



City of Salem Parks and Recreation
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City of Salem Central Draft Procedure

With the implementation of a central draft for all youth leagues the City of Salem Department of Parks and Recreation hopes to provide the following:

- Teams with the same number of participants.
- An even distribution of skilled across all teams in each league.
- Increase playing time for participants due to controlled roster sizes.
- Enhanced services for coaches and parents.

How Registrations and the Central Draft will work:

1. All participants will register either online or in person at the Salem Sports Office.
2. When registering, participants will select the appropriate league depending on his/her age. All participants in a given league will be grouped together.
3. Once registrations have ended, participants will be invited to attend an evaluation where various sport specific skill stations will be used to gain a better understanding of each player's abilities.
4. After the evaluations are complete each player will be assigned an overall average score based on the ratings they received in each skills station. From there, players will be separated into three pools. Pool A – High Skill Level, Pool B – Moderate Skill Level, Pool C - Beginner
5. Parks and Recreation personnel will then meet with head coaches from each league to begin the formal process of drafting players to teams.
6. After a blind draw to determine the draft order, each coach will take a turn at selecting a player from Pool A, this continues until all players in that pool have been selected. This process will be repeated for each of the remaining two pools until all players have been placed on a team.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What are the benefits of central draft teams versus school/draft teams?

A: The draft teams should yield teams that have an even number of players and hopefully an even level of talent. Another benefit is a larger pool of coaches available as we pull together coaching resources from the entire city.

Q: Isn't the evaluation just like a 'try-out'?

A: No. All registered kids will be placed on a team regardless of their skill level and how they perform at the evaluation. This is merely a guide to help us divide talent evenly across each team.

Q: Are the kids pressured to perform well during the evaluation?

A: The goal is to create a stress-free environment at the evaluation. The personnel running the stations try their best to encourage each kid and to make it fun.

Q: What if my child doesn't perform well during the evaluation; will that affect their rating?

A: There is a limited amount of time that each player can be evaluated and the personnel responsible for assigning the ratings do the best they can based on what see at their skills station. The ratings are based on the performance they witness and the perceived ability of each player.

Q: What if my child is unable to attend the evaluation?

A: All children will be placed on a team during the draft process regardless if they are unable to attend the evaluation. For those that are unable to attend the evaluation, Parks and Recreation will assign a rating the best they can based on input from the coaches. Players that cannot be assigned a rating will be placed on a team by virtue of blind draw after all other participants have been selected. The established draft order will used for this draw.

Q: If I volunteer to be a head coach, is it guaranteed that I will be able to draft my child?

A: Yes. All head coach's children are protected in the draft process. There is no official provision to protect the children of assistant coaches.

Q: Will the assigned player ratings and the draft order summary be posted for anyone to view?

A: No. Neither the assigned player ratings nor the order by which the players were chosen during the draft be posted anywhere.