



Leaside Baseball Association

Youth Protection Policy

The Leaside Baseball Association (“LBA”) seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for the youth who participate in Leaside Baseball programming. By implementing the below practices, our goal is to protect the youth of the LBA from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior while also protecting our staff and volunteers from false accusations.

Two Adult Rule

It is our goal that a minimum of two (2) unrelated (non-familial) workers will be in attendance at all times when youth are being supervised during our programs and activities. Some programs may have only one coach in attendance during a session ; in these instances, parents should remain in attendance or there should be at least three (3) youth present.

We do not allow youth to be alone with one worker in any LBA-sponsored activity unless in a private coaching, instructing or training situation. In these circumstances, the parent must consent to the one-on-one session.

Responding to Allegations of Youth Abuse

For purposes of this policy, “youth abuse” is any action (or lack of action) that endangers or harms a youth’s physical, psychological or emotional health and development. Youth abuse occurs in different ways, such as:

- **Physical abuse:** any physical injury to a youth that is not accidental, such as beating, shaking, burns, and biting.
- **Emotional abuse:** emotional injury when the youth is not nurtured or provided with love and security, such as an environment of constant criticism, belittling, and persistent teasing.



- **Sexual abuse:** any sexual activity between a youth and an adult or between a youth and another youth at least four years older than the victim, including activities such as fondling, exhibitionism, intercourse, incest, and pornography.
- **Neglect:** depriving a youth of his or her essential needs, such as adequate food, water, shelter, and medical care.

In the event a worker, parent or youth becomes aware or is suspicious of alleged abuse or neglect of a youth under the care of the LBA, it should be reported immediately to the Leadership and Discipline Committee Chair for further action. The following confidential procedure shall be followed:

1. The parent or guardian of the youth will be notified.
2. The worker or youth alleged to be the perpetrator of the abuse or misconduct will immediately be placed on leave pending an investigation and instructed to remain away from LBA programs during the investigation. He or she should be instructed to have no contact with the victim or with witnesses.
3. All allegations of abuse will be reported to local authorities, and the LBA will comply with the applicable law's requirements regarding mandatory reporting of abuse as the law then exists. The organization will fully cooperate with the investigation of the incident by local authorities.
4. The organization will designate a spokesperson to the media concerning incidents of abuse or neglect. The advice of legal counsel will be sought before responding to media inquiries or releasing information about the situation to the congregation. All other representatives of the organization should refrain from speaking to the media.
5. Any person who is not found innocent of the alleged abuse or misconduct will be removed from their position working with youth.

Contact Information

Any questions or comments related to the Youth Protection Policy are to be directed to the Leadership and Discipline Committee Chair, Jesse Harrison, at jesse.w.harrison@gmail.com.