

VSLL All-Star Season Player/Parent Commitment Letter

Dear Parents and Players,

Viera Suntree Little League (VSLL) is preparing to select players for the All-Star Season. All players interested in being considered for selection to any of the VSLL post-season tournament teams need to carefully read this letter, fill out the last page, and submit that page to VSLL Player Agent Mark Huffman in person or via email (mrhuf3@aol.com) no later than May 6th. Players will be selected based on their playing ability, eligibility, availability, and sportsmanship.

Attendance Requirements

VSLL All-Star teams will play in very competitive tournaments. The level of play requires VSLL All-Star teams to work very hard to be competitive. Participating in All-Stars is an immense commitment. Players will be required to make as many practices for their All-Star team as possible, without getting mentally burned out or over working their bodies. Parents and players should expect four to five practices a week. (Some VSLL All Star team managers may opt to practice twice a day to fit in the four to five practices a week). Practice games in the weeks prior to the first All-Star tournament will be very limited and may not occur at all.

VSLL recognizes that players wishing to participate on a VSLL All-Star team may also participate in travel baseball/softball. VSLL believes All-Star and travel ball teams can co-exist. VSLL does not want any player to take on more than s/he can handle. VSLL recognizes that players with travel ball commitments will not be able to attend all practices (or possible practice games). VSLL also recognizes that travel players will be getting the practice and game play needed to stay sharp prior to the All-Star tournament via their travel teams. VSLL does expect parents of travel ball players who commit to VSLL All-Stars to discuss player availability with the All-Star team manager prior to selection. The manager will be given wide latitude to determine the appropriate number of practices a player should participate in each week. It is critical that travel ball players attend the number of practices agreed upon, so all All-Star participants can build team cohesiveness and learn each other's strengths.

VSLL expects all players who commit to a team to participate in the All-Star games. The VSLL Board of Directors, in concert with All-Star team managers, pick a certain number of players per team with the expectation that those picked will participate in games. Games could be played through August should teams advance past Districts to Sectionals, the State Tournament, Regionals, and the World Series. VSLL expects families to be committed for as long as the team is victorious.

Player absences can significantly affect game outcomes. Families with potential conflicts should discuss those potential conflicts with the All-Star team manager prior to selection. Conflicts could include sports camps, family vacations, and other sports that interfere with the game and practice schedule. VSLL All-Star managers will discuss with the VSLL Player Agent whether to excuse absences and will have the authority to dismiss a player from the team for lack of availability after selection.

Tournament Rules

Teams will follow the Tournament Play rules set forth in the Little League International rulebook. There are rules regarding minimum play in the field, and all divisions except Seniors utilize continuous order for batting. Playing time will not be distributed evenly. All-Stars is meant to be competitive, and VSLL expects the team manager to manage in a way that maximizes the team's chance of victory. Players should anticipate being asked to play positions they did not play in the regular season. VSLL strongly encourages parents to discuss these points with your player before you commit to avoid misunderstandings and stave off possible disappointment.

Administrative Requirements

After VSLL selects a player, parents must provide a valid, ORIGINAL Birth Certificate to VSLL for league-age certification. Players without an original Birth Certificate cannot be considered for selection. The Birth Certificate must originate from the Department of Vital Statistics in the state of birth. Photocopies, or certificates issued by hospitals will not be accepted. League age can be determined using the Little League age calculator at:
<https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/determine-league-age/>

Players are also required to certify their residency within the VSLL boundary. Parents will be asked to provide photocopies of three documents that verify that their residence is within VSLL's boundaries. Qualifying documents will be discussed at each team's team parent meeting.

Each player will also be asked to provide a photocopy of an official/certified school enrollment record, dated prior to October 1 of current academic year, or a Little League issued school attendance form completed by a school administrator, principal, or vice principal.

Timeline

Team rosters will be announced on May 15th. Parent meetings and team practices may begin as early as May 15th but will likely begin on May 22nd. A mandatory uniform fitting will occur the week of May 15th.

Sincerely,

The VSLL Board of Directors

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Parent Volunteer Commitment: As you are probably aware, VSSL is a 100% volunteer program. Without volunteers, the league cannot run or field All-Star teams. As an All-Star parent, VSSL will require you to volunteer in All-Stars. Volunteer roles include, but are not limited to, assisting in concessions, official score keeping,* and field preparedness. Volunteers must be available throughout the entire season (not just for your All-Star player season). As part of this commitment, you are agreeing to volunteer with VSSL in one or more of the categories. There is no “opt-out” option available for All-Stars. We cannot run a successful All-Star season without the assistance of every family.

*Official Scoring personnel must be experienced and able to keep a baseball or softball score book. Gamechanger will not be used by official score keepers.

All-Star Volunteer (Parent Initials): _____ I understand I will be required to volunteer in some capacity during the All-Star season my player is participating in. Penalty for non-compliance is the removal of my player from the All-Star team.

Team Assignment (Parent Initials): _____ I understand my player will be placed on a team in which VSSL determines their talent will maximize the chance of victory for the selected team. I understand that I am unable to dictate which team my player will be placed on. I understand that once a player is placed on a team, this is his/her only option to play on a VSSL All-Star Team.

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The team managers will help with the collection of the certain acceptable documents.

Player Name: _____

League age: _____

Current Team: _____

Division of Play: _____

Manager’s Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone Number: _____

I have read the information pertaining to the VSSL All-Star season teams and understand the commitment required to play. I understand that signing this Letter of Commitment does not guarantee selection on team.

Player Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____