

Team Safety Meeting Resources

Elementary School



Buddy System Activity

Establishing a buddy system for situations where your team is gathered as a group will go a long way toward avoiding issues. Depending on whether your team is school or community based, and whether or not you travel to expos or competitions, you may want to have more than one process for different venues.

The Buddy System is exactly what it sounds like:

- Don't go by yourself
- Always check in with the person in charge when you leave and return

This system is especially helpful when traveling to events. Having one adult as the keeper of information (about who is where and counting heads when the group is moving from place to place at a venue) is very helpful for adults as well as team members. If you have parent volunteers on a trip, make sure they also understand the check-in and buddy system.

These instructions are meant as a guide. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Youth Protection Program Manager, Lee Doucette

ldoucette@usfirst.org » 603-666-3906 x250

At the start of the season, Lead Coaches/Mentors are required to conduct a Safety Meeting. This meeting may be combined with the team's existing start-of-season meeting or be held as a separate meeting. Subject to the Lead Coaches'/Mentors' discretion and judgment, the Safety Meeting may be as brief or extensive as necessary, FIRST recommends including some or all of the following elements:

- View *FIRST* Youth Protection Team Safety Meeting video or activities for the age group/s you are working with
- Review Fundamental Safety Guidelines and program specific safety measures
- Discuss communication and behavioral limits as specified in the Code of Conduct, reviewing behavioral boundaries in age appropriate terms
- Establish clear responsibilities and means for reporting safety concerns

Encourage everyone involved with the team to discuss safety concerns with the Lead Coach/Mentor or other trusted adult, knowing that the concerns will be taken seriously and that there won't be negative consequences for team member or a person raising concerns for their child/ren.

The videos and activities provided are optional tools to help initiate team conversations about personal safety. If you already have your team's personal safety practices established, you do not need to duplicate efforts. If you prefer, you may conduct your team safety meeting with materials you already have.



WHO'S IN CHARGE?





WHAT IF YOU NEED TO LEAVE THE GROUP?





WHAT IS A BUDDY SYSTEM?



PRACTICE

What would you do if you needed to leave the group?

AT A TEAM EVENT?

ON A FIELD TRIP?

DURING A SPORTING ACTIVITY?

IN THE CLASSROOM?
