

**Mansfield Girls' Softball Association
Team Draft Procedures – Spring Softball Program**

Objective: In accordance with MGSA's mission to provide a league that fosters the development of the skills and strategies to help each girl reach THE BEST OF HER ABILITY as a softball player in a fun, safe environment that EMPHASIZES teamwork and sportsmanship, the goal of the draft process shall be to establish parity among the teams in each division.

Note: Situations may arise that are not specifically addressed by this policy. In that event, these guidelines should be modified in whatever way will best promote and enhance team parity.

Policy: No special requests for children to be together on the same team will be promised. However, a parent may submit a written request to the Board requesting a "hardship" exception to this rule, which request must describe the nature of the hardship or other extenuating circumstances upon which the request is based. The Board will, at its sole discretion as to whether the request warrants an exception, vote to approve or disapprove the request.

For each division, there will be a coordinator selected that will conduct the draft (and coaching pair selections) for that division.

This coordinator will gather all coaching candidates and have them submit CORI information. From the coaches that pass, the coordinator will select Head/Asst. coaching pair. Any additional assistant coaches who wish to be on the same team with their child will not be assigned to teams until their child has been drafted and assigned to a team.

Set-Up: The following are general guidelines that should be followed prior to draft night.

- In order to promote parity in those divisions where the girls pitch, the coordinator and coaches in those divisions will identify the best pitching candidates prior to the draft; the number of pitchers so identified shall be equal to the number of teams in that division e.g., if there are six teams in the division, the six best pitchers will be identified and rated on a scale of 1 to 5 (where 5 is the best).
- In order to promote parity in those divisions where the stealing/dropped third strike rule is in effect, the coordinator and coaches in those divisions will identify the best catching candidates prior to the draft; the number of catchers so identified shall be equal to the number of teams in that division e.g., if there are six teams in the division, the six best catchers will be identified and rated on a scale of 1 to 4 (where 4 is the best).
- For purposes of conducting the draft, all girls other than the designated best pitchers and catchers will be designated as "position" players. The coordinators, utilizing input from the coaches, will endeavor to rate the overall abilities (hitting, fielding, and throwing) of each position player with whom they are familiar on a scale of 1 to 3; if no one is familiar with a particular player and it is not possible to assign a rating, that player shall be designated as "Unrated and be assigned a value of 1".

[The coordinators should do this as effectively as possible prior to the draft, but if not they can do it the night of the draft. In future years, there should be evaluation forms from the prior year available. *This is clearly not needed for 1-2.]

The Draft: The following are the general guidelines for conducting the actual draft.

- As the draft is conducted, the rating point values of the players on each team shall be tallied to keep track of the relative strengths of each team.
- The children of each coaching pair will automatically be assigned to the team that their parent is coaching.

- After assigning the children of the head coach and assistant coach to their teams, a round robin draft shall be held in each division to assign the remaining girls to a team.
- The order of selection in the first round shall be determined by drawing numbers from a hat or some other random basis.
- In divisions where the girls pitch, the first round of the draft will be used to draft one of the designated best pitchers. If a team already has one of those best pitchers because she is the daughter of either the head coach or assistant coach, that team shall not select a player in the first round.
- In divisions where the stealing/dropped third strike rule is in effect, the second round of the draft will be used to draft one of the designated best catchers. If a team already has one of those best catchers because she is the daughter of either the head coach or assistant coach, that team shall not select a player in the second round. The order of selecting catchers in the second round shall be based upon the strength of the pitcher selected by each team in the first round; a team with a lower rated pitcher from the first round will select before a team with a higher rated pitcher. For example a team with a pitcher rated a 2 will select before a team with a pitcher rated a 3; any ties will be broken by drawing a number from a hat or some other random basis.
- Subsequent rounds of the draft will be used to select the position players. The order of selection in each round shall be determined first by the number of players on a given team, and then by the total point value of all the players already assigned to each team. A team who had to skip a round because of the pitching/catching criteria or any other event that causes them to have fewer players than the rest, will need to get an equal amount of players first. Then, the team with a lower total point value (ie, a weaker team) will select before a team with a higher total point value (ie, a stronger team). For example, all teams with only 3 players will select in a round while all teams with more than 3 players will not select. When teams have an equal number of players, player ratings will be calculated. A team with players whose ratings add up to a total of 12 will select before a team with players who add up to a total of 13; any ties will be broken by drawing a number from a hat or some other random basis.
- After the better players have been drafted, consideration may be given to selecting two players in each round in order to speed up the draft; the order of drafting in each round will still be based upon total point values as described above.
- Once the draft is completed, two coaches may make a trade provided that both coaches are in agreement with making the trade.
- Prior to the draft, if feasible, there will be a one day coach's meeting to evaluate the players. Or, if feasible, a practice/evaluation session will be held in the gym to enable all coaches to observe the skill levels of each child – in that case, the girls will be evaluated and graded in each of the following areas:
 - Pitching/Catching (if appropriate)
 - Throwing
 - Fielding
 - Swinging a bat
- At the end of each season, each coach will be responsible for rating each player on the following skills to help facilitate the following year's draft:
 - Throwing
 - Fielding
 - Hitting
 - Base running
 - Other softball intangibles
 - Attitude