



Policy: Youth Protection

Board Approval Date: February 26, 2008

Bylaws Reference: Article 8 – Disciplinary Actions and Grievances

Associated Document: Volunteer Application Form

Board President Signature:

Steven Van Til

Date

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline Woodinville Baseball Club's procedures and guidelines for protecting youth members from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse and for reporting and responding to claims of abuse.

Background

More than 3 million reports of child abuse are received each year in the U.S., over 50,000 in Washington state alone. These reports include peer-to-peer, parent-to-child, and other adult-to-child incidences. The Club strives to create and maintain a safe environment for youth to participate in competitive baseball, encouraging healthy, appropriate relationships between players, and between players and coaches and other adult volunteers.

Preventative Measures

- ***Volunteer Applications:*** All adults volunteering to serve the Club in positions involving ongoing contact with youth members, will be required to complete a Volunteer Application in a form approved by the Board of Directors. Such volunteers will include, but not be limited to, all team managers and coaches and all Directors and Officers of the Club. The Volunteer Application will, at a minimum, include personal contact information, basic information to establish the identity of the volunteer, granting of permission for the Club to check the volunteer's criminal history through the Washington State Patrol's database, personal references, and specific questions relating to the volunteer's past involvement in youth programs and criminal record. Volunteer Applications and the personal information contained therein shall only be shared with other members of the Board of Directors as needed to make decisions on filling volunteer positions.
- ***Criminal History Checks:*** The Club President will collect and submit a Washington State Patrol Request for Criminal History for each prospective adult volunteer. Any adult volunteer who refuses to submit a Volunteer Application or through any background check is found to have a conviction or guilty plea for any crime involving or against a minor, shall be immediately suspended from all Club

participation. The Club may prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer if the Club deems the individual unfit to work with minors.

- ***Distribution of Youth Protection Policy:*** This policy will be posted on the Club's website and distributed to all prospective Club volunteers. The contents of the policy and the importance of providing a safe environment for players will be discussed at the Club's annual meeting, at team parent meetings at the beginning of the season, during team manager selection interviews, and during coaching clinics.

Responding to Claims

- The Club will take seriously all reported claims of abuse. Claims should be reported directly to the player's team manager and to the Club President. Any individual that is the subject of a claim of abuse will be immediately suspended from all Club participation.
- The Club will notify the player's family and local law enforcement of the claim of abuse. Investigations of claims of abuse are typically conducted by local law enforcement and/or the Washington State Department of Social & Health Services, Child Protective Services.
- An individual suspended from Club participation may resume their volunteer duties only after reinstatement through action of the Board of Directors. The Board will consider reinstatement upon completion of an investigation and clearance of allegations.
- If a Club member is convicted of or pleads guilty to any crime involving or against a minor, they will be permanently suspended from all Club participation and the Club will attempt to share such public information with parents/guardians of children who have had previous contact with this Club member.

Additional Resources

- Child Welfare Information Gateway, www.childwelfare.gov
- Washington State Department of Social & Health Services, Child Protective Services, 24/7 hotline: 1-866-ENDHARM (1-866-363-4276)