

DUTTON/DUNWICH MINOR BALL ASSOCIATION CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Dutton/Dunwich Minor Ball Association (DDMBA) is committed to creating a safe and secure environment for all children participating in our youth ball program. This Child Protection Policy outlines our commitment to protecting children from harm, ensuring their well-being, and complying with Canadian legislation related to child protection.

Policy Statement:

Commitment to Child Protection:

- Dutton/Dunwich Minor Ball is dedicated to the safety and well-being of all children involved in our youth baseball program.
- All players and participants of DDMBA have the right to safe, inclusive and equitable spaces free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, abuse & bullying.
- DDMBA is committed to creating and maintaining a baseball environment free from discrimination and harassment on prohibited grounds including race, culture, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, political opinion, creed, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital/family status, language, and any other discrimination or harassment prohibited by law.
- We are committed to complying with all relevant Canadian laws and regulations pertaining to child protection.

Screening and Background Checks:

- All volunteers, coaches, staff, and any individuals with regular contact with children must undergo a thorough screening process.
- Criminal background checks will be conducted as part of the screening process.
- Individuals with a history of child abuse or other offenses may be disqualified from volunteering or working with children.

Code of Conduct:

- All volunteers, coaches, staff, and participants must adhere to Bylaw 5 Code of Conduct as outlined in the DDMBA Constitution.
- Any form of verbal, physical, or emotional abuse is strictly prohibited.

Reporting Procedures:

- The Province of Ontario has mandatory reporting laws regarding abuse and neglect of children and youth which are contained in Section 72 of the Child and Family Services Act (CFSA).
- It is the policy of DDMBA, that any DDMBA player(s), staff, volunteers, and parents/guardians who has reasonable grounds to suspect a participant is or may be suffering or may have suffered from emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or neglect shall immediately report the suspicion and the information on which it is based to the local child protection agency and/or the local police department.
- In the case of DDMBA catchment areas of the municipalities of West Elgin & Dutton/Dunwich, matters shall be reported to Family & Children Services of St. Thomas & Elgin at (519) 631-1492 and/or the Elgin County OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-1122.

Confidentiality:

- All information related to child protection concerns will be treated confidentially and shared only with those who need to know for the purpose of investigation and resolution.

Supervision:

- Adequate supervision will be provided during all youth baseball activities to ensure the safety of all participants. At no time will any player be alone with any one (1) adult.

Communication with Parents/Guardians:

- Regular communication with parents/guardians will be maintained to keep them informed about the program, activities, and any safety-related matters as needed.

Review and Update:

- Coaches will be required to review this policy each year prior to the start of the coaching season.
This Child Protection Policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to ensure compliance with Canadian legislation and to reflect any changes in organizational practices.

By implementing and adhering to this Child Protection Policy, Dutton/Dunwich Minor Ball aims to create a safe and nurturing environment for all children participating in our programming.