

## Yarmouth Little League All-Star Program

### Preamble

This process has been established based upon the collective past experience with the All Stars in the Town of Yarmouth.

The All-Star competition involves playing a double elimination tournament with as many as three age brackets of teams (9-10, 10-11, 11-12). Tournament play starts at the District level, with the winner moving on the State tournament. The Yarmouth Program has covered the full spectrum, from some years during which there was not enough interest to field a team, and by contrast, to other years where we have had successive State Championship teams. The reality is that Yarmouth is a small town, with limited population growth and therefore will always be a small program in comparison to many of the surrounding towns in District 6 who we compete against in post-season play. It is also recognized that the focus of the talent pool can change over time.

The premise of LLI that certain pre-determined age groups should be prioritized, potentially at the expense of another group, is not a guiding principle of the Yarmouth All-Star Program. In contrast, if any priorities are established, it ought to be toward recognition of where the talent pool exists in given year and doing what we can not to dilute that talent pool but rather to enhance it.

### Mission Statement

The purpose of All-Stars is to optimize participation, preferably by fielding three teams in the tournament while simultaneously attempting to field competitive teams, whenever possible. The goal is to win and advance.

### Guidelines

- 1 – Keep age groups together, to the maximum extent possible
- 2 – 12 year olds that express interest in participating and have the necessary skills to participate and contribute should not be displaced by a more talented 11 year old. Same logic for the other age groups
- 3 – Any major leaguer who commits to the All Stars will automatically be rostered before any minor league players are considered
- 4 – The All-Star coaches, in coordination with the Player Agent, will discuss players “playing up” before extending the invitation to players.
- 5 – Coaches will have the ability to pull up not more than 3 players in a given year to “play up”. Players will be encouraged to play up if asked, but will not be forced to. The commitment letter will be revised

to eliminate a player's choice to play up or down, but players can reject an offer to play up at their own personal discretion.

6 – Teams will be established from a top-down approach, but not with a pre-determined bias toward any age group. Once the pool is formulated, the 12-11's roster will be established first by the All Star Manager, then likewise for the All-Star Manager of the 10-11's then the 9-10's.

7 – It should be made clear up front that submitting a Commitment letter does not guarantee a player a spot on the roster

#### Process

1 – Establish a pool of players – initially must be done by finding out the interest level and getting commitments

2 – Coach selection – All-Star head coaches will be established by the pool of Managers from the regular season, and voted on by the Board. All-Star Manager will select their coaching staff, subject to approval by the Player Agent.

2 – Establish Team sizes – historically done by All-Star coaches and Player Agent

#### Voting

Though LLI suggests players vote to establish the teams. The following factors need to be considered in establishing the selection process:

1 - We don't know which players are willing to commit in advance. A pool of players cannot be developed until dates for the tournaments are established.

2 - We don't know how many Minor Leaguers will be pulled up, as this is determined by first establishing the 11-12 and 10-11 teams

3 - The fact that in some years we don't have enough players to field a team, and are actually soliciting players to consider All-Stars

4 – In a perfect world, if voting by players were to occur, it would need to happen fairly deep in the season so that players were being judged on a comprehensive body of work

Several of the issues above are significant in that timing is relatively short to pull rosters together, and submit the necessary paperwork. For these reasons, a direct vote by the players seems impractical. It is suggested that final rosters be established by the All-Star coaches in cooperation with the Player Agent, essentially how we have done it in the past.

## Comments on Extended League or “Boys of Summer”

Another option for post-season play is the extended league. The extended league has both minor and major league divisions. The emphasis in this league is on having fun and education, without the strong emphasis on winning that the All-star tournament has. Boys not playing all stars are given priority on these rosters. The extended league rosters are determined after the all stars.