

BALLARD LITTLE LEAGUE 2009 LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

SECTION 1 - Playing Rules: These 2009 local league rules for Ballard Little League supplement the Official Regulations and the Playing Rules of the Little League Baseball Inc. as established for the current playing year and supplement the interleague playing rules of all softball divisions, and the AAA, Major, Junior, and Senior baseball divisions as established for the current playing year. The following key will be used to show which divisions a playing rule is being applied to: (MAJ) - Major baseball only; (AAA/89) - AAA and 89er baseball only; (MAJSOFT) - Major softball only; (AAASOFT) - AAA softball only; (SR) - Senior and Junior baseball only; (SRSOFT) - Senior and Junior softball only; (ALL) - All divisions.

1. In the event either team does not have 9 players to start a game, the game may be delayed up to 15 minutes to obtain players. (ALL)
2. If during the course of a game, either team drops below 9 players, the game will be considered a forfeit, regardless of score. (ALL)
3. No make-up of rainouts, except play-off games. (ALL)
4. Game is complete, after 2 full innings are played. Final score reverts back to last completed inning, unless home team is ahead. Games played with less than 2 innings shall be considered "no contest." (AAA/89)
5. Time limit of 2 hours and of "no new inning begins after 1 HR 45 MIN into game" applies if a game follows or if mandated by field usage. Teams must yield to new game. If no game follows, game is to be played to 6 inning completion. (AAA/89)
6. Free substitution of players is allowed with the exception of pitcher. Once the pitcher is removed from the mound, he/she may not return to that position. (AAA/89)
7. Players do not have to field in two consecutive innings, but must field for 6 defensive outs per game. Penalty if not met - Player will start next game.
8. Every player must play a minimum of three consecutive defensive outs in the infield each game. (AAA/89BB)(AAASOFT)(MAJORS BB/SOFT)
9. Rule 4.04 is adopted. A continuous batting order will include all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order. Each player is required to bat in his/her respective spot in the batting order. Batting order is established prior to the game and is used for that entire game. If a player leaves the games, the opposing team is immediately notified, and that position is skipped. If a player enters late, they are assigned the last batting position. A player may be entered and/or re-entered defensively in the game anytime provided he/she meets the mandatory play. (AAA/89) (MAJ)
10. Four run rule applies to all innings except the last. Immediately after the fourth run is scored in a half inning, play is stopped and the teams change offensive sides. (AAA/89)
11. Each batter and base runner must wear a caged batting helmet during regular season and tournament play (AAA/89)(MAJ)(AAASOFT)(MAJSOFT)

12. Home team supplies the umpire in the event no league issued umpire appears. First, coaches will request parents to umpire the game. One parent from each team will have duty, with the home team parent calling balls and strikes. Coaches are expected to compromise and agree on umpires. However, if parents do not become available, then a coach from each team will umpire, with each calling balls and strikes for his own team's pitcher. Such umpires will call balls and strikes from a position behind the pitcher if no umpire gear is available. (ALL)
13. Interleague protests must be avoided at all times. Should they occur, a committee of two representatives from each involved league, appointed by the respective presidents, will rule on the protest. Their decision will be final. (ALL)
14. Smoking, or use of other tobacco products, is not allowed by coaches or umpires while at the ballpark. (ALL)
15. The home team will occupy the third base dugout, will be responsible for field preparation, will provide the umpire-in-chief with 2 clean game balls, and provide the official scorekeeper. (ALL)
16. Pre-Game Batting Practice (ALL)
 - a. Batting practice, as further defined below, may be held up to 30 minutes before the scheduled game time.
 - b. Batting practice stations may be set up only in designated areas of each park (designated areas are defined at the end of this document).
 - c. Each batting station is to comprise one coach (BLL approved) and no more than two players. Both players are to wear approved batting helmets. One player is to bat, the other is "on deck". Only the batter may have a bat in hand. After a turn at bat, the hitter is to return to the team, the "on-deck" batter hits, and a new "on-deck" batter may be called over from the team. Coaches, please ensure that players going to or from the batting stations go around other batting stations and are not swinging a bat as they go. Only one bat is needed for each station. There is no need to use a personal bat for this drill.
 - d. Batting practice will be either soft-toss or off of a batting tee and will use whiffle balls or something similar (light plastic balls). No baseballs, rubber-coated baseballs, "Jugs" type balls or tennis balls are permitted. (There are two reasons for this: safety and care of the park fences.)
 - e. Batting practice of this type may not be held unless two BLL approved coaches are at the park, one to conduct the batting practice and one to stay with and coach the balance of the team. If more than two BLL approved coaches are present, additional batting stations may be set up as defined in point "c" above.
 - f. No later than 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the game, batting practice activity is to stop and the players and coaches are to return to their assigned fields to get ready for the game.
 - g. If several teams are taking batting practice before a game, it is the coaches' responsibility to ensure that proper spacing is kept to ensure the safety of all. If one team has two or more batting stations and there is no room for an arriving team to set up a station, coaches are expected to accommodate the arriving team

by removing or relocating one or more of their stations. Please remember, the batting practice is intended to help the players improve a difficult skill, it is not meant to gain a competitive edge.

h. Designated Batting Areas

1. **Gilman Park:** Batting stations may be set up only on the fences on the east and west sides of the tennis courts. The plastic balls are to be hit into the fences. Please be considerate if there are tennis players using the courts. If a ball goes into the courts while they are in use, apologize and retrieve the ball. If it happens again, you should cease batting rather than cause ill-will with the public.
 2. **Ballard Community Center:** Teams assigned to the west field may set up batting stations against the outfield fence along the south side of the park. Teams assigned to the east field may set up batting stations against the fence in foul territory near right field, along the east line of the park (it may be possible to use both sides of this fence). Plastic balls are to be hit into the fence.
 3. **Ballard Boys & Girls Club:** Both teams may use the fence in foul territory along the parking lot in left field. Plastic balls are to be hit into the fence.
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17. The visiting team will have infield practice for ten (10) minutes starting thirty (30) minutes before game time. The home team will have infield practice for ten (10) minutes immediately following the visiting team. The pre-game meeting between managers and umpire(s) will take place ten (10) minutes before game time. (ALL)
 18. The plate umpire has the authority to eject anyone involved with the game that (including spectators off the playing field) is abusive in any way. An umpire shall try to rectify the situation with a warning to the offending person as well as the managers of both teams. Extreme circumstances may not require a warning. An ejected person shall have three minutes to leave the field. All ejections must be reported by the plate umpire to either the league president and/or chief umpire within 24 hours of the end of the game. (ALL)
 19. Tournament rules will be used for Ballard Little League intraleague play off games. (MAJ) (JR/SR)
 20. Seeding for the post season intraleague play off games will be determined by the regular season record using the following formula: the ratio of wins divided by losses. Ties will be broken by the record of head to head play, followed by a coin toss by BLL Board president or BLL Division Vice President. (ALL)
 21. Divisions which interleague (i.e. play some or all of their regular season games against teams from other leagues), may adopt interleague rules, which will augment and even supersede these local league rules. District 8 will establish an Interleague Committee that will develop interleague rules. Where any confusion exists, the interleague rules will take precedence. (ALL)
 22. There will be exactly nine defensive players on the field at any time (89/AAA)(AAASOFT)

23. Regulation VI – Pitchers: Board to choose option 1 or 2 for each Baseball division. In Baseball divisions that play interleague games option 1 or 2 will be determined by interleague agreement.

SECTION 2 - Field Ground Rules (When playing away, respective local league's rules apply.) (ALL)

1. Open field applies to **Ballard Rec Fields #1 & #2** except as follows:
 - a) On Field #1, a ball hitting the light standard in right center field and staying inside the playing field, is a live ball.
 - b) On Field #1, a ball hit on the ground and then over the sidewalk (on the north side of the field), whether it touches the sidewalk or not, is a double.
 - c) On Field #1, a ball hit on the fly, landing on, or going over the sidewalk is a home run.

2. Temporary outfield fencing is put up by home teams at **Gilman Park Fields #1 & #2**. In the event the fencing is not installed, open field applies to both fields except as follows:
 - a) A ball which touches or crosses the sidewalk (on the south side of the fields) shall be called "dead" regardless of whether or not it has been touched by a fielder.
 - b) A ball hit in fair territory and rolls on or across the sidewalk on the ground, shall be ruled a double. Two bases shall be awarded to all base runners.
 - c) A ball hit on the fly, landing on, or going over the sidewalk, within the field as defined by the foul lines, shall be ruled a home run.

3. Open field applies to Loyal **Heights Field #1** except as follows.
 - a) A ball which touches or crosses the sidewalk (on the north side of the field) shall be called "dead" regardless of whether or not it has been touched by a fielder.
 - b) A ball hit in fair territory and rolls on or across the sidewalk on the ground, shall be ruled a double. Two bases shall be awarded to all base runners.
 - c) A ball hit on the fly, landing on, or going over the sidewalk, within the field as defined by the foul lines, shall be ruled a home run.
 - d) A ball which touches anything while completely through a dugout doorway shall be considered "dead" and out of play.

4. Open field applies to **Ingraham High School field** anywhere inside the fences except as follows:
 - a) A ball that disappears from the view of the umpires inside the tarps stored against the fences will be considered out-of-play.

SECTION 3 - Draft Rules

1. Only players league aged 10, 11 or 12 will be eligible for the Major league draft. (MAJ) (MAJSOFT)
2. Limit of two (2) players, league aged 10, per Major league team. (MAJ) (MAJSOFT)
3. All players league aged 8 & 9 will play 89ers division, with one exception. Before the beginning of the regular season, an 89er manager may recommend a 9 year player to be moved up to the AAA division. The recommendation, including reasons supporting the move to an older division, must be made in writing to the player agent and the VP of 89ers. If the player agent and the VP of 89ers concur, after discussing the proposal to the manager, the player, and the parents of the 9 year old, the player agent will offer the player to all of the AAA managers. If the player agent disagrees, the player will continue to play with the 89er team. The player agent will assign the player to the most appropriate AAA team. If none of the AAA managers agrees to take the player, the player will continue to play with an 89er team. (AAA/89)
4. Pairs (2 players) league aged 8 & 9 who pre-register and pre-pay together can be drafted as a pair or "pack." These "packs" can be drafted in any round and use that round and the next. (89)
5. For softball AAA teams, if there are two or less teams, players will be assigned to teams, without a draft. (AAASOFT)
6. For Junior and Senior softball teams, if there are two or less teams, players will be assigned to a team, without a draft.. (SRSOFT)
7. All players league aged 8 & 9 will play in the AAA division. (AAASOFT)
8. The Senior division will consist of league aged 15 and 16 year olds. The Junior division will consist of league aged 13 and 14 year olds. (SR) (SRSOFT).
9. Senior division teams will carry a roster of 12 players unless approved by the Division VP. If less than 12 players are available for each senior team, 14 year olds may be drafted to the senior division. Returning players will remain on the same team as the previous season. (SR)
10. The Junior baseball division will be redrafted every year. (SR)
11. If an additional Senior baseball division team is warranted, based on the number of registered players, the teams will be redrafted. (SR)
12. The draft order for the 89ers and AAA will be based on a random draw for order. Any "pair" of players must be drafted together and account for two consecutive rounds in the draft." Based on the random draw, the draft choices will be in a "serpentine" order. A "serpentine" order starts with the manager with the first draft pick and continue to the manager with the last draft pick.

The manager with the last draft pick will have the first pick in the second round and end with the manager with the original first draft pick. This “up and back” method will be continued until all players are assigned to teams. (AAA/89)

13. The draft order for major baseball is based on the team records of the previous season. The first place team, based on the season end championship tournament, will draft last. The other teams will draft in reverse order based on the win/loss record of the regular season, with the last place team drafting first and the first place team drafting second to the last. (MAJ)
14. The draft order for Junior baseball will be based on a random draw for order. Based on the random draw, the draft choices will be in a “serpentine” order. A “serpentine” order starts with the manager with the first draft pick and continue to the manager with the last draft pick. The manager with the last draft pick will have the first pick in the second round and end with the manager with the original first draft pick. This “up and back” method will be continued until all players are assigned to teams. (SR)
15. The draft order for Senior baseball will alternate from season to season if there are only two teams. (In 2005 Salmon Bay had the first draft pick so in 2006 3 GI’s will have the first draft pick.) The senior draft will take place prior to the junior draft. (SR)

SECTION 4 – Team Reduction and Player Replacement

1. If a division must reduce one or more teams based on the number of eligible players, the team sponsor involved in the reduction will be based on the newest Ballard Little League sponsor in that division For example, Team A’s sponsor has been a Ballard Little League sponsor for 10 years, two of those years in the majors division. Team B’s sponsor has been a Ballard Little League sponsor for five years, four of those years in the majors division. The sponsor of Team A will lose their majors’ division sponsorship, but will have the first opportunity to take another open sponsorship in another division. The actual team that is disbanded will be at the discretion of the league Board of Directors based on a variety of criteria that may include the number of returning players on a team, whether the manager is returning, whether coaches are returning. (ALL)
2. If a Major league player is unable to participate in five consecutive practices or games, or any combination thereof, without approval from the league, said player shall be replaced on the roster from the eligible candidates in the lower division league (MAJ) (MAJSOFT) (SR)
3. A player brought up from AAA must be league aged equal to or older than the player they are replacing, unless there are no players available at those ages. In that case, a manager can choose a replacement player one year younger. Senior player replacements must also follow this procedure. (MAJ) (MAJSOFT)
4. A player taken from the AAA ranks cannot reduce this previous team below 11 players. (MAJ) (MAJSOFT)

5. A player cannot be brought up from AAA during the last 2 weeks of the AAA league season or the play-offs. (MAJ) (MAJSOFT)
6. A player, by mutual agreement of coaches, parents, and league officials may also be returned to AAA. Said player is assigned to a team as if a new sign-up. (MAJ) (MAJSOFT)
7. A player desired by a Major league team, but refusing to go up, may be assigned to a different AAA league team than they are currently rostered to, as determined by the Player Agent. (MAJ) (MAJSOFT)

SECTION 5 - Miscellaneous

1. All Senior division uniforms will have only "Ballard" on the shirt fronts. Sponsor's name may be placed on the hats (SR)
2. All 89er players will have gray uniform pants, T-shirts with sponsors name, and matching caps as their uniform. (89)
3. All players league aged 10-12, not rostered on a Major league team, will have gray colored uniform pants, $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeve t-shirts with the sponsor's name, and matching caps as their uniform. (AAA)
4. All players league aged 12 and under, not rostered on a Major league team, will have dark colored uniform pants, T-shirts with sponsors name, and matching caps as their uniform. (AAASOFT)
5. No player is allowed to practice, try-out, or scrimmage without his or her paperwork in to the Player Agent. (ALL)
6. Game schedules are played, and standings are kept, purely for the positioning of all teams into season finale double elimination tournaments to determine champions by division. (ALL)
7. Junior and Senior division teams will participate in District sponsored tournaments, if provided. (SR)
8. Should any Ballard all-star team (i.e. a team managed by a Ballard Little League manager and populated by all Ballard Little League players) win a District 8 all-star tournament and represent District 8 in a State all-star tournament, which is played in a distant enough location to require an overnight stay, Ballard Little League will provide up to \$1,000 (one thousand dollars) for expenses of the team. The manager of the all-star team and the player agent of that division will determine how the funds will be used. (ALL)
9. The Ballard Little League will host the majors baseball Tournament of Champions (TOC). The TOC will be (typically) held on a weekend (Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday) before the Fourth of July weekend at Gilman Fields. The tournament will be an eight team, single elimination, using tournament rules. The major division championship teams from Ballard, Magnolia, North Central, Northeast, Northwest, Queen Anne, Richmond, and Roosevelt/University/Green Lake, will be invited. To help pay

for expenses (e.g. game balls, programs, and patches), registration fees will be assessed from all non-Ballard Little Leagues. (MAJ)

10. The William F. Gerard scholarship fund is established in memory of William F. Gerard, long time supporter and volunteer in Ballard Little League. Donations will be solicited each year to cover the costs of registration fees, in whole or in part, for those players who are unable to pay. In order to be eligible for scholarship funds, the applicant must complete a scholarship form. If the donations are insufficient to cover the total amount of the scholarship applications, the general funds will cover the difference. If donations exceed the total amount of the scholarship applications, the surplus will be recorded and deposited for use in the following year. (ALL)
11. Trophies will be awarded for the following players/coaches/teams. Perpetual trophies are to be returned to the League before the end of the following baseball/softball season.
 - a. Perpetual trophy for the team in each division with at least three teams that is awarded team sportsmanship
 - b. Individual trophies for each manager of a team in each division with less than three teams that is awarded team sportsmanship
 - c. Perpetual trophy for champions of Ballard Little League playoffs for 89er baseball, AAA baseball, and major baseball
 - d. Individual trophies for players and manager/coaches for champions of Ballard Little League playoffs for 89er baseball, AAA baseball, major baseball and for junior and senior baseball if there are more than two teams in the junior and senior divisions.
 - e. Perpetual plaques awarded to one team in each softball division.
12. The Sportsmanship Award has been renamed in honor of Larry J. Aylward, who was a founding member of Ballard Little League and league president for 30 years. The Larry J. Aylward Sportsmanship awards for divisions with three or more teams are based on votes from managers/coaches and umpires. A ballot will be used for voting. Sportsmanship awards for divisions with less than three teams are based on input from umpires and VPs of the respective divisions.
13. The Umpire Scheduler and his/her assistant will act for the President in assigning umpires to games. (ALL)
14. a. If a player misses more than seven continuous days of participation for an illness or injury, a physician or other accredited medical provider must give written permission for a return to full baseball activity prior to the player's return to participating in practices and games. This permission must be provided to the Player Agent.
 - b. A player with an injury resulting in the wearing of a cast or splint may not participate in practices, play in a game or be on the field until a physician or other accredited medical provider gives written permission for a return to full baseball activity. This permission must be provided to the Player Agent.

c. While injured or ill or wearing a cast or splint, a player may attend a game and wear the team jersey, but shall not be in full uniform.

15. Minors (younger than 18 years old) are not allowed to be managers of Ballard Little League teams. Minors are allowed to be coaches on Ballard Little League teams provided the following:

- a. They are approved by the Board after appropriate background checks are completed.
- b. The minor is coaching at one division below or lower than the age that the minor would fall into.
- c. There is at least one other approved adult coach on the coaching staff assisting the manager.
- d. The minor does not run a practice or coach a game without another approved adult coach or manager present.
- e. The minor cannot drive players to or from practice or games.

SECTION 6 - All-Star Selection

1. Managers/Coaches

All Star Managers shall be chosen by the league president(s). All Star coaches shall be chosen and agreed to jointly by the manager and league president(s).

2. Players

To be considered for selection as a representative of Ballard on an all-star team, the parent/guardian of each player will sign a letter of intent. The letter of intent includes agreement with eligibility requirements, which include (but may not be limited to):

- Player participated in at least one-half the regular season games as of June 15(in their Division). (ALL)
- Player will make every effort to attend all practices (which start after June 15) and games, which start after June 30. Some divisions may play games over the July 4th weekend. (ALL)
- Costs of travel are the responsibility of each player's family. (ALL)
- An original birth certificate or certified copy or passport is provided to the League when the letter of intent is submitted. (ALL)

All-star teams are differentiated by age as follows:

- 9 and 10 year old baseball division (89ers, AAA, Majors baseball are eligible).
- 9 and 10 year old softball division (AAA and Majors softball are eligible)
- 11 year old baseball division (AAA and Majors baseball are eligible)
- 11 and 12 year old baseball and softball divisions (only Majors are eligible).
- 13 and 14 year old baseball division and softball divisions
- 15 and 16 year old baseball division

Although the selection process will differ by division, the selection criteria will remain the same for all divisions:

- Teamwork
- Sportsmanship/Attitude
- Offensive skills
- Defensive skills
- Baseball "smarts"

Details about the selection processes will be described in the letters of intent, which will be distributed to players in May. No manager shall select alternate players without approval by the Player Agent and league President(s). A summary of the selection processes follows:

1. 9 and 10 Year Old Major Baseball

Eligible players will be observed by at least 6 evaluators during an assessment period. Evaluators will include managers and coaches from the Major, AAA, and 89er divisions, as well as Board members. (All Major, AAA, and 89er division managers will be invited to evaluate.) Each evaluator will choose their top 10 players. Each choice of a player will be worth 1 point. The players with the 10 most number of points will be added to the all star team. (If more than one player has an equal number of points to qualify for the last position or positions, the all star manager/coaches will make the final selection for those positions.) Tallies will not be announced. The all star manager/coaches will select the final **two** players to be added to the all star team, **with an option to select a 3rd**. Their choices will be based on the same criteria as those that were used by the evaluators. If there are less than 18 players who have turned in a letter of intent for the 9 and 10 year old All Star team, their regular season division managers and coaches shall make recommendations for the All Star team with final selection to be made by the All Star Manager based on the selection criteria detailed above.

2. 11 Year Old Baseball

Selection of the 11 year old All Star team members will be conducted by Ballard Little League Division VP's and other Ballard Little League Board Members with information gathered through evaluations and coach recommendations, using the selection criteria detailed above.

3. Eligible Major division players age 11 who are not selected to the 11/12 All Star team (either by vote or coach selection) will also become eligible candidates for the 11 year old All Star Team.

4. 11 and 12 Year Old Major Baseball

Managers, coaches, and players will vote for 8 players from the list of eligible players. A vote by a manager of a major league team will be worth 4 points. A vote by a coach of a major league team (One coach from each team) will be worth 4 points. A vote by an 11 and 12 year old (Little League age) on a major league team

will be worth 1 point. The 10 players with the most number of points will be added to the all star team. (If more than one player has an equal number of points to qualify for the last position or positions, the all star manager/coaches will make the final selection for those positions.) Tallies will not be announced. The all star manager/coaches will select the final **four** players to be added to the all star team, **with an option to select a 5th**. Their choices will be based on the same criteria as the votes.

5. Junior (13 & 14 year old) and senior (15 & 16 year old) divisions baseball

If 18 or less players submit letters of intent for juniors, the selection process is as follows. This selection process is also used for seniors. The manager and one coach from each team will evaluate eligible players during an assessment period and vote for the top 10 players. Each vote will be worth 1 point. The 10 players with the most number of points will be added to the all star team. (If more than one player has an equal number of points to qualify for the last position or positions, the all star manager/coaches will make the final selection for those positions.) Tallies will not be announced. The all star manager/coaches will select the final **2** players to be added to the all star team, **with an option to select a 3rd**. Their choices will be based on the same criteria as those that were used by the evaluators.

If more than 18 letters of intent are submitted for juniors, the selection process is as follows. Managers, coaches, and players will vote for up to 10 players from the list of eligible players. A vote by a manager of a junior team will be worth 4 points. A vote by a coach of a junior team (one coach from each team) will be worth 4 points. A vote by a 13 and 14 year old will be worth 1 point. The 10 players with the most number of points will be added to the all star team. (If more than one player has an equal number of points to qualify for the last position or positions, the all star manager/coaches will make the final selection for those positions.) Tallies will not be announced. The all star manager/coaches will select the final **3** players to be added to the all star team, **with an option to select a 4th**. Their choices will be based on the same criteria as the votes.

6. 9 and 10 Year Old Division Softball

Since Ballard has only one or two AAA Division softball teams and one Major Division softball team, Ballard will likely combine with the AAA and Major Division softball teams of one or more additional city leagues to form an all star team.

Depending upon the number of players who submit letters of intent from the leagues, evaluations or tryouts may not be necessary. If Ballard is the primary sponsor of the team, the All Star team will consist of a maximum of **13** players, **with an option to select a 14th player**.

7. 11 and 12 Year Old Division Softball

Since Ballard has only one major Division softball team, Ballard will likely combine with the Major Division softball teams of one or more additional city leagues to form an all star team. Only players on the Major Division softball team are eligible for the 11 and 12 all-star team. Depending upon the number of players who submit letters of intent from the leagues, evaluations or tryouts may not be necessary. If Ballard is the primary sponsor of the team, the All Star team will consist of a maximum of **13** players, **with an option to select a 14th player**.

8. 13 and 14 Year Old Division Softball

Since Ballard has only one junior Division softball team, Ballard will likely combine with the Junior Division softball team of one or more additional city leagues to form an all star team. Depending upon the number of players who submit letters of intent from the leagues, evaluations or tryouts may not be necessary. If Ballard is the primary sponsor of the team, the All Star team will consist of a maximum of **13** players, **with an option to select a 14th player.**

*Amended 2/2/2009
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