

WMLL Softball Tournament Team Policies

WMLL Softball will field Tournament Teams in Minor (10U), Major (12U), and Junior (14U) Divisions. WMLL will field teams in each division for play in two post-season tournaments chosen by the Softball committee. Dates for the tournaments will be announced as soon as they are determined, and posted to the WMLL website.

WMLL Softball Tournament Coach Selection

1. To be eligible for selection an individual must be a current coach. Coaches in the age appropriate league have priority. League Coordinators should notify all coaches of the process by May 31.
2. Interested individuals must submit an application to the Softball Board by June 10 in order to be selected. The Softball Board will forward applications to the WMLL Board of Directors for approval.
3. The application must contain the applicant's responses to these questions:
 - a. Why do you want to be a Tournament Team coach?
 - b. What criteria would you use in selecting a Tournament Team?
 - c. What is your softball coaching and playing experience and how will that experience benefit the Tournament Team?
4. Each tournament team will have an officially appointed head coach (manager) and one officially appointed assistant coach. The Board will approve the head coach for each tournament team. After tournament team voting has been conducted (as described below), the head coach may select the 1 official assistant coach from among the parents of the top 11 players, by vote, on the list described in 3(e), below. The President and relevant league coordinator will approve the one official tournament team assistant coach that is requested by the head coach. After the tournament team roster is finalized, the head coach may select additional assistants.
5. Prior to the tryouts, all coaches must meet with the President to review WMLL tournament team policies and procedures and must agree to strictly adhere to these policies and procedures.

WMLL Softball Tournament Team Player Eligibility and Selection

1. A tryout date for each Tournament team will be set by the Tournament Team coaches and League Coordinator immediately when the coaches are selected. All league coaches will be informed of the tryout date and the date will be posted on the WMLL website. In all Leagues, eligible players must have participated in 60% of their regular season teams' games as of the league tryout date. Absences due to injury will not be considered as an absence if the player, otherwise, participates as a team member. Under National Little League rules a player must actually play in 60% of the team's games. Coaches should not recommend anyone who has not met these guidelines.
2. Players may only try out for Tournament Teams in the league age group to which they are assigned by birth date, "grandfathering," or tryout and draft. (In other words, a player who tries out for and is chosen to "play up" in an older league for the season, in order to balance league numbers, may play on a Tournament Team only in the league in which she actually plays.) A player may play on a Tournament Team in only one league. *Exception: Because the Senior League does not field a Tournament Team, Senior League players who are 14U eligible may try out for and be chosen for the 14U team. Invitations to Senior League players to try out may be issued at the discretion of the 14U Tournament Team coach.*
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: In the Major (12U) and Junior (14U) League, 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 Minor (10U) League, 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 the Minor League) on their own team most deserving of being on a tournament team (separate vote from #1 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.
- 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.
- g. After the try out, the head coach will evaluate all the information gathered, as noted in Item II 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 players 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.
4. The league coordinator will determine how many players are to participate in the tryout.
 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 invited to the tryout 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(s) involved in the selection may not have a child participating. Each league team does not have to be represented on a tournament team.
 7. Tournament Teams will take at least 11 players to each tournament. At the coaches' discretion players may be chosen even if they are not available for all tournaments or tournament games. Coaches will decide how many total players to choose, but a total of no more than 15 players will be chosen for any league's Tournament 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.

Financial Support by WMLL

1. WMLL will pay the entry fees to up to three tournaments, including the District tournament.
2. To purchase jerseys (embroidered with WM and a number), shorts, hats or visors, and socks, WMLL will contribute an amount to be determined annually by the board.
3. For tournament competition within the state of Wisconsin, WMLL will give no financial support for meal and travel expenses. If a tournament team will be participating in national competition beyond the state level, the President and Treasurer will determine a "reasonable" amount that WMLL can contribute to defray coach, player & team expenses.