

MERBL ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR GAME

The very first High School All-Star Game was played on Field 6 in the Collinsville Sports Complex in 1999. The idea was the result of a conversation with Mike Kamp and another Collinsville coach while sitting under a shade tree next to Field 6 in June of 1999. We played the game 21 consecutive years, until being interrupted in 2020. We resumed playing the game in 2021. The 2022 game will be the 23rd game in the last 24 years.

A. The Game Set-Up

1. The game will feature American League teams playing against National League teams.
2. Because the game immediately follows the completion of the regular season and World Series, the “Head Coaches” will be the coaches of each league championship team.
3. We encourage all coaches to be involved if they desire. A few will be needed.
4. With 9 or 8 teams in each league, each team sends 3 players.
5. Game pregame activities will start at 4pm. Players need to be on sight by this time. Game time is 5pm. It will take an hour for the coaches to set their pitching and lineups.
6. We will have 4 umpires working this game.

B. Rules and Other Information

1. This is a 9-inning, WOOD BAT only, game. Players can use their own, or the bats I have on sight in each dugout.
2. Pitchers can pitch 3 outs only. Consider this when choosing players to send to the game. Coaches can use whatever method they desire to pick their All-Star representatives.
3. We will bat the entire roster with free substitutions (same rules as summer season). Keep in mind that, even with 27 players on the roster, each player should play 3 innings, minimum, on defense. Each player will get 1 at-bat guaranteed, but we usually get almost two complete times through the lineup.
4. Players MUST wear their summer team uniform. What is great about this game is seeing all of these different uniforms on the field at the same time.

C. Helpful Ideas for Getting Ready

1. I am asking the coaches to send their player Complete Names, Uniform Number and the Positions they play, (in order of ability). I will get these to the respective Head Coach of each team.
2. You may find it easier to simply list one player from each of your teams as you do the batting order. Do this three times. Just a thought.
3. Players do not have to play their innings consecutively. Mixing it up will keep everyone more involved in the whole game.
4. Keep in mind that most of these kids want to play with kids from other teams. You will be surprised at the way some of these young men will step up. We used to schedule this game in mid-season. A little success in a game like this can turn a season around.

D. For the Fans

1. Our Raffle tickets (\$500 Rural King gift card) will be sold through the top half of the 7th inning. The drawing will take place at end of 7th inning.
2. Concession will be open. We have invited a non-profit to run the concessions. The proceeds will go to local charities.
3. MERBL will be collecting non-perishables for our local food pantries. We ask that each guest bring two items. A large "blue" barrel will be on sight.
4. MERBL will have a "Home Run Derby" that any MERBL High School player can participate in. Winner will be announced between 4 & 5pm. This contest will take place on the North Field. More details to follow. Might be able to add a couple more events.
5. I welcome cameras. We currently have no one scheduled to take photos. If this is a hobby for anyone, please let me know.