



SOUTHERN YORK COUNTY LITTLE LEAGUE (SYCLL) TOURNAMENT SELECTION PROCESS

Basic Overview

As a league, SYCLL strives to make sure the spring season offers an opportunity to play and experience baseball for all players, by implementing many local rules. SYCLL offers different playing levels, each geared to accommodate players based on their age and ability. The Tournament Season is a separate season. The tournament provides an opportunity for a higher level of play within the regional Little League system. Players that have a greater than average ability will compete in a higher level of play and be required to make a higher level of commitment if selected for the team. SYCLL will participate in the **International and Clarence Boyd Tournament**, only if we are able to field a competitive team. This process may be used for any teams that are formed for games identified as “Special Games” under Little League guidelines.

For tournament teams, it is the intent of the SYCLL Board of Directors to field a team that will best represent our league in competition and character. SYCLL believes that it is important to ensure the process is transparent and fair to all kids. All baseball players need to have an opportunity to make the team regardless of popularity, school affiliation, parental influence, or manager prejudice. For those that are not selected for the team, the details regarding their candidacy shall be held in the strictest of confidence.

All selection decisions regarding the teams will be made with Board and District ideals in mind. Several characteristics permeate our selection process for players and managers for the tournament team:

- ✓ Skill-level and ability to compete
- ✓ Attitude, team spirit, team leadership, and
- ✓ Overall character, integrity, and sportsmanship.

Winning is fun, but it is very important that we remember Little League is a Child Development Program and that we teach life lessons; building and demonstrating the positive ideals and characteristics that we hope for all our children.

General Selection Process and Procedure

Timing

International - Tournament Team may begin practices on June 1st, once a week with the approval of the SYCLL Board of Directors, only after the roster has been finalized and released. Once the spring season has concluded, including the Tournament of Champions, practices may start. The International Tournament usually begins on or around June 20th and can last until late August. If a team were to win the District, the team would then move on to the State Tournament (typically late July). Parents/players are reminded to be flexible as games can be rescheduled at any time with short notice. The ability to travel is required.

Clarence Boyd - Tournament Team selection process will begin after the International Tournament Team is announced. Once the spring season has concluded, including the Tournament of Champions, practices may start. The Clarence Boyd Tournament usually begins on or around July 15th and can last until the end

of July. Parents/players are reminded to be flexible as games can be rescheduled at any time with short notice. The ability to travel is required.

Entry of Teams

Little League International Tournament

1. 12/13 (aka "Intermediate") Team --Selected from 12 & 13 year old players.
 - ✓ Practice Time: 2 hours per day, up to 5 days a week
2. Little League (aka "12 year old") Team --Selected from 11 & 12 year old players.
 - ✓ Practice Time: 2 hours per day, up to 5 days a week
3. 9/10 Year Old (aka "10 year old") Team--Selected from 9 & 10 year old players.
 - ✓ Practice Time: 1.5 hours per day, up to 4 days a week

Little League District Run Tournament (Clarence Boyd)

1. Little League (aka "12 year old") Team --Selected from 11 & 12 year old players.
 - ✓ Practice Time: 2 hours per day, up to 5 days a week
2. 9/10 Year Old (aka "10 year old") Team--Selected from 9 & 10 year old players.
 - ✓ Practice Time: 1.5 hours per day, up to 4 days a week
3. 7/8 Year Old (aka "8 year old") Team--Selected from 7 & 8 year old players. This will be player pitch only.
 - ✓ Practice Time: 1.5 hours per day, up to 3 days a week

NOTE: Once the tournament starts practices will only be held once a week. Managers shall closely monitor all players, specifically pitchers to ensure pitching counts are up held per Little League Rules.

The District 14 Administrator, in conjunction with the SYCLL President and SYCLL Board of Directors will determine the number of teams that will be entered.

Number of Players

Team size will be determined using total amount of players submitted for consideration. Tournament team rosters will consist of no less than 12 and no more than 14 players. Additionally, the SYCLL Board of Directors shall appoint a new player should the team need to replace a player due to injury, lack of commitment, ineligibility, or other unforeseen circumstance. Per Little League rules, some players may be eligible for multiple teams however; an individual may only be selected or be allowed to participate with one tournament team.

Note: If the selection process results in a roster less than the required amount, a team will not be formed for that age group.

Playing Time

The rules for mandatory play in the tournament are governed by Little League International. The rules are substantially different from those that govern SYCLL regular season, playoffs, and Tournament of Champions play. The rules are as follows:

1. If a tournament team has thirteen (13) or more eligible players in uniform at a game, then every player on a team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of one (1) at bat.
2. If a tournament team has twelve (12) or fewer eligible players in uniform at a game, then every player on the team roster shall participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time.

Tournament play is the one SYCLL activity where winning takes a very high priority. This focus on success, when coupled with the mandatory play rules noted above, can result in players who, while dominant on their regular season team, suddenly find they spend significant game time on the bench, or play unfamiliar positions. While these are excellent learning and emotional growth opportunities for players and parents, some are surprised and disappointed when it happens to them.

Managers should communicate with each player and parent before the tournament to prepare them for the difference in approach and the fact that not all players will get the playing time that they desire. While coaches should endeavor to give each player an opportunity to demonstrate their ability during the tournament, players and parents should recognize that the coaches' view as to the best approach for team success will control the decision-making process.

Tournament Player Eligibility

1. All players must have played in at least 60 percent of their regular season games, per Little League tournament rules. Players not meeting this criterion are ineligible for tournament play.
2. Selected players must provide three (3) forms of documentation (bills must have a date of Feb 1st or later) establishing residency in the SYCLL jurisdiction upon accepting an offer on the tournament team.
3. Players must have unrestricted availability for the tournament dates set forth by the District 14 Administrator for the appropriate team which they are selected and must be available for at least 80 percent of any practices that are conducted prior to the tournament start. If a player cannot meet these commitments, he/she will be ineligible for tournament consideration. Parents must attest to the player's availability prior to acceptance.
4. The player and parent commitment to the team must be a solid commitment. Tournament players must bear in mind that their first commitment is to the SYCLL team before any other Non-Little League team or to any other sports camps or sports teams during tournament season.
5. Any player that is placed on a tournament roster and then no longer participates on that team after the first practice, unless participation is limited by injury, may be ineligible for consideration in the following season's tournament play at the coaches' discretion.

Player Selection Process

1. Each Manager is required to recommend players from their teams' available player list for consideration as a tournament representative. Positions for these players should be presented at this time as detailed in form provided.
2. The applicable player agent will compile the statistics from the managers and create a tournament ballot. The son/daughter of Tournament Manager will not be included on the list, as he/she is automatically assigned to the roster.
3. Each Manager will complete a tournament ballot ranking candidates in the order of consideration. The highest ranking player should be listed first on the ballot. Managers must fill out all ballot spots.
4. The applicable player agent and the Vice President of Operations will collect and tally the roster ballots based on rankings.
5. The top six (6) players in point totals will automatically be placed on the International Tournament Team. Those players will be placed on a list in alphabetical order, with positions listed and point assignment and given to the International Tournament Team Manager.
6. The remaining players will be placed on a list in alphabetical order, with positions listed and point assignment and given to the International Tournament Team Manager for selection of the remaining players to complete the roster. The Tournament Team Manager will have 24 hours to select the remaining players. Once the roster is complete the Manager and/or the Player Agent

will contact the selected players via email and allow them 24 hours to respond and accept the placement on the roster. If a response is not received the Manager and/or Player Agent will follow up with a phone call to ensure the email was received.

7. Parents/players will be notified of their placement on the tournament teams of the first day Little League allows.
8. Once the International Tournament Team Roster is complete, the same process will be followed in relation to the Clarence Boyd Tournament team selection from the remaining players on the original tournament ballot.
9. The above procedures will be followed for every Tournament Team SYCLL forms.

Note: If a selected player is unable to participate, a runner up will be contacted.

Financial Obligation/Fees

SYCLL covers most tournament, uniform and equipment fees. Each player will be assessed a fee to be determined by the Board of Directors once all tournament costs are identified. These costs provide additional financial support to the overall Tournament experience.

Manager / Coaching Staff Selection (Completed by May 15th if possible)

1. **Only the Tournament Team Manager will be selected prior to the players. The President, Vice President of Administration, Vice President of Operations and applicable Player Agent will establish a list of managers for the tournament team(s). The President shall solicit additional information with regard to a manager's candidacy and alignment with league ideals if deemed necessary. It will be SYCLL Board of Director's decision to vote and decide on who manages the team(s).**
2. Tournament Manager does not need to have a child in the division, or if he has a child, the child must be a tournament caliber player.
3. To be eligible for Tournament Manager you must have served as a Manager or Coach (1st or 2nd Assistant) during the regular season for a higher division or the division you wish to manage.
4. Manager must have successfully completed the Positive Coaching Alliance training by opening day of the regular season.
5. After the determination of the roster has been made, the remaining tournament coaching staff will be selected. The process for selecting the coaching staff will be as follows:
 - i. First and foremost, any candidate, including the team manager that desires to be a member of the tournament coaching staff must be able to represent SYCLL positively.
 - ii. Any coach who has had player or parental concerns *expressed and validated* by any league official concerning their coaching mannerism and behavior on the field during the regular season is ineligible to coach in the post season.
 - iii. Regular season team performance will have no bearing on selection to the tournament team manager or coaching staff.
 - iv. Selection is made based on availability, previous tournament and/or regular season experience, overall involvement with SYCLL, overall baseball knowledge and demeanor while on the field.
 - v. The selection of the tournament coaching staff will be made by the SYCLL President and Tournament Team Manager.
 - vi. The selection of the tournament team coaching staff must be approved by the SYCLL Board of Directors, prior to the announcement of the coaching staff.

Note: An eligibility list of all managers and coaches will be established in order of preference by a majority vote in case the selected manager/coach does not accept the position.

Tournament Parent /Guardian Agreement

Parents/Guardians of the tournament player need to provide approval for the player to be eligible for the selection process, agree to participate in any and all tournament and pre-tournament activities, and agree to make the player available for practices, games, and tournament activities throughout the tournament, and every tournament level thereafter that the player's team advances. If the child becomes unavailable for any reason other than short-term illness or injury resulting from tournament activity, their position on the team will be forfeited.

1. **The parent agrees to NOT schedule, or have plans for vacation or other activities, that will interfere with the child's ability to attend practices, games and other activities during the tournament period.**
2. If selected to a tournament team, the parent also agrees to make available their child's official Birth Certificate and required residency documents required by Little League International to verify residency within the boundaries of SYCLL.

This **TOURNAMENT SELECTION PROCESS** was approved by SYC Little League Board of Directors on October 20, 2016

President's Name: Timothy R. Perry

President's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Little League ID No. 305069