

Welcome to the Northwest Seattle Little League FAQ page. We will be adding more answers to frequently asked questions over time. Please check back often. If you have suggestions or have questions, please send an e-mail to nwll@hotmail.com

General FAQ

What age groups or divisions are available?

Please see our divisions page for a listing of age groups and divisions and a brief description of each.

What options are there for children under age 6?

We currently do not have a program for children under age 6. We are considering that for the future. In the meantime, we suggest you check with either Ballard Boys and Girls club or one of your local City Community Centers.

Are there any fees other than registration fees?

Each family is asked to sell 10 tickets to our spaghetti feed (at \$7.50) each. This is our primary fundraiser that pays for equipment, fields, maintenance, uniforms, etc. You may optionally elect to become a NWLL Adult member for \$5 which allows you to attend and vote on the league board of directors.

Do I have to pay for spaghetti feed tickets when registering? If not, when do they need to be sold?

You have the option to pay for spaghetti feed tickets at registration time, but it is not mandatory. The tickets need to be sold prior to the Spaghetti feed which is in early May.

What if I cannot afford the registration fees?

No child will be denied an opportunity to play for financial reasons. You can apply for a scholarship at the time of registering in our system. We ask that you mail in the amount that you are able to afford (late is ok) and/or you participate as a volunteer. See the league website for volunteer opportunities and names of contacts at NWLL.

Does the league provide equipment such as bats, gloves, etc?

The league provides bats, helmets, and balls (see other details on uniform under each division FAQ). We usually do not provide gloves, but we do not want to prevent kids from playing for financial reasons. If that presents a financial hardship, talk to your coach or a league official and put in some notes in special request during registration.

What is the leagues policy around playing up in an older age group?

Playing in an older age group is discouraged in most cases. The most typical case is for advanced eight year olds that have already played a couple of years in Rookies and are ready for kid pitch. The following are the policies for playing up:

- *Under no circumstances can a child play up more than one year in age*
- *A request to play up must be indicated at time of registration. Eight year olds can register in Minors. All other ages requesting to play up must register within their own age group. If they qualify, they will be moved to the higher age group.*
- *Players requesting to play up must attend tryouts for both the play up age group and their own age group.*
- *A player will be allowed to play up only if there is enough room in the older age group and the coaches of that age group agree the child is ready for that level.*

Rookie League FAQ

What is Rookie League?

Rookie league is for ages 6-8 boys and girls. Softball for girls starts at age 9. Rookie league is a good introduction to baseball/softball and prepares the players for Minor league. Each team will have several coaches. The aim of this league is to develop all players.

The Rookie League is all coach pitch, with the entire line-up batting. (A batting tee may be used for the final pitch to assist the batter). There is no score keeping and all players bat each inning. There is not a draft of players and players can request playing with their friends on the same team. There are no playoffs

What kind of ball is used in Rookie League?

Rookies use a RIF-5 ball which is medium/soft, and the same size as a regular baseball.

How often will there be games or practices?

There are two practices a week at the beginning of the season, once games begin it is one practice and one game per week. Practices are 1 hour long. Games are 2-3 innings normally 1-1.5 hours long. Practice/Games Times are finalized once registration is complete, and will be given to you by your coach. It is approximately a 10 game season

What days and where will the games and practices be?

There generally will be a weeknight practice and a weekend practice/game. The exact days and times are not know until registration is complete and teams are formed. The games and practices will likely be held at Crown Hill playfield, Soundview Park, and North Beach Elementary.

Can we play with our friends or ask for a specific coach?

Rookie League is the one division in NWLL where requests to play with friends or a coach is allowed. During registration, you can make friend or coaching requests in the Special requests field. The league will make every effort to meet these requests.

Are there any fees for the uniform?

For Rookie League, a tee shirt is supplied by the league and it can be kept when the season is over.

When does Rookie League Start?

Rookie League starts a little later than our other leagues. It will start in early April and end in mid June.

Minors/Majors Baseball FAQ

What happens at try-outs? Is there a chance my child won't make a team? What if we can't make it to any of the try-out dates?

At the evaluation day, players are asked to take turns batting, fielding and running the bases. The NWLL team coaches attend the evaluation in order to better get to know the players and their skill sets. All players who participate in the evaluation process will be drafted to a team, as long as they meet the age and address boundary requirements for NWLL.

If a child cannot attend any of the try-out dates, the player's name will be drawn out of a hat at the end of the draft process to determine team placement for that player.

What should my child bring to the evaluation day?

Kids will be running, fielding and batting. If at all possible, players should wear baseball attire including baseball cleats and baseball pants or sweats. Players should also wear a protective cup, bring a glove and water bottle.

Batting helmets, bats and baseballs are provided but if preferred, a child may wear his/her own helmet or hit with his/her personal bat. There will also be extra gloves should a player need to borrow one.

How is my child selected to a team?

At the end of the evaluation weekend, coaches get together and draft their teams. The purpose behind a draft process is to create teams that are most equally matched in terms of experience and skill.

How many coaches does each team have? Can we select our coach?

Since teams are selected through a "draft" process, players and player-families do not select their coach. There are two official coaches per team, and volunteer parent coach helpers are very much encouraged and appreciated. Children of the two registered coaches are guaranteed to play on their parent's team.

Can we play with our friends?

Since teams are selected through a "draft" process, there is not a guarantee that your child will be placed on a team with his/her best friends... By the end of the season, however, your child will have developed several new and exciting friendships with their teammates!

When will we find out what team we're on?

Coaches' calls to the players should occur within a day of the draft, and practices often begin the week following the evaluation weekend.

My child would like to play "up" into an older division - how can we make that happen?

For several reasons, playing 'up' is highly discouraged by NWLL. The experience for all players is enhanced by a robust and varied group of skill levels represented in all divisions. If you have a concern about your child, please contact the appropriate division coordinator. If you are certain you wish to have your player evaluated to play up, you can make the request during registration and the player must attend the tryouts for the older age group. It will be up to the coaches of the league to decide if it is appropriate for the player to play up. Under no circumstances are players allowed to play up beyond one year in age (e.g. seven year old can't play in the age 9-10 age group).

What will the practice and game schedule look like?

In Minors NWLL baseball, typically there are three baseball events per week. Pre-season, there could be two weeknight and one weekend practice per week, and once games start, it is not uncommon to have two games and one practice each week. Games will always be completed by 8pm on weeknights.

On what fields do we play?

Most commonly, NWLL plays at Soundview fields, North Acres Ballfields and occasionally Ingraham High School.

What uniform or equipment supplies will I need for the season?

NWLL will provide caps, jerseys, baseball pants and belts. Players will need to provide their own baseball sleeved-undershirts, socks and protective cups. It is a good idea to wait to purchase the socks and sleeves until you know your team colors. It is also a good idea to have extra baseball pants. At the end of the season, jerseys, belts and pants are returned to the league; players keep their team caps.

In terms of player-equipment, each player should have a protective cup and his/her own glove; if a player wishes to have his/her own bat that is fine but not required. If anyone has questions about what type of equipment to purchase (type of glove or bat) it is a great idea to approach your coach with those questions. There are requirements in terms of bat sizing that are strictly enforced. Please visit the official little league website for specifics on bat restrictions: <http://www.littleleague.org/media/newsarchive/2010/Sep-Dec/StatementFromLLCompositeBats.htm>

What if I cannot afford the appropriate equipment for my child?

Please contact your coach or any little league board member if your family needs assistance to outfit your child with appropriate equipment. NWLL is committed to including all players who wish to play and we will help your child acquire what he/she needs.

Umpiring FAQ

Please refer to our Umpiring FAQ document on our [Umpires page](#).