



Kansas Insurance Department

Sandy Praeger

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

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For more information, contact:

Kelly Levi
785.296.7804

Commissioner Sandy Praeger Asks for Reclassification of Worker's Compensation Rates for Volunteer Sports Officials

TOPEKA, KS – For several years, little league baseball clubs that use volunteers as umpires have been charged the same worker's compensation rates as those charged for professional sports where risk of injury is much higher.

Upon becoming aware of the continuing financial burden this was having on little league baseball clubs and players in Kansas, Commissioner Praeger, began to make inquiries about how the charges were being assessed and as a result has requested that the National Council on Compensation Insurance proceed immediately to work together with the insurance providers to reclassify non-professional sports officials to a lower category of risk.

"Any time regulations and fees stand in the way of parents and other community-minded adults becoming involved in the lives of young children, we need to step in, take a look, and make adjustments whenever possible, says Insurance Commissioner, Sandy Praeger."

Little League umpires are not "employees" but are contracted community volunteers and their level of risk is much lower than that of professional sports officials. This action will substantially lower rates that will more accurately reflect the level of risk volunteers face when involved in non-profit little league sports activities.

Had this action not been taken, it would have been necessary for baseball clubs to increase player fees in order to offset the higher costs of worker's compensation insurance. "I am pleased that we have been able to work through this issue with the insurance companies," said Praeger."

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About the Kansas Insurance Department

Headquartered in Topeka, Kansas, the Kansas Insurance Department regulates and monitors the activities of 23,000 resident agents, 42,000 non-resident agents and 1684 insurance companies licensed to do business in the state of Kansas. The department's overriding objective is to protect consumers and help maintain the financial stability of the insurance industry by offering financial, actuarial, legal, computer, research, market conduct and economic expertise. For more information, visit the Kansas Insurance Department on the Web at www.ksinsurance.org.