

**ST. JAMES/SMITHTOWN - LITTLE LEAGUE
SAFETY PROGRAM
2020**

I. Purpose:

The St. James/Smithtown - Little League Safety Program is intended to help create the safest possible environment for all participants. The goals of the Program are to educate parents, players, and coaches on how to prevent and, when necessary, handle emergencies.

II. Overview:

The St. James/Smithtown-American Little League endeavors, to the best of its ability, to provide a safe playing environment for our players, coaches, and spectators. This Program is available for review by any interested party. Suggestions for improvement are always welcome. Please call 631-834-7107 and leave a message for the League Safety Officer. Copies of this Program will be provided to all coaches. Additional copies are available upon request.

A. General Policies:

- All volunteers shall fill out the 2020 Official Little League Baseball Volunteer Application, which the League will use for the purpose of conducting background checks on all volunteers;
- * A First Aid Kit will be provided to each Coach. Each Coach is required to have such kit with them for all practices and games. Kit will include Band Aids, First Aid Cream, sterile dressings, and bandages. Cold packs will also be provided to each Coach;
- * Incident and Hazard Report forms will be provided to each manager and shall be submitted to the League Safety Officer. All reports will be reviewed against previous reports to determine any patterns that may indicate an ongoing safety hazard;
- * Incidents and Hazards must be reported to the Safety Officer within 48 hours of observation, who will present Incident and Hazard Report at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Board will select one of two options: 1) that the hazard will be resolved by the League; or 2) that the Report be forwarded to either the Town of Smithtown or the Smithtown Central School District (as owner of the facility) with a request to resolve the hazard. A copy of the Incident and Hazard Report, with the selected resolution, will be returned to the originator; and
- * Copies of all Incident and Hazard Reports (with selected resolution) will be kept

on file by the League Secretary for at least two years.

- The Annual Little League Facility Survey form will be filled out and submitted.

B. Contacting League Officials:

- * All League Officials may be contacted by calling the Little League phone number, 631-834-7107. Home phone numbers for League Officials are provided in each Coach's Packet.

C. Emergency Procedures and Phone Numbers:

- * Coaches should always exercise common sense and respond consistent with Basic First Aid procedures. The well being of the injured person shall always be paramount to the continuation of any game or other activity. When in doubt regarding how to respond to a person's injury, do not attempt to move the injured person or attempt to remove the person from the playing field. Such movement can increase the severity of the person's injury. Immediately send someone to contact trained emergency personnel while you remain with the injured person. Instruct the person contacting emergency personnel to inform the emergency personnel as to the nature and severity of the situation. If the situation warrants, begin CPR on the individual. Once trained medical personnel arrive, defer to their judgment regarding what steps to undertake.

- * Emergency Phone Numbers:

St. James Fire Department and Ambulance -	631-924-5252
Smithtown Fire Department and Ambulance -	631-265-1500
League President – Rich Tomitz	631-827-9025
League Safety Officer – Keith Tartamella	908-227-6423

III. Prevention:

Prevention is the most important goal of this Program. Common sense and compliance with Little League rules are the best ways to prevent accidents. The following guidelines must be observed by all St. James/Smithtown American Little League participants:

A. Field Rules:

- * No ball playing in "traffic areas." This includes bleachers, concession stands, and

anywhere there are people around. Ball playing should be limited to vacant fields:

- * Players shall remain in dugouts during games: and
- * Bicycles shall be walked on sidewalks adjoining the fields, bleachers and concession stands.

B. Parents:

- * Take an active role in your child's and his/her teammates' safety. Be alert to any potentially unsafe situations. While Coaches and Assistant Coaches will do their best to maintain a safe environment, they may not be aware of an unsafe situation will the game is ongoing. Alert a Coach or Assistant Coach of any potential safety hazard;
- * Purchase safety glasses or protective goggles if your child wears glasses;
- * If you have a cellular phone, bring it to the games and practices;
- * Take responsibility for your own children by not allowing unruly behavior; and
- * Ensure that your children are familiar with, and observe, all safety rules.

C. Coaches:

- * Each spring a Clinic shall be conducted to review baseball fundamentals and common sense first aid response (See Section IV Clinics);
- * Always keep safety in mind at games and practices;
- * Demonstrate and enforce rules of safety with your players;
- * Be sure that no one is too close to a swinging bat;
- * Check catcher's equipment and batting helmets regularly to ensure that they are in good condition. Arrange with the Equipment Officer to replace defective equipment;

- * Inspect field, fences and dugouts before and after games. Look for hazards, such as holes, rocks, broken glass, trip hazards, etc.;
- * Correct any field hazard, if possible. If you are unable to remedy a field hazard, submit a Incident and Hazard Report to the League Safety Officer as soon as possible. Do not permit a game or practice to continue if a player's safety is jeopardized by the hazard;
- * Games and practices shall not continue if there is a driving rain, thunder or lightning. Practices should be immediately stopped and the coach should get the players to the nearest shelter until parents arrive. Game status is generally determined by established Little League rules and enforced by the League or the umpire. If a game is not suspended, but in the coach's judgment the players' safety is endangered, the coach should immediately remove the players from the field and seek the nearest shelter; and
- * Encourage players to report all unusual encounters with adults at or near the playing field. Any such encounters should be handled using common sense, giving priority to the player's personal safety.

(1) Practices:

- (2) Coaches shall not conduct any practices or team activities without another adult being present at all times. Parents should be encouraged to remain at the field for the duration of any practice or game. Either a coach or parent present at the practice should have a cell phone with them;
- (3) Emphasize safety when teaching the fundamentals of the games, *e.g.*, players should be taught not to throw a ball to a teammate until eye contact is made between the two players);
- (4) *Teach* baseball fundamentals to the players on all levels. Do not assume that they already know them. The goal is for players to be able to safely hit, throw, catch, steal, etc. Free clinics teaching baseball fundamentals are provided at Gaynor Park on select Saturdays between 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- (5) Ensure batters and base runners wear helmets containing the protective face guard at all times;
- (6) Ensure catchers wear all of the provided equipment, even when warming up pitchers;

- * Follow Little League rules;
- * Do not permit “horsing around” at the practice; and
- * If practices are held at a location where a telephone is not readily available, bring a cellular phone to the practice.

(2) Games:

- * Ensure that the field is free from hazards;
- * Ensure that all safety equipment, *i.e.*, catcher’s equipment and batting helmets, are available, are in good condition, and are used properly;
- * Keep all players in the dugout and away from the dugout entrance when not on the playing field;
- * Do not permit glass containers in the dugout;
- * Do not permit the players to litter at the facility, particularly on and around the field including dugouts;
- * Have all trip hazards removed, *e.g.*, balls, bats, gloves;
- * Enforce the “No On Deck Batting Practice” rule;
- * Encourage players to remain alert throughout the games; and
- * Establish a coach or “dugout parent” to control dugout behavior during the game.

IV. Clinics.

A. Baseball Fundamentals and First Aid Training:

A Baseball Fundamentals and First Aid Training will be held for coaches prior to the start of the season. The agenda for the clinic will include:

- * Distribution of copies of the Incident and Hazard Report form;
- * Common sense first aid training (Every few years a CPR Certification Course will be provided by Smithtown Fire Department);

- * Demonstration of proper playing technique and a discussion regarding how to avoid injuries; and
- Discussion of Emergency Procedures.
- Fundamentals Clinic will be held on 03/25/2020 and 04/02/2020 at the Smithtown Public Library in Smithtown, NY. All coaches are required to attend every year. They don't get their roster or equipment unless they attend.
- First Aid Training Clinic will also be held on 03/25/2020 and 04/02/2020 at the Smithtown Public Library in Smithtown, NY. All coaches are required to attend every year. They don't get their roster or equipment unless they attend.

- St. James Smithtown does not have a concession stand.