## 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 EJECTIONSAnyone 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).

## TEE BALL

- 1. All players league age 4 to 6 are eligible in the Tee Ball division.
- 2. This is a recreational and instructional division and as such, there should be no-pressure put on the kids. Our primary objective is to provide a fun and safe baseball experience for all participants.
- 3. Rosters will be limited to 13 or fewer players with the goal of having as few as 10 per team.
- 4. The game will be played using a dimple Safety Ball with a league provided tee.
- 5. Tee Ball games will be four (4) innings or 60-minutes whichever is reached first. The Game is not to exceed four (4) innings or 60-minutes as children at this age tire easily and no benefit is derived from the game dragging out beyond the limits.
- 6. In addition to the manager and two coaches, each team must have two parents, 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.
- 7. Any number of Manager Approved Volunteers may be on the field with the players, assuming they; 1) Do not interfere with the player's ability to participate, and 2) All Volunteers must have passed a league approved background check.
- 8. The home team is responsible for supplying an umpire who will be positioned at first base.
- 9. The Tee Ball Division is a non-competitive division and there are no protests at the Tee Ball 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. All players from both teams are winners if they have fun and have learned something during the game.
- 10. All Volunteers must have an approved background check and completed the Little League Abuse Awareness Training,
- 11. There is no home run line for the Tee Ball division.
- 12. A safety base will be placed next to first base to reduce collisions and to give batters a better chance of running through first base on a ground ball to the infield. In general, the defense is entitled to the inside base, while the batter / runner is entitled to the outside safety 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. For safety reasons, players are not allowed to hold a bat in the dugout or 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.
- 15. Offensive Team:

Each team will, when on offense, bat through their respective team roster as follows:

a. Bat through the entire team roster, regardless of outs or runs. The side retires when play has ended by the last batter on the roster running around to home plate. The last batter in an inning

then becomes the first batter of the next inning, so that players rotate through the different positions in the batting order on a regular basis.

- b. The batter / runner may proceed, at risk of being put out, as far as ONE (1) base on a batted ball put into play. A batter / runner put OUT on a play MUST BE REMOVED to the dugout. Please instruct players and prepare them for being put OUT as it's bound to happen at some point in their little league career...
- c. There is no advancement on a ball that is overthrown or thrown out-of-play and every effort should be made to encourage defensive players to make a play and a throw.
- d. Each thrown bat will result in a warning for the first offense during an at bat. A subsequent thrown bat, during the same at bat, will result in an OUT and the player will return to the dugout. The goal of this rule is to instruct players NOT to throw the bat. The rule is not intended to punish the players. Please use discretion in determining whether a bat is thrown or not
- 16. A batted ball must travel at least fifteen (15) feet from home plate, in fair territory, to be considered a live ball. On the third contact with the ball, the batter will run regardless of the distance the ball travels, as long as it is a fair ball.
- 17. Defensive Team:
  - a. The infield shall consist of the proper number of players in the proper defensive positions (not lined up in the baseline), with one exception, there will be no catcher at the Tee Ball level. The pitcher shall be positioned on the pitcher's plate or directly behind it until the ball has been hit.
  - b. Teams are to run a 3-Zone Defense and rotate players clockwise or counter-clockwise in each zone after every 3 or 4 batters. This will require 3 coaches to be on the field in charge of the 3 zones and rotations. Players will switch zones each inning.
    - i. Zone 1 1B/RF/RCF
    - ii. Zone 2 2B/CF/P
    - iii. Zone 3 3B/SS/LF/LCF
  - c. If a pitcher or infielder fields a ground ball, he/she must throw the ball to another position player to get a runner out, unless the natural baseball play is to tag the runner or touch the base. The defensive team cannot obtain an out by fielding a ball and touching home plate. Managers are asked to instruct players on the proper play once the play has ended.
  - d. Any ball hit to the outfield should be thrown to the infield by the fielder. An outfielder must throw the ball to obtain an out, rather than running to a 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 and managers will instruct each player on the proper play once the play has ended
- 18. Coach pitch is NOT allowed under any circumstances.
- 19. Managers and coaches should make every attempt to keep the game moving along at a good pace.
- 20. At the conclusion of the regular season, the Tee Ball division teams will participate in an End of Season Jamboree. All teams will play 2 30min games
- 21. Any violation of the rules or inappropriate behavior by Coaches, Managers, or Volunteers will be addressed under the league's Disciplinary Policy.