

# Johnston Little League

## All-Star Policy - Draft

Approved by the Board of Directors, April 16<sup>th</sup> 2023

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### Statement of Purpose and Philosophy

Little League All-Star tournaments are available for most divisions of play. JLL's philosophy for creating and registering teams in Little League tournaments is based on several key principles.

- Clear, equitable and transparent player selection processes
- Maximizing team competitiveness in the Major, 50/70 Intermediate, Junior and Senior divisions
- Maximizing All-Star participation opportunities for players in the Minor divisions (11 & under)
- Ensuring all JLL teams have an opportunity to be successful by only dividing divisions into two All-Star teams when adequate numbers exist

In the Minor division age groups (age 11 and under) tournament play consists of district and state play, without the potential to advance to regional or World Series play. In these divisions, JLL's priority is to maximize the number of players that can experience All-Star play, while also ensuring that teams have adequate depth to compete during the tournaments. The objective is not to field the single best team, nor to enter a specific number of teams per year. Rather, the decision of whether to enter one or two teams will be based on player registration numbers. When an age group within the Minors Division contains 59 or fewer registered players as of the first day of the JLL regular season, JLL has the option to field one All-Star team for that age group. For those age groups with 60 or more registered players as of the first day of the JLL regular season, a second All-Star team will be included. Should for any reason JLL be unable to find two volunteer head coaches to lead the two All Star teams, there will be no All-Star teams.

Teams in the Major and older divisions (age 12+) may advance beyond state tournaments to regional and World Series competitions. In these age groups, each Little League charter may enter one and only one All-Star team. In these age groups, JLL's focus changes from trying to maximize the number of participants to striving to field highly competitive teams, providing the players the highest likelihood to advance and earn the privilege of regional and World Series tournament experiences.

If a division's participation numbers result in more than 10 regular season teams, Little League rules require Double Chartering. When Double Chartering is required, regular season teams will be divided equally into American and National Leagues prior to the regular season draft. Each charter will then follow the rules below, with the American League All-Star team drafting from players on regular season American League teams, and the National League team will do the same.

### Expectations and Selection Criteria

Selection to a Johnston Little League All-Star team is an honor and the privileges it entails are significant. For this reason, the JLL Board of Directors strives to ensure that teams that represent Johnston Little League are selected according to a fair and equitable process that is transparent to all involved and applied consistently year-to-year and division-to-division. Being selected to a tournament team should reflect a player's ability and skill level to play the game as demonstrated during the current Little League regular season. In addition, considerations should also be given to attitude, coachability, and commitment to their Little League team and program during the regular season.

# Johnston Little League

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---



Selection to an All-Star team in a prior season is not a consideration, nor is a player's performance in other non-Little League baseball programs. The objective is not necessarily to select the most gifted athletes, but rather to select those that proved themselves as the most skillful and valuable to their regular season team. Not being "available" to their regular season team, whether due to injury, prioritizing other activities ahead of JLL or significantly limiting positional availability are all valid aspects for managers to consider in nominating players and casting All-Star ballots. Players must play in 60% of their regular season games to be eligible. A waiver may be issued if the player was hurt and can provide a doctor's note proving an injury that kept them out.

All selected players should be committed to participating throughout the duration of the scheduled All-Star tournament with an understanding that Johnston All-Star participation will take precedence over any other baseball team participation (see All-Star Tournament Team Replacements). Inability to make this level of commitment will exclude a player from All-Star team nomination.

### All-Star Tournament Team Nominations

- Prior to the All-Star tournament team selection meeting, division managers shall nominate up to four players (or amount determined by Division Representative when more than one team is to be fielded) from their respective teams (per age group i.e. 11s, 12s) and turn their full name, uniform sizes, and top 3 choices of uniform number to the division representative. Managers should consider current season skill level and ability, attitude, coachability, and commitment to the regular season team. The ultimate nomination choices are at the managers discretion. All players must meet the minimum participation guidelines and age/residency requirements listed in the Little League Rulebook to be eligible for All-Star nomination.
- Before nominating a player, each manager should determine whether the player would be available to attend practices and tournament games according to the anticipated Little League All-Star tournament schedule. This should include all potential levels of tournament play based on the respective division including local District 3 pool play, local District 3 finals play, state tournament play, regional tournament play, and ultimately World Series tournament competition. While not necessarily a disqualifying factor, a player's inability to commit to the duration of potential tournament play should be considered when nominating the player for All-Star team selection.
- The division representative shall make up a master ballot of the nominees received from the managers to be used for voting during the all-star selection meeting, ensuring that an adequate number of nominees are available to field the number of teams for the division. If additional nominees are required, the division representative shall request all managers consider additional nominations prior to the selection meeting.

### Selection of Manager and Coach(s)

- JLL approved managers and coaches of the regular season teams are eligible for selection as the All-Star team manager. Election of the manager will be the first order of business of the All-Star selection meeting, with the chair soliciting nominations. In the case of a singular nominee, the selection of the

# Johnston Little League

## All-Star Policy - Draft

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nominee will be by default. In the case of multiple nominees, the manager is chosen by a vote of the division managers. Each nominee will be given an opportunity to state their case of why they should be chosen to fellow coaches. All regular season coaches will then have a blind vote to elect the team(s) manager(s). After the selection of the players, the elected manager(s) will select one or two assistant coaches from the list of JLL board approved managers and coaches active during the current season from the respective division.

### All-Star Tournament Team Selection Meeting

- Selection meetings will be scheduled by the division representative. Meetings for divisions where players and coaches may overlap (Junior/Senior, Intermediate, Major, AAA Minor, AA Minor,) will be conducted together. The Junior division will select its team first and take priority over Intermediate and Senior division All-Star teams. The Major division will then conduct its draft, also taking priority over the Intermediate division and Minor division teams. Then drafts will cascade down one age division at a time, with the older division taking priority in all other cases. In the Minor division age groups, players will be selected within the age group in which they played or (if playing up, and not selected in that age group) in their league age group. Minor players are not eligible to be taken in a higher age group than they were rostered in during the regular season (i.e. AA Minor player that is league age 9 is not eligible to be taken in the 11 or 10 year old drafts). Any player not selected to the higher-priority team that is also eligible for another-level will then be eligible for selection to that division's All-Star team(s). While an All-Star manager may defer selection of their 12<sup>th</sup> and/or 13<sup>th</sup> player for a day or two, they may not reserve a player that would otherwise be eligible for selection to another team. From the moment a player is selected to an All-Star team, the player cannot be moved to another for any reason (i.e. a Major team that loses a player to injury cannot 'call up' a player from a AAA Minor team, but instead must look to nominated players not selected to a team during the drafts).
- Parents are not able to choose the division to which their child is selected. Either the player is rostered where selected, or the player will be ineligible for JLL All-Star participation.
- JLL Board-approved managers and coaches are invited to attend the tournament team selection meeting, with each team's manager casting the team's ballot in any/all votes. If a manager is unable to attend, the team's ballot and all other manager roles in the selection meeting may be delegated to the JLL board-approved assistant coach.
- The division representative will chair the meeting. In the event the division representative has a child nominated, an active JLL Board Member that does not have a child nominated in the respective division will fill the role of meeting chair. In either case, a total of 2 JLL Board Members without nominated children will conduct the selection meeting and count the votes.

Selection of All-Star Tournament Team

# Johnston Little League

## All-Star Policy - Draft

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- The nominating manager should present each nominee, providing justification for each player's nomination. This justification should be as specific and objective as possible. Some managers may reference statistics (batting average, OBP, etc.) in the justification, while others may prefer more subjective analyses. The manner of presenting nominations will be up to the manager. Meeting participants are encouraged to ask questions and share perspectives that may aid in casting ballots and the elected All-Star manager may also probe to ensure adequate information to make the 12<sup>th</sup> and optional 13<sup>th</sup> player selections.
- After all manager's nominations have been presented, meeting participants may raise questions regarding why a specific player on another manager's team was not nominated. All meeting participants may speak in favor or opposition to the potential nomination of additional players. After discussion ceases, any manager may request a formal vote to add a nominee, whether the player was from the manager's team or another team. Regardless, a formal majority vote of managers is required to add nominees during the selection meeting. Division representatives should strive to ensure an adequate number of nominations are made prior to the selection meeting to ensure this method of nominating is used primarily for overriding a manager that has overlooked a player. This method should not be used as a means of finding additional nominees if managers' nominees are insufficient in number.
- Once all nominations have been presented and additional nomination votes have been completed, all nominees will be placed on the ballots and one ballot provided to each manager. Managers then vote via secret ballot for the 11 (22 if 2 teams are selected) players of their choice, and the two JLL Board Members presiding over the selection meeting count the ballots. The top 11 (22 if 2 teams are selected) vote total nominees are thereby placed on the All-Star roster. If there is a tie for the 11<sup>th</sup> (22<sup>nd</sup> if 2 teams are selected) roster spot, a second vote is held among the tied nominees with each manager voting for the number of roster spots remaining. In the case of multiple ties, the process continues until broken. If the group remains dead-locked, the selection meeting chair will cast the deciding vote.
- At this point, regular-season managers are dismissed, and the meeting chair shares the selection results of the 11-player roster with the elected All-Star team manager(s) ONLY.
- In situations where two teams are entered from one charter's division, a snake draft will then commence with the managers of the two teams selecting players until all 22 are rostered. The objective this selection method is to ensure the teams are evenly balanced. In **no** case will JLL field A and B teams. If either of the two JLL Board Members presiding at the meeting feel the coaches have worked together to draft A and B teams, the teams will be redrafted by the JLL Board.
- Following the final vote to determine the 11 (22 if 2 teams are selected) elected players, one additional player from the nomination list WILL be selected by the All-Star team manager to bring the roster to 12. A 13th player from the nomination list MAY be added at the discretion of All-Star team manager. These 12th and 13th players must come from the list of nominated players during the selection meeting.

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## All-Star Policy - Draft

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- Nominations and votes will not be made public but will be kept by the selection meeting chair in case replacement players are required. No discussion of the selection process or results should be conducted outside of the selection meeting.
- Initial contact of the All-Star team members by the elected All-Star team manager will NOT occur until the designated date listed in the Little League Rulebook, or on the date designated by the JLL Board. Violation of this contact date by the manager will be considered grounds for replacement.

### **All-Star Tournament Team Replacements**

- In accordance with tournament rules, a player may be replaced on the tournament team roster because of injury, illness, vacation, or other justifiable reason as determined by the tournament team manager and division representative. If a player is replaced, he or she may not be reinstated to the tournament roster. A player opting to miss an All-Star game to participate in another non-school sport (i.e. USSSA baseball) may be removed from the All-Star team at the discretion of All-Star manager and division representative. Replacement players will be determined by the next player in line on the ballot (voting results). In case of a tie, the All-Star team manager will make the selection.

If any portion of the above policy conflicts with the current Little League Baseball Rulebook, the Rulebook will take priority.