

Stilly Valley Little League All-Star Teams Selection Process

The following process was approved by SVLL Board of Directors on 5/20/14 for immediate implementation.

Selection Policy and Basic Overview

As a League, Stilly Valley Little League strives to make sure that the regular season offers as much opportunity to play and experience baseball and softball as possible. The League implements local rules to make for a more enjoyable playing experience for ALL players. Our League has many different playing levels, each geared to accommodate players based on their age and ability of play.

The All-Star Season is a completely separate season from the regular season. It is an opportunity for a higher level of play within the regional Little League system. Players will have a significantly higher level of commitment, will receive a more intense level of instruction and have a chance to compete against other All-Star teams.

When it comes to All-Star teams, it is the intent of Stilly Valley Little League Board to field a team that will **best represent our League in competition and character**. Stilly Valley Little League believes that it is important to have a selection process that is transparent and fair to all kids. All of the baseball and softball players need to have an opportunity to make the team regardless of popularity, school affiliation, parental influence, or Manager bias. The details of all selections shall be held in the strictest of confidence and remain private.

All selection decisions regarding All-Star teams need to be made with these Board and District approved ideals in mind. Several characteristics permeate our selection process for players and Managers for the All-Stars team:

- Skill-level and ability to compete
- Attitude, hustle, team spirit, team leadership, and
- Overall character, integrity, and sportsmanship.

Winning is fun, but it is very important that we remember that Little League is a Child Development Program and that we strive to teach life lessons, while building and demonstrating the positive ideals and characteristics that we hope for all our children.

General Player Selection Process and Procedure

Timing:

The All-Star team selection process will begin approx. 3-4 weeks prior to the start of the All-Star season. The All-Star team CANNOT be announced at any earlier date than is prescribed by Little League Rules each year.

The All-Star practices typically begin in the middle of June when teams are announced. Practices usually run 2 to 3 hours per day and can be up to 7 days a week up to the time of games.

The All-Star tournaments typically begin in late June or early July and may encompass July 4th. If a team were to win the District All-Star Tournament, the team would then move on to the State Tournament (typically late July). The older teams also have a regional tournament and the Little League World Series that take place in early to late August.

Player and Parent Commitments

SVLL is striving to field the most competitive All-Star team possible and assure that it is comprised of Players and Managers/Coaches that represent the attitude and character we desire.

With this in mind, SVLL wishes to involve only Parents and Players who are committed to the hard work and practice time that are required to participate at this level of competition.

The Player and Parent must agree to a high level of commitment to All-Stars. Although the SVLL Board recognizes that many Players participate in additional Leagues and sports, tournament Players must bear in mind that their first commitment is to the SVLL team before any other Non-Little League team or to any other sports camps or sports teams during the All-Star Season. A player's availability will be considered when selections are made.

Number of Players:

Each All-Star team representing SVLL will consist of 12 or 13 Players. In SVLL the All-Star Manager has the discretion of choosing a 13th Player from among those eligible for the team. It is strongly recommended that the All-Star Manager carry 12 Players due to the possibility of significantly reduced playing time for more Players upon carrying 13 players per Little League minimum play allowance. Additionally, SVLL President, or his designee, shall appoint a new Player should the team need to replace a Player due to injury, lack of commitment, ineligibility, or other unforeseen circumstance. Per Little League rules, some Players may be eligible for multiple teams however; an Individual may only be selected or be allowed to practice with one All-Star team.

Number of Managers and Coaches:

Managers will be selected from regular season rostered Managers and Coaches. All-Star teams may only have three adults in the dugout during games: the rostered team Manager and two rostered Coaches.

Teams and age groups:

Baseball:

Seniors Team

The Seniors All-Star team will be made up of players who are League age 15 or 16 years of age and who played in the SVLL Seniors division during the regular season.

Juniors Team

The Juniors All-Star team will be made up of players who are League age 13 or 14 years of age and who played in the SVLL Juniors division during the regular season.

Majors Team

The Majors All-Star team will be made up of players who are League age 11 or 12 years of age and who played in the SVLL Majors division during the regular season.

10-11 year-old Team

The 10- 11 year-old All-Star team will be made up of players who are 11 years of age who played in the SVLL Majors or Minors division during the regular season.

9-10 year-old team

The 9-10 year-old All-Star team will be made up of players who are 9 or 10 years of age who played in the SVLL Majors or Minors division during the regular season.

Softball:

Seniors Team

The Seniors All-Star team will be made up of players who are League age 15 or 16 years of age and who played in the SVLL Seniors division during the regular season.

Juniors Team

The Juniors All-Star team will be made up of players who are League age 12, 13 or 14 years of age and who played in the SVLL Juniors division during the regular season.

Majors Team:

The Majors All-Star team will be made up of players who are League age 11 or 12 years of age and who played in the SVLL Majors division during the regular season.

10-11 year-old Team:

The 10-11 year-old All-Star team will be made up of players who are 10 or 11 years of age who played in the SVLL Majors or Minors division during the regular season.

9-10 year-old team:

The 9-10 year-old All-Star team will be made up of players who are 9 or 10 years of age who played in the SVLL Majors or Minor division during the regular season.

Eligibility:

A team must complete a minimum of 12 regular season games and each Player must participate in 60% of the regular season games. Lesser participation is allowed in cases of injury or participation in certain other Leagues (i.e. school sports).

All-Star Player Selection Process

The process for selecting All-Star teams will involve several steps. The regular season Managers will make a portion of the nominations for the All-Star teams and the selected All-Star Manager Candidate shall complete the remainder of the nominations. The All-Star Manager shall then present the nominations to the SVLL Board, or appointed Selection Committee, SVLL Board does not consider it the Board's role to select the team. The Board will verify the selection process was conducted in a fair manner in adherence with these guidelines and LL rules to ensure the integrity of the selections. Once approved by the SVLL Board, the rosters can be announced based on dates set forth in current LL Rules and Regulations. Once finalized, the rosters are submitted to the District Administrator.

1. Eligibility: Player Candidates must meet the eligibility requirements set forth in the Official LL Rules and Regulations. In general, a Player Candidate must participate in 60% of the regular season games and attend at least one of the preseason tryouts to be eligible for All-Star nomination by the regular season Managers of his/her respective division. This occurs via confidential player ranking by each regular season Manager following a mandatory Managers meeting approx. 3-4 weeks prior to prescribed announcement date of the All-Star teams. Every regular season Manager will solicit all of the Players on their team to identify those that are available and interested in having their name considered for All-Star Player Candidate Selection.
2. Try Outs: When deemed necessary, the Board of Directors can call for Try Outs to manage issues surrounding fielding the most competitive team.
3. Ranking: All regular season Little League Managers will rank the Player Candidates among their divisional peers. Ranking is an independent and anonymous activity. Managers will rank for their division's Player Candidates and for Player Candidates of their same age group playing up a division (e.g. Minors Managers will rank Minors Player Candidates and for any 10 year-old Player Candidates playing Majors).
4. Ranking Tally: The Player Agent, with oversight from the President, or designee, shall tally the votes and create a ranked list of players. The Player Agent, with oversight from the President, or designee, shall tally the rankings and create consolidated ranked lists of Player Candidates among regular season divisional peers (with the exception of 10 year olds who are ranked among the Minors Candidates).

5. Final Eligible Player Candidate Pool: To be considered for placement on an All-Star team the Player Candidate must meet certain criteria: a) He/She must be ranked among the top 18 in the division/age group, or top 30%, whichever is greater; b) concerning the Majors All-Star teams only: 11 year-old Player Candidates must be ranked in the top 6 overall among all 11-12 year old Player Candidates. Any 11 year old(s) not appearing in the top 6 will be removed from the Majors All-Star team rankings and will be considered for the 10-11 year old All-Star team only. The SVLL Board recognizes that 11 year olds could contribute to the success of the Majors All-Star team; however, it strives to balance that possibility with the success of the 10-11 year old All-Star team, and the inclusion of additional 12 year olds in the All-Star experience.
6. Initial Player Candidate Selections: The first 6 Player Candidates, according to tally of the individual Manager rankings for each regular season division, will be placed on the All-Star team corresponding to the team at their age level except as described below. In many cases, a Player Candidate may be eligible for two teams, and the All-Star team Managers of the impacted teams will subsequently sort out the best Player Candidates for the teams with the approval of the President, balancing positions and needs to ensure the best All-Star team configurations. An 11 year old ranked in the top 6 in the Majors ballot is not guaranteed placement on the Majors All-Star team until agreed upon by both All-Star team Managers and the President (or designee).

If it is determined that an 11 year old in the top 6 will not be placed on the Majors All-Star team, the Candidate will be removed from the Majors All-Star team rankings and additional eligible Player Candidates may be added to the pool. (Example: The number 6 Player Candidate is 11 years old and remains on the 10-11 All-Star team. The number 7 ranked Player Candidate becomes the number 6 Player Candidate, and the 19th ranked Player Candidate becomes eligible).

7. Final Team Configurations: After Initial Player Candidate Selections have been completed per above, the All-Star team Manager shall have the authority to select the remaining Player Candidates from the Final Eligible Player Candidate Pool.

Player Candidates are evaluated on multiple criteria including: Performance, attitude, sportsmanship and teamwork. The All-Star teams are completed on the basis of these criteria and on the needs of the All-Star teams (i.e. are their adequate catchers and pitchers, and other key positions represented?). Once all have completed their deliberations and the final recommended slate of Player Candidates for each team is submitted to the Board and President for final approval. The SVLL President shall be involved in the deliberations and shall make the final decision to accept the All-Star Manager recommended roster on behalf of the SVLL Board, unless the President feels that there is sufficient reason to call for a Board meeting to resolve an issue.

8. At Large Player Selection: The Board recognizes that situations may arise where it may be in the best interest of the team and league to select a player outside of the top 18 (or 30%). A Manager may select one player for the team that falls outside the top 18 (or 30%) but must appear on at least one Managers ballot. This player must exhibit outstanding All-Star qualities of leadership and sportsmanship.
9. Confidentiality and Oversight: The process and meetings are facilitated by the League President (who is not eligible to manage an All-Star team) and assisted by the Player Agent. The results (rankings, selection order, etc.), and Manager Deliberations about the prospective Player Candidates, are strictly confidential. Board members and Managers shall refrain from discussing any Manager or Player Candidate rankings outside of nomination and selection committee meetings.
10. Player Candidate Notification: The All-Star team Manager is asked to notify all selected Player Candidates as promptly as is possible, but not prior to the date set forth in the LL Rules and Regulations. This is typically June 15th or 2 weeks prior to the first tournament game.

Manager & Coach Selection Process

The President of the League inquires of each Manager or Coach to determine who is interested in managing All-Star teams. The Manager, via confidential correspondence or conversation, shall provide the President with additional input to be chosen for All-Star Manager Candidacy for each of the teams. The President shall solicit additional information with regard to a Manager's Candidacy and alignment with League ideals should multiple All-Star Manager Candidates emerge.

All-Star Manager Candidate selection criteria and eligibility, per Little League rules:

- All-Star Managers shall be a rostered Manager or Coach during the regular season for the level they wish to manage.
- Any regular season Manager or Coach may "manage down" and manage an All-Star team at a lower level but Managers may not "manage up" into a higher division or age group.
- The League President may not serve as an All-Star Manager or Coach without approval from the District Administrator.
- A Manager or Coach that has participated in another youth baseball and softball League may be eliminated from All-Star participation if their participation in the other League is deemed "detrimental" to League operations.
- Selection as Manager or Coach does not guarantee inclusion of the Manager's or Coach's child(ren) on the team. The players must meet the criteria set forth in Final Eligible Player Candidate Pool.

After the Manager Candidate applications and other input are received, the SVLL Board shall hold a meeting to discuss the Manager Candidates and discuss the President's findings and act upon the President's recommendation to the Board. The President shall seek proxies from all Board members not able to attend and those with direct conflicts in the decision shall be excused. Should the Board not be able to reach consensus, the League President shall seek counsel from the District Administrator and make the final determination on the Selected Manager for each team. The Selected Manager is allowed to choose the 2 Coaches after the Players have been selected, provided that each Coach is a rostered Manager or Coach during the regular season for the selected level (or above) and meets all other eligibility requirements. The SVLL President shall make the final decision to accept the Selected Manager's recommended Coaches on behalf of the SVLL Board, unless the President feels that there is sufficient reason to call for a Board meeting to resolve an issue.