

NWRAA Baseball/Softball Player Assignment Procedure

Created 1/22/10; revised 1/25/24.

Step One --- Player Evaluations:

Objective:

Evaluate each player's skill level and assign a numeric value based upon his/her skills. Coaches will assign a score for each skill category. Head coaches will then submit their scores to the league commissioner. A master list will then be generated based upon the average score from the coaches for each player. The list will then be sorted to provide the players' rankings. The player's rankings list will be used to determine what round locked players (coaches' children and siblings) will be drafted. The player's rankings list will also be handed out at the draft to assist coaches in their player selections.

Scoring:

We will use a 1 - 10 scoring method with 10 being best.

10 - 8	Demonstrates excellent to good fundamental skills
7 - 5	Demonstrates above average-to-average fundamental skills
4 - 3	Demonstrates below average to low fundamental skills
2 - 1	Demonstrates little to no fundamental skills

Skill Categories:

1. Hitting
2. Fielding
3. Throwing
4. Running bases

Procedure:

League commissioner/coaches will call up ten players at a time to be evaluated in all four categories: hitting, fielding, throwing, and running bases. Before dismissing players, coaches will have an opportunity to ask any questions. (For example: How long have you played? What position do you like? etc.)

The first stage of evaluation will be hitting and running:

One player from the group will hit at a time with the rest of the players spread out in the outfield shagging baseballs. The next batter should be on the on-deck circle warming up. Each player will receive five (5) pitches. For ages nine (9) and above, batters will bunt the first pitch and then swing away on the rest. Coaches will score all players on hitting. After the last pitch, the batter will run to 2nd base. (At this point coaches can observe speed as well as base running skills.) Coaches will score all players on running.

The second stage of evaluation will be fielding and throwing:

The same group of players will line up in left field. Each player will have two opportunities to field a fly ball and throw the ball to second base. (At this point coaches can observe arm strength as well as fielding skills.) After fielding from the outfield, the players will then line up at the 3rd base coaches' box. When the group has finished in the outfield they will move to shortstop where they will field two ground balls and throw the ball to 1st base. (At this point coaches can observe throwing accuracy as well as fielding skills.) Coaches will score all players on fielding and throwing.

The third stage of evaluation will be player score review:

At the completion of evaluations, coaches will meet to go over the list of players that did not attend evaluations. A brief discussion will be held for each player to assign an evaluation score. If there is a consensus, the player will be assigned a score and will be placed in the general draft. Players without scores will be placed in the 'hat,' and assigned to teams at the conclusion of the draft.

The fourth stage of evaluation will be submitting evaluation results:

Coaches will tally up their scores on the form provided and email the results to their league commissioner. All evaluation scores are confidential, and coaches should not discuss scores with players and/or parents.

Step Two --- Player Draft:

Objective:

The objective is to balance all teams based on player skill levels and provide an equal opportunity for each team to be successful. This will be done while guaranteeing siblings in the same division are on the same team. This process also allows for coaches' children to be automatically assigned to their team without affecting the balancing of the league.

Assistant Coach Selection:

Each head coach will be allowed to select one assistant coach prior to the draft. An official assistant coach is not required but is recommended.

Draft:

Drafting will be done by rounds. The 1st round player selection order will be determined by a blind draw. The 2nd round selection order will be in reverse from the 1st round. Selection order will rotate back and forth until all players are assigned to a team. Coaches will be allowed to pick any player not already selected or locked in. The ranked list generated at the evaluation is only a guide for drafting as well as to determine where locks should be slotted and for sibling selections.

Draft Rules:

1. All teams are disbanded at the end of each season.

2. Softball Kid-Pitch age groups only: A pitcher and catcher will be assigned to each team prior to the draft. The age group commissioner may alter this process if deemed beneficial to the balancing of teams.
3. The only players that will be drafted to a specific team are coaches' children. Before the beginning of the draft coaches' children will be placed on their teams based upon the master ranking list generated from the players' evaluation. If a player is ranked in the 2nd round, then that player will be slotted for the team's 2nd pick.
 - a. Coaches' children that did not attend the evaluations will be placed in the 1st round.
 - b. If a team has more than one lock in the same round, one player will be slotted for that round and the other player will be slotted for the previous round. For example, if a coach has two players in the 4th round one player will be slotted in the 4th round and the other will be slotted in the 3rd round.
 - c. If two (2) locks are slotted in the 1st round one player will be slotted in the 1st round and the other player will be slotted in the 2nd round. In this case the team will not have a 3rd round selection. Their next player selection will be in the 4th round. This team will continue to draft in the same order; however, they will receive two (2) picks in a later round to balance team numbers. This rule is not intended to penalize anyone; it is intended to help ensure an equitable draft.
 - d. League commissioner may alter the selection order in the last two rounds to ensure that team numbers are balanced.
4. Siblings in the same division will be placed on the same team unless directed not to be by their parents. Once one sibling is selected the other sibling will be automatically placed on the same team. The player will be slotted in the round predetermined by the master evaluation list. If that round has passed, then the player will be slotted in the next available pick.
5. All players who were not assigned an evaluation score will not be eligible to be drafted by the coaches. They will be put in a blind draw at the end of the draft. Players will be assigned to teams based on the selection order.
6. At the conclusion of the draft there will be a brief period where teams may elect to trade players. **The league commissioner must approve all trades.** Trades will only be sanctioned if the trading players were selected within one round of each other. (For example: A 3rd round selected player can only be traded with a 2nd, 3rd, or 4th round selection). All trades must involve an equal number of players – no 2 for 1s. This is the only chance you will have to make a trade.
7. Once the meeting is over all player selections are final. (On rare occasions, only the league commissioner may make changes.)
8. Please do not discuss trades or what round players were selected outside of the draft meeting.