmet and mask with throat protector when warming up pitchers. This applies between innings and in the bullpen.

# Niceville/Valparaiso Little League Emergency Safety Procedures

**BE SURE TO HAVE ALL YOUR ORIGINAL MEDICAL  
RELEASE FORMS WITH TEAM AT ALL TIMES**

## **In case of medical emergency:**

1. Give first aid and have someone call 911 immediately if an ambulance is necessary (i.e. severe injury, neck or head injury, not breathing – error on side of caution).
2. Notify parents immediately if they are not at scene.
3. Notify league safety officer by phone within 24 hours. (See last page of safety manual for details)
4. Fill out a Niceville/Valparaiso Little League Accident Report Form and hand deliver within 24 hours. Copies of this form are included in this manual.
5. Talk to your team 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.
6. Talk to anyone in Niceville/Valparaiso Little League you feel will be helpful (i.e. League Safety Officer, Player Agent, or League President).
7. Niceville/Valparaiso Little League insurance is supplemental to your own insurance policy. Claims must be filed with the League Safety Officer.

## **Remember:**

**Safety is everyone's job.** Prevention is the key to reducing accidents. Report all hazardous conditions to Niceville/Valparaiso Little League Safety Officer or League President immediately. Don't play on a field that is not safe or with unsafe playing equipment. Be sure your players are fully equipped at all times, especially catchers and batters. Check your team's equipment often.



# **Umpires and Coaches Commitment to Safety**

## **Before the Game**

### **Umpires and Coaches meet at home plate**

- Introduce plate umpire, base umpire, managers, and coaches
- Receive official lineup cards for each team
- Discuss any local playing rules (time limit, playing boundaries, etc.)
- Discuss the strike zone
- Discuss unsportsmanlike conduct by the players
- Discuss the innings pitched by a pitcher rule
- Clarify calling the game due to darkness or weather (rain, lighting, etc.)
- Inspect playing field for unsafe conditions
- Discuss legal pitching motions or balks
- Get two game balls from the concession stand
- Be sure players are not wearing any jewelry of metallic objects
- Be sure players are in full uniform – shirts tucked in and caps on
- Umpires inspect equipment for damage and to meet regulations
- Ensure games start promptly (on time). Note when game started

## **During the Game**

### **Umpires and Coaches**

- Encourage coaches to help speed play by having catchers and players on the bench prepared and ready to take field with two outs
- Make sure catchers are wearing the proper equipment
- Encourage everyone to think Safety First
- Continue to monitor field for safety and playability
- Pitchers warming up in bull pen must have a catcher in complete gear
- Keep game moving – eight pitches or one minute to warm up the pitcher between innings
- Make the calls loud and clear, signaling each call properly
- Umpires should be in position to make the call.
- No arguing of any call made by the umpire, especially judgment calls  
Managers are responsible for keeping their fans on their best behavior

# Emergency

## Field Phone Locations

<u>Park</u>	<u>Phone Location</u>
Niceville Major league field	Concession Stand
Valparaiso Minor A field	Concession Stand
Niceville Recreation Complex	Concession Stand

**IF POSSIBLE, MAKE SURE SOMEONE AT YOUR PRACTICE/GAME HAS A CELLULAR PHONE**

## Communicable Disease Procedures

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk other blood borne infectious disease can be transmitted. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of infectious agents should include, but not limited to the following:

1. Bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is any excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all blood-contaminated surfaces and equipment with a solution made from a proper dilution of household bleach (CDC) recommends 1-100 or other disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Athletic trainer/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin should refrain from all direct athletic care until condition resolves.
7. Contaminated towels should be disposed of/disinfected properly.  
Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards, and other articles containing body fluids.

# **Park Ranger/Concessions**

## **Park ranger Responsibilities:**

- Procure keys and lockbox from previous park ranger.
- Show at park 45 minutes prior to 1st game.
- Unlock concessions, bathrooms, pressbox.
- Set up equipment as required (bases, lines, pitching machines, scoreboards, PA, lights, etc.)
- Brief concession workers on procedures and safety items.
- Enforce safety rules and other NVLL policies during games.
- Be available to settle disputes.
- Secure all equipment after last game
- Count concession money and secure lockbox
- Secure all facilities

## **Concessions:**

- Show 30 minutes prior to scheduled game start time.
- Talk to park ranger about policies, procedures, and safety.
- Review posted checklist confirming ranger's briefing.
- Find a replacement if unavailable for scheduled shift!

**Niceville/Valparaiso Little League**  
**WEB SITE: [www.nvllb.org](http://www.nvllb.org)**  
**Phone Numbers**

Niceville/Valparaiso Little League Message Phone:	314-2858
Niceville Police (non-emergency)	729-4030
Valparaiso Police (non-emergency)	729-5400
Sheriffs Office	651-7400
Emergency	<b>911</b>
<b>Safety Officer: Greg Hasty</b>	<b>678-4028</b>

**Niceville/Valparaiso Little League Board**

President	Bob Mathers	897-5019
Vice-President	Darren McDorman	897-3329
Secretary	Terri Turansky	897-9278
Treasurer	Patti Baker	897-4896
Player Agents T-Ball	Debbie Tate	729-1198
	Deede Wayne	678-4675
Player Agents Minor B	Rodney Dutton	897-0547
	Ken Shepardson	897-3460
Player Agents Minor A	Mike McGlockton	897-5931
	Robert Russell	678-6533
Player Agents Majors	Earl Gothard	897-7788
	Mike Rarick	897-1256
Player Agents Teen	Mike Clements	729-1969
	Ken Koger	897-9340
	Rich Walley	897-4135
Other Members	Randy Hutchins	897-4235
	Cindy Theriot	862-5076
	Doug Jenkins	729-2706
	Scott Milton	897-4654
	Alan Vafides	678-8656
	Greg Hill	897-9783
	Gary Wood	729-0363
	Lana Wood	729-0363
	Wayne Carver	897-1959
	Gina Carver	897-1959
	Stephen Alford	897-2379
	Francine Cunningham	897-9651
	Roger Smith	897-4860
	Chris Ely	678-3772

## LOCAL RULES RELATING TO SAFETY

Managers and coaches are responsible for the safety and behavior of their players on and around the field (including practice).

### **Attire**

Dress will be in accordance with LLB Rule 1.11 and only players' last names, as listed on registration cards, and sponsors will be allowed on uniforms.

Batting/catcher's helmets should not be painted unless approved by the manufacturer.

### **Minor B (machine-pitch)**

When a team is batting, two adult coaches and the adult pitcher are permitted on the field. The coaches must remain in the coaching boxes at all times during play. The adult pitcher must remain within the safety circle while the ball is in play and may not directly or indirectly coach runners. Only exception to the rule is for matters of safety.

The "pitcher" on the team in the field does not pitch. He is a fielder only. He must begin each pitch at a distance from the plate even with the pitching machine with one foot touching the safety circle and the other foot outside the circle. For safety reasons, he cannot leave this position (even on an attempted bunt) until the ball exits the pitching machine.

For safety reasons, no infielder may play closer than 30 feet away from the batter.

If any fielder enters the safety circle during a "live ball" situation or deflects (or throws) a live ball into the safety circle, the umpire will halt play and award the runner(s) the next base to which the base runner was headed. Additional bases may be awarded, per the umpire's judgment, for extra-base hits or intentional safety circle violations. "Entering the safety circle" includes stepping into, falling into, and/or placing one's hand or gloved hand inside the safety circle.

## **OTHER RULES RELATING TO SAFETY**

### **Little league baseball statement on non-wood bats:**

Little League Baseball has received numerous inquiries from its volunteers and media regarding the safety of non-wood bats.

Recent innovations in metal alloys have allowed a reduction in the weight of some models of bats, while allowing the bats to remain in conformity with the length and diameter guidelines in the various divisions of Little League Baseball. Some volunteers and those in the media have raised questions about whether the weight of the bats used in Little League games should be limited, relative to the length.

Non-wood bats were first developed, partly through research by Little League, as a safer and more cost-effective alternative to wooden bats. Non-wood bats were first used in Little League in 1971, and have almost completely replaced wood bats in all divisions of play. Wood bats, which can break in half if not used properly, are now widely used only in professional baseball.

As a member of USA Baseball, the governing body for all amateur baseball in the U.S., Little League Baseball follows the recommendation of the USA Baseball Medical and Safety Advisory Committee. The position of the Advisory Committee is that further research and data needs to be collected before any changes are made to Little League rules regarding the weight of bats. There is currently no rule in any division of Little League Baseball that places a maximum or minimum limit on the weight of bats.

In conclusion, there appears to be no indication that would cause Little League to mandate a limit on the weight of bats, based on the most current facts. Statistics show that Little League's record on safety continues to be outstanding not only among youth sports, but in baseball and softball in particular.

#### **Maximum Bat Length/Diameter Specifications in Little League Baseball**

	<i>Age Range</i>	<i>Max length</i>	<i>Max diameter</i>
<b>Baseball</b>	12 year olds and under	33 inches	2 1/4 inches
<b>Baseball</b>	13-16 year olds	34 inches	2 3/4 inches
<b>Baseball</b>	16-18 year olds	38 inches	2 3/4 inches

#### **Pitching Distances**

	<i>Age Range</i>	<i>Distance</i>
<b>Baseball</b>	12 year olds and under	46 feet
<b>Baseball</b>	13 year olds and above	60 feet, 6 inches
<b>Baseball</b>	Junior League 13-15 year olds (optional)	54-foot

*For more information contact:*

*Lance Van Auken, Director of Publications and Media Relations*

*Little League Baseball International Headquarters 570-326-1921*

*Media E-mail: [media@littleleague.org](mailto:media@littleleague.org)*

**The following letters are taken from Little League's Safety Newsletter "ASAP."**

**Painted Batting Helmets:**

*"I'm trying to locate specific information related to the topic of 'painted' batting helmets. Is there any reference in Little League regulations that prevents All-Star Teams from painting their helmets? I've had people come to me for information regarding this issue and cannot find any references to it. It's my understanding that helmets cannot be altered with paint due to the possibility of material incompatibility. If helmets are painted, will this void the warranty of the equipment? Please advise so that we can prepare our All-Star umpiring staff for the upcoming All-Star season."*

**Dale Johnson, Safety Officer  
Maryland District 5  
Rising Sun Community Little League**

Helmets should not be painted. According to information supplied by manufacturer Rawlings, applying paint to the surface of batting helmets could degrade the plastic, and will void the warranty. The correct paint to use is not available for retail sale. Any other paint than that authorized by the company may deteriorate the shell, risking the player's safety and voiding the warranty and company's liability. Although not a rule, since 1998 Little League has held the position that batting helmets not be painted, and recommends not using any that have been painted.

**Bat Sleeves:**

*"What is the position of Little League Baseball on the use of 'Bat Sleeves' (weighted lengths of hard material that slip over the bat. Clearly bat donuts are not allowed but we are unclear about these new sleeves."*

**Bill Needles  
Laguna Hills Little League**

Bat rasps, or sleeves, are designed in a different manner than the traditional bat donut. Donuts can be purchased for different sizes of bats, and were generally purchased for the bigger bats, so Little Leaguers would put them on, swing them, and the donut could slip over the barrel of the bat, and injure someone nearby. The bat sleeve just fits over the knob of the bat, and doesn't pose a risk of flying off the end of the barrel when it's being swung. So it is approved for use by all ages of players in Little League.

## **Lightning:**

*“I have a couple of questions regarding electrical storms:*

*1. As an electrical storm approaches, should a game be postponed, or is it acceptable for the kids to evacuate to automobiles to allow time for the storm to pass?*

*2. Does Little League have any guidelines of electrical storms? What does Little League regard as ‘best practices?’*

**Dave Dancause, safety officer**

**Cape Elizabeth, Maine, Little League**

As a general rule, equipment is available for tracking storms, like SkyScan, which makes it safer to play when clouds are threatening, stated Risk Management Director Dan Kirby. “You certainly don't want kids exposed to the risk thunderstorms pose, even while waiting to see if a storm will miss you. Players and spectators shouldn't be in the dug-out and shouldn't be leaning against the fence, but should be evacuated to the safest place.” Inside a building or inside cars with windows rolled up is the best alternative to a building. How long you should wait depends on the storm itself, and how quickly it passes out of the area. If you don't have a detector, you should wait at least until you can no longer see any lightning strikes. But remember: lightning strikes can be up to 10 miles apart, so err on the side of caution and safety in retaking the field.

**Have a question or tip to share?**

**Call the ASAP Hotline: 800-811-7443, or e-mail: [asap@musco.com](mailto:asap@musco.com)**

**Or write:**

**ASAP**

**100 1st Ave.**

**West Oskaloosa, IA 52577**