

# Middleton Little League – All-Star/Post-Season Play Policy

## All-Star/Post-Season Play Policy

This policy is to inform all Middleton Little League (MLL) participants and families the process by which players and coaches are selected, the required commitment levels, and player/parent expectations for MLL post-season All-Star teams.

### **Manager/Coach Selection Process:**

The MLL Board will solicit input from regular season managers and coaches who are interested in coaching a post season team. **Note:** Being a regular season manager is not a prerequisite for being an All-Star team manager (e.g. A 10U manager may be one of the assistant coaches of a Majors team). Once all the names are submitted, the MLL Board will vote on managers and coaches for each All-Star team.

### **Player Selection Process:**

The MLL Board facilitates a fair, transparent, and inclusive selection process for all MLL All-Star teams with the primary focus to continue developing players and a secondary focus to put together the most competitive team to represent MLL for each age group. Age groupings are determined by Little League rules/charts: [League Age Determination - Little League](#).

The MLL Board will issue a league-wide announcement that voting is taking place and that all registered players will be on the ballot for their respective age groups (ages 8-12). **Note:** Parents reserve the right to request that their child be removed from the ballot. Regular season coaches throughout the league will vote and select up to 10 players, per age group. Each regular season team will have an equal number of votes, typically 1 vote for a head coach and 1 vote for an assistant coach. **Note:** The MLL BOD will approve all assistant coaches that will be voting and reserve the right to solicit additional, qualified voters, as necessary to ensure a fair process.

The top-10 vote getters will automatically make the team. The Team Manager will then have up to 2 additional spots or selections for the team. Any player(s) that is playing up a level (e.g. a Little League age 9 who played their regular season in AAA) will automatically make the All-Star team for their given age group and be included as part of the top-10 selections. Any player(s) that is playing in the Majors division is eligible for the Little League World Series (LLWS) / “Williamsport” Tournament team. The MLL BOD will issue final roster approval upon conclusion of the voting and Team Manager selection process. Once the team is finalized and approved, the MLL Board will issue a league-wide announcement to recognize all players who made their respective teams.

### **All-Star/Post-Season Team Commitment Expectations:**

The MLL Board requires all selected players to be available for the majority (>90%) of practices and games. Practices generally begin in mid-June and will occur sporadically throughout the season, at the discretion of the coaches. Games generally begin the last week of June and can continue through mid-August. Families that intend to be away for more than 10% of games and practices should not accept a roster spot. In addition, players that will have conflicts with other sports teams should not accept a roster spot. The managers will have the option to dismiss a player for lack of attendance.

### **All-Star/Post-Season Tournament Rules and Playing Expectations:**

MLL will participate in a variety of local tournaments, as approved by the Board of Directors. Playing requirements for post season play activities are provided by the host of the tournament and supersede all MLL requirements. All-Stars is highly competitive and is managed differently than the regular season.

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Post-season playing time will be based on performance, effort, and attitude. Players will be placed in positions best suited for them and the team.

### **Little League World Series (LLWS) / “Williamsport” Tournament Team Commitment Expectations:**

The LLWS (“Williamsport”) Tournament Team will play at the highest level of competition for youth baseball. District games generally begin the end of June and can continue through mid-August. This level of play requires the LLWS team to work very hard to maximize talents and be competitive. Consequently, the team may plan on practicing daily and scrimmage in the weeks prior to the tournament -- the frequency will be at the discretion of the coaches. This is an immense commitment, and the players are required to make this team their top priority, or they should reconsider their eligibility to not be considered for selection. The managers will have the option to dismiss a player for lack of attendance. This means that family vacations, summer camps, and other out-of-season sports teams (e.g., summer basketball, soccer) should be postponed until at least the completion of the tournament. This includes Perfect Game and New Balance Select Team events, which are not acceptable reasons for missing “Williamsport” team practices or games. The success of the team is dependent on the 100% commitment of all players and coaches - no exceptions.

### **LLWS “Williamsport” Tournament Rules and Playing Expectations:**

All players present will be in the batting order, but there is no requirement to play defensively. Therefore, playing time will not be distributed evenly. These are competitive teams, and the games will be managed to maximize the chance of victory. Players will likely be asked to play positions they did not play in the regular season. It is important that you discuss these things with your player, to avoid any potential disappointment. The All-Star Tournament season begins following the conclusion of the MLL regular season in mid-June and, depending on how well the team does, games could go through August. The tournament starts at the district-level, with winning teams moving on to the Sectionals, then State Tournament, and beyond. Players need to be committed to the team for as long as the team is victorious, potentially all the way to the LLWS in Williamsport, Pennsylvania in August.

### **Parent Expectations:**

Parent participation is crucial to the success of the MLL All-Star teams. Both parents and players should realize that they are representatives of MLL and will always honor and exemplify the principles of Little League. This includes sportsmanship and respect for other players, coaches, and umpires. As parents, we should understand that we are responsible for our attitudes and behavior toward coaches, players, other parents, spectators, and umpires. Unruly and disruptive parents are the single greatest contributor to a negative All-Star experience for coaches, players, and parents. MLL expects parents to be supportive and encouraging throughout the All-Star season and during all practices and games.