

ZLL All-Stars FAQ

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How many All-Star Teams are there?

We are able to form All-Star Teams in both baseball and softball. Each team is based on the LITTLE LEAGUE AGE of the players. If we do not have enough players and/or coaches within the age group interested in participating, then we will not have an All-Star team for that level. The chart below explains the teams and ages we can form:

SPORT	TEAM	AGES ELIGIBLE*
Softball	12U	Between 10 and 12 years old
Softball	11U	Between 9 and 11 years old
Softball	10U	Between 8 and 10 years old
Baseball	12U	Between 10 and 12 years old
Baseball	11U	Between 9 and 11 years old
Baseball	10U	Between 8 and 10 years old

*Age is "LITTLE LEAGUE AGE"

Who is eligible for All-Stars?

To be eligible for All-Stars, the player must meet the following requirements:

- Meet the age requirements for the team based on his/her LITTLE LEAGUE AGE
- Attend at least 60% of regular season Little League games
- Prove either residency, or that he/she attends school, within the Zeeland Little League boundary
- Attend the tryout for the team unless the player has an excused absence from the ZLL Board

What are the "Age Requirements"

The "LITTLE LEAGUE AGE" of the player is based on their birthday and a fixed date, which is different for baseball and softball.

- The age of a baseball player is how old he will be on September 1 of that year
 - *EXAMPLE:* A baseball player turning 12 in August would still be a 12 year old for ZLL
- The age of a softball player is how old she was on January 1 of that year
 - *EXAMPLE:* A softball player turning 13 in January would still be a 12 year old for ZLL

A copy of the player's birth certificate will be required to submit should he/she be selected to an All-Star team.

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When are the practices and games?

Once the teams are formed, coaches may schedule practices as they see fit. Because the players are spread out amongst a number of ZLL teams, there may be times where a player has both an All-Star practice and regular season team game/practice. The player should always prioritize their regular season team over All-Stars if there is overlap.

Games are scheduled by the District, which is the entity that oversees the Little League programs in our area. We do not have control over the game schedule. Games start as early as mid-June and as late as mid-July. As long as the team continues to win, they continue to advance in the tournament. A 12U team can advance as far as the Little League World Series. The 11U and 10U teams can advance as far as the State Tournament. These tournaments can go throughout July and August, depending on the number of teams participating.

What is the format of games?

The initial games that teams play in will be a Double-Elimination tournament. The tournament has been in one of these formats over the past years:

- All of the teams participating are put into one big bracket. Teams are randomly seeded in the bracket, and the tournament is double-elimination. The winner is the DISTRICT 9 CHAMPION and advances to the STATE TOURNAMENT.
- Teams are placed into “pools” of between 4-6 teams. There are multiple pools for the tournament. Each “pool” completes a double-elimination style tournament. The winners of each pool then play in a DISTRICT FINAL POOL, which is another double-elimination style tournament where the winner is the DISTRICT 9 CHAMPION and advances to the STATE TOURNAMENT.

With this format, teams are guaranteed a minimum of 3 games. Once the team loses 2 games, they are eliminated from being able to win the DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP. Teams that start off losing their first two games are put into a consolation tournament to get more game experience.

Where are the games played?

The initial DISTRICT TOURNAMENT will be played at a variety of fields. Teams *may* get a HOME game, which would be at Kaat Park for baseball or Huizenga Park for softball. Teams *will* be forced to play in some AWAY games. These games will be at other Little League facilities within our District. This could range from as close to Holland to as far as Rockford, Algoma, and Caledonia.

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How are the players selected?

First, players must sign-up for All-Star consideration to let ZLL know they are interested. This can be done on the ZLL website. Assuming the player meets all of the eligibility requirements, the player must then attend a tryout (unless a valid excuse is accepted by the ZLL Board).

At the tryout, a combination of the All-Star Team Manager, regular season coaches, and ZLL Board Members evaluate the players. Any coach may help with evaluation, regardless of their interest in coaching the team after it is formed. After the tryout, each person evaluating completes a ballot selecting their top 15 players ranked 1-15. Those scores are tabulated, and the top 12 players based on the vote are offered a spot on the team.

Each team must have a minimum of 12 players selected, and a maximum of 15. The Manager will coordinate with the ZLL Board on the number of players that make the team. This will be determined based on the tryout ballot result, assistant coach availability, and team needs (i.e. additional pitchers, catchers, etc.)

When are the Try-Outs?

11U and 12U BASEBALL – Thursday May 9 at 6:00PM at SportsQuest

10U BASEBALL – Saturday May 18 at 2:00PM at Kaat Park

ALL SOFTBALL – Saturday May 18 at 5:00PM at Huizenga Park

How are the coaches selected?

Each All-Star team is assigned a Manager. The Manager must be someone who coached in ZLL during the regular season. If someone wishes to be a Manager, they must complete the application on the ZLL website and submit it to the ZLL President. The ZLL Board reviews the applications and selects a manager. The Manager's child(ren) is guaranteed a spot on the team.

Assistant Coaches are assigned to the team AFTER the teams are formed. Assistant Coaches must be people that coached during the regular season. If a person is interested in being the assistant coach, this does NOT guarantee their child a spot on the team. The players are selected first, and then assistant coaches may be selected by the Manager. Typically, the assistant coaches are parents of kids that made the team that also coached during the regular season.

How much does it cost?

Players that are selected are asked to pay an \$80 fee. This fee covers the cost of uniforms, umpires, equipment, and charter fees that ZLL must cover.

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What does the player get if selected?

Players will be given a jersey, socks, belt, and hat that match the team colors. Softball teams are given visors instead of hats.

What are the playing time requirements?

Playing time on All-Stars is NOT the same as the ZLL regular season. Managers are encouraged to put together the strongest lineup and defensive positioning to give their team the best chance to win. The only playing time requirement is that teams must use the “Rocket Batting Rule” which means EVERY player at the game is put into the hitting lineup. The coach may use “free substitutions”, which means players can enter and change defensive positions as often as the coach wants (the exception being the pitcher).

Therefore, the only playing time guarantee for the player is that he/she will be in the batting lineup. There is no guarantee that the player will play in the field.

What are the playing rules?

The rules for All-Star games are strictly by the rule book. The “House Rules” that we have in ZLL regular season games do NOT apply. Things like run-limits and steal restrictions will not be enforced at the All-Star level. You can download the Little League Rule Book app on your phone to see which rules do and don't apply.