

WGSA Team Draft Procedures

The WGSA League is founded upon the principles of fair and equitable competition. As such we do our best to assure that each season each team is as equitable as possible – every team should have an equal chance to end up in the finals of the Play-offs. Consequently, the practice of keeping a core group of players together from season to season, “stacking” teams, is to be prohibited and prevented.

The WGSA (Warrenville Girls Softball Association) has been using a long established draft system.

The WGSA Team Selection system consists of three phases.

- 1) Player Skills Evaluation
- 2) Coach Selection
- 3) Team Draft

Player Skills Evaluation

Approximately a week or two after Registration closes a player Skills Evaluation is conducted. This is mandatory for all girls (except Instructional T-ball), however, rarely is 100% participation achieved and often a make-up date is scheduled. A description of the Skills Evaluation process is described in another document. A Skills Evaluation is not required; however, it does assist coaches during the draft to have some way to assess players who are unknown to them.

Coach Selection

Once the number of teams in each Division is known, Head Coaches are selected. Each Head Coach may select a maximum of two (2) Assistant Coaches prior to the Draft. This procedure helps to assure that teams are not being stacked by a Head Coach lining up an extensive coaching staff to lock in players for his/her team. Thus, each team should enter the draft with no more than three players on their team (could be more if a coach has more than one daughter in this age bracket).

Team Draft

Coaches meet to draft a team. Each Head Coach has a listing of each eligible player and her Skills Evaluation rating. Individual skills ratings for fielding,/throwing and hitting and a composite score. There is a separate skills rating for pitching.

Prior to beginning the draft, two elements are taken into consideration. Begin by evaluating each team based upon the strength of the girls who are on that team by virtue of being daughters of the three (or fewer) coaches. Note both Pitchers and Skills Evaluation scores. Throughout the draft the composite Skills Evaluation scores for each team will determine the order of selection in the draft – lowest team

score selects first, highest selects last (in the event of a tie, a coin-flip may be required). In the Minors, Majors and Seniors the most important factor in creating balanced teams is to assure equity in pitchers across all teams (in fact if the two strongest pitchers have been put on one team by virtue of coaching staff, the WGSA may step in to separate them).

We realize that presently unknown pitchers may emerge during that season; however, we want to assure that each team has a potential core of pitchers to begin the season. Thus, pitchers are selected first. The team with the fewest pitchers selects first until each team has at least two pitchers. For example, let's say there are three teams and Team #1 is beginning with 2 pitchers (coaches daughters), Team #2 with 1 pitcher and Team #3 without a pitcher: 2-1-0. The team without a pitcher would select first: result 2-1-1. The two teams with 1 pitcher would now compare the Skills Evaluation fielding and hitting scores of the two pitchers. The team having the pitcher with the lowest score would choose the next pitcher: 2-2-1 or 2-1-2, then 2-2-2. Once each team has two pitchers, the draft can be opened to all players and the team can decide whether or not they wish to draft any additional pitchers if available.

In the example above, assuming that each team started with three coaches and three players, Team #1 would now have 3 players, Team #2 has 4 players and Team #3 has 5 players. Thus, Team #1 would get to select next. The next choice is determined by the composite Skills Evaluation totals for Team #1 & Team #2 (now both with 4 players). Continue until all players have been selected. Some players may be drafted in pairs to honor carpool requests if that is agreeable to all coaches.

Note 1: There is a natural tendency for girls to want to play with their friends. However, if friend requests are honored it impinges on the ability to form equitable teams. Thus, WGSA has a firm policy that we do not automatically honor friend requests. We permit the submission of friend requests at Registration and we relay these preferences to the coaches, so that during the draft coaches may be aware of the request and it may influence their choice during the draft. Occasionally at the conclusion of the draft, a coach may exchange a player with another coach to mutually honor friend requests. The only time the WGSA may bundle players to be drafted together is to honor a car-pooling request which has been determined to be legitimate and would cause a parental hardship and perhaps prevent a girl from playing. Coaches should keep in mind that there is the potential for girls playing on team with their chosen friends to turn your practices/games into play-dates. Ideally, we want girls to become teammates and to make new friends.

Note 2: Any girl who registers late after the draft has been conducted and teams have been announced will be assigned to the team who would have had the next pick in the draft. If players have not yet been notified which team has selected them, another option would be to give the team who had the last pick in the draft the option to select this late registration or remain with his/her final pick in the draft.