West Vancouver Little League
Minors Division Rules (Ages 9–10)

Equipment and Safety

- Players must arrive in full uniform: jersey tucked in, hat, pants, belt, socks, and cleats. Shorts are not permitted.
- A protective cup or Jill is required for all practices and games.
- Batting helmets must be worn at all times when batting, running the bases.
- Catchers must wear full protective gear, including a throat guard.
- Only USA Baseball–approved bats are permitted. USSSA bats are not permitted.
- No metal cleats are allowed.

Practice Procedures

- Players arrive 15 minutes before practice, ready to participate.
- While parents drag, rake, and put the bases down, players warm up with the coaches.
- Field Setup and Cleanup:
    - Keep the drag at least 6 inches (15 cm) from the grass to prevent a lip from forming. Never drag sand into the grass.
    - After dragging, hand-rake the edges near the grass and around bases for a clean finish.
    - When practice ends, players help put the field to rest by dragging, raking, and putting bases and anchors away, including inserting base plugs.
    - Check the mound, home plate, and base areas for low spots and fill as needed. Avoid over-raking; too much movement of sand can create uneven areas.
    - For wet conditions, remove standing water first. Sprinkle quick dry on damp areas and allow it to soak in before gently raking to blend. Avoid dragging over soft spots until the surface firms up. Quick dry should be used sparingly to prevent hard, compact patches.
    - Leave the field and dugout clean and free of equipment or garbage.
    - Lock up all equipment and storage areas once cleanup is complete.
- Coaches lead warm ups and manage all practice activities.
- Rain Policy: If scheduled at Rick Genest (Cypress Park Elementary), cage is available as backup. At Cypress Falls Park or Eagle Harbour, practices may be canceled. Final call by 3:30 pm.
- Additional Support: Parents or guardians must stay with any player who requires additional support to follow instructions, stay engaged, or participate safely. A parent or guardian works directly with their player for the full session while coaches lead the group. This ensures the player is supported in the way that works best for them and allows coaches to focus on the entire team.

Game Procedures

- Players arrive 30 minutes before game time, ready for warm ups
- Coaches oversee warm ups, lineups, and ensure teams are ready for play.
- While parents drag, rake, and put the bases down, players warm up with the coaches.
- Field Setup:
    - The home team is responsible for setting up the field before the game and takedown afterward.
    - Parents drag, rake, and put the bases down while players warm up with the coaches.
    - Keep the drag at least 6 inches (15 cm) from the grass to prevent a lip. Never drag sand into the grass.
    - Use a field tamp to pack high traffic areas after raking and before chalking. Focus on the pitcher's mound, home plate, and the areas around second, and third where players slide.
    - Chalk the foul lines, and batter's boxes after the surface is packed and level.
    - Confirm the field is level and safe before play begins.
    - Unlock the washrooms before the start of play and lock them again once games are complete.
- Field Cleanup:
    - After the game, players help put the field to rest by dragging, raking, and putting bases and anchors away, including base plugs.
    - Fill low spots at the mound, plate, and bases, then tamp to firm the surface.
    - Lock up all equipment and storage areas once cleanup is complete.
    - Leave the field and dugout clean and free of equipment or garbage.
- Game Operations:
    - The home team supplies a parent volunteer to operate and learn the scoreboard at Rick Genest.
    - When hosting visiting teams at Rick Genest, the home team also supplies a parent volunteer to run the concession during the game.
- Rain Policy: Final call will be made by 3:30 pm. If scheduled at Rick Genest, coaches may pivot to a cage practice if conditions allow.

Game Rules

- Games are four innings unless called for time or weather.
- Run limits: 2 in the first inning, 3 in the second, 4 in the third, 4 in the fourth and beyond.
- Continuous batting order is used. Every player bats.
- During the first month of the season, if a pitcher throws four balls to a batter, the batter does not receive a walk and instead hits from a tee. The strike count carries over.
- If the ball is put into play off the tee, it is treated as a normal hit.
- A foul tip caught by the catcher on third strike is an out.
- A maximum of 10 players may be used in the field if both coaches agree. The 10th player must be an outfielder. Standard defensive alignment is 9 players.
- All players are rotated through positions over the season. Each player must play at least one inning in the outfield during every game. Infield assignments are at the coach's discretion for safety and skill development. No player may sit out a second inning until all players have sat out once.
- On overthrows, runners may advance at their own risk until the ball is controlled on the mound.
- Stealing of 2nd and 3rd base is permitted.
- Stealing of home is permitted after the May long weekend or when allowed by the league.
- Runners may not advance on an overthrow back to the pitcher.

Pitching

- Standard pitching distance is 46 feet.
- First-year Minors players and girls may pitch from 43 feet where available (front rubber at Cypress Falls Park). At Rick Genest and Eagle Harbour, a temporary line should be drawn at 43 feet.
- Little League pitch count rules apply for ages 9–10:
  - 66+ pitches – 4 days rest
  - 51–65 pitches – 3 days rest
  - 36–50 pitches – 2 days rest
  - 21–35 pitches – 1 day rest
  - 1–20 pitches – 0 days rest
- If a pitcher issues four walks in the same inning, the pitcher is replaced before the next batter.
- Once a pitcher is removed from the mound, they may not return to pitch in the same game.
- New pitchers may throw up to eight warm up pitches (within one minute). Returning pitchers between innings may throw up to five warm up pitches.

Responsibilities

Player Responsibilities

- Respect teammates, coaches, umpires, and opponents at all times.
- Keep the dugout and stands clean after every game. A good team leaves the field cleaner than they found it.
- Stay engaged during games and practices. No wandering from the dugout without coach permission.
- Control temper. Swearing, throwing equipment, or disrespectful behavior may result in removal from the game or suspension.
- Communicate directly with coaches regarding lateness or absences.
- Accept positions assigned by coaches. No trading or refusing positions.
- Players remain with their team until the coach dismisses them. Baseball games do not have fixed end times, and players are expected to stay for the team meeting before leaving the field.

Coach Responsibilities

- Provide clear expectations and consistent opportunities for player development.
- Rotate players through key positions whenever possible to support balanced skill growth.
- Treat umpires, players, and parents with respect and handle disagreements calmly.
- Enforce discipline and sportsmanship, holding players accountable for effort, attitude, and respect.
- Do not run up the score unnecessarily. Maintain sportsmanship and balance for the enjoyment of all players.
- Submit pitch counts and game results to the Player Agent after each game to ensure accurate tracking of player workload and standings.
- Communicate directly with players and parents, addressing concerns privately after games or practices.

Parent Responsibilities

- Support players by encouraging effort, sportsmanship, and commitment.
- Participate positively by modeling respect toward all players, coaches, and umpires.
- Stay in the stands and do not enter the dugout or field.

- Avoid coaching from the stands. Allow players to make decisions on the field and coaches to instruct from the dugout.
- Mark your player's availability on TeamSnap for all games and practices. This helps coaches build rosters, plan drills, and organize lineups.
- If your player will be late or absent, notify the coach ahead of time by email or direct message. For last-minute changes on game day, send a quick TeamSnap or text message so the team is informed.
- Address any questions or concerns privately and respectfully with coaches after practices or games.
- The 24-Hour Rule: If a parent has a concern or disagreement regarding a game, lineup, or coaching decision, please wait at least 24 hours before contacting the coach. This allows time for reflection and ensures discussions remain calm and constructive.
- Model positive behavior toward umpires, players, and coaches at all times.
- Support coaches in assigning positions, especially for new players building confidence.
- All league and team messages are sent through TeamSnap email. Parents are responsible for checking messages and contacting the coach if they are not receiving updates.