

Northend District 8 FALL BALL 2025 Softball AAA Supplemental Rules

Softball – AAA Division

1. All rules will apply as per the “Little League 2025 Softball Official Rulebook”, except as amended below.
2. All players league age 8 to 10 are eligible for the FALL BALL ‘AAA’ division.
3. The Fall Ball AAA Division is a non-competitive division and there are no protests. Fall Ball 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. Scores and overall standings will not be tracked throughout the season
4. The home team will occupy the third base dugout, and the visiting team will occupy the first base dugout.
5. All Volunteers must have an approved background check.
6. In addition to the manager and two coaches, each team should have at least 1 dugout parent 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. The entire player game roster shall be used as the batting order, regardless of defensive position. Players arriving after the game has started shall be placed in the batting order after the last player named in such batting order. “Free” substitution is allowed.
8. If playing on a non-fenced field, the home run line will be marked by cones (if available) at a distance of 200 feet from home plate.
 - a. A batted ball that passes over the coned home run line on the fly shall be a home run.
 - b. A batted ball that touches a fielder’s glove, or any other part of said fielder, and passes over the coned home run line on the fly, without ever touching the ground prior to passing the cones, shall be a home run.
 - c. A batted ball that passes the coned home run line after first touching the ground shall be a ground-rule double, regardless of whether a fielder touched it or not.
9. A safety base (Flat, rubber 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 flat, rubber 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.
10. Scorekeeping is optional for FALL BALL - each team may provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach. The **HOME team** is considered the official scorekeeper. If the home team is unable to provide a scorekeeper who is not a manager or coach, then the visiting team can provide the official scorekeeper.
11. Umpires - Teams will provide umpires for their own games. The **HOME team** will provide home plate umpire and the visiting team will provide the field umpire. Managers are responsible for making sure they have umpires lined up to cover their games as needed. Be sure to check the Jr. Umpire Game Signups to see if one signed up to work your game
12. Pre-game batting practice at the field is allowed, but must be done in the outfield and in a manner that does not interfere with the opposing team’s warm-up. All batters must wear helmets and must be under the strict supervision of a manager or coaches. Hitting sticks, weighted balls, and wiffle balls are the ONLY APPROVED equipment for use during pre-game batting practice. Hard balls shall not be used in any manner for hitting / bunting drills during pre-game batting practice.
13. Teams are not allowed to take a full infield / outfield prior to the game. Teams may hit ground balls in foul territory in front of their dugout, and can hit / throw fly balls to players on their side of the outfield.
14. The game will be played using an 11” softball. The home team is responsible for providing two softballs to the umpire at the plate meeting.

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15. All FALL BALL 'AAA' Division Games have a hard-stop of 2 hours, the batter may finish their at bat.

16. If a team has less than nine (9) players, the game may be played with all of the infield positions being used before the outfield.

17. Outfielders are recommended to start play approximately 15ft behind the infield base lines to encourage proper defensive positioning. Outfielders are permitted to cover bases once the ball is put into play.

18. Minimum Play:

- a. For a completed game of six innings or longer, every player must play at least four (4) defensive innings, with at least two (2) of the four (4) defensive innings being played at an infield position (Positions 1-6).
- b. For a completed game of less than six innings (rain-out, darkness, etc...), every player must play at least two (2) defensive innings, with at least one (1) of the two (2) defensive innings being played at an infield position (Positions 1-6).
- c. A player may not be on the bench for two consecutive innings.
- d. Managers are encouraged to give all players their minimum playing time as soon as possible to ensure compliance in the event the game cannot be completed (Darkness, weather, time limit, etc). Penalties will apply to any team that violates the minimum play requirements.
- e. Any disciplinary actions that impact a player's minimum play time must first be approved by the Fall Ball Director.
- f. Penalties will apply to any team that violates the minimum play requirements. See the league's Disciplinary Policy for more details

19. Pitchers are limited to three innings pitched per game to encourage managers to develop multiple players at this position. For clarification purposes, one pitch equals one inning pitched.

20. Managers and coaches should make every attempt to keep the game moving along at a good pace.

- a. Catchers should be identified in advance of their assigned inning, get geared up and be ready to play when their team takes the field. Note that any player wearing a catcher's mask can warm-up a pitcher.
- b. Per LL Rule 7.14(b): A Courtesy Runner may be permitted for the catcher and/or pitcher of record when there are two (2) outs. Neither the pitcher or the catcher is subject to removal from the line-up. Due to the Continuous Batting Order being used, the Courtesy Runner may be in the team's existing batting order and must be the player in the batting order who made the last out.

21. For safety reasons, players are not allowed to hold a bat in the dugout / bench area, or swing a bat outside of the batter's box. Practice swings will be allowed in the batter's box only under the coach's direction.

22. After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat. Exceptions are as follows:

- On a swing, slap, or check swing
- When forced out of the box by a pitch
- When the batter attempts a drag bunt
- When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball
- When a play has been attempted
- When time has been called
- When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound, or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball, or the catcher leaves the catcher's box
- On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball

Penalty: If the batter leaves the batter's box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. No pitch has to be thrown, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance.

23. The entire game will be player pitch from a distance of **35 feet** between the front of the pitching rubber and the back corner of home plate.

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24. Continuation by a runner specifically awarded a base-on-balls IS NOT allowed. Note – Continuation is defined as a runner moving from home to second base after a walk and while the pitcher has the ball in the circle (A runner advancing from home to second base on a wild pitch for ball four is not considered to be continuation).
25. The infield fly rule is in effect. However, since many players at this level have difficulty catching flyballs, and very few know the rules well enough to take advantage of a dropped infield fly, umpires should declare an infield fly only when it appears that the flyball will more likely than not be caught in the infield with little effort. This is a judgment call.
26. There are no dropped 3rd strikes
27. Stealing is allowed - when the ball crosses home plate
28. Bunting is allowed
29. There is NO “must slide” rule
Players are NOT permitted to slide head first while advancing to a base. However, runners are allowed to dive head first when returning to a base.
30. For the ENTIRE FALL BALL game the side retires when there are three (3) outs, when five (5) runs score, or when the entire batting order has batted, whichever comes first. EXCEPTION: If a batter hits a home run over the fence or outfield boundary line, or a ground rule double, all runs driven in by that play will score (Maximum of two runs on ground rule double).
31. Any violation of the rules or inappropriate behavior by Coaches, Managers, or Volunteers will be addressed under the league’s Disciplinary Policy and the North Bothell Little League Code of Conduct.