



Northwest Seattle Little League

Respect the game.

Introduction to NWSLL MAJORS BASEBALL

For the 2015 season, Northwest Seattle Little League is adjusting our Baseball Divisions to comply with the standards set by the other leagues in our district. This decision was made in an attempt to not only make NWSLL more competitive, but will also give each of our kid pitch divisions more opportunities to play "INTERLEAGUE" games versus teams from other leagues. It will also allow a much more flexible system to place players, based as much on ability as age.

New to our League are the AA and AAA divisions, in addition to the MAJORS division. The Majors division will remain essentially unchanged from last season, with one major difference. This season, 11 year olds will not be forced to play in Majors, but will be automatically placed in AAA, with some 11 year olds moved up to Majors based on ability and experience level.

Below are some answers to some frequently asked questions:

In which division will 12 year olds play?

Similar to previous years, all 12 year olds will play in MAJORS (special circumstances may be considered if there is possibility of a safety risk.)

In which division will 11 year olds play?

In 2015, 11 year olds will play in either AAA or MAJORS, based on the best fit for each player (each player will be evaluated at Player Assessments which will take place in February.)

In which division will 10 year olds play?

10 year olds will play in AAA, but similar to previous years, one or more 10 year olds may be asked to play up to MAJORS. This will be based on individual ability/experience per player assessment and by approval of the division coordinator, league president and player's family.

What are the main differences between the "new" AAA division and last season's MINORS division?

The AAA division, a new division starting this season, is essentially the same as what used to be called MINORS, with a few changes. AAA Baseball will include primarily 9, 10 and 11 year olds (Minors in the past had mainly 9 and 10 year olds) and players will be placed in specific divisions based on skills, experience and how they perform at player evaluations.

Here is a basic overview of how each age group will be considered:

- 12 year olds will play MAJORS (with the exception of any situations deemed a safety risk).
 - 12 year olds will be evaluated at NWSLL's player evaluations.
 - Majors teams will be assembled by way of a draft process by division coaches.
- All 11 year olds will be evaluated at NWSLL's "Player Evaluations" in February.
 - Some 11 year olds will be placed MAJORS based not only on evaluations and experience in previous seasons and preseason training.
 - Some 11 year olds will play in AAA baseball with 9,10 and 11 year olds.
 - 11 year olds can choose to not play in MAJORS if they prefer to play in AAA Baseball.
 - AAA teams will be assembled by way of a draft process by division coaches.
- All 10 year olds will be evaluated at NWSLL's "Player Evaluations" in February.
 - Most 10 year olds will be placed in AAA to play with 9, 10 and 11 year olds.
 - On rare occasions, 10 year olds may play up in Majors, based on skill and experience (and how many players are needed to fill out teams.)
- All 9 year olds will be evaluated at NWSLL's "Player Evaluations" in February.
 - Most 9 year olds will be placed in AA (First year Kid Pitch) to play with 8 and 9 year olds.
 - Some 9 year olds will be asked to play AAA, based on skill and experience (and how many players are needed to fill out teams.)

- All 7 and 8 year olds who wish to play in AA (first year kid pitch) must be evaluated at NWSLL's "Player Evaluations" in February.
 - Some 8 year olds will be placed in AA (First year Kid Pitch) to play with 8 and 9 year olds.
 - Some 8 year olds may wish to play in ROOKIES (Coach pitch) if they are not ready for kid pitch baseball.
- Any 7 or 8 year olds who do not participate in Evaluations will be placed in Rookies (Coach Pitch).
- Five and Six year olds will play in Tee Ball.

Who can participate in Majors?

Any child who will attain the age of 10, 11, or 12 years old on or before April 30 shall be eligible to play in this division. By Little League rules all 12 year olds must play in the Majors Division unless there is a safety risk. The number of ten year olds allowed into the Majors is currently limited to one per team in Majors.

What is the skill level in Majors?

The Majors program progresses the game to the next level of play in the context of having fun, making friends, and learning positive life lessons. The league continues its focus on providing a developmental environment and a focus on learning about the game of baseball with an increased focus on skill development.

How is Majors different from Minors?

- In interleague games, Majors may have a batting line up of 9 players, not the entire line up.
- In interleague games there may be no run limit rule (per inning), but there is still a 10 run mercy rule after Four innings of play.
- Coaches usually have 3+ practices per week in March and continue to practice throughout the game season.
- Coaches may have kids play more specific positions in both the infield and outfield, but players will be encouraged to play all positions. Playing Pitcher and Catcher positions in games may require players to first show aptitude for the required skills in practice.

Do all the kids on the team get to play?

There are minimum play rules that mandate all players will play a minimum of 2 innings and 1 at bat. The league expects that coaches will play everyone a minimum of 3 innings or more and give every player a chance to play infield and outfield positions. In addition, the league will expect coaches to give players a chance to play pitcher and catcher once they can show that they have practiced and meet the minimum skill requirements for these positions.

What is the time commitment?

The Majors program is 4 days a week, generally three weekdays + Saturday. Coaches may offer supplemental opportunities for players as well. The game schedule takes place from April to early June and is typically one or two weekday games and one Saturday game each week. The regular season is followed by a double elimination tournament, with the winner of the tournament participating as NW's representative in the District 8 Wood Bat Tournament.

How are teams decided?

All kids ages 11 and 12 (and 10 year olds granted permission to "play up") attend a player assessment session. These sessions and past experience are the basis for drafting teams onto the AAA and MAJORS division teams. The goal of the league is to have strong parity within divisions to provide a balanced competitive landscape in an effort to optimize the experience for the most kids. Due to the fact that both AAA and MAJORS teams will participate in games with other leagues in the area, we also want to make sure we field teams that are at par with what other leagues are doing as well.

Can a child who has never played baseball before start at age 11 or 12?

Absolutely. Northwest Seattle Little League is here to provide a great experience for kids of all abilities. Even first year 12 year old players can play, with a possible option to start in AAA baseball (based on evaluation.)

What equipment do players need to play Majors?

Majors players need only bring a baseball glove and athletic clothing for practices including cleats. Players will also be asked to purchase baseball pants and an undershirt (combined cost of about twenty dollars). Every player is issued a uniform including cap and jersey. The player gets to keep the cap.

How do I sign my child up?

You can sign up online by going to the registration page on the website. Deadline is January 31.

Because players are assigned through a draft system the league is unable to honor family requests. The league's resource for parents with concerns or extenuating circumstances to be considered should contact the division Player Agent whose role is to consider the best interests of the players in the context of league policies.

When will we find out which team our child is on?

You will hear from your coach typically by the 3rd week in February.

When do practices begin?

Practices are tentatively scheduled to begin the 1st week in March.

Where are practices and games?

All practices and games take place at a local field including Soundview Playfield, North Acres Field, and other local fields. Interleague games are usually on Saturdays in May and June (locations vary between Shoreline and Magnolia).

When do games begin?

Games are tentatively scheduled to begin the second week of April. Formal game schedules will be published by the end of March.

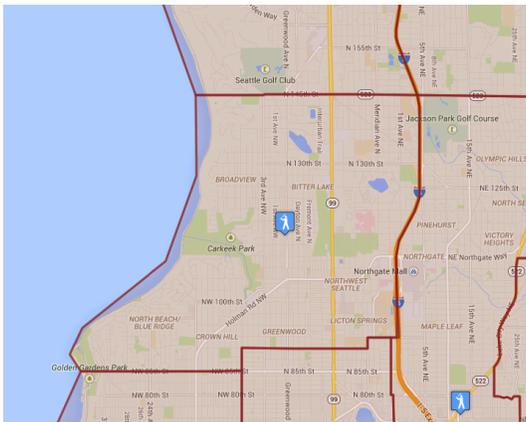
Are scholarships available?

Yes. NWSLL is committed to the principle that "EVERY child that wants to play baseball WILL PLAY" regardless of their family's financial status. Check the appropriate box while registering if you would like a scholarship.

What makes Majors different from "real" baseball (different from High School or College ball)?

The Little League Majors game

- Entire roster is in batting lineup
- Maximum 5 runs per inning (except in last inning)
- Minimum play rules
- Pitch limit rules



Is Northwest Seattle Little League your league?

Little League is very specific about keeping to predefined geographic areas.

NWSLL's boundaries are:

- North boundary: North 145th Street
- East boundary: Interstate 5
- West boundary: Puget Sound
- South boundary:
 - NW 85th (from the water to 8th Ave NW)
 - N 90th (between 8th and Wallingford)
 - N 92nd (between Wallingford and I-5)

<http://www.littleleaguewa.org/boundary-maps/district-8-boundaries>

League Parent Resources

Any topic: info@nwsll.org (goes to league administrator)

Registration: Sue Schoolcraft, NWSLL Registrar nwsllregistrar@gmail.com

Division Commissioners: (will handle questions for each division)

- Baseball Juniors, Seniors, Big League:
- Baseball Majors:
- Baseball AAA: Derek Davis
- Baseball Rookies/Tee Ball: Dave Terhark