

Northwood Little League Local Standing Rules

Spring 2026

Last date approved on:

January 28, 2026



All matters contained herein supplement Little League Baseball, Inc. Official Regulations and Rules and are intended to further establish basic ground rules and responsibilities of all adults designated herein to provide a more uniform and meaningful participation for all players. The Standing Rules must be approved by the Board of Directors at their February Board meeting.

SECTION I - ZERO TOLERANCE BEHAVIOR POLICY

To make Little League a more desirable, rewarding, and safe experience for all participants, the Northwood Little League has a zero-tolerance policy regarding any inappropriate behavior that concerns the League by any volunteer, parent, player, or spectator. All parents and volunteers are required to sign a Code of Conduct before participation in the season. Any breach of the Code of Conduct, inappropriate behavior, obscene or abusive language in any form, actual or threatened physical harm, or any inappropriate physical treatment, will be reviewed promptly by the Board of Directors, will result in sanctions, and could result in expulsion from the League.

SECTION II - MANAGER SELECTION

A. The Manager Selection Committee will be composed of members of the Board of Directors for each Division: The VP of Baseball Ops and Player Agent shall be included for all divisions, and each Division Commissioner for their respective divisions shall compose the final member of that Division's Manager Selection Committee. .

B. The Manager Selection Committee will accept nominations for Manager, from the Regular Membership, commencing at the opening of Registration for each League season. The Committee will be responsible for providing the President with a recommended list of Managers to present to the Board of Directors for approval.

C. The Committee shall include the following criteria in the selection process:

1. The ability to manage and relate to the youth of Little League age. Past experience in Little League or other similar experience as outlined in the application, along with personal interview will be the basis for this determination.
2. Attitude toward and past conduct on the field of play including promptness for starting games and scheduled events. This includes properly completed lineup cards presented to the Umpire-in-Chief so that games will begin on time and provide for maximum probability of completion.
3. Adherence to and understanding of Little League Baseball, Inc. Rules and Regulations and the NWLL Standing Rules.
4. Attitude toward and past performance related to treatment and prompt return of the League's equipment.
5. Attitude toward and performance at team practices.
6. Ability to attend games and practices.

SECTION III - MANAGERS AND COACHES

A. Managers will request parents to volunteer as assistant coaches once rosters are set. Names of assistant coaches shall be turned into the VP of Volunteer Operations through a shared spreadsheet. Assistant coaches should be made aware that this position and his/her responsibilities are no less than those of the Manager.

1. Upper Division Managers (AA and Above) will submit up to two volunteer assistant coaches to be approved by the Board.

2. Lower Division Managers (Teeball, Rookie and A Ball) will submit up to three volunteer assistant coaches to be approved by the Board.

B. Only Board-approved coaches may be on the field or in the dugout during games. In the event an assistant coach will be unavailable, a request may be made in advance to the Division Commissioner to request a temporary replacement coach who has previously satisfied all compliance requirements (e.g. Live Scan, Background Check) for the game. All requests for a temporary replacement assistant coach must receive prior written approval before engaging in any assistant coaching activities.

C. At the beginning of the season, Managers will be responsible for selecting adult volunteers to represent their team as defined by the Board of Directors regarding League commitments. All Managers and coaches shall fill out a Volunteer Form and input applicable information into a shared spreadsheet prior to Opening Day. A Manager may not manage a team until the information is filled out in the shared spreadsheet.

D. All Managers will be responsible for the care, treatment and return of Northwood Little League property and equipment. Managers will return all League property to the Equipment Coordinator(s) within seven (7) days of the end of the season or as otherwise designated by the Equipment Coordinator(s).

E. All Managers and Coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.

F. Division Commissioners will be responsible for Manager and Coach Evaluations for both the Spring and Fall seasons.

G. All Managers will adhere to the pitching eligibility regulations as described in Little League Regulation VI and the League's Standing Rules. Failure to know, understand or comply with regulation could be injurious to a player. Managers will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors for violation of these pitching rules.

H. All Managers must attend the mandatory Manager Training sessions. Failure to attend can be grounds to be removed from the coaching position, delay field allocations for practices, and delay in the distribution of team jerseys/hats.

I. Failure to comply with these Standing Rules or Little League Baseball, Inc. Regulations could result in the censure of a Manager or Coach by the Board of

Directors; penalties that include but are not limited to, game suspension(s) or removal by Board action.

SECTION IV - PLAYERS

A. All levels AA and above will be rebalanced each year. All players league age 9 and above, including all titled Majors players, must participate in the evaluation process. Any players League Age 8 (or younger) who are seeking placement in AA division or above must also participate in the evaluation process. All titled Majors players must be placed on a Majors team. Each player will be evaluated using league/age appropriate standards &

criteria submitted by the Player Agent to the President for approval. This approved evaluation standard form will be reviewed with all the applicable Managers by the Player Agent before each evaluation. Appendix A will list the player selection procedures for the Major Division, the AAA Division and the AA Division. These procedures must be approved annually by the League's District Administrator.

B. For teams in Tee Ball, Rookie Ball and A-Ball Divisions, Managers shall be allowed to have a total of three (3) "buddy" players (including the coach's son) on each team. The Manager can select those three (3) players; the remainder of each Manager's roster shall then be selected by the Division Commissioner in accordance with NWLL's desire to establish balanced teams throughout the League.

C. Three (3) consecutive absences by a player from any regularly scheduled practice or game must be reported to the Division Commissioner and the Player Agent by the team Manager. The player may be dropped from the team if a legitimate excuse cannot be established.

SECTION V - TEAMS

A. The President, Player Agent, and VP of Baseball Ops shall collectively determine the number of teams in each Division.

B. Division schedules shall be established by the Scheduling Committee, consisting of the Player Agent, and the Board of Directors Scheduler(s), prior to the start of the regular season.

C. Junior, Intermediate, Majors, AAA, and AA division champions will be determined as follows:

All Irvine City Championship Tournament seedings and intra-league regular season final standings for trophies, etc. (Juniors, Intermediate, Majors, AAA and AA

Divisions only) shall be based upon a team's overall record during the full regular season of play within Northwood Little League. In the case of two teams having the same record

(or at any time during the tiebreaker process you have two teams tied), the following tiebreaker system will be in effect: (1) Head-to-head competition, if still tied, then (2) least runs allowed for the season, if still tied, then (3) run differential between them for their games played, if still tied, then (4) coin flip. In case of a three or more way tie the following tie breaker system will be in effect: (1) Head-to-head sweep (one team is a series winner against each of the other teams in multiple games played), (2) least runs allowed for the season, if still tied, then, (3) run differential among them for their games played, if still tied then (4) draw numbers out of a hat. If at any time during the multiple team tiebreaker process one team is eliminated, then you start at the beginning of the tiebreaker priority system with the remaining tied teams.

D. No score, scorebooks or standings shall be kept for the regular season games of the Instructional divisions below the AA Division.

E. Little League owned equipment or uniforms may not be used in non-Little League sanctioned events.

SECTION VI - GAMES

A. Little League Baseball, Inc. Official Regulations and Playing Rules shall be followed in determining the outcome of any regularly scheduled game.

B. The Umpire-In-Chief (Home Plate or Adult Umpire where youth umpires are utilized) shall be responsible for making every effort to keep the game moving along to completion as long as, in his judgment, it is safe for the players to do so. Teams may forfeit games where, in the umpire's judgment, they are determined to be attempting to delay the game's progress.

C. All tie games will continue until there is a winner as defined by Little League Baseball, Inc. Rules and Regulations and Northwood Little League Standing Rules as applicable by division provided there is sufficient time, as defined in these Standing Rules for the applicable division, and it is safe to do so.

D. Tied, suspended and rain out games (incomplete games) will be made up in the next available open spot at the appropriate field. Game times and practice times for other teams may be changed to accommodate these make-up games. The Scheduling Committee is responsible for the rescheduling of games for each

Division and the coordination with the other Divisions when other games are scheduled on the same field. The uppermost division shall always get scheduling priority when it comes to playing rescheduled games.

E. The Home Team is responsible for providing the Official Scorekeeper's table and setting up the scorer's table and A/V equipment. The Visiting Team is responsible for providing the official pitch counter, and for putting all equipment away after the game.

F. The home team shall occupy the third base dugout.

G. Only eligible uniformed players, Manager, Coaches, and Umpire are permitted within the confines of the playing field, including the dugouts. All guests (video/camera and maintenance personnel) may be permitted with Board approval. At no time during play, shall there be more than two coaches outside of the dugout, including base coaches.

H. The Scheduling Committee is authorized to schedule games as needed to meet Little League post season eligibility requirements of players either wishing to be eligible or wanting to play in more games.

I. Pool Players. In Intermediate, Majors, AAA and AA Divisions, when a situation arises that leaves a team with fewer than nine (9) players available for a scheduled game, the use of a pool player from the division below will be permitted. The request for a pool player must be made with reasonable advance notice and will be allowed within the discretion of the Player Agent and/or the appropriate Division Commissioner. The following guidelines will be followed:

1. A list of pool players shall be created by the Player agent and the Commissioner, for the appropriate Division, from which the pool player is currently assigned. The pool players on the list shall include all registered players in the Division affected.
2. A pool player for any particular game shall be selected by the Player Agent and/or the appropriate Division Commissioner, based on a similar player evaluation as the missing player(s).
3. Any pool player who is selected and attends a game shall be subject to the minimum playing time rules.

4. A pool player shall be listed last in the batting order and shall not be permitted to play the position of pitcher.
5. A pool player must wear the uniform and hat of the team for which he normally plays and may not wear the uniform or hat of the team for which he is a pool player.
6. Either manager has the opportunity to protest the use of the chosen pool player prior to the commencement of the game.

SECTION VII - SCOREKEEPING AND ANNOUNCERS

A. For AA, AAA, Majors, Intermediate, and Juniors Divisions, the “Home” team shall be responsible for providing a qualified Official Scorekeeper using the Gamechanger app and the “Visiting” team will provide an Announcer, running the scoreboard, and pitch counter for both teams for their game. All games will be recorded using the Gamechanger app only. The Official Scorekeeper will execute applicable documentation verifying game scoring either on paper or digitally.

B. The Scorekeeper is obligated to notify the Managers and Umpire of any impending rules violations in order to avoid game protests for ineligible pitchers, illegal substitutions and playing time. Any Scorekeeper found to be coaching players and/or passing game information to the coaches will be removed.

SECTION VIII – POST SEASON TOURNAMENT SELECTION

A. All players League Age 8 to 14 are allowed to represent Northwood Little League on post-season Tournament Teams, as long as they meet all of the Little League eligibility requirements. Any eligible and interested player must submit their completed application package for consideration for selection on any team that is appropriate for his League Age. The deadline for applications will be set by the Player Agent to be no later than May 15th of the current season.

B. Tournament Team Managers must apply to the League President for the position, and thereafter be approved by the Board of Directors for each league age specific team. The Coach(es) shall be selected by the Tournament Team Manager and must be approved by the Board. No individual may manage or coach on more than one Tournament Team.

C. **The Junior Division Tournament Team** will be selected as follows:

1. Each Junior League player and each Manager and two assistant coaches from each team shall vote for ten (10) players that have submitted an application for the team and are considered eligible by Little League rules, who he feels is deserving of being a nominee for the Junior League Tournament Team. The balloting and selection process shall be administered by the Division Commissioner. Voting shall be conducted based on a secret ballot system. The vote recipients will be ranked in order of most to least determined by equally weighting the players' votes with the coaches' votes. Equally weighting means that one coach's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all coaches counts equally to one player's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all players. The top ten (10) vote winners will be offered a spot on the Tournament Team.
2. The Tournament Team Manager shall select as many as four (4) more players to complete the roster from the remaining list of vote recipients. The Manager's selections are subject to Board approval.
3. In the event it is necessary to replace a player on the official roster, the Manager shall select a player from the remaining list of eligible players.

D. The Intermediate Tournament Team (11-13 year olds) will be selected as follows:

1. Each Intermediate Division player and each Manager and two assistant coaches from each team shall vote for ten (10) players that have submitted an application for the team and are considered eligible by Little League rules, who he feels is deserving of being a nominee for the Little League Tournament Team. The balloting and selection process shall be administered by the Division Commissioner. Voting shall be conducted based on a secret ballot system. The vote recipients will be ranked in order of most to least determined by equally weighting the players' votes with the coaches' votes. Equally weighting means that one coach's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all coaches counts equally to one player's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all players. The top ten (10) vote winners will be offered a spot on the Tournament Team.
2. The Tournament Team Manager shall select as many as four (4) more players to complete the roster from the remaining list of vote recipients. The Manager's selections are subject to Board approval.

3. In the event it is necessary to replace a player on the official roster, the Manager shall select a player from the remaining list of eligible players.

E. The Little League (Majors) Tournament Team (9-12 year olds) will be selected as follows:

1. Each Majors Division player and each Manager and two assistant coaches from each team shall vote for ten (10) players that have submitted an application for the team and are considered eligible by Little League rules, who he feels is deserving of being a nominee for the Little League (Majors) Tournament Team. The balloting and selection process shall be administered by the Division Commissioner. Voting shall be conducted based on a secret ballot system. The vote recipients will be ranked in order of most to least determined by equally weighting the players' votes with the coaches' votes. Equally weighting means that one coach's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all coaches counts equally to one player's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all players. The top ten (10) vote winners will be offered a spot on the Tournament Team.

2. The Tournament Team Manager shall select as many as four (4) more players to complete the roster from the remaining list of vote recipients. The Manager's selections are subject to Board approval.

3. In the event it is necessary to replace a player on the official roster, the Manager shall select a player from the remaining list of eligible players.

F. The 10-11 Tournament Team will be selected as follows:

1. Each Majors Division player and each Manager and two assistant coaches from each team shall vote for ten (10) players that have submitted an application for the team and are considered eligible by Little League rules, who he feels is deserving of being a nominee for the 10-11 Tournament Team. The balloting and selection process shall be administered by the Division Commissioner. Voting shall be conducted based on a secret ballot system. The vote recipients will be ranked in order of most to least determined by equally weighting the players' votes with the coaches' votes. Equally weighting means that one coach's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all coaches counts equally to one player's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all players. The top ten (10) vote winners will be offered a spot on the Tournament Team.

2. The Tournament Team Manager shall select as many as four (4) more players to complete the roster from the remaining list of vote recipients. The Manager's selections are subject to Board approval.

3. In the event it is necessary to replace a player on the official roster, the Manager shall select a player from the remaining list of eligible players.

G. The 9-10 Tournament Team will be selected as follows:

1. Each AAA Division player and each Manager and two assistant coaches from each team shall vote for ten (10) players that have submitted an application for the team and are considered eligible by Little League rules, who he feels is deserving of being a nominee for the 9-10 Tournament Team. The balloting and selection process shall be administered by the Division Commissioner. Voting shall be conducted based on a secret ballot system. The vote recipients will be ranked in order of most to least determined by equally weighting the players' votes with the coaches' votes. Equally weighting means that one coach's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all coaches counts equally to one player's vote as a percentage of total votes made by all players. The top ten (10) vote winners will be offered a spot on the Tournament Team.

2. The Tournament Team Manager shall select as many as four (4) more players to complete the roster from the remaining list of vote recipients. The Manager's selections are subject to Board approval.

3. In the event it is necessary to replace a player on the official roster, the Manager shall select a player from the remaining list of eligible players.

H. The 8-9 Tournament Team will be selected as follows:

1. Each AA Division Manager and two assistant coaches from each team shall vote for ten (10) players that have submitted an application for the team and are considered eligible by Little League rules, who he feels is deserving of being a nominee for the 8-9 Tournament Team. The balloting and selection process shall be administered by the Division Commissioner. Voting shall be conducted based on a secret ballot system. The vote recipients will be ranked in order of most to least. The top ten (10) vote winners will be offered a spot on the Tournament Team.

2. The Tournament Team Manager shall select as many as four (4) more players to complete the roster from the remaining list of vote recipients. The Manager's selections are subject to Board approval.

3. In the event it is necessary to replace a player on the official roster, the Manager shall select a player from the remaining list of eligible players.

SECTION IX - TOURNAMENT PLAY

A. Post season tournament play will be established for each Division by the Board of Directors. Interleague tournaments shall be separated from and will not affect the regular season championship or final standings.

B. 1st & 2nd place teams in Northwood post season tournaments will receive rings.

C. Regarding District 55 Tournament of Champions (TOC):

1. If NWLL is permitted to bring one (1) team to District 55 TOC for a particular division, the winner of the regular season for that division will represent Northwood.

2. If NWLL is permitted to bring two (2) teams to District 55 TOC for that division, the first selection will be the winner of the regular season for that division. The second selection will be the winner of the Northwood post season tournament.

3. If the same team wins the regular season and the post season tournament in a particular division, the second-place team in the postseason tournament will be the second selection for TOC.

SECTION X – Local Rule Options

A. Batter order – Rule 4.04

a. League Option - option to use continuous batting order.

B. Courtesy Runner – Rule 3.04, 7.14(b)

a. League Option - permit a courtesy runner for catcher and/or pitcher of record when 2 outs. If using continuous batting order must be the player in the batting order that made the last out

- C. Batter remains in the box (6.02(c))
 - a. League Option - require a batter to keep one foot in the box – if violates, warn the batter second offence call a strike. No pitch is thrown. Speeds up the game

- D. Play with 8 players (1.01, 4.04, 4.16(a), 4.17, 6.05(n)) –
 - a. League Option - Allow play to continue with 8 players and skip the 9th slot without penalty

- E. Stealing signs is unsportsmanlike conduct (9.01(a))
 - a. League Option - adopt stealing signs considered unsportsmanlike. 1st violation warning, 2nd violation ejection Recommendation

- F. Run (Mercy) rule (4.10(e))
 - a. Rule – Team behind after their at bat must resign if behind by:
 - i. League Option - Majors and below – 15 after three, 10 after 4 and 8 after 5 – Intermediate and above 15 after 4, 10 after 5, and 8 after 6.

- G. Umpire Must take a position behind the catcher (9.04)
 - a. League Option - allow the umpire to take their position behind the pitcher

- H. Light failures (5.10(b))
 - a. League Option - game will be resumed from the point of the game when light failure makes it difficult to play.

- I. Third strike uncaught (6.05(b)(2))
 - a. League Option - Uncaught third strike rule is for Majors and above and NOT allowed in Minors and below.

- J. Rules related to Minor Division
 - a. Maximum of five runs per offensive inning (5.07)

- i. Rule- maximum of 5 runs allow to score per offensive inning
- ii. Local Option – suspend the five run limit for the last half inning of either team.

K. Protests resolved before the next play (4.19(g))

- a. Rule – major level and above – a game can be continued while under protest. A league committee will hear and rule on the protest after the game.
- b. Local Option - minor league play protests must be resolved before the next pitch or play

L. Rules for Intermediate and Juniors

- a. No Local Rules/Options - follow interleague rules

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