

Lakeview Youth Association (LYA) Child Protection Program Policy

Effective Date: March 16, 2025

Most Recent Review: March 16, 2025

1. Purpose

- a. The Lakeview Youth Association (LYA) is committed to providing a safe and positive environment for all youth participants. This Child Protection Program Policy outlines LYA's commitment to safeguarding children by implementing thorough background checks, mandatory training, reporting requirements, non-retaliation protections, and appropriate interaction guidelines.
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2. Complete Background Checks

- a. LYA requires all volunteers to complete an annual background check using the Little League Volunteer application form.
 - b. These checks are conducted through J.D. Palatine (JDP) and are used to screen for offenses that would disqualify an individual from participating in LYA activities.
 - c. Any individual without a completed background check may not be identified as a team coach or volunteer, be on the field of play, or be present in dugouts.
 - d. This standard applies to ALL Lakeview Youth Association sports.
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3. Mandatory Training & Continuing Education

- a. All LYA Little League volunteers must complete the Little League Abuse Awareness Training annually.
 - b. The training is provided at no cost and may be completed via an online interactive module, in-person sessions, or other delivery methods that accommodate the socioeconomic and demographic needs of the recipients.
 - c. It is the responsibility of the league to ensure that all volunteers have successfully completed the training.
 - d. This standard applies specifically to the Battle Creek Area Little League, operated by LYA.
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4. Mandatory Reporting Requirements

- a. All LYA Board Members are required to report any known or suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse involving a minor, to the appropriate authorities within 24 hours.
 - b. While coaches are encouraged to adhere to mandatory reporter requirements, their compliance may not always be verifiable due to confidentiality laws regarding Child Protective Services (CPS) reports.
 - c. If a Board Member becomes aware of alleged abuse and cannot verify that a coach has reported it, the Board Member must report the abuse.
 - d. **If you suspect abuse or neglect, report it any time day or night online or by calling 1-855-444-3911.**
 - e. This standard applies to ALL Lakeview Youth Association sports.
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5. **Non-Retaliation for Reporting**

- a. LYA strictly prohibits any form of retaliation against individuals who make a good-faith report of child abuse. This policy ensures that all volunteers and participants feel safe reporting concerns without fear of adverse consequences.
 - b. This standard applies to ALL Lakeview Youth Association sports.
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6. **Restriction of One-On-One Interactions**

- a. To ensure child safety, LYA *strongly discourages* one-on-one interactions between coaches/volunteers and minors unless they are within an observable and interruptible distance of another adult.
 - b. Exceptions should be made only in cases of urgent or emergent situations where supervision by another adult is not possible.
 - c. This standard applies to ALL Lakeview Youth Association sports.
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7. **Enforcement & Compliance**

- a. LYA reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary actions, including suspension or removal from volunteer roles, against individuals found in violation of this policy.
 - b. Compliance with this Child Protection Program Policy is a condition of participation in LYA activities.
 - c. Each sport's director is responsible for working with coaches to ensure that coaches are aware of and fully enforce this policy.
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8. **Review & Updates**

- a. This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it aligns with best practices and legal requirements.
 - b. Any updates or modifications will be communicated to all volunteers and stakeholders.
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9. **Acknowledgment**

- a. All LYA volunteers must acknowledge receipt and understanding of this policy and agree to adhere to its provisions as a condition of participation in LYA programs.