

# SEASON DRAFT PROCEDURES

---

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the draft process is to establish a fair system that distributes players of similar skill levels among teams in Farm, Minor, and Major divisions. Draft Procedures do not apply to Rookie, Intermediate and Junior Divisions since teams will be assigned by the Player Agent. Drafts are conducted every Spring Season to create new teams. However, a Winterball draft may be conducted based on registration numbers, as determined by the Player Agent. Prior to the draft, managers are given the chance to assess each player's abilities and select the talent they wish to draft during the Player Evaluation Sessions. The Coaching Coordinator and Player Agent also provide support to managers in the evaluation and rating of each player. The ultimate objective is to establish well-balanced teams by fairly distributing talent among each division. The Player Agent oversees the draft process with the assistance of the Coaching Coordinator. If a dispute arises, the Player Agent's decisions are final with the support of the executive board in attendance. *The draft process is guided by Little League Operating Manual's Draft Process Plan A.*

## TEAM REQUESTS

We do our best to accommodate requests for coaches, siblings, and friends in the Rookie Division Only, however, we cannot guarantee that all requests will be granted. Please submit any requests during registration. Please note that once the rosters have been released and uniforms have been ordered, players will not be able to switch teams. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate requests for specific teams, managers, coaches, or teammates in the Farm, Minor, Major, Intermediate and Junior divisions.

## DRAFT ATTENDEES

**All managers must attend the draft.** If an unforeseen absence occurs, a representative must be selected to act as a substitute. Additionally, the Player Agent, Coaching Coordinator, and other vital Executive Committee Members are invited to attend. Board members with a vested interest in a division (such as managing, coaching or having a child playing in that division) must recuse themselves from board-related discussions pertaining to that division. However, manager's may participate in the draft process solely as their team's manager. If the Player Agent is in this situation, the Coaching Coordinator will oversee the draft process for that division. Players or parents are not allowed to attend the draft process under any circumstances.

## DRAFT POOL CANDIDATES

Before the draft begins, all managers will receive a comprehensive list of the draft pool candidates, as well as a copy of the Player Agent and Coaching Coordinator's completed Skills Evaluation Ranking Sheet. We advise managers to come equipped with their own draft notes and completed Skills Evaluation Ranking Sheet to share with everyone in attendance.

## DRAFT DAY

Draft occurs after all evaluations have been completed, typically the day following the last evaluation session. Attendees meet at Cortez Park (boardroom above snack bar) at the scheduled division time.

## DRAFT METHOD

The managers will draft using the serpentine draft method, often referred to as "Snake" draft. *The draft process is guided by Little League Operating Manual's Draft Process Plan A.*

Here's how it works: In a six-team division, the draft order would be 1-2-3-4-5-6- 6-5-4-3-2-1-1-2-3-4-5-6, etc. Teams at each end of the order effectively have two consecutive picks straddling the end and beginning of consecutive rounds.

In other words, in a six-team division, the draft would begin with team one and end with team six. The draft order would then reverse, with team six beginning the next round, and team one ending it. This pattern continues until all positions have been filled. Teams at either end of the order have the advantage of two consecutive picks that straddle the beginning and end of consecutive rounds.

## DRAFT ORDER & TEAM NAMES

The draft order is determined by a random selection process. At the beginning of the draft, each team manager draws a number from a hat, which determines their team's place in the draft. Within each draft, team names will be assigned according to manager seniority from a pre-determined team list pre-approved by the Board.

## TEAM FORMATION

To ensure fairness and balance, Little League Rules dictate the minimum and maximum number of players a manager can choose based on the age groups. In the Major division, for example, no team can have more than eight players of Little League age twelve (12). If a Major Division manager surpasses the maximum number of twelve (12) year old players, the Player Agent will alert them during the draft and ask them to make selections to comply with the rule. Typically, teams should have a total of 12 or 13 players, depending on registration totals. The Player Agent will establish and communicate these rules before the draft begins.

## PLAYER'S "OVERALL AVERAGE SCORE"

Each player will be assigned an "Overall Average Score". To determine each player's "Overall Average Score," we consider a variety of factors. We take an average of the player's rankings from the manager's Skills Evaluation Ranking Sheets and also consider their sportsmanship and other relevant factors. All managers in that division, along with the Player Agent and Coaching Coordinator, discuss and agree upon this score throughout the draft process. Utilizing this score will assist managers in selecting players of similar skill levels in each draft round.

## PROTECTED PLAYERS

During the drafting process, a manager's child is safeguarded from being drafted by other managers. Managers are required to draft their children onto their team, assigning them to the appropriate round based on their Overall Average Score. The allocation process for a manager's child should take place at the start of the draft. No other player will receive draft protection, including the children of board members, other volunteers and those of coaches **(unless there is a coaches option in place).**

*Coaches Option: The coaches option may only be used if applied uniformly to all managers within a division. If any manager declines the coaches option, it cannot be used in that division. When a coaches option is used, player ranking will be determined by the Player Agent to ensure fairness. The coaches option must be limited to one of the two designated primary "dugout" coaches and must adhere to Coaches Code of Conduct and Expectations set forth by the Board.*

**A manager's or coach's protected player only applies to children, grandchildren, or relatives of the immediate family. Any unrelated players will be at the discretion of the Player Agent and Executive Committee.**

## NO SHOWS

**Every player must be evaluated.** In order to guarantee an effective draft, every player must undergo an evaluation process. To facilitate this process, West Covina American Little League board has scheduled multiple evaluation days. As a parent or guardian, it is your responsibility to ensure that your player attends one of the evaluation opportunities, a make-up session, or schedule an appointment with the Player Agent. If a player is unable to attend any of these events, they will be classified as a "No Show." Players who are marked as a "No Show" will be drafted into teams in the following manner:

- **Returning Known WCALL Player:** In the event that a returning WCALL player is a "No Show" but their baseball skills and abilities are **known**, the Player Agent, Coaching Coordinator, and Managers must convene before the open draft begins to discuss the player's skills and abilities. If the majority of managers are aware of the player's capabilities, that player will be placed in the open draft and ranked solely by those managers who are knowledgeable about the player. Each of those players will receive an Overall Average Score and will be eligible for drafting by any manager during their respective round.
- **New Players To WCALL/Unknown:** At the conclusion of the open draft, any no-shows who are new to WCALL or unfamiliar to the Player Agent, Coaching Coordinator, or Managers will be chosen randomly through a blind draw process commonly referred to as "hat pick". The team that is expected to draft next will be assigned the player whose name is drawn first.

## DRAFTING SIBLINGS

WCALL Bylaws permit siblings in the same division to play on the same team, unless their parent or guardian requests otherwise and the Player Agent approves the request. Additionally, when drafting a player who has a sibling in the division, the draft round for the second sibling will be determined by their Overall Average Score to ensure they're placed appropriately.

For instance, if a player is drafted in the 3rd round and has a sibling with an Overall Average Score of 2, their brother will occupy the appropriate round for that same team based on their rating.

## TRADES

Once a player is drafted to a team, that player becomes the team's property, and unless traded, will remain on that team for the entirety of the spring season. **Trades will only be allowed in the draft room immediately following the draft, under no circumstances will trading be allowed once manager's leave the draft room.**

The Player Agent with assistance of the Coaching Coordinator will review and approve or deny each trade that is proposed. Trades can be made for a player picked in the same number round or one above or one below.

Example: Team Dodger has expressed interest in trading their round pick 3 to Team Angels. While other teams may also submit a request to trade for the same round pick, the final decision to accept or reject any offers rests solely with Team Angels. If they choose to accept an offer, they may trade for an equal round pick 3, or make a counteroffer with a round pick above or below (i.e. round pick 4 or round pick 2).

## DRAFT DAY PROCESS

The draft process is designed to methodically select candidates to fill the Farm, Minor, and Major division teams.

**The Player Agent will call the Draft to Order:**

1. The draft order will be determined through a random draw.
2. Teams will choose their names in reverse draft order.
3. Protected Player: Manager's child(ren) will be placed based on agreed Overall Average Score.
4. The Player Agent will disclose any "sibling requests" and "petitions for advancement."

5. Known WCALL players who were a "No Show" will be discussed and assigned an Overall Average Score.
6. Throughout the draft process, a screen/board will display all remaining available players. Live draft selections will be visible to attendees in real time.
  - a. The team that was chosen first from the hat pick will be given a reasonable time to make their selection.
  - b. In the event that no selection has been made within a reasonable time, the Player Agent and Coaching Coordinator will collaborate to guide the manager in selecting a player.
7. Managers make their selections by announcing the tryout number and the name of the player. Once a selection has been made, the Player Agent will repeat the tryout number and name to ensure accuracy.
8. All managers must select a player in every round until all players have been chosen.
9. New WCALL or Unknown Players who were marked as a "no show" will be chosen through a blind draw process "hat pick." The team expected to draft next will receive the first player drawn.
10. Start of Trade Proposals – *subject to no particular order*

## CONFIDENTIALITY

**The draft process maintains strict confidentiality**, including the assessment of players, player draft order, and potential trades. All attendees are responsible for keeping the draft and its materials confidential. Once the draft is completed, all materials must be returned to the Player Agent. Please note that any violation of this policy by a Manager or their substitute may result in suspension.

## PLAYER AND TEAM INFORMATION

---

### TEAM ROSTERS

- A. All Junior, Intermediate, Major and Minor Division Team Rosters will have a least twelve (12) players on their roster as established by the League (registration permitting).
- B. Teams may have eleven (11) players on their roster if an injury occurs and players will return back prior to the end of season or Teams may carry thirteen (13) players.

**In creating team rosters, it is important to remember Little League Regulation III. This Regulation provides the league with an outline in roster structure and formatting.**

### PLAYER AWARDS

Awards will be presented to the following:

- A. All Championship 1st place teams from playoffs will receive a Team Trophy (Farm-Major)
- B. All players of the winning teams of each division after championship play will receive a trophy
- C. All players of the second-place teams of each division after championship play will receive a trophy
- D. All remaining players will receive a participation medal.
- E. Any other participation awards must be sanctioned and approved by the League.