

## 2012 Serra Little League Safety Program

# Key Contacts, Safety By-Laws and Procedures

### Serra Little League 2012 Key Contacts

Title	Name	Mobile	E-mail
President	John Tracy	408-386-1612	president@serralittleleague.com
Safety Officer	Steve Gross	408-329-3355	safety@serralittleleague.com
Chief Umpire	Kevin Fitzpatrick	408-666-6474	chiefumpire@serralittleleague.com
Vice President	Brad Rogers		vicepresident@serralittleleague.com
Training Coordinator	Grant Chow		train@serralittleleague.com
Scheduler	Qi Lin		scheduler@serralittleleague.com
Equipment Coordinator	Charlie Crane		equipment@serralittleleague.com
Fundraising			fundraising@serralittleleague.com
Uniforms	Tina Rogers		uniforms@serralittleleague.com
Player Agent, Upper	Jeff Perry		playeragent.upper@serralittleleague.com
Player Agent, Lower	Mike Marcellini		playeragent.lower@serralittleleague.com
Information Officer	Jeff Bennett		webmaster@serralittleleague.com
Sunnyvale Field Hotline		408-730-7585	
Sunnyvale Emergency		408-736-6244	
Sunnyvale Non-Emergency		408-730-7100	

### 1.4 Safety-related By-Laws

A main concern for Serra and the entire Little League Organization is the safety of its players. Safety is an ongoing and ever present issue for the league and its members. This section includes safety-related By-Laws of the league. Safety-related Procedures are included in the Procedures section.

#### 1.5.1 Child Protection

Updated 11/2007 to require background checks utilizing LexisNexis®.

#### 1.5.2 Sexual Harassment

Serra Little League adheres to the sexual harassment policies of Little League, Inc., as described in the Little League Operations Manual.

### **1.5.3 Sunnyvale Park and Recreation Department and Cupertino Union School District Safety Rules**

The purpose of the following rules is to protect Serra Little League and those involved with it from injury and liability. They apply to all children and adults present before, during, and/or after Serra Little League games and practices. All adults and children involved in the League are expected to cooperate in obeying and enforcing these rules.

- No climbing on any structure or tree at any Serra Little League facility.
- No bikes, scooters, or skateboards may be ridden at or near the snack shack or any facility bleacher area. Bikes must be walked; scooters or skateboards must be walked or carried.
- No trespassing on the playground or facilities of the school(s) adjacent to Serra Park Field 2 or the Hebrew Day School adjacent to San Antonio Park. (Do we have a ball recovery/return agreement with the schools?)

### **1.5.4 Player Equipment and Uniforms**

Little League Rules 1.11 through 1.17 cover player equipment and uniforms. In particular, all male players must wear athletic supporters, and protective cups are mandatory for catchers (Rule 1.17).

#### **1.5.4.1 Protective Cups**

By Serra Little League by-law, protective cups are mandatory for all Majors and Minors players during games and practices. In Farm, they are mandatory for catchers and strongly encouraged for other players; Farm managers may require them for all players on their teams. (The purpose of this exception is to allow a farm manager to play a child in the outfield who finds a cup uncomfortable at the start of the season. The manager should encourage the child to get used to the cup as soon as possible)

#### **1.5.4.2 Helmet**

- a. Catchers must wear long-model chest protector, catching helmet with throat protector at all times, including practices. The helmet must be a legal Little League helmet. Skull caps are not allowed for catchers at any level of Little League (Rule 1.17).
- b. Any player acting as a catcher for a player, coach, or manager who has a bat in his hand (for example, a coach hitting ground or fly balls to players) is a catcher and must wear a catcher's helmet.
- c. Batters, baserunners, and player base coaches must wear helmets at all times, including practices (Rule 1.16). Note: Any player holding a bat is a batter and must have a helmet on.
- d. If a helmet has metal snaps for, and a chin strap attached, then it must be attached on both ends (no dangling straps).
- e. Helmets may not be painted with team colors, symbols, or anything else.

#### **1.5.4.3 Bat Safety**

There are no on-deck hitters in Little League (for ages 12 and below) [Rule 1.08]. This means that:

- a. During games, no one except the batter should have a bat in his/her hand. Each batter may stop to take a few practice swings on his way to the plate for their at-bat.
- b. During pre-game and practices, only players receiving hitting practice or instruction should have a bat in their hand.
- c. Any batter with a bat in their hand must be wearing an approved batting helmet.

“Pepper” games during practice, in which rows of pitchers and rows of batters face one another, are not allowed in Little League.

#### **1.5.4.4 Other**

- a. A catcher must wear a catcher's mitt (Rule 1.12)

- b. No metal jewelry, rings, watches, studs, etc. may be worn during games or practices (except medical jewelry).

#### **1.5.4.5 During Games**

Umpires have broad authority to deal with safety issues that arise during games and are not covered by the rule book (Rule 9.1.c). It is impossible to provide a rule for every situation that may arise. Umpires have sole authority to stop games due to unsafe conditions, including rain and excessive heat.

It is League policy that a game should not continue beyond the sunset time published in the San Jose Mercury News, and as posted in the Equipment Shed at Serra 1. Experience shows that most batters cannot see a pitch well after that time. Umpires can call the game earlier if they believe it is too dark to play.

No one except players, managers, coaches, umpires and news photographers is permitted on the playing field just before and during games [Regulation XIV(b), Rule 3.15].

At least one adult must be present in the dugout at all times [Regulation XIV(d)].

A manager or coach may not warm up a pitcher before or during the game, or at practices. Only a player can act as a catcher (Rule 3.09).

### **1.5 Safety-Related Procedures**

Safety is everyone's responsibility. In particular, safety is the responsibility of all adults involved with the Little League program, not just managers, coaches and umpires. Every League Parent who sees a safety problem should take steps to get the problem corrected, either personally or through a League volunteer.

#### **1.6.1 Reporting Injuries**

Any non-trivial injury to a player, manager, coach, umpire, or spectator must be reported to the Safety Officer immediately (preferably within 24 hours of the incident). "Near misses" must also be reported to the Safety Officer. When in doubt, a manager should report the injury and let the Safety Officer decide if it is serious enough to warrant a report. All managers were given the Safety Officer's contact information (phone numbers and e-mail address) to report injuries. They were also provided with the Incident/Injury Tracking Report form. The Safety Officer tracks all incidents and near misses. The tracking report/accidents are reviewed at each board meeting. Reports are also submitted to the District Safety Officer.

#### **1.6.2 Equipment**

Managers are responsible for making sure that they have the right equipment in the right sizes. They are encouraged to keep track of their equipment and contact the league equipment manager immediately for additional needs.

- a. Batting and catcher's helmets must fit securely. Note: Face shields for batting helmets are available from the league equipment manager (This was a point of discussion during the manager's meetings).
- b. Chest protectors and shin guards for catchers must fit properly, neither too tight nor too loose.
- c. If more helmets, chest protectors, or shin guards, or if different sizes of any of these are needed, the team manager should contact the league equipment manager.

NOTE: If a piece of equipment breaks or wears out, becoming unusable or unsafe, call the equipment manager right away. He will provide a replacement, as well as collect the old equipment for disposal (to ensure no further use). Don't just throw it back in the equipment bag.

### **1.6.3 Safety During Practices and Games**

Managers and coaches are responsible for knowing and enforcing all Little League safety rules and Serra By-Laws regarding safety, such as those regarding helmets and protective cups.

Managers and coaches are also responsible for using common sense. It is impossible to list here all the possible unsafe situations that might occur during a practice or game. Adults must be alert to such situations and correct them as they occur. In unsafe weather conditions, managers must initiate discussions with umpires on game stoppage due to unsafe weather conditions and also stop their practices.

Managers and coaches take note: history shows that the most common source of serious injuries at Serra is a thrown or batted ball that strikes the face of a participant. Most such injuries occur during practices. Train players to be alert and safety conscious.

#### **1.6.3.1 Treatment of Injuries**

Use chemical ice packs for any injuries, or get ice packs from the snack shack if possible; a ziplock bag of ice is more effective than a chemical icepack.

Eye injuries may be more severe than they appear. If a child might have suffered an eye injury, always urge the parents to get medical attention for it. If a child sees "fire flies" or shadows, he/she may have suffered a severe eye injury and should have medical attention immediately. Be certain to report this type of injury to the Safety Officer.

#### **1.6.4 Rules for Safety During Practices**

- a. Use "no on deck hitter" rule in practice. It just keeps the habits right and gives one less thing to worry about. Only one player at a time should have a bat in his hands, and that player should be standing on the field, well away from other players, and wearing a helmet.
- b. Any player, acting as a catcher for a player, coach or manager who has a bat in his hand, must wear a catcher's helmet.
- c. Baserunners must always wear batting helmets.

#### **1.6.5 Batting Cage Safety Rules**

- a. The batting cages may not be used if the nets have been taken down for storage or repair.
- b. The pitching machines may only be operated by an adult volunteer.
- c. Only one batter in each cage at a time.
- d. Batters must wear batters helmets.
- e. Keep the doors closed.
- f. Don't wear loose clothing/ties around the pitching machines.
- g. Keep players away from the machines when they are picking up the balls.
- h. No use of the batting cages by anyone who is not a registered player of Serra Little League (that is, no friends, siblings, etc).

#### **1.6.6 Rules for Throwing Safety During Practices**

- a. When playing catch to warm up prior to a game or practice, the players are to be in two (2) parallel lines. Along each line the players are to be at least two full arm lengths apart.
- b. If a ball is overthrown or missed it is not to be thrown back to a partner until the retrieving player has returned all the way back to the throwing line.
- c. If you do not have eye contact with your partner, DO NOT throw the ball.