LEAGUE PRESENTATION
ASAP:
Making an Impact for Little League

A Safety Awareness Program of Little League Baseball® and Softball
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
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’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
Where we’re from...

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
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?

Performance Legend
- 100 percent
- 99-90 percent
- 89-75 percent
- 74-50 percent
- 49-25 percent
- 24-5 percent

ASAP Participation by Region: ’15 ’14
Central: 81% 83%
East: 82% 83%
Southeast: 98% 98%
West: 91% 92%
Southwest: 82% 83%
District Administrators’ Impact

Southwestern Region at 82%

Safety Plans in the Southwestern Region:
- Colorado: 89%/92%
- New Mexico: 90%/90%
- Oklahoma: 100%/100%
- Arkansas: 63%/52%
- Louisiana: 84%
- Mississippi: 57%/50%

2015/2014
District Administrators’ Impact

Central Region at 81%

Safety Plans in the Central Region:
- North Dakota & South Dakota: 25%/58%
- Nebraska: 92%/92%
- Kansas: 40%/17%
- Minnesota: 68%
- Iowa: 78%/87%
- Missouri: 68%
- Wisconsin: 62%
- Illinois: 81%
- Indiana: 91%
- Ohio: 83%
- Michigan: 86%
- Kentucky: 84%
District Administrators’ Impact

Eastern Region at 82%

Safety Plans in the Eastern Region:

- New Hampshire: 92%
- Vermont: 56%
- New York: 70%
- Pennsylvania: 82%/84%
- New Jersey: 92%/91%
- Maryland: 96%/95%
- Delaware: 93%/96%
- Washington, DC: 100%/100%
- Massachusetts: 87%/85%
- Rhode Island: 94%/100%

Comparison:
- 2015: 82%
- 2014: 83%
Southeast Region at 98%! 

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

Western Region at 91%

Performance Legend

100 percent
99-90 percent
89-75 percent
74-50 percent
49-25 percent
24-0 percent

Safety Plans in the Western Region:
91%/92%
2015/2014

- Alaska: 73%/91%
- Hawaii: 96%
- 89%
- Oregon: 97%/89%
- Washington: 90%/92%
- Montana: 80%/83%
- Idaho: 95%
- Wyoming: 88%/100%
- Nevada: 93%/96%
- California: 94%
- Utah: 25%/43%
- Arizona: 83%/86%
Training *Still* Key to Majority of Injury Reductions

- **Combine and Win - Inter-League Clinics**
  - Combine specialty clinics (i.e., CPR, AED)
  - Coordinate leagues’ trainings schedules for options for coaches and volunteers to attend

- **Divide and Conquer**
  - Offer specific clinics for age-appropriate training
  - Provide trainers knowledgeable for skill level
Implement and Enhance -- Can’t ‘Fix’ Just One Spot

• Go *beyond* 15 minimum requirements
• Many risks require many solutions, not just a copied safety plan from another League
• Leagues need to create own plans for:
  – Inspections of Equipment and Facilities, Ongoing Training, Maintenance Guidelines, Equipment Improvements, Facilities Upgrades, Concessions Guidelines, etc.
Making it ‘Safer for the Kids’

Rule Changes Enhancing Safety

- 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
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
- Only 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.
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: ___________________________

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____ If yes, list full name and what level?

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

Do you have a valid driver’s license? ____Yes____No____ State: ___________________________

Driver’s License #: ___________________________

Have you ever been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any crime(s) involving or against a minor? ____Yes____No____ 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____ If yes, explain: ___________________________

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

League Official  ____ 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 BY LAW, PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THAT STATE’S BACKGROUND CHECK. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON State Laws, VISIT OUR WEBSITE: http://www.littleleague.org/littleleague/administration/state-laws-background-checks.htm

AS A CONDITION OF Volunteering, I give an authorization for the Little League organization to contact background check(ies) as necessary and as long as continued to be active with the organization, which may include a review of sex offender registries (some of which contain name-only searches which may result in a report being generated that may not be accurate), state police and criminal history records. I understand that, if accepted, my position is conditional upon the league receiving no inappropriate 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 persons 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 this form, 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’s 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 official: ___________________________

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

Sex Offender Registry  ____ Criminal History Record  ____ First Advantage  ____

*Please be advised if you use First Advantage and live in a state in which First Advantage is not legal, you will receive a letter directing you to LexisNexis in compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act containing information regarding all criminal records associated with your name, which may not necessarily be the league volunteer.

Only attach this application copies of background check reports that reveal conviction of this application.
Ideas Prove Valuable

• Fence top was early ASAP idea, keeps players safe from wire tops
Ideas Prove Valuable

• Ball return keeps out-of-play balls out-of-play until players ready
Ideas Prove Valuable

• Overhead screens protect spectators better than yelling ‘heads-up!’
Ideas Prove Valuable

- Leagues address local conditions - like extreme heat in south/southwest
Getting Everyone Involved

• Involving players in safety with tokens or other incentives gets everyone thinking ‘safety’
Sharing Is Still Working

• New ideas continue for new needs like badges for approved volunteers
Why We Care:

• Reducing avoidable injuries like this player hit by a bat in the dugout
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
ASAP has defined tools

ASAP News

• Available on the Little League website.
• Hard copy mailed to each league and district
ASAP has defined tools

- ASAP News
- ASAP Hotline
- ASAP on the Little League website
  » Play It Safe
  » A Little Common Sense...
  » A Year in the Life of Hometown Little League
  » ASAP Presentation
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.
With Everyone’s Help, ASAP *Has* Made a Difference:

- With your continued support, ASAP will help to reduce injuries to all participants in the Little League program.

Thank You!
1. Have active safety officer on file with HQ

- Just like DSO, this needs to be a dedicated safety position
- May have more than one SO
- Some use team SO’s to form safety committee
2. Have **published** league safety policy or manual in paper form
   - Include emergency procedures
   - Give appropriate sections to all
     - Coaches and managers
     - Post in concession stand
     - Parents, volunteers
     - League officials, umpires
     - Facility workers
   - Submit by March 11/ April 1 to LLHQ
3. Post, distribute emergency numbers

- Emergency services (911)
- Key league officials
4. Volunteer Application & Background Checks

• Little League International provides 125 free checks for each league and district through First Advantage (reset yearly in November).

  – 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. 1c
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. First 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.
5. Provide coaches and managers with fundamentals training

- I.e.: batting, fielding, sliding
- High school, college coaches may do to help young players
- Use veteran League coaches
- Must require date, location, and who is required to attend.
- Mandatory for at least 1 coach per team to attend each year
- Mandatory that each coach attend at least once every 3 years
6. Require training in first-aid for coaches

- Doesn’t have to be paid
- **Mandatory for at least 1 coach per team to attend each year**
- **Mandatory that each coach attend at least once every 3 years**
- Look for qualified parents in community
- Nurses, Doctors; Paramedics; Athletic Trainers
- Must require date, location, and who is required to attend.
- Leagues may exempt licensed Medical Doctors, RN’s, LPN’s & licensed Paramedics from attending training
- Those who attend “other” First Aid training or courses are not exempt.
7. Require field inspections before games, practices

– Look for hazards
– Fix before playing
– Inspections common in other sports
  • Football/Basketball
– Coach/umpire/team safety officer could be responsible
Complete ANNUAL Little League Facility Survey

Keep copies

Must complete 2016 form; five pages

Forces Leagues to evaluate facilities each year, on-going
9. Have written safety procedures for concession stand
   - Put signs up reminding workers
   - Train workers in proper food handling
   - Set minimum age for workers
   - Safety Plan must contain written procedures for safe food handling and preparation and care & use of equipment
   - If your league does not have a concession stand, please note this in your Safety Plan.
10. Require regular inspection and replacement of equipment

- Beginning of season

- Before each use

- Inspect facilities, facilities’ equipment, and playing equipment
11. Have a method to report, track injuries

- Many leagues require notification within 24-48 hours after incidents
- Report ‘near-misses’, too
12. Provide teams with well equipped First Aid Kits

– Local sponsors/medical providers/manufacturers are good resources
13. Enforce rules

• Include wearing catchers gear and helmet rules during practice and warm-up

• Coaches are not catchers
14. Complete Qualified Safety Program Registration Form

Must complete 2016 Form
15. League Player Registration Data or Player Roster Data and Coach and Manager Data.

- League Player Registration Data or Player Roster Data and Coach and Manager Data may be submitted via the Little League Data Center at www.LittleLeague.org.
With Your Help, ASAP Is STILL Making it ‘Safer for the Kids’

THANK YOU!