



ALL STAR SEASON FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

As the regular season winds down, discussion of All Star teams and post season tournaments begin. This can be an exciting time and it can also be an emotional time. In an attempt to provide clear and complete information, we have prepared this document which we hope will address any concerns. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Board of Directors.

For purposes of this document, answers will apply to Little League divisions only for ages 12 and under. For information on Babe Ruth All Stars, please contact Bill Queen – VP of Babe Ruth.

How many teams are there and who is eligible?

SNB sponsors the following All Star teams:

- 11/12 year old All Star team. This team is comprised of 11 and 12 year olds*. This team participates in District level competition and has the chance of advancing to play at the Sectional, State, Regional, and Little League World Series levels. This team also participates in the Alan S. Bator Memorial Tournament following the completion of District level play.
- 10/11 year old All Star team. This team is comprised of 10 and 11 year olds*. It participates in District level competition and has the chance to advance to Sectional and State level play. This team also participates in the Southington South Invitational Tournament following the completion of District level play.
- 9/10 year old All Star team. This team is comprised of 9 and 10 year olds*. It participates in District level competition and has the chance to advance to

Sectional and State level play. This team also participates in the Plainville Invitational Tournament following the completion of District level play.

- Yalesville Invitational team. This team is composed of players 10 and under. This is an invitational tournament. Teams do not advance beyond this tournament. This team is comprised of a mixture of Major league and Minor league players. Participation by Major league players is limited by the tournament sponsors.

- Forestville Invitational team. This team is composed of players 10 and under. This is an invitational tournament. Teams do not advance beyond this tournament. This team is open to Minor league players only.

How are players selected?

For each of the three District teams (9/10s, 10/11s, and 11/12s) Southington North has adopted the following selection procedure in an effort to give every player a fair opportunity to be selected while trying to field teams that have the best chance to succeed:

Near the end of the regular season, all 8 major league managers and the League President assemble to discuss and vote on players for all three teams beginning with the 11/12 team, then the 10/11 team, and finally the 9/10 team. In addition all the players in the league complete a similar ballot. Each of the 8 managers are asked to evaluate and present pros and cons for all of the players on his or her team that are eligible for the team in question. After all eligible players are evaluated the selection process begins as follows:

1. The 8 managers are asked to vote via secret ballot for the top 9 players
2. The top 9 vote getters are to be given an invitation to play for that team. The players vote is counted in the first ballot as equal to one manager. In order for player in the younger half of the age group (i.e. an 11 year old playing on the 11/12 team, etc.) to be placed on the team they must be voted in this group to make the team ahead of a player in the older half of the age group.
3. If there is a group tied in the vote at the cut-off point a vote is held for that group by all managers to break the tie. These nine are on the invitee list for the team.
4. Another ballot is taken to vote for a pool of players the All-Star manager will be allowed to choose from to fill out the team. This pool will consist of 6 players. If there is a group of players tied for the last spot in this pool they all will be included in the pool.

How are managers and coaches selected?

Managers of All Star teams must be a manager or coach of a regular season team. Any regular season manager or coach may submit a letter of intent to manage an All Star team. Managers are selected by the Board of Directors. The Board selects managers that they feel give the team the best opportunity for success. The manager is not selected until the player selection process above is complete. The selected all star manager is then allowed to complete the roster from the pool of names to complete the roster as he or she desires. Assistant coaches are selected following the final roster selection by the team manager with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Please note that an invitation to the team does not guarantee placement on a roster. The player and family must be able to meet the requirements and responsibilities of participation (see Commitment section). Also note that the only way for a younger player to play on an older team (i.e. an 11 year old playing on the 11/12 team, etc.) is to be a part of this list of top 9 vote getters. This is a confidential meeting, and no player, parent, or anyone not in attendance are to be informed of any player ranking. A player is either invited to be on the team, or not.

Player selections for the Yalesville and Forestville tournament teams are made by the Manager of these teams with input from all Major and Minor league managers.

When are selections made?

All Star managers will be selected by the Board of Directors on June 10th. Player balloting is done on Saturday June 6th under the supervision of the Player Agent and league President. Rosters of invitees are announced on June 15th. Players, parents, managers and coaches of each team will meet shortly thereafter and discuss the responsibilities and expectations of participation. If a player can not make the necessary commitment, that player will be replaced on the roster through the methods described above.

What is the commitment necessary for participation?

Players must be able to commit ***to a full baseball schedule*** through approximately August 1st. Players unable to make this commitment may not be placed on the final roster regardless of voting results.

As you may know, SNB will be hosting the 9/10 District Tournament and The Alan S. Bator Memorial 12 Year Old Tournament at Memorial Park. ***These tournaments require a substantial volunteer commitment, above that which was expected in the regular season, from the families of every All Star player on each All Star team.***

This year, SNB will be following the same policy initiated last year for post season concession stand and field maintenance duties. In years past, the parents of the 9/10 team parents bore the entire responsibility for running the 9/10 District tournament and the 11/12 team parents bore the entire responsibility for running the Alan S. Bator Memorial Tournament. This year, every family of every All-Star team, including the Forestville and Yalesville tournament teams will be required to participate in concession and field maintenance duties at Memorial Park Field for the 9/10 District tournament and the Alan S. Bator Tournament. By spreading these duties over 50-60 families, we can greatly reduce the burden traditionally placed on 24 or so families for these events.

SNB makes a substantial commitment of time and money for post season play. In order to fund for this (tournament fees, uniforms, equipment, etc.) we need the concession revenue generated during these tournaments. It is important that all players and families fulfill their obligations if we are to continue fielding post season teams.

What will All Stars be like?

All Star competition is highly competitive. Expectations regarding commitment, effort, and sacrifice are much higher than regular season play. Instruction will be delivered at a more intense level as well. Minimum playing time in District Level All Stars is one at-bat and one defensive inning per game. This is less than regular season. If you or your child is not prepared for the possibility of receiving minimum playing time, you may want to reconsider participation. All Star competition requires tremendous teamwork, and success is highly dependent on team chemistry. The reality is that the best players will play often, and certain players will be role players. Understanding of this dynamic by players and parents at the outset will be critical in managing expectations and forging a positive team environment.

Other Items:

- Proof of age/residency requirements are very strict for All Star competition. Each player must provide three unique forms of residency (you may not have two of the same type, i.e. two utility bills). Please check the following URL for the list of approved documents, <http://www.littleleague.org/tournamentresources>
- **All District All Star players must present an original birth certificate with raised seal in order to participate – no exceptions. If you anticipate possible selection, please arrange to have this available ASAP.**
- If you know definitively that your child will not be available for All Star competition, this should be communicated to your regular team's manager as soon as possible.

In Closing:

All Star competition is an emotionally charged time. It is a time of joy and also disappointment. All of the volunteers associated with Southington North understand this and are committed to making sure that each child is treated fairly. This does not mean that we can make every child happy however. Parental expectations can also be problematic. Our goal, as always, is the safety and well being of the approximately 500 players that participate in Southington Northern Baseball. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Board of Directors.

Respectfully,

The Board of Directors