

BASEBALL DRAFT AND PROTECTED PLAYER POLICY (July 2024)

1. **Overview.** The Liberty Hill Youth League Baseball Draft and Protected Player Policy is designed to establish uniform rules and procedures for team drafts. It aims to promote fair competition and prevent favoritism, allowing new coaches and players to compete at a high level. The draft is a crucial part of the league's effort to ensure that all teams have a fair chance to compete. The draft order is randomized to prevent teams from gaining an unfair advantage based on their previous performance. The "snake" draft order ensures that all teams have an equal chance of drafting the best players. The minimum and maximum player limits help to ensure that all teams have a balanced roster. The release and trade rules help to prevent teams from becoming too dominant. The "hat pick" process helps to ensure that all eligible players have an equal chance of being drafted.
2. The following are the definitions of the terms used in the policy:
 - a. **Eligible Player:** A player who has fully completed all forms in the registration package, including any required documentation and payment of league fees.
 - b. **Ineligible Player:** A player who has not fully completed all forms in the registration package, including any required documentation and payment of league fees. When applicable this includes securing a Board approved payment arrangement for hardship assistance. Ineligible applicants cannot be drafted or participate in any activity with the League.
 - c. **Protected Player:** A LHYL Eligible Player who is preselected on to a team by a head coach prior to assessments. Managers may protect an allotted number of players. The manager's child(ren) and those of their assistant coaches are automatically protected. No team may protect more than the allotted number of players for their division. Protected players are automatically assigned to that team's top available draft spot(s).
 - d. **Draft Eligible Player:** A LHYL eligible player who is not a protected player and attends their age division assessments and receives scores in the assessed categories. This player must attend assessments and then be drafted through the draft system. Any LHYL Eligible Player who is not protected and does not attend assessments and receive scores in the assessed categories is not eligible to get drafted by a coach.
 - e. **Hat Pick Player:** An Eligible Player that did not attend assessments and is not a Protected Player. These players will be randomly assigned to teams after all Draft Eligible Players are selected during the draft process.

LIBERTY HILL YOUTH LEAGUE BASEBALL PROTECTED PLAYERS

1. Liberty Hill Youth League Baseball aims to establish consistent rules and procedures for player protection. Its purpose is to promote fair competition and prevent favoritism, enabling new coaches and players to participate at a high level.
2. The policy is outlined as follows:
 - a. Coaches may protect the following number of players based on their age division.
 - i. 6U-4 players
 - ii. 8U-5 players

- iii. 10U-6 players
 - iv. 12U-7 players
 - v. 14U-9 players
- b. Coaches and assistant coaches' children are mandatory protected players.
- c. Adding additional coaches does not increase the number of protected players a team may select.
- d. All players that are protected count towards the protected player total for a team. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- e. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all their protected players meet eligibility criteria and are registered before the registration deadline.
- f. Coaches will consider relevant circumstances, variables, and family preferences when submitting their protected player lists and prioritize their selections accordingly.
- g. LHYL will not grant approval for any additional protected players beyond the allotted limit.
- h. Finalized protected player list must be received no later than noon 2 days prior to assessments for each age division, no extensions will be granted.

LIBERTY HILL YOUTH LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT

Liberty Hill Youth League (LHYL) Baseball will use the player draft system as set forth by this policy and overseen by the Vice President of Baseball.

1. Draft Eligible players will be selected by managers and coaches under the guidance of the Vice President of Baseball and with assistance from the baseball commissioners, LHYL Secretary, and Director of Operations.
2. The order of player selection is determined by random number selection. A "snake" draft order (in which the order of selection is reversed each round) is used during draft selection and hat pick assignments.
3. Protected players will be placed on a team as the team's top available draft spot(s) before additional players can be selected from the eligible draft pool.
4. Coaches continue to draft players until all draft eligible players are drafted.
5. Upon clearing the draft board of all draft eligible players, VP of Baseball or other board member as assigned will randomly assign the remaining hat pick players to teams (usually done through a random number generator). Coaches must accept all hat picks.
6. Players must play with their assigned teams.
7. If a player leaves the league (team) mid-season and wants to return to the league, they will return to their previous team if an opening exists. Releases are only granted with the consent of the commissioner, with VP of Baseball approval, and only after sufficient cause is shown.
8. Trades after the draft under the following conditions:
 - a. Each coach may initiate a single trade immediately following the draft, which must be completed within approximately 15 minutes.
 - b. Trades must be approved by a three-person panel from Liberty Hill Youth League. The panel consists of the League Commissioner (mandatory), LHYL

President, and LHYL VP Baseball, and may include the Director of Baseball Operations, or another league Commissioner when necessary to resolve competing interests.

- c. To be approved, trades must be of equal player talent or better for the coach that did not initiate the trade. Player talent may be determined by a board score or Commissioner and coach input. However, any coach input for player talent evaluation must come from coaches who are not involved in the trade to ensure impartiality.
 - d. All Liberty Hill Youth League Baseball trade panel decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
 - e. Once the Commissioner announces that rosters are locked, the trade period ends.
9. Rosters are locked at the completion of the draft.