

# History of the “Mendham 9 Yr. Old All-Start Tournament”

## **First Season 1996:**

2008 will be the 13<sup>th</sup> season of the annual Mendham 9-Year-Old All-Star Tournament and is scheduled to begin Saturday , June 21 and will run through July 30th. Mendham Little League, the sponsoring organization, formed the tournament for Little League District One 9-Year-Old All-star teams. Since it’s inception in 1996, this has been the premier tournament for 9 year old all-star Little League teams in Morris County.

## **Leagues involved in 2007:**

Chester, Denville, Hanover, Mendham, Morris Plains, Morristown American, Morristown National, Par-Troy East, Par-Troy West, Randolph East, Randolph West, Rockaway American, Rockaway National, Roxbury American, Roxbury National and Tri- Town (Boonton-Mt. Lakes) In 2012, expanded to include Somerset Hills Little League (Bernardsville)

## **Tournament Director:**

Glenn Coutts Jr., past coach, past board member and past president of Mendham Little League, Glenn continues to organize and supervise the tournament on behalf of MLL. Glenn can be reached at [Gkcouttsjr@aol.com](mailto:Gkcouttsjr@aol.com) – Day/Work phone: 973-539-4900 x3010 Mobile 973-476-4887.

## **Goals of Tournament:**

Established as one of the first 9 year old summer tournaments for children age 9 to play organized post-season all-star baseball. In addition to 9 year olds, the rosters permit ¼ of the team to have players of league age 8.

**Rules:** Little League Regular Season Minor Division Rules with certain rule modifications specific to the tournament.

## **Results of Tournament Formation:**

After the first few seasons, it was soon realized that many of these players move on to represent their league in the Little League 9/10 Year-Old All-Star Williamsport Tournament, the first true competitive step of Little League Baseball. So this tournament provides very important insight as to how these 9-year-olds and their teams would look and compete in the years ahead.

## **Tournament Focus and Philosophy:**

Since the tournament is likely the player’s very first all-star experience we recognize they are still at a very young age; the emphasis is to keep the games in their perspective. To accomplish this we have set the format, rules, and level of play with all that in mind. Our number one goal is for the players to have fun while they continue to learn competitive baseball. There are no playoffs for the top team and no trophies awarded. Trophies or awards are left up to the discretion of each local league. It is only asked the proper name of the tournament is inscribed on the trophy. “Mendham 9 Year Old All-Star Tournament”

## **The Best Part of the Tournament:**

One of the “rules” of the tournament is the host team must supply a post-game lunch or dinner and both teams sit down and eat together. Year after year, we hear this is one of the kid’s most favorite parts of the tournament.