

The Premier League of Northeast Georgia Inc.  
Child Abuse Prevention Policy

Passage of **Senate Bill 534**, known as the *Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017*, has made it a federal crime to "mind your own business," in matters of child abuse or neglect.

All youth sports volunteers operating in the United States, including volunteers, are obligated to notify authorities of any first-hand accounts of abuse or neglect of a minor.

In summary, the new law requires that suspected child abuse must be reported within 24 hours to local law enforcement. If an individual suspects a case of abuse within their league, they should report it to the appropriate child services organization and/or law enforcement as well as the League President.

The following points should also be highlighted to all volunteers:

1. Federal legislation sets minimum standards to define child abuse and neglect: "(1) Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or (2) an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm." The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C.A. § 5106g).
2. Who is required to report suspected abuse? Any adult individual involved in their league. Coaches, managers, board members, concessions workers, field and maintenance workers, umpires, scorekeepers, team-moms, etc.
3. Any individual who fails to report suspected child abuse may be subject to criminal penalties.
4. Reporters are immune from liability even when a good faith report of abuse turns out to be unsubstantiated. The Premier League policy prohibits any kind of retaliation when a good faith report of child abuse is made.
5. All Incidents shall be brought to the attention of league officials immediately, and said official shall insure report is made to the appropriate local authority.
6. Additional Resources:

Childhelp is a national organization that provides crisis assistance and other counseling and referral services. The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with professional crisis counselors. All calls are anonymous. Contact them at (800) 4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453), or visit [ChildHelp.org](http://ChildHelp.org).