

**NORTH WHIDBEY
LITTLE LEAGUE
2023
LOCAL RULES AND GENERAL
INFORMATION**

REVISED 01/08/2023

1. Applicable Rules

The official rules, regulations and operating procedures of Little League Baseball Inc., the constitution of North Whidbey Little League Inc., hereafter "NWLL" or the "Organization" and these Local Rules (from here forward, when reference "Local Rules" insert "Local Rules and General Information") shall govern the organization and operation of North Whidbey Little League.

2. Principals of Communication

- 2.1 General: NWLL includes and involves a diverse group of volunteers, parents and children. It is the goal of the organization to provide opportunities and methods for efficient communication of ideas, information and concerns.
- 2.2 Channels of Communication: Ideas, questions and concerns should be addressed between persons at the immediately preceding (succeeding) levels of the NWLL organization. (e.g. players/parents to their managers, managers to their directors and so on.)
- 2.3 Effective Communication
 - 2.3.1 Anonymous communication will not be accepted.
 - 2.3.2 Communication should be specific and well researched.
 - 2.3.3 Issues should be brought forth in writing and will be resolved within ten (10) *calendar* days of notification. Written notification will be provided to all parties involved regarding action taken.
- 2.4 Only the President or his/her authorized designee shall communicate with the media and organization sponsors regarding NWLL business and affairs.

3. Property and Equipment

- 3.1 Volunteers, players and parents who are issued equipment are responsible for their return within 15 calendar days after the conclusion of the regular season in good condition, except for normal wear and tear. Persons who fail to return equipment or return them in a damaged condition, beyond normal wear and tear, will be assessed the cost of repair or replacement.
- 3.2 Team Managers should address equipment or uniform needs directly to the Equipment Manager or Uniform Coordinator respectively.

4. Safety

- 4.1 General: Refer to the Safety Code for Little League Baseball and Softball Inc. and to the NWLL Safety Plan.

5. Practice Field Assignments

- 5.1 Practice field assignments will be made by the appropriate Vice President/League Director.
- 5.2 A team must practice only at their regularly assigned field. Teams may practice at another field with the approval from the appropriate Vice President/League Director responsible for that team.

6. Field Preparation/Pre-Game and Post Game Procedures

- 6.1 Before each game it is the responsibility of both teams to walk the field and to remove all rocks and trash.
- 6.2 It is the responsibility of **BOTH** teams to prepare the playing surface (rake and wet down, if necessary), line the field and put down the bases.
- 6.3 Windjammer Fields: Before the start of the first game of the day it will be the responsibility of the home Major division team on the *A* field to raise the American flag (stored in the Concession Stand). At the conclusion of the last game of the day, it will be the responsibility of the last home team playing at Windjammer Park to lower and store the American flag in the Concession Stand.
- 6.4 Volunteer Park: Before the start of the first game of the day it will be the responsibility of the visiting team (from NWLL) or home team (if visiting opponent is not from NWLL) playing on field one to raise the American flag (stored in the VP1 score booth). The home team on field one is to lower the flag and return it to VP1 score booth.
- 6.5 After each game it is the responsibility of **BOTH** teams to pick up the bases, smooth the playing surface, pick up the trash in the dugouts and bleacher area and deposit the trash in the trash containers. It is the responsibility of the home team to secure the score booth and all equipment sheds.

7. League Organization

- 7.1 NWLL shall be organized into the following leagues for baseball and softball.

7.1.1 Baseball

Divisional Organization		League Ages
Tee Ball		4****, 5 and 6
Rookie		6**, 7 and 8
Minor		8*, 9, 10, 11 and 12***
Major	10, 11 and 12 Junior	13 and 14
Senior		14, 15 and 16

7.1.2 Softball

Divisional Organization	League Ages
Rookie	6**, 7 and 8
Minor	8*, 9, 10
Major	10, 11 and 12
Junior	13 and 14
Senior	13, 14, 15 and 16

* Wrth Player Agent approval

** With minimum 1 year of Tee ball played and concurrence of Player Agent.

*** With League Board of Directors Approval/District Administrator *****

Must be 4 {four} by 30 April.

7.1.3 Challenger

4-18

- 7.2. Any other age requests not listed in 7.1 requires League Board approval.

8. Evaluations

- 8.1 The following divisions will hold evaluations: Major, Junior, Senior (Baseball and Softball). Evaluations shall be designed to display the appropriate skills and shall be conducted in a manner determined by the Board of Directors.
- 8.1.1 At least two (2) evaluation dates will be scheduled. All prospective players, ages 9 through 16 must attend at least one evaluation, *but* have the option of attending both.
- 8.1.2 All players, ages 9-11, not attending an evaluation will automatically be placed on a Minor League Team unless they are a returning Major Division player.

9. Player Selection/Draft

- 9.1 T-Ball, Rookie, Minor Baseball and Minor Softball League players will not be drafted. The Player Agent will make individual team assignments, with the assistance of the Vice President/League Director, if required. The teams will be balanced by player age and/or ability. Every effort to accommodate parent requests will be made, however only siblings and the children of the Manager and designated coaches are guaranteed placement on the same team.
- 9.2 Draft procedures for the Major, Junior, Senior divisions of Baseball and Softball will be followed in accordance with the Little League Operating Manual.
- 9.3 Only the Manager from each team, or his/her designee in the absence of the Manager, *the Player Agent, Vice President concerned and the **President/Vice President** will be in attendance at the player draft. NO EXCEPTIONS!*

10. Umpires/Managers/Coaches

10.1 Umpires

- 10.1.1 All league approved umpires are expected to attend all umpire meetings and clinics throughout the year as called by the Umpire-in-Chief (UIC).
- 10.1.2 Major, Junior, and Senior League Baseball and Softball must have at least one League- approved umpire for each game. In the event a league approved umpire is not available, the game will be rescheduled.
- 10.1.3 Umpire assignments for Baseball and Softball games are based upon a priority system, i.e. Senior League, Junior and Major.
- 10.1.4 **Umpires will not use tobacco products or any simulated smoking devices (i.e. vapors) in the presence of players at any time or leave the game area to use tobacco products.**

10.2 Managers/Coaches

10.2.1 Dress code for Managers/Coaches is as follows: They are not allowed to wear cut offs, tank tops, or ragged clothing. No articles of clothing will be permitted that advertise drugs, beer, hard liquor or cigarettes. Shoes with metal cleats, sandals, flip-flops or bare feet are NOT permitted. The Umpire will make any decision on acceptable attire.

10.2.2 No player is to be left alone waiting for a ride after practice or a game. Two adults must remain with the player until he/she is picked up.

10.2.3 **Managers/Coaches will not use tobacco products or any simulated smoking devices (i.e. vapors) in the presence of players at any time or leave the game/practice area to use tobacco products.** If either of these occurs, they will face an automatic suspension

for the next physically played game and a disciplinary review by the Board of Directors.

10.2.4 Managers/Coaches are highly encouraged to attend umpire meetings and clinics. Managers/Coaches may be scheduled to umpire at least one game weekly, as assigned by the Umpire in Chief.

10.2.5 Managers/Coaches: Upon a second or subsequent ejection, the automatic suspension will apply along with the Disciplinary Board hearing to determine if further disciplinary action will be taken.

10.2.6 After the start of the game, only umpires may confer with the official scorekeeper.

10.2.7 There will be no cell phone usage during games or practices unless there is an emergent situation.

11. Official Scorekeeper

11.1 The HOME team shall furnish a qualified official scorekeeper for each game. The scorekeeper is considered to work solely for the plate umpire of the game.

11.2 Baseball: The VISITING team shall furnish a qualified scorekeeper for each game for the purpose of keeping the pitch count and assisting the official scorekeeper.

(a) The official scorekeeper's record of the pitch count shall be the official record.

(b) The total pitches for each pitcher must be entered on the "Pitcher Eligibility Tracking Form." This form will be used to determine the pitching eligibility in a subsequent game or games.

(c) When requested by the manager through the umpire-in-chief (plate umpire), the scorekeeper must provide current information on the pitch count for a pitcher currently in the game. The pitch count will be announced at the end of each half inning.

(d) The scorekeeper must inform the umpire-in-chief (plate umpire) and manager when the maximum number of pitches has been delivered by a particular pitcher, pursuant to the pitcher's league age. The failure of the scorekeeper to notify the umpire-in-chief (plate umpire) and manager does not relieve the manager of the responsibility to remove a pitcher when the limit is reached.

11.3 At the conclusion of the game, the scorekeeper shall make entries in the *official scorebook* and must certify the pitchers in each game, the number of innings pitched (softball) or pitch count (baseball) by each pitcher and the final score.

11.4 The Vice President of Baseball/Softball shall review and certify the official scorebook. It is the responsibility of the Vice President of Baseball/Softball to monitor playing time and pitch count (baseball) or innings pitched (softball) to ensure that each player is receiving the minimum playing time and that pitchers are not pitching more than the maximum allowed. This responsibility may be delegated to the appropriate League Director.

11.5 Only the official scorekeeper(s), scoreboard operator, announcer, umpires or any member of the NWLL Board of Directors will be allowed in the score booth once a game has begun.

11.6 After the start of the game, only umpires may confer with the official scorekeeper.

12. Team Practices

12.1 It is the responsibility of the team manager to coordinate and conduct team practices.

12.2 Tee Ball shall not meet more than four (4) times a calendar week, including games. All other divisions shall not participate in more than five (5) practices and games combined per calendar week.

13. Team Jackets/Sweatshirts/Caps

All baseball and softball teams will use the uniforms, including hats/visors, supplied by NWLL. Custom uniform/hat orders provided by the parents are not allowed. NWLL does not furnish team jackets. Teams may purchase jackets/sweatshirts if approved by the board of directors. All team members must have a jacket/sweatshirt. No player shall be required to purchase a jacket/sweatshirt. Funds for these items shall not be solicited from the community.

14. Volunteers

All volunteers are required to have an approved "Little League Volunteer Application" on file each year. All applications expire December 31st of that year.

15. Special Tee Ball Baseball Rules

- 15.1 All players are to be included in the batting rotation (Continuous Batting Order).
- 15.2 No player or coach pitch will be allowed. Batters will only hit off the tee.
- 15.3 All members of a team will play defensively. A maximum of seven (7) players will be allowed in the infield, including the catcher. The balance of the team will be positioned in the outfield. Players should rotate positions with every member of the team required to play in the outfield for at least one (1) inning.
- 15.4 An offensive coach is permitted in each coaching box and at home plate. A maximum of three (3) Coaches will be allowed on the defensive field during games in order to provide instruction. Coaches are not permitted to touch a live ball.
- 15.5 Balls hit foul or less than six (6) feet are foul balls. Ball movement by hitting the tee instead of the ball is foul.
- 15.6 Each game will be 2-3 innings, depending on available time. All players will bat once in each inning.
- 15.7 The side is retired when all players on the roster have batted.
- 15.8 Score will not be kept during any game nor will a league standing be maintained.
- 15.9 The Tee Ball Director will be notified by the Managers immediately if a game is canceled, regardless of the reason. Games will not be rescheduled or made up. Managers will not change the schedule without specific consent from the Tee Ball Director.
- 15.10 Dead Ball Rule -After the ball is put into play and is picked up by a defensive player, if an error is made in throwing or catching the ball, a dead ball will be called and play stopped. All runners and batter/runner will advance one base.

16. Special Rookie Baseball/Softball Rules **(Note: During interleague play, district rules will apply)**

- 16.1 All players are to be included in the batting rotation (Continuous Batting Order).
- 16.2 No player or coach pitch will be allowed. Batters will only hit off the pitching machine.
- 16.3 An offensive coach is permitted in each coaching box and at home plate. A maximum of three (3) Coaches will be allowed on the defensive field during games in order to provide instruction. Coaches are not permitted to touch a live ball. An approved volunteer shall remain in the dugout with the remaining players.

- 16.4 The batter will be out after seven (7) balls are pitched, unless the 7th ball is a foul, or after three (3) swinging strikes (on May 1st the pitch count will be reduced to 5).
- 16.5 No inning shall start more than two (2) hours after the starting time of the game, which shall be determined by the managers. An inning shall be deemed started immediately upon conclusion of the prior inning.
- 16.6 The side is retired when three (3) offensive players have been put out, all players on the roster have batted once during the half-inning, or five (5) runs have been scored, whichever occurs first.
- 16.7 Score will not be kept during any game nor will a league standing be maintained.

17. Special Minor Baseball/Softball Rules

- 17.1 All players must play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs. **Three (3) defensive outs must be consecutive and shall be completed by the end of the fourth {4th} inning.** All players will be in the batting order, regardless of their defensive position. Each half of the inning, all managers will report to the umpire his/her line-up until minimum play is met.
- 17.2 Except for extra innings authorized by these rules, no inning shall start more than two (2) hours after the start of the game, which shall be determined by the umpire and the official scorekeeper. An inning shall be deemed started immediately upon the conclusion of the prior inning. Extra innings, in the event of a tie, after a normal game of six (6) innings (or fewer innings if the previous inning is the last one to begin before the two (2) hour time limit) may be played as long as no inning starts more than 2 ½ hours after the beginning of the game.
- 17.3 There is a limit of five (5) runs or three (3) outs whichever occurs first, each half inning.

18. District Rule Changes

- 18.1 **Effective Spring 2023-All divisions from the Senior/Junior Division to the Minor Division will bat in a continuous batting order during regular season play. This is in line with the addition of Tournament Play Rule 9 in the 2023 Little League Rule Book.**

19. All-Stars

- 19.1 The All-Star Managers will be selected by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. The manager may select up to two (2) coaches with the approval of the President and the Board of Directors.
- 19.2 The All-Star Player selection procedure shall be determined by the Board of Directors and implemented by the Player Agent.
- 19.3 All-Star Player selection will not be announced prior to 1 June.
- 19.4 Parents of All-Star players will be required to sign a uniform contract and provide a check for a uniform deposit. The deposit check will be returned upon return of the All-Star uniform within 15 days of the end of the player's final All-Star game. Should the All-Star uniform not be returned within 15 days of the end of the player's final All-Star game the deposit check will be cashed. The Board of Directors will determine the deposit amount on an annual basis.
- 19.5 The first seven (7) players of each Little League, baseball or softball team will be selected by a combined vote of the players and the regular season team managers and coaches. The final 5 to 7 players will be selected by the All-Star Team Manager.
- 19.5.1 Managers will canvas their teams last Saturday of April prior to the end of the regular

season, for players that have plans that would preclude them from participating on the All-Star team if selected. That information will be given to the Player Agent and those players' names will be left off the ballot.

- 19.5.2 Ballots will be produced by the Player Agent consisting of all players eligible for participation on the affected All-Star team. The ballot will not contain the names of players on the team voting. For example, Red Sox players will not be listed on the ballot distributed to their team. Players, managers and coaches will vote for 10 of the players on the ballot.

- 19.5.3 All Major division 12 year olds interested in playing on the 11-12 year old team will tryout.

- 19.6 9-10 and 10-11 year old Baseball All-Star try out procedures:

- 19.6.1 Try outs will not be held prior to 1 June. Teams will be announced as soon as possible after try outs are completed.

- 19.6.2 Any 10 or 11 year old playing in the Major division will automatically be allowed to tryout for the 9-10 or 10-11 year old All-Star team.

- 19.6.3 Minor: each team manager will be allowed to select up to and including five (5) players from their respective teams for participation in the 9-10, 10-11 year old All-Star tryout process.

- 19.6.4 If in the event any manager of a Minor team or the Minor Director feels that a certain player from any other Minor team (except that of their own), possesses the abilities to be a potential All-Star, that manager may submit the player's name to the Player Agent. Once submitted, the Minor division managers will review all selections. The managers will determine by majority vote as to whether or not any of the selections will be allowed to participate in the 9-10 or 10-11 year old All-Star tryout process. No more than four names per division may be submitted per season under this procedure.

- 19.6.5 The two 9-10 and 10-11 All-Star managers, their coaches, the Player Agent, and the respective division Vice President will be the official scorers during the All-Star try outs. At the conclusion of try outs, the 11-12 All-Star manager will make his/her final selections. The 10-11 All-Star team will then be chosen up to 14 players followed by the selection of the 9-10 All-Star team up to 14 players. The Player Agent and respective Vice President will oversee the selection process.

- 19.7 If the All-Star Manager wants to select a player that was not at tryouts he/she must receive the approval of the Board of Directors.

- 19.8 The All-Star selection procedure shall be determined by the Board of Directors and implemented by the Player Agent in the event that player availability is insufficient to support the election or tryout process.

- 19.9 Player Agent, League Directors and Managers shall provide the President all necessary rosters, affidavits, birth certificates; proof of residence and medical release information in a timely manner.

20. Public Relations

Sponsorship or solicitations of any kind shall not be made or accepted by individual teams unless authorized by the Board of Directors.

21. General

- 21.1 Any player who desires a refund prior to the season starting date may do so by making a written request to the Board of Directors. The Player Agent will remove the player's Registration form from the files and

provide name, address and amount paid to the Treasurer for issue of the refund money.

- 21.1.1 After the season starts all requests for refund must be submitted in writing prior to May 1st to the Board of Directors and will be approved on a case-by-case basis (i.e. refund due to injury, transfer etc). Refund levels will be pro-rated as determined by the Board of Directors with no refund being available after May 1st

21.2 Signs: All signs posted on the outfield fences will be paid for every two years at the *charged rate* approved by the Board of Directors.

21.3 Managers/players ejections are subject to the minimum suspension set forth by Little League International and the Disciplinary Board hearing.

22. Post Season Tournament

22.1 All tournament standings will be determined 10 calendar days prior to the start of the tournament or Memorial Day, whichever comes first.

23. Amendments to Local Rules

These local rules and general information may be altered, amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, if at least 14 days notice is given to each Board Member, setting forth the specific proposed change(s) and the date of the meeting at which the change(s) are to be considered. Notice may be waived in writing, signed by the person(s) entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein. Any such waiver shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.