



## Team Formation Policy Tri-Cities Baseball Softball Association *Amended as of May 31, 2025*

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### 1.0 GENERAL:

- 1.1. The Team Formation Policy applies to all levels of recreational play in Tri-Cities Baseball Softball Association (“TCBSA”).
- 1.2. Age divisions are defined in Section 14.1 of the TCBSA.  
*Note:* Baseball players in the 15U division and above are not eligible for recreational play but may try out for a Bandits high school division team.
- 1.3. Baseball age divisions (3U–14U) will follow National Championship Sports (“NCS”) Baseball national rules, using the player's age as of May 1 of the applicable season. For example, players registering for the Fall season will be placed in the division appropriate to their age as of the following May (Spring season).
- 1.4. Softball age divisions (6U–15U) will follow NCS Fastpitch national rules, using the player's age as of September 1 of the applicable season. For example, players registering for the Fall season will be placed in the division appropriate to their age as of that September.
- 1.5. Players may request to play up one age division, subject to Board approval.  
*Note:* Requests should be submitted via email to the Registrar.
- 1.6. All player birth certificates will be verified prior to the start of the season.
- 1.7. Team formation and roster management will be based on prior Spring season rosters.  
*Note:* Note: Fall participation does not guarantee Spring placement. First-time Fall players may be considered returning if space remains after Spring returners are assigned.

### 2.0 GENERAL – TEAM FORMATION OPTIONS:

Per Article 8.0 of the TCBSA Bylaws, Board-approved managers may choose one of two team formation options. The selected option and required documentation must be submitted to the League Commissioner before registration closes. Teams that do not make a selection will default to Option 1.

#### 2.1 Option 1 – Full Roster Retention

The approved team manager may retain more than four (4) returning players from the previous Spring roster. Any remaining roster spots must be filled through the draft process outlined in this policy.

To utilize this option, the manager must provide the following prior to the close of registration:

- Parent approval – indicated by the parent selecting the coach during player registration.
- Roster verification – confirmation of the player's previous Spring roster position through verification by the League Commissioner via review of the prior season rosters.



## 2.2 **Option 2 – Limited Player Retention**

The approved team manager may retain up to four (4) protected players, as defined in this policy. To utilize this option, the manager must submit communication to the League Commissioner prior to the close of registration regarding the protected players. All remaining roster spots will be filled through the draft process outlined in this policy.

## 3.0 **DEFINITIONS:**

- 3.1 **Returning Teams:** All players from the previous Spring roster (or Fall roster, if space permits) may return to their respective teams within the same age division. This method applies to teams utilizing **Option 1**. A returning team is defined as one in which the head coach/manager or a registered assistant coach from the previous season is returning as the approved head coach/manager for the current season.
- 3.2 **Returning Players:** Players who choose not to return to their previous team may re-enter the draft/draw process but may not request placement on a specific team. In accordance with TCBSA Bylaw 15.4, a player may designate one (1) manager they do not wish to play for.
- 3.3 **Protected Players:** Each approved team manager may protect up to four (4) players prior to the close of registration by obtaining written permission from each player's parent or legal guardian. This method applies to teams selecting **Option 2**, as outlined in Section 2.2.
- 3.4 **Draft Players:** Any player who is not designated as a protected player and is not returning to a previous team roster will be classified as an eligible draft player for their appropriate age division. These players will be assigned to teams through the draft process outlined in this policy.
- 3.5 **Siblings:** Siblings in the same age division will be placed on the same team unless otherwise requested. If one is designated as a protected player on a new team or in a new age group, the other must also be protected.
- 3.6 **Buddy Players:** During registration, families may request their child be paired ("buddied") with one other player; both families must submit the request. Buddied players must enter the blind draw draft and cannot be:
  - Attached to a protected player to create a fifth protected player (see Section 3.3)
  - Placed on or returned to a previous team by request

## 4.0 **TEAM ASSIGNMENT VIA BLIND DRAFT**

- 4.1 Protected and returning players will be placed on teams before the draft. Players lacking required documentation will enter the draft pool.
- 4.2 For all age groups, remaining roster spots will be filled through a blind draft process managed by the League Commissioner. Teams may be formed using factors such as location, school, or other criteria to promote an equitable and enjoyable playing environment.

## 5.0 **MISCELLANEOUS**

Matters not addressed in this policy will be resolved at the discretion of the Rules Committee. Objections or unresolved issues must be submitted in writing to the Director of Rules and Protest, who will present them to the Rules Committee for review and final decision.