



Baseball Safety

Publication # 329

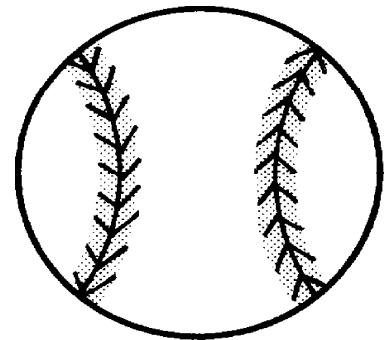
Fact Sheet

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) wants you and your family to be safe when playing baseball. CPSC announced that softer-than standard baseballs, safety release bases, and batting helmets with face guards could significantly reduce the amount and severity of 58,000 (or almost 36 percent of) baseball-related injuries to children each year.

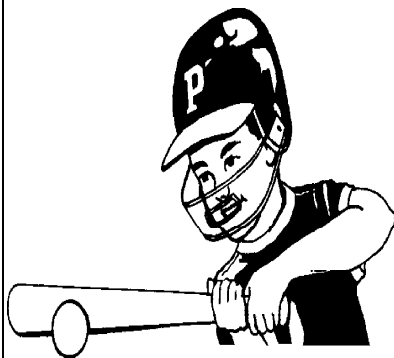
Baseball, softball, and teeball are among the most popular sports in the United States, with an estimated 6 million children ages 5 to 14 participating in organized leagues and 13 million children participating in non-league play. In 1995, hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 162,100 children for baseball-related injuries.

CPSC collected and analyzed data on baseball, softball, and teeball-related injuries to children to determine specifically how these children were injured and what safety equipment could prevent such injuries. CPSC found that baseball protective equipment currently on the market may prevent, reduce, or lessen the severity of more than 58,000 injuries occurring to children each year.

Softer-than-standard balls may prevent, reduce, or lessen the severity of the 47,900 ball impact injuries to the head and neck.



Soft Core Ball



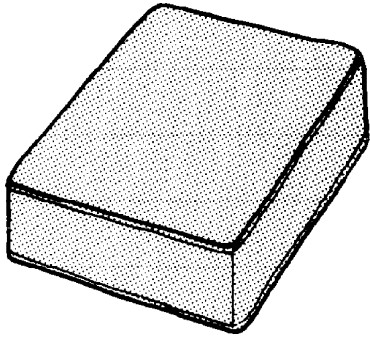
Batting helmets with face guards may prevent, reduce, or lessen the severity of about 3,900 facial injuries occurring to batters in organized play.

Helmet with Face Guard

U.S. Consumer
Product Safety
Commission

Washington, DC
20207

Hotline:
1-800-638-2772



Safety release bases that leave no holes in the ground or parts of the base sticking up from the ground when the base is released may prevent, reduce, or lessen the severity of the 6,600 base-contact sliding injuries occurring in organized play.

Release Base

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission protects the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death from 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury and for information on CPSC's fax-on-demand service, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-9270. To order a press release through fax-on-demand, call (301) 504-0051 from the handset of your fax machine and enter the release number. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov> or via Internet gopher services at cpsc.gov. Consumers can report product hazards to info@cpsc.gov.