



## A parent's guide to Little League Tournament Rules

Dear All Star Parent,

If your child has decided to participate in All-stars baseball, you have probably become familiar with the stringent application requiring proof of residency and age that go above and beyond what were required during the regular season. This heightened level of scrutiny has evolved because of the more intense level of competition in All-stars and unfortunately a history of teams not playing by the rules. The special tournament rules don't end once the teams are formed; they extend into the management of the team during All-stars tournaments.

Managers are far more restricted in how they can rotate players into the lineup. The rules do not favor making a large number of substitutions; in fact it dramatically increases the coaches' workload in making sure all the substitutions are timely and proper. The practical and competitive effect; some players will play a lot and others will play no more than one inning. Managers and league officials often struggle with the complex rules, but it is important that you and your child have a basic understanding of the tournament rules so there is less chance for confusion or misunderstanding.

Summary of significant rules:

1. There is no batting through the roster allowed. A nine player lineup must be submitted prior to the game.
2. The batting order of each player is fixed once the player takes an at bat.
3. The substitute for a player must assume the same position in the batting order as the player they are replacing.
4. The starter and their substitute cannot be on the field or in the batting order at the same time. The league refers to the starter and substitute as being "married".

5. Not all players will have a substitute. Non-married players are presumed to be permanently in the lineup for the entire game.
6. A team may have a maximum of 14 players, leaving four players unmarried. Most All-star teams carry 12 or fewer players.
7. An unmarried player cannot be removed from a game except for extraordinary reasons such as an ejection or injury.
8. A player removed from the field for an injury cannot return to the game.
9. A player that has been removed for an injury will need to provide a medical release from a medical provider stating they are fit to play before they will be allowed to play in further games.
10. Managers, coaches and players are not allowed to have any contact with spectators or use a cell phone for any reason during a game. A violation can result in an ejection from the game and possible suspension.
11. Pitch counts and rest periods are different from the regular season.
12. If a coach or manager is not acting as a base coach, they must ask for permission from the umpire to leave the dugout.
13. There is only one official scorekeeper for the game and the manager must be granted a time-out from the umpire to talk to the scorekeeper for pitch counts or other scoring information.
14. All substitutions have to be reported directly to the umpire and the scorekeeper before the change can be made.
15. The umpire and scorekeeper keep track of the substitutions to make sure they conform to the batting order and married requirements.

Coaches and managers have to give a lot of thought in setting a lineup to comply with play time requirements and still fielding a competitive team. We hope this helps answer your questions regarding the All-Star team.

North King County Board of Directors

