



Team Split Policy FAQ

What is a team split policy?

A team split policy is a set of criteria for determining how to divide a single team of players within a level (Rookie, Cub, Sophomore, JV, Varsity) into two or more equitable teams.

What do you mean by “equitable teams”?

Dividing teams by school boundaries is considered by GEJFA to satisfy the goal of equity. The GEJFA and WCJFA strive for equity, or parity, in player numbers, age, size, skill, and experience, with school boundaries serving as the primary criterion.

Under what conditions are teams split?

Per GEJFA rules, teams must have a minimum of 14 players and a maximum of 33 players. A team may be split into two equal teams once a team roster has at least 28 players, and must be split when a team roster has 34 players.

What is the preferred team size?

GEJFA recommends at least 22 players per team, though teams may be as small as 14 and as large as 33.

On a practical level, coaches tend to have better success coaching teams sized appropriately for their level. In general, it’s desirable for Rookie teams to be smaller in size (say, 18 players), and it’s desirable for Varsity teams to be larger in size (say, 32 players).

WCJFA recommends the following team sizes:

Level	Recommended team size
Varsity	32
JV	24
Sophomore	22
Cub	20
Rookie	18

Is there a team limit (cap)?

Per GEJFA, a team cannot have more than 33 players. WCJFA does not impose additional team size limits at this time.

How many teams are there for each level?

Each level (Rookie through Varsity) consists of one to three teams, depending on roster size. Wildcats teams are created in the following order:

1. Red
2. White
3. Gray

Most levels consist of two teams, Red and White.

What are the main criteria used to determine team splits?

To determine team assignments (Red, White, or Gray), WCJFA uses the following criteria:

1. SVSD elementary school boundary
2. Years in the WCJFA program
3. Registration date/time

What are the current elementary school boundary assignments?

WCJFA uses the [Snoqualmie Valley elementary school boundaries](#) to help determine team assignments, as follows:

- Red – FCES, CVES, and SES
- White – Opstad, NBE, and TRES

What if my child is in middle school?

Regardless of which grade your child is in, residence within the SVSD elementary school boundary is used as the criterion.

Why did we institute this new team split policy?

The WCJFA board had discovered that split policies in the past were implemented differently from year to year. Not surprisingly, this tended to raise questions from parents and coaches.

This team split policy defined here was first instituted in 2015 and has proved to be very effective. Our goal was to define a new team split policy that met the following conditions, and that above all would be fair and equitable to everyone. The new WCJFA team split policy:

- Meets GEJFA team split policy requirements.
- Aligns with the GEJFA recommendation to use school boundaries as a central consideration. Most clubs in the GEFJA follow this recommendation.
- Removes the arbitrary boundary used to subdivide players that reside in Snoqualmie Ridge. This boundary was drawn to help establish team balance after Snoqualmie Middle School was closed.
- Prepares us for the opening of the new elementary school on Snoqualmie Ridge (Timber Ridge), facilitating the process of determining two-team (Red/White) and three-team (Red/White/Gray) splits.

- Is implemented objectively using data gathered during registration.
- Is enforced consistently and objectively.
- Is communicated fully and openly. Providing full transparency reduces the number of questions and concerns about how the policy works.

Were other team split policies considered?

Yes, we considered a wide range of policies, including hosting a skills session followed by a player draft (as done by a couple other GEJFA clubs). We quickly rejected this option, however, as historical league data shows that player drafts tend to create inequitable team splits that result in teams with great disparity in Win-Loss records (for instance, one team going undefeated and the other losing most games).

The other leading policy proposal was to use just two criteria: elementary school boundary and registration date. We determined, however, that this option would lead to a lack of continuity in player and coach experience, as the “first come, first served” registration date criteria would cause too many players to be placed on a different team each year.

How does this policy differ from the policy in 2014 and earlier?

The most obvious change is that we’re now using elementary school boundaries instead of middle school boundaries as a key criterion. The biggest change, though, is not so much in the policy itself but in a) the transparency that we’re bringing to the process, b) the administrative procedures we’ve implemented to support the policy, c) and the objectivity used to enforce it.

Will this policy change again next year?

The team split policy was updated in 2016 to account for the new elementary school boundaries, which were redrawn this fall with the introduction of Timber Ridge Elementary School. There are no plans to change this policy this year.