



## Licking Heights Youth Association

### Recreational Team Selection – Spring Baseball

Revised 3/8/2026

The following team selection procedure applies to all Recreational Divisions for the LHYA Baseball Program with the following exceptions:

- **Tee-Ball Division:** The Baseball Director will place all Tee-Ball players on a team at his/her discretion. Ride-share requests may be considered for this division only.
  - **Fall Recreational Baseball Program:** Not subject to this document.
  - **Select/Travel/Elite Teams or Programs:** Each Select/Travel/Elite team or program will determine teams through a tryout process as established by the Director or Coach of that program.
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# General Rules

## 1. Player Eligibility

No recreational program shall turn away any registered player provided that:

- The player is not rostered in another league (excluding official developmental program players).
- The player is registered and paid prior to the posted registration deadline.
- The player/family is in good standing with LHYA.

The LHYA Executive Board reserves the right to deny registration if past disciplinary issues involving the player or family warrant such action.

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## 2. Division Placement

All registered players will be placed in the appropriate division based on their age as of **April 30th** of the same calendar year.

- **Tee Ball:** 6 years old and below
  - **Coach Pitch:** 8 years old and below
  - **Minors:** 10 years old and below
  - **Majors:** 12 years old and below (may turn 13 after January 1 of the same year)
  - **Pony:** 14 years old and below (including 12-year-olds already in 7th/8th grade who participate on their school team). This rule may be adjusted based on available local Pony leagues and their rules.
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## 3. Playing Up or Down

A player may request evaluation to play in a higher or lower division.

- The player must attend evaluations for the requested division.
  - The Director has final authority to approve or deny participation.
  - Players approved to play in a lower division are not eligible for All-Star Tournament selection.
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## 4. Re-Drafting

Players moving to a new division will be re-drafted.

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## 5. Returning Players

Players returning to the same division will remain on the same team (Pre-Determined Selections) unless:

- a. No coach from the previous season returns.
- b. A written request is submitted to place the player back in the draft pool.

If more than two teams exist in a division and a player is approved to re-enter the draft pool, they may not be drafted back onto the same team.

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## 6. Pre-Determined Selections

Pre-Determined Selections count as draft picks and must attend evaluations.

These include:

- Child, step-child, or grandchild of the Head Coach or Assistant Coaches
  - Returning players in the same division when a coach from the previous season returns
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## 7. Siblings

Only siblings will automatically be placed on the same team.  
Ride-share and coach requests will not be honored.

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# Coach Selection Process

1. Each team may consist of one (1) Head Coach and up to two (2) Assistant Coaches.

2. If a Head Coach selects an Assistant Coach prior to the draft, that individual will remain an Assistant Coach until their child is no longer a Pre-Determined Selection or they move to another division.
  3. All Head and Assistant Coaches must:
    - Complete a coaching application and contract
    - Pass a background check per LHYA policy
    - Submit a valid concussion training certificate (valid for three years)
    - Review Lindsay's Law materials annually
  4. Additional parent volunteers may assist but:
    - Are not recognized as official coaches
    - May not be left alone with players
    - Coach Pitch: Maximum of 4 adults on field/dugout
    - Other divisions: Maximum of 3 adults
    - At least one official coach must attend all team functions
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## 5. Head Coach Appointment Order (Guideline Only)

- a. Returning Head Coaches (same division)
- b. Returning Head Coaches (moving up)
- c. Returning Assistant Coaches (same division, if no Head Coach returns)
- d. Returning Assistant Coaches (moving up)
- e. New Head Coaches

All Head Coach assignments are at the discretion of the Director.

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## 6. Assistant Coach Taking Over as Head Coach

If a returning Head Coach does not return, a previous season's official Assistant Coach may request to take over as Head Coach of that team.

- The Assistant Coach must actively serve as Head Coach for at least **one regular-season game** to be recognized as the Head Coach of record.
  - An individual may **not** register as Head Coach solely for draft positioning purposes and then step away after the draft to allow a newly selected Assistant Coach to assume the Head Coach role.
  - Any violation of this provision may result in removal from coaching consideration.
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## 7. Coaching Good Standing

Coaches must remain in good standing. Those not following LHYA or Director guidelines may be removed from coaching consideration.

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## Division Evaluation

1. All players must attend evaluations (if offered) to be placed in the draft pool.
  2. Players who do not attend evaluations will be placed in the blind draw pool.
  3. Evaluations are conducted by LHYA Board members and/or coaching staff.
  4. Players are graded 1–10 in multiple skill categories. Scores are averaged to determine an overall evaluation score.
  5. This score will be used during the draft process.
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## Team Guidelines

The Director will determine number of teams and roster sizes prior to the draft.

Preferred roster sizes:

- 10-player field teams: Maximum 12 players
  - 9-player field teams: Maximum 11 players
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## Player Draft Process

1. An LHYA Executive Board member (without a player in the division) must attend each draft.
  2. At least one coach from each team must attend.
  3. The Director will provide evaluation sheets with overall scores.
  4. “Gentlemen’s agreements” are strictly prohibited.
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## Draft Order

- New teams select draft position first (random draw).
  - Returning teams select draft position based on previous regular season record (worst record first).
  - Draft order follows a **snake format**.
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## Draft Rules

- Pre-Determined Selections are placed when their evaluation score tier is being selected.
- If a coach's child does not attend evaluations, they become that team's first draft selection.
- Siblings are automatically selected when their score tier is active.
- Teams may select any player within 1 point of the highest available score.
- Once draft pool is exhausted, blind draw pool names are randomly selected.

## Two Team Adjustment

If there are only two teams in an age division, the following alterations are made:

- Tier scoring is removed. Coaches can choose anyone in the pool.
- Children of coaches/assistant coaches and any returning player to the same team are the first picks for their respective team.
- Snake draft format is changed to 1:1 back & forth picks.
- At the end of the draft, the Baseball Director has authority to review and facilitate trades to balance teams on skill and skill positions.

## Trades

- Coaches may trade draft pool players within 1 evaluation point.
  - Returning players and blind draw players may not be traded.
  - Trades require approval by draft officials.
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## Finalization

- Rosters must be validated before leaving the draft.
  - Players may not be moved after validation.
  - Post-draft registrations will be placed according to next draft selection order.
  - Players and parents must never be informed of draft position.
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