

# 2026 North Story Baseball Coach Packet



## Important League Dates

- **Week of April 20: League Games Begin**
- **June 9: Last day of regular season play - all games must be played.**
- **Week of June 15: Year End Tournament**

## **North Story Baseball Code of Conduct**

**It is expected that anyone associated with North Story Baseball will act appropriately at all times. Anyone found in violation of this code will face reprimand which may include expulsion from the league. Violations may include but are not limited to the following:**

- Touch, push, shove, strike, or otherwise threaten (physically or verbally) any other individual.
- Exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct including the throwing of gloves, helmets, hats, bats, balls, or any other object.
- Use or cause the use of unnecessary rough tactics in the play of a game against opposing players.
- Use profane, obscene or vulgar language.
- Be intoxicated.
- Use tobacco.
- Speak disrespectfully to any other manager, coach, player, official, spectator or board member.
- Tamper or manipulate any league documents.
- Challenge an umpire's authority.

## NSB Coaches Meeting Important Information

### Reminders:

- Managers and coaches set the environment for success of your team and the league.
- Set goals for your team: safety, fun, sportsmanship and learning the basics.
- Sportsmanship and safety are first priority and must be practiced by all members of your team.
- Have a meeting with parents outlining the team and league goals emphasizing their role in sportsmanship. Remind the parents they are there for encouragement, you are there to coach.
- No practice swinging of the bat outside the field of play or dugout once the game begins.
- No warming up of pitchers outside the playing field once the game begins.
- Must have an adult in the dugout during the entire game.
- The league can only allow team members in the dugout, no siblings.
- Each team is to provide umpire with new game ball prior to start of game.
- All non-wood and laminated bats MUST have the USA Baseball Bat Stamp. No exceptions!

### Game Responsibilities:

- Know your communities field maintenance responsibilities.
- **Umpires:** Hosting team is responsible for providing a plate umpire and a base umpire. If a base umpire is not available, the plate umpire will call the game. **If the home team does not provide a plate umpire, the game still being played, however, the home team will forfeit by a score of 6-0.**
- The official pitch count and scorebook is maintained by both teams and should be reconciled each half inning. Pitch count sheets to be signed and dated by opposing teams after the game.
- **Game Schedule:** All games must be played. Any missed game must be rescheduled within 48 hours by the coaches. Please make sure to check with your local contacts to ensure a field and umpire are available.
- **Reporting Scores:** Game scores must be reported by the home team to Traci Kepley at [tgkepley26@gmail.com](mailto:tgkepley26@gmail.com) or text 515-460-8384.

## SAFETY CODE:

- Responsibility for safety procedures is the responsibility of everyone involved with NSB.
- Each team must have a first aid kit that is readily available during practice and games. A fully stocked First Aid Kit must be available in each concession stand.
- No games or practices should be held when weather or field conditions are not good, particularly when lighting is inadequate.
- Play area should be inspected frequently for holes, damage, stones, glass and other foreign objects. Home team is responsible for pre-game inspection of the field.
- All equipment should be stored within the team dugout, or behind screens, and not within the area defined by the umpires as “in play”.
- Only players, manager, coaches, and umpires are permitted on the playing field or in the dugout during games and practice sessions.
- During practice and games, all players should be alert and watching the batter on each pitch.
- During warm-up drills players should be spaced so that no one is endangered by wild throws or missed catches.
- All pre-game warmups should be performed within the confines of the playing field and not within areas that are frequented by and thus endangering spectators.
- Equipment must be inspected regularly for the condition of the equipment as well as proper fit. Worn equipment must be replaced and disposed of properly.
- Batters must wear approved protective helmets during batting practice and games. The use of face guards on batting helmets is a good idea but not required.
- Catchers must wear helmet, mask, **dangling throat guard**, long model chest protector, shin guards and protective cup. Manager should encourage all male players to wear protective cups for practices and games. Managers should encourage all players to wear mouth guards.
- Except when returning to a base, headfirst slides are not permitted.
- Player must not wear jewelry during games and practices.
- Managers and Coaches may warm up pitchers before or during a game
- On-deck batters are not permitted.
- Throwing of bat after hitting a ball or throwing a bat towards the dugout is not allowed.
- Weather – If the “feels like” temperature is at or below 40 degrees, the league will post on the league website that no games will be played that day, no exceptions. Decision will be made by 3:00 p.m.
- In the event of a weather delay, teams shall seek shelter and be ready to resume play once the storm has passed. Lightning delays are 30 minutes from the last strike.

## Umpire/Rules Review

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### **RULES: Little League Rules App – LL Rulebooks**

#### **Umpires and Managers must have a pregame meeting; identify start time and ineligible pitchers**

- Umpires are not pitching rules judges. They are at the game to call ball/strike, safe/out. Not whether if someone who pitched 28 pitches on Wednesday can pitch today. Ask for time, managers work it out. Though the umpire can assist, depending on their experience level.
- Speaking of umpires, it is harder to find umpires than managers and coaches. As UIC of the league, this is a topic important to me. Please be respectful of our volunteer, or very low paid umpires. Judgment calls are not protestable or debatable. Questions on application of rules are. My expectation is that when play is relaxed, the manager will ask for time, come out with his or her hands in their back pockets, and have a discussion of what rule they think was misapplied.
- No umpire can overrule another. Proper mechanics is for one umpire to ask the other, if he missed it, though he is not obligated to do so.
- Obstruction/Interference/train wreck
- Obstruction is action by the defense
- Interference is action by the offense
- Defense cannot obstruct offense advancing if they do not have the ball. Especially important at home, catchers need to know they are liable of getting mowed over-as long as the runner isn't coming in with forearm up - NO MUST SLIDE RULE
- Obstruction 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> basemen on balls hit to outfield
- Other rules of note – no bat boys allowed, no on deck batter for 9-12s, no hey batter batter. In Minors and Majors, one coach must remain on the bench at all times- if you only have 2 coaches for a game, send out a player, with a helmet for base coaching.
- Calling time-managers and umpires, on a walk – wait for kid to get to first.
- Ejections of a player or a coach result in a one game suspension. So it is to your advantage to keep your players under control-for thrown bats, helmets and such.
- Majors – 3<sup>rd</sup> strike advance on a dropped ball will be in effect during the regular season for Major.
- League rules – bat the roster – injury or kid leaves – as long as you still have 9 or more, pass over the spot with no penalty, but inform the other team
- Teams may play with 8 players, cannot play with only 7 players. Charge an out for the 9<sup>th</sup> batter.
- Pool player allowed. If 9<sup>th</sup> player shows up, pool player cannot play. Pool player must bat last, and play in the outfield. Pool player can use his real team's uniform. Inform the other coach pregame that you have a pool player. We don't have an official pool. Try to get an equal talent pool player. Pool players are not allowed in the year end tournament. All time limits will be followed during tournament play, with the exception of the Championship Game in each division.

## NSB Rules and Adaptations

### Minors:

No inning can start after 1.5 hours from first pitch, hard stop at 2 hours, score reverts to previous completed inning.

- With the 5 run rule. If it is the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup>, or if you are past the no inning may start time, and the home team is down by 6 or more, the home team cannot win due to the 5 run rule. Play it out, only if both teams and the umpires agree to continue. It is a good chance for the visitors to put in a lesser pitcher, to give a kid some reps, without worrying about losing the game, and the home team gets some extra at bats.
- Minors 5 run rule – have scored 4, bases loaded, kid jacks a triple – let the play go, 1 run counts.

### Majors:

- Five run rule in effect for Majors in all but 6th inning.
- 6<sup>th</sup> inning will be an open inning.
- If 5 innings have not been completed at 1.5 hours from first pitch, open inning will be indicated by the umpire.
- Run rules still apply.
- Tie ball game after open inning will be a tie.
- Hard stop is at 2.5 hours.

### Other Rules:

- The 10-run rule after 4 innings is in effect for both Majors and Minors.
- 6 inning games, Minors and Majors.
- The visiting team in all divisions will have the field for infield practice 20 minutes to 10 minutes prior to the game. The home team will have the field for infield practice from 10 minutes prior to actual game time. When there is a following game, its official start time will be the scheduled time, or on half hour following the preceding game, whichever is later.
- One minute between innings, don't need to stop watch it, but keep it moving. Again, coaches can warm up the pitcher.
- Some games will have the "road" team be the home team due to field space issues. The physical home team will still have the responsibility for field prep, host community to help.
- If a player leaves early from a base, goes back, not an out, one runner affects all.
- **Bats:** All non-wood and laminated bats used in North Story Baseball (Majors and below) must meet Little League Specifications, with the USA Baseball Stamp.

## **Pitching/Catching:**

- 1-40 pitches, pitcher can still catch. \*No hard stop\*
- If pitcher reaches 40 pitch threshold while facing a batter, they can finish that batter and can catch in the game. Any batter faced over 40 pitches, pitcher will be ineligible to catch.
- Catchers cannot catch in more than 3 innings, to be eligible to pitch.
- Pitchers cannot re-enter as a pitcher once removed from the mound.
- A pitcher cannot wear anything on his pitching arm, white long sleeves are not permitted.
- Pitch logs must be kept up to date at all times, exchanged between Managers prior to the start of game.
- Pitch and Days of Rest information can be found on pitch count log sheets for all divisions
- 8-year-olds may pitch a maximum of 50 pitches in a day, follow the rest days

**Sportsmanship Rule:** There is no stealing home on a passed ball by the catcher once a team is up by 6 or more runs.

**Year End Tournament:** 2 division tournament, single elimination.

**NSB Reserves the right to change or modify any rules or information in this document at any time throughout the course of the season.**