

## DISTRICT TOURNAMENT TEAMS AND MANAGER SELECTION

Each year during the summer, beginning in June and continuing through mid-August, Little League International hosts the Little League World Championship tournament. Each domestic U.S. Little League chartered league may enter one team into the World Championship tournament competition, which for the League begins with a Texas District 16 District Championship Tournament in a double-elimination format. The winner of the Texas District 16 championship advances to a Texas sectional championship, the winner of which advances to the Texas State championship, the winner of which advances to the U.S. Southwest Regional Championship, the winner of which advances on to the Little League World Series tournament.

League International has also added similar official sanctioned tournaments for an "11 and under" classification and a "10 and under" classification, each of which ends at the State level. Texas District 16 also holds a similar double-elimination tournament for a "9 and under" classification, which ends at the District 16 level. While each of the tournaments imposes minimum player participation rules, there is no assurance that even if a player is named to the team he/she will play more than the required minimum.

Under Little League Tournament rules, players league age 9-12 may play on the 12 and under District Tournament team, players league age 9-11 may play on the 11 and under District Tournament team, and players league age 9-10 may play on the 10 and under District Tournament team. Only players league age 9 may play on the 9-yr-old District Tournament team.

While it is a great honor to be selected as a member of one of the League's District Tournament teams, the player and his/her family must make a significant commitment of additional time and effort to participate. The Tournament Team season ends when the team is eliminated from the tournament competition. For the 9 year old competition, tournament play could continue through completion of the District Tournament, usually completed by the third week in June. For the 10 and 11 year old competitions, tournament play could continue through the completion of the State Tournament, usually scheduled in late July. For the Majors Division International Tournament, tournament play could continue through completion of the Little League World Series in mid-August.

At a minimum, each player selected to a Tournament Team is required to attend all practices and games played by the team. Upon the announcement of a Tournament Team, players practice daily for approximately two to three hours and play in district tournament games (at least two games) beginning in June. With the exception of illness, each player is required to attend all team activities; no exceptions are made. Accordingly, the families of prospective applicants must arrange both their family schedule and the child's prospective summer schedule to provide complete availability to participate in the team's practices and games, otherwise the child should not tender an application to be considered for the team. The applicant and his/her parents must certify to the League, by signing a player application, that the child will be available for, among other things, all tournament team practices and games. By signing the application players also certify that they will not participate in any other non-Little League youth baseball after the announcement of the District Tournament team and continuing through the date on which the team is eliminated from the tournament competition.

Tournament Team managers are selected by the District Tournament Team Selection Committee from a pool of manager candidates who have declared their interest in being considered for a District Tournament Team manager position. Tournament Team players are selected from a pool of players who have indicated their interest to be considered for a position on the League's age-level appropriate District Tournament Team. Each potential candidate indicates their desire to be considered for a position on a

team by signing and delivering the League form of District Tournament Team Player Application to the player's League Representative, the Player Agent, or the League President.

Players are chosen for a Tournament Team through an evaluation and selection process adopted by the League's Board of Directors, which is administered by a 9-person Tournament Team Selection Committee, comprised of the President and eight non-Board members (two from each age group) appointed by the Board. The evaluation process usually includes ratings by the Committee, League managers and coaches, and third party evaluators, and may include weekend scrimmages, evaluation sessions, and participation in weekend tournaments.

**PLAYERS APPLYING FOR A TOURNAMENT TEAM POSITION MUST UNDERSTAND THAT APPLYING DOES NOT GUARANTEE SELECTION TO THE TEAM, NOR DOES SELECTION OF A PLAYER TO A TOURNAMENT TEAM GUARANTEE THE PLAYER MORE THAN THE LITTLE LEAGUE IMPOSED MINIMUM PLAYER PARTICIPATION IN EACH GAME (THREE DEFENSIVE OUTS AND ONE AT-BAT PER GAME).**