

# POWHATAN LITTLE LEAGUE – 2026 DRAFT PROCEDURES



## Purpose

The PLL Draft is structured to encourage the equitable distribution of talent among teams within each age division. Powhatan Little League (PLL) will conduct all drafts in compliance with Little League Draft Method B, as detailed in the Little League Operating Manual. These guidelines are incorporated into PLL's draft methods to promote competitive balance, fairness, and player safety across all divisions.

*These draft methods and team selection procedures will be utilized for both the Spring and Fall 2026 seasons, unless amendments or changes are approved by the PLL Board of Directors.*

Prior to the draft, PLL will establish the number of players per team for each division in accordance with Regulation III(a). An age structure for each division will also be established, including a minimum number of players per league age band to be drafted per team. Due to fluctuations in registration numbers, target roster compositions will be established prior to the draft; however, total equity cannot always be guaranteed due to late or unexpected registrations.

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## Draft Method Applicability by Division

### Instructional T-Ball & Advanced T-Ball

- Player and family requests (coach, carpooling, teammate requests, etc.) will be allocated first by the Division Director and Player Agent.
- Following request allocation, remaining players will be assigned through a balanced draft or allocation process, as determined by the Division Director, to promote parity and positive player experience.
- Formal Draft Method B procedures do not apply to these divisions.

### Minors – Coach Pitch and Above

The following divisions will utilize Little League Draft Method B (Plan B):

- Minors – Coach Pitch
- Minors – Rookie
- Minors – Player Pitch

- Majors
- Intermediate (50/70)
- Seniors

Under Draft Method B, PLL will conduct a total redraft, meaning:

- Teams from prior seasons do not remain intact, and
  - All team rosters are re-formed through the draft process each year.
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## **Returning Players and New-to-Division Players (Plan B)**

In accordance with Draft Method B, returning players are drafted first, followed by new and eligible players.

### **Returning Players**

For the Spring 2026 draft, returning players are defined as players who played in the same division during the Spring 2025 season and are age-eligible to remain in that division.

### **New and Eligible Players**

New and eligible players include:

- Players moving up from a lower division
- First-time registrants
- Players who did not play in that division during Spring 2025

After all returning players have been addressed, remaining roster positions will be filled from the pool of new and eligible players.

Clarification: While returning players may be drafted first as required under Draft Method B, no team continuity is implied or permitted. Teams are fully re-formed each season.

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## **Player Assessments & Blind Draft**

For all divisions utilizing Draft Method B (Minors – Coach Pitch and above):

- Player participation in assessments is strongly encouraged to support safe and balanced team formation.

- Players who do not attend assessments will be reviewed by the Player Agent and placed into a blind draft pool.
- Blind-drafted players will be selected without access to assessment rankings or scores and will be assigned using a randomized “fishbowl” selection process (i.e., names drawn at random).

The Purpose of Blind-draft assignments will be made in a manner that maintains roster equity and competitive balance, at the discretion of the Player Agent.

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## **Player & Family Requests**

- Parent/guardian requests, including coach preferences, carpooling needs, teammate requests, and practice-day considerations, may be displayed and available for review during the draft.
  - All requests are non-binding and subject to the sole discretion of the Division Managers.
  - No request is guaranteed. Roster decisions must prioritize competitive balance, player safety, and the best interest of the division and league.
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## **Draft Proceedings & Confidentiality**

- Draft proceedings are strictly confidential.
  - All discussions, evaluations, rankings, draft strategies, selections, and deliberations that occur during the draft are not to be shared outside of the draft room.
  - Any violation of draft confidentiality may be subject to review by the PLL Board of Directors.
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## **General Draft Day Guidelines**

- The Manager is the only individual authorized to represent a team during the draft.
- Only Team Managers may be present in the draft room unless discussed and approved by Player Agent.
- Managers unable to attend must notify the Player Agent in writing in advance. A Board Member or Division Director will draft on their behalf.
- If a Manager has not been identified for a team, a Board Member or Division Director will conduct the draft.
- Managers must base selections on player assessment data.
- Draft materials and notes will be collected at the conclusion of the draft.
- Players and parents may never be informed of rankings, evaluations, or draft position.
- Team rosters become final after the draft and any approved trades are completed.

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## Manager Son/Daughter of Coach Waiver

Managers may submit a waiver claiming up to two (2) son/daughter of coach volunteers, who have volunteered for at least two (2) prior seasons (not required to be consecutive). Requests must be submitted jointly by the Manager and the requested volunteer to the Player Agent at least 48 hours prior to the draft.

To be eligible:

- The Manager's player(s) and the volunteer's player(s) must have attended assessments.
- Failure to meet assessment requirements will result in the player being placed into the draft pool.

Managers who do not exercise this option will select requested assistant coaches from the draft pool.

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## Sibling Placement

Siblings will be placed on the same team unless a written request is submitted by the parent(s)/guardian(s) requesting separation.

When one sibling is selected, the remaining sibling must be selected within the next two (2) picks, based on skills assessment positioning, to maintain roster equity.

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## Draft Guidelines

For Minors – Kid Pitch and above, all pitcher and catcher assessment scores and rankings will be presented to Managers. The following guidelines will be used to ensure roster parity and player safety:

- If a roster is determined to have sufficient pitching and/or catching depth, that Manager will not participate in pitcher and/or catcher selections until other teams have addressed those needs.
- Teams lacking qualified pitchers and/or catchers will be given priority in filling those skill gaps.
- The Player Agent will maintain live draft rosters, including average assessment scores, and will alert Managers to any roster balance concerns during the draft.

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## Draft Mechanics

- Draft order will be determined by blind draw.
- Managers with fewer assigned players will select first.
- As rosters equalize, the draft will proceed in a Serpentine Draft Plan order format.
- Pitcher and catcher needs may be prioritized to ensure safe, balanced, and competitive team rosters.
- The Player Agent will actively monitor roster composition and overall balance throughout the draft process.

## Postseason Seeding

For **Minors – Coach Pitch and above**, **postseason seeding** will be determined by the **reverse order of the draft**.

*Example: the team with the first overall draft pick will be assigned the last postseason seed.*

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## Trades & Late Registrations

- All trades must be approved by the Player Agent and completed within 24 hours of the draft.
  - Trades must not disrupt roster parity.
  - Managers may not contact players until 24 hours after draft completion.
  - Late registrants will be assigned by the Player Agent.
  - A rolling draft order will be maintained for late additions.
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## Oversight & Amendments

- These procedures will be reviewed and approved by the PLL Board of Directors prior to the 2026 season.
- The Player Agent retains discretion to make determinations in the interest of fairness, parity, and player well-being.
- Any amendments must receive Board approval.