



ALPINE LITTLE LEAGUE All Star and Superbowl Selection Process

Dear Alpine LL Parents -

Every Spring we, as a league, select All-Star and Superbowl teams for this season. To avoid any misunderstandings and provide transparency into the process, we wanted to share with you how it all works.

Background

There are two types of teams for which the league selects players to participate after the end of the Alpine regular season and playoffs:

- **District All Star Teams:** Depending on player interest and talent, Alpine can field up to four District All Star teams, based on age, to compete in the District 52 tournament against the equivalent-age All Star teams of other little leagues in our [district](#). The four teams are:
 - 10U District all star team comprised of players baseball age 10 years old and very rarely 9 years old
 - 11U District all star team comprised of players baseball age 11 and younger;
 - 12U District all star team comprised of players baseball age 12 and younger; and
 - Juniors (50-70) all star team comprised of players baseball age 13 and 14

Depending on the age level of the team, a win in that tournament and future tournaments can mean playing well into the summer, with the winning 12U team eventually playing in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. The time commitment by these players and families is intense and typically involves multi-hour practices several days/week through the run of tournaments, which each can last several weeks/months.

- **Superbowl Teams:** We field two Superbowl teams, one of which has Majors Players (“Majors Super Bowl Team”) and one of which has PCL players (named the “Minors Super Bowl Team” by the District). These teams play in a “Majors Superbowl” and “Minors Superbowl” tournaments, respectively, in June against other “Superbowl” teams in their age level in District 52 (our district). The summer play for these teams ends in

June after the Superbowl tournaments and there are no future tournaments offered for the winning team.

Guiding Principle

While it is certainly an honor to be selected for any tournament team, the guiding principle behind selection for the District All Star and Superbowl teams is to field the team that can best win tournaments and represent Alpine LL, rather than to recognize the best all-around players or the players with the best all-around stats (if they are even being kept) -- more on this below. The District All Star teams are rostered first in descending order of age (12U, 11U and then 10U), prior to players being selected for the two Superbowl teams. Except in VERY rare situations (usually involving injury or illness), players are only on one tournament team.

Time Commitment and Timeline

Participation on a tournament team is a great honor but also a meaningful time commitment. A player CANNOT come and go from the team over the time period. We are restricted by Little League rules and cannot have substitutions/replacement players. Therefore, if your player makes one of the teams it is important that they can commit to the full time period.

Practice schedules are fairly intense for 2-3 weeks, often with 4-5 practices a week. Players not only see improvement in their baseball skills but form meaningful bonds with their teammates and have a great time over this period.

According to Little League rules, team rosters cannot be announced until May 15th and practices cannot begin until June 1st. The Majors and Minors Super-Bowl Tournament usually takes place Fathers' Day weekend.

For All-Star teams, the District Tournament starts the last week of June and lasts until right around July 4th. It is a double elimination tournament and the teams will play until they are eliminated. Please see the [District 52](#) website for Sectional, NorCal State, Regionals and World Series dates as well as to see past winners.

Manager Selection Process

- **Indication of Interest:** In early to mid April, the League will send out a questionnaire to parents asking if their child is interested in being considered for a tournament team. This is not a binding commitment but a chance for the league to get a rough sense for the numbers of kids in each age group interested in postseason play. It also serves as a chance for families new to postseason baseball to gain an understanding of the time commitment as they make summer plans.
- **Manager Selection:** In mid April, a Committee of the Board comprised of the President,

Vice President, Majors Commissioner and PCL Commissioner will convene to:

- (1) make a recommendation to the Board - based on indicated player interest from the questionnaire and talent in the league - which tournament teams to field that year; and
- (2) nominate the respective tournament team Managers. The same Committee will meet with the Juniors Coordinator to determine if an Intermediate and/or Juniors All Star team(s) can be fielded and, if so, to nominate a Manager for that team. The Board will then meet to review/approve the recommendation/nominations. The selected Tournament Team Managers will then choose their own coaches (max 2 coaches per team).¹ The Manager can also delegate the responsibility to choose coaches to the Committee of the Board that recommended the managers.

Player Selection Process

As per Little League Official Rules “tournament [All-Star] team candidates should be selected upon their playing ability and eligibility. The roster should include sufficient pitching strength to meet tournament schedules.” The All Star tournament is distinctly separate from the regular season and is a more competitive level of play. The individual playing ability of the players, player’s sportsmanship during the regular season and the need to pull together a team that can compete in the tournament (i.e. field all defensive positions) will all be factors.

Usually in early May, the “Tournament Team Selection Committee” holds a meeting to finalize the rosters for the tournament teams. The Tournament Team Selection Committee consists of the Player Agent, the Majors Commissioner, the PCL Commissioner, all the managers in Majors and PCL and (if not included in the prior list) the Tournament Team Managers. The Tournament Team Manager is only a part of the Committee when determining the players for his/her own team. He/She does not have input into the other Tournament Teams unless he/she also holds one of the other roles on the Committee. Similarly, the PCL Commissioner and PCL Managers do not have input into the 12U or 11U Tournament teams or Majors Super Bowl team unless they include any PCL players and the Majors Commissioner and Majors Managers do not have input into the Minors Super Bowl team. The 10U Tournament team often includes players from Majors and PCL so it is appropriate for all to be involved.

The Tournament Team Selection Committee meets to review and discuss the list of players who have signed up to be considered for a tournament team. Majors and PCL Managers are asked to candidly make recommendations and share their thoughts as to which players should be considered for selection and why. In most cases, the applicable Tournament Team Manager will already have conducted their own outreach to managers to discuss thoughts on players before this meeting.

Typically how this works is, the applicable Committee Members will submit their lists of the players that should be on each Tournament Team. There will be discussion with the Team

¹ By Little League Rule, the Manager and coaches of the 10U or 11U District All Star team must have been a manager or coach in the Machine Pitch, Minors, PCL or Majors divisions and the Manager; coaches of the 12U District All Star team and Intermediate team must have been a manager or coach in the Major division or Intermediate division during the regular season.

Manager to arrive at the 12 player roster. Importantly, this is a group decision making process of the individuals who have been front and center watching the players all season - not the decision of any one person.²

The teams are selected in the following order: 12U, 11U, 10U, Majors Super Bowl and, finally, Minors Super Bowl. If Alpine is fielding one, the Juniors team can be selected entirely by the team manager and his/her coaches.

This means that one player may be selected because he or she is a strong catcher and the team needs a strong catcher, while another player who is a first baseman is not selected because in that particular year there are more strong first basemen than needed for a single All Star or Superbowl team. This is an unfortunate outcome of the way the District and Superbowl system works and the fact that our league can only field one team in each age group for each. It is NOT a reflection of the value the league places on any player who is not selected.

The Tournament Team rosters may not be announced until May 15th. Practices can begin June 1st.

Fairness

As you can imagine, the league does everything it can to eliminate “insider” bias from the selection process for All Star and Superbowl teams, which is the age range in which kids (and some parents) are most sensitive to being selected or not selected. As examples:

- Only managers or the league officials who must be there to represent the league (Board President, Player Agent and the relevant Commissioner(s)) are permitted to be in the room when selections are being discussed. This is to avoid the opportunity for connected insiders, such as board members or assistant coaches, to attend the selection meeting and “lobby” for their children or to pressure a particular result by their very presence.
- Those present for the selection discussion must agree to make selections based solely on baseball abilities (taking into account attitude and sportsmanship) and the needs of the particular team being assembled, rather than personal relationships, and they are prohibited from sharing the details of the discussion with others not present. This ensures that those present can speak freely and be honest in the discussion, without fear that a friend or one of their children’s friends will be offended by something they said honestly and in good faith.
- Unlike some other leagues, we do not allow any of our tournament team players to be

² The roster size of the team may be set by the District for the 2024 Spring season. Little League International has enacted a new rule for the Tournaments that requires continuous batting order. In an attempt to make competition fair, District 52 may be instituting a set roster size of 12 players and a plan for replacement players in the event of illness/injury. TBD but should be decided in late April.

selected by player vote, as in the past and in other leagues this has turned into a popularity contest, with some kids being advantaged by having more friends in the league than others or with kids from schools who are well-represented in the league having an advantage over kids from schools who are less well-represented, regardless of baseball abilities and the needs of the All Star or Superbowl team being assembled.

Parting Thoughts

We hope this helps to demystify a process that in the past some parents have felt was unclear. If you have any questions heading into this process, please let us know. We or any other board member would be happy to discuss it with you, answer your questions, and take your input for future years or otherwise.

And please remind your children BEFORE selections are announced that they are valued by YOU, by the LEAGUE and by their TEAMMATES regardless of how selections turn out. This is just youth baseball after all!

We anticipate announcing selections sometime in the second half of May.

Jen Sweeney, Alpine President
Drew Allen, Alpine Vice-President
Lupe Garcia, Alpine Player Agent
Bjorn Carey, Alpine Majors Commissioner
Dan McDonough, Alpine PCL Commissioner