

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

### **NSLL Intermediate Baseball Division**

Below are some frequently asked questions about the Intermediate Baseball Division that will be implemented at the North Snohomish Little League. Little League International has a Q&A page at: <http://www.littleleague.org/Intermediate5070/Intermediate50-70QA.htm>

#### **What is the intent behind forming the Intermediate Division?**

The Intermediate Division was recently formed by Little League International to: (1) provide an opportunity for players to transition incrementally from a 46/60 field to a full size 60/90 baseball field; (2) provide an opportunity for local leagues to offer a more competitive level of baseball during the regular season for advanced players; and (3) allow Little League to adapt with the changing environment of youth baseball.

#### **What are the field dimensions?**

The pitching distance will be 50 feet (versus 46 feet in the Majors Division, and 60 feet 6 inches for Juniors). Base paths will be 70 feet (versus 60 feet for Majors and 80-90 feet for Juniors). The outfield fence can range must be a minimum of 200 feet, though 250 feet is preferable (versus 200 feet for majors, and 300 feet or more for Juniors).

#### **What are the rule differences between the Majors and Intermediate Divisions?**

In the Intermediate Division, base runners are allowed to lead off and to steal at any time (they do not need to wait for the ball to cross the plate). In addition, pitchers and catchers may attempt to pick off a base runner who has led off too far. This makes the game much closer to what players see on tv, while competing on a field that is reasonable for their age.

#### **What ages are eligible to play in the Intermediate Division?**

Players League Age 11-13 are eligible to try out for the Intermediate Division.

#### **How many teams does NSLL expect to field in 2015?**

This will depend entirely on the number of players who register and the number of coaches who volunteer. We expect to field at least one team, though we would love to have two or more.

#### **What is the roster size?**

Rosters can have a minimum of 12 players, and a maximum of 15 players.

#### **Are players required to try out?**

Yes. All players must attend at least one tryout to be eligible for selection to a team in the Intermediate Division. In addition, Little League rules require a player to attend at least 50% of the tryouts to be eligible to play in All-Stars.

#### **Are oldest players drafted first?**

No. Unlike other divisions within Little League, the Intermediate Division, as adopted by NSLL, does not include an age preference. As a result, no particular age group is guaranteed a spot on the Intermediate team(s).

**How are players selected for teams in the Intermediate Division?**

Players are chosen by the coach/coaches after one or more tryouts. Draft rules are similar to those used to form Majors teams, except that player selections will be made in an attempt to field the most competitive team (or teams) possible, regardless of League Age.

**Will the Intermediate Division select players before the Majors or Juniors drafts?**

Yes. The Intermediate Division will select its players first. Any 13-year olds who are not selected will be placed into the Juniors draft. Any 11 or 12-year olds who are not selected will be placed into the Majors draft (and possibly AAA).

**Will separate tryouts be held for the Intermediate Division?**

No. Tryouts for the Intermediate Division will be held on the same days as tryouts for Majors (and AAA and AA). Tryouts are scheduled for February 7 and 14, 2015. We expect the Majors coaches to scout Intermediate candidates, so they can draft any players that are not selected for an Intermediate team.

**When will the Intermediate draft be held?**

The drafts for AA, AAA, Majors, and Intermediate are scheduled for Sunday, February 15, 2015. The Intermediate Division will draft first, followed by the Majors Division, then AAA, and then AA.

**Will my registration fee be reduced if my 11/12 year old does not make the team?**

Yes. If an 11 or 12 year old wishes to try out for a team in the Intermediate Division, that player must pay the registration fee for that division. If the player is not selected for a team, and is subsequently placed on a Majors or AAA team, the difference in registration fees will be refunded.

**What bats can be used in the Intermediate Division?**

The Intermediate Division uses the same bat rules as the Juniors Division. No bat can have a barrel larger than 2 5/8 inches, though smaller barrels are permitted. There are two separate rules, depending on whether the bat has composite materials in the barrel.

1. If the bat's barrel has no composite materials in it, and is instead made of wood or metal (alloy, aluminum, etc.) it may be used so long as the barrel diameter is equal to or less than 2 5/8 inches and *either* (a) if it has a 2 1/4 inch barrel, it is labeled with a BPF (bat performance factor) of 1.15 or less, or (b) if it has a 2 5/8 inch barrel, it meets the BBCOR (batted ball coefficient of restitution) performance standard. All bats must also meet Little League standards for length (34 inches), handle diameter, etc.
2. If the bat has composite materials in the barrel, it **MUST** meet BBCOR standards. Because BBCOR standards are only used on 2 5/8 inch bats, there are no 2 1/4 inch bats that meet BBCOR standards and thus *all 2 1/4 inch bats with composite barrels are prohibited*. All bats must also meet Little League standards for length (34 inches), handle diameter, etc.

Little League International has posted an FAQ on bats here:

<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo/batfaqs.htm>

**Where will games be played?**

District 1 organizes and schedules games played within the Intermediate Division, so the team (or teams) from NSLL will primarily compete against other leagues throughout District 1. We are currently renovating Field #6 (the large field near the Tee Ball/Rookie complex), which will serve as the home field of the NSLL Intermediate team(s).

**Will the formation of the Intermediate Division impact the quality of play in the Majors Division?**

While we expect some players League Age 11 and 12 will be selected for a team in the Intermediate Division, we also expect many players League Age 13 will be selected. As a result, the impact on the Majors Division should be minimal. However, it is difficult, if not impossible, to say for sure until teams are selected.

**Is there a post-season All-Star tournament for the Intermediate Division?**

Yes. At the conclusion of the regular season, NSLL will select an All-Star team to represent NSLL at the District 1 Intermediate Baseball tournament. The winner goes on to the State tournament, then Regionals, culminating in an Intermediate Division World Series. For 2015, the World Series will be held in Livermore, CA. In 2014, the North Everett Intermediate team won State and traveled to Regionals in California, ultimately being eliminated by the eventual World Series champions.

**How will the Intermediate All-Star team be selected?**

The process for selecting the team, and its coach, is listed in the NSLL Operating Manual (see [www.northsnohomishbaseball.com](http://www.northsnohomishbaseball.com) for a copy). The Intermediate Division uses the same selection process as the Juniors and Seniors Divisions.

**Where can I get more information?**

Josh Twigg is leading the effort to establish the Intermediate Division at NSLL. He can be contacted at [josh.twigg@outlook.com](mailto:josh.twigg@outlook.com). You can also contact Jeff Kallstrom, NSLL President, at [nsl.president@hotmail.com](mailto:nsl.president@hotmail.com) or (425) 359-5477.

Little League International has also published the following materials:

A Q&A: <http://www.littleleague.org/Intermediate5070/Intermediate50-70QA.htm>

A Presentation: <http://www.littleleague.org/Intermediate5070/presentation.htm>

The Intermediate World Series: <http://intermediateworldseries.org/world-series/>

A YouTube video cast: <http://youtu.be/hqfAwMpEt9E>