

Parents,

On behalf of WRSSBA, welcome to the 2025 baseball season. For those returning to the U11 division, welcome back. To those arriving at U11 for the first time, I hope you're prepared for a great era of baseball for your player! Below is some information you may find helpful in preparing for the year.

League Breakdown

The U11 age group will be divided into two divisions,

American League ("AL") – Competitive/Developmental

National League ("NL") – Developmental/Recreational

Our AL division is designed for experienced players who are invested in baseball. Evaluations are critical to identifying eligible players capable of playing baseball at a higher level. Teams are formed by a coach's draft based on evaluation results. Players can anticipate two practices during the week and two games over the weekends. The number of AL teams won't be known until the evaluation process is complete. It'll likely be four to five teams.

Our NL division is designed for those who prefer a more recreational style of play and those who can't commit to more structured baseball-specific training. Evaluations are critical to ensuring our NL teams are balanced and fair. This ensures the season is enjoyed by all players and teams. Players at the NL level can anticipate two games over the weekend and one practice every week.

Pre-season Evaluations

Pre-season evaluations are mandatory. If you haven't registered for a preferred timeslot, please do so [here](#). There are limited options currently available. If your player hasn't registered for an evaluation a spot will be assigned.

Parents and aspiring coaches won't be permitted to watch evaluations. Further, coaches are unassociated with evaluation scoring. Evaluation scoring will be completed by the coaching staff and volunteers of the [White Rock Tritons](#).

Please reference the email sent by WRSSBA on Jan 23rd for evaluation-specific information.

Coaches

Thanks to those who've volunteered to coach. I'll reach out to AL coaches after player evaluations are complete. NL coaches can anticipate communication once the AL draft is complete. If you'd like to coach (head or assistant) and didn't indicate this on your player's registration, please let me know via email.

Team Placement/Scheduling

WRSSBA official policy is to not accept team/player/friend/carpool/schedule requests. If you have an exceptional circumstance that you believe the league should consider, please send it my way in confidence.

Practice times will be determined by the head coaches' availability and preference. You're encouraged to consider coaching a team if you'd like input on a specific practice time and location.

Practices will likely occur any time between Monday and Thursday from 5:00 to 6:30 or 6:30 to 8:00.

WRSSBA supports and encourages multi-sport athletes. Further, WRSSBA recognizes community sports used to have seasons, but many are now asking for year-round commitments. Organized community baseball is only played in the spring and summer. As a result, families are encouraged to make baseball a scheduling priority for the spring.

Season Timeline

Here are some cursory timelines you can anticipate for the season:

Player Evaluations – Feb 9th and Feb 22nd

AL teams announced – Early March

NL teams announced – Prior to spring break **OR** *once all coaching groups have been identified*

Season begins – Early April (after spring break)

Summer ball information disseminated – Early May

Summer ball evaluations – Mid to late May

Season wraps up – Mid to late June

Summer Ball season starts – After the final U11 AL and NL game is complete.

Summer Ball season ends – Provincial championships at all four levels of U11 summer ball will take place between July 31st and August 4th (see note on Summer Ball below).

Equipment Needed

This year the league will provide all U11 players with the following:

- Hat; and
- A dryfit WRSSBA jersey (no need for teams to get their own dry fits this year)

Players will need to provide the following:

- Grey baseball pants (two pairs are encouraged);
- Baseball specific helmet (ski, hockey, cycling helmets etc, aren't permitted);
 - o Jaw guards are encouraged as well, but not required. If there is no jaw guard, helmets must have chin straps.
- Baseball glove;
- Groin Protection;
- Baseball Belt; and
- Bat
 - o BC Minor baseball provides the following maximum dimensions in rule 19.04
 - "10U & 11U 32 inch, 2 3/4 inch max diameter, unlimited length/weight drop - Must have "USSSA 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor)" stamp OR "USA" Stamp"
 - o For those unsure, a 30 inch drop 10 (or 20oz) is the most common bat at U11 for the average-sized player.

Umpires

During the season, umpires will have the full support of the league.

Our umpires are often young kids who love baseball and are well mentored by our umpire in chief who you will see at the ballpark throughout the season. They won't be perfect and they will make calls both for and against your player that are correct and incorrect. Although it may not always feel this way, I'm confident the good and bad calls tend to balance out throughout the season. Please ensure you keep any reactionary comments to yourself. The umpire's parents often watch games and hear comments from fans and parents.

Further, there is a shortage of umpires across youth sports. The most significant reason kids no longer umpire is because of parent behavior. White Rock umpiring isn't perfect, but in comparison to other associations, we do have a strong umpire cadre. You'll miss having the umpires at games when only one is available or none show up because of this shortage.

Any disrespectful comments, language, or demeanor directed at umpires won't be tolerated. Parent and Coaches Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

Head Coaches will be the only ones able to provide the league feedback on umpires.

Centennial Parking Decals

Pay parking is in place for games and practices at Centennial Park. Attendees can pay per trip or purchase a parking decal from the City of White Rock for the season. See the attached [link](#) to purchase a decal for the 2025 season.

Summer Ball

Summer Ball is run by BC Minor Baseball and is meant to replicate “rep” baseball. Players interested in summer ball will need to be evaluated in late May and if they are selected, will qualify for one of our four summer ball teams. A breakdown of the U11 summer ball teams/divisions is below:

U11 AAA – Top twelve 2014 born players (formerly named AAA Tier 1)

U10A – Top twelve 2015 born players only (formerly named U11 A)

U11 AA – Combination of next twelve 2014 and 2015 born players (formerly named AAA Tier 2)

U11 A – Combination of next twelve 2014 and 2015 born players (formerly named AA)

Summer Ball runs from late June into the August long weekend. Teams in all divisions have been registered for two tournaments and will play a league interlock schedule throughout the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley in July. The interlock schedule will determine which teams qualify for Provincial championships. BC Minor Baseball rules stipulate (with some exceptional circumstances permitted), that teams must have twelve batters in the lineup at Provincials. If your player qualifies for a summer ball team and that team qualifies for Provincials, you will be expected to attend the Provincials over the August long weekend.

Locations for Provincial Championships are TBD, but may include travel to the Island or Interior.

More details will follow in May. For now, I trust this provides some guidance to any summer planning families may wish to make.

Association Boundaries

There are no address requirements for our spring season. However, in Summer Ball most players must reside in the [BC Minor Baseball White Rock catchment](#). If you currently live outside these boundaries and are considering summer ball in White Rock please send let me know via email to discuss options.

League Communications

Ever feel like you missed an email or aren't sure where to find information? Once emails are disseminated, we hope to have them posted at the [bottom of the U11 page](#)

[on the WRSSBA website](#) within 24-48 hours after they are sent. Please check here to see if your 2025 league-related question has been addressed.

Matheny Manifesto

I've attached a letter written by a former Major League Baseball player and manager, Mike Matheny. Mike wrote and read this letter to the parents of a youth team he was asked to coach before he accepted the position. Mike begins with some sharp comments for parents but identifies some outcomes that put the game into perspective at this level. Some of his suggestions include:

- 1) Ensure your player knows you hope they had fun and you enjoyed watching them play;
- 2) The drive home is a valuable time for you as a parent/guardian to support the team philosophy and concepts, even if you don't fully agree with them; and
- 3) Players who play with parents, aunts, uncles, and others outside of organized practice develop and love the game quicker than those who play only when they attend practice.

I trust this gives you a good sense of this season's expectations.

Regards,

Kevin Dueck – U11 Division Coordinator

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