



## FNWLL All-Star Player Selection Guidance Document

This document helps those managers as they get into selecting players for the all-star teams for FNWLL. This document is not official “rules” for the league but is meant to aid the managers as they go about making players eligible and ultimately selecting them to the FNWLL All-Star teams. Rules are referred to in this document but please read the document “All-Star Selection Process” for understanding of the rules that are enforced for placing players onto the all-star teams.

The following items should be considered when nominating, voting, and reviewing players.

- Watch as many games that are not of your own team as possible for the age group that you are managing. This could be when your game is done early or you have an off day from your own teams and other teams are playing. Every manager knows their own team but the managers who watch the others have a better perspective on the players outside of their own team and are able to adjust their nominations and voting to fill the teams.
- Watch your own game and not necessarily your own players. The players for the other team are the ones that you can gain the most knowledge. Watch how they move without the ball, evaluate their swing, how they run bases, etc. It is not just about getting the hit but who have the skills. A player who gets 4 hits in a game is not an all-star if they are hitting off someone who is not a quality pitcher for that level.
- As you look at the players from other teams (and somewhat your own) remember three things:
  - Ability – Always important – Fielding, hitting, and throwing
  - Attitude – What is the kids’ attitude toward other players, parents, coaches, umpires and especially how is that attitude portrayed.
  - Intangibles – Speed, smarts, quick learner, willing to play out of position, willing to sit on the bench?

During All-star Selection:

- Be ready to discuss your players when an impasse occurs. Remember that your players who are still in the pool typically have some support from other coaches. Be ready to discuss why those other coaches have them in their voting. When you get to impasses in later rounds, it is because each manager sees some different need for the team and they don’t understand how those needs can be met by the remaining players.
- Understand your own players flexibility – Can they play outfield, will the players sit the bench (end of voting selections usually are playing less), are the parents supportive of the player sitting (nothing more destructive than having parents who think their kids are the best – especially when they are not), are they multi-skilled in speed, attitude, outfield, etc. Another infielder is usually not needed at this point and pitchers are almost always on the team so don’t tell the other managers that your players still in the pool can play infield and they can pitch a little – that is not what is needed.
- Adjust your selections for who you think is worthy based on the support that kids are garnering through the rounds. If a player you are supporting only has your support later in the nomination process, look to supporting others who have more when it becomes obvious that other coaches do not favor the player you have selected.

Fraternal Northwest Little League

Midland, Michigan

District 1



- After a couple of impasse discussions, ask the managers what they think the team is lacking. Maybe you are missing what others think should be on the team. Maybe there are others that are missing what the team lacks. Be willing to drop your own players for someone else if they truly can help fill that void. This is about the team and having it filled out with the best cohesive group and not necessarily about is the 12th player better than the 13th player.
- LAST – Do not let coach's/manager's kids shade your discussion for voting. Many players of coaches are better because those families spend more time working on the game but make things equal and consider the skill, abilities, gaps the player, the attitude (player and parents) when it comes to filling the team.