



MERRITT ISLAND LL 2026 SAFE SUMMARY

League Location: Merritt Island, FL

League ID: 3090221

MERRITT ISLAND LL 2026 SAFE SUMMARY

Dear Volunteers, Parents/Guardians, and Players:

MERRITT ISLAND LL is committed to providing a safe, welcoming environment where every player, volunteer, and family feels supported. Safety is an important part of every season, and we believe it is a shared responsibility that helps everyone enjoy the game with confidence and peace of mind.

As part of Little League SAFE, our league has confirmed the steps we take to protect children, prepare volunteers, and maintain safe facilities and playing conditions. From equipment checks and emergency planning to strong child protection practices and volunteer training, our goal is to create a positive, fun, and secure experience for every participant.

Thank you for being part of a community that puts kids first and works together to help ensure a safe, memorable Little League season.

Sincerely,

MERRITT ISLAND LL Board of Directors

LEAGUE LEADERSHIP AND CONTACTS

Keeping contact information up to date helps volunteers know exactly who to reach when questions or safety concerns arise.

Primary Contacts

Kristin Cobb

League President

milittleleaguepresident@gmail.com

[484-356-4040](tel:484-356-4040)

Meredith Tucker

League Safety Officer

Safetyofficermill@gmail.com

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Joseph LeBlanc

District Administrator

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Kelly Caceres

District Safety Officer

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Additional Contacts

Brian DeGonzague

League Treasurer

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Rosie Wessner

League Softball Vice President, League

Sponsorship/Fundraising Manager

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Mike Colburn

League Player Agent

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Josephine Affeld

League Secretary

millsecretary.mill@gmail.com

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Missy Hintz

League Baseball Vice President

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[321-261-8494](tel:321-261-8494)

Daniella Stone

League Information Officer

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Tony Tucker

League Coaching Coordinator

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[325-829-8618](tel:325-829-8618)

Best Practice: Share a simple "Who to Contact" list with managers, coaches, and volunteers so everyone knows where to go for help during the season.

CHILD PROTECTION

Little League requires every chartered league to follow a set of core child protection policies to help keep children safe. Protecting players is our highest priority, and these policies ensure volunteers understand their responsibilities both on and off the field.

Your league has confirmed that all of the following policies are in place:

1. Annual Background Checks

MERRITT ISLAND LL confirms that all volunteers with regular contact with players complete annual background checks through J.D. Palatine (JDP), as required by Little League Regulation I(c) 8 and 9. Anyone with a disqualifying offense is prohibited from participating in any Little League activity. Background check laws vary across the country, and any additional requirements that apply to your league can be found at <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/state-laws-background-checks-leagues/>. Your league is responsible for understanding and complying with any applicable state laws regarding background checks.

2. Annual Abuse Awareness Training

MERRITT ISLAND LL requires all volunteers to complete the Little League Abuse Awareness Training each year before assuming any duties. This training helps volunteers recognize, prevent, and respond to misconduct and abuse. Little League Abuse Awareness Training can be found at <https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/abuse-awareness-training-course/>

3. Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse

MERRITT ISLAND LL acknowledges that all volunteers are mandatory reporters under federal law and must report suspected child abuse, including sexual abuse, to the proper authorities within 24 hours. Reports should also be shared with the League President and District Administrator. State reporting requirements vary, and any laws that apply to your league can be found at <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/state-specific-information-child-abuse/>. Your league is responsible for understanding and complying with any applicable state laws.

4. Non-Retaliation Policy

MERRITT ISLAND LL has adopted a policy that prohibits retaliation against anyone who makes a good-faith report of suspected abuse or misconduct. This ensures volunteers feel safe coming forward with concerns.

5. One-on-One Interaction Policy

MERRITT ISLAND LL has adopted the Little League One-on-One Interaction Policy, which requires that all interactions between adults and minors be observable and interruptible by another adult. This reduces opportunities for misconduct while still supporting positive mentoring relationships.

Best Practice: Reinforce child protection expectations clearly and consistently so volunteers know what to do and who to contact.

- Review expectations with all volunteers at the start of each season.
- Make reporting steps clear and easy to follow.
- Keep child protection policies easily accessible.

Child Protection Resources:

- Little League Abuse Awareness Training (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/abuse-awareness-training-course/>)
- Full Little League Child Protection Program (<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/>)
- State-Specific Background Check Laws (<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/state-laws-background-checks-leagues/>)
- State - Specific Mandatory Reporting Laws (<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/state-specific-information-child-abuse/>)
- J.D.Palatine(JDP) Background Checks (<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/local-league-background-check-information/>)
- USA Baseball – Abuse Awareness Resources (<https://usabdevelops.com/page/4834/base>)
- U.S.Center for SafeSport – Reporting and Education (<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/child-protection-program/safesport-resources-parents/>)
- ChildHelp National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-4-A-CHILD)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Being prepared for unexpected situations helps keep players, volunteers, and families safe. The information below highlights the emergency procedures and contacts in place during all league activities.

Emergency Contacts

- In any emergency situation, volunteers should immediately **call 911**
- Poison Control is also available nationwide at **1-800-222-1222**

Emergency Action Plan

Emergencies can happen when you least expect them. A clear and accessible EAP helps volunteers respond quickly, communicate effectively, and take the right steps to keep players and families safe.

MERRITT ISLAND LL has an Emergency Action Plan in place. Regularly reviewing this plan with volunteers and players helps ensure everyone knows how to respond quickly and confidently during an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness Resources:

- Little League Lightning & Severe Weather Safety Guidelines
(<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/staying-safe-from-lightning-at-the-field/>)

FIRST AID & INJURY PREVENTION

A prepared volunteer is better equipped to respond when injuries or medical situations occur. Below is an overview of the first aid training, equipment, and safety practices in place for the season.

First Aid Training

First aid training helps volunteers respond effectively when injuries or emergencies happen. These trainings reinforce skills such as:

- Treating minor injuries
- Managing bleeding and nosebleeds
- Recognizing potential fractures or serious injuries
- Identifying head-injury symptoms
- Responding to heat-related illness
- Treating allergic reactions
- Knowing when to call 911

First aid training requirements for MERRITT ISLAND LL:

- Little League First Aid Awareness Training: **Recommended**
- Formal First Aid Certification: **Recommended**
- CPR Certification and AED Use Training: **Recommended**

First Aid Kits

Accessible first aid supplies help volunteers respond quickly when an injury occurs. Keeping first aid kits stocked and easy to reach helps volunteers respond quickly during games and practices.

Recommended First Aid Kit Contents:

- Adhesive bandages (various sizes)
- Sterile gauze pads and rolled gauze
- Antiseptic wipes
- Instant cold packs
- Elastic wraps
- Tweezers and disposable gloves
- Nosebleed supplies (gauze, tissues)
- Small splint or finger splint
- CPR mask or face shield
- Allergy/sting relief wipes
- Cold Packs
- Tape and scissors

Best Practice: Each team should receive its first aid kit at the start of the season. First aid kits should travel with the team and be kept in an easy-to-reach spot during both games and practices.

Concussion Awareness

MERRITT ISLAND LL has confirmed that it follows required concussion training and has a protocol in place for recognizing and responding to potential head injuries during practices and games. Little League encourages all volunteers to follow the "When in doubt, sit them out" approach so players are removed from play immediately if a concussion is suspected.

Common signs and symptoms of a possible concussion include:

- Headache or pressure in the head
- Dizziness or balance problems
- Confusion, memory issues, or appearing "out of it"
- Nausea or vomiting
- Blurred vision or sensitivity to light or noise
- Behavior that seems unusual for the player

State concussion laws vary across the country. Some apply only to school athletics, while others apply to all youth sports organizations. State-specific information can be found at: <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/concussions-youth-athletes/>. Your league is responsible for understanding and complying with any applicable state laws.

Best Practice: If a concussion is suspected, volunteers should follow these steps:

- Remove the player from play immediately
- Ensure the player is monitored by an adult
- Refer the player to a licensed health care professional for evaluation
- Do not allow return to play on the same day
- Require written medical clearance before the player resumes practices or games

Access to Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

AEDs can play a lifesaving role during sudden cardiac emergencies, and clear access helps volunteers respond quickly when every second matters.

MERRITT ISLAND LL has reported that it has AEDs available at all league facilities.

Best Practice: AEDs are most effective when:

- Volunteers know the exact location of each device
- Devices are accessible during practices and games
- Batteries and pads are checked and replaced as needed
- Multiple volunteers are trained in basic AED use

State laws addressing AED access and sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) training can vary across the country. Some requirements apply only to school facilities or interscholastic athletics, while others extend to youth sports organizations or municipal fields. State-specific requirements for AEDs can be found at:

<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/state-laws-on-automated-external-defibrillators/>

State specific requirements for SCA training can be found at: <https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/state-laws-on-sudden-cardiac-arrest-training/>.

Your league is responsible for understanding and complying with any applicable state laws.

First Aid & Injury Prevention Resources:

- First Aid Kit Checklist (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/first-aid-kits-an-items-list/>)
- Little League First Aid Awareness Training (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/first-aid-awareness-training-course/>)
- CDC Heads Up – Concussion Resources (<https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up/>)
- State-Specific Concussion Laws (<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/concussions-youth-athletes/>)
- State-Specific AED Laws (<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/state-laws-on-automated-external-defibrillators/>)
- State-Specific SCA Training Laws (<https://www.littleleague.org/player-safety/state-laws-on-sudden-cardiac-arrest-training/>)

EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Safe, well-maintained equipment helps prevent injuries and supports a positive playing experience. The information below reflects how playing equipment is inspected and monitored throughout the season.

Batting Helmets

All batting helmets must be NOCSAE-certified and free of cracks, dents, or deteriorating padding.

- Helmets are inspected at the start of the season and as needed
- Damaged or ill-fitting helmets are removed from use immediately
- Non-OEM (non-manufacturer) modifications are prohibited
- Properly fitted, undamaged helmets play an important role in preventing head injuries

Catcher's Gear

Catcher's equipment must be complete, well-maintained, and properly fitted for each player. A full set includes:

- Helmet with full face mask
- Dangling throat guard (required)
- Chest protector
- Leg guards

Equipment Inspections

At MERRITT ISLAND LL, coach or manager carry out regular equipment inspections throughout the season. These checks help identify items that should be repaired or removed from use.

- Unsafe or excessively worn equipment should be removed immediately
- Routine inspections help ensure players are always using equipment that will keep them safe from injury

Best Practice: Teach players to do quick self-checks of their helmets and gear before practices and games. Helping players look for cracks, loose padding, or missing pieces builds good habits and supports a shared culture of safety.

Equipment Safety Resources:

- Equipment and Facility Check-Ups (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/make-regular-equipment-facility-check-ups-a-year-round-endavor-for-your-league-or-district/>)

FACILITY SAFETY

Safe, well-maintained facilities help create a positive experience for players, families, and volunteers. Your league has shared the steps it takes to help keep playing conditions safe throughout the season.

Seasonal Facility Inspection

MERRITT ISLAND LL completes a thorough review of all fields and facilities at the beginning and end of each season. This inspection helps the league:

- Identify needed repairs
- Document safety concerns
- Plan for maintenance or improvements
- Confirm that fields and common areas are ready for use

Ongoing Facility Checks

MERRITT ISLAND LL conducts regular in-season checks to help ensure facilities remain safe and ready for play. These checks typically look for:

- Loose or damaged fencing
- Worn or broken bases
- Slick, uneven, or poorly drained surfaces
- Broken or unstable bleachers
- Lighting or electrical concerns
- Hazards in dugouts, walkways, or spectator areas

Field Safety

Before every game and practice, fields and dugouts should be reviewed to ensure safe playing conditions. These quick checks help volunteers:

- Spot hazards early
- Prevent injuries
- Address small issues before they become larger concerns
- Confirm that field equipment, playing surfaces, and dugout areas are safe and ready for use

At MERRITT ISLAND LL, coach or manager carry out field and dugout safety checks before games and practices.

Annual Little League Facility Survey

Each year, leagues complete the Little League Annual Facility Survey, which records the condition of each field, identifies maintenance or safety needs, and documents key details about layout, features, and emergency equipment.

A report generated from MERRITT ISLAND LL's completed facility survey is included with this SAFE Summary.

Best Practice: Create a simple, shared inspection checklist for coaches and volunteers to use before games and practices. Consistent use of the same checklist helps ensure issues are spotted early and reported quickly.

For more information about facility safety at MERRITT ISLAND LL, or to report a concern, please contact: League Safety Officer

Facility Safety Resources:

- Day to Day Safety Checklist (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/the-safest-little-league-experience-comes-from-doing-common-tasks/>)
- Pre-Season Facility Checkup (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/conduct-a-facilities-safety-check-before-the-season-starts/>)

CONCESSION STAND SAFETY

Concession stands add to the game day experience, but they also involve equipment, heat sources, and food handling, all of which require clear safety procedures. The information below summarizes how MERRITT ISLAND LL helps maintain a safe concession operation throughout the season.

MERRITT ISLAND LL has confirmed that its concession stand(s):

- Follow all applicable local health and safety regulations
- Provide volunteers with guidance in safe food handling and equipment use
- Maintain a working fire extinguisher that is readily available
- Keep first aid supplies in the concession stand
- Do not allow minors to work in or remain inside the concession stand during operating hours

Best practice: Post simple safety reminders inside the concession stand so volunteers can quickly review expectations before each shift, including:

- Handwashing steps
- Safe food temperatures
- Equipment shut-off procedures
- Location of the fire extinguisher
- Emergency contact information

For more information about concession stand safety at MERRITT ISLAND LL, or to report a concern, please contact: Concessions Manager

Concession Stand Safety Resources:

- Concession Stand Safety (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/concession-stand-safety-tips-12-steps-to-safe-sanitary-food-service/>)
- Concession Stand Safety Checklist (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/concession-stand-inspection-checklist/>)

TRAINING & EDUCATION

When volunteers are trained and prepared, it helps to prevent injuries, respond to emergencies, and create a positive experience for everyone involved. This section highlights the volunteer trainings that MERRITT ISLAND LL requires and encourages.

Abuse Awareness Training

Little League requires all volunteers who undergo a background check to complete Abuse Awareness Training each year. MERRITT ISLAND LL confirms that all required volunteers complete Abuse Awareness Training each season.

Safety Awareness Training (Little League University)

Safety Awareness Training helps volunteers understand common safety risks, recognize unsafe situations, and take proactive steps to prevent injuries.

MERRITT ISLAND LL requires Safety Awareness Training for: League Officers/Board Members, Managers and Coaches, Umpires, All Other Volunteers.

First Aid Awareness Training (Little League University)

First Aid Awareness Training helps volunteers recognize injuries, respond appropriately, know when to call 911, and take steps to prevent medical emergencies.

MERRITT ISLAND LL requires First Aid Awareness Training for League Officers/Board Members, Managers and Coaches, Umpires, All Other Volunteers.

Diamond Leader Training (Little League University)

Diamond Leader Training supports coaches and volunteers in creating a positive team environment focused on player well-being, sportsmanship, communication, and healthy culture.

MERRITT ISLAND LL requires Diamond Leader Training for League Officers/Board Members, Managers and Coaches, Umpires, All Other Volunteers.

Additional Trainings Offered or Encouraged

MERRITT ISLAND LL has indicated that it offers or requires the following additional trainings:

- Coaching Skills & Game Fundamentals Training
- Formal First Aid Certification
- CPR Certification
- AED Use Training
- Concession Safety Training
- Emergency Response Training
- Little League Prepare Training (Little League University)
- Little League Play Training (Little League University)
- Little League Umpire Training (Little League University)

Best practice: Share a simple training plan at the start of the season outlining required courses, who must complete them, and suggested deadlines. Clear expectations help volunteers stay on track.

Training and Education Resources:

- Little League University (LLU) Trainings Overview (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/training/>)
- Little League Abuse Awareness Training (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/abuse-awareness-training-course/>)
- Little League Safety Awareness Training (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/safety-awareness-training-course/>)
- Little League First Aid Awareness Training (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/first-aid-awareness-training-course/>)

ACCIDENT INSURANCE & INCIDENT REPORTING

Accidents can happen at any time, and being prepared helps leagues support families and volunteers when they do. Understanding and documenting injuries ensures everyone gets the help they need and allows the league to strengthen safety practices for future seasons.

How to Submit an Accident Claim

If a player or volunteer requires medical treatment after a league-sanctioned activity, families should follow these steps:

1. Download the Accident Claim Form from [LittleLeague.org](https://www.littleleague.org).
2. Provide the claimant's full information, including parent or guardian details if the claimant is a minor.
3. Complete all sections of the form. Missing information causes delays.
4. Include primary insurance information. If the claimant has no insurance, written employer verification is required.
5. Attach itemized medical bills that include dates of service, procedure codes, diagnosis codes, and charges.
6. For dental injuries, submit bills to the primary medical and dental insurer first, then include the insurer's Explanation of Benefits.
7. Have a league official (President, Safety Officer, etc.) complete and sign the League Statement section.
8. Completed claim forms and supporting documents must be mailed. Email and fax submissions cannot be accepted.

Questions about the claim process may be sent to AccidentClaim@LittleLeague.org.

Incident Tracking

MERRITT ISLAND LL documents all injuries and incidents that occur during league activities.

- Reports are completed using the official Little League Incident Tracking Form.
- A designated league officer is responsible for collecting and reviewing each report.
- Reviewing incident information throughout the season helps the league identify trends, address hazards, and strengthen safety practices.

Best practice: Monitor incident reports and near-miss situations regularly during the season. Tracking both helps identify emerging patterns, field conditions, equipment problems, or other safety concerns, so the league can take proactive steps to prevent injuries and improve the overall safety of the program.

To report an incident, or for more information about filing an accident claim, please contact: League Safety Officer

Accident Reporting Resources:

- Little League Incident Tracking Form (<https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/incident-injury-tracking-form/>)
- AIG Accident Claim Form (<https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/accident-claim-form/>)
- How to File an Accident Claim (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/how-to-submit-an-accident-insurance-claim/>)
- Little League Insurance Program Overview (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/little-league-insurance-programs/>)

LITTLE LEAGUE RULES & SAFETY BEST PRACTICES

Creating a safe, enjoyable playing environment begins with following Little League's official safety rules and reinforcing practices that protect players, volunteers, and families. MERRITT ISLAND LL has confirmed that it meets all required safety standards.

Little League Safety Rules

Little League's official safety rules are designed to prevent injuries and establish consistent expectations across the program. These rules help ensure safe play during practices and games.

Leagues must enforce the following:

- On-deck batters are not permitted in the Majors Division and below
- Batters, base runners, and player base coaches must wear helmets at all times
- Catcher's gear must include a dangling throat guard
- Metal cleats are prohibited in the Majors Division and below
- Disengageable bases are required on all baseball and softball fields
- Head-first sliding while advancing is not permitted in the Majors Division and below
- Pitch count limits and required rest days must be followed in all baseball divisions
- Bats must meet current Little League standards
- Game balls must meet current Little League standards and be in good condition

Safety Best Practices

In addition to official rules, many leagues adopt extra safety practices that strengthen routines, reinforce expectations, and create a positive environment for players, families, and volunteers.

Common safety best practices include:

- Keeping dugout and field gates closed during play
- Using a double first base on baseball and softball fields
- Reminding players not to throw equipment or swing bats near others
- Reviewing lightning and severe weather procedures with coaches and umpires
- Ensuring each team has emergency contact information available at practices and games
- Leading age-appropriate warm-ups and stretching to reduce injury risk
- Marking spectator areas clearly and keeping them separate from the field
- Encouraging volunteers, parents, and players to model sportsmanlike and respectful behavior
- Sharing safety reminders with families (emails, signage, or meetings)
- Posting safety signage in common areas (e.g., "No Climbing Fences," "Foul Ball Awareness," "AED Located Here")