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 baseball divisions, composite barrel bats that have not received an approval waiver from Little League International may not be used at any time during practice, games or team events (Team use of commercial batting cages). It is the responsibility of the player and manager to provide documented proof of the Little League waiver upon request by a league official or umpire. Failure to provide an approved waiver from Little League International upon request by a Little League official or umpire will disqualify the composite barrel bat. It is not the responsibility of the umpire to check for composite barrel bat waivers, but it is the umpire's responsibility to enforce the rules.
- 6. Anyone who is EJECTED must:
 - a. Notify the League President or Vice President and the Division Coordinator of the respective league within 24 hours. He or she will also serve 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. A Disciplinary Committee appeal may result in missing no games.
- 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).

BASEBALL - AA

- 1. All regular season rules will apply as per the "Little League 2025 Baseball Official Rulebook", except as amended below.
- 2. All players league age 8 to 10 are eligible to participate in the AA Division. *League age 7 yr old players must be approved by a special sub-committee of the NBLL Board of Directors prior to being eligible for a AA team. This special sub-committee will include the Vice President of Baseball, the Player Agent, and the Division Coordinator and the decision must be unanimous.
- 3. Rosters will be limited to 13 or fewer players.
- 4. The game will be played using a quality hardball baseball. The home team will be responsible for supplying 2 game balls to the umpire.
- 5. All games have a strict two-hour (2) time limit from the scheduled start time Games with no follow-on games scheduled may play up to two-and-a-half hours (2.5) from the scheduled start. Lighted and non-lighted field rules apply. Check to make sure NBLL has the permit for field use. The plate umpire is responsible for maintaining strict time limits.

Lighted and Non-Lighted Fields

No new inning shall start after 8:15 pm.

No new batter after 8:30 pm

- 6. In addition to the manager and two coaches, each team should have at least 1 dugout parent 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.
- 7. Umpires Teams will provide umpires for their own games. The home team will provide home plate umpire and the visiting team will provide the field umpire. Managers are responsible for making sure they have umpires lined up to cover their games as needed. Be sure to check the Jr. Umpire Game Signups to see if one signed up to work your game
- 8. Scorekeeping each team should provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach. The home team is considered the official scorekeeper. If the home team is unable to provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach, then the visiting team can provide the official scorekeeper.
 - a. It is the responsibility of the HOME team to enter all scores, pitchers used, and pitch counts to the website by 9:00 am the morning following the games played on Sunday through Thursday and by 11:00 pm the evening for games played on Friday and Saturday nights. Managers or Scorekeepers will need to meet after each game to validate score, pitchers used, and pitch counts and to ensure catchers were properly utilized during the game.
- 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 at a distance of 160 feet from home plate.
- 11. Pre-game batting practice at the field is allowed, but must be done in the outfield and in a manner that does not interfere with the opposing team's warm-up. All batters must wear helmets and must be under the strict supervision of a manager or coaches. Hitting sticks, weighted balls, and wiffle balls are the ONLY APPROVED equipment for use during pre-game batting practice. Hard balls shall not be used in any manner for hitting / bunting drills during pre-game batting practice.

- 12. Teams are not allowed to take a full infield / outfield prior to the game. Teams may hit ground balls in foul territory in front of their dugout, and can hit / throw fly balls to players on their side of the outfield.
- 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.
- 15. After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

Exceptions:

- a. On a swing, slap, or check swing
- b. When forced out of the box by a pitch
- c. When the batter attempts a drag bunt
- d. When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball
- e. When a play has been attempted
- f. When time has been called
- g. When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound, or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball, or the catcher leaves the catcher's box
- h. On a three-ball count for a pitch that is a strike but the batter thinks is a ball

Penalty: If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

16. 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.
- 17. A batter hit by a coach-pitch does not take first base. During the player pitch portion of the game, a batter hit by a pitch will have the option of taking first base, or remaining at home plate to finish the at bat.
- 18. There is no stealing during coach-pitch
 - a. Stealing second and third base is allowed during kid pitch only, no stealing home until the 6th inning. A runner may leave the base once the ball crosses home plate (no leading off). In an effort to encourage catchers to throw the ball, runners may not advance to another base on an overthrow during a stolen base attempt, except during the sixth inning. The sixth inning is played as real baseball in regard to base stealing. Runners may advance one additional base on an overthrow during a stolen base attempt. Stealing home is allowed in the 6th inning only.
- 19. A containment rule is used in this division for the ENTIRE GAME To limit the number of bases that runners can advance during each at bat. Our goal is to encourage defensive players to throw the ball and make appropriate baseball plays without the penalty of runners taking unlimited bases on over-throws. Containment is achieved when the ball is in the possession of a defensive player (infielder or outfielder) standing in the infield. There are two types of containment, depending on whether the ball is hit to the infield, or the outfield:
 - a. A ball hit in the infield is contained as soon as the defensive player fields the ball. All runners can advance to the next base at the risk of being put out. However, if the defensive player subsequently

- throws the ball, in an effort to get an out, then all runners shall be entitled to the base they are advancing to, plus one additional base, at the risk of being tagged out, on an overthrow. Subsequent overthrows do not result in additional bases.
- b. On a ball hit to the outfield, regardless of how the ball ends up in the outfield, the ball is not contained until it is in the possession of a defensive player (infielder or outfielder) standing in the infield. When a ball is returned from the outfield and becomes contained, a runner may not advance further than the base they were already advancing to, even 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 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. If a team only has eight (8) players, the game may begin with two (2) outfielders.
- 22. For a completed game of
 - a. Six (6) innings or longer each player shall play a minimum of four (4) defensive innings per game, with at least two (2) of which shall be in the infield (Positions 1-6).
 - b. For a completed game of less than six (6) innings (rain-out, darkness, etc...), every player must play at least two (2) defensive innings, with at least one (1) of the two (2) defensive innings being played at an infield position (Positions 1-6).
 - c. Managers are encouraged to give all players their minimum playing time as soon as possible to ensure compliance in the event the game cannot be completed (Darkness, weather, time limit, etc). Any disciplinary actions that impact a player's minimum play time must first be approved by the Player Agent or the Division Coordinator prior to implementation.
 - d. No player may play at the same defensive position for more than two (2) innings per game. NOTE: Catcher is an infield position.
 - e. A player may not be on the bench for two consecutive innings.
 - f. It is highly encouraged that coaches move players around to various defensive positions to aid in player skill development. It is the goal that all players will play all defensive positions by the end of the season.
 - g. Penalties will apply to any team that violates the minimum play requirements. See the league's Disciplinary Policy for more details.
- 23. For the entire game, the kid pitch will be from a distance of **43 feet**, between the front of the pitching plate and the back corner of home plate.
- 24. The entire game will be a player / coach pitcher combination. There are no walks in this division. The player-pitcher will pitch to the batter, if the player-pitcher reaches four (4) "Balls", a coach pitcher from the hitting team will take over, assuming the number of strikes called to the batter. The coach-pitcher will pitch till the batter swings to put the ball in play, strikes out swinging or looking on the 3rd strike. A player fouling off a 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.). The coach pitcher must pitch from a distance of 30ft. 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 coach-pitch 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 live and in play. A live ball caught by the adult pitcher should immediately be dropped and treated as live and in play.

26. Green book rule will be followed for pitch count and rest period required as follows:

Pitches thrown	Days of Rest	Pitched on	Rest	Eligible to Pitch
1 - 20	0	Sunday	None	Monday
21 - 35	1	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
36-50	2	Sunday	Mon & Tues	Wednesday
51 - 65	3	Sunday	Mon, Tues, & Wed	Thursday
66 +	4	Sunday	Mon, Tues, Wed, & Thurs	Friday

A player MAY NOT throw more than 35 pitches in a game prior to Spring Break. (Subject to Last Batter)

Post Spring Break, maximum pitch limits are as follows:

09 - 10 years old: 75 pitches per day 07 - 08 years old: 50 pitches per day

If a pitcher reaches their maximum pitch count OR reaches a rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any of the following conditions occurs: 1) That batter reaches base, or 2) That batter is retired, or 3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he / she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed before delivering a pitch to another batter.

A pitcher throwing 40 or more pitches in a game can still play catcher pursuant to the last batter conditions stated above. Once a pitcher has thrown the 41+ pitch to a new batter, that pitcher can no longer play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day. For a complete list of pitchers to catcher or catcher to pitcher rules, please see the GREEN BOOK. In all cases we will adhere to the GREEN BOOK rules.

- 27. 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, get geared up and be ready to play when their team takes the field. Note that any player wearing a catcher's mask can warm-up a pitcher and a coach can also warm up the pitcher, if necessary.
 - A Courtesy Runner may be permitted for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two
 (2) outs. The courtesy runner must be the player in the batting order who made the last out. See
 LL Rule 7.14(b) for the ruling
- 28. 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.
- 29. A thrown ball that passes the coned home run line, shall be called out-of-play by the umpire, and bases awarded to the runners accordingly
- 30. The "Infield fly" rule is not enforced.

- 31. There is NO dropped third strike rule
- 32. Bunting is NOT allowed
- 33. There is no "must slide" rule. Players are not permitted to slide head first while advancing to a base. However, runners are allowed to dive head first when returning to a base.
- 34. Teams cannot draw a replacement player from the A Division team during the last two weeks of their regular season schedule or the league playoffs.
- 35. At the conclusion of the regular season, the AA division teams will participate in a blind draw double elimination tournament. The entire tournament will be Kid Pitch only, including walks (no coach pitchers). All other playing rules listed above will be enforced during tournament play.
- 36. Any violation of the rules or inappropriate behavior by Coaches, Managers, or Volunteers will be addressed under the league's Disciplinary Policy.