

North Bothell Little League 2025 Baseball A Supplemental Rules

LOCAL RULES - BASEBALL

The following rules apply to all levels of North Bothell Little League:

1. Only NBLL registered players may be on the field of play.
2. The Little League Pledge shall be recited prior to each game by all of the managers, coaches, and players in front of their respective stands/spectators, to be led by the home team manager or his/her designee. It is acceptable for the pledge to be skipped during inter-league play where the inter-league partner team doesn't recite the pledge as a normal part of their pre-game process.
3. The home team is responsible for preparation of the field prior to the game, and to take the third base dugout. The field must be ready in order for the game to start on time. Both teams are responsible for field clean up after the game. No exceptions. Both teams are also responsible for proper storage of field equipment (Bases, etc.), policing the field, dugouts, and stands before leaving, and locking the gates.
4. The OUT-OF-PLAY lines shall be considered an extension of the backstop lines down the first and third base lines. In the interest of safety, any ball going past these lines shall be called dead, whether caught or not caught, batted, or thrown.
5. The usage of non-Little League approved or non-Little League compliant bats is strictly prohibited. In all divisions of baseball and softball all bats must be Little League compliant.
 - a. Baseball: All bats must meet the USA Bat standard and bear the USA Baseball logo that denotes the bat meets the USA Youth Baseball Bat Standard. All bats with a -1.15 BPF rating are prohibited.
 - i. Tee Ball division: The bat must be 26" or shorter with text stating: Only for Use With Approved Tee Balls.
 - ii. Majors and below: No more than 33" in length.
 - iii. Intermediate and Junior: No more than 34" in length. Bats used at the Junior division must meet the BBCOR standard and bear the BBCOR label.
 - iv. All wood bats do not need USA bat approval.
 - v. Any bat that does not have the USA logo or BBCOR stamp cannot be used. If used in a game the bat must be immediately removed from the game and a Little League official or umpire will disqualify the composite barrel bat. It is NOT the responsibility of the umpire to check for the required labels. For composite barrel bat waivers, it is the umpire's responsibility to enforce the rules when an illegal bat is identified.
6. Game EJECTIONS Anyone who is EJECTED must:
 - a. If a player, coach, manager or spectator is ejected from a game it is the responsibility of the umpire and manager of the affected team to notify the League President or Vice President and the Division Coordinator of the respective league within 24 hours with the details surrounding the ejection. The person ejected will receive a one game suspension during the next scheduled game that is played.
 - b. Second offense will result in a two-game suspension.
 - c. Third offense is removal from NBLL for the season.
 - d. The ejected person may request an appeal with a Disciplinary Committee
7. Games called due to darkness, rain, etc... must have completed a minimum of four (4) innings (Three-and-a-half innings if the home team is ahead) to be considered an official game. Games called prior to being considered an official game will be continued or replayed, if one or less innings have been played. Games that have played more than one inning, but are not yet an official game, will be replayed at a later date, from the point the game was postponed. Games called in the middle of an inning, after being considered an official game, will revert back to the last completed inning if the visiting team is ahead, or will be declared final if the home team is ahead (Ties are allowed).

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BASEBALL - A

1. All players league age 6 to 8 are eligible for the A division.
2. Rosters will be limited to 13 or fewer players with the goal of having as few as 10 per team.
3. The game will be played using a Safety Compression Ball
4. No new batter after 1 hour and 30 minutes (hard stop).
5. In addition to the manager and two coaches, each team should have at least 1 dugout parent, with approved background checks, in the dugout at all times to monitor, prepare, and coach the players. Players must remain in the dugout or on the bench during games. The league does not permit managers or coaches on the playing field during live play at the A Division, except for one (1) coach pitcher, two (2) adult base coaches and (1) adult shaggier behind home plate.
6. Each team must supply a shaggier behind home plate when their team is batting. The main responsibility of a shagger is to collect thrown balls and give them back to the coach pitcher between batters.
7. The home team is responsible for supplying the first base umpire and the visiting team will supply the third base umpire.
8. The A Division is a non-competitive division and there are no protests at the A division as there are no official scores or standings. This level is designed to be recreational, instructional, and above all, fun! Please ensure that you, as Managers and Coaches, as well as your team's parents, set the best possible examples of sportsmanship and courtesy. Scores and overall standings will not be tracked throughout the season
9. All Volunteers must have an approved background check and completed the Little League Abuse Awareness Training.
10. If playing on a non-fenced field, the home run line will be marked by cones a distance of 120 feet from home plate.
11. A safety base will be placed next to first base if available. In general, the defense is entitled to the inside base, while the batter / runner is entitled to the outside base. Coaches should instruct their players to make plays to the inside base while playing defense, and to run through the outside base while running to first.
12. Absolutely no pre-game batting practice of any kind is allowed on the field. Point of emphasis: Players at this age level should not have a bat in hand unless they are in the batter's box ready to hit. No exceptions.
13. The entire game roster shall be used as the batting order, regardless of defensive position. Players arriving after the game has started shall be placed in the batting order after the last player named in such batting order. Free substitution is allowed for defense.
14. For safety reasons, players are not allowed to hold a bat in the dugout / bench area, or swing a bat outside of the batter's box. Practice swings will be allowed in the batter's box only and only under the coach's direction.

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15. A Batted Ball that:
 - a. passes over the coned home run line on the fly shall be a home run.
 - b. touches a fielder's glove, or any other part of said fielder, and passes over the coned home run line on the fly, without ever touching the ground prior to passing the cones, shall be a home run.
 - c. passes the coned home run line after first touching the ground shall be a ground-rule double, regardless of whether a fielder touched it or not.

16. A batter hit by a "Coach Pitch" does not take first base.

17. A runner will be ruled safe if he / she does not have free access to the base because a defensive player has blocked the base while not making a play on the ball. It is incumbent on the coaches to teach players to avoid collisions. Safety is our first priority in the A Division.

18. Stealing is Not Allowed

19. A batter or runner will be allowed to advance a maximum of one base on a batted ball hit in the infield, and a maximum of two bases on a batted ball hit to the outfield. There are no triples in the A division.
 - a. A ball hit over the cones / fence on the fly will be considered a home run.
 - b. A ball must travel at least 10 feet beyond the baselines to be considered in the outfield.
 - c. A runner may only advance to second base (at risk) if the outfielder does not yet have control of the ball, or if the outfielder has control of the ball, but has not yet thrown it.
 - d. Play shall continue until time is called, at which time the umpire will rule as to which base the runner is entitled to.
 - e. Defensive players are encouraged to make the correct play by throwing to the appropriate base. For that reason, runners will not be allowed to advance on an overthrow.

20. The side retires when there are three (3) outs, when five (5) runs score, or when the entire batting order has batted, whichever comes first. EXCEPTION: If a batter hits a home run over the fence or outfield boundary line, or hits a ground rule double, all runs driven in by that play will score (Maximum of two runs on ground rule double). During the sixth inning, and every inning thereafter, there is no five-run limit, but the number of runs is limited to one rotation through the batting order.

21. Each team will be allowed to use ten (10) defensive players, four (4) of which will be in the outfield. A "Rover" position is not allowed. Note: If a team has only (7) players, the game may be played, but the team must use a player at the catcher position.

22. Managers are required to follow a defensive player rotation provided by the league. This rotation encourages equal playing time for all players in all positions. The defensive rotation is as follows

TWELVE Player Roster	ELEVEN Player Roster	TEN Player Roster	NINE Player Roster	EIGHT Player Roster	SEVEN Player Roster
P	P	P	P	P	P
C	C	C	C	C	C
1B	1B	1B	1B	1B	1B
RF	RF	RF	RF	OF	OF
2B	2B	2B	2B	2B	2B
OUT	RC	RC	CF	OF	SS
RC	SS	SS	SS	SS	3B
SS	LC	LC	LF	3B	
LC	3B	3B	3B		

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3B	LF	LF
LF	OUT	
OUT		

Once a manager has determined their playing roster (12 players, 11 players, etc...) for any given game, players are assigned a starting position per the table above. Each player then rotates one position down for each subsequent inning played throughout the game. All managers are required to provide the opposing manager a copy of their defensive rotation prior to the start of the game. Managers may reset their rotations as desired between games but emphasis should be made to give every player an opportunity to play every position during the course of the year.

23. Pitching shall be COACH PITCH, at a distance of 30 feet from home plate. The player assuming the defensive position of pitcher shall begin each play with a foot no farther than 3' from the actual pitching plate.
24. Each batter is allowed seven (7) live COACH pitches. If not successful after seven (7) live pitches, the batter is out. A player fouling off the seventh pitch, or any subsequent pitch, is allowed another pitch, unless the foul ball is caught on the fly, at which point the batter is out. Coaches are free to pitch in whatever fashion works for their players (i.e., pitch from a knee, pitch from standing, etc.). Coach pitches should be on a line, no lobs or underhand. The player assuming the defensive position of pitcher during this time shall remain even with or behind the line of the pitching mound until the ball is put in play by the batter. The player may choose which side to stand on.
25. Gloves may be worn by the adult pitcher during pitching as a safety measure; however, all defensive handling of the ball is to be done by the players. A live ball coming into contact with the adult pitcher is considered incidental contact, and the ball is in play.
26. Managers and coaches should make every attempt to keep the game moving along at a good pace. Catchers should be identified in advance of their assigned inning, geared up, and be ready to play when their team takes the field. The umpire will remind managers of this requirement as needed.
27. A pitcher must always throw the ball to another player to get the batter / runner out, unless it is considered a natural baseball play. For example, a ball fielded down the first baseline and the pitcher is able to tag the batter. Or a ball fielded down the third baseline and the pitcher is able to tag the runner trying to score.
28. An infielder must throw the ball to a base to make an out, unless it is considered a natural baseball play to run to the base for an out. For example, a ball hit to first base is fielded by the player at first base who then proceeds to tag their base for an out. A ball hit to second base and fielded by the player at second who then runs to first base should not result in an out. Use your judgment when considering whether a play is a natural baseball play.
29. Outfielders are recommended to start play approximately 15ft behind the infield base lines to encourage proper defensive positioning. Outfielders are permitted to cover bases once the ball is put into play.
30. An outfielder must throw the ball to a base to obtain an out, rather than running to the base and touching it. A batter / runner who is tagged out by an outfielder or forced out by an outfielder touching a base with the ball will be declared safe. Managers are asked to instruct each player of the proper play once the play has ended.
31. The "Infield fly" is not enforced for the A Division.

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32. There are No Dropped 3rd Strikes
33. Bunting is Not Allowed
34. At the conclusion of the regular season, the A division teams will participate in an End of Season Jamboree. All teams will play 2-3 30min games
35. Any violation of the rules or inappropriate behavior by Coaches, Managers, or Volunteers will be addressed under the league's Disciplinary Policy.