

# Northwest Little League



## Draft Policy

It is the intention of the Board to follow the Little League Operating Manual and keep Little League teams together from year-to-year. However, the Player Agent will review the returning player counts and team compositions on an annual basis after registration and determine if a total redraft or repositioning may be required to maintain an equitable distribution of player talent and ages. This decision is made separately for each league, in other words it is possible for a redraft to be conducted in one league but not in other leagues.

## Draft System - Order of Drafts

### Baseball

- 1st - Jr. League
  - 2nd - Intermediate League (formerly 50/70)
  - 3rd - AAA Minor League
  - 4th - AA Minor League
  - 5th - Advanced Tee Ball
- \* Sr. League draft is conducted separate from these drafts and typically at a later date

### Softball

- 1st - Jr. League
- 2nd - Major League
- 3rd - Minor A League
- 4th - Minor B League

## Team Assignment

### Baseball

1. **All Levels except Tee Ball**  
Once drafted, a player is assigned to that team until the player is assigned to a new league or is subsequently properly released.
2. **Tee Ball**  
The Advanced Tee Ball League will conduct a modified draft / placement procedure with an emphasis being placed on equalizing teams.

### Softball

1. **All Levels**  
Once drafted, a player is assigned to that team until the player is assigned to a new league or is subsequently properly released.

**Note:** The Player Agent shall announce prior to the start of the draft any changes in player eligibility, and the number of players each team will select.

# Northwest Little League

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## Draft Policy

### Options - All Leagues

An option is an agreement between a manager (or parents) and the Player Agent covering a special condition. All options must be in writing and be submitted to the Player Agent prior to the draft. Player options will be approved and monitored closely by the Player Agent.

### Brothers / Sisters – Current Year Draftees

A manager or parent may submit an option in writing to the Player Agent on two or more brother and/or sister candidates who are subject to the draft. The player agent will make every effort to assign siblings to the same team.

### Brothers / Sisters – Sibling

A Manager or Parent may submit an option in writing to the Player Agent on a draftee if the draftee's brother or sister is already a member of that manager's team. This typically may occur when a draftee moves to a new league where his/her sibling already plays. (i.e. the sibling is already on a AAA team)

### Request for a New Team

A player returning to a team from the previous year may submit an option to the Player Agent to be released from his or her team without question and reenter the draft. The player must go through evaluations or be placed on a team in the same fashion as a player who was unable to attend a tryout/evaluation.

Brother and sister options are not automatic, especially if the younger brother/sister's evaluation scores suggest that it may be best for that player to play in a different League. The Player Agent will make his/her recommendation after speaking with the parents and the older sibling's Manager. The NWLL Board President will discuss and settle all disputes regarding this matter prior to the draft if necessary.

## Privacy

For the protection of the players, the players shall never be told the position in which they were drafted or the number of votes they received in the All-Star Tournament Team voting/selection process. Violation of this rule be considered a serious infraction and not considered in the best interest of the program. The Board also feels that statistics may be kept by a team's coaching staff, but are not to be released to any player or parent in NWLL.



## Draft Policy

### League Contraction

NWLL will use one or a combination of five alternatives to accommodate League contraction. The goal as always is to seek parity between rosters for the upcoming season, while maintaining returning rosters as much as possible. Primary criteria for selecting teams to disband are (1) few returning players and/or (2) no returning manager, but other criteria may also be factored into the decision. The board will announce in advance which teams are to be contracted and which of these draft systems will be used.

**Option 1:** Combine rosters of returning teams. When two teams both have a small returning roster, it may be desirable to combine the players for one team (a team being disbanded) with another team (a returning team). This should only be done when (1) the returning rosters are small enough that the combined teams does not have more than 7 returning players and (2) the combined team does not, in the opinion of the Player Agent, have a competitive advantage over other returning teams.

**Option 2:** Seeks to balance the number of returning players on each returning roster, without high tech methods. Returning players on teams that are disbanded will be placed in a special draft pool to be allocated to new teams prior to the automated draft. The contraction draft will work as follows:

1. Write each pool players name on a slip of paper and place in a hat or container.
2. Player Agent will draw names from the hat to allocate pool players.
3. Only team(s) with the fewest number of returning players drawn in the first round. The team with the fewest number of returning players draws first. If two or more teams have the same number of returning players, a coin toss or other fair method is used to determine who draws first.
4. When the round is complete, a new round begins and includes only teams with the fewest number of returning players. Players are selected as outlined in steps 2 and 3. Only team(s) with the fewest number of returning players select in this and all subsequent rounds.
5. When all pool players have been allocated, the contraction draft is complete. New players are then drafted onto each team using HPGLL draft system.

**Option 3:** Similar to option 2, but instead of using a random draft from a hat, teams in each round select using the same allocation criteria as would be used in an automated draft. In other words, the team with lowest pitcher/player scores would be assured of getting the highest rated players from the pool. Once all pool players are allocated, new players to the league are drafted using the automated draft.

**Option 4:** Return players on disbanded teams into the overall draft pool and select them via the same automated draft process as for all other players. All returning players are placed back into the league's draft pool and the draft is implemented via the automated draft system or other system upon board approval. Returning rosters are maintained.

**Option 5:** If the manager is not returning and enough players are returning a new manager may be selected from the parents of the returning players.

**Note:** That, upon board approval, the league may choose a total redraft in order to create the appropriate parity among teams. The option to redraft is always available as part of NWLL's draft process, whether the league is contracting or not. The intent is to keep the team together if it makes sense.

# Northwest Little League

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## Draft Policy

### League Expansion

NWLL will use one of four alternatives to accommodate League expansion. The board will announce in advance which of these draft systems will be used.

**Option 1:** Expansion teams will get the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th picks and the 1st pick of each round thereafter with options, in accordance with Little League, Inc. Rules & Regulations.

**Option 2:** Conduct a total redraft following the proper release of players. The proper release of players is accomplished by a vote of the Board prior to draft of players for the upcoming season, provided there is a valid reason to redraft teams and adequate supporting rationale (i.e., if the Board felt there was a potential for inequities between teams as a result of League expansion).

**Option 3:** The expansion team(s) will be given the first six (6) draft selections OR the equivalent of the same number of selections as the least number of players returning to an existing team. Each existing team shall draft based on how many returning players they have.

**Option 4:** Conduct an automated expansion draft by allowing each returning team to “protect” 3 players, and then allowing expansion teams to draft 4 players from the pool of remaining returning players. A returning team could ‘lose’ no more than 2 unprotected players, after which any players from that team would be returned to their original roster. Expansion teams would make their remaining expansion selections from the remaining pool of players. After the expansion draft is complete, all players not selected would return to their original team and an automated draft would proceed for all teams as described in option 4 above.

# Northwest Little League



## Draft Policy

### Post Draft Roster Moves

Players returning to the same team, as the previous year may not be traded. Newly drafted players may be traded with the Player Agent consent up until the rosters are finalized on the evening of the draft.

### Miscellaneous Rules and Situations

#### Team Size

The goal is to have teams capped at 12 players - however this is a goal and may be adjusted at the discretion of the Player Agent. The Player Agent reserves the right to restrict the number of players of a specific age group to insure that players of a specific age group are drafted to the appropriate league.

#### Late Registration

NWLL will make every attempt to try to place a player on a team after the close of regular registration, if there are available spaces on a team. Players will be placed on a team in the order in which they have registered and on the team that would have had the next draft selection (based on draft order and number of players). Returning players who are not registered by the end of Regular Registration will be placed on a team in the same manor.

#### Evaluations

Players who miss evaluations are not eligible to be drafted onto a team. Upon completion of the draft these players will be placed on a team in alphabetical order (by last name, first name) in draft order.

#### Players who are trying to “Play Up”

Players who are trying to “play up” in a league (i.e. an 8 year old who is trying out for AAA) MUST attend evaluation/tryouts otherwise they will not be eligible for the level they are trying out for.

#### Disclaimer

**THE PLAYER AGENT ALONG WITH SUPPORT FROM THE BOD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY OR ADJUST THESE RULES AS NEEDED FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE PLAYERS AND THE LEAGUE. THIS INCLUDES RESTRICTING THE AMOUNT OF PLAYERS OF A SPECIFIC LEAGUE AGE FOR A DIVISION. ANY RULES THAT MAY NEED TO BE MODIFIED OR CHANGED FOR A SPECIFIC DIVISION IN REGARDS TO DRAFTING PLAYERS WILL BE DISCUSSED BEFORE THE DRAFT FOR THAT DIVISION BEGINS.**