

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, State, and Regional level play. This team also participates in a tournament following the completion of District level play the location of which is yet to be determined.
- **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.

*Age as of April 30, 2010

How are managers and coaches selected?

Managers of All Star teams must be a manager or official assistant coach of a regular season team. Any regular season manager or coach may submit a letter of intent to manage an All Star team to the league President. Managers are selected by the Board of Directors by voting after discussing each candidate. The Board selects managers that they feel give the team the best opportunity for success. Managers are expected to make a full commitment to the team for the duration of All-Star play. The manager is not selected until the player selection process below is complete. Assistant coaches are selected following the final roster selection by the team manager with the approval of the Board of Directors.

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:

In order for a player to be eligible, the player and family must be able to meet the requirements and responsibilities of participation, and read and sign the All-Star Commitment Form (see Commitment section).

Near the end of the regular season, all 8 major league managers, the Player Agent, 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 is 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 a 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.

Please note that 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.

The selected All-Star manager is then allowed to complete their roster from the pool of names to complete the roster as he or she desires. Please note that an invitation to the team does not guarantee placement on a roster. The manager must weigh many factors when selecting players to fill the team including health, team chemistry, position need, time commitment, etc.

Player selections for the Yalesville and Forestville tournament teams are made by the Managers of these teams with input from all Major and Minor league managers, following an evaluation clinic held the weekend of June 19-June 20.

When are selections made?

All Star managers will be selected by the Board of Directors on June 9th, 2010. Letters of intent must be received by the league President no later than June 6th, 2010. Player balloting is done on Saturday June 5th, 2010 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. All players and parents who wish to be considered must read and sign the 2010 All-Star Tournament Team Commitment Form and submit it to either their regular season manager or the Player Agent on or before June 1st, 2010. If a player is unavailable for more than 3 days during the period between June 15th and August 1st, 2010 due to vacations or other commitments, the time must be reported on the Commitment Form. These players will not be eligible to be voted into the top 9 players for their respective team. They will be eligible to be voted into the secondary pool from which the manager fills the team. Deliberate misrepresentation of this information can result in sanctions up to and including removal from the team.

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. SNB will be using the following policy for post season concession stand and field maintenance duties. Every family of every All-Star team, including the Forestville and Yalesville tournament teams will required to participate in concession and/or 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 placed on each family 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. This system results in no extra cost to All-Star participants for most All-Star related expenses.

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/Assets/forms_pubs/tournaments/ResidenceEligibilityRequirements.pdf
- ***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.***

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