



## **2018 Baseball All-Star Selection Process**

The All-Star baseball season will be here before we know it. This is a quick update on the selection process, expectations and commitment for this year's All-Star season. We encourage everyone who's interested in being considered for one of the All-Star teams to register on the ORYA website. Provided there is player interest and coaches at each level, we anticipate there will be one team for each of the following age groups: 12U, 11U, 10U, and 9U.

### **All-Star Baseball Overview**

Oyster River Cal Ripken Baseball All-Stars is an opportunity for highly skilled players to hone their skills, meet new friends, represent their community, and experience competitive and wellrun tournaments. Players continue to improve their skills with additional practices and playing with, and against, the finest baseball players in the District. There is an additional registration fee for participating on an All-Star team. These costs vary based on several factors, but generally range from \$125 - \$200 for the season.

### **Cal Ripken Rulings for All-Star Play**

1. In order to participate on an All-Star team, you must play a minimum of 50% or more of the regular season games, which include playoffs, for the specified teams.
2. An All-Star coach or assistant coach must have been a rostered coach during the Spring Season's program, and must be Cal Ripken certified.
3. All-Star team rosters cannot consist of less than 12 players or more than 15.

### **Qualities of an All-Star Player**

All-Star players exhibit the following qualities:

- Exemplifies good sportsmanship and team spirit whether winning or losing
- Demonstrates a high and consistent ability to execute the fundamental skills of the game
- Demonstrates commitment to an intensive schedule of practice and games throughout the entire tournament period
- Often skilled at more than one position

### **All-Star Player Selection Process**

In keeping with Cal Ripken ruling, the All-Star roster is selected from the pool of eligible Spring Program players. While there are no firm requirements or measuring criterion for All-Star selection, the process has evolved over the past few years in a similar manner with other Cal Ripken towns. The Oyster River Baseball Advisory Group and the selected head coach for the team make the final selection of the players for each All-Star team. Those selections come from

a gathering of information from several sources including: coaches ballot recommendations from each regular season team, scouting, and past All-Star play experience.

Each regular season teams' coach and one assistant coach will submit a private ballot with their top nine choices of all-star players. Once all ballots are collected and tallied, the top nine players with the most votes from all coaches will be considered for the team. Additionally, the head AllStar coach for each team will select an additional three to six players at their discretion to make up a team of at least 12, but not exceeding 15. Under no circumstance will any player automatically make an All-Star team.

Players selected for an all-star team generally have strong athletic ability for their age, show exemplary effort and desire, have maturity and proper attitude, and have shown a keen sense for strategy during tough or tense game situations. They may be exceptionally strong at one key field position or they may be a coach's 'flex' player, who can move within several of the 9 positions easily. They usually have strong offensive skills and a high on base percentage.

Selecting the All-Star teams is a difficult task. Some players are better at hitting, others at fielding and others at pitching. Adding to the variance, a player may have a great regular season game against one team, a poor game against another team, and play another team once, or not at all, because of rainouts or cancellations. Please be assured that the head coach, with the assistance of the baseball advisory group, conscientiously strive to fairly and objectively select the best possible and most competitive team to represent Oyster River Baseball throughout the state.

### **Schedule and Commitment**

All-Star teams are expected to be selected and announced by mid-May. Periodic practices will begin shortly thereafter. Once the regular season ends, the All-Star teams may practice every day for up to two hours each day. Each team will participate in a District, Area or State Double Elimination all-star tournament. In addition, there will be invitational tournaments hosted by area towns for most teams to compete in. Games can be any evening during the week or anytime on a Saturday or Sunday. The District tournament may take up to 8 days to complete. The winning teams of each District tournament advance to the State Tournament. These teams can continue to advance through the regional tournament all the way to the Cal Ripken World Series. All tournaments will run through late July/early August.

### **All-Star Manager Selection Process**

All-Star managers and coaches must be approved by the Baseball Committee. The committee will evaluate candidates based on a formal application process, past and current performance of the manager and team(s) during the regular season and league playoffs, previous All-Star manager experience, and the overall coaching and leadership characteristics exhibited.

The Oyster River All-Star baseball program is a great experience for the kids, as well as for the parents. Not only is it a great character and skill building experience from a baseball perspective, but it's also a fun summer activity for the entire family. If interested, please sign up early so we can better prepare for the season. Parents, please feel free to contact the ORYA office at 868-5150 if you have further questions.