

Tulare Softball Association Draft Procedures

(Revised: March 2021)

This is a recreational softball league and is designed to be an instructional program. All girls get to play. Tulare Softball Association will make every effort to allow all children who have registered the opportunity to play.

Drafting of Teams

I. General Organization

- A. All teams in 10U and 14U Divisions per season shall be formed by a Draft in compliance with the mandated NSA league requirement. TSA's Draft procedure is often referred to as the Serpentine or Snake draft method which is commonly used by NSA girls' softball leagues.
 - 1. The only two exceptions where the Draft does NOT apply are:
 - i. When a division only has enough players to form a single team.
 - ii. The 6U and 8U Divisions are exempted from the Draft where 6U and 8U Teams will be selected and drafted by the recommendations made by the Board of directors and individual requests.
- B. All girls in each division (10U & 14U) must participate in the player assessment. The only exceptions are "Protected" players (defined below with Section VII). Protected players will NOT be required to participate during the assessments.
- C. All fees must be paid prior to a player being drafted or placed on a team.
- D. Our Draft intention is to place an equal number of players on each team, typically 10-12. Depending on the number of players that register, team sizes may not be equal.
- E. All divisional Drafts must be witnessed by the following two League Board Positions:
 - 1. Either one the President(s) or Vice President(s)
 - 2. And an Executive Board Member

II. General Procedures

- A. The Draft for each division will be held on a date and at a location selected and pre-determined by the Board of Directors. The Draft date shall be as close as possible to the player assessments.
- B. Only Two representatives from each Team will be allowed to be present to participate during the Draft.
- C. There are times when there may be conflicts between coaches, parents, and players. The Board will review all of these cases and will make the decision in regards to final placement of a player. (Whenever possible the board will make these conflicts known to the specific coach prior to the draft)
- D. Prior to the start of the draft, protected players will be placed on their respective teams in the proper draft round.
- E. The draft is completed using the "Snake Draft" which is a draft format where the order of picks reverses with each round.

III. Regular Draft

- A. The designated Manager, or Coach Representative, in alphabetical order (by last name), shall draw a number for a position order in the Drafting rotation.
- B. Player selections will start with the manager that drew the first position, etc.
- C. Selections will continue with the team drafting last in each round making the first selection in the following round as in a serpentine manner until all eligible players are drafted.
- D. The first round of the draft is open to all teams, even if they have protected players. After their first round selection, every protected player must be drafted immediately after the first round. Example: A team has 3 protected players. That team will be able to draft in Round 1 but then will have to draft their protected players. Thus, the team would not be able to draft any non-protected players until Round 5.
- E. Family Combinations
 - 1. Managers who are selecting a player (not a daughter), who has a family member player, must draft the remaining family members two rounds later providing the parents of these family members have requested they play on the same team. (Example: The remaining family members of a fifth-round Draft choice must be taken as the seventh-round choice, ninth round choice, etc.).
 - 2. To start the tenth (10th) round, all remaining sister combinations will be taken:
 - i. All combinations will be offered to the manager in Draft rotation.
 - ii. If any combinations remain, random selection will be instituted in draft order.
 - iii. Exception: Three family member combinations must be drafted starting in the eight (8th) round.

IV. Exclusive Draft Rights

- A. Managers, Coaches and Sponsor-Coaches of record shall be granted exclusive Draft rights (protection) to their daughters/players and this right shall be exercised in accordance to the Drafting Rules. All other players, whether they are all-stars, travel ball, or any other players, will be treated equally in the draft pool.
 - 1. Each team can protect 3 players, which shall include their daughters. If twins or siblings apply, then each team can protect 4 players.
 - 2. A player that is NOT a daughter from one of the respective Managers, Coaches or Sponsor Coaches, must have the approval of the respective protected player's parent(s) and the Board in order to be considered a protected player.
 - 3. Only the Manager, Coach, or Sponsor-Coach shall be officially recognized and approved by the Board of Directors for the purpose of exercising these exclusive Draft rights.
- B. Waiting List
 - 1. Any player registering after the divisional Draft, if room and availability permits, will be accepted as a tentative player upon payment of the registration fees and placed on a waiting list that will be activated after placement of all girls that participated during assessments.
 - i. The waiting list will be used to fill vacancies on the original rosters which are due to:
 - a. an unequal number of players on the original list

- b. illness
 - c. injuries
 - d. resignations
 - 2. If for any reason a player cannot be placed on a team, her registration fees will be refunded. However, once a refund is made, the player cannot be placed on the tentative player list again during that playing season.
- C. Adding / Removing / Resigning Players
 - 1. After the original Draft a team will not be permitted to add a player to its roster if any other team has fewer players, unless approved by the board.
 - 2. Once a player is placed on a team and she resigns from that team, she becomes ineligible to play on any other TSA softball team during that season and will not receive a registration refund. Exceptions will be up to the Board's discretion.

V. Miscellaneous Draft Rules

- A. A mandatory Coaches Meeting will be held prior to practices and games starting in an effort to ensure an overall understanding of TSA's process and intention.
- B. There will be a mandatory Cooling Off period after the draft. All coaches are not to contact players until 24 hours after the draft or they are given approval by the TSA board.
- C. A team will not be Drafted without a Manager. In the event that multiple teams can be drafted and not enough designated Managers or Coaches, then the Board will assist with the Draft.
- D. All managers and coaches must be approved by the Board.
- E. Team colors and mascots are assigned to each team by the TSA board.
- F. Any situation that may arise during the Draft procedures, which appears to be "unclear" or "outside" of the guidelines stated within this document, it shall be brought to the TSA Board's attention and the TSA Board will make a final decision towards resolving the situation.