



Information to be reviewed by all BPRD volunteer coaches and anyone who works and volunteers within our youth athletic leagues:

New Child Abuse Reporting Rules went into effect July 1, 2012

House Bill 1176 amended O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse. O.C.G.A. 19-7-5 is designed for the protection of children whose health and welfare are adversely affected and further threatened by the conduct of those responsible for their care and protection. O.C.G.A 19-7-5 has been amended as follows:

1. 'Child service personnel' means persons employed by or volunteering at a business or an organization, whether public, private, for profit, not for profit, or voluntary, that provides care, treatment, education, training, supervision, coaching, counseling, **recreational programs**, or shelter to children.

2. If a person is required to report child abuse pursuant to this subsection because that person attended to a child pursuant to such person's duties as an employee of or volunteer at a hospital, school, social agency, **youth sports organization** or similar facility, that person shall notify the person in charge of the facility or program, or the designated delegate thereof, and the person so notified shall report or cause a report to be made...

3. *From an ethical and moral standpoint, volunteers who work with children already have an obligation to report suspected child abuse. (Georgia) House Bill 1176 simply makes this obligation a requirement by law."* (Source: Sam Olens, Attorney General)

To whom do you report?

The law states:

"An oral report shall be made immediately, but in no case later than 24 hours from the time there is reasonable cause to believe a child has been abused, by telephone or otherwise and followed by a report in writing, if requested to a child welfare agency providing protective services, as designated by the Department of Human Services, or in the absence of such agency, to an appropriate police authority or district attorney."

Mandatory Reporting Within the City of Brookhaven Parks and Recreation Department:

Within the BPRD, mandated child abuse protocol directs athletic staff, volunteers, or anyone in contact with youth athletes to contact the Athletic Manager immediately to report suspected child abuse.

What are the Rights of Mandated Reporters?

1. Anonymity or confidentiality (when possible)
2. Immunity for a "good faith" report
3. Knowledge that a report was made

Penalty for Not Reporting – Guilty of a Misdemeanor