

## **Majors, Minors and Rookies Division Spring Draft Process**

Winter Park Babe Ruth (WPBR) baseball was organized to provide a place where all children of our community could play organized baseball and softball. The recreational aspect and the goal to maintain parity within teams has clearly contributed to the growth and success of WPBR Baseball.

### **Evaluations**

**Attendance:** All children, must attend and participate in an evaluation process prior to the draft selection for Spring baseball. The evaluations are normally held on **two consecutive** Saturday mornings prior to the draft. It is imperative that the registrar make it known to each registrant that evaluations are a **MUST** attendance.

**Point of Contact:** Evaluations are run by each Division Commissioner.

**DATE & TIMES:** Date and Times for each evaluation will be posted on the WPBR website prior to the first Evaluation day.

**Accountability:** Registrants must check-in with the Registrar prior to each age group evaluation. Players may not be evaluated unless they are officially registered and verified by the Registrar. **(NON-REGISTERED PLAYERS ARE NOT INSURED by WPBR Insurance Policy)**

**MANAGERS:** It is mandatory that all coaches, wishing to manage a team in the Spring, attend the all evaluations and participate in the process. Although the total number of teams and managers and coaches needed will not be known until the conclusion of registration and evaluations. Assistant Coaches may attend, but their evaluations will be combined with their Manager for submission.

**PROCESS:** Prior to the start of the evaluations, players line up in outfield behind shortstop position. The kids are lined up same order as on the verification sheet provided by the Registrar. The kids will maintain the same order throughout the evaluation process.

All Stars from the returning season will go first at each station. This will allow the coaches evaluating to have a metric to work of for evaluating the talent in division.

**Station 1:** Each player will field 5 ground balls at the shortstop position and make a throw to first base. Each manager will evaluate each player on their overall fielding and throwing ability on a scale of 1 – 5 for each.

**Station 2:** After all players have completed Station 1, the players will be evaluated on their ability to catch fly balls and then make a long throw to home plate.

Station 3: Each player, as previously organized, will attempt to hit 5 pitched balls. Each coach will evaluate each batter on a scale from 1 – 5 typically based on form and power.

CONTINGENCIES: If there are any registrants that were unable to attend one of the two mandatory Saturday evaluations, ON OCCASION, a last-minute evaluation has been done on a weekday night, immediately prior to the draft. It has always been the goal to allow as many children as possible to play and it is preferable to do a temporary evaluation instead of not letting the child participate.

If a player has not been evaluated, and is being allowed to play, the Division Commissioner must, prior to the draft, try to determine the skill level of the player, and then inform the draft participants.

RANKINGS: After evaluations and prior to the draft, each approved manager will give the Division Commissioner, a copy of their evaluations with an aggregated score of 1 – 5 for each player. Each evaluation will be kept confidential by the commissioner and only used to assist in the determination of locks and maintaining parity within the league.

### **Team Makeup:**

There are two factors in deciding the number teams in a division, (1) the number of players registered; and (2) available field game and practice slots.

Based on the recommendation of Babe Ruth Baseball and many years of league experience, in the Major Division, there should be an emphasis on having twelve (12) players on each team. On occasion, eleven or thirteen player team makeups may be needed to balance the registrants. The League President is the approval authority for the number of players per team.

### **Manager Selection:**

WP Babe Ruth has a managerial selection process and the number of managers needed each season will be solely based on the number of teams in a division. Division commissioner recommend their rank ordered manager list to the League President, who then recommends from that list to the Board for approval. The President is final approval of the submitted list to the Board.

### **Four Player Lock**

#### Locked Players:

A locked player is (1) a player that played for the Manager’s team in a previous Spring Season; AND (2) the manager selects that player to be one of their four (4) locks for the current Spring season; AND (3) the Division Commissioner has received the approval from the player’s parents/guardian, to allow the manager to lock the player. If a parent or guardian refuses the player lock, the player will enter the draft.

### Vacated Players:

Every Spring season there will be returning players to a division, where their team (manager and first assistant) are no longer managing a team in that division (vacated team). For draft purposes, returning players from vacated teams in each division, will be placed in a vacated pool, prior to the draft. The players from the vacated pool will be used, as needed, to fill out the 4 player locks for new teams. No prior parental approval process is needed to lock a player from the vacated pool. Vacated player status does not apply to players moving to an upper division.

### **PRIOR TO THE DRAFT:**

- (1) Each returning Manager will select four (4) players to lock, which must first (1) include their child(ren), if applicable; (2) their named First Assistant's child(ren), if applicable; and (3) the remaining locked players MUST be made from among the returning players from their previous Spring season's team. If there are no additional players returning from their previous Spring season's team, they will select from the vacated pool.

Per the League's Manager and Coach Selection Process, a First Assistant cannot be another team's first assistant or manager from the previous Spring unless the Division Commissioner approves it AND the Division Commissioner has majority consent from the other Managers within the Division. The key here is to avoid the perception of recruiting players.

- (2) If the Manager is coming over from a lower division, they will select four (4) players to lock, which must first (1) include their child(ren), if applicable; (2) their named First Assistant's child(ren), if applicable; and (3) the remaining locked players CAN be made from among the returning players from their previous Spring season's lower division team that are advancing to the upper division OR they can select from the vacated pool.
- (3) If the Manager is coming over from another league in the area, they can lock up to four (4) players from the players they are bringing in to the league, (but the locks are subject to approval as noted in (10) below) or pick from the vacated pool.
- (4) If a new Manager is needed within a Division, and the new manager has been approved by the Board, the new Manager must first lock (1) include their child(ren), if applicable; (2) their named First Assistant's child(ren), if applicable; and (3) lock from the vacated team roster they are ALLOWED to inherit and then as needed from the vacated pool.
- (5) An assistant coach (first assistant gets first right) from the previous Spring, who has been approved as a Manager by the league for the current season, will automatically inherit the team they were an assistant coach for the previous Spring, if the Manager from that team is not coming back to manage

in the current season. This new Manager will follow the same lock procedure as a returning manager (see (1) above).

- (6) If the new Manager was an assistant on a different team within the same Division in the previous Spring – and the Division only needs one (1) new manager, they shall follow the One New Manager rule (see #4 above). The Manager can choose an assistant coach from any other team so long as the assistant was not a Manager or first assistant the previous Spring season within the Division (purpose of this rule is to avoid recruiting). The assistant coach must be considered the Manager’s first assistant.
- (7) The Division Commissioner MUST obtain consents from the parents or guardians of all potentially locked players. A player is only considered locked after the Division Commissioner obtains such consent. If a parent or guardian refuses the player lock, their child must enter the draft. Consent will not be requested until after (10) below.

NOTE if a parent or guardian refuses the player lock requested by the returning Manager, this player has to enter the draft – this player is not available for the former assistant coach who is now a Manager of a new team to player lock

- (8) If a Manager wants to lock a “new” player to the league, because they are friends with the family AND the parent will be their first assistant, they can only do so after the Commissioner approves it AND the Commissioner has majority consent from the other Managers within the Division. The key here is to avoid the recruitment of players whose family has no affiliation to anyone in our league. **Keep in mind the intention of the 4 Player Lock process was to allow “friends” to play together while trying to maintain competitive balance. The other Managers shall consider this when they provide or withhold their consent.**
- (9) The league has to approve all player locks. The main purpose for approval is the league wants to maintain competitive balance as much as possible. Therefore, the league would not allow the 2 best pitchers to play on the same team (pitching is important in these Divisions). Actually, it may not work with 2 of the top 5 pitchers being on the same team as well. The league will consider the opinion of the other managers, but at the end of the day it will be the Commissioners call. The goal is to never change more than one player lock per team.
- (10) After contacting the parents of the selected players to be locked from all returning managers, the Commissioner shall notify each team as to the approval of the locked players. As noted above, if a parent elects not to have their child locked by a Manager, the parent will be notified that the player will be placed in the regular draft. The Manager then shall select another player, first from his previous year’s team and then from the vacated pool.

- (11) The Division Commissioner will also contact the parents of the selected locks for new managers, coming up from a lower division, or a new manager coming over from another league.

Once the Commissioner has received approval on all the locked players, he will notify the appropriate manager.

The Division Commissioner will then determine the make-up of the vacated pool and send out a list of the vacated pool to all managers.

In the event that a team doesn't have 4 locks based on criteria stated above, then each team will be ranked based on composite scores of current locks. Then from weakest to strongest each team will (lock a player from the vacated pool) until every team has four locks prior to entering the draft.

### **Draft**

Each Division Commissioner shall have received the confidential composite evaluations of each player from each manager prior to the Draft. The commissioner will determine the appropriate draft order rounds based on all of the composite evaluations from all managers. For example, if there are 6 teams, the top 6 players (per the evaluations) will be designated first round players, and next 7 top players, 2<sup>nd</sup> round, etc.

The goal is to have parity in the league and if there are more first round players on one team (because of locks) then an adjustment will need to be made during the remaining part of the draft. For example, if a team has 4 returning highly ranked players from the previous year, then they will not be allowed to draft additional players until possibly the 6<sup>th</sup> or later rounds.

The commissioner will make up a spreadsheet, placing each locked player's composite ranking in the appropriate team's draft order. (See example)

First	Last	Rating	Round
Blayne		4.85	1
Tyler		4.80	1
Travis		4.75	1
Ronald		4.55	1
Damian		4.55	1
Shane		4.45	1
Adam		4.33	1
Nick		4.30	1
Devin		4.17	2
Gavin		4.17	2
Ryan		4.05	2
Michael		3.92	2
Tripp		3.83	3
Matthew		3.82	3
Samuel		3.62	3
Leo		3.55	3
Stephen		3.53	3
Nicholas		3.50	3
Mathew		3.50	4
Robert "Jack"		3.45	4
Jack		3.43	4
Brendan		3.42	4
Ryan		3.40	4
Dylan		3.37	4
Kevin		3.35	5
Shane		3.33	5
Gavin		3.30	5
Jake		3.30	5
Carson		3.28	5
Cooper		3.27	5

The commissioner, as needed, will announce (1) players or siblings that must be chosen as a pair; (2) players that parents request not be selected by a specific coach, (not mandatory but usually respected); and (3) days they cannot practice; Outside of requests stated above (1) (2) (3) No other requests will be honored by the league.

- (1) The draft order is based on the strength of each teams’ locks. The draft order is not determined until all teams have named their pre-draft locks.
- (2) The team with the lowest total will pick first in the first round, followed by the team with the second lowest score, followed by the team with the third lowest score, etc...
- (3) The draft order will be reversed every two rounds like so:

Round 1: Team A, Team B, Team C, Team D

Round 2: Team A, Team B, Team C, Team D

Round 3: Team D, Team C, Team B, Team A

Round 4: Team D, Team C, Team B, Team A

Round 5: Team A, Team B, Team C, Team D

Astro			Phillies			Giants			Dodgers			Redsox			Yankees		
Hobart			Smith			Gerty			Russell			Taylor			Sagman		
Player	Comp	Age	Player	Comp	Age	Player	Comp	Age	Player	Comp	Age	Player	Comp	Age	Player	Comp	Age
1			2			Gerty	4.79		Bross	4.59		Lowall	4.6	12	Jillian	4.68	12
3			4			Jerano	4.66		Van Johnson	4.49		David	4.49	12	Frank	4.64	12
Hobart	3.96	11	C Smith	3.93		5			6			Beckham	4.1	12	Bigley	4.58	12
Blury	3.81	11	J Smith	3.72		8			7			Loose	4.1	12	Sagman	4.47	12
9			10			11			Borgensen	3.5		12			13		
Jaminer	3.38	11	Dinero	3.35		16			Onessy	3.34		15			14		
McFrederick	3.18	11	Brown	3.34		17			18			19			20		
26			25			24			23			22			21		
27			28			29			30			31			32		
38			37			36			35			34			33		
39			40			C Apple	2.48	11	41			42			43		
48			47			J Stone	1.69	12	46			45			44		

(4) Any team with a player already slotted in the current round, will skip their pick in that round.

(5) The draft will continue until all players are drafted.

a. If there are not enough players in the final round for each team to make a selection, the commissioner should adjust the draft order based on the strength of each team’s drafted players. The weakest teams at this point in the draft should not take a player in the final round. Teams required to take a player should be ordered from strongest to weakest (based on the entire draft).

For the Major Division, the composite player evaluation scores are to be kept confidential by the Division Commissioner, and not displayed in draft, until a player is locked or drafted. This is to promote a more dedicated evaluation process by the managers.

In the Minor and Rookie Divisions, and as determined by the Division Commissioner, the composite evaluations scores can be displayed during the draft, in order to promote parity among the teams.

At the conclusion of the draft, managers may trade players with other managers in the room, with approval of the Division Commissioner but **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN TRADES HAPPEN AFTER THE MANAGERS HAVE LEFT THE DRAFT ROOM.**

**Under No Circumstances will a player be added to any roster after the draft has occurred. Like trades once the managers have left the draft room rosters are FINAL.**

#### **Practice Slots:**

At the conclusion of the draft, the Division Commissioner will determine a picking order for available practice slots (in consultation with the VP of Baseball). Each team will choose two (2) available practice times. The remaining available slots will be presented to the lower division team at their subsequent draft. When all teams, in all divisions have chosen 2 slots, the VP of Baseball may offer any open spots for practice.

Pre-season practice slots, normally scheduled for games, can be assigned.

#### **FALL BALL**

Fall Baseball will follow a much looser adaptation of the Spring Draft. The only players that can be locked are the children of the manager and up to 3 assistant coaches. The Division Commissioner will make concessions for (1) friends wanting to play together; (2) players wanting to play for a specific coach; and (3) trying to keep a competitive balance.

Fall Drafts will use the following deduction when ranking players moving up a division for purpose of draft board. **If no fall evaluation is performed.**

-Players moving from rookies to minors will have 1.25 deducted from their spring evaluation score.

- Players moving from Minors to Majors will have 1 point deducted from their spring evaluation score.

-Players moving from Tee Ball to rookies with no evaluation score will be assigned a score of 1.0 and ranked based on age.

\*In the instance that a new player comes to the league in the fall. The commissioner of the division will be assigned the task of ranking the player based on information gathered regarding players abilities.