



Hillsborough Youth Athletic Association  
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## **HYAA All-Star Program**

*Updated 4/6/2026*

### **HYAA All-Star Team Philosophy**

HYAA is excited to offer our players a unique opportunity to extend their season and compete at the next level by participating in the Cal Ripken state tournament. Following the conclusion of our regular season, selected players will have the chance to represent HYAA in a more competitive tournament environment designed to challenge young athletes, strengthen teamwork, and create unforgettable memories on a bigger stage. This experience not only allows players to test their skills against higher competition, but also gives them the opportunity to grow in confidence, sportsmanship, and love for the game.

The All-Star Teams Committee shall have the responsibility of administering All-Star Baseball/Softball and all All Star teams are subject to oversight and control by the HYAA Board of Directors.

### **Player Expectations**

Parents and players should note the following obligations before committing to join an All-Star team:

- Any child who wishes to play All-Star baseball or softball must play in the HYAA recreational league. Failure to attend recreation games could result in removal from the All-Star team.
  - Local League Regular Season Player-Participation Requirement for Tournament Play (Baseball and Softball):
    - In accordance with Babe Ruth Rule 11.04, paragraph 1(c), and the requirements in this policy, player eligibility is determined by the league president and indicated by his or her signature on the official copy of the Babe Ruth League, Inc. tournament team roster. It is the responsibility of the league president to develop a registration deadline and justifications for the approval of players. In the Southeast Region, to be eligible for selection to an official Babe Ruth League, Inc. tournament team, a player must have participated in at least 50% of his or her local league team's scheduled games played prior to the first scheduled tournament game. (When an odd number of games is involved, the player receives the benefit; e.g., for eligibility, one-half of 13 games played is 6 games.) "Scheduled games" are those games scheduled to be played after the player is placed in the team roster exclusive of those games when the player was not able to participate because of injury, participation in scholastic sports, or other reasons approved by the league president.
- Players and families are expected to commit to all team activities.
- It is expected that players and families know that playing time is based on what's best for the team's chance to win and not based on equitable playing time like in regular season play.

### **Parent Expectations**

HYAA believes the experience for the players, coaches and parents will be enhanced with an open dialogue among all individuals. The HYAA Parent Code of Ethics also applies during the All-Star baseball/softball season. Parents should know that because teams in the All-Star program play in a more competitive environment, equal playing time is not guaranteed for all players. Decisions about playing time are made by the coaches. Coaches

are expected to provide opportunities for development for all players. If parents or players have concerns or questions about the coaching decisions, they are encouraged to discuss them openly with the coach. If concerns still remain, parents are free to contact the All-Star Team Committee to discuss them. If issues are yet unresolved, the baseball/softball commissioner can be contacted. For contact information, see the HYAA web site. If a problem is not addressed to the parents' satisfaction, the commissioner will notify the HYAA President.

### **Costs**

The player fees will include player & coach uniforms, and tournament fees. Upon acceptance of a roster spot, the non-refundable player fee must be paid before the player will be allowed to participate in practices or tournaments.

### **All-Star Team Manager Selection**

All-Star baseball and softball team managers are considered ambassadors of HYAA and are expected to conduct themselves accordingly.

The role of an All-Star team manager extends beyond on-field responsibilities and involves a significant investment of time and effort. Candidates must be willing and able to perform all responsibilities of the job and make an honest evaluation of their availability, work schedule and personal commitments prior to assuming the role.

Candidates are required to have fulfilled the requirements of the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Coaching Certification program meeting the "Minimum Standards for Volunteer Coaches Safety Orientation and Training Skills Programs" (N.J.A.C. 5:52). Candidates for Team Managers must be a current HYAA Coach in the corresponding division for which they will be coaching.

Selection of an All-Star team manager will consider many criteria including, but not limited to, baseball/softball knowledge, coaching techniques, communication and organizational skills, past experiences in HYAA as well as any other youth sports organizations, and youth sports philosophy. Team managers will be chosen after the AllStar teams are selected. The All-Star Teams Committee will choose the individual perceived to be the best overall coach, teacher, role model and leader of HYAA's youth. Each head coach will then choose two assistant coaches and submit those assistant coaches to the All-Star Teams Committee for ratification.

The term of the All-Star team manager shall be the season for which the team has been developed. Coaching an All-Star team in a prior year does not guarantee a coaching position in the current year. Individuals who wish to be considered must submit an All-Star coach application form to the All-Star Teams Committee. The All-Star Teams Committee may also designate additional candidates as may be required to develop a team within a particular age group. Coaches must be able to meet the time and travel requirements for practices and tournaments as well as following the playing requirements as listed in the player requirements section.

The All-Star Team Committee will select All-Star baseball and softball team managers in accordance with the process outlined above and may replace an All-Star team manager at any time for reasons of misconduct or repeated failure to adhere to the objectives of HYAA.

At or near the conclusion of each All-Star baseball and softball season, evaluation forms for the All-Star coaches will be distributed to a parent or guardian of each All-Star team player by a member of the HYAA Board of Directors. A board member will organize the evaluations and provide a report to the HYAA Board of Directors along with all noteworthy comments from the parents. These evaluations help the organization identify areas that worked well for the players and areas that need improvement.

## All-Star Team Player Selection

Only players who participate in the HYAA spring recreational baseball or softball program are eligible to participate in the All-Star Team program for the given calendar year. The players selected for All-Star teams are chosen via a tryout in which a player's skills are evaluated in the areas of hitting, fielding, throwing, and running. Tryouts will be held in the first week of May.

Eligibility requirements as stipulated by Cal Ripken League, Inc. shall apply to All-Star team player selections. The player's age for team participation is as of April 30 of the respective year. Players must participate in their age group. This is to ensure the most players in an age group are given an opportunity to play and also to field competitive teams. 7U players as of April 30 during the current year may try out for an 8U team if there is no 7U team, but they must try out and play on the 8U team the following year. These 7-year-olds may not move up to the 9U team when they are 8-year-olds.

It is the objective of the HYAA All-Star Team program to provide an open and fair environment for All-Star team selection. Tryouts are scheduled to enable a fair selection process to occur which will develop teams with the most competitive participants.

All-Star team selections will be made based primarily on performance at the tryouts. Playing on an HYAA AllStar team in a prior year does not guarantee selection for an All-Star team in the present year. There are a limited number of roster slots on each team (11-15), which means not all candidates will be chosen for an AllStar team. 8 roster slots will be selected to the team based on criteria with the remaining roster slots selected by the head coach.

All players will be given a score based upon the league rubric with the following criteria:

- Infield grounders - fielding form
- Fly balls - catching form
- Hitting swing form/ bat speed / contact
- Throwing form / Arm Strength / Accuracy

*\*Player will be scored on pitching (if applicable), catcher, and timed on running the bases.*

Tryout evaluations will be conducted and team selections will be made by a committee of at least three individuals. All evaluators and team selection decision makers will be chosen by the All-Star Teams Committee. Evaluators may not have a child or relative trying out for the team.

The All-Star Teams Committee reserves the right to consider additional information and/or schedule additional or makeup tryouts to accommodate unique circumstances.

In the event that an insufficient number of players register to tryout, additional players may be recruited in an effort to develop an All-Star team. In the event that a player must be replaced, the replacement must have participated in HYAA's spring recreational baseball or softball program for the given calendar year. In either instance All-Star committee approval is required.