

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
October 14-15, 2020  
Virtual**

**Resolution No. 32: Risk Management Mandates for National Youth Programs  
Origin: Americanism Commission  
Submitted by: Americanism Commission  
(As amended)**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 4 of the National Executive Committee, May 2012, titled “Background Screening Of Staff For National Youth Programs” initially mandated background check screening of staff of American Legion national youth programs in order to uphold the integrity and safety of youth and to mitigate the risk and liability to an organization; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 16 of the National Executive Committee, October 2012, titled “Mandatory Background Check Screening for Coaches, Managers and Volunteer Staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball Teams” initially established policy and procedures for mandatory background screening for coaches, managers and volunteers of junior and senior American Legion Baseball teams; and

WHEREAS, Federal law (Public Law 115-126) titled “Protecting Young Victims From Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” has been enacted requiring amateur youth sports organizations affiliated with a national governing body or non-affiliated organizations to develop policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of amateur athletes; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Baseball is affiliated with the national governing body of USA Baseball; and

WHEREAS, USA Shooting is a National Governing Body member of the U.S. Center for SafeSport; and

WHEREAS, USA Shooting is the organization upon which The American Legion patterns its American Legion Junior Shooting program; and

WHEREAS, Because the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Tournament is administered by the national organization, the national organization therefore possesses the authority to impose mandates for the protection of minor children participating in that national tournament; and

WHEREAS, The aftermath of numerous cases of child sexual molestation across the nation has demonstrated the importance for diligent protection of vulnerable populations, such as children and youth; and

WHEREAS, It is paramount The American Legion meet its legal, moral and ethical responsibility to parents and guardians by protecting their children from abuse and harm when participating in any and all youth programs under the Legion brand; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion, under the advice and guidance of the compliance and risk manager of the national organization and the national judge advocate, shall have policies and procedures established beginning in 2021**

**which mandates sexual abuse awareness training and criminal history background check screening for:**

- **American Legion Baseball program staff (coaches, managers and volunteers 18 years of age or older) who have regular contact with players who are minors**
- **Coaches, managers and volunteers 18 years of age or older who have regular contact with minors who are in clubs affiliated with an American Legion post and who are participating in the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Tournament**
- **Those selected to staff national tournaments of American Legion Baseball, the American Legion Boys Nation program, the American Legion National Oratorical Contest, the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Shoulder-to-Shoulder National Championship, and National Boy Scouts of America Jamborees, or who are adults and have regular contact with program participants who are minors; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the national adjutant, after legal review and approval of the national judge advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute such contract(s) as may be necessary to support the execution of criminal history background check screening and/or sexual abuse awareness training; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That departments of The American Legion are strongly urged and encouraged to establish procedures and policies for sexual abuse awareness training and criminal history background check screening similar to those of the national organization for those adults who are selected to support youth programs conducted within their departments; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 4 of the National Executive Committee, May 2012, titled “Background Screening Of Staff For National Youth Programs” and Resolution No. 16 of the National Executive Committee, October 2012, titled “Mandatory Background Check Screening for Coaches, Managers and Volunteer Staff of Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball Teams” are hereby superseded and rescinded.**