



Registration and Team Formation

Rules and Procedures

1. The primary goal of TBL's team formation process is to utilize our best efforts to achieve greater parity across all TBL teams in each recreational division; and to ensure transparency throughout the formation process. TBL welcomes parents and non-board members to participate in the process as independent observers, to better ensure fairness and parity are promoted throughout the process.
2. During the team formation process, TBL's Formation Committee (the "Committee") will welcome up to seven (7) non-TBL Board Members to participate in the formation process on an observational basis, as a means to provide greater transparency and credibility to the process. The committee will ask for volunteers towards the end of the registration process, via e-mail and will seek out volunteers across all divisions. Volunteers will be selected on a first-come first-serve basis, based upon the order in which they registered their child for the then current season.
3. In order to avoid the appearance of bias, members of the Committee will be prohibited from participating in the formation of teams in any recreational division in which that Committee member's child is a participant.
4. Prior year player evaluations will be utilized as the primary tool in team formation to the extent applicable player evaluations are available. TBL will continue to emphasize the completion and collection of player evaluations at the end of each Spring/Summer season to ensure a more complete database of information in future years.
5. For the Spring/Summer season, registered players will be placed in the appropriate division based on the grade level they will be enter in the coming fall, as follows:

Players entering...:

1st Grade and below:
2nd and 3rd Grade:
4th and 5th Grade:
6th and 7th Grade:
8th and 9th Grade:
9th Grade and above:

...will be eligible for:

Instructional
Coach Pitch
Juniors
Minors
Majors
Seniors

6. Players affiliated with any travel team (whether a TBL affiliate or otherwise), are not eligible for Spring/Summer recreational teams. As TBL's Tournament Teams are comprised of rec league players, such teams are not considered to be travel teams.
7. Requests that a player participate in a division above their "age-eligible" division (i.e., "playing up"), may be permitted in rare and extraordinary circumstances, subject to the sole discretion and approval of TBL's Executive Committee. To avoid any doubt, playing-up is extremely rare and will be based on prior evaluations, safety concerns and, at the Committee's discretion, a current and clear demonstration of a player's ability (i.e. a tryout).

8. Likewise, requests that a player participate in a division below their “age-eligible” division (i.e., playing down”), will also be considered in extraordinary circumstances, and will be subject to TBL Executive Committee approval.
9. The Committee will make reasonable efforts to honor special requests regarding teammates in the Instructional Division only.
10. As TBL’s primary goal in team formation is greater team parity and balance, special requests regarding teammates will not be considered or accommodated in recreational divisions other than the Instructional Division, except in extraordinary circumstances as decided by the Committee. TBL recognizes the challenges of coordinating child care and carpooling for all TBL families and respects the numerous requests received as a means to ease those challenges within the team formation process. Over time, TBL has found it difficult to grant such requests, while maintaining our goal of team balance and parity. In all divisions above Coach Pitch, the Committee therefore cannot guarantee granting any or all such child care and/or carpooling related requests.
11. The Committee will use its collective best efforts to form balanced teams, based upon eligible players’ prior year evaluation, in all divisions other than Instructional. The Committee will attempt to ensure that rosters for Instructional division teams are balanced based on grade level and gender. Evaluations for returning Instructional players will be considered within the overall context of team formation for Instructional teams.
12. Each head coach in the Coach Pitch division and above will be permitted to designate one (and only one) assistant coach. Additional assistant coaches will be assigned at the sole discretion of the Committee.
13. Following completion of the team formation process, any players added to a particular division, will be placed on a waiting list and assigned to a team at the Committee’s discretion.

Additional Fall Ball Provisions

14. The Committee will undertake similar team formation efforts for Fall Ball, recognizing, however, that the truncated registration and team formation timeline for fall, as well as the increased number of non-Twinsburg participants (and thus a higher percentage of non-evaluated players) may require greater team and community understanding in terms of parity and balance.
15. Beginning with Fall, 2017, neither team nor community entries (in whole or in part) will be accepted or permitted for Fall Ball, in order to best ensure parity and team balance. All registered players for Fall will be assigned to a team within their applicable division, based upon the above described procedures, with team parity and balance remaining as the guiding principle.
16. For Fall Ball, players are permitted to play in the division they would be eligible to participate in during the then following spring season. For example, during Fall Ball, a then current 3rd grader, would be eligible to play in the Juniors division; and a then current 5th grader, would be eligible to play in the Minors division.
17. All age-eligible players can register for Fall Ball (i.e., the restriction against travel players applicable for the Spring/Summer season, does not apply in the Fall).