

Team Construction Process

OYO strives to balance its teams and create parity in each league through careful team construction using coach evaluation scores from previous seasons, where possible. While we are committed to creating a positive experience for all ballplayers and families, including accommodating requests where possible, our primary objective is to establishing balanced teams and fun, competitive on-the-field experiences. In the end, OYO hopes this team construction process creates greater parity and fairness for all teams in every division.

Following each rec season since 2009, we have required *all* coaches to evaluate their players. This would ensure every returning player would have an evaluation the following season. While all parents are asked to rate their ballplayers during the online registration process, OYO only references those ratings for new players only. Collectively, this process enables us to use more skill-appropriate evaluations for a greater number of players entering the team selection process.

This information is balanced with input from all coaches in the league in ranking players during the team construction process. As a check-and-balance measure, each league will review evaluation scores and make adjustments as needed during the annual preseason coaches' meeting. Here's how the process works:

- **Setting Teams in Each Division** | Based on the current number of players registered, projected number of players who might still register and current coach availability, the division commissioner and respective vice president will establish the number of teams for the division.
- **Inputs for a Player Ranking Report** | The commissioners will create a customized report for its division based on player evaluation scores from previous two seasons (spring and fall) or parent ratings (new players). The report will represent a spreadsheet that includes each player's:
 - total evaluation score
 - pitching and catching evaluation scores (in applicable leagues)
 - season from which evaluation was captured
- **Constructing a Player Ranking Report** | Each commissioner will create a master file dividing players by age then by evaluation score. In addition, for divisions where player pitching occurs, the commissioner may opt to create an initial round of pitchers and initial round of catchers to help ensure even distribution of these players. For example, in a league of six teams with 9 and 10 year olds, a report may be constructed as follows:
 - Round of top six pitchers
 - Round of top six catchers
 - Individual rounds of all 10 year olds, players ranked from highest score to lowest
 - Individual rounds of all 9 year olds, players ranked from highest score to lowest
 - Individual round(s) of all 8 year olds who "leveled up", players ranked from highest score to lowest
- **Meeting to Review Player Ranking Report** | All Head Coaches are required – and assistant coaches are encouraged – to meet at a public location for full review of all the players registered at the time of the meeting.
- **Review Process for Player Ranking Report** | Any coach may recommend moving a player forward or backward in the respective age group of its league rankings. To do so during this coaches meeting, a coach must make a motion and recommend the new placement. Coaches will have two minutes to discuss the proposal. At the end of the two-minute timeframe, the league commissioner may elect to extend the discussion for an additional two minutes or call for a vote on adjusting the player's rank. Action will be based on majority vote. If there's a tie, the commissioner present breaks the tie.



- **Approval of Player Ranking Report** | At the conclusion of the player ranking review, the commissioner will ask for a vote to approve the final list of players and the rounds they appear in.
- **Formula for Assigning Players to Teams** | Following the meeting, the commissioner will then be responsible for assigning one player from each round to each team. A coach is automatically assigned his/her child as well as the child of his/her assistant coach. All teams are *guaranteed* an assistant coach assignment so long as it does not result in two players from the first round, the top pitcher round or top catcher round. Each team ends up with a similar number of players, but most likely not a full roster. Additional players will be assigned as they register until the maximum number of players per team is achieved.
- **Considering Special Requests** | The league commissioners will build teams with the following considerations (in the following order):
 - Head coaches will be guaranteed one assistant coach request, so long as both players are not in the first round of the same age group
 - Families with siblings in the same league will have their children assigned to the same team, even if both players evaluation scores rank them in the same round
 - Only one player associated with a league sponsor per team
 - Team sponsor requests will take precedence over head coach-assistant coach requests when there are same-round conflicts
 - Balancing of number of pitchers and catchers assigned to each team (in kid-pitch divisions)
 - Play-together (or other related) requests made by parents will be monitored by each commissioner and granted only where the integrity of team balance is not affected
 - Balancing of assistant coach and team parent volunteers when possible
 - Exception Adjustment: If any requests involve two players in the same round (not applicable in the first round), the team shall forfeit a previous round selection
 - No requests involving two first round selections will be granted except for players living in the same household
 - Teams may only double up on players in the same round one time for each age group
- **Final Review and Approval** | There will be a final review by the respective OYO vice president or president. If necessary, changes will be made at the discretion of the league's executive board member who shall consult with the league commissioner.

