

## **Liberty Hill Softball Player Policies: Protected Players, Draft, and Additional Player Information**

The Liberty Hill Youth League Softball Player Policy is designed to establish uniform rules and procedures. 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.

The following are the definitions of the terms used in the policy:

1. Eligible Player: A player who has fully completed all forms in the registration packet, including any required documentation and payment of league fees.
2. 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.
3. Protected Player: A LHYL eligible Player who is preselected on a team by a head coach prior to assessments. Coaches may protect an allotted number of players. The head coach'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).
4. Draft Eligible Player: A LHYL eligible player who is not a protected player. This player must attend assessments and then be drafted through the draft system. Any LHYL eligible player who is not protected and does not try-out will be considered a hat pick.
5. Hat Pick Eligible Player: Eligible players who do not attend assessments and are not a protected player. These players will randomly be assigned to teams after draft eligible players are selected during the draft process. Coaches must accept all "hat pick" players.

## **LIBERTY HILL YOUTH LEAGUE SOFTBALL PROTECTED PLAYERS**

The Protected Player Policy for Liberty Hill Youth League Softball 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. The policy is outlined as follows:

1. Coaches may select up to 6 players to be protected with parent permission.
2. Coaches and assistant coaches' children are mandatory protected players.
3. Adding additional coaches does not increase the number of protected players a team may select.
4. All players that are protected count towards the protected player total for a team. There are no exceptions to this rule.
5. Coaches are responsible for ensuring that all their protected players meet eligibility criteria and are registered before the designated deadline.
6. Coaches will consider relevant circumstances, variables, and family preferences when submitting their protected player lists and prioritize their selections accordingly.
7. LHYL will not grant approval for any additional protected players beyond the allotted limit.
8. Finalized protected player list must be received by the Softball VP no later than 48 hours before the assessment starts for each age division.

## **LIBERTY HILL YOUTH LEAGUE SOFTBALL DRAFT**

The Liberty Hill Youth League (LHYL) will use the player draft system as set forth by this section and overseen by the Softball VP and Softball Commissioners. Eligible players will be selected by coaches under the guidance of the Commissioners and with assistance from any other Board member.

1. 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.
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 until each team has a minimum of players per age group.
3. All bonded players must attend assessments to be placed in the draft. If only one bonded player attends assessments and the other(s) player does not, the bonded players will be added as a hat pick. Any bonded hat pick players will go to the first team that has to fill the roster with hat picks.
4. Coaches continue to draft players until all available players are drafted or team caps are met.
5. There are no trades allowed at the draft.
6. In the case of first impression situations, the Softball Competition Committee reserves the right to make appropriate changes to this draft process. Any changes shall be agreed upon by majority vote prior to the draft and communicated to all Coaches.

### **LIBERTY HILL YOUTH LEAGUE ADDITIONAL SOFTBALL PLAYER INFORMATION**

1. Players are not allowed to play down an age level at any time.
  - a. If a parent or coach wishes to appeal this rule, they must notify the Commissioners involved and the Softball VP at least 5 business days prior to the end of registration.
  - b. The Softball Competition Committee will convene a committee to review the request and notify the parent/coach of the decision no less than one business day prior to the end of registration. This decision is final and may not be appealed
2. An eligible player may register and play in only one division per season.
3. Players in all divisions shall play on the team assigned them by the draft process, with the exception of pool players during the season (see pool player rules).

4. If a player sustains an injury during any league sponsored event, which requires medical attention rendered by a physician, the parent or guardian must present a doctor's release to the head coach and a copy to the Commissioner before the player will be allowed to continue playing.
5. Any player ejected from a game shall also be suspended for their team's next game.
6. 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 board approval, and only after sufficient cause is shown. A player who has been released from a team cannot return to that team.
7. A softball player may be suspended and/or removed from a team or the League, by the Softball Competition Committee by a majority vote. Grounds for suspension or removal include, but are not limited, to the following:
  - a. Using foul or abusive language or gestures.
  - b. Physical violence towards another player, coach, umpire, or spectator.
  - c. Persistent disciplinary problems.
  - d. Intentional throwing of bats or equipment (first offense gets a verbal warning, second offense results in removal from that game and one game suspension; third offense results in removal from that game and requires the player and parent to appear in front of Softball Competition Committee).
  - e. The possession of a weapon (any type).
  - f. The possession or use of any illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco or vapes.
  - g. Being placed on a juvenile deferred prosecution or probation for a felony offense.
  - h. A ruling to suspend a player made by the Softball Competition committee is contestable to the Softball Board members. Such protest must be made no later than 48 hours after notification of the ruling.
  - i. Bullying others including, but not limited to social media.