



Registered Volunteer Program:

NCYS Fact Sheet



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MISSION STATEMENT

The National Council of Youth Sports represents the youth sports industry by advancing the values of participation, and educating and developing leaders.

“A unified Voice for youth sports.”

VISION

To enhance the youth sports experience in America.



Background

The National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS) is one of the largest associations in America representing youth-serving organizations. The NCYS membership represents more than 52,000,000 boys and girls participants nationwide.

The NCYS is leading a strategic industry-wide initiative to protect the interests of youth through criminal background checks for volunteers. The crisis currently affecting youth-serving organizations is identified as known incidents of, and potential for, abuse and molestation of youth by coaches and mentors. Child abuse/molestation is by no means confined to sports, yet unfortunately, in any program where adults supervise children there exists an obvious opportunity for sexual predators. And youth programs are known targets for perpetrators of these crimes.

The NCYS believes that the matter of convicted criminals, including but not limited to sexual predators, preying on our children is rapidly becoming a threat to youth programs in this country and must be managed as a top strategic priority by every youth-serving organization.

Due to the rise in highly publicized sexual molestation cases, and the enormous monetary awards and settlements, the insurance industry is withdrawing from providing coverage for this risk, thereby leaving youth programs exposed to catastrophic financial consequences which could bankrupt the industry. NCYS contends that the consequence of not addressing this issue will result in continued long-term emotional scarring to the victims and ultimately threatens the integrity of and possible elimination of youth programs in America.

In order to protect children from abuse or injury, the NCYS believes that youth-serving organizations should screen their volunteer forces utilizing advancements in technology that make criminal history information available to these organizations. For the sake of the industry, NCYS supports a system of reliable, rapid, comprehensive, up-to-date checks at a very reasonable cost so that the organizations can make informed screening decisions. In order to be effective, it is important that organizations have access to criminal background information that has been recently updated, and is dependable, complete, and accessed from multiple state databases.

Many organizations are attempting to solve this problem individually yet there are no standards by which they can effectively and consistently protect themselves and their participants. In order to provide coverage for youth organizations, insurance companies want to be assured that youth organizations are properly protecting themselves against the exposure, yet our industry does not have a consistent means with which to evaluate the effectiveness of individual risk management programs. It became clear that the solution to this problem requires an industry-wide approach coupled with government advocacy for immunity. While criminal background check screening is just one part of a program to protect the safety and well-being of youth participants, it is a critical



part and one that we can begin to address by developing recommended guidelines for our members and industry.

At the conclusion of a full day summit in April 2004, an overwhelming group consensus of industry representatives identified a void to be filled and asked the NCYS to respond with an action plan to address the verbalized needs. Participants expressed the concern that our children are our greatest assets, yet in youth programs children are unnecessarily exposed to harm because there is no consistent method to protect them from the harmful behaviors of predators and criminals. The expectations of the insurance industry, the courts, and parents is that youth-serving organizations will accept the challenge and develop the appropriate guidelines for screening as a first-line of defense in the protection of the children under their care.

Uniformity is part of the security for our children and the programs we supervise. That is why NCYS created the “NCYS Recommended Guidelines for Background Check Screening in Non-profit Youth-Serving Organizations.” The minimum Guidelines assist the youth serving industry with best practices, policies, and procedures therefore minimizing the organization’s liability risks.

In 2004, the National Council of Youth Sports (NCYS) helped to create the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI) — a company that would NOT be a commercial vendor data-provider but a full service resource in terms of criminal background checks, educational training, policies, etc. NCSI is the only national background screening services company specifically dedicated to the protection of children. And it is the only company that NCYS has licensed to implement its “Recommended Guidelines.”

NCSI now boasts a solid client base. The United States Olympic Committee has recently declared a new policy requiring NCIS conduct all background searches on the official USOC Games delegation staff for the Olympics, Paralympics, Parapan American and the Pan American Games in accordance with the NCYS Recommended Guidelines.

NCYS is the recognized industry leader on a complete and comprehensive background screening program with NCSI handling the entire process for youth serving organizations. NCSI is the first line of defense in the protection of the children under the care of the youth serving industry. And the NCSI system has proven to be rapid, reliable, comprehensive, accurate, safe & secure, and affordable! NCYS’ nationwide movement is one of responsible due diligence protecting our children, volunteers, administrators, and organizations for a safer, more wholesome America.