

DIXIE BOYS BASEBALL CHILD PROTECTION PLAN

(A child abuse/molestation risk management plan)

In 2018, Congress enacted a new Federal law (Public Law 115-126) which establishes a nationwide standard “duty to report” suspected child abuse. The “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” (“Safe Sport Act”) mandates that all amateur sports organizations, which participate in an interstate or international amateur athletic competition and whose membership includes any adult who is in regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor must report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to law enforcement.

The Safe Sport Act subjects all Dixie Boys/Majors franchised leagues to the provisions of this federal law because each league has adults working with youth who are in repetitive contact with minor athletes.

(A) Child abuse/molestation can take many forms including verbal abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse. Any form of child abuse/molestation is contemptable and goes against the policies and mission of Dixie Boys Baseball.

(B) Dixie Boys Baseball is committed to addressing concerns over child abuse/molestation by informing and educating its affiliated leagues on this risk by providing the DBB Child Protection Plan (a child abuse/molestation risk management plan) for adoption by all DBB leagues. This plan may significantly lessen but not totally eliminate the chance of an occurrence. Failure to implement the DBB Child Protection Plan or a similar comprehensive plan may expose leagues and its officials, volunteers and other representatives to significant legal liability.

(C) Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. requires that all franchised leagues adopt and implement the DBB Child Protection Plan or a similar comprehensive child abuse/molestation risk management plan. The league may download the DBB Child Protection Plan from the DBB website at www.dixie.org/boys for adoption by the league or its sponsoring organization.

(D) Dixie Boys Baseball has no operational control over league security including the selection of volunteers associated with independent leagues which affiliate with its program. Therefore, it is the sole responsibility of the independent leagues to act by adopting and implementing the DBB Child Protection Plan or a similar comprehensive child abuse/molestation risk management plan.

(E) Any plan adopted by a league and/or its sponsoring organization must include a provision for conducting criminal background checks which searches the National Criminal Database and the National Sex Offender Registry in all 50 states (not limited to just sexual offender records) from state and county databases on all managers, coaches and other authorized adult participants in the league who have repetitive access to and close contact with minor athletes.

(F) Due to the fact Dixie Boys Baseball has no operational control over league security including the selection of local league volunteers, each franchised league shall be required to indemnify and hold harmless Dixie Boys Baseball against all legal actions based on child abuse/molestation allegations arising from any team, league, tournament or other activities of such league.

CHILD ABUSE/MOLESTATION - RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc. **requires** that all franchised leagues adopt and implement a child abuse/molestation risk management program. Guidelines for establishing a child abuse/molestation risk management program are available at no charge through Dixie Boys national office, or league may develop a similar comprehensive program.

Dixie Boys Baseball emphasizes that all franchised leagues **must adopt and implement** a child abuse risk management program. Visit: www.dixie.org/boys under the Risk Management Section for information.

Endorsed General Liability policy contains the following provision:

“Coverage for sexual abuse or molestation will not apply unless there is a system in place to perform at least the following three items: (1) system in place to perform criminal background checks on paid & volunteer staff (2) have written procedures that include sexual abuse and molestation prevention (3) have written procedures that include response plans for sexual abuse molestation including a requirement that law enforcement must be contacted in the event of an allegation..”

Warning Signs of Abuse / Molestation (Recognize the following warning signs of abuse / molestation):

- Attitudes/behaviors expressed on the part of an adult that may be associated with inappropriate or abusive behavior (racist, poor sense of athlete development, raging temper, extremely controlling, jealous, hypersensitive, poor sexual boundaries, bullying, intimidating manner, unrealistic or inappropriate training practices and risks, etc.)
- Unexplained/unlikely explanation of injuries.
- Extreme fear of a league volunteer;
- Extreme low self-esteem or self- worth;
- A child’s attachment to a coach/staff to the point of isolation from others’
- A coach/staff with an interest beyond caring concerns, special interest in a child (time, gifts, attention, obsession, unrealistic expectations)
- A child’s desire to drop out without a clear explanation, or without one that makes sense;
- A child that misses a lot of practices or games with suspicious explanations or excuses.

Policies To Protect Against (The following policies should be followed):

- Limit one on one contact between a single unrelated child and adult by use of buddy system
- Prohibition of overnight sleepovers
- Touch is acceptable only if it is “respectful and appropriate”
- Inappropriate comments of a sexual nature and suggestive jokes are prohibited
- Take home / pick up of athletes other than by parents is strongly discouraged because of difficulty in limiting one on one contact

What Is Required In Event of an Allegation

- Appropriate official and police will be immediately contacted. Police will handle investigation.
- Alleged should be immediately suspended pending the outcome of the police investigation.
- Officials will not comment on the allegation or police investigation until it has been concluded.

Communication of Information

- Our organization will work with Risk Management Consultant to disseminate information each season.

Our Role as Officials of Dixie Boys Baseball, Inc.!

- Our organization is committed to doing everything in our power to prevent these situations from ever occurring. Furthermore, if an offense does occur; any response we have will be one of zero tolerance, while recognizing that this should be a matter that is to be investigated by law enforcement personnel.

Name of authorized Dixie official: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____