

CHILD ABUSE/MOLESTATION

I N T R O D U C T I O N

BACKGROUND

Child Abuse/Molestation in the world of youth sports has received much media attention over the past five (5) years. No one knows for sure how often it occurs, however, when it does occur the impact to the child and the sports organization can be devastating.

In 1990, state child protective service agencies received and referred for investigation an estimated 1.7 million reports of alleged child abuse and neglect involving approximately 2.7 million children. Other research estimates that only 10% of all cases are even reported. One researcher estimates that one out of every three girls and one out of every five boys are abused between birth and their eighteenth birthday.

Medical professionals states that the effects of child abuse can surface decades later and often result in suicide, violence, delinquency, drug and/or alcohol abuse, and other forms of criminality that are child abuse related.

PURPOSE

The purpose of any program is to reduce the liability risk and related negative publicity, expense, and trauma to the local sports league. The likelihood of such can be reduced by making the environment unsuitable for the sexual predator and/or abuser.

Such a program should key in on the bare essentials of education, volunteer screening, policies, and program administration. The intent of this program is not to be all encompassing, but instead, to provide the framework of a basic workable program that is more likely to be implemented by a group of volunteers with limited resources and time. The simple framework of this program will not address all contingencies that are likely to be encountered. Therefore, the materials in the conclusion section should be available and consulted frequently.



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DEFINITIONS

Child Abuse: Verbal abuse (ridicule or put-downs), physical abuse (any hurting touching or excessive exercise used as punishment), emotional abuse (threats to perform unreasonable tasks), and sexual abuse.

Sexual Abuse: Refers to a wide spectrum of interactions including rape, physical assault, sexual battery, unwanted physical sexual contact, unwelcomed sexually explicit or offensive verbal communication, coercive or expletive sexual contact, verbal sexual harassment, and/or sexualized attention or contact with a minor.

Conduct Official: Single person within the league who is appointed by the board to administer the Simplified Child Abuse/Molestation Risk Management Program. The Conduct Official is responsible for education, reviewing Volunteer Applications, checking references, conducting criminal background checks, handling appeals from disqualified candidates, conducting investigations on allegations of abuse, acting as liaison to local law enforcement, etc.

Volunteer: Citizens who perform the various functions entailed in the running of a league without pay including league officers and directors, committee personnel, coaches, managers, umpires, scorekeepers, concession workers, etc.

A complete copy of our Child Abuse/Molestation Protection Program can be viewed by going to our website at <http://www.sadlersports.com> under our Free Reports section.

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