ASAP: Making an Impact for Little League

A Safety Awareness Program of Little League Baseball® and Softball
Why ASAP?

The ASAP Mission:

To increase awareness of the opportunities to provide a safer environment for kids and all Little League participants.
Awards, Incentives, Recognition

• League cash award rewards safety
  – $486,411 given to Leagues in 2015
  – $41,300 given to DA’s (Incentive)
  – Over $3 million given to Leagues in all

• Musco Lighting system, World Series trip, cash awards, and ASAP News

• Musco, AIG contribute over $1 million annually supporting safety awareness
Where we’re from...

Focus on Safety

• Began in ‘94 from focus groups
• District Administrators: Awareness, not mandated rules, was needed
• Raise awareness of safety issues for leagues to create own approaches
• Virginia volunteered to be Pilot Program for ASAP
• LLB’s injuries were level
• Founders believed program would have positive impact
• Founders wanted to create safer playing environment for all
ASAP Goes Mainstream

- DA’s must match national ASAP participation for Board eligibility

- DA’s must have a DSO and 50% league participation for re-election

- Adopted in 1995, reaffirmed at each Congress since

- Districts are requiring ASAP for Special Games run by District and for hosting District/State/Division/Regional Tournaments

- In 2010, the Little League International Board made the ASAP program mandatory for hosting Tournaments above the district level.
ASAP Takes Shape

1998 San Antonio Congress
- ASAP Developing - 18% Participation

2001 Ottawa Congress
- ASAP Mainstream Program - 38% Participation

2004 Virginia Beach Congress - 58% Participation

2007 Houston Congress - 71% Participation

2010 Lexington, KY Congress - 85% Participation

2014 Minneapolis, MN - 87% participation
ASAP’s Impact

ASAP Makes a Difference

- Fewer injuries to kids/all participants
- Reduces severity of injuries by 80%
- Participation in ASAP has grown steadily over the years (86% in 2015)
- Reduces insurance costs
  - A.S.A.P. award based on size of league’s player accident insurance premium
  - State premium reductions:
    - 1 state in 2001
    - 7 states in 2002 (plus additional benefits)
    - 50 states in 2003
**District Administrators’ Impact**

**DA’s, States Leading Safety Effort**

- West Virginia’s DA’s Lead Nation
  - 2004 to 2010 100%
    
    **West Virginia is first state to 100%!**

- 2006: Maryland & Oregon join W.V.
- 2007: Oregon and Delaware
- 2008: West Virginia, Delaware, Oregon, Rhode Island, Montana, Wyoming
- 2009: West Virginia, Delaware, Rhode Island, Virginia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon & Wyoming
- 2010: West Virginia, Wyoming, Oregon
- 2012: West Virginia, Delaware, Virginia, Wyoming, Florida and Rhode Island
- 2013: West Virginia, Delaware, Virginia, Georgia, Florida and Nebraska
- 2014: Wyoming, Georgia, Rhode Island, South Carolina and Nebraska
DA’s, States Leading Safety Effort

• 100% in 2015: Georgia, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Virginia and Alabama

Who will be NEXT?
District Administrators' Impact

2015 US National ASAP Participation: 86%
2014 US National ASAP Participation: 87%

Is Your State Doing Its Part to Help Raise Safety Awareness?

ASAP Participation by Region: '15 '14
Central: 81% 83%
East: 82% 83%
Southeast: 98% 98%
West: 91% 92%
Southwest: 82% 83%

Performance Legend
- 100 percent
- 90-99 percent
- 89-75 percent
- 74-50 percent
- 49-25 percent
- 24-0 percent
District Administrators’ Impact

Southwestern Region at 82%

Safety Plans in the Southwestern Region:
- 89%/92% Colorado
- 90%/90% New Mexico
- 100%/100% Oklahoma
- 82%/83% Texas
- 82%/83% Arkansas
- 52% Louisiana
- 57% Mississippi
- 50% 2015/2014
- 83% 2015/2014
District Administrators’ Impact

Central Region at 81%

Safety Plans in the Central Region:
- North Dakota & South Dakota: 25%/58%
- Minnesota: 68%
- Wisconsin: 62%
- Iowa: 78%/87%
- Illinois: 81%
- Indiana: 91%
- Michigan: 87%
- Ohio: 83%
- Kansas: 40%/17%
- Missouri: 57%
- Kentucky: 84%

Overall for the Central Region: 81%/83%
2015/2014
District Administrators’ Impact

Eastern Region at 82%

Safety Plans in the Eastern Region:
- 82%/83% 2015/2014
- 87%/85% Massachusetts
- 94%/100% Rhode Island
- 86%/90% Connecticut
- 92%/91% New Jersey
- 96%/95% Maryland
- 100%/100% Washington, DC
- 100%/100% Delaware
District Administrators’ Impact

Southeast Region at 98%!

Safety Plans in the Southeastern Region:
98%/98%
2015/2014
District Administrators' Impact

Western Region at 91%

Safety Plans in the Western Region:
- Alaska: 73%/91%
- Hawaii: 96%/89%
- California: 94%/94%
- Nevada: 93%/96%
- Oregon: 97%/89%
- Idaho: 95%
- Montana: 80%/83%
- Utah: 25%/43%
- Wyoming: 88%/100%
- Arizona: 83%/86%

Performance Legend:
- 100 percent
- 99-90 percent
- 89-75 percent
- 74-50 percent
- 49-25 percent
- 24-0 percent
Reminder:

• To be considered for the Little League Board of Directors, a DA must meet or exceed the national ASAP participation level in his/her District (86% in 2015)

• To be considered for re-election district must have participation of 50% or more of it’s leagues in ASAP

• Must have a district safety officer on file at Little League International
Preparing for Tomorrow

How YOU Can Help

• Make it mandatory to implement safety programs at District level
  – No Home District All Star games without plans
  – No Special Games/Tournament of Champions Games without safety plans
  – East Region is already implementing a version of this requirement for Leagues there
  – 2010 – ASAP program mandatory for tournaments above the district level.
Preparing for Tomorrow

How YOU Can Help

• Track League’s safety plan activities
  – Involve DSO with submission process to review and assist Leagues
  – Keep District copies of League safety plans
  – Track submissions online at: www.littleleague.org/programs/asap/plans.asp
How YOU Can Help

• Encourage Other DA’s and Leagues to get non-participating Leagues to implement safety plans
• Promote ASAP at State level to become the next 100% State
Making it ‘Safer for the Kids’

Rule Changes Enhancing Safety

• **New in 2007** – The minimum requirement is a **NATIONAL** check of **ALL** Sex Offender Registries.

• **Little League Volunteer Application Form use is required** for background checks
  
  – Required to conduct checks for all managers, coaches, Board of Directors members, league officials, umpires, elected members, and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league and/or has with repetitive access to, or contact with players or teams
Making it ‘Safer for the Kids’

First Advantage Background Checks Raise Bar on Safety

- **125 FREE** background checks per League & District (resets yearly in Nov.), paid for by Little League International.
- Criminal records: sex crimes from those on & off sex offender registries; various types of felonies & misdemeanors
- Minimal amount per background check after free 125
Background Checks

- Live Scan check in California make sure it is a National check NOT just a state check
- Massachusetts must do 2 background checks, a CORI plus a national check. The CORI check only checks state data bases.
- Any national check must include ALL 50 states’ Sex Offender Registries.
Set a Goal:

• Maintain existing participation level
• Improve District participation ___% (if not at 100%)
• Check on Implementation of Plans

Implement It:

• Communicate goals to Leagues
• Support Leagues’ implementation
  - Name District safety staff to help follow-up on submitted plans
  - Help Leagues develop safety plans
How You Can Help

Increase Participation

- Communicate League Incentives
  - Make it ‘Safer for the Kids’
  - A.S.A.P. award based on 15% of league’s AIG Player Accident Insurance
  - Ideas recognition in ASAP News
  - $500 to top two plans in Region
  - Trip to LL World Series for top plan in each Region
  - Musco lighting system for Nat’l Winner
Make It ‘Safer for the Kids’

- Awarding District support
  - 50%+ earns ASAP personalized cap
  - 75%+ earns Disney characters pin sets
  - 90%+ earns ASAP Bulova watch

- Awards Luncheon at Little League World Series

- District Early Entry Incentive for plan approved by March 11th deadline. Plans should be submitted as early as January 1st.
... And Earn Incentives (NEW criteria in 2015)

- Districts reaching 86% participation or greater by March 11th receive $350 credit
- Districts reaching 70-85% participation by March 11th receive $150 credit
- District awards are granted regardless of previous level of achievement
- $41,300 awarded in 2015
DSO’s Role:

- Help leagues develop plans
- Explain requirements, benefits
  - Meet with leagues on regular basis as resource, planning aid
- Review safety plans each year
  - Keep copy of leagues’ plans for future need, such as turn-over
- Serve as link to DA on safety
- Develop District Safety Plan
Districts raise the bar

- Require safety plan to host/participate in Special Games
- Provide training opportunities at District level to help leagues meet requirements
  - First Aid training
  - Hold regular District safety meetings
  - District training by division of managers & coaches
Minimum Required

- Encourage Leagues to start thinking about safety
- Encourage Leagues to go above & beyond basic requirements
- Emphasize improving each year
- Volunteer Application Form and background checks with photo ID are required
- Social Security number mandatory upon request or with First Advantage
Work with DSO

- Require safety plans to participate in/host Special Games (Reg. IX)
- Create District safety resources: Give District best safety awards
- Create District safety plan to help leagues develop, implement own safety plans
15 Requirements for Safety

1. Have an active Safety Officer
2. Publish, distribute safety manual
3. Post, distribute emergency #’s
4. Check volunteers on National SOR
5. Provide fundamentals training
6. Provide first-aid training
7. Require field inspections before use
8. Complete annual Facility Survey
9. Use concession stand procedures
15 Requirements for Safety

- 10. Regularly inspect, replace equipment as needed
- 11. Have prompt accident reporting
- 12. Require first-aid kits at events
- 13. Enforce all LLB rules
- 14. Qualified Safety Program Registration
- 15. League Player Registration Data or Player Roster Data and Coach and Manager Data.
4. Volunteer Application & Background Checks

- Two Volunteer Applications available. Social Security Number mandatory upon request and for First Advantage.

- In 2009, Little League International increased free checks available from 80 to 125 for each league and district through First Advantage.

  - Consult LLB Operating Manual & Website
  - Use of Little League Volunteer Application Form is required for key individuals – manager, coaches, league officials, elected members, per Reg. 1 (c) 8, 9
4. Volunteer Application & Background Checks

- Background checks help kids
- Just asking applicants to fill out form may eliminate problems
- First Advantage is an option to leagues. 125 checks free to leagues and districts (reset yearly in Nov.); add’l checks available for a minimal amount per name checked. Instant nationwide internet check including SOR and criminal data.
4. Volunteer Application & Background Checks

– If a league learns of an individual such as a volunteer, player or hired worker that has been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a crime involving or against a minor, then the league must inform the applicable government agency for confirmation. Once confirmed, that individual may not participate with Little League in any manner. No Exceptions.
Little League Volunteer Application - 2016

Do not use forms from past years. Use extra paper to complete if additional space is required.

A COPY OF VALID GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTO IDENTIFICATION MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION.

Name_________________________Date___________________

Address______________________________

City______________________State______Zip___________

Social Security # (mandatory with First Advantage or upon request)__________________________

Cell Phone________________________Business Phone__________________________

Home Phone:________________________E-mail Address:__________________________

Date of Birth________________________

Occupation__________________________Employer______________________________

Address______________________________

Special professional training, skills, hobbies:_____________________________________________

Community affiliations (Clubs, Service Organizations, etc.):______________________________

Previous volunteer experience (including baseball/softball and year):_______________________

Do you have children in the program? Yes [ ] No [ X ] If yes, list full name and what level?______________________________

Special Certification (CPR, Medical, etc.):_____________________________________________

Do you have a valid driver’s license? Yes [ ] No [ X ]

Driver’s License #:__________________State__________________________

Have you ever been convicted of or plead guilty to any crime(s) involving or against a minor? Yes [ ] No [ X ]

If yes, describe each in full:_________________________________________________________________

Are there any criminal charges pending against you regarding any crime(s) involving or against a minor? Yes [ ] No [ ] If yes, describe each in full:_______________________________________________

Have you ever been refused participation in any other youth programs? Yes [ ] No [ X ]

If yes, explain:_____________________________________________________________________

In which of the following would you like to participate? (Check one or more.)

League Officer [ ] Coach [ ] Umpire [ ] Field Maintenance [ ]

Manager [ ] Scorekeeper [ ] Concession Stand [ ] Other [ ]

Please list three references, at least one of which has knowledge of your participation as a volunteer in a youth program:

Name/Phone__________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

IF YOU LIVE IN A STATE THAT REQUIRES A SEPARATE BACKGROUND CHECK, PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THAT STATE’S BACKGROUND CHECK FORM. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON STATE LAW, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: http://www.littleleague.org/areas/locator.page/state-law-background-checks.htm

AS A CONDITION OF VOLUNTEERING, I give permission for the Little League organization to conduct a background check on me now and as long as I continue to be active with the organization, which may include a review of sex offender registries (some of which contain names only searches which may result in a report being generated that may or may not be true). I also agree and consent that the records which are released to me in connection with my application or background check may include any information on my background, I hereby release and agree to hold harmless from liability the local Little League, Little League Baseball, Incorporated, the officers, employees and volunteers thereof, or any other person or organization that may provide such information. I also understand that, regardless of previous appointments, Little League is not obligated to appoint me to a volunteer position. If appointed, I understand that, prior to the expiration of my term, I am subject to suspension by the President and removal by the Board of Directors for violation of Little League policies or principles.

Applicant Signature_________________________Date___________________

If Minor/Parent Signature_________________________Date___________________

Applicant Name (please print or type)________________________________________________________

NOTE: The local Little League and Little League Baseball, Incorporated will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual

LOCAL LEAGUE USE ONLY:

Background check completed by league officer__________________________

System(s) used for background check (minimum of one must be checked):

Sex Offender Registry [ ] Criminal History Record [ ] First Advantage [ ]

*Please be advised that if you use First Advantage and there is a name match in the data base where only one name match occurs the test can be performed you should notify volunteer that they will receive a letter directly from Little League in compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act containing information regarding all the credit records associated with the name, which may not necessarily be the league volunteer.

Only attach to this application copies of background check reports that reveal conditions of this application.
With Your Help, ASAP Is STILL Making it ‘Safer for the Kids’

THANK YOU!