



## Manatee Softball Little League All-Star Tournament Team Process

Participation for a **Manatee Softball Little League All-Star Tournament Team** is a privilege, not a guarantee. Each season, players must earn selection based on eligibility, commitment, and performance. The goal of the All-Star program is to select the **best representatives of our league** and to advance as far as possible in tournament play while upholding Little League values.

We encourage all eligible players to try out, with the understanding that this is **high-level, competitive play** with limited roster spots and specific team needs that vary each season.

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### Mandatory Play Requirements

The All-Star Tournament Team operates under **Little League International rules**, which differ significantly from regular season and playoff rules. A strong emphasis is placed on **merit-based play**.

All coaches, players, and families should understand these differences from the start of the process.

### Little League Mandatory Play Rules:

- If **13 or more eligible players** are in uniform for a game:
  - Each player must participate in the game for a **minimum of one (1) at bat only**.
- If **12 or fewer eligible players** are in uniform for a game:
  - Each player must participate for a **minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs** and bat at least **one (1) time**.

Winning is a high priority during All-Star Tournament play. As a result, players who were dominant during the regular season may experience **reduced playing time or different positions**. While this can be challenging, it is an important developmental and learning opportunity.

Coaches will make all lineup and position decisions based on what they believe gives the team the **best opportunity for success**. These decisions are final.

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### Dates & Time Commitment

- All-Stars (practices and games) typically run from **late May into August**, depending on how far the team advances.
- Tournament teams **may not begin practicing** until All-Star selections are officially announced.
- Teams may practice **four to six (3–6) times per week** leading up to tournament play.



## Player Eligibility

### Tournament Levels by Division

- **Minor B (8U) & Minor A (10U):** District, Section, and State Tournaments
- **Majors (12U) & Seniors (13+):** District, Section, State, Region, and World Series

### Game Participation Requirement

- Divisions must have **12 total games** recorded for the season.
- Players must have participated in **at least 8 of those games** to be eligible.

### Residency & Boundary Requirements

- The player must **reside or attend school within league boundaries**.
- League boundaries are strictly enforced by Little League International.
- Failure to submit required documentation—or falsification of documents—will result in **disqualification from All-Stars and future league participation**.

### Required Documentation

Players selected must provide:

- **Original birth certificate** (returned after tournament play)
- **Three (3) proofs of residency** within league boundaries

These requirements are mandated by Little League International. **No waivers can be granted.**

## Player & Family Commitment

All-Star participation requires dedication beyond the regular season. Only players and families who can fully commit will be considered.

To be eligible, a player must:

- Be available for **all practices** (up to 3–6 days per week), beginning immediately after playoffs
- Be available **without interruption** from approximately **June 1 through mid-August**
- Be **current on all registration fees** with no outstanding balances or missing documentation
- **Attend the mandatory All-Star Tryout** (no exceptions)



- Attend **all required media events** on time

Participation is voluntary; however, families must understand:

- There are **additional costs** associated with All-Star participation
- Playing time is governed by **Little League Tournament rules**, not regular season rules
- Families must agree to **respect all coaching decisions** regarding lineups and playing time without complaint

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### **Conduct Expectations**

All selected players and families are expected to uphold Manatee Softball Little League's standards of conduct **on and off the field**.

Failure to meet these expectations may result in:

- Removal from the All-Star team
- Loss of future All-Star opportunities

These standards apply equally to **players and their families**, as all represent the league during tournament play.

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### **All-Star Team Selection Process**

#### **Player Application**

- Eligible players must submit the required **commitment form** to be considered.

#### **Tryouts**

- Tryouts will be held for each division sending a tournament team.
- The league is **not required to field a team** in any division.
- Tryout dates will be communicated to eligible players who meet all requirements and are mandatory.
- Division coaches and board members will attend to evaluate players.



## Team Selection

- At a date and time set by the Board; Division Head Coaches will meet with the Board to form the team.
- Selection is based on:
  - Current season performance
  - Tryout evaluations
  - League statistics
  - Additional historical data if requested
- If a Head Coach cannot attend, the 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant coach only may attend with **Board approval**.
- Teams will consist of **12 players**, with optional alternates at the Board's discretion.
- The Board can increase the number of players on a team if needed at the time of the Team Selection.

## Team Notification

- Selected players will be notified by the **Board President or Head Coach** of the All-Star team.
  - Final rosters will be announced via **league email and social media**.
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## Coaches & Manager Selection Process

- Current-season Head Coaches (Managers) and Coaches in **good standing** may apply to be considered for All-Star Head Coach.
- Applications are submitted to the **Board President**.
- The Board will select Head Coaches for each division by a date determined and communicated to the league.

## Assistant Coaches

- The selected Head Coach may nominate **two (2) Assistant Coaches**.
- Assistant Coaches require **Board approval**.
- Assistant Coaches will need to have the same commitment as a Head Coach for consideration.



## Board Interview Process

- Candidates may be asked to attend a Board of Directors meeting.
- Candidates must be prepared to:
  - Deliver a presentation of **no more than ten (10) minutes**
  - Answer Board questions regarding their candidacy

## Failure to Meet Commitments

Failure to uphold commitments, attend practices or tournaments, or comply with the Code of Conduct may result in:

- Removal of the coaching staff
- Request for reimbursement of league expenses
- Future coaching restrictions based on the incident

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## Final Authority

The **Manatee Softball Little League Board of Directors** retains final authority over:

- Player selection
- Head Coach and Assistant Coach appointments
- All All-Star Tournament Team decisions

All decisions are made in the best interest of the league and its players.