

DYBSA Team Formation Policy

Revision	Last Modified	Changes
1.0	02/09/2024	Initial Revision
1.1	03/08/2025	Update Evaluation Details Update Head Coach Selection Update Team Sizes for non-community players

Purpose

This policy aims to ensure that DYBSA uses consistent methods of determining team placements for all players in the 9U level and above. Below the level of 10U is at the discretion of the coordinators as to team formation.

Team Formation Inputs

Coach Surveys

At the end of each season, coach surveys will be sent out to all head and assistant coaches for teams in the travel ball age for both baseball and softball. The survey will consist of the questions below and shall remain confidential within the DYBSA board. We are gathering this information as another data point for team formation. This may give us additional information that an evaluation alone cannot provide.

1. What team did you coach during the <year> summer baseball/softball season?
2. Which players belong at a different level than they were playing at (they are either too low or too high)? Please give specific examples of why they are not at the right level. Please do not rank all the players on the team.
3. Are there any players you had issues with regarding attitude, effort, and/or commitment? Please give specific examples as to what these issues were.

4. Are there any players who demonstrated coachability (willing to receive and apply feedback), either good or bad?
5. Do you have any other comments about your team that would be helpful to the DYBSA Board during the team formation process for the <next year> season?

Evaluations

Before team formations, DYBSA will conduct evaluations using independent evaluators who are not associated with the board or related to any of the kids being evaluated. Evaluations will be conducted in the TAC in the early to mid-March time frame. Softball and Baseball will have separate evaluations.

How do we determine evaluation groups?

- All players that are at the same age level will be grouped together, starting from the youngest and finishing with the oldest.
- Within an age level, players will be grouped by a method other than skill level (alphabetical, registration order, other random method)

What are we evaluating?

- We evaluate the same skills and have the same scoring between softball and baseball except where noted.
- Our goal is to create natural separation between players and make it easier for evaluators to give a proper score. We do this by eliminating numbers between the lowest and the highest scores and giving evaluators criteria and training on how to score those.
- Total evaluation is worth 140 points
- In baseball, all players will go through all evaluation stations twice and the final score will be averaged across the two run-throughs.
- At any skill being evaluated, the person facilitating the skill should allow a redo if necessary. For example, a poorly hit ground ball, a bad fly ball throw, or really bad pitch in the cage.
- The person facilitating a skill (fly ball thrower, ground ball hitter, cage thrower) should remain the same throughout an age group. They can be changed across age groups.
- The person facilitating should have no relation to or involvement with the age group.
- Hitting in the cage (50 points)
 - Players get 10 swings that are each worth 5 points
 - They can get the following scores:
 - 0 points for a swing and a miss
 - 1 point for poor/weak contact or foul ball
 - 3 points for average contact
 - 5 points for a very hard-hit ball
- Swing Mechanics (20 points)
 - For softball, this is evaluated hitting off a tee

- For baseball, this is evaluated across all swings while the player is taking live cage swings
- Players get 5 swings and are given one score per skill based on all the swings (tee only)
- They are evaluated on each of the following skills (5 points each)
 - Mechanics
 - Contact
 - Plate Approach
 - Balance
- They can get the following scores:
 - 1 point for poor
 - 3 points for average
 - 5 points for excellent
- Ground balls (30 points)
 - All ground balls will be hit to players rather than rolled (both inside and outside the TAC) with the exception for 9U players. 9U players will have balls rolled to them for safety reasons.
 - They will be hit 6 ground balls, scored individually per skill, then given an average at the end for a single score for each skill.
 - They are evaluated on each of the following skills (10 points each)
 - Approach/Footwork
 - Fielding Position
 - Throwing Accuracy
 - They can get the following scores:
 - 1 point for poor
 - 4 points for average
 - 8 points for above average
 - 10 points for excellent
- Fly balls (40 points total)
 - For the outside evaluation, all fly balls will either be hit or will have a pitching machine used to create fly balls. Indoors, fly balls will be done by someone throwing.
 - They will be hit 5 fly balls, scored individually per skill, then given an average at the end for a single score for each skill.
 - They are evaluated on each of the following skills (10 points each)
 - Path to the ball
 - Catching technique
 - Throwing footwork and accuracy
 - Arm strength
 - They can get the following scores:
 - 1 point for poor
 - 4 points for average
 - 8 points for above average
 - 10 points for excellent

- Pitching (softball only) (47 points possible)
 - Fast Ball Speed 5 Pitches (Speed test accuracy not important)
 - Average Speed: 48 and over | 13 points
 - Average Speed: 46-47 | 11 points
 - Average Speed: 43-45 | 9 points
 - Average Speed: 38-42 | 7 points
 - Average Speed: 33-37 | 5 points
 - Average Speed: 32 or Less | 3 points
 - 13 points total
 - Fast Ball Location/Accuracy
 - Total # of Strikes out of 10 Pitches
 - 1 point per strike
 - 10 point total
 - Additional Pitches:
 - Pitchers will be awarded up to 3 points for each pitch that is thrown correctly. (Maximum of 4 pitches) Additional pitches above four will be awarded 1 bonus point for each additional pitch.
 - One Point: Awarded for proper grip
 - Two Points: Awarded for proper grip, snap, and ball movement
 - Three Points: Awarded for proper Grip, snap, and ball movement, and ability to throw for a strike
 - 12 points plus bonus points possible
 - Fundamentals (Up to 3 Points Per Category)
 - Start, footwork, body position
 - Open/Close of Hips
 - Landing and Follow Through
 - Stride
 - 3 Points: Above Average for Age Level
 - 2 Points: Average for Age Level
 - 1 Point: Below Average
 - 0 Points: Does not meet the basic standard
 - 12 points possible
- Catching (softball only) (75 possible points)
 - Basic Catching
 - Rating: 1 - Developing | 5 - Advanced (Circle most appropriate rating)
 - Five balls scored
 - 25 Points possible
 - Blocking
 - Rating: 1 - Developing | 5 - Advanced (Circle most appropriate rating)
 - Five balls scored
 - 25 Points possible
 - Bunt Coverage
 - Rating: 1 - Developing | 5 - Advanced (Circle most appropriate rating)
 - Three balls scored

- 15 Points possible
- Throw down to second
 - Rating: 1 - Developing | 5 - Advanced
 - Three balls scored (The average of all three scores is recorded)
 - Throw down time
 - Overall technique rating
 - Throwing accuracy
 - 10 Points possible

Evaluator Training

In order for evaluations to be scored how we want them scored, we need to ensure we talk with each evaluator and give them specific examples of what we are looking for to give each score out. Evaluators should be looking to score relative to peers of their age group. If both a 9-year-old and a 15-year-old get a 10 on a skill, it does not mean they are equally skilled but simply excellent compared to their peers. This training will be done by board members on the day of the evaluations before players arrive.

Team Sizes

Our goal is to keep team sizes small enough to allow all team members the ability to get the right amount of playing time.

- We will not accept late registrations if it were to cause teams to exceed the desired sizes.
- If we have a number of kids that would force teams to be too large, we will attempt to partner with neighboring communities to find a team for them to play on. If desired, we will offer a refund to those who do not wish to be part of a mixed community team.
- In extenuating circumstances, we may flex team numbers above the desired size.
- Players must attend schools within Delano in order to be eligible for a top team unless we would be unable to fill a top team without them. If a player attends a different community school, that would make them ineligible for any top team and would only be used to fill in lower level teams where necessary.
- Baseball Team Sizes
 - Tournament team (AAA, AA, A): The board will target a maximum of 12 players per team. Due to evaluation scores, registration numbers and/or previous coach feedback the board may decrease or increase team numbers above the desired size.
 - Rec team: The board will target a range of 12-14 players. Due to evaluation scores, registration numbers and/or previous coach feedback the board may decrease or increase team numbers above the desired range.
- Softball Team Sizes

- Big West Travel Team: The board will target a maximum of 12 players per team. Due to evaluation scores, registration numbers and/or previous coach feedback the board may decrease or increase team numbers above the desired size.
- Rec Team: The board will target a range of 12-14 players. Due to evaluation scores, registration numbers and/or previous coach feedback the board may decrease or increase team numbers above the desired range.

Multiple Family Members in the Same Age Level

There may be scenarios where siblings will be at the same age level but evaluated at different team levels. When this happens, the DYBSA board will reach out to the family to give them the options to choose from below.

- Parents can opt to have the players play on different teams.
- Parents can opt to have sibling players on the same team. In this scenario, the higher-scoring sibling would be placed on the team with the lower-scoring sibling. Players that are evaluated at a lower level/team cannot be moved up to a higher-level team.

Team Selection

The DYBSA board will select teams based on the results of the evaluations and information received from coach surveys. Coaches will be determined after teams are created. Our goal is to ensure players have fun and play at the level that will give them the best chance at success.

- No one input criteria will be exclusively used.
- At younger age levels, evaluation results will be the primary decider of players' placement.
- As players mature, we will increasingly prioritize coach input as we gather additional data on their performance.
- The board may reach out to previous coaches during team selection.
- If a board member's child is being discussed, the board member will not be present while their child is being discussed.

Team Release

DYBSA will release any updates within a week after the final evaluation date for the upcoming season.

Head Coach Selection

In the event that there are multiple volunteers for the head coach position, the DYBSA may ask all interested volunteers to give us information to help us select the head coach. This information may include, but would not be limited to:

- Experience in baseball/softball
- Submitting a sample practice plan of a practice they would run for that age level

Once the head coach is selected, they can designate two assistant coaches and a scorekeeper (if desired) of their choosing. These positions will fill volunteer hours, as directed by our volunteer policy. These positions will be subject to approval by the board.

The head coach will be named within one week after releasing teams. They will not be released at the same time as the teams themselves.

If a team wants a paid head coach, the team is responsible for both locating the coach and providing the additional funds for said coach. DYBSA will not play a part in selecting or paying a paid head coach.