Litter League Safety Checklist

- Designate a <u>safety officer</u> whose only responsibility is safety and trouble-shooting. This person should have a first aid kit, a cell phone, and a list of emergency phone numbers. *Review this safety checklist with players before they get to work.*
- Ask players to sign the liability release/sign-in sheet – this is probably the best way to direct their attention to the need to follow safety rules.
- Dress properly; wear heavy shoes and long pants; wear gloves, use sunscreen and insect repellent when appropriate.
- Drink plenty of fluids, avoid over-exertion, and get help with large objects. Use proper lifting and bending techniques.
- Do not overstuff bags or pickup anything that could be hazardous to your health.
- Needles, sharp, or unusual objects- <u>When possible, needles should be placed into a hard plastic bottle with cap using the litter grabber provided</u>. Only then may bottles (with needles) be placed in the trash bag. Team Captain should have at least one bottle for their group with their supplies. Please report the location to someone in authority for follow up.
- When near a road, wear bright colors, work in groups, and always face on-coming traffic. **Always wear your safety vest**!
- If you are stung by a bee/wasp and fear a life threatening allergic reaction, call 911. Make sure to check for ticks.
- Be aware of poison ivy or other poisonous or sharp plant materials. Protect yourself with long sleeve shirts and pants.
- When cleaning up in neighborhoods you may encounter unfriendly dogs. If approached by a growling or angry animal stand still, *do not* run or make direct eye contact. Move slowly away from the animal when appropriate. See dog bite prevention tips (next page)
- Snakes, usually "non-poisonous", reside in wooded and wet areas as well as abandoned tires; be cautious at all times.

Franklin County Dog Shelter
Where Best Friends Meet

Dog Bite Prevention, Don't Invite a Bite!

Dogs may bite for a variety of reasons...fear of a strange person, territorial aggression, protecting a litter of puppies, etc.

Dogs that are injured or not properly socialized with people are also more prone to biting out of fear.

To avoid becoming the victim of a bite, follow these tips:

- Never approach a dog you do not know.
- Assume any dog you don't know, may bite.
- Avoid direct eye contact with aggressive dogs.
- Never disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating or protecting puppies.

If a strange dog approaches you:

- Remain calm ~ do not scream or yell.
- Freeze and remain still. Avoid sudden movements. Above all, do not run, as this invites a chase.
- Turn your head away slightly, avoid direct eye contact.
- Be patient. Wait until the dog loses interest and back away slowly.

If you are attacked by a dog:

- Seek cover and try to use any object you have to place between you and the dog ~ a coat, book bag, etc.
- Try to stay on your feet.
- If knocked down, curl into a ball on your knees and use your arms to protect your face and neck.

Report dog bites to:

- Columbus Public Health at 645-6134.

How to Safely Pick up Needles/Syringes

1. Place an uncapped plastic bottle on the ground. The bottle can be standing upright or lying on its side but do not touch or hold onto the bottle again until the syringe is securely inside, and you are ready to recap the bottle.

2. Using a litter grabber pick up the needle/syringe and place it into the bottle. ***IMPORTANT: WHEN PLACING A NEEDLE INTO A BOTTLEE, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU TOUCH OR HOLD ONTO THE BOTTLE, t***his could result in an accidental needle stick.

3. Once the needle is entirely inside the bottle, carefully recap the bottle, (make sure the lid is tight and secure) and place the bottle into a trash bag.

   When placing a syringe/needle into a bottle it should be done with *one hand; the one holding the litter grabber*. Please put your other hand behind your back so you are not tempted to use it to hold or touch the bottle. Touching or holding onto the bottle while inserting a syringe or needle can result in accidentally sticking yourself with the needle.