



**United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan**

**Matthew Schneider
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PRESS RELEASE

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www.justice.gov/usao/mie/index.html

**U.S. Attorney's Office Reaches Agreement with Little League Baseball, Inc. to
Protect Rights of Players with Disabilities**

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan has reached an agreement with Little League Baseball, Inc. (LLB) to resolve a complaint made under the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), U.S. Attorney Matthew Schneider announced today. The complaint alleged that LLB failed to modify its policies to allow a player with a vision-related disability to use an optic yellow baseball.

The ADA requires that places of public accommodation, such as sports clubs, make reasonable modifications in their policies for individuals with disabilities. As a resolution to this matter, LLB agreed to implement a new ADA policy that includes procedures to submit and evaluate waiver requests based on disability. The policy, which will apply to all local leagues chartered by LLB nationwide, will be available on the LLB website and in its official rulebook. In addition, LLB Charter Committee members, who will be evaluating waiver requests under the new policy, will receive training on the policy and the ADA. Finally, LLB will grant the player a waiver to use the optic yellow ball while at bat or in the field for the remainder of his Little League career.

"Children should not miss out on sports and other community activities just because they have a disability," Schneider said. "Athletic leagues and clubs should be aware of their obligation under the ADA to make reasonable modifications in their policies to allow children with disabilities to participate. We thank Little League Baseball, Inc. for cooperating in our investigation and taking steps to ensure that players with disabilities can play ball and have fun with their friends."

Those interested in finding out more about this resolution or the obligations of places of public accommodation under the ADA may call the U.S. Attorney's Office Civil Rights Hotline at 313-226-9151, or send an email to www.usamie.civilrights@usdoj.gov.

Information is also available at the Justice Department's toll-free ADA information line at 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TDD), or at www.ada.gov.

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