



**Seattle Elite Baseball  
2021 Youth (10U – 12U)  
League Handbook**



### League Mission & Expectations

The goal of the Seattle Elite Baseball League is to provide a competitive summer baseball atmosphere between teams and organizations with like-minded principles.

### League Contact Information

- **League Address**

Seattle Elite Baseball  
PO Box 225  
Monroe WA 98272

- **Website / Social Media**

- Website: [seattleelitebaseball.com](http://seattleelitebaseball.com)
- Twitter: [@SeattleElite](https://twitter.com/SeattleElite)
- Instagram: [@SeattleElite](https://www.instagram.com/SeattleElite)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/SeattleEliteBaseball](https://facebook.com/SeattleEliteBaseball)

- **Directors**

- Derek Bingham [derek@seattleelitebaseball.com](mailto:derek@seattleelitebaseball.com) 206-465-8690
- Will Snyder [wilsnyder@hotmail.com](mailto:wilsnyder@hotmail.com) 206-550-8906

### League Fees and Team Expectations/Requirements

- League fees for the 2021 season cover the following:
  - Elite League post-season playoffs (awards, baseballs, fields, etc.)
  - Web site hosting and maintenance costs
  - League administration
- Each team is responsible for securing and paying for field time for their home games. When playing doubleheaders, the visiting team is strongly encouraged to split the costs of the field with the host team for that day's games.
- In addition, each team is responsible for splitting the umpire costs across the league. The game fees have been negotiated with our umpire organizations and the amount due per team has been invoiced to the teams
- All league and umpire fees must be paid prior to the first day of the season. Any teams that have not paid will have their games cancelled until they are paid in full.

### League Web Site

- The league web site is located at [www.seattleelitebaseball.com](http://www.seattleelitebaseball.com)
- Team rosters and league schedules will be posted on the site, along with a link to each team's official web site and social media accounts
- **In-Season Site Maintenance** - The site will be updated daily during the season with the latest game results, standings, etc. Updates are dependent on the teams submitting their scores to the league in a timely fashion.
- **Off-Season Site Maintenance** - The web site will be maintained periodically during the off-season based on need (preparation for the upcoming season, league history archives, etc.)



### Umpire Contacts & Coverage

- **Umpires Northwest** **Pablo DeLeon**  
Phone: (206) 271-3722  
E-mail: pablo@umpiresnw.com
- **WWBUA** **Mark Heavey**  
Phone: (253) 468-5307  
E-mail: assignor@wwbua.net
- **Umpire Coverage Legend** - The [Umpire Coverage Legend](#) outlines which association to contact in the case of any cancellations and/or reschedules. The umpire association covering the game is based on the age group and field the game is being played at. This will also be posted on the league web site for quick access.
  - **Link:** [Umpire Coverage Legend](#)

### Game Cancellations & Rescheduling Policy

- In the event of any type of cancellation (including rainouts and COVID related game-day cancellations), the **home team** is responsible to contact opponents & umpires. League contacts will be distributed; umpire contacts can be found in the section above
- **Rainouts & Other Game Day Cancellations** - All rainouts and other game day cancellations must be **called or texted in** at least 2 hours prior to game time – otherwise, umpires are paid. Whether you call or text, you must provide the age group & league (i.e. Seattle Elite 12U) along with the date, time and field of the game being rained out.
- **Game day cancellations are NOT confirmed** until you receive word back from the umpire association that they received the message
- **Reschedules** – All reschedules **MUST** be in writing (via e-mail) to the appropriate umpire organization, with a CC to the league office (derek@seattleelitebaseball.com). Please include the age group & league (i.e. Seattle Elite 11U), original game date, new date, field, time, home and visiting team when requesting a reschedule.
- If a team needs to cancel a game for non-weather and non-COVID related reasons, they must contact their opponent **more than a calendar week** prior to the game. Additionally, a make-up date **MUST** be agreed upon prior to cancellation. Failure to follow these rules may result in a forfeit for the team that needs to cancel.

### 2021 COVID Return to Play Guidelines

- The most up-to-date COVID return to play guidelines can be found at the link below:
  - **Link:** <http://seattleelitebaseball.com/covid-19>
- The league conducted mandatory meetings for the coaches and GMs of each organization, going over the mandated COVID protocol for league contests. It is the responsibility of each team to follow the most up-to-date COVID return to play guidelines.



### Roster Rules & Limitations

- League rosters are due **one week prior** to the start of league play. Players can be added to the roster throughout the season, provided they do not appear on another Seattle Elite league team (exception – dual rostering; see below)
- The maximum number of players allowed on a team roster is 15 players
- If a team cannot field enough players for a game, they are able to temporarily add age-eligible players **from within their organization** to compete in that given game. Advance notice to the league and the opposing team is required in this scenario.
- **Dual Roster**
  - Organizations can dual roster up to 4 players per team
  - Players may appear on no more than 2 Elite League rosters (one team at each age level).
    - Example – a player can appear on both a team’s 12U and 11U league roster. However, that same player could not be on the roster of another 12U or 11U team, nor would he be eligible to be on ANY 10U roster (or other age groups).
  - Players may **ONLY** be dual rostered on 2 teams within the same organization.
  - Dual rostered players cannot be adjusted after the final rosters are turned in
  - **To be eligible for post-season play**, players must have appeared in a minimum of 20% of the team’s regular season league games.
- **Tampering**
  - Once rosters are turned in, players are locked on their team unless an official release (in writing) is submitted to the league from either the head coach or GM of the team.
  - We will treat other league’s rosters as if they are our own. No tampering with other players in our leagues or other comparable leagues.
  - We are promoting the Elite Leagues as first-class organizations and expect the teams in our league to act within those principles.
  - When having tryouts and recruiting players for the following season, please refrain from having contact with players whose season is not yet complete.

### Baseball Requirements

- For the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Baden will be the official baseball of Seattle Elite Baseball league & tournament contests
  - Youth league games will require the Baden 2BB baseball
- The home team is responsible to provide Baden baseballs for each regular season contest
- The league will provide Baden baseballs for all post-season contests



### Important Season Dates

Age Group	Start Date	End Date	Rain/COVID Makeups	Playoff Dates
12U, 11U, 10U	Sat 3/13/21	Sat 5/30/21	Mon 5/31/21 – Wed 6/2/21	Fri 6/4 – Sun 6/6 **

\*\* - Potential for a one-day playoff on Sunday, 6/6 dependent on team availability for the entire weekend

### Scheduling Requirements

- Each age group's number of league games varies based on the division that teams participate in. This information has been previously distributed to the teams.
- Tournament games **CANNOT** be counted as one of your originally scheduled contests. However, tournament games **CAN** be used as valid reschedules for rainouts. **The league must be notified by both teams in advance** that a tournament game will be used as a league make-up to prevent any potential issues.
- Elite league games should take precedence over non-league contests when it comes to scheduling. Teams should not attempt to reschedule an originally scheduled league game to play in a non-league contest.
- League games postponed due to weather (or other circumstances) must be made up no later the end date for the respective age group
  - All teams should leave the rain/COVID makeup dates open on their schedule. These dates will be used as last resort rainout dates for games that are unable to be rescheduled during the regular season. If necessary, games will be played in the morning and afternoon on the rain makeup day to ensure all necessary reschedules are completed.
- Any non-played games by the final makeup date will be evaluated by the board and a determination made on how those games are counted in the standings.
  - **NOTE:** Teams who fail to complete their league schedule are at risk to lose their spot in future year's leagues. Whether your team is in the playoff hunt or not, you owe it to the league to play your schedule to its completion. Please note – any issues with individual teams can impact an entire organization.

### Score Reporting

- The WINNING team (coach, GM, scorekeeper, etc.) is required to email [scores@seattleelitebaseball.com](mailto:scores@seattleelitebaseball.com) within 24 hours of the completion of any league contest
- The subject of the email should include the age group, date of the game, the teams playing, and the final score
  - (EX) 12U – 5/12 – City Royal 7, City Green 4



### **Post-season Playoff Qualification**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b># of Divisions</b>	<b>Playoff Qualifiers</b>
12U	3	Top 3 in each division (no wild card)
11U	3	Top 3 in each division (no wild card)
10U	1	All teams qualify for the post-season

### **Post-season Tiebreakers**

- Tiebreakers for **seeding** are as follows:
  - Head-to-head results between the tied teams
  - Runs allowed in games played between the tied teams
  - Overall runs allowed in league games
  - Overall runs scored in league games
- In the case of a tie for the last playoff spot in a division, head-to-head results between the tied teams will be the sole tiebreaker. If the teams are still tied, a one-game playoff will be played on the final makeup date for that division
  - Every attempt will be made to play the one-game playoff. If a playoff game is not possible based on logistics of other makeup games scheduled on the designated date, the tiebreakers for seeding listed above will be used to determine the final playoff spot.

### **Post-season Playoff Details**

- The league will supply fields, baseballs, and umpires for all playoff games
- The format for the Seattle Elite playoffs in the youth divisions will be established once team availability for a 3-day playoff is determined.
- Each division of the Seattle Elite League has a perpetual trophy, which has the names of the league champions back to the inaugural season of Seattle Elite League play engraved on a plaque
  - The league champion will get their team name added and will get to keep the league trophy until the conclusion of the following season
- Each division's specific playoff dates are listed in the important season dates table referenced earlier in the handbook. A complete playoff schedule will be distributed to the teams during the season.

### **Coaches Attire & In-Game Guidelines**

- In the youth division, coaches are expected to wear a team issued hat, a team related top (jersey, jacket, sweatshirt), and athletic pants
- Coaches are NOT restricted to the dugout during play. If the umpires feel they are in harm's way, they can require the coaches to move either in the dugout or further away from a batted ball.



### Game Rules (Regular Season & Post-Season)

- Any game rules not covered in this section will defer to the [MLB Official Baseball Rules](#) (OBR)
- League games are 6 innings in length. If the game is tied after 6 complete innings, extra innings should be played to determine a winner.
- Mound & base length / leadoff, steal / dropped third strike rules:
  - 12U & 11U - mound/base length will be 50' / 70' with leadoff/steal allowed & dropped third strikes
  - 10U – mound/base length will be 46' / 60' – NO leadoffs. Runners may steal when the ball crosses the plate
  - All ages - dropped third strikes are in play
- Time limits are solely based on field requirements. If there is a need to have a time limit on a game (lights go out at a certain time, another game following), the home team should discuss this at the pre-game plate meeting.
- The home team is responsible to provide Baden baseballs for each league contest. The league will provide baseballs for all post-season games
- **Mercy Rule** - There will be a **10-run** mercy rule after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead). There are NO other mercy rules in place – all other league & tournament run rules DO NOT APPLY to Seattle Elite League contests
- **Lineup / Playing Time Rules**
  - The batting lineup may consist of 9 players, 10 players with an extra hitter (EH – see below) or a continuous lineup of all players in attendance at the given game
  - For teams choosing to bat 9 or 10 players:
    - High School rules will be in effect for substitutions - starters are eligible to re-enter the game in their original spot in the lineup. Substitutes are NOT eligible to re-enter once removed
    - **Designated Hitter (DH)** – We will be using the high school designated hitter rule – you are eligible to DH for anyone in the lineup. If you choose to enter your designated hitter into the field, the player he was hitting for must be removed from the lineup.
    - **Extra Hitter (EH)**
      - The EH is an additional player in the batting order that can move into and out of the field on defense freely. Consider the EH the 10th defensive position.
      - Use of the EH is optional and must be declared on the official lineup card submitted to the umpires prior to the game.
  - If a team chooses to use a continuous lineup OR starts the game with an EH (10 players in the lineup), it must finish the game with the same number of players in the lineup
    - If for some reason (injury, etc) a team needs to remove a player from the lineup, the spot of the player removed from the lineup will result in an automatic out
  - **Regardless of lineup construction**, the youth leagues all play with free defensive substitutions. Players can move in and out of the defensive alignment regardless of whether they are in the batting lineup
    - There are **no minimum requirements** for defensive outs.
- **High school rules** will be in effect for the following situations:
  - **Substitution (re-entry)** – covered above in Lineup / Playing Time Rules section
  - **Intentional walks** – teams simply need to request to the umpire to issue an intentional walk.
  - **Possession** – players must have possession of the ball to block a base/plate.
- **Sliding** – NO head first slides going to the next base; Head first going back to a base is OK
  - Players must go straight into the bag on slides; no malicious contact (HS rule)
- **Courtesy runners** - allowed **WITH 2 OUTS** for the pitcher and/or catcher
  - The courtesy runner must be a player not currently in the game OR the last batted out (if the team is using a continuous batting order). The same player cannot courtesy run for the pitcher & catcher in the same inning



## Game Rules (Regular Season & Post-Season)

- **Pitching Rules**
  - Coaches are highly encouraged to follow [USA Baseball's Pitch Smart guidelines](#), and always prioritize the health of the players (as well as other pitching schedules of the players) when making pitching decisions.
    - NOTE: The league is considering mandated pitch count/inning restrictions starting in 2022
  - Pitchers will have a **6 inning maximum** per day limit in both regular season and postseason play
  - Once a pitcher is removed from the mound, he is ineligible to return to that game as a pitcher, **even if he remained in the game at another defensive position.**
  - **Mound visits** –1 visit per inning, 2<sup>nd</sup> visit in an inning to the same pitcher must result in a change. No limit per game.
  - **Balks** – HS rules; balks are dead balls
  - **Third to First move** – The third to first move is **NOT legal** in Elite League play
- **Bat Rules** – Seattle Elite Baseball will follow the USABat standards for the Youth leagues
  - Bats must have the USABat certification mark
  - **Exceptions:**
    - BBCOR stamped bats are eligible for use
    - Solid one-piece wood bats are approved for use under USABat standards with or without the USA Baseball certification mark.
- On deck batters are allowed
- Coaches are allowed to warm up pitchers prior to and during the game
- **Suspended Games**
  - If rain/darkness forces the stoppage of a game, the following rules apply:
    - League games are considered official after 4 innings (3 1/2 if the home team is leading)
    - Any game suspended prior to the completion of the 1st inning will be replayed in its entirety
    - If the game is suspended following the first inning, but prior to it becoming an official contest, the game will be resumed from the point of suspension at a later date
    - If an official game is suspended with the score being tied, the game will be resumed from the point of suspension at a later date
    - If an official game is suspended mid-inning with no lead changes during the impacted inning, the game will be deemed an official game, with the final score being the score after the last completed inning
      - If an official game is suspended mid-inning with the visiting team taking a lead prior to suspension, the game will be considered suspended and played to completion at a later date
      - If an official game is suspended mid-inning with the home team taking a lead prior to suspension, the game will be considered final, with the final score being the score at the time of suspension

## Player/Coach Conduct

- Any player ejection will result in a one-game suspension from Elite League play (regular and post-season). Player ejections should be reported to the league by the offending team within 24 hours of the completion of the contest. The suspension will be served in the next Elite League game.
- Any coach ejections will automatically result in a one-game suspension suspension from Elite League play (regular and post-season). Additional ejections during the season may result in longer suspensions.
- If a particular coach represents themselves in a way detrimental to their team or the league as a whole, the board may review the situation and apply suspensions as deemed necessary.





### **Conflict Resolution**

- As with any competitive situation, conflicts are sure to arise over the course of the season. The Seattle Elite Baseball League is committed to ruling on all conflicts in a way that (1) is fair to the teams involved and (2) good for the league as a whole