



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Clarksburg, WV 26306

December 18, 2002

Ms. Sally Cunningham
Executive Director
National Council of Youth Sports
7185 Seagate Lane
Stuart, FL 34997

Dear Ms. Cunningham:

As the Executive Director of the National Council of Youth Sports, representing some 38 million of our nation's young athletes, you well know the challenges facing our youth and their parents everyday. As a father and a Special Agent for 20 years, I, too, know of these concerns, albeit it from more personal and public safety perspectives. In an effort to better protect America's children, the FBI has partnered with the American Football Coaches Association and its National Child Identification Program (NCIDP). The NCIDP uses a self-collected, self-maintained, inkless fingerprint kit to assist parents to organize child record information.

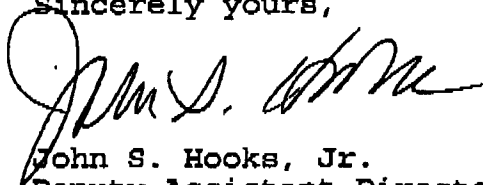
The goal of the NCIDP is to fingerprint all youth between the ages of 4 and 18. To accomplish this ambitious objective, a multifaceted approach has been used. One approach we have not used is contact with parents through their children's participation in youth sports. Given its size as the largest youth sports organization, the National Council of Youth Sports could greatly assist parents in protecting their children. This can be accomplished in an easy way by including a notice for parents during sports enrollment of how to participate in the NCIDP. The addition of an electronic mail (email) participation sheet or small mention in copy at the bottom of the physical participation sheet would work well. Parents would thus have the opportunity to check a box and participate in the ID kit program and help protect their children at the same time they are getting them involved in an upcoming sport.

Ms. Sally Cunningham

Both the FBI and the American Football Coaches Association appreciate the job you do to ensure our nation's young people have a safe outlet to participate in sports of all types. Can you poll your member organizations to determine which associations would facilitate the delivery of the NCIDP message to the parents of participants? A response from the National Council of Youth Sports by February would be most helpful to us in preparing for our 2003 campaign to protect America's children.

It is paramount that we do all we can to ensure the safety of our children. Your organization can be a prime vehicle in that endeavor. Thank you for your help in this important cause.

Sincerely yours,



John S. Hooks, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Director
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