



***Northern Lights Little League
All-Star Discussion Points
For February 11, 2026 Board Meeting***

Forming Teams – KEY INFORMATION

Mandatory Points

- All teams must have at least 12 players.
- Teams cannot be formally selected before May 15th.
- All players must have played in 8 Little League games and all teams where a player is selected must have played in 12 Little League games prior to All Star paperwork being finalized (Early June typically).
 - Waivers allowed for injuries.
- Can't have two 10U teams as the District Presidents voted against allowing that due to scheduling concerns at the Boulder complex.
- [Must follow pending and yet to be finalized guidance from the District regarding how many tournament team players can be put on an All-Star team \(Reg V.d, Tournament Player Participation in Other Programs, Reg I.g\) Reg IV.a Note 2\).](#)

Key Considerations for the Board Based on Feedback Received

- Do we involve initial input from more members of the community including players?
- Do we try and reduce the importance of the tryouts as that might not be reflexive of the player's skills?
- Can we increase the player's actions during the early part of the regular season in the decision making process?
- Can we add attitude/coachability into the overall selection process?
- How best to set clear expectations early on to parents (before selected) that field playing time will NOT be equal?

DECISION #1 -- Options for Player Selections to All-Star Teams

Option #1 – Historical Approach (Based Largely on Tryouts)

In summary, this option in the past included the following input:

1. Input from the information received from Team Managers.
2. Tryout performance (heavily influenced the decision making).

Last year, we asked an appointed selection committee to observe players during the regular season and provide that input so that can be included in the decision making process. This did not happen. No information was provided.

Using this approach, NLLL has historical done the following:

1. Asked Team Managers to provide a list of all their players that should be invited to All-Star tryouts with detailed information on each player they nominate.
 - a. Most Team Managers provided names but only about two-thirds provided detailed information on each player.
2. Asked Team Managers to provide detailed information on players on other teams based on them playing against those players.
 - a. We got responses from less than 20% of these Team Managers. For example, we had 8 Major Team Managers last year and only 1 provided this feedback.
3. Conducted a tryout of all players invited that wanted to tryout and tried to assess each based on their tryout. Over the past three years we had different variations of this including:
 - a. Internal Board members, including Board members of players trying out, helped and assessed.
 - b. Internal Board members, excluding Board members of players trying out, helped and assessed.
 - c. Third-party doing all the assessments.
4. A selection committee selected players based on tryout data scores with some limited inclusion of feedback received from Team Managers in steps 1 and 2.

Option #2 – NEW OPTION – A Spin-Off on Little League’s Recommended Approach – Include All Members of the League in the Decision-Making Process with NO Tryouts

In summary, this option will involve the following:

1. Selection will include a voting system that allows players, Team Managers, Assistant Coaches, Board Members, and trusted Umpires to have input.
2. No more tryouts.
3. This is Little League’s recommended approach (not required). See [HERE](#).
4. Golden Little League uses player voting in their system that counts for a small percentage of the decision making. No-known Little League in Colorado uses this approach in full.
5. This spin-off of Little League’s recommended approach can be implemented in a three-phase option.

Phase 1 – Include All Members of Our Community in a Voting System

1. Each player, Team Manager, Assistant Coach, Board Member, and trusted Umpires each get to vote for up to X number of players in each division by May XX, 2026.
 - a. We likely would want to restrict number of votes for your own team for Team Managers and Assistant Coaches. Can’t just vote for all players on your team.
2. Each player receives a point for every vote they get.
3. Each player at each division will then be ranked based on the number of total votes received.
4. The top 20¹ (maybe less for smaller Divisions like Juniors) for each division moves on to the next phase.

Phase 2 – Team Manager / Assistant Coach Involvement and Reasonability Check

1. All Team Managers and Assistant Coaches get together to review the top 20 players in each division.
2. The first goal is to identify clear mistakes where a player was left off that deserved to be there. If 60%² of Team Managers³ agree to add a player that did not make the top 20, that player is then added for consideration.
3. The Team Managers (with input from their Assistant Coaches) select the top 15 players to move on to phase 3.

¹ Just throwing this out as a number. A different number (especially for smaller divisions like Junior may be needed. Also, need to think for 10U, 11U, and 12U how we break that out and what would a number be.

² Just throwing a number out there. Using the filibuster U.S. Senate number but a different number might be better

³ Team Managers may get input from their Assistant Coaches but Assistant Coaches do not get a vote.

Phase 3 – All-Star Team Manager Makes Final Player Selections and Has One Wild Card Selection Option

1. The selected All-Star Team Manager can pick any 12 of the 15 players provided to them from phase 2 above.
2. The selected All-Star Team Manager does get one wild card selection. Meaning, they can pick one player not on the list of 15 provided to them for any reason and then select 11 of the 15 players.

Option #3 – NEW OPTION – Option #2 with Changes to Include a Tryout Component

In summary, this option will involve the following:

1. Just like option #2 above, except phase 2 is replaced with a tryout.

Phase 1 – Include All Members of Our Community in a Voting System

1. The same as option #2 above except the top 20⁴ for each division will then be invited to a tryout.

Phase 2 – Tryout and Selection Committee

1. Conduct a tryout of all players selected in phase 1 to assess each based on their tryout. Selected All-Star Team Managers would be involved with this but no other Board Members that have their kids trying out.
2. Each player is given a score based on these tryouts.
3. A selection committee, which includes the selected All-Star Team Manager, selects the top 15 players for each division.

Phase 3 – All-Star Team Manager Makes Final Player Selections and Has One Wild Card Selection Option

1. The same as option #2 above.

⁴ Again, need to flesh out the number.

Option #4 – NEW OPTION – Team Managers and Assistant Coaches Discuss and Vote and Then the Selected All-Star Manager Selects

Phase 1 – Team Manager / Assistant Coach Involvement to Narrow Players

1. The Team Managers and Assistant Coaches in the division select the top 15 players in the division to move on to phase 2. They do this through discussion and then they vote based on their observations and discussion.

Phase 2 – All-Star Team Manager Makes Final Player Selections and Has One Wild Card Selection Option

1. The selected All-Star Team Manager can pick any 12 of the 15 players provided to them from phase 1 above.
2. The selected All-Star Team Manager does get one wild card selection. Meaning, they can pick one player not on the list of 15 provided to them for any reason and then select 11 of the 15 players.

Option #5 – NEW OPTION – Selected All-Star Manager Selects the Team Entirely

1. The selected All-Star Team Manager select the 12 players they want on the team.

What Other Leagues Do?

South Boulder Little League

- All Team Managers for that division select the entire team.

Coal Creek Little League

- Held a tryout and then the selected All Star Team Managers would pick the entire All-Star team.

Monarch Little League

- The league gathers coaches' recommendation, Board recommendations, then have a tryout.
- The Board and the selected All Star Team Managers then sit down and select the team together.

North Metro Little League

- Coaches nominate players that are then invited to a tryout.
- Require parents to complete an interest form to ensure they can do all the required travel.

- All Team Managers rate players in the tryout.
- League President and Player Agent selects the All-Star team and then offer the Team Manager spot to the team with the best record during the regular season.
- 25% of players selected on an All-Star team cannot be from a tournament team.

Walnut Creek Little League in California (Provided by Marco Rosen)

- Each Team Manager selects one player to be on the team.
- Remaining players go on a ballot where the players vote and the top six are placed on the tournament team.
- The selected All-Star Team Manager then selects any remaining players needed to get to 12 total players.

DECISION #2 -- Team Manager Selection

Mandatory Points

- League President selects each All-Star Team Manager and the Board confirms (Similar to a Supreme Court Justice)
 - See Article X of Constitution and Board Roles on [website](#) and [Little League International Regulations](#).
- The League President can select Team Managers before May 15th BUT the Board can't formally confirm until May 15th (This can be done via email or TeamReach on May 15th).
- Nothing can be formally announced until May 15th.
- Team Managers selected must have been a Team Manager, Assistant Coach, or the League President in a Division where that age group is played. For example, for 12U that means Major or Intermediate. A Team Manager for Juniors can't be an All-Star Team Manager for our Majors team.

Board Discussion Points

- **Timing of League President Selection**
 - **Option 1 – President appoints earlier (without formal Board confirmation) so these people know they are going to be the Team Manager). This can't be formally communicated out.**
 - **Option 2 – Wait until May 15th for the League President to appoint.**

DECISION #3 -- Assistant Coaches Selection

Mandatory Points

- Same points as Team Managers above.

Board Discussion Points

- Allow selected Team Managers more input into these selections.
 - Option 1 – Allow Team Managers to provide recommendations to League President then League President appoints and Board confirms based on these recommendations.
 - Option 2 – Continue with the previous process where League President appoints and Board confirms with some but historically little direct input from the Team Manager.
- Timing of Assistant Coaches Selections
 - Option 1 – Informally prior to picking players like with Team Managers.
 - Option 2 – After selection of players.
 - CONCERN – Run the risk of a player being selected because they need the parent as a coach.

DECISION #4 – Other Decisions to Consider

1. No matter how the players are selected, how do we best ensure an appearance of fairness (understanding that not everyone will be satisfied and it won't be 100% perfect)?
2. Who will run and assess the tryouts if a tryout option is selected?
3. If a selection committee is needed, who is on that? Outside people like Stan Nerverve?
4. Must plan for an effective communication plan to all families.
5. If a voting system is voted on, it must be secure to ensure no Chicago type voting (vote early and often). Golden Little League has some options for us.
6. Should we consider two teams for the 11U but make one a JV?
 - a. We would need to ensure District allows this. LL rules do not BUT other Leagues did this at 10U level the past two years.