



# FEDERAL WAY KNIGHTS BASEBALL CLUB

## SUMMER KNIGHTS CLASSIC - 2024

### 8U COACH PITCH - TOURNAMENT RULES

Playing rules not specifically covered below shall follow the 2024 rules for Little League.

#### **PLAYER'S AGE**

Age determination will be based on player's age on April 30, 2024.

#### **EQUIPMENT**

##### ***Bats:***

No bat length/diameter/weight restrictions will be enforced. The Umpire-in-Chief or his on-field representative may disallow the use of a particular bat(s) due to safety concerns (cracks, dents, etc.).

##### ***Metal Spikes:***

No metal spikes are allowed. Cleats must be molded rubber or plastic, **no steel cleats are allowed.**

##### ***Batting Helmet:***

A full use batting helmet, which covers the top and back of the head and the sides of the face, must be worn when at bat and while on the bases.

##### ***Catcher's Gear:***

Catcher must wear all appropriate protective gear, which includes a protective helmet/mask that fully covers both ears, chest protector, shin guards, and protective cup. A throat guard is recommended.

**The Summer Knights Classic utilizes field rentals provided by Federal Way National Little League (FWNLL).**

#### **USE OF THE PARK**

Teams may warm-up in the outfield grass before their game if time permits.

No formal infield/outfield is allowed prior to the game.

No soft-toss into the chain link fence is allowed.

NO smoking, vaping or use of tobacco is permitted at the FWNLL Complex

No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances are permitted at the FWNLL Complex

Pets are not permitted at the FWNLL Complex.

Service animals are permitted as directed under WA State Law and following ADA requirements. Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not service animals under Washington State Law, and therefore are not permitted.

#### **GAME RULES**

A team roster shall be submitted to the Tournament Director prior to the first game. No players may be added to the roster once play has started. **Dual rostering is not allowed.**

## STARTING AND ENDING GAMES

### **Start of Game:**

Game start time is at the completion of umpire/manager(s) meeting at home plate. Game start time is forfeit time, unless tournament staff creates delay. Teams that are no-shows will forfeit their entry fee.

### **Rules of Play:**

Time will be called when any infielder, standing on the **"Infield Dirt"** (see below for clarification on this area), has possession of the ball and raises it above his / her head – runners will advance to the next base if, in the judgment of the umpire, they were more than ½ way there. If not, runners must return to the prior base.

**"Infield Dirt"** - the area from home plate to the **"grass"** in fair territory; includes foul territory, the fence, the grass line to the dugout fences.

On fields that have a larger dirt surface an **"Infield Dirt"** line will be chalked and clarified at the plate meeting prior to game.

Four outfielders will be allowed. Outfielders must be outside the **"infield dirt"** line when the play starts.

No lead offs or stealing.

Players may slide. Head first slides are not allowed.

No infield fly rule.

### **Batting:**

Entire roster must bat.

Players injured and unable to finish the game are not an automatic out. The batting order moves up.

Teams are allowed unlimited defensive substitutions. The batting order to remain the same.

No walks will be awarded.

No bunting. Players must take a full swing.

### **Runs Scored:**

5 runs maximum per inning – the last inning is an open inning (*unlimited runs*). No mercy rule.

### **Pool Play:**

A coin flip between the two managers will determine the home team for each game. The team based the furthest from Federal Way shall call the toss, or defer to the opposing manager.

In all playoff and championship games, the higher seeded team has the choice to be home or visitor.

There will be no coin flip.

### **Dugouts:**

There is no distinction between **"Home"** and **"Visitor"** dugouts. The choice of dugouts will be on first come basis. All teams must pick up trash and debris following completion of their game.

Home team is required to keep the official book.

### **Regulation:**

All pool play games shall be 6 innings. If after 5-1/2 innings of play the home team is ahead, the game is considered complete. The bottom half of the 6th inning will not be played.

8U Games shall have bases set at 60'.

### **Umpires:**

The Umpire controls the game and will settle all situations on the field. **Protests are not allowed.**

**Ties:**

Ties are allowed in pool play. No ties will be allowed in playoff and championship games. In playoff games, if, at the time limit or at the completion of regulation innings the game is tied, the "California" tiebreaker rule will go into effect. Each team puts the batter who is scheduled to bat last in that respective half of the inning on second base and plays out a full inning. This happens until the tie is broken and the game is complete. NO time limit or tiebreaker in Division Championship games.

**Time Limit:**

No new inning to start after 1 hour and 15 minutes. The current inning will be completed. If the home team is ahead and at bat when the time limit is reached the game ends immediately. If a pool play game is completed with time remaining, no extra innings will be played. A pool-play game may end in a tie.

**End of Game:**

A game shall be ruled complete if it is called by the umpires or the Tournament Director due to rain, inclement weather, or other reasons beyond our control, provided four innings have been completed.

If four innings have not been completed, the game shall be suspended and resumed from that point when safe play can be resumed. All reasonable efforts will be made to complete games as scheduled. The Tournament Director reserves the right to extend tournament dates, shorten game length or times to complete the tournament.

Once the last inning is determined, the game ends accordingly. If the home team takes the lead prior to three outs being recorded, the game ends at that point.

**Refunds:**

In the event the tournament is cancelled for unforeseen circumstances, \$100.00 of the team entry fee will be kept to cover administrative costs and the remaining balance refunded. If the tournament is declared rained out, a refund of \$100.00 per game (*up to a maximum of 3 games*) will be provided. No refund will be provided for teams having completed three or more games in the tournament.

**PITCHING:**

Pitching Circle will be 16ft in diameter with Pitching rubber to be set at 38 feet in center. Pitcher/Coach may come forward to throw strikes, but must remain within the circle.

The player/pitcher must be positioned with both feet within the circle behind the pitching rubber prior to each until the pitch reaches the batter.

Pitcher/Coach cannot coach from the pitching position.

If Pitcher/Coach is hit by a batted ball, the ball is live and play continues.

Batters get 5 pitches. 3 swinging strikes will constitute a strike out as well as 5 pitches without a hit fair ball. If the result of the fifth or following pitch is a foul ball, batter receives another pitch. Batter to continue to receive subsequent pitches as long as the player continues to foul off pitches.

**EJECTIONS**

Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game will not be allowed to communicate with their team (*players and personnel*) once play has resumed. Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game will not be allowed to attend the team's next scheduled game. In a new game, this would apply when the pre-game meeting at the plate is called for by the umpire. Tournament Director, or his representative, may impose additional game sanctions as deemed appropriate.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

All players, coaches, and fans are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

Bullying, heckling, razzing, taunting, or using disparaging remarks to other fans, teams, tournament staff, and umpires will not be tolerated. Any player, coach or fan whose conduct is unbecoming or abusive will be removed from the premises at the discretion of the Tournament Director (*or his representative*), Umpire-in-Chief and umpires.

Any individual ejected from the game will not be allowed to return for the team's next scheduled game. The Tournament Director, or his representative, may impose additional game sanctions as deemed appropriate. If the same person is ejected for a 2nd time, he/she is suspended for the remainder of the tournament. Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of the game.