



**Team Formation Policy for the
Tri-Cities Baseball Softball Association
*Amended as of July 11, 2016***

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, as defined within the TCBSA bylaws, include:
 - a.** 3U League; age 3; Rookie T-ball
 - b.** 4U League; age 4; Rookie T-ball
 - c.** 5U League; age 5; T-ball
 - d.** 6U League; age 6; T-ball
 - e.** 7U League; age 7; Coach Pitch; Baseball and/or Softball
 - f.** 8U League; age 8; Coach Pitch; Baseball and/or Softball
 - g.** 9U League; age 9; Kid Pitch; Baseball and/or Softball
 - h.** 10U League; age 10; Kid Pitch; Baseball and/or Softball
 - i.** 12U League; ages 11 and 12; Kid Pitch; Baseball and/or Softball
 - j.** 15U League; ages 13, 14, and 15; Kid Pitch; Baseball and/or Softball

- 1.3.** Age divisions of 3U – 6U and 7U – 15U baseball will be determined via the United States Specialty Sports Association (“USSSA”) national rules with age as of May 1st. Fall season players will be placed in the league appropriate to their age as of the following spring.

- 1.4.** Age divisions of 7U – 15U softball will be determined via the Amateur Softball Association (“ASA”) national rules with age as of January 1st. Fall season players will be placed in the league appropriate to their age as of the following spring.

- 1.5.** Players may request to play-up no more than one age division with Board approval as required.

- 1.6.** Birth certificates will be verified for all players prior to play commencing during the season.

- 1.7.** All team formation and roster maintenance will be based on spring rosters.

2.0 GENERAL – TEAM FORMATION OPTIONS:

In accordance with Article 8.0 – “Managers and Registered Coaches Approval” of the TCBSA Governing Bylaws, Board approved team managers will have two (2) overall options for team formation. Communication of the formation option and any required documentation to the League Commissioner prior to the close of registration is the responsibility of the Manager/Head Coach. Teams that do not communicate the selected option will default to Option 2 below.

2.1 Option 1 allows the approved team manager to retain all players (any number more than four (4) *returning players*(3.2)) from the previous spring roster. If this option is selected, the team will default to the “A” division in the respective league as assigned by the League Commissioner regardless of player age. The manager must evidence (1) player’s parent approval (i.e. Coach requested during player registration) and (2) player’s previous roster position prior to the close of registration (i.e. Previous roster from Coach or verification by League Commissioner through team formation application). Any empty slots not filled by previous players must be filled through the league specific draft process, outlined herein.

Note: Fall season rosters do not provide guaranteed ownership of returning TCBSA players. If the fall season is a player’s first season with TCBSA, and there is space available based on spring returning players, the player may be considered a returning player for the following spring season.

2.2 Option 2 allows the approved team manager to retain 4 protected players, as defined herein. The manager must submit evidence of the player’s parent approval prior to the close of registration to the League Commissioner through use of the Protected Player Designation Form. The remaining player slots are to be filled through the league specific draft process, outlined herein.

2.3 If the Manager believes the options do not apply to his/her team, please communicate the special case in writing to the League Commissioner. The Commissioner will bring the request before a committee consisting of the President, Vice President, Director of Rules & Protest, Treasurer, Secretary, and League Commissioner for review and final decision. Players in this instance are discouraged from registering prior to the Committee decision. As noted at 1.0, teams will default to Option 2.

3.0 DEFINITIONS:

3.1 Returning Teams: All players from the previous spring’s roster (or fall roster if a space allows) will be allowed to return to their respective teams within that age division. This method would be utilized with Option 1. A returning team is defined as a team whose head coach/manager, or registered assistant coach is returning as the approved head coach/manager.

3.2 Returning Players: Any player not wishing to return to his/her team can re-enter the draft/draw, but cannot request to be placed onto a specific team. The player, in accordance with TCBSA Bylaw 15.4, a player may select one (1) manager for which they do not wish to play.

3.3 Protected Players: Each approved team manager will be allowed to protect up to four (4) players prior to the close of registration with written permission from that player’s parent or legal guardian. This method would be used with Option 2, noted above at 2.2. Protected players are not able to be “buddied” with other players or siblings to attempt to protect more than 4 players. If a protected player is with a buddy, that counts as 2 protects.

3.4 Draft Players: Any player that is neither protected, nor returning to their previous team's roster, will be considered an eligible draft player for his/her appropriate age group. The player will be assigned to a team in accordance with the league specific draft process, outlined herein.

4.0 TEAM ASSIGNMENT VIA DRAFT

Prior to the draft, protected players and returning players will be placed on their appropriate teams. All approved managers should have submitted any requests and evidence prior to this time. If appropriate evidence has not been provided, players will be defined as draft players and assigned teams as defined below. The remaining roster spots will be filled as follows:

4.1 3U/4U: Teams may be formed based on the League Commissioner's discretion, using location, school, blind draw or other means necessary to create an equitable and enjoyable playing environment. Parents may request that their child be "buddied" with another child. This request should be made in writing to the League Commissioner prior to the close of registration.

4.2 5U/6U, 7U/8U: Regardless of the option selected by the approved manager a blind draw method will be used to fill out the remaining roster spots. Parents may request that their child be "buddied" with another child. All "buddied" players must be in the draw, they cannot be attached to a protected player in an attempt to create a 5th protect, as noted in 3.3 above. An effort will be made to keep teams age specific unless otherwise requested.

4.3 9U-15U: All age divisions will schedule and conduct a draft workout for player evaluation prior to the draft. All managers and non-protected players are required to attend the workout. The workout will be the same for each player; i.e. same number of pitches, balls hit, and balls fielded. League Commissioners and coaches will conduct an individual player draft for each league using TCBSA's draft selection format, detailed herein. No player can be selected during the draft that did not attend the draft workout; instead that player will be placed on a team via the blind draw method at the end of the draft. "Buddy" requests are not allowed.

(15 year olds at the 14U level, where eligible to play, can only be protected when their parent/legal guardian is the manager and approved by the board. They will, however, be allowed to return to the team they played for the previous spring)

4.4 Siblings: Siblings will follow each other if they are in the same age group unless specifically requested otherwise. When moving to a new age group, or forming a new team, however, if one sibling is designated as a protected player, the other must be protected as well.

4.5 Fall Season: Teams from the previous spring season may stay together for the fall season. All available roster spots will be filled by blind draw for the fall season, only. Players added to fall rosters will be returned to the draft pool in the spring.

5.0 DRAW/DRAFT PROCEDURES

- 5.1** The Manager shall be present for the entire draw/draft process.
- 5.2** At the actual draw/draft, there shall be a limit of two (2) representatives for each team, of which one (1) shall be the spokesman.
- 5.3** Draw/draft positions shall be drawn not more than one (1) hour prior to the first draw/draft picks. This position shall be held throughout the draw/draft process.
- 5.4** All returning players shall be accounted for by team on a “Master List”. Protected players shall be added if applicable.

Note: Attempts to keep age specific teams during the drawing/drafting of players shall be made prior to mixing again groups.

- 5.5** The League Commissioner shall advise the round at which each team shall commence their participation.
- 5.6** Drawing/drafting of players in the age group shall proceed with each team drawing/drafting in sequence as drawn, with the first round beginning with the lowest number drawn and continuing sequentially to the highest number drawn. The second round shall begin with the highest number drawn and proceed sequentially downward to the lowest number drawn. The process will continue, repeating the numbers sequentially up and down in each round until the draw/draft is completed. A team shall not participate in draw/draft round in which a player is returning or protected; i.e. with eight (8) returning players a team will not draft until the ninth (9th) round. This procedure shall continue until all the players in the age group have been selected.
- 5.7** The draw rules are the same, as the draft except the players shall be drawn instead of drafted. The blind draw shall be performed after all draft workout players are assigned.
- 5.8** No person shall run a draw/draft that has a child in that draw/draft.

6.0 MISCELLANEOUS

Anything regarding team formation that is not specifically covered in this policy will be discussed and decided at the discretion of the Rules Committee. Any objections or instances not specifically covered in this policy must be submitted through written request to the Director of Rules and Protest, who in turn will bring the issue to the Rules Committee for review and final decision.



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Amended as of ~~March 7~~ July 11, 2016

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1.5. ~~Players may request to play-up no more than one age division. Requests to play up must include approval documentation of the coach receiving the player, as well as age group commissioner. If the player is a returning player as appropriately evidenced, the coach may elected option 1 below. If the player is not a returning player, the coach will consider the player one of the four (4) protected players and utilize option 2 below with Board approval as required.~~

1.6. Birth certificates will be verified for all players prior to play commencing during the season.

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2.0 GENERAL – TEAM FORMATION OPTIONS:

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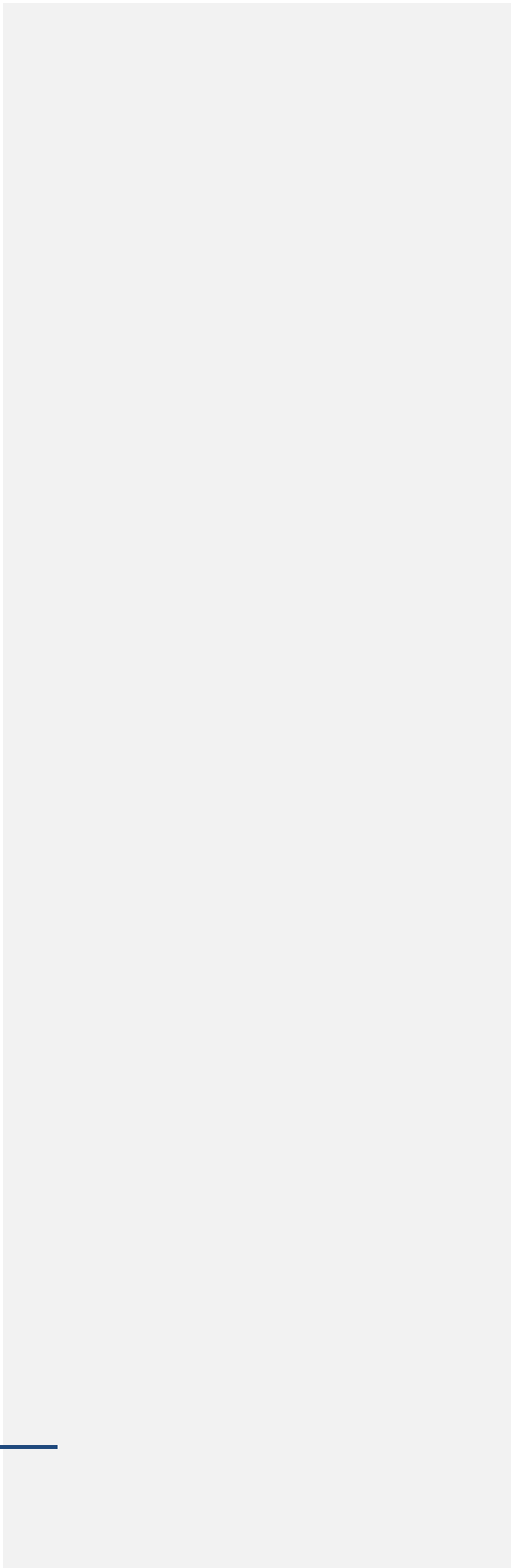
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