



SARATOGA WILTON

YOUTH BASEBALL

Child Abuse Prevention Policy

At Saratoga Wilton Youth Baseball (SWYB), the safety, well-being, and protection of our young athletes are paramount. We are dedicated to fostering an environment that prioritizes the physical and emotional safety of every participant within our baseball program.

This Child Abuse Prevention Policy is crafted to underscore our commitment to providing a secure and nurturing environment for all minors involved in SWYB activities. Aligned with the guidelines and principles set forth by the Babe Ruth League Child Protection Program, this policy outlines the measures and standards that SWYB implements to prevent and address any form of child abuse or exploitation.

Our organization recognizes that safeguarding youth from harm extends beyond the game of baseball. It is a collective responsibility that requires vigilance, proactive measures, and continuous education. Through the implementation of this policy, SWYB aims to establish a framework that ensures the safety and protection of our youth participants at all times.

We firmly believe that by adhering to these guidelines and promoting a culture of awareness, accountability, and responsible conduct, we can create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where young athletes can learn, grow, and thrive.

This policy serves as a testament to our enduring commitment to the well-being of our youth participants and reinforces our pledge to maintain the highest standards of child safety.

Volunteer Requirements and Screening

SWYB is committed to the safety and well-being of all participants. All managers, coaches, board members, and volunteers in regular contact with minor athletes must adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Babe Ruth League Child Protection Program. This includes mandatory completion of the Babe Ruth League Coaching Education and Certification Program, successful background

screening every two years through designated providers, and completion of Abuse Awareness and Prevention Training offered via designated providers.

Mandatory Reporting

Any suspicions, knowledge, or observations of child abuse or exploitation, including sexual abuse or any conditions that may harm a child, must be reported immediately within a 24-hour period to appropriate law enforcement agencies, as required by federal law. Individuals are encouraged to report any concerns directly to law enforcement and to communicate the report to SWYB officials.

Safe Interactions and Supervision

SWYB promotes safe interactions between adults and youth participants. The league encourages a "buddy system" where possible, ensuring that two adults are always present during practices, games, carpooling, and other league-sanctioned activities. One-on-one contact between a single non-related league volunteer and a child should be avoided if practically possible.

Travel Safety and Communication

During travel, coaches and volunteers should adhere to strict safety guidelines. All travel plans and itineraries should be communicated to parents, and parents are encouraged to provide transportation for their children to and from scheduled events. Any deviations from planned travel arrangements should be communicated in advance and recorded for transparency.

Electronic Communication and Social Media

SWYB emphasizes responsible and appropriate electronic communication between coaches or volunteers and minor athletes. Any communication should be signed for identification, non-personal, and used solely for league-related information. Communication should never include offensive, sexual, or inappropriate content. A parent/guardian or other responsible adult must be copied on all coach or player initiated messaging.

Allegations Reporting

If any individual suspects, knows, or observes any form of child abuse, they are required to report it to law enforcement agencies within the stipulated time frame and communicate the report to SWYB officials. Failure to report suspected abuse may result in criminal and civil penalties.

For More Information About Preventive Services: Call the Children's Services Unit of Saratoga County DSS at (518) 884-4151 or (518) 884-4152.

To Make a Hotline Report: Call the Child Abuse and Maltreatment Hotline Number 1-800-342-3720.

Training and Continuous Review

SWYB will conduct regular reviews of this Child Abuse Prevention Policy to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with local laws and regulations. The league will also continue to provide training and resources to volunteers to promote awareness and prevention of child abuse.

This Child Abuse Prevention Policy for Saratoga Wilton Youth Baseball aligns with the guidelines and principles established by the Babe Ruth League Child Protection Program. SWYB remains dedicated to upholding the highest standards of child protection, providing a safe and nurturing environment for all youth participants.