

# WMLL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT TEAM POLICY

(Adopted 3/99, revised 6/04, 6/05, 8/06, 12/07, 1/08, 3/09, 3/10, 3/11, 6/13, 12/13, 4/14, 5/15, 3/16, 7/17, 4/19, 3/20,5/21)

In addition to regular season and WMLL league tournament games played at WMLL, WMLL forms a number of WMLL baseball and softball tournament teams, sometimes called all-star teams, at different age levels as an extra opportunity for spring/summer season players and coaches. Players and parents should recognize that tournament team play is more competitive than regular season play. There is no minimum expectation of playing time for players, beyond minimums established by tournaments in which the teams compete. In constructing line-ups and batting orders and making substitutions coaches will place a high priority on winning. It is recommended that the head coach of each tournament team discuss with each player and his/her parent the player's role on the team.

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## TEAMS

Each season the Board of Directors determines the number and age levels of tournament teams, sometimes called all-star teams, that will be formed.

- **District Teams:** These teams will represent West Madison at the official Little League Tournaments starting at the District level. [Due to WMLL's size, Little League International requires WMLL to be organized into two "separate" divisions – the American Division and the National Division at the Rooke, Minor and Major levels.](#) Generally, there will be two tournament teams, one from each Division, formed at each age level for which there is an official Wisconsin Little League District and State tournament – Minor and U11. For levels at which there is also an official Little League International Regional Tournament and World Series the number of teams is: Major - 2 (American and National), Junior -1 and Senior -1. These teams are designated "District" teams.
  - **Open Teams:** Subject to sufficient numbers of interested players and coaches WMLL may form additional tournament teams, designated "Open" teams. Typically, open teams are considered at all age levels up through 13 years old. In 2021 there will only be one Open team – at the 8U level. No teams will be formed at the other age levels.
    - *To the extent possible, Open teams will adhere to the WMLL Baseball Tournament Team Policy. It is recognized, however, that the circumstances of coach selection and roster formation require flexibility. League Coordinators will be closely involved with Open team coach selection and roster formation and have the authority to take actions necessary to ensure Open teams are formed in a fair and timely manner.*
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## TOURNAMENTS

Each season the Board of Directors determines the number of tournaments each team will enter under official WMLL sponsorship - typically, one for the Senior team & three for all other teams. For District teams, the official Little League tournament is one of these tournaments. [The earliest tournaments typically are in mid-June and the latest tournaments are typically in the end of July. The tournament schedule will be posted to the WMLL website as soon as it becomes available.](#)

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## ROSTER SIZE

Roster size requirements vary by team. Maximum roster sizes are 14 at all levels, except Senior which is 16, as determined by Little League Tournament Rules.

- **For U8, U9, Minor, U11 & Major Teams:** All teams will have 12 or 13 players with the decision on roster size being made by the head coach and League Coordinator with the approval of the VP-Baseball.
  - *13 player rosters will be considered for District teams depending on the impact that adding the player has on the related Open Team.*
- **For U13, Junior & Senior Teams:** All teams will have a minimum of 12 players with the decision on roster size being made by the head coach and League Coordinator.

No alternate will be designated for any tournament team.

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## PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible as a tournament team player, a player must meet the following requirements.

- 1) **National Little League Rule eligibility standards:** Players must meet all National Little League Rule eligibility standards. Please see the National Rules for details.
- 2) **Regular Season Participation:** Eligible players must have participated in 8 of their WMLL team's games (6 for Senior League) between opening day and the beginning of the District tournament in their respective age group (league tournament games are counted). There are only two exceptions - participation on high school teams or for physician documented injury or illness.
- 3) **Residency:** To participate on a tournament team that plays in official Little League District Tournaments, a player must **live in or attend school within WMLL's official boundaries (the Madison West, Madison Memorial & Middleton-Cross Plains high school attendance areas)**. "Out of boundary" players are, however, eligible to participate on the Open teams.
- 4) **Age:** WMLL tournament teams have the following age requirements. Little League age (LL age) is a player's age as of August 31 of the current season of play:

Team	Age Requirement	Team	Age Requirement
<b>U8 Open</b>	LL age 8	<b>Major District</b>	Major League players of any age
<b>U9 Open</b>	LL age 9, excluding any 9-year-olds offered a position on a Minor District team	<b>U13 Open</b>	LL age 13, excluding any 13-year-olds offered a position on a Junior District team <i>When there are two U13 Open teams, they will be selected by WMLL Division</i>
<b>Minor District</b>	LL ages 9 & 10, 10-year-olds must make up at least 75% of the roster		
<b>U10 Open</b>	LL age 10	<b>Junior District</b>	LL ages 13 & 14
<b>U11</b>	LL age 11, excluding any 11-year-olds offered a position on a Major District team	<b>Senior District</b>	LL ages 15 & 16

- 5) **Participation Fee:** Players selected to a tournament team are required to pay a participation fee (see details below). If a player needs financial assistance to participate, they should make a request to the Board through the tournament team head coach.

## PLAYER SELECTION = Voting + Open Tryouts + Roster Nomination + Roster Approval

WMLL now conducts open tryouts for all tournament teams. Even though the tournament team tryouts are open and all interested eligible players are encouraged to participate, WMLL still conducts tournament team voting for several important reasons:

- To satisfy a Little League International requirement that players and coaches have a role in the selection of tournament teams.
- To provide tournament team head coaches with additional information with which to evaluate players
- To provide the League Coordinator and Board President with an objective benchmark for use in appraising roster nominations.

Information on the tournament team schedule, selection process, tryout date and time and sign-up procedure will be publicized at least four weeks in advance of the principal tryout date.

The families of players participating in the tryout must specify in advance if their child will be unable to participate in tournament team practices and all tournament games. Coaches may choose to select players even if they are not available for all tournament team activities.

## VOTING

The voting process varies by league. In all cases voting consists of both player and coach voting on the players they feel are most deserving of being on a tournament team. In player voting, players are allowed to vote for themselves.

The following table provides the details on the number and type of votes to be cast for each league.

WMLL League	Voting by Players		Voting by Head Coaches	
	Team	Division**	Team	Division***
Rookie	Three 8-year-olds	NA	Three 8-year-olds	Twelve 8-year-olds
Minor	Four players (any age) & three 9-year-olds*	NA	Four players (any age) & three 9-year-olds*	Twelve players (any age) & twelve 9-year-olds*
Major	Four players (any age) & three 11-year-olds*	Twelve players (any age)	Four players (any age) & three 11-year-olds*	Twelve players (any age) & twelve 11-year-olds*
Junior	Four players (any age)	Twelve players (any age)	Four players (any age)	Twelve players (any age)
Senior	Four players (any age)	Twelve players (any age)	Four players (any age)	Twelve players (any age)

\* = Voting is conducting using two separate ballots. Players may appear on both ballots.

\*\* = Players may not vote for individuals on their own team in divisional voting.

\*\*\* = Coaches may vote for individuals on their own team in divisional voting.

The League Coordinator tabulates the player and head coach votes and provides tournament team head coaches with the complete voting results including the number of votes received by each player. Head coaches must treat vote totals confidentially, sharing them only with assistant coaches for the purposes of roster selection.

## OPEN TRYOUTS

Tryouts are mandatory and are open to all eligible players - players do NOT need to be invited.

- If a player cannot attend the principal tryout due to a reasonable conflict, a supplemental tryout can be scheduled by the League Coordinator. Supplemental tryouts must be scheduled prior to the principal tryout, although the supplemental tryout itself may take place either prior to or after the principal tryout. The supplemental tryout must be attended by the tournament team coach and league coordinator.

## ROSTER NOMINATION

After the tryout, each tournament team head coach will evaluate the following information and nominate a tournament team roster to the League Coordinator.

- voting by players and coaches,
  - player evaluations by the tournament team head coach based on regular season games,
  - player evaluations by regular season coaches,
  - player performance at the open tryout,
  - player availability to attend tournament team practices and tournament games.
- Players who are "playing up" a regular season league (such as 14-year-olds in the Senior League) are eligible for the tournament team at their respective age level, even though they may not have been included in that league's voting.
  - District teams are selected first, followed by Open teams.
  - Players may play on only one WMLL tournament team each season.
  - District teams who make late additions to their rosters may not select players who have accepted a position on an Open team.
  - If a tournament team player is unable to participate, the head coach may select a replacement player. If possible, the selection will be from the players who attended the tryout.

## ROSTER APPROVAL

The roster will be considered final if:

- **For District teams & the U8, U9 & U13 Open teams:** The nominated roster includes the top 8 eligible players by vote who attended the tryout, and all players are among the top 15 eligible players by vote who attended the tryout.
- **For the U10, U11 & U12 Open teams:** The nominated roster includes the top 6 remaining eligible players by vote who attended the tryout
  - *If the nominated roster does not meet the aforementioned criteria, the head coach is required to meet with the league coordinator and Board president to explain and justify his selections. This group of three will then finalize the roster.*
- The child of the head coach is automatically placed on the tournament team.

## ROSTER ANNOUNCEMENT

All players that participated in the tryout will be notified of the final team roster by the head coach within one week of it being approved.

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## TOURNAMENT TEAM FEES

Tournament team play includes various expenses not covered by the regular season player registration fee, including tournament fees (for up to three tournaments), uniforms (caps, jerseys and socks), and supplemental insurance.

- **WMLL Support:** WMLL supports tournament teams by paying a portion of these costs, the amount of which is determined annually by the Board (30% in recent years).
    - *If a tournament team will be participating in Little League state, regional or national tournament competition at a site more than 150 miles from Madison, WMLL may contribute toward player and coach transportation, meal, and lodging expenses. In these instances, the President and Treasurer will determine if financial support will be provided and the amount of the contribution.*
  - **Player Participation Fee:** Players selected to a tournament team are required to pay a participation fee to cover the remaining costs (70% in recent years). If a player needs financial assistance to participate, they should make a request to the Board through the tournament team head coach.
  - **Add-Ons:** Some tournament teams may elect to offer additional apparel items or experiences. WMLL will NOT provide any funding for these opportunities, which must be optional for players.
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## COACH ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION

Each tournament team will have a head coach (manager) and one officially appointed assistant coach. Additional assistant coaches are optional.

- **Eligibility:** To be eligible for selection an individual must be a current coach in an age appropriate WMLL league. All tournament team coaches must also have a volunteer application and completed background check on file.
  - **Head Coach Application** (for all teams): Interested coaches must submit an application to the Board by the designated application deadline in order to be considered.
    - *Applicants must include answers to the following questions as part of their application:*
      - a) *Why do you want to be a tournament team?*
      - b) *What criteria would you use in selecting a tournament team?*
      - c) *What is your baseball/softball coaching and playing experience and how will that experience benefit tournament team players?*
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## COACH SELECTION

**Head Coach Selection:** The WMLL Board will approve the head coach for each tournament team by the designated selection deadline.

- All coach applicants will be notified of their status by the WMLL Board President or VP-Baseball within one week of the selection deadline.

**Assistant Coach Selection:** After tournament team voting has been conducted, the head coach may select one official assistant coach from the parents of the top 12 players by vote. After the tournament team roster is finalized, the head coach may select additional assistants.

- The Board President and the relevant league coordinator will approve the one official tournament team assistant coach that is requested by the head coach.
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## COACH MEETING

Prior to the tryouts, all Tournament Team coaches must meet with the President to review WMLL and National Little League tournament team policies and procedures. Each coach must agree to strictly adhere to these policies and procedures.