Falmouth Little League All-Star Team

& Selection Process Policy

The purpose of this policy is to define the selection process for Falmouth Little League's All-Star teams, ensuring fairness and transparency. The All-Star teams represent the league in postseason tournaments, aiming to showcase the best players and advance as far as possible in tournament play.

1. Postseason Goals

The primary goal of all Falmouth Little League (FLL) All-Star teams is to compete at the highest level and advance in postseason tournaments.

2. Authority

A. The ultimate authority for All-Star Team selection lies with the Falmouth Little League Board of Directors (the Board).
B. The All-Star Team Manager and Coach selections and process, Player balloting and selection process, Player assessments, and any removals or replacements will be administered by the Baseball and Softball Vice Presidents (VPs), respectively. The results of these processes or any selections, suggestions, or decisions will be presented to the FLL Board as outlined below.
C. Final Board Approval will be made by a simple majority vote of the Board.

3. Teams + Formation

Falmouth Little League will form All-Star teams based on Little League International's league age as follows:

A. **12U All-Star Team**: Players league age 11, and 12.
    a. Some league age 10 players might be eligible for this team at the discretion of the FLL Board.

B. **11U All-Star Team**: Players league age 10 and 11 (baseball only).
    a. Some league age 9 players might be eligible for this team at the discretion of the FLL Board.
C. **10U All-Star Team**: Players league age 9, and 10.

    a. Some league age 8 players might be eligible for this team at the discretion of the FLL Board.

4. Player Eligibility

To be eligible for All-Star selection:

1) Players must participate in a minimum of 8 regular season games, barring exceptions due to injury or illness, which must be substantiated by a medical note.
2) Players must adhere to the residency and school attendance requirements as defined by Little League International; i.e. players must reside in Falmouth, or attend school in Falmouth.
3) Players must complete the postseason registration and paperwork requirements by the deadlines.
4) Players must sign a commitment agreement. All-Star Teams are competitive, high-stakes teams. Players must attend all practices and games, and the All-Star Team must be their top priority from approximately mid-May through early July.

5. Manager and Coach Criteria and Selection

A. **Criteria**:
    a. All-Star Teams allow one (1) Manager, and two (2) Coaches.
    b. Manager applicants must be an active regular-season manager or coach and must have coached at least 8 out of 12 of their team's games.
    c. Coaches must be active, regular-season managers or coaches and must have coached at least 8 of 12 of their team’s games.
    d. Exception: All-Star Managers or Coaches may be appointed out of need even if they have not fulfilled the requirements above. These exceptions will be made by the respective VP with the approval of Maine District 6 LL Baseball or Softball staff.
    e. Practice or specialty coaches are permitted in addition to the one Manager and two Coaches. Any practice or specialty coach must be approved by the

respective VP, and must go through the FLL coach certification process unless they are hired for a clinic style purpose.

f. Managers and Coaches will be assessed based on their Applications, but also on the following: reputation for teaching proper skills and strategies, developing all players on the team (especially the more unskilled players), fostering positive sportsmanship and teamwork and an environment that makes players want to return to the sport, and encouraging respect for teammates, opponents, and officials.

B. **Selection Process**:

a. Managers and Coaches must submit an Application for the position by a predetermined deadline. The application and deadline information will be advertised on the FLL website.
   i. Exception: if there is a pressing need for Manager or Coach positions to be filled, the Application window may be extended by the VP.

b. If there is more than one applicant for a Manager position, the VP will send a vote or a request for feedback to the Regular Season Managers in the relevant divisions. The results of this vote will be taken under advisement by the VP for consideration in the selection process.

c. Team Managers will designate in the Application who their choice of Coaches would be if they were chosen as a Manager.

d. Following the Application window, the Baseball or Softball VP will review all applications and Regular Season Manager feedback, consider the Coach Selection Criteria set forth under Section 2 of the By-Laws, and present an All-Star Manager and 2 All Star Coach recommendations for each team to the FLL Board for Final Board Approval.

e. A VP is permitted to apply for a Manager or Coach position and may be selected for that position.
   i. If there is no competition, the VP may self-select for the Manager position.
   ii. If there is any competition for the Manager position, the other Board of Director Level VP's and the League President will act by agreement to nominate a Manager, and then will make that recommendation to the Board for Final Board Approval. For instance, if the Softball VP applies for the Manager position of an All-Star team but someone else has also applied for that position and has met the criteria, then 1) the Baseball VP, 2) the T-Ball VP, and 3) the FLL President will assess the Applications, send a vote to the relevant coaches in the proper Division, select a Manager, then will submit for Final Board Approval on the Softball VP's behalf.
   iii. The VP applying for the position must not vote in their respective All-Star Manager vote at a Board meeting, but are permitted to attend the Board meeting and vote for other approvals.

f. Any Manager or Coach Applicant who also holds a Board position may not vote in the Final Board Approval Vote for any team's Manager or Coach position if they had applied for a position on that team, regardless of whether they have been selected.
g. Any Board Officer or Director should recuse themself from any vote involving the spouse or family member.

6. Player Selections

A. Timeline:

a. Player selections shall occur after the All-Star Team Manager and Coaches have been approved by the Board.

B. *Step 1:* Interest Forms

a. Players who are interested in playing All-Stars and who are able to commit to the games and practices will be required to fill out an Interest Form by a predetermined deadline. The Interest Form and deadline information may be found on the Falmouth Little League website. This ensures that only those interested and committed will appear on the ballots.
b. Players who have not completed interest forms will not be included on a ballot or in Assessments.

C. *Step 2:* Assessments

a. There will be an Assessment for all Baseball and Softball All-Star team Applicants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. Applicants will be assessed on participation and performance.
b. The Assessment will be designed by the respective VP, Manager and Coaches to assess overall Baseball or Softball competency and skill, and may include assessments of specific skill sets that will be necessary to round out a competitive team.
c. The Assessment must occur prior to Memorial Day Weekend during a date and time that is predetermined and that does not conflict with Regular Season Games.
    i. There will be a predetermined rain date for the Assessment, as well as an alternative Assessment date or individual Assessment opportunity available for those players who miss the original Assessment due to injury, illness, or significant family absence.
    ii. Exception: An Assessment may be skipped if all players will be accepted onto the team, or if those who will be cut from the team will only be cut because of availability and not skill.

d. After Assessments, the All-Star Manager and Coaches (including the VP, other Regular Season Coaches, and/or other Falmouth Baseball/Softball coaches as desired) will discuss the applicants to build their team roster, as outlined below.

D. *Step 3:* 10U Team Balloting

a. Regular Season Coach Balloting:
   i. The Regular Season Coaches will be polled regarding the league age 8-10 All-Star Team Applicants for placement on the 10U.

E. *Step 3:* 12U Team Balloting

a. Peer Balloting:
   i. All *League Age 12 players eligible for the 12U Baseball All-Star team*, and all *League Age 11 and 12 players eligible for the Majors Softball All-Star team* will appear on a ballot that will be distributed to Majors Baseball/Softball players by the respective VPs.
   ii. Players from each respective Majors Division will vote for up to 5 of their peers for their respective 12U All-Star team.
   iii. Up to the top five players who received a majority vote from their peers will be proposed for placement on their respective 12U All-Star rosters.

b. Regular Season Coach Balloting:
   i. The VPs will use the remaining balloted players eligible for the 12U All-Star Team to poll the Regular Season Coaches in the Majors Softball and Baseball Division, the results of which will be provided to the All-Star Team Manager and Coaches.
      1. Exception: If there are two or fewer teams in a Majors Division, the Regular Season Coaches may discuss the matter together instead of performing a formal ballot and vote.

F. Juniors: 14U Baseball or Softball All-Star Teams will be selected in the same way as the 12U All-Star teams in that division.

G. *Step 4:* Final Selections

a. The All-Star team's Manager and Coaches will, by agreement, take Player and Coach Ballots under advisement as they form their team.
b. The Managers and Coaches will select the players for their roster in collaboration with other All-Star Team Managers and Coaches (for example, 11U All-Star Manager should consult with the 12U All-Star Manager to resolve any player overlap), as well as the respective VP as necessary.

H. *Step 5:* Board Approval

a. All team rosters shall be submitted to the respective VP who will present the rosters to the FLL Board with any notes or considerations.
b. The rosters must be approved by the FLL Board before being released to the public or to any players.
c. Sharing of any information before this approval is finalized might result in disciplinary action.

7. Release of Rosters

A. Team Rosters will be finalized and released after Final Board Approval.
B. Player/Parent confirmation of availability should be completed at the application process, or during selections if there are some conflicts. Discussions of availability do NOT mean that a player has made the team and that should be communicated by the Manager or coach having such discussions
C. The team rosters will be officially announced by the respective VP or President from the FLL email.

8. Roster Size

A. All teams must carry a minimum of 12 eligible players, all of whom must commit to attend every game. A team may carry up to 14 players per roster.
B. The roster size will be suggested by the Manager, reviewed by the respective VP, and must be approved by the Board.
C. The VP may increase the roster size with approval of the FLL Board.

9. Time Commitment

A. All-Star teams practice and play a minimum of 4 to 5 days per week during the postseason.
B. A 100% commitment is expected for FLL All-Star teams, barring illness, emergency, or other exceptional circumstances.
C. Each player and parent must sign FLL's All-Star Code of Conduct in order to participate on an All-Star Team. The Code of Conduct shall include behavioral expectations, attendance expectations, as well as any parental volunteering requirements during the All-Star Tournament.
D. Missing practices without prior approval, or missing an All-Star game may result in removal from the All-Star team at the discretion of the Manager and Coaches, with approval by the respective VP.

10. Parent and Player Conduct

A. During the Team Selection process, all Managers, Coaches, and players on the ballot must conduct themselves with courtesy, fairness, and sportsmanship. Any leaking of roster information, taunting or bullying of other players, or other behavior that does not lend itself to the behavior of a good teammate might result in removal from the team at the discretion of the Manager and Coaches, with approval by the respective VP.
B. Falmouth Little League will not entertain complaints from parents about coaching decisions such as playing time, positions, or batting orders.
C. Players are expected to maintain exemplary behavior and sportsmanship during the All-Star Season, with any misconduct potentially resulting in removal from the team at the discretion of the Manager and Coaches, with approval by the respective VP.

11. Additional Teams and Opportunities

A. Falmouth Little League may not form A or B teams, or additional All-Star Teams for the official All-Star tournament.
B. There might be other tournaments like the District 6 Rookies Tournament that players who did not make an All-Star team may join.
C. Practice teams and practice players for the FLL All-Star teams are not permitted.

12. Appeals and Complaints

A. Concerns or issues about the rosters or coaching staff may only be directed at the FLL Board at falmouthmaintlittleleague@gmail.com.
B. Concerns or issues regarding rosters or coaching staff may NOT be directed individually at any Board Member, Manager Coach, or VP.