

NWRAA Baseball/Softball Player Assignment Procedure

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Step One - Player Evaluations:

Each League will be broken down into two groups; Group #1 will begin their evaluations 1 hr prior to group #2. Both groups will be evaluated on the same field. Time frame for evaluation is approximately 2.5 – 3 hours. Evaluations times can be adjusted by the commissioners as needed.

Group #1: players with their last name beginning with A – L

Group #2: players with their last name beginning with M – Z

Softball Age Groups will try out by age group as determined by the commissioner.

Objective:

Evaluate each player's baseball skills 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 player's rankings. The player's rankings list will be used to determine what round lock-in players will be drafted in (coaches' children and siblings). 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.

General Guideline for Scoring

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 very little to no fundamental skills

Skill Categories:

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

Procedure:

Upon arrival players will line-up at the designated area. (Players are encouraged to arrive early so they may have time to warm-up with a few throws.) League commissioner/Coaches will call

up ten players at a time to be evaluated in all four categories – hitting, fielding, throwing and Running bases.

First stage of evaluation will be hitting. Players will be evaluated in groups of ten (10). One player from the group will hit at a time with the rest of the players shagging balls. 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 be asked to bunt the first pitch and then swing away on the rest. Coaches will score all players in hitting.

Second stage of evaluation will be fielding and throwing. The same group of players will be asked to 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 start lining up at the 3rd base coach's 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.) After fielding the ground balls the players will be asked to line-up in front of the 1st base dugout. Coaches will score all players in fielding and throwing. (this stage can be skipped by 6 year old baseball age group)

The third stage of evaluations will be base running. One at a time, players will run from 1st to 3rd base. After running the bases, players will be asked to line up in front of the 3rd base dugout. (At this point coaches can observe speed as well as base running skills.) Coaches will score all players in running.

Before dismissing the group, coaches will have a brief moment to ask any question. (For example: How long have you played? What position do you like? Etc.) Time for questioning will be limited to keep evaluations moving. Players will then be asked to leave the field so the next group can begin. This rotation will continue until all players are evaluated.

Coaches will tally up their scores on the form provided and email the results to their respected 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 effecting 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. The limitations on assistant coach selection are as follows:

1. No coaching teams may have more than three lock-in (coaches' children) players. This will **only** occur if one of the coaches has more than one child playing in the same age group.
 - a. Cannot have three (3) lock-ins in the 1st round.
 - b. Cannot have two (2) lock-ins in the 1st round with a lock-in in the 2nd round or 3rd round.

Draft:

Drafting will be done by rounds. The first 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 lock-ins should be slotted and for sibling selections. Coaches should keep in mind when drafting that pitching rules requires that the younger age group in your division must pitch at least one full inning in every game.

Draft Rules:

1. All teams are disbanded at the end of each season.
2. 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. If a coaching team has more than one lock-in 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.
 - b. If two (2) lock-ins are rated in the 1st round one player will be slotted in the 1st round and the other player will 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) last round picks in the draft to balance team numbers. ***This rule is not designed to penalize anyone; it is designed to help insure an equitable***

draft. Any team allowed to lock-in two or three top players in a league has an obvious advantage.

- c. If a team has three (3) lock-ins in the same round it requires one player to be slotted in the previous round, one player slotted for that round, and one player slotted for the next round. The team will also forfeit a selection for their next pick. (For example if a team has three lock-ins in the 4th round; one will be slotted for the 3rd round, one for the 4th round and one for the 5th round. The team will not make a selection in the 6th round. The team will continue to draft in the same order for remaining rounds, however, they will receive two (2) last round picks in the draft to balance team numbers.)
 - d. League commissioner may alter the selection order in the last two rounds to assure that team numbers are balanced.
3. 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 ranked evaluation list. If that round has past then the player will be slotted in the next available pick. (Same process for assigning coaches' children).
 4. All players who were not present at the evaluation 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. **(Note: an exception to this shall be for players whose abilities are known and agreed upon by a census of coaches – commissioner will make the finally determination. This must be agreed upon prior to the first selection of the draft. If so, the player may be drafted instead of being placed in the blind draw. Even though a general score may be obtained it will not change where coaches' children or siblings are slotted.) It is recommended that this be done at the conclusion of the evaluation.**
 5. At the conclusion of the draft there will be a short period (30 minutes or less – to be determined by the league commissioner) where teams may elect to trade players. All trades must be approved by the league commissioner. Trades will only be sanctioned if the trading players were selected with-in 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 equal number of players – no 2 for 1s. This is the only chance you will have to make a trade.
 6. Once the meeting is over all player selections are final. *On a rare occasion, only the league commissioner may make changes.*
 7. Please do not discuss trades or what round players were selected outside of the draft meeting.