

EAST LONG BEACH PONY BASEBALL

Member of PONY Baseball, Inc.

Operating Policy / Procedure – Team Placement

POLICY / PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Board of Directors of East Long Beach Pony Baseball (ELBPB) has adopted the following policy and procedure for placements of players on teams for the regular season.

The ELBPB Board of Directors is committed to ensure the best possible baseball experience for the members of our league. League Policies and Procedures have been established and agreed upon by a majority decision (vote), by the Board of Directors in accordance with the following:

- 1) The best interest of the majority of the league;
- 2) The best interest of an individual (when it does not conflict with #1);
- 3) The progressive direction and vision for the future of the league (when it does not conflict with #1 and #2).

This policy / procedure may only be amended by a majority vote of the ELBPB Board of Directors prior to the start of the regular season.

I. TEAM PLACEMENT

- A. Players are eligible for team placement on the basis of age.
- B. Managers may petition to keep from receiving a specific player, but this requires a majority vote of the Executive Board of Directors on draft day, and should be avoided when at all possible.
- C. Siblings shall be placed together when playing in the same division except when instructed to separate them by the parent(s) or guardian.
- D. Only in **EXTREME** cases, and for safety reasons and at a Parents request, will a player be allowed to “play down” in a lower age division. This requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Player Agent. The players will not be allowed to participate in All-Stars in either division.
- E. Only in **EXTREME** cases and at a Parents request will a player be allowed to “play up” in a higher age division. This requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Player Agent. The players will not be allowed to participate in All-Stars in either division.
- F. A younger aged player who plays up in a division and completes that regular season will be considered a “second year” player, for option purposes, in their next season in that same division.

II. DRAFT GUIDELINES

- A. Assumptions
 - (1) All players have been registered and have a rating. The rating can be either a post season rating from the previous season (Pinto, Mustang, or Bronco), or a new pre-season tryout rating.
 - (2) The number of teams has been locked down, and the number of players per team has also been locked down (12 players maximum is recommended).
 - (3) All siblings have been identified and linked to each other for distribution in the draft.
 - (4) All options have been approved and linked to their appropriate teams.
 - (5) All returning players have been linked to the appropriate teams.
 - (6) All players requesting to be placed back into the draft pool have been removed from their previous team.
- B. Pre-Draft Process
 - (1) Draft order is determined by calculating the average player rating for each team, using returning players and options.
 - (2) Adding up all of the rating points for these players and dividing by the number of players determines the team’s average player rating.

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- (3) To try to balance out the difference between a lower division rating and an upper division rating, we subtract 3 points from the player rating for all lower division rated players **for this calculation only**. The original rating is used throughout the rest of the draft.
- (4) The draft order position is set from lowest team player rating to highest. In case of a tie, the team with the fewer number of players will go before the team with more returning/optioned players. If there is still a tie, a coin toss will determine draft position.

C. Draft Procedure

- (1) The draft is conducted in rounds. Each team will receive 1 player in each round.
- (2) Each round, managers will be allowed to manually select a player from a designated group with the same player rating if there is more than one player with the same rating in that rating group. (does not have to be alphabetical).
- (3) The draft pool is created by sorting the players for the division by age and by rating, with the highest rated older players going first.
- (4) The players to be distributed in the round are determined by the number of teams in the division. No team can receive more than 1 player in a round, so a player may be skipped for a round to get to the next available player. (See example for clarification)
- (5) After each round, team rating totals are calculated, to determine the drafting order for the next round. The team with the lowest total gets the first player, the second lowest total gets the next player, and so on. If a player is a returning or optioned player, he will automatically be assigned to his team in the round where his rating places him. (For example, if the highest rated player in the round is returning to his team, he will not be placed on the team with the lowest total, but will instead go to his returning team, regardless of their team total. The team with the lowest total will get the highest rated 'available' player in that round).
- (6) The draft continues distributing older players until there is not a complete round of players of that age group. At that time, we switch to distributing younger players following the same methodology described above.
- (7) Near the end of the draft, there may not be enough similar aged players to complete a full round. At that point each manager has a choice of the highest available older player or the highest available younger player.

D. Special Circumstances

- (1) Siblings are linked prior to the draft, and are distributed in different rounds. When the first in a pair of siblings is placed on a team, the linked player is assigned to the same team, and is treated as a returning player when he comes out in a subsequent round.
- (2) We also added a check to ensure that all teams were age balanced, when feasible. This is accomplished by calculating the number of players in a division, and dividing by the number of teams. This gives us a guideline to use when filling team's empty roster spots. If a team has reached the limit of an age group, that team will not be given any additional players of that age. As a result, this keeps the teams more balanced.
- (3) Players who have asked not to return to a team may be skipped if the luck of the draw attempts to place him on the returning team.

E. Examples

- (1) Imagine all of the players for a given division standing in a single file line in order, oldest to youngest and highest rating to lowest. This line stretches out for quite a long way. In the line are players who are already wearing a uniform for a given team (these are the returning or optioned players for a team), and others with no uniform on. For this example, let's assume there are 10 teams in the league. We begin the draft by taking the first ten players in line. They step forward and those with uniforms on, proceed directly to where their manager is located. The remaining 4 players are placed onto teams based on the draft order.
- (2) The next round begins and 10 more players step forward. We see that 3 players are wearing the same uniform. They all cannot go in this round, so only the first one stays in the group. The other two go back to the front of the line, and two more people in the line are added to the group of 8 to make up a complete round. (Again, no players wearing a uniform already represented in the group of 8 can move up. Only new uniforms or no uniform at all.)

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- (3) The following round starts with the next 10 guys stepping forward, same team players go back in line, and replacements are moved forward to make the 10 unique players to be distributed in this round. This process continues throughout the draft.

Approved managers may select three (3) options within their own division/age group, subject to conditions (must be registered, non-wait list players).

- A. Managers own child(ren) must be counted as one (1) option.
- B. Siblings within the same division/age group shall be considered as one (1) option.

III. OPTIONS

- A. Each manager shall have three (3) options to recruit players onto his/her team, from within or outside the league.
 - (1) These options must be declared to the Player Agent on a signed "Intent to Option" form, prior to the start of the upcoming season. No forms can be submitted until the start of the official registration period.
 - (2) These forms constitute an "intent" to option the player and are subject to review of the Division Director and the approval of the Player Agent and the Board of Directors.
- B. All Managers will be allowed three (3) player spots that can be filled with players recruited under an intent agreement (Player Agent must approve all agreements). The balance of the team shall be filled by the normal draft.
- C. Each player is considered an option, including siblings
- D. Managers are allowed to have their own child(ren) on their team as an option and may designate as an option the child(ren) of the coach.
- E. Unless otherwise on the team roster, a coach's child(ren) shall be considered as one (1) player.
- F. In the event an option fails to register for the league or does not join the team for any other reason, the manager has no further options and must fill this position through the draft.

IV. TRANSFERS

- A. No transfers shall be allowed after opening day. Prior to opening day and during the practice season, the Division Director(s) and the Player Agent shall evaluate weak/strong players. In the event this committee determines that a player has been placed in the wrong division based on a safety factor, that player shall be moved to a more appropriate division with the approval of the managers concerned, the Division Director, Player Agent, player, and player's parents. There shall be no transfers within the same division.

V. EXCEPTIONS

- A. There will be no allowances made for exception of placement of players on teams or in the draft, except under the *PLAYER REQUEST RULING*. This includes individual placement and/or the grouping of players for drafting purposes.

VI. PLAYER REQUEST RULING

- A. A parent may request that their child not be assigned to play for a particular manager. The reason for this request must be known to the Player Agent in writing prior to the draft. The Player Agent will make note of it and notify the entire Board of Directors. Only one request per child will be allowed. The Board of Directors will rule whether or not to allow the exception and direct the Player Agent accordingly. If the Board of Directors approves the exception, the following procedure will govern the placement of the player in question:
 - (1) If, during the draft, a player is due to be assigned to the manager whom the parent requested they not play for, the Player Agent and Draft Statistician will make adjustments to the draft order to accommodate the request.

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- (2) The adjustments will be limited to a swap of the player in question with the player scheduled to be drafted immediately after them.