



# Dundas Little League

Established 1954

**Policy name:** All-Star Policy

**Date approved:** March 2022

**Purpose:** To describe the All-Star program, rules, expectations and procedures. This policy includes information about coach selection, player tryouts, player selection, All-Star fees, tournaments, and parent participation.

## I. POLICY

The Dundas Tigers are a proud tradition in our league and the program is designed for the House League player who is ready for a more competitive level of play. This policy document is intended for any members of our league who are interested in some details on how the program operates. The number of All-Star Teams, if any, will be at the sole and reasonable discretion of the Dundas Little League Board.

## II. TEAM DIVISIONS

There are three divisions that are recognized from which All-Star teams may be comprised in our league:

- a) T-ball (ages 7 and 8);
- b) Minor Little League (ages 9 and 10); and,
- c) Major Little League (ages 11 and 12).

## III. NUMBER OF TEAMS

Depending on how many players attend the tryouts in their respective division, the ages of those players and the availability of coaching, more than 1 team may be rostered in each division. The make-up of those teams may be broken down by skill level or by age.

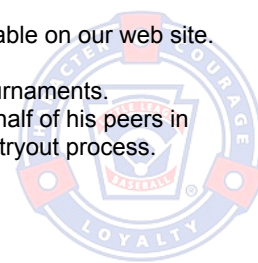
## IV. MANAGER SELECTION

The selection process will be as follows:

1. As soon as possible after the league's Annual General Meeting (which is typically in early October), an announcement will be sent out asking for applications for the All-Star Team Manager positions for each division for the following year.
2. A Selection Committee of at least three persons will be assembled consisting of members of the newly-elected Dundas Little League Board, and possibly other members of our baseball community.
3. A period of at least 14 days is given for any applications to be received.
4. Applicants are notified via email that their applications have been received.
5. Interviews are conducted and the successful candidates are contacted by phone.
6. In the event there is only one applicant, the Selection Committee reserves the right to repost the position for a further 14 days, proceed with the interview of the candidate, or select the candidate without the need for a formal interview.
7. In the event there are no applicants, the Board of Directors reserves the right to repost the position or not field a team for that season.

The Selection Committee may determine their own objective criteria in selecting a Manager in any given year in accordance with Little League International guidelines. However, the following criteria must be considered:

1. Candidates must be an existing coach on any of our House League teams. It is recommended, but not required, that our All-Star Team Managers not be Managers on their House League team(s) to allow them to focus on leading their All-Star Team.
2. They must complete the volunteer requirements defined in our Background Check Policy which is available on our web site. This includes a Volunteer Application, and Criminal or Vulnerable Sector Check.
3. Commitment to avoiding scheduling conflicts with House League and All-Star practices, games, and tournaments.
4. Candidates who also have a child trying out for a select team, should ensure that the child is in the top half of his peers in terms of skill level. This assists in helping to remove any appearances of conflict of interest during the tryout process.



## **V. TEAM STAFF SELECTION**

At the conclusion of the tryouts, the Manager will use their discretion to identify 1 or 2 Coaches, and optionally a Parent Liaison. The judgment of the Manager will be respected and given consideration. However, all Team Staff will be subject to the approval of the League in accordance with our Background Check / Volunteer Policy. The coaches and the Parent Liaison may only be named once the tryouts have concluded and roster positions have been offered.

### **a) Coaches**

Coaches selected must also be coaches on any of our House League teams. They must complete the volunteer requirements defined in our Background Check Policy which is available on our website. This includes a Volunteer Application, and Criminal or Vulnerable Sector Check.

### **b) Parent Liaison**

A Parent Liaison must have a child on the team roster. They must complete the volunteer requirements defined in our Background Check Policy which is available on our website. This includes a Volunteer Application, and Criminal or Vulnerable Sector Check.

## **VI. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

Player eligibility is dictated by Little League International. Essentially, there is an age requirement, a residency requirement, and a commitment requirement.

Parents are asked to consult the team's Tournament plans and if there are conflicts that would result in the player missing important games during the season, they disclose that to the Manager prior to the conclusion of the tryouts.

## **VII. TRYOUTS**

The dates and locations of the All-Star Tryouts will be announced by the Dundas Little League Board in consultation with the Manager. There will be 3 tryouts in each division. Each tryout will last for no more than 2 hours. There is no cost to attend a tryout.

### **a) Manager's Responsibilities**

The Manager is responsible for organizing and conducting the All-Star Team Tryouts. A method of identifying the players (e.g. labels on jerseys) as well as copies of blank evaluation sheets should be provided to any co-evaluators as well as Dundas Little League Board/Executive observers. If asked, the Dundas Little League Board/Executive can assist in organizing this. Prior to the last tryout, the team's proposed tournament plans will be communicated to allow potential Select families to gauge their commitment level required during the summer.

### **b) Player's Responsibilities**

The League may request that any players interested in trying out indicate that ahead of time so that the proper preparations can be made. Players who attend tryouts may not wear any attire (e.g. hats, jerseys, jackets) from previous Select or All-Star years. To be considered for Select Team, players must attend at least 1 tryout. Please note that full/partial attendance at the tryouts is one of the criteria the Manager may use in Player Selection.

### **c) Role of the Player Agent**

If a player is unable to participate fully in the tryouts due to emergencies, injuries, medical conditions or family responsibilities, but wishes to be considered for the team, an appeal to the Player Agent is required to ask that the player be considered. The Player Agent will consult with the Manager taking into consideration any of the Player Selection criteria known to be true about the player.

## **VIII. PLAYER SELECTION**

### **a) Selection Criteria**

The following is the criteria that may be used by the Manager in determining which players will be offered roster positions:

1. Skill level;
2. Positioning;
3. Commitment to tournaments, exhibition games and practices;
4. Attitude and potential;
5. Attendance at the Tryouts; and
6. Player's age

b) Role of the Manager

The Manager is responsible for organizing and conducting the All-Star Team Tryouts. The Tryouts must be conducted in a manner that permits players to be evaluated on as many of the criteria listed above. The Manager will have the primary input into player selections. The ratings of each player and roster selections must be made objectively. Specifically, the Manager must not be influenced by any affiliations with friends, families, religions, or other sports organizations. Within 48 hours of the Tryouts concluding, the Manager will notify each player and confirm whether they have made the team roster in writing. Where requested, the Manager will be available to parents or players to provide feedback about the player's Tryout.

c) Role of the Player Agent

Where a parent or guardian disagrees with the execution of the Player Selection process, they may appeal to the Player Agent, not the Manager. Upon review by the Player Agent (which may include a meeting with the Manager), the parent will receive a response indicating the outcome of the review.

d) Role of Dundas Little League Board/Executive

One or more members of the Dundas Little League Board/Executive will observe the tryouts and selection process and provide input as required. At least one of the Board/Executive Members present must not have a child involved in the Tryout for the particular team.

Where the Player Agent is unavailable, a designated member of the Board/Executive will fulfill the responsibilities of the Player Agent.

**IX. ROSTER SIZE**

Little League teams are mandated to have at least 12 players on their roster for the Districts. District Administrators can waive the mandatory 12-player rule if a league did not have enough players to choose from.

T-ball teams are mandated to have at least 12 players on their roster with 13 being strongly recommended.

**X. PRACTICE ROSTER**

The Manager may choose to identify 1 or 2 additional players for the team as Practice Roster players. These players may participate in the team's practices and be called upon to fill-in for games as needed. No uniform will be provided to these players. However, providing there is availability, a Practice Roster player may choose to purchase a uniform. Full team fees are not collected from these players. However, a per game/tournament fee may be charged if the player is called upon to fill-in.

**XI. PAYMENT OF FEES**

Players who are selected for the All-Star Team roster, are charged a fee to cover

- a) tournament entry fees;
- b) the usage of equipment; and,
- c) their uniform.

a) The Default Fee

The default fee is set each year by the Dundas Little League Board. Prior to the conclusion of the last tryout, the Manager may propose additional tournaments or costs to the Board and seek that the default player fees be increased accordingly. However, regardless of the number of tournaments entered by the team, the default fee will not be decreased or subject to any pro-rated refunds.

After the All-Star Team roster and the fee have been set, the team may choose to enter additional tournaments which, in that case, would be financed by the team on their own.

b) Payment Deadline and Result of Non-Payment

Payment of the fees are 14 days following the conclusion of the last tryout.

No uniform will be provided to a player until payment is received.

In the absence of a successful appeal to the Player Agent for an extension to the deadline, the failure to pay the fees by the deadline will result in the player not being permitted to practice nor play with the team. If payment is still not received after a discussion with the family by the Player Agent, the player will be removed from the roster by the Dundas Little League Executive. The position on the team will then be made available for offer to another player following the same rules defined herein regarding Roster size and the Player Selection Criteria.

## **XII. UNIFORMS**

Each All-Star player is given a jersey, Little League player patch, pants, hat, belt and socks.

The jersey may be loaned and if so, must be returned at the end of the year. The team may make arrangements with the league ahead of time to purchase the jerseys outright at their own expense.

Failing to return a loaned jersey, or returning the jersey in a condition that far exceeds normal wear and tear will be subject to a fee to cover the jersey's replacement.

To maintain the best condition of the All-Star uniform during the season, All-Star uniforms are to be worn during All-Star games only and are not to be worn to All-Star practices, House League games/practices, nor anywhere else.

Unless the jerseys have been purchased outright by the team in advance, no customization of the jerseys (e.g. names on the back) is permitted. Any team who purchases the jerseys and wishes to have player names put on the back, may do so at their own expense, on their own schedule and using player surnames only (i.e. no nicknames).

## **XIII. SCHEDULING**

All-Star teams practice 1-2 times per week. All-Star exhibition games and practices must not conflict with a player's House League schedule. All-Star tournaments are typically held on the weekends.

Below are the standard tournaments available for our All-Star teams to compete in:

T-ball: There are 4-5 tournament options including the Dundas Tournament that will be decided upon by the team Manager. It is Mandatory to participate in the Dundas Tournament.

Minor Little League: The District Tournament, typically mid July is a mandatory tournament. Otherwise tournaments are selected by the Team Manager, it is mandatory to participate in the Dundas Tournament.

Major Little League: The District Tournament, typically mid July is a mandatory tournament. Otherwise tournaments are selected by the Team Manager, it is mandatory to participate in the Dundas Tournament.

## **XIV. NUMBER OF TOURNAMENTS**

The default fees charged to the players of an All-Star team cover entry into a maximum of 4 tournaments, except the District and Dundas tournaments which are covered by the league.

Particular efforts should be made to compete in tournaments hosted by our fellow District 1 leagues (~~see Scheduling~~) since we rely on their support at our tournaments.

If a team wishes to enter an additional tournament, the default fees can be adjusted to cover it, or the team can finance it independently.

If the Board decides not to host our own tournament, that does not provide the team the option to enter an additional tournament within their existing fee structure.

## **XV. FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORSHIP**

Teams are free to raise funds to help finance team purchases or travel tournaments, and may obtain sponsorships. Teams should not approach existing Dundas Little League sponsors without prior approval of the Dundas Little League Board.

## **XVI. DISCIPLINE**

The Dundas Little League Codes of Conduct, and Behaviour and Discipline Policies are in force for all All-Star teams.

The Manager, should they choose to, can implement a progressive discipline policy which allows for 2 warnings if his/her team rules are not followed. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> violation, the Manager may choose to sanction the offending player and this may even include, upon consultation with the Dundas Little League Executive, removal from the team roster.

## **XVII. VOLUNTEERISM**

As with any youth sports organization, parent volunteers are critical. Parents are encouraged to offer their help to the Manager of an All-Star team and assist when asked.

Additionally, Dundas Little League hosts up to 3 All-Star tournaments (1 per division) during the summer. These tournaments are run by the parents of the All-Star team with assistance from the Dundas Little League Board/ Executive. Parents whose players are successful in earning a spot on the Dundas Tigers are required to volunteer to help run their own tournament.

Parents who are unable or unwilling to volunteer, should disclose that to the Manager prior to the conclusion of the tryouts.

Depending on the size of the tournament, parents should be prepared to contribute up to 10 hours of volunteer time over the course of a tournament weekend. This may come during your team's tournament games and may result in parents not being able to watch every inning of their player's games.

### LIST OF REVISIONS

1. Purpose: Grammatical changes.
2. Article I: Role of Dundas Little League Board included
3. Article II: Restructured format and addition of team ages for further clarification
4. Article IV: Creation of new section.
5. Article V: Restructured section including requirement for Parent Liaison to be screened.
6. Article VII: Restructured section. Separation of roles. Creation of Player Agent role
7. Article VIII: Restructured section. Removal of volunteer participation of the family as a criteria for selection. Separation of roles. Creation of Player Agent role.
8. Article XI: Restructured section including wording to highlight preservation of default fees and non-reimbursement of fees paid. Inclusion of the Player Agent role.
9. Article XIII: Updated tournament dates
10. Removal of Fair Play section.
11. Article XVI: Replaced the words "Head Coach" with "Manager"
12. Article XVII: Grammatical changes to first paragraph.