

West Madison Little League Tournament Team Policies (Baseball)

(Adopted 3/99, revised 6/04, 6/05, 8/06, 12/07, 1/08, 3/09, 3/10, 3/11. 4/11)

Each season the Board of Directors shall determine the age levels at which tournament teams, sometimes called all-star teams, will be formed, and the number of tournaments each team shall enter under official WMLL sponsorship. Generally there shall be two tournament teams, one from each chartered league, formed at each level for which there is an official Little League tournament. These teams are designated "District" teams. Subject to sufficient numbers of interested players and coaches WMLL shall form third tournament teams, designated "Open" teams, at the following age levels: 10 year old; 11 year old; and 12 year old. Subject to sufficient numbers of interested players and coaches WMLL shall also form two "Open" teams for 13 year olds, one "Open" team for 14 year olds, and one "Open" team for 15 year olds. District teams shall be selected first, followed by Open teams. .

Player Eligibility & Selection

1. Players must meet National Rule eligibility standards (see National rule book for details), which require a player to have participated in 60% of his team's games between opening day and June 15. Participation on high school teams will be an excused absence.

2. Age eligibility to participate in the tournament team selection process is as follows:
 - All Players WMLL age 10, and those 9 year olds participating during the regular season in the Pacific League are eligible for the "10 year old" tournament teams.
 - All Players WMLL age 11 playing in the Central or Major League are eligible for the "11 year old" tournament teams.
 - All Players WMLL age 12 are eligible for the "12 year old" tournament team.
 - All Players WMLL age 13 and 14 are eligible for the "Junior" Division District team. 14 year olds shall make up at least 75% of the roster of each Junior Division District Little League Tournament team.
 - All Players WMLL age 13 are eligible for a "13 year old" Open tournament team (exception: a 13 year old who is offered a position on the "Junior" Division District tournament team is not eligible for the "13 year old" tournament team). 13 year old Open Tournament Teams will be selected by WMLL Division.
 - All Players WMLL age 15 and 16 in the Senior League are eligible for the "Senior" Division District team.

Players WMLL age 15 are eligible for the "15 year old" tournament team.

Note: For the above eligibility standards a player who elects to "grandfather" to an older age level, will be considered that older age.

Note: With the exception of Senior League players who move from a "Senior" Division District team to a "15 year old" tournament team, a player may participate on only one WMLL tournament team each season.

3. The selection of tournament team players will be based on a combination of player votes, league division coach votes, performance at a try-out, tournament team coach evaluations from viewing regular season games, and additional player evaluations and ratings as provided by the other head coaches in the league's division. The player selection procedure is as follows:
 - a. Player Division Vote: Except for the Pacific (10 Yr Old) and Central (11 Yr Old) Leagues, players will vote for the 11 players from their league and division most deserving of being on a tournament team. Players may not vote for individuals on their own team for the purposes of this vote. Note: players will not vote in the Pacific and Central Leagues, as many players at this age do not yet have enough knowledge of the other players in the league.
 - b. Player Team Vote: Players vote for the 4 players (6 players in Pacific and Central Leagues) on their own team most deserving of being on a tournament team (separate vote from #a above). Players may vote for themselves.
 - c. Coach Division Vote: Head Coaches will vote for the 11 players in their league and division who they feel are most deserving of being on a tournament team.
 - d. Coach Team Vote: Head Coaches will vote for the 4 players on their own team most deserving of being on a tournament team.

- e. The League Coordinator combines and totals the votes in numbers a, b, c, and d above and creates a list of the top 25 players, ranked by vote, from each league and division. Except for players who will not commit to the tournament schedule, these 25 players will be invited to the try out. An open tryout supercedes the second sentence of this section (see item 4 below).
 - f. The League Coordinator combines the votes in b and d above to create a top 3 list for each team. Except for players who will not commit to the tournament schedule, individuals on the top 3 list for each team will be invited to the try out if they are not already on the tryout list based on e above. An open tryout supercedes the second sentence of this section.
 - g. After the try out, the head coach will evaluate all the information gathered, as noted in Item 3, a-f above, and nominate a tournament team roster to the League Coordinator.
 - h. If the nominated players for the tournament team roster include the top 8 as defined in e above, and all players nominated are in the top 15 as defined in e above, the roster shall be considered final.
 - i. If the nominated roster does not meet the criteria in h above, the coach will be required to meet with the league coordinator and league president to explain and justify his selections. This group of three will then finalize the roster. *Note: younger players who are “playing up” a league (10s playing in the Central, 11’s playing in the Major, 14 year olds in the Senior Lg.) are eligible for the tournament team at their respective age level, even though they may not have been included in that league’s voting as described above*
4. The league coordinator will determine how many players are to participate in the tryout. A minimum of 25 players will be asked to tryout for each age level. With the approval of the WMLL president the league coordinator may declare an open tryout which any tournament eligible player may attend.
 5. The player/child of the head and assistant coach are exempt from attending the try-out. All other players must attend a tryout to participate on a tournament team. Each player involved will bring a written note to the tryout from a guardian/parent indicating any family/individual plans, such as a vacation, that could or will conflict with the tournament. A supplemental tryout can be scheduled by the league coordinator if the individual’s excuse is “reasonable” for missing the original tryout. This supplemental tryout must be held prior to the official tryout and must be attended by the tournament team coach and league coordinator.
 6. Players trying out are not guaranteed a place on a tournament team. The tournament coaches with the advice of the participating Board of Directors – a minimum of 1 Board member will be involved in the process – will make the final player selections. The Board member involved in the selection may not have a child participating. Each league team does not have to be represented on a tournament team.
 7. Roster size. At the 10, 11, 12, Junior Division, and Senior Division levels the District team roster size shall be eleven (11) players. At the 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 year old levels the Open team roster size shall be eleven (11) or twelve (12). At the 15 year old level the roster will contain a maximum of 15 players. Up to a maximum of 15, all 14 and 15 year olds selected to a Senior Division District team shall automatically be on the 15 year old Open team roster for the Reedsburg tournament. No alternate will be designated for any tournament team. District teams who make late additions to their rosters may not select players who have accepted a position on an Open team.

8. If a tournament team player is unable to participate, a replacement player will be selected, if possible, from the individuals who have attended the tryout.
9. A player selected to a tournament team will be required to pay a participation fee, the amount of which will be determined annually by the Board, to defray WMLL's expenses. If a player needs financial assistance to participate, he/she should make the request to the Board through their tournament team coach.

Coach Selection

1. To be eligible for selection an individual must be a current coach in the age appropriate WMLL league. Each tournament team will have an officially appointed head coach (manager) and one officially appointed assistant coach.
2. To be a head coach of a District team or 13 year old Open team an individual must submit a letter of application to the Board. The letter of application should state why the person wants to be a tournament coach, what criteria he/she would use in selection the team and what baseball/softball coaching and playing experience he/she has and how that would benefit the tournament players. After tournament team voting has been conducted (as described above), the head coach may select the 1 official assistant coach from among the top 11 players, by vote, on the list described in part 3, e above. After the tournament team roster is finalized, the head coach may select additional assistants.
3. The Board will approve the head coach for each tournament team and the President and relevant league coordinator will approve the one official tournament team assistant coach that is requested by the head coach.
4. Prior to the tryouts, all coaches must meet with the President to review WMLL and National Little League tournament team policies and procedures and must agree to strictly adhere to these policies and procedures.

Financial Support by WMLL

1. WMLL will pay the entry fees to up to three tournaments, including the District tournament.
2. To purchase jerseys, hats (embroidered with WM and a number) and full socks, WMLL will contribute an amount to be determined annually by the board.
3. If a tournament team will be participating in Little League state 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.

Note.....Clarification for 2011 Tournament Teams: no "out of boundary" players are eligible to participate on tournament teams that will play in official Little League District Tournaments. In essence, this means that players who do not live within WMLL official boundaries are not eligible to participate on District Tournament Teams. With the exception of the 10 and 11 year old OPEN tournament teams, these players are eligible to participate on OPEN tournament teams at the 12 and older age levels (10 and 11 yr old OPEN teams are permitted to play in the District Tournament, thus the restriction for out of boundary players)