

Johnsburg Pigtail League Youth Protection Policy

Purpose Statement

The Johnsburg Pigtail League seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for the youth who participate in our league activities. By implementing the following practices, our goal is to protect the youth of the Johnsburg Pigtail League from incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior while also protecting our volunteers from false accusations.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the terms “child” or “children” or “youth” include all persons under the age of eighteen (18) years including participants in our youth programs.

The term “volunteer” shall refer to all persons who assist the Johnsburg Pigtail League in any role such as board member, team manager, team coach, team director, etc.

Criminal Background Check

A criminal background check is required for all volunteers involved with youth activities.

Before a background check is run, prospective volunteers will be asked to provide their full legal name and their social security number. If an individual declines to provide this information, s/he will not be allowed to work with children.

What constitutes a disqualifying offense that will keep an individual from working with children will be determined by the Johnsburg Pigtail League Board of Directors in charge on a case-by-case basis in light of all the surrounding circumstances.

Generally, convictions for an offense involving children and/or for offenses involving violence, dishonesty, illegal substances, indecency and any conduct contrary to the goals of the Johnsburg Pigtail League will preclude someone from being permitted to work with children.

Two Adult Rule

It is our policy to use a “Two-Person Rule” that requires all volunteers to make every reasonable effort to avoid situations where they are alone with children or youth without another adult partner. Unless it is absolutely necessary, a minimum of two unrelated adult volunteers will be in attendance at all times when children are being supervised during any and all activities. Married Couples must be accompanied by an unrelated adult.

Appropriate Behavior

All volunteers will receive and sign written code of conduct guidelines, stating expected and appropriate behavior while participating in league practices, games, and events.

Responding to Allegations of Child Abuse

For purposes of this policy, “child abuse” is any action (or lack of action) by an adult or another child who endangers or harms a child’s physical, psychological or emotional health and development.

Child abuse occurs in different ways and includes the following:

- **Physical abuse** – any physical injury to a child which is not accidental, such as beating, shaking, burns, bullying and biting.

- **Emotional abuse** – emotional injury when the child is not treated with respect, such as an environment of constant criticism, belittling and persistent teasing.
- **Sexual abuse** – any form of sexual contact or exploitation in which a child is being used for sexual stimulation of the perpetrator. It may be violent or non-violent and includes behaviors that involve touching aspects (fondling, oral, genital and anal penetration, intercourse, forcible rape) and non-touching aspects (verbal comments, pornographic videos, obscene phone calls, exhibitionism and allowing children to witness sexual activity.)

In the event that an individual involved in the care of children participating in a Johnsbury Pigtail League event becomes aware of suspected child abuse of a child under his/her care, this should be reported immediately to a member of the Johnsbury Pigtail League Board of Directors for further action including reporting to authorities as mandated by Illinois state law.

In the event that an incident of child abuse is alleged to have occurred at a Johnsbury Pigtail League sponsored activity, the Johnsbury Pigtail League volunteer present will utilize the following procedure:

1. The incident will be reported immediately to the state authorities (including the police and the Department of Children and Family Services), to the insurance company and to the Johnsbury Pigtail League Board of Directors
2. The child's parents will be notified and the child will be removed from the situation. The accused will not be confronted until the safety of the child has been secured.
3. When the child is safe, the alleged perpetrator of the child abuse will be removed from any role with the Johnsbury Pigtail League that involves working with children pending an investigation.
4. All volunteers Johnsbury Pigtail League will cooperate with any investigation by the state or local authorities. In the event there is no investigation of the incident by state or local authorities, the Johnsbury Pigtail League Board of Directors will investigate the circumstances of the incident and make decisions regarding future participation and membership in the Johnsbury Pigtail League.
5. Public statements and media interviews will be handled under guidance of the attorney and through a Session-designated spokesperson. All other members of the Johnsbury Pigtail League will refrain from speaking to the media.
6. If criminal charges are brought against the accused, an attorney appointed by the Board of Directors to represent the Johnsbury Pigtail League will be engaged.

Youth Volunteers

We recognize that there may be times when it is necessary or desirable for youth volunteers who they are under age 18 to assist at a league activity. The following guidelines apply to such volunteers:

- Youth volunteers must be at least age 11
- Youth volunteers must be under the supervision of an adult and must never be left alone with children except in an emergency.
- This child will be under direct supervision of an adult and their presence will not fulfill the two- adult requirement.

Accidental Injuries to Children

In the event that a child or youth is injured while under our care, the following steps should be followed:

1. For minor injuries, scrapes, and bruises, volunteers will provide first aid (Band-Aids, etc.) as appropriate and will notify the child's parent or guardian of the injury.
2. For injuries requiring medical treatment beyond simple first aid, the parent and/or guardian will immediately be summoned. If warranted by circumstances, an ambulance will be called.

Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children and Youth

Read and initial each item to signify your agreement to comply with the statement.

I agree to comply with the policies outlined in this Child/Youth Protection Policy.

I agree to do my best to prevent abuse and neglect among children and youth involved in Johnsbury Pigtail League activities. I agree to not physically, sexually or emotionally abuse or neglect a child or youth.

In the event that I observe any inappropriate behaviors or possible policy violations with children or youth, I agree to immediately report my observations.

I acknowledge my obligation and responsibility to protect children and youth and agree to report known or suspected abuse of children or youth to the Johnsbury Pigtail League Board of Directors and state authorities in accordance with the above policy. I understand that the Johnsbury Pigtail League will not tolerate abuse of children and youth and I agree to comply in spirit and in action with this policy.

Name (Print)

Signature

Date