



Summer Baseball

MNLL's summer baseball program provides the platform for players of all age groups and skill levels the opportunity to continue to develop and enhance their baseball skills.

MNLL offers two distinct programs for summer baseball. Our House League program provides organized games and practices starting after July 4th and running through the second week of August. All house league games are held in Milton on weeknights. House league teams and schedules are structured to allow families the flexibility to travel and enjoy non-baseball activities without the anxiety of missing team events.

MNLL also offers a summer travel baseball program. Travel baseball is a program that requires a commitment to the team and strong attendance is expected. Summer travel teams typically play at least two games per week and most practice two times per week. All league games are played during the week although most travel teams will participate in one or two non-league weekend tournaments. MNLL fields travel teams at each age group from 8 years old to 12 years old. A description of each program is found below.

Summer Travel Baseball – Little League Age 8 (“Friendship League”)

Friendship League is the introduction to travel baseball. The league is made up of over 70 teams from more than 50 towns in eastern Massachusetts. The players learn the rules of the game with players pitching, umpires calling balls and strikes, outs recorded, and wins and losses determined.

Each team plays ten defensive fielders (six infielders and four outfielders) and players pitch from a pitching rubber that is 43 feet from home plate (normal Little League distance is 46 feet). Pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of two consecutive innings.

There is no stealing, no advancement on passed balls, wild pitches, or overthrows to the pitchers from the catcher after a pitch. Players on base may leave the base when the ball crosses the plate but may not advance to the next base until the ball is hit into the field of play by the batter or is forced ahead by a walk.

There is no selection process for teams competing in the Friendship League. In addition, there are no participation requirements for Spring baseball. All players that wish to play in the Friendship League will be placed on the team. MNLL usually enters one team in the Friendship

League but if registration allows a second team can be created. Friendship League rules require that leagues submitting multiple teams must form them in a balanced manner. There are no A or B teams in the league.

The league places emphasis on fun, good sportsmanship and fair play.

Summer Travel Baseball – Little League Age 9 – 12

Summer Travel Baseball is a rewarding and challenging experience for Milton National families. The league takes great pride in fielding quality teams at all age and skill levels. Teams are selected in a manner to allow Milton National Little League to compete at a high level within the Little League Tournament. Each age group will have one A team and one or more balanced B teams depending upon the total number of registrants.

The Summer Travel Baseball season begins around the third week of June and usually ends before the second week of August.

9U Teams

Both the 9U-A team and the 9U-B team(s) play in the Suburban Youth Baseball League (“SYBL”). SYBL is a step up from the Friendship League. It is a competitive league in which base-stealing and bunting are introduced and pitchers may pitch a maximum of three innings per game. Each team plays the traditional nine defensive fielders and players pitch from a pitching rubber that is the normal Little League distance of 46 feet.

10U, 11U and 12U Teams

The 10U-A, 11U-A and 12U-A teams compete in the Williamsport Tournament. The 10U-B, 11U-B and 12U-B teams compete in the SYBL.

The 12U-A team competes for the District Championship, Sectional Championship, State Championship, Regional Championship, Little League World Series U.S. National Championship, and Little League World Series Championship. The 10U-A and 11U-A teams compete up to the State Championship Level, with an option to compete in the New England/Regionals if they win the State Championship.

One of the ultimate goals of the MNLL Summer Travel Program is to have a 12U-A team successfully qualify to play in Williamsport Pennsylvania for the Little League World Series Championship.

The 10U-A, 11U-A and 12U-A teams that compete in the Williamsport Tournament are bound by Little League Baseball rules of play with respect to roster size and playing time. The Williamsport Tournament is the most competitive baseball in which MNLL plays. There is no guarantee of

playing time and playing time will be based upon ability. Playing time is also dictated and limited by the roster size of the team.

If the roster size is 10 – 12 players, then there will be some players on the team that will only have one at bat and play only two consecutive innings in the field per game. If the roster size is 13 or 14 players, then there will be some players that will only have one at bat per game and will not play any innings in the field per game.

This can sometimes be difficult to understand for some players. Head coaches will make efforts to explain expectations to each player prior to finalizing rosters. The roster size will be determined by the Head Coach.

The 10U-B, 11U-B and 12U-B teams also compete at a high level, but the coaches have more flexibility to provide more balanced playing time for each player.

A natural instinct for all parents is to want their child to play and succeed. The coaches will use their judgment to make decisions on playing time and positions based upon what is in the best interest of the team for success on the field. Winning is prioritized in Summer Travel Baseball and parents are requested to respect the decisions of the coaches. Our coaches are available to discuss player development and provide feedback in a constructive dialogue.

Summer Travel Baseball Selection Process

To determine the rosters of the A Teams and B Teams it is necessary to evaluate and rank players. When ranking players, consideration shall be given to skills demonstrated in the field, attitude, sportsmanship, and willingness to be coached. The selection committee must put together a team that has the greatest possibility of success in the Little League Tournament.

Candidates for the 12U-A Team and 11U-A Team will be primarily evaluated based upon past performance under real time game situations. Historical game performances are a much more relevant body of work than a tryout or an evaluation that is held in a controlled environment with simulated conditions. However, the Head Coach may choose to hold an evaluation for all or selected individuals if the Head Coach feels an evaluation will enhance the decision-making process and is so warranted.

Eligibility – 12U-A Team

Any player who has played in the Majors Division and has participated in at least 60% of the games during the Spring baseball season. Little League Age 12, Little League Age 11, and Little League Age 10 players are eligible to play on the 12U-A Team.

Selection Process

Head Coach

The Head Coach of the 12U Williamsport Tournament Team (“HC-12”) will be nominated and appointed by the League President and approved by the Executive Committee of the MNLL Board of Directors (“ExCo”). The HC-12 must have a son or daughter that is one of the nine players selected by the Majors Division Head Coaches (see *Players* selection process below). The HC-12 may select up to two additional assistant coaches. All coaches selected must have coached in the Major’s Spring season to be eligible.

Players

The roster of the Williamsport Tournament Team may consist of 12 to 14 players. The number of players on the roster shall be determined by the HC-12.

All Little League Age 11 and Little League Age 10 players that wish to be considered for the 12U Williamsport Tournament Team must declare their candidacy for the team through their parents or legal guardians to the League President. The League President will compose a list of all eligible candidates for the 12U Williamsport Tournament team and distribute this list to each Majors Division Head Coach.

Each Majors Division Head Coach will submit a ballot that ranks the top nine eligible players from the list. The Head Coach cannot vote for a player on his or her team. A player that is ranked #1 on the ballot shall receive 9 points, a player that is ranked #2 on the ballot shall receive 8 points, etc.

After the scores on the ballots are tabulated, the nine players that receive the most points will be invited to play on the 12U Williamsport Tournament Team. (Note: If two or more players receive the same number of points and are tied for the 9th roster spot on the team, then the League President, in consultation with the coaching staff, shall determine which player is awarded the 9th roster spot.) The coaching staff will choose three to five additional players remaining from the list to fill out the roster. The remaining players chosen will be at the discretion of and unanimously agreed upon by the coaching staff. These players will be selected to fill specific needs of the team that the coaching staff deems necessary. The league President, Player Agent and Summer Coordinator will approve all final rosters.

Note:

- 1) Players who make themselves eligible for an older summer baseball team are not obligated to play for that team if they are selected. However, the family must decide

within 48 hours of being notified whether their son or daughter will accept the roster spot or play at the younger age level that they also qualify for. This gives families the opportunity to speak with the head coaches of both teams and make an informed decision for their child.

- 2) Any Little League Age 11 player that is not selected for the 12U Williamsport Tournament Team is automatically eligible to be considered for the 11U-A Team. Any Little League Age 10 player that is not selected for the 12U Williamsport Tournament Team is automatically eligible to be considered for the 11U-A Team and the 10U-A Team.

Eligibility – 11U-A Team

Any player who has played in the Majors Division and has participated in at least 60% of the games during the Spring baseball season. Little League Age 11, Little League Age 10 and Little League Age 9 players are eligible to play on the 11U-A Team.

Selection Process

Head Coach

The Head Coach of the 11U-A Team (“HC-11”) will be nominated and appointed by the League President and approved by ExCo. The HC-11 must have a son or daughter that is one of the nine players selected by the Majors Division Head Coaches (see *Players* selection process below). The HC-11 may select up to two additional assistant coaches. All coaches selected must have coached in the Major’s Spring season to be eligible.

Players

The roster of the 11U-A Team may consist of 12 to 14 players. The number of players on the roster shall be determined by the HC-11.

All Little League Age 10 and Little League Age 9 players that wish to be considered for the 11U-A Team must declare their candidacy for the team through their parents or legal guardians to the League President. The League President will compose a list of all eligible candidates for the 11U-A Team and distribute this list to each Majors Division Head Coach.

Each Majors Division Head Coach will submit a ballot that ranks the top nine players from the list. The Head Coach cannot vote for a player on his or her team. A player that is ranked #1 on the ballot shall receive 9 points, a player that is ranked #2 on the ballot shall receive 8 points, etc.

After the scores on the ballots are tabulated, the nine players that receive the most points will be invited to play on the 11U-A Team. (Note: If two or more players receive the same number of points and are tied for the 9th roster spot on the team, then the League President, in consultation with the coaching staff, shall determine which player is awarded the 9th roster spot.) The coaching staff will choose three to five additional players remaining from the list to fill out the roster. The remaining players chosen will be at the discretion of and unanimously agreed upon

by the coaching staff. These players will be selected to fill specific needs of the team that the coaching staff deems necessary. The league President, Player Agent and Summer Coordinator will approve all final rosters.

Note:

- 1) Players who make themselves eligible for an older summer baseball team are not obligated to play for that team if they are selected. However, the family must decide within 48 hours of being notified whether their son or daughter will accept the roster spot or play at the younger age level that they also qualify for. This gives families the opportunity to speak with the head coaches of both teams and make an informed decision for their child.

- 2) Any Little League Age 10 player that is not selected for the 11U-A Team is automatically eligible to be considered for the 10U-A Team. Any Little League Age 9 player that is not selected for the 11U-A Team is automatically eligible to be considered for the 10U-A Team and the 9U-A Team.

Eligibility – 10U-A Team

Any player Little League Age 10 or Little League Age 9 who has played in the Majors Division or AAA Division and has participated in at least 60% of the games during the Spring baseball season.

Selection Process

Head Coach

The Head Coach of the 10U-A Team (“HC-10”) will be nominated and appointed by the League President and approved by ExCo. The HC-10 must have a son or daughter that is one of the nine players selected by the Majors Division Head Coaches (see *Players* selection process below). The HC-10 may select up to two additional assistant coaches.

Players

The roster of the 10U-A Team shall comprise of 12 to 14 players. The number of players on the roster shall be determined by the HC-10.

Since the eligible players for the 10U-A Team will have played in both the AAA and Majors Division it will be necessary to have evaluations to rank the players and determine the selection process. ExCo will establish the evaluation schedule. At least three Majors Division coaches will participate in the evaluation process. The Majors Division coaches that participate in the evaluation process can be either a Head Coach or Assistant Coach.

All Little League Age 9 players that wish to be considered for the 10U-A Team must declare their candidacy for the team through their parents or legal guardians to the League President in order to participate in the evaluation process.

After evaluations have been held the Majors coaches will submit a ballot that ranks the top nine eligible players. A player that is ranked #1 on the ballot shall receive 9 points, a player that is ranked #2 on the ballot shall receive 8 points, etc.

After the scores on the ballots are tabulated, the nine players that receive the most points will be invited to play on the 10U-A Team. (Note: If two or more players receive the same number of points and are tied for the 9th roster spot on the team, then the League President, in consultation with the coaching staff, shall determine which player is awarded the 9th roster spot.) The coaching staff will choose three to five additional players remaining from the list to fill out the roster. The remaining players chosen will be at the discretion of and unanimously agreed upon by the coaching staff. These players will be selected to fill specific needs of the team that the coaching staff deems necessary. The league President, Player Agent and Summer Coordinator will approve all final rosters.

Note:

- 1) Players who make themselves eligible for an older summer baseball team are not obligated to play for that team if they are selected. However, the family must decide within 48 hours of being notified whether their son or daughter will accept the roster spot or play at the younger age level that they also qualify for. This gives families the opportunity to speak with the head coaches of both teams and make an informed decision for their child.
- 2) Any Little League Age 9 player that is not selected for the 10U-A Team is automatically eligible to be considered for the 9U-A Team.

Eligibility – 9U-A Team

Any player Little League Age 9 or Little League Age 8 who has played in the AAA Division or AA Division and has participated in at least 60% of the games during the Spring baseball season.

Selection Process

Head Coach

The Head Coach of the 9U-A Team (“HC-9”) will be nominated and appointed by the League President and approved by ExCo. The HC-9 must have a son or daughter that is one of the nine players selected by the AAA Division coaches (see *Players* selection process below). The HC-9 may select up to two additional assistant coaches.

Players

The roster of the 9U-A Team shall consist of 12 to 14 players. The number of players on the roster shall be determined by the HC-9.

Since the eligible players for the 9U-A Team will have played in both the AAA and AA division it will be necessary to have evaluations to rank the players and determine the selection process. ExCo will establish the evaluation schedule. At least three AAA coaches will participate in the evaluation process.

All Little League Age 8 players that wish to be considered for the 9U-A Team must declare their candidacy for the team through their parents or legal guardians to the League President in order to participate in the evaluation process.

After evaluations have been held the AAA coaches will submit a ballot that ranks the top nine players. A player that is ranked #1 on the ballot shall receive 9 points, a player that is ranked #2 on the ballot shall receive 8 points, etc.

After the scores on the ballots are tabulated, the nine players that receive the most points will be invited to play on the 9U-A Team. (Note: If two or more players receive the same number of points and are tied for the 9th roster spot on the team, then the League President, in consultation with the coaching staff, shall determine which player is awarded the 9th roster spot.) The coaching staff will choose three to five additional players remaining from the list to fill out the roster. The remaining players chosen will be at the discretion of and unanimously agreed upon by the coaching staff. These players will be selected to fill specific needs of the team that the coaching staff deems necessary. The league President, Player Agent and Summer Coordinator will approve all final rosters.

Note:

- 1) Players who make themselves eligible for an older summer baseball team are not obligated to play for that team if they are selected. However, the family must decide within 48 hours of being notified whether their son or daughter will accept the roster spot or play at the younger age level that they also qualify for. This gives families the opportunity to speak with the head coaches of both teams and make an informed decision for their child.
- 2) Any Little League Age 8 player that is not selected for the 9U-A Team will automatically be included on the Friendship League roster.