

Lafa Tournament Team Policy

2019 8u-12u Baseball All Star Team FAQ

What is the purpose of the Summer All-Star Teams?

The summer all-star teams are an extension of the spring Rec season. It is the Tournament Trail portion of the Cal Ripken League where we select one team in each of the 8u-12u age groups to represent Lafa/Londonderry in the NH Cal Ripken District and hopefully State Tournament. Teams will play in a District/Area tournament and depending on success move on to the NH State Tournament the winner moves on to a New England Regional Tournament.

Who are the coaches?

The Head Coach is picked from current Lafa coaches at that age group. Typically, a Head Coach is picked at the 8u year, and barring any reason to make a change, they will have to option to continue as coach up through the 12u year. Assistant Coaches are chosen with the help of the League Officers from the parents of other players chosen.

How does my child get on the team?

The team is picked via a try-out that is held in May. The League AA/Majors coaches along with Lafa Board Members will run the tryout and be evaluators. They look for baseball ability, as well as attitude, hustle and knowledge of the game. These evaluators will vote based on what they observed at tryouts as well as what they have seen on the field during the season. After tryouts each evaluator will submit their top-10 list. The team roster will start with the 10 kids receiving the most votes for their age group. The head coach's child is number 11. And then the Head Coach will choose 1 (or optionally 2) "Coach Picks" to round-out the team.

What if I can't attend tryout?

If your child can not attend tryouts for any reason, they can be discussed at tryouts and can still be considered for the team as long as we are notified in advance (with a valid reason) and the Evaluators agree based on seeing them play this year that they are a top-10 pick or they can still be a Coach's pick. It should be noted that some evaluators are Lafa Board members that are not involved with the specific age group, so they may not know your child and may not have seen your child play this year. Attending tryouts gives your child the best chance of making the All-Star team.

What does the fee cover?

The fee covers a Londonderry All-Star uniform (hat, shirt, socks, belt, and a pullover item) and also covers the tournament entry fees. The fee depends directly on the number of tournaments the Coach plans on entering.

When does the season start and end?

The season will start with the try-out in May and teams may begin practicing soon after. Tournaments will start mid-June and run through the end of July. It is very rare that a summer all-star team plays into August.

When do teams play?

Teams will typically have a game every Saturday and Sunday during the summer season. Times will vary during the weekend. There is no set schedule for weekday games, but typically 2 evenings (5:30 or 6:00) a week.

How many games will they play?

No exact answer since it depends on success. State tournaments can be from 2-7 games, Invitational tournaments will have a 3-4 game minimum and can be up to 6 depending on success in the elimination portion. So a summer can be anywhere from 12 games up to 20+.

What if we are not available for some time between mid-June through July?

Let us know the details – when you would miss, etc, so the Coach and League Officers can discuss it. This is more competitive baseball and they play a lot of games so we want kids that are committed to playing.

Where are the NH Cal Ripken State Tournaments?

The NH Cal Ripken Commissioners choose the tournament locations each year from the group of all leagues interested in hosting an age group. These tournaments can be in any part of the state from Keene/Swanzey to Rochester. The locations of the NH State Tournaments are posted on the NH Cal Ripken website:

<http://nhbr.website.siplay.com/Site/Tournaments/Cal-Ripken-Tournaments>.

What other tournaments does the team enter?

The coach will enter the All-Star teams into a variety of local tournaments, in addition to hosting our own Invitational Tournament. Examples of tournaments teams have entered in the past: Tyngsboro (MA), Salem (NH), Hollis-Brookline (NH), among others.

What is this about hosting tournaments and requirement to volunteer?

Lafa will put in to host various District/Area tournaments as well as host an Invitational tournament at each age group. The only way to make these tournaments possible is to require the parents to all put in time to help run it. Typically, each family is required to volunteer for 8-12 hours (4-6 games) for the week. Examples of volunteer jobs: field prep, scorekeeper, scoreboard, announcer.

How much travel is there?

Travel is dependent on the tournament locations. Can range from none to Keene or Rochester. Invitational tournaments are typically within a 30-minute drive.

Are playtime requirements the same as Rec?

No. The Cal Ripken District and State tournaments follow real baseball substitution rules – with the exception you can have one “Extra Hitter” in the lineup. The teams have no playtime requirements, and positioning is up to the coaching staff. Some invitational tournaments require a “continuous batting order” where all the players are in the batting order and coaches are free to make defensive substitutions as they choose.