

## Axis hits a home run.

Little League World Series uses Axis cameras to ensure athlete and spectator safety.



Organization:  
Little League International World Series

Location:  
South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, USA

Industry segment:  
Leisure (Sports Entertainment)

Application:  
Crowd control and stadium security

Axis partner:  
Lenel Systems Intl.

### Mission

Every August, the Little League International World Series brings more than 300,000 visitors to the small town of South Williamsport, PA. With a population of 6,000, providing ample security for athletes, visiting dignitaries and spectators could easily overwhelm the community's resources. Even though the LLWS hires auxiliary security personnel for the event and receives additional support from the FBI, the Bureau of Prisons and a host of other volunteers, Little League Baseball believes that video surveillance is an essential element of its total security program.

### Solution

For 12 years, Lenel Systems International, a Rochester, NY-based provider of turnkey security systems and Axis partner, has donated products and services for the event's access control and digital video security systems. In 2010, the solution included more than two dozen Axis network cameras deployed around the stadiums and dormitory complex.

Lenel's intuitive video management system allows security personnel to control the cameras remotely, spot suspicious packages and vehicles, help locate missing people, and verify badge holder IDs when they swipe their access control cards.

### Result

In keeping with the care-free, family atmosphere of the Little League World Series, the subtle presence of video cameras has been instrumental in maintaining crowd control, finding lost children in a sea of spectators, preventing unauthorized entry into the dorms, and counting crowd size. With the advanced technology in place, the South Williamsport stadium transforms from a rural ball field into one of the safest sports venues in the world.

"Axis cameras are an integral part of our total security program. Without them, assuring the security and safety of our players and fans would be much more difficult."

Jim Ferguson, director of security for Little League Baseball and Softball International.

### Protecting athletes, dignitaries and fans

The Little League World Series – the largest youth sports program in the world – draws teams and families from around the globe as well as high-profile spectators, like heads of state and international dignitaries. Keeping participants, family and fans safe during the two-week competition requires a massive coordinated effort involving local, state and federal law enforcement in addition to a contingency security force hired specifically to patrol the complex during the playoffs.

"We house our athletes onsite in an area we call the International Grove, which includes dorms, dining halls and recreational facilities for players and coaches. Obviously, this complex must be monitored 24/7," explains Jim Ferguson, director of security for Little League International. "Even with extra law enforcement and security in place, without video surveillance it would be impossible to maintain the level of security parents expect when they entrust their children to our care."

To augment permanently installed Axis network cameras, Little League International relies on Lenel Systems to set up several dozen more network cameras donated by Axis to expand surveillance during the World Series.

To cover the heavily wooded area surrounding the International Grove, Lenel installed AXIS Q1910-E Thermal Network Cameras for fence line day and nighttime perimeter detection. To supplement guards, metal detectors and access control badges at the gates, Lenel integrated HDTV-compliant AXIS M3014 Fixed Dome Network Cameras with an image database to verify the identity of card holders.

### Flagging suspicious behavior

Lenel installed AXIS 215 PTZ Network Cameras and AXIS Q6034-E PTZ Network Cameras to continuously sweep the crowd looking for potential hotspots, like large groups congregating in a single area.

High-powered optical zooms with HDTV performance, coupled with Lenel's OnGuard IntelligentVideo software, alert security to objects left behind – like a cooler near the bleachers – enabling them to quickly scan video, locate the owner in real-time and identify the contents without having to raise an alarm.

"We treat these threats seriously," assures Jim Ferguson. "But at the same time we don't want to cause a panic or make people feel like they've entered a prison yard. This is a family-friendly venue. If we're doing our job right, nobody should know we're there."

Lenel also deployed a number of AXIS M1031-W Network Cameras with two-way audio that allows the operations center to communicate with security guards patrolling the premises. "It bridges the gap between physical and electronic security," explains Jon Ferguson of Lenel.

### Finding lost kids in the crowd

With the sheer volume of people attending every game, lost children and medical emergencies are bound to occur. Using Lenel's OnGuard IntelligentVideo analytics, security personnel search camera feeds by clothing color and highlight anyone matching that description. "We've actually been able to find quite a few missing people with the camera system before physical security guards were able to spot them," shares Jim Ferguson. "It's really reduced our time-to-find, which, I can assure you, is a big relief to anxious parents."

### Staying ahead of the threat curve

"Every year we get bigger, better and more efficient," says Jon Ferguson. This year Lenel rolled out Axis thermal network cameras to spot intruders lurking in the shadows, Axis High PoE PTZ cameras for 360° endless pan and crystal-clear 35x optical zoom, and advanced analytics for tighter integration between surveillance and access control.

