

2024 TOURNAMENT TEAM TRYOUT OVERVIEW

Information for the 2024 Baseball & Softball Tournament Team Tryouts is below!

SALL will host 2024 summer baseball & softball tournament teams. Tryouts will take place this fall based on the team and age group. This allows the tournament season to begin in the fall and teams to work together longer before starting their main season tournament play. The timing also helps with logistics such as uniforms, fall and early spring season tournaments, family planning of vacation schedules, etc. Below is a list of important information as it applies to tryouts and upcoming seasons.

Tournament Teams:

A tournament team's primary season is the last week of June through July 2024. These teams typically play 3-5 tournaments during that time and may play a few games in the fall of 2023 and potentially 1-2 tournaments in the spring. A 20-30 game schedule is typical. The exact number of tournaments/games and schedule is determined by the head coach with family feedback! SALL is proud to offer this opportunity:

- Baseball ages 7-12 (pending interest level)
- Softball ages 8U, 10U, 12U and 15U (pending interest level)

EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that if your athlete makes a team, you will be committing to this team for 1 year. If your athlete has additional commitments in the summer, the expectation is that the SALL tournament team will take priority. It will be critical to communicate unavailability with your athlete's coach. **Commitment and availability** are crucial for roster creation and to ensure that each roster is fully committed.

There will be a variety of costs associated with these teams such as tournament entry fees (includes winter training), uniforms, etc. Be prepared to reimburse your athlete's coach for these various expenses. Please be aware that many of these fees need to be paid up front. Expenses paid for tournament teams are non-refundable.

Parents are required to complete volunteer duties during your team's SALL home tournament in addition to the in-house season concession commitment.

As an organization, we encourage opportunity, however, playing time will not be equal on these teams. Unlike inhouse, there are no rules pertaining to innings played or positioning in the field.

Tournament Teams: The primary tournament season is the last week of June through July with an expectation of 3 to 5 tournaments to be played during this timeframe. **It is expected that you will not schedule vacations during this time.** However, some families have set vacations each year and those dates should be shared with the Head coach to assist them in selecting local tournaments where the team will participate. A player may be designated an alternate if they cannot commit to a full tournament schedule. Team commitments will also include 2023 fall activities, indoor winter/spring training (most likely once a week from November through March). **Athletes that make a tournament team are required to play SALL Spring in-house, attend at least 60% of the in-house games and 80% attendance at practice is required starting 4/1.** If your athlete does not meet the minimum in-house requirement, they will not be eligible to play for the tournament team.

Athletes **can play** for a travel organization and a SALL tournament team in the same season. Athletes **cannot play** for a SALL tournament team and another organization's rec tournament team in the same season.

TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

The team selection involves two specific considerations - 2 tryout dates and evaluations from your child's regular season and tournament season coaches from the previous year. **Interested players must attend at least one tryout date to be eligible, unless Board approval is received for a separate tryout date.**

If enough players do not participate in a tryout to complete a full roster, a supplemental tryout will be held at a time to be determined and then the final team will be selected.

- **TRYOUTS:** The tryouts will consist of various drills and skill exercises to compare the athletes to their peers. This will be done by independent evaluators. These evaluators are given specific sets of criteria to base their evaluation on. This criterion creates uniformity within the entire process, aligns the evaluations as it pertains to a specific age group relative to each other and eliminates ambiguity within the evaluations. It is possible that there may be parents from your child's age group involved in the tryout, but they will solely be helping run the drills and not involved in the evaluation process. For appropriate age groups, pitchers and catchers will be evaluated separately during the tryout. Each tryout will end with a player scrimmage to allow the evaluators to see the athletes in game conditions.

- **PREVIOUS YEAR COACH FEEDBACK AND RANKINGS:** Feedback and rankings will be provided by the Head coach of your child's previous regular season Spring team and, where applicable, their tournament team from the previous year. These evaluations are also factored into the selection. This information is again specifically designed to eliminate ambiguity and align the entire process of the evaluation into a standard format. These are specifically designed to assist the evaluators at the tryout. The information includes specific baseball skills and abilities along with coachability, baseball IQ, etc. Having this information included allows the athletes not to be evaluated solely on a few hours' tryout and hedge against a "bad" day at the field. In the case that your child was not part of SALL the previous year, they will be solely evaluated based on how they perform at the tryouts.

A player does not have to play Fall Ball to attend tryouts and be selected to a Tournament Team

ROSTERS

We make every effort to place a child on a team. However, purely due to numbers, there may not be roster space on a team or enough interest to create additional teams. There is always the possibility of "cuts." Once again, we strive to prevent this from happening and in some cases, we may combine age groups or try to assemble a team in the weeks following tryouts.

In the case in which a team has an incomplete roster based on the number of kids that tried out, that team will have the option to add players without a try out to fill their roster. Once winter training begins, in the case in which a player makes a team but cannot fulfill their commitment for the season, there will be a supplemental tryout in the Spring for any kid that wants to potentially fill that spot. Only in the case in which there is a roster void will there be a tryout in the Spring, and it will be specific to that team and number of roster spots available. If there would be an opening, the league would communicate that to kids in that specific age group that are currently registered for in-house baseball. Any child registered for in-house baseball in that age-group can choose to try out for this roster spot, even if they are already on another SALL tournament team.

Teams will be comprised of 11 or 12 players (coach's discretion) and alternates.

New players to the organization in the Spring that did not participate in the Fall tryouts may only play on the 2nd team if one is fielded for that age group. If a player decides during the winter that they cannot fulfill the tournament team commitment, the new player can participate in the Spring tryout and be chosen to fill that

vacancy. A new player may also be selected to the first team if not enough players participated in the Fall tryout and players are needed to complete a roster.

SPECIFIC AGE GROUPS

SALL will continue to operate on the following age cut off schedule:

- Age as of 8/31/2024 for 7U and 8U baseball, Age as of 4/30/2024 for 9U – 12U baseball
- Age as of 12/31/2023 for softball teams

We encourage players to try out for their appropriate age group. If an athlete chooses to tryout for the age group above their current season age and they are selected for that team, they will now be considered that age for the remainder of their playing days with SALL (see Rookie exception below).

- *Example:* A first year Farm division player who is 9 tries out for the 10-year-old team and is selected to that team. That player is now considered a 10-year-old for league purposes, and he will only complete 1 year of Farm level before moving up to Little League the next year.

- *Exception:* The league has 6-year-old players that play up to Instructional during the regular season. Those players can try out for the 7U tournament team. If they make the tournament team, they then have the option to play the next year for the 7U team again or they can elect to continue to play up and tryout for the 8U tournament team. If they decide to play up on the 8U team, they will have to move up to Farm the following year and will now be considered a 9-year-old for league purposes. Basically, a 6-year-old can play two years of 7U tournament ball if they choose but once they move up to 8 they will continue to play up and can't go back down. This same scenario applies to a 6-year-old girl who plays up to 8u Slow during the season.

- *Clarification:* A Rookie baseball player (6-year-old who will not play up) can attend the 7u tournament team tryouts. They will only be selected to the 7u team if we do not have enough 7-year-old players to fill out a team. They could also be selected to a 2nd team if players are needed to fill out that roster.

COACHES

Tournament team coaches are visible leaders and are entrusted with representing SALL in a positive manner. Although tournament season means upping the ante competitively, coaches are expected to teach and show respect and sportsmanship with their own players and their opponents. A Head coach or an Assistant may be removed by the SALL Board at any time should it be determined that the coach is not fulfilling this obligation.

Selection to coach in one year does not mean that you will be selected to coach again in future seasons.

- **HEAD COACH:** The Head coach of the tournament team will not be selected until the conclusion of the tryout process. All candidates will submit their interest in Head coach before the start of the tryout process and should attend the tryouts in case they are selected. To be considered for Head coach, the candidate must be a Head coach or Assistant coach from the age group's prior Spring regular season or the current Fall regular season. Although not normally the case, the candidate's child **does not** have to make the tournament team to be selected as Head coach. If only one person shows interest, the SALL Board will discuss and approve/decline the candidate. If there are multiple candidates, the SALL Board will discuss and select the Head coach for that tournament season.

Head Coach responsibilities include: Select Assistant coaches; Work with the families of the team to establish winter/spring practice sessions; choose the upcoming tournament season schedule; plan, coordinate volunteers and run the team's Home tournament (see checklist); provide feedback and evaluations of players

to be used during the next season's tournament team tryouts; be a Head coach (or Asst) for the upcoming Spring season.

- **ASSISTANT COACH:** The Assistant coaches of the tournament team will be chosen by the Head Coach and approved by the SALL Board. Assistant coaches are expected to work alongside the Head coach and provide input about the team and assist with practice sessions, game plans, home tournament duties and player feedback/evaluations.

TRYOUT EVALUATION SCHEDULE

Tournament Teams:

Baseball

7U Sunday, Oct 22nd from 3pm to 5pm Thursday, Oct 26th from 5:30pm to 7pm
8U Sunday, Oct 22nd from 5pm to 7pm Thursday, Oct 26th from 7pm to 8:30pm
9U Sunday, Oct 15th from 10am to 12pm Sunday, Oct 22nd from 7pm to 9pm
10U Sunday, Oct 15th from 12pm to 2pm Sunday, Oct 29th from 10am to 12pm
11U Sunday, Oct 15th from 3pm to 5pm Sunday, Oct 22nd from 1pm to 3pm
12U Sunday, Oct 15th from 5pm to 7pm Sunday, Oct 22nd from 10am to 12pm

Softball

- 8U Tournament – May 2024, Specific Days TBD
- 10U Tournament – May 2024, Specific Days TBD
- 12U Tournament – May 2024, Specific Days TBD
- 15U Tournament – May 2024, Specific Days TBD

QUESTIONS

Contact:

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DISCLAIMER

The Board recognizes that special circumstances may exist for families and that there may be situations not outlined in the guidelines above. Any inquiries or circumstances not covered by the guidelines above will be brought before the SALL Board for discussion and review. All Board decisions will be final.