



Winter Park Optimist Recreational Baseball

Wilmington, NC

All-Star Program

Ages 7-12

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Enclosures: (1) Parent Acknowledgement Form
 (2) Optimist Creed

***Italicized text provides additional clarity and background of rules and guidelines.*

Record of Changes and Listing of All-Star Committee Members

Date	Action
2/12/2015	Approved Unanimously by the 10-person All-Star Committee.
2/16/2015	Approved unanimously by the WPO Baseball Committee
2/17/2015	Approved by the WPO Board of Directors
2/24/2021	Updated to remove Cal Ripken and machine pitch references

1. Description and Goals of the Winter Park Optimist (WPO) All-Star Baseball Program

Optimist International Vision: “Optimist International will be recognized worldwide as the premier volunteer organization that values all children and helps them develop *to their full potential.*”

WPO All-Star Program Vision: To provide an opportunity for **children** in the WPO Baseball Program to represent our organization at the state and national level and to create opportunities for children to develop their personal and athletic skills to their full potential.

It is not the intent of this policy to resolve differences of opinions about a player’s skill level or a manager’s coaching philosophy. The **number one priority** of the WPO All-Star Program is to administer a transparent process that results in forming teams consisting of the most deserving children and managers as determined by a majority vote. Every decision made by all parties involved in this process should be in the best interest of the children and not for personal gain or benefit to a small group. **When in doubt or if a situation arises that is not covered by these rules, managers, coaches, the WPO Baseball Committee and the WPO Board of Directors will make decisions that are in the best interest of the children of WPO.**

It’s important to note that many aspects of the WPO All-Star Program, such as player eligibility, equipment, and tournament play are governed by the rules of our sanctioning body and not the WPO Baseball Program.

For over 50 years, the WPO Recreational Baseball Program has provided a nurturing, instructional, and competitive environment for tens of thousands of children in the Greater Wilmington, North Carolina Area. The WPO league offers an opportunity for children ages 4-12, both boys and girls, regardless of their background or skill level to participate in recreational activities that focus on creating an enjoyable experience, building friendships, developing skills, and providing an opportunity for friendly competition.

The WPO All-Star Program provides additional opportunities for children ages 7-12, beyond the regular season, for those children who excel on and off the field as both baseball players and citizens. Each year, WPO forms teams from each age division (Coach Pitch thru Majors) within the recreational baseball program to participate in competitive tournament play against other leagues in our sanction. The WPO All-Star Program, while administered under the WPO Recreational Baseball Program, is separate in that it follows different procedures and guidelines regarding player selection, playing time, coaching, and rules governing the game.

The WPO All-Star Program will attempt to field at least one all-star team from each division; however, fielding a team is not guaranteed or required. The availability of funds, coaches, and players will ultimately determine how many teams WPO forms for tournament play. WPO may, at the discretion of the Baseball Committee and WPO Board of Directors, form additional teams within each division.

There are three main goals of this written program:

- 1) To inform all those involved in the all-star process of the rules and guidelines that WPO will follow in the selection of players, managers and assistant coaches;
- 2) To guide the WPO Baseball Committee in its management of the all-star program;
- 3) To prevent any one coach, parent, commissioner, or league member from manipulating the all-star program for their own benefit.

The WPO Board of Directors and Baseball Committee adopted these rules and guidelines to provide the most equitable and transparent process for selecting all-star teams. There is no perfect system of assessing and voting on players; however, by developing these rules and guidelines we feel that parents will be informed of our program and goals, and coaches will have a defined process to follow, making our program one of the best.

2. Winter Park Optimist Structure

The Optimist Club of Winter Park Board of Directors – Administers all programs and activities at Winter Park under the leadership of the President of the Board of Directors.

WPO Baseball Committee – Oversees the WPO Baseball Program to ensure the program is administered in the most equitable manner and in accordance with the Optimist Club and baseball sanctioning rules.

Baseball Commissioners – Led by the Head Commissioner and consists of one commissioner for each division - Wee Ball, T-Ball, Coach Pitch, Minor, Major and All-stars. The Baseball Commissioners ensure their respective divisions follow the rules of the sanctioning body and local rules established by the WPO Baseball Committee and Board of Directors.

WPO All-Star Commissioner and Committee – The All-Star Commissioner is a member of the Baseball Committee and administers the all-star program in accordance with this policy. The All-Star Commissioner must be nominated by the WPO Baseball Committee and elected by vote of the Winter Park Board of Directors and will serve as long as he or she and the Board of Directors desires. The All-Star Committee consists of a group of coaches and/or parents who assist the All-Star Commissioner in his or her duties.

3. Formation and Make-up of WPO All-Star Teams

- a. The success of the WPO All-Star Program relies on the integrity and commitment of the coaches to follow these rules and guidelines and the leadership of the Baseball Committee to ensure that WPO all-star teams consists of the children most deserving to be on the roster. Manipulating these rules or exploiting loopholes for the benefit of one child, one group of children, or a particular coach will defeat the purpose of this program and will not be tolerated. Any coach, club member, committee member or parent who attempts to sway, control, negotiate or manipulate the outcome of voting in any manner may jeopardize their participation or their child's eligibility in the all-star program.

*Examples of situations that **may** warrant intervention on behalf of the All-Star Commissioner or Baseball Committee and may result in a coach, parent, or child becoming ineligible to participate in the WPO All-Star Program include but are not limited to:*

- *A parent who lobbies for their child to be nominated or voted on the all-star team;*
 - *A division that becomes overloaded with coaches from a non-rec team or coaches who all vote for a group of kids based on their affiliation with a non-rec team;*
 - *Any attempt to sway or manipulate the manager or player election process;*
 - *The perception that a coach did or did not nominate a child based on affiliation with a non-rec team;*
 - *Coaches discussing their votes prior to casting their ballots;*
 - *Any attempt to persuade a child not to try-out or accept a nomination.*
- b. All-star players are selected through a voting system consisting of regular season head coaches within the WPO divisions. Any disputes or ties in voting will be settled by the WPO Baseball Committee based on a majority vote.
 - c. The all-star team manager is considered the head coach. Once elected, they can select up to two (2) assistant coaches of their choice. The WPO Baseball Committee must approve both the manager and his or her assistants since the entire coaching staff will represent the WPO league. In the event of a dispute, the WPO Baseball Committee must vote on whether or not to accept a coach who is interested and/or elected as the all-star manager.
 - d. WPO All-Star teams will consist of one primary team from each division comprised of the top **11** players and one (1) "coach pick" for a minimum roster of 12. The manager may select an additional coach pick for a roster of 13 or elect to take only 12.
 - e. If the WPO Baseball Committee approves the formation of a second all-star team within the same division, that team will consist of the next 11 top players as determined by vote count. The decision to form additional teams within a division will be made based on the All-Star Commissioner's recommendation to the Baseball Committee **and must be made prior to tryouts.**

The primary team will be comprised of the top 11 vote-getters plus one (1) coach pick and possibly two (2). The next 11 vote-getters on the ballot, plus the additional team's coach's picks, will form the second team. The first team's manager will select his or her coach's picks prior to the second team forming.

- f. Trading players between all-star teams or hand selecting players is not permitted.
- g. The cost for playing on a WPO All-Star team is usually \$100 per child but is subject to change depending on uniform costs. These costs do not include travel expenses. Each child that makes a team will receive the following:
 - One (1) WPO All-Star hat
 - One (1) WPO All-Star batting helmet that they will keep after the season
 - Two (2) jerseys – one home; one away
 - Up to eight weeks of individualized coaching instruction and competitive tournament play ➤ Lasting memories and great friends

**Children who are eligible and nominated by their coaches, but unable to pay the costs, should contact any member of the WPO program to discuss scholarship opportunities.*

4. Player Eligibility & Nomination Process

- a. All players enrolled in the WPO Recreational Baseball Program and who played ½ or more of the games during the regular spring season are eligible for nomination by their coach or the WPO Baseball Committee. A player is eligible for nomination only in the league/division in which they were enrolled and played ½ of more games during the regular spring season.
- b. The all-star selection process starts at the beginning of the season and ends with formal nominations, a single tryout, and vote among the coaches. Each time a player steps on the field, he or she has an opportunity to display the demeanor and skills necessary to be nominated as an all-star and earn the votes of the other coaches. Coaches take notice of players throughout the year and will use the try-outs as an opportunity to observe any players they may not have observed during the regular season. A coach should consider a player's performance throughout the season and not base their vote solely on a single tryout.
- c. Players are nominated by their coaches based strictly on their **eligibility, availability, and ability**. Coaches must consider all three factors when nominating a player. Nominating players due to friendships, as a goodwill gesture, or one who is unable to commit to all the tournaments hurts both the league and the player. Denying a child a nomination based on factors other than their eligibility, availability, or ability will not be tolerated. The WPO Baseball Committee may nominate additional players by majority vote of the Committee Members in the rare event a coach elects not to nominate a player who the Committee agrees is a good candidate.
- d. A coach may nominate as many players he or she feels are potential all-star players; however, the WPO Baseball Committee may limit nominations of any one coach if they suspect players are being nominated for the wrong reasons. Coaches are strongly encouraged to nominate only those players who could reasonably earn a spot on an all-star team.
- e. Parents of all players who are nominated must complete the acknowledgement form prior to attending tryouts. No child will be placed on the ballot without a completed acknowledgement form.
- f. Each player selected to the all-star team will be required to submit a copy of their birth certificate to the league to be included in the team binder that the manager must present to the coordinators at each tournament. Any attempt to alter a birth certificate or submitting an incorrect certificate will result in immediate disqualification of the child and possibly the team if they played a game.
- g. As part of the ongoing assessment process, the All-Star Commissioner will meet with coaches throughout the season and discuss players they feel will make good nominations to the all-star program. These meetings may be formal or through conversations and email.
- h. Coaches may submit the names of those players they feel are potential all-star players to the All-Star Commissioner at any time during the season via email or verbally to be included on a list that will be distributed to all coaches in

the division at various times throughout the season. The All-Star Commissioner will maintain the list of names as a “living document” providing updates to coaches as necessary. Coaches will provide the All-Star Commissioner the **names, jersey numbers, age as of May 1, and team name** of each prospect. This process will increase awareness of potential all-star players and place less weight on a single try-out.

- i. The list of nominees will become final at the **half way** point of the season (i.e. once a team plays half of their scheduled games). Additions to the list after the halfway point must be approved by the All-Star Commissioner.
- j. A player, regardless of skill level, must first meet all eligibility requirements to be nominated to the all-star program.
- k. All eligible players who are nominated by their regular season coach or the WPO Baseball Committee, and who have completed an acknowledgement form, will be placed on the ballot.

5. Manager & Assistant Coach Eligibility and Selection Process

- a. Coaches from within a division, who are also members of the Optimist Club of Winter Park, are eligible for selection as an all-star manager within their respective divisions. Non-members may apply to the All-Star Commissioner but will be considered only if there are no club members available for the manager positions and only after approval of the WPO Baseball Committee.
- b. Managers, once elected, may select non-members as their assistant coaches, but membership to the Optimist Club of Winter Park is encouraged.

*If a coach is interested in managing an all-star team or serving as an assistant coach, **they are strongly encouraged to join the WPO no later than the start of the season to avoid delays or potential issues.** The All-Star Commissioner will review membership status prior to placing a coach’s name on the ballot.*

- c. Regular season coaches who desire to manage an all-star team must submit their name, and the age group they desire to manage, to the All-Star Commissioner by the deadline established by the league for the nomination of players. This will be done via the same mechanism used to submit player nominations (in person or via email).
- d. All regular season coaches who desire to manage an all-star team will be reviewed by the WPO Baseball Committee using the criteria discussed below for approval prior to their names being placed on the all-star ballot.
- e. To be eligible for nomination as an all-star manager, a person must have coached a team during the current regular spring season in the division they wish to manage an all-star team. This rule may be waived by the WPO Board of Directors or Baseball Committee in the event there are no volunteers from within a division or those who do volunteer do not meet the general criteria of an all-star manager below. The decision to decline an application of an otherwise eligible coach must be based on a majority vote of the WPO Baseball Committee or Board of Directors. The general requirements of an all-star manager include (in no specific order of importance):
 - Must have coached in the division
 - Coaching experience
 - Understanding of the rules of the game
 - Commitment to practices and tournaments
 - Sportsmanship and behavior demonstrated throughout the season
 - Ability to communicate with parents, officials, and others
- f. All-Star Managers and their assistant coaches must complete the training requirements of the sanctioning league at their own expense. This normally involves a brief online course.
- g. All-Star managers must be 21 years of age or older; Assistant Coaches must be 18 and older.
- h. All-Star Manager voting will take place at the same time player voting occurs.
- i. Each regular season coach will cast one vote for an eligible manager who appears on the ballot within their division as the all-star manager. A coach may not vote for himself, nor are they permitted to write-in a vote.

- j. The votes will be tabulated in the same manner as outlined in the player selection process. The regular season coach receiving the most votes will be offered the all-star manager position. In the event of a tie, there will be a re-vote between only those coaches who tied. If the result is another tie, the WPO Baseball Committee will cast the deciding vote.

The first priority is to form teams that consist of the top 11 players as determined by the vote. Delays in selecting a manager will be settled promptly but may require additional discussion and a vote by the WPO Baseball Committee and may require additional time beyond the tryout day. This process will not delay the formation of teams or notification of the players.

- k. Once elected, the All-Star Manager may select up to two (2) assistant coaches of their choosing. Assistant coaches must be approved by the WPO Baseball Committee by majority vote.

Assistant Coaches traditionally come from within the same division. A Manager should consider selecting the other coaches from his or her division who appeared on the ballot before those from outside the league.

- l. In the event there are no coaches from within the division who express interest in managing an all-star team, the All-Star Commissioner may find coaches from outside of the division, and possibly non-members, for approval of the WPO Baseball Committee. In this case, there will not be a vote by the regular season coaches. If a suitable coach is not found, the WPO Baseball Committee may elect not to field a team for that division.
- m. If only one coach expresses interest in managing an all-star team, they will, by default, become the manager if approved by the WPO Baseball Committee.

6. Tryouts & Player Voting

- a. WPO may hold tryouts for the coach pitch and minor league divisions near the end of the season to allow all the coaches who are entitled to cast a vote to see the players perform basic baseball drills such as hitting, fielding, throwing, and running. The specific format of the tryout may vary (1-on-1 skills assessment or scrimmage format) but will be consistent within each division.
- b. WPO will announce the all-star tryout date a minimum of **3 weeks** in advance. Coaches will notify the parents of the children they intend to nominate from their teams in advance of the tryout to ensure their nominees are eligible and available.
- c. A player who receives a nomination but is unable to attend tryouts is eligible for selection to the all-star team if he or she receives enough votes from the coaches and with approval of the All-Star Commissioner. Tryouts are one element of an ongoing selection process and are not mandatory if a child cannot attend for a legitimate reason as determined by the All-Star Commissioner. The league strongly recommends that all nominees attend tryouts as they provide an additional opportunity to make a positive impression on a coach who may not have had the opportunity to watch a child play during the regular season.

Legitimate reasons to miss a tryout include injuries, illness, family emergencies, etc. Choosing not to attend tryouts due to a soccer game, birthday party, other sporting event, etc. may be an indicator to some of the voting coaches that a parent or child is unable to commit to the all-star program.

- d. There are no tryouts for the major league divisions. The major leagues will follow all other procedures for nominating and voting on players and coaches. Voting will take place at the same time as the other divisions.
- e. Following the tryout, each coach will receive two ballots: one ballot will contain all nominated players including those nominated by that coach; the second ballot will not contain the players he or she nominated.
- f. If a head coach is unable to attend the tryout or voting, he or she may send one assistant coach to represent their team and cast their votes with prior approval of the All-Star Commissioner.
- g. Each regular season head coach, or their assistant, must cast all 11 of their votes on *each* of their two ballots (a total of 22 votes on two ballots). Each ballot **MUST** contain exactly 11 votes with only one vote per name per ballot.

Ballots turned in with more or less than 11 votes each, or more than one vote per player on the same ballot, will not be accepted. If a coach submitting a ballot containing an error does not provide immediate correction, that ballot will be removed from the voting process by the All-Star Commissioner.

This rule will ensure there are an adequate number of players to fill a roster. To clarify, if a coach wants to vote for "John Smith," and he did not coach him in the regular season, he can vote for him once on each of his ballots for a total of two votes for John, but he may not vote for him twice on one ballot.

- h. Votes will be tabulated by the All-Star Commissioner in the presence of all league commissioners and coaches who elect to stay after voting on the same day that the tryout and vote are held. Only one coach per team may be present. No parents are permitted in the clubhouse during voting.
- i. Ballots will be destroyed immediately after they have been tabulated and approved by the All-Star Commissioner and voting coaches. Any attempt to copy, record, photograph or otherwise publicize the ballots will result in removal from the all-star program. **There is no benefit for anyone to know any detail of the voting beyond what 11 kids received the most votes and that the results were accepted by the coaches and commissioners.**

The regular season coaches may only approve or disapprove of the method of counting the votes and not who received or did not receive votes.

- j. The 11 players receiving the most votes are automatically named to the all-star team. If one or more of the top 11 vote-getters declines to play, alternates will be selected based on the next highest vote-getters even if a second team is formed.

The priority is to form the first team of the highest vote-getters only.

- k. If players 11 & 12 tie for votes, both players are placed on the roster and the manager forfeits his "coach pick." If more than two players tie, there will be a re-vote consisting of only those players who tie to determine the 12th spot. The players not voted into the 12th spot after the revote are placed on the top of the list as alternates or for the second team if one is formed.
- l. All-star teams will consist of the 11 top vote-getters from each division. If there are no ties, the manager must select one additional "coach pick" and may select an additional player of his or her choice from the list of nominated players for a roster of 13 or elect to take only the top 11 plus one (1) coach pick or a roster of 12. Additional players selected by the manager as coach picks must have placed in the top **20** of all nominees on the ballot.
- n. The regular season coaches must notify the parents of their nominees of the outcome of the voting by the end of the tryout weekend. Notifications can be made immediately after the votes become final by the WPO Baseball Committee to allow all-star teams to begin to form and practice.

7. Practices

- a. Each division's all-star team will be allowed to start practicing immediately after notifying the players of their selection.

Managers must express to their players and families the importance of not bragging about making the all-star team and remaining loyal and humble teammates to their regular season teams.

- b. The All-Star Commissioner will post a practice schedule for the all-star teams immediately following tryouts.
- c. Regular season recreational teams have priority of practice times until the regular season tournament starts.
- d. All-star teams have priority over the fields once the regular season tournament ends.
- e. There are no limits to frequency of practices for all-star teams as long as a field is available.
- f. Lights will remain on until 10PM nightly at the fields for all-star practices.
- g. Practice slots may be impacted if Winter Park is selected to host an all-star tournament. If this occurs, each all-star manager is responsible for finding alternate fields for their practices.

8. Tournament Play

- a. WPO All-Star Managers and their assistant coaches represent the Optimist Club of Winter Park and are expected and **required** to adhere to the highest standards of sportsmanship and require the same of their players and parents.
- b. Once the vote is final and the roster is set, a coach is not authorized to change his or her roster without approval of the All-Star Commissioner.
- c. While WPO controls the nomination and selection process of all-star managers, assistant coaches and players, it does not govern tournament play. Each tournament is played according to the rules of our sanction and the local rules of the host field. It is the sole responsibility of the **all-star manager** to be aware of, and comply with, the rules governing their tournaments.
- d. All-star managers must attend pre-tournament meetings required by the sanction or host site or make acceptable arrangements with the tournament coordinators if they are unable to attend.
- e. The minimum play and batting rules of WPO during the regular season **do not** apply to tournament play. WPO all-star managers must adhere to rules of the sanction during all-star play.
- f. WPO all-star teams may elect to play in independent tournaments outside of the sanctions tournaments at their own expense. This allows all-star teams to practice before playing in sanctioned tournaments.

9. Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. What is the purpose of the WPO All-Star Program?
 - A. The WPO All-Star Program provides opportunities, beyond the regular recreational baseball season, for a limited number of kids who participated in the WPO league, and were nominated by their coaches, to represent WPO at competitive tournaments throughout North Carolina and the Southeast U.S.
- Q. How many all-star teams are there at WPO?
 - A. WPO's goal is to form at least one all-star team per age division. However, there is no requirement that every division is represented. The availability of coaches, players and funding will ultimately determine the number of teams. WPO may add additional teams in a division if necessary and able.

Q. How many kids play on each team?

A. Each team will consist of at least 12 players; the 11 players who receive the highest votes plus one (1) additional “coach pick” for a minimum roster of 12. The manager may select an additional coach pick or elect to take only the minimum required 12 person roster. All players selected as coach’s picks must have been nominated by their coach and finished in the top 20 after the vote.

Q. How does my child get to play on a WPO all-star team?

A. Your child must play in over 1/2 of the regular spring season recreational baseball games at Winter Park **and** be nominated to tryout by his or her coach. If your child receives enough votes, they will automatically be placed on their division’s all-star team.

Q. Who coaches the all-star teams?

A. Coaches (i.e. managers) are voted on by their fellow coaches within each division. The manager selects his or her own assistant coaches that are reviewed and approved by the WPO Baseball Committee. If your child is selected to play on an all-star team, they will likely play for one of the coaches from within their division. There is however, a remote chance they will play for a manager from outside the league if necessary.

Q. If my child is nominated by his or her coach, do they automatically make the all-star team?

A. No. They must also receive enough votes to be in the top 11 children in their division or finish in the top 20 and be selected by the all-star manager as a “coach pick.” A nomination simply allows them to attend tryouts or have their name listed on the ballot.

Q. What kind of time commitment is all-star tournament play?

A. By accepting a nomination to try out for an all-star team you are committing to what could be a summer full of baseball at various locations within NC and possibly the Southeast U.S. All-star tournaments start in mid-June and could go into mid-August depending on how well a team competes. Most teams wrap up by mid-July but occasionally play in tournaments as far as Florida and Alabama that could carry into August. Most coaches practice every day leading up to the tournaments and most days in between. While this is a great experience for your child, it is a significant time commitment.

Q. What are the costs for all-star tournament play?

A. WPO traditionally pays the tournament registration fees if funds are available (\$200-\$400 per tournament, per team). Parents must pay a registration cost (~\$100) to cover uniforms and are responsible for all other related costs including travel, hotels, food, and gate entrance fees. Total costs vary depending on how far a team advances and the exact location of the tournaments.

Q. What does my child get for the registration fee?

A. In addition to a great experience, your child will receive:

- One (1) WPO All-Star hat
- Two (2) jerseys – one home; one away
- Up to eight weeks of individualized coaching instruction and competitive tournament play

Q. Where are the tournaments located?

A. Tournament locations are selected by the sanction (Pony, Babe Ruth, Cal Ripken, Little League, etc.). District tournaments are normally close to Wilmington; State tournaments are usually a little farther, regionals even farther and likely out-of-state, and the World Series could be anywhere in the U.S.

Q. Is the WPO All-Star Program connected to private travel ball clubs?

A. No. The WPO All-Star Program is an extension of the Spring WPO Recreational Baseball League. It is in no way connected with any private travel baseball club.

Q. Why do so many kids who play travel ball also make the all-star teams?

A. Selecting kids to play on a WPO All-Star team is based on **eligibility, availability, and ability**. The fact that a child plays on a travel baseball team is not considered in the all-star selection process; however, the additional exposure to baseball they receive may have a positive impact on their baseball ability.

- Q. My child was nominated for all-stars but is unable to make the tryout. Can he still be placed on the ballot?
- A. Yes, with approval of the All-Star Commissioner. If your child is injured, sick, or unable to make the tryout due to a legitimate reason, the All-Star Commissioner may excuse them and still place their name on the ballot. However, it is highly recommended that you make every effort to get your child to tryouts. Tryouts allow all the coaches who have a vote to see the nominees in one setting as they work through very basic baseball drills. Many of the coaches already know the players and their abilities; however, your child will have an opportunity to leave a positive impression on a coach who may not know them well and otherwise would not vote for them.
- Q. If the league allows my child to “play up” to the next age group during the regular season, does he or she have to compete for all-stars in the league they played or can they return to the age-appropriate division (i.e. go back down for all-stars)?
- A. WPO does **not** currently allow kids to “play up” in any of the divisions. Kids must play in the division that is appropriate for their age on *1 May* or whatever the sanction’s age chart indicates if it changes.
- Q. What do tryouts consist of?
- A. If nominated, your child will attend tryouts (if held) and have an opportunity to hit, throw, catch and run bases in the presence of all the coaches. We know that any tryout or assessment is stressful for some parents and children. The league will make every attempt to keep tryouts fun, and we hope you will as well. A child is encouraged to simply do their best and consider being nominated an honor that not all kids receive.
- Q. Can I talk to the coaches before all-star tryouts regarding my child or my favorite coach being nominated and or selected to the WPO all-star teams?
- A. Please feel free to discuss this program with any coach or the All-Star Commissioner throughout the season if you have questions or want to know more about the program. You should avoid any attempts to persuade a coach to nominate or vote for a particular child or fellow coach. Doing so may result in the disqualification of the coach, child, or both.
- Q. Is my child guaranteed to play if he or she is on an all-star team? Can he play his favorite position?
- A. Playing time and positions are ultimately up to the manager. The WPO minimum play rules do not apply to all-star tournament play. The all-star manager must meet the minimum play rules of the sanction (Pony, Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth, Little League, etc.) while playing in tournament games. The all-star manager is permitted to play those children in positions he or she feels will make the team most competitive as long as they meet the minimum play rules of the sanction.
- Q. My child was nominated for all-stars but not selected. Who can I talk to if I have questions?
- A. The All-Star Commissioner is available to answer questions; however, all coaches follow the WPO All-Star Program rules for selecting all-stars and can discuss the program. There is no perfect selection process, and we are not able to control the votes of a particular coach. The All-Star Commissioner will do his best to answer your questions or provide clarification.
- Q. My child was not nominated by his or her coach but I feel they should be on the ballot. Who can I talk to about this issue?
- A. The All-Star Commissioner is available to answer questions; however, all coaches follow the WPO All-Star Program rules for selecting all-stars and are able to discuss the program. If your child was not nominated to attend tryouts and you feel it was due to factors other than their *eligibility, availability or ability*, please contact the All-Star Commissioner prior to all-star tryouts.
- Q. My child was nominated for all-stars but not selected for a team. What can I do to help him or her better compete next year?
- A. We recommend that you first talk to your child’s regular season coach since they were likely at the all-star tryout and can offer feedback. Your child’s regular season coach knows your child’s abilities better than most other coaches and should be able to offer ways to improve for next year.
- Q. How do I know when tryouts will be held?
- A. The league will announce the tryout date at least 3 weeks in advance. Your coach will notify those families on his or her team who he intends to nominate to confirm their interest and availability.

- Q. How will I be informed if my child makes a team?
 A. Your child's regular season coach will inform you of the results of the voting by the end of the all-star tryout weekend.

11. WPO All-Star Program Timeline (Subject to change)

- February: All-Star Commissioner meets with coaches to discuss the season and the all-star process
- March: Regular season coaches begin their evaluation of players. Coaches can submit names of kids who display the skills and attitude that may earn them a nomination later in the season.

Coaches have a preliminary conversation with their parents to ensure they understand the WPO All-Star Program.
- April: The WPO regular season begins. Regular season coaches observe players through normal course of play and begin to form their list of nominees.
- May: (Mid-to-Late May) Nominations are finalized and submitted to the All-Star Commissioner by the specific date advertised.

(Late-May) Tryouts are held and voting occurs the same day. All nominees are notified by the end of the all-star tryout weekend. WPO may forego any or all tryouts.
- June: All-Star tournament play begins and lasts as long as teams successfully compete at the tournament play.
- July: Tournament play continues.
- Aug: End of the all-star season for those teams who advanced in tournament play.
- Sep: The All-Star Commissioner meets with all managers to discuss lessons learned and required improvements to the program. Revisions to the program will be reviewed and approved by the WPO Baseball Committee.
- Oct-Jan: Nominations accepted by the WPO Board of Director from those who desire to serve as the All-Star Commissioner for the following year. The Board will review the names and make the decision to continue with the current All-Star Commissioner or elect a new one.

12. Schedule of Events for the All-Star Tryout Weekend

- ** Exact dates to be announced 3 weeks prior to tryouts
- ** Times may be adjusted depending on the number of nominees

Saturday:

- 8:00 – 9:00 Regular Season Coach's Meeting in the WPO Clubhouse
- 9:00 – 11:00 Coach Pitch Tryouts (7 & 8 YOs)
- 11:00-12:00 Coach Pitch Voting and Tabulations in Clubhouse (CP Coaches and Commissioner Only)
- 12:00-12:30 Break/Prep time for coaches
- 12:30 – 2:30 Minor League Tryouts (9 & 10 YOs)
- 2:30 – 3:30 Minor League Voting and Tabulations in Clubhouse (Minors Coaches and Commissioner Only)
- 3:30 – 4:30 Major League Voting and Tabulations in Clubhouse (Majors Coaches and Commissioner Only)

Sunday: Make-up date if Saturday tryouts are cancelled. Follow same schedule.

** Managers for all divisions are selected first, followed by player selections and coach's picks for all divisions – Coach Pitch, Minors and Majors. Manager selections may be deferred if there are no clear winners of the vote or if the WPO Baseball Committee needs time to discuss the selection process.



Optimist Club of Winter Park - All-Star Program

Parent Acknowledgement Form

Congratulations on your child's nomination to take part in the Winter Park Baseball All-Star Program! Please read and sign this acknowledgement form prior to all-star tryouts.

By signing this form, I acknowledge the following:

- My child's regular season coach explained the Winter Park All-Star Program, tryout, and selection process to me.
- I understand that all costs associated with playing on an all-star team are my responsibility.
- I understand the time commitment required to play on an all-star team and acknowledge that my child is able to commit to all-star tournaments that could extend into August and could require travel to other states.
- I understand that my child was nominated to attend tryouts but is not guaranteed to make an all-star team.
- I understand that if my child makes the team, the positions he or she plays and the amount of play time is up to the manager and the regular season WPO rules do not apply to tournament play.
- I acknowledge that I may have to serve in some capacity as a team parent, scorekeeper, hotel coordinator, etc. in order to help the team and make my child's experience successful.
- I understand that managers and coaches are volunteers who devote a lot of their time and money to leading an allstar team.
- I agree to support the team manager and assistant coaches and to respect their decisions regarding playing time, positions, and strategy.
- If I have a problem with a manager, coach, or their decisions, I agree to approach them in private, after the game, to discuss the issue.
- I agree to assist the manager and assistant coaches in maintaining a high standard of behavior and sportsmanship and to ensure our children do the same as they represent Winter park Optimist.

Parent Signature

Date

Enclosure (1) to the WPO All-Star Program

The Optimist Creed

Promise Yourself...

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.