

DRAFT ELIGIBILITY

A draft process prior to each spring season creates all Majors and AAA team rosters. Every player who is registered for Majors and AAA, regardless of whether they have played in MDLL or are new to the league is required to participate in a skills assessment session that will be used by the Managers to conduct the draft. When the skills assessments are over and the scores are compiled, the Player Agent creates a list of players eligible for draft selection at each level by tabulating the scores each child receives for hitting, fielding, running and throwing.

The draft is the method which most successfully:

- Distributes talent into the appropriate level of play (i.e., Majors, AAA, AA), keeping the League strong and growing.
- Distributes talent evenly throughout each level, making the games more competitive and fun.
- Promotes the safety of the players (if a player is playing above his/her skill level, he/she could be hurt. If a player is playing below his/her skill level, he/she could hurt others).

Although MDLL is sensitive to the wishes of parents regarding the level into which their child is drafted, it is Little League's policy that a child will play at the level at which he/she is drafted. **This rule means that by registering to play baseball, a child (and his/her parents) agree to play at whatever level the Managers determine is best, based on the child's ability. Previous participation at a particular level in the previous Fall season does not guarantee that your child will play at that level in the Spring.**

MDLL's job is to ensure that each player is playing at an appropriate level. By Little League's rules, all players who are league age 12 will be drafted onto a Majors Division team unless an exemption to play in AAA Division is requested by the parents/guardian. If you wish an exemption, you may discuss your situation with the Player Agent; however, all exemptions, detailing the reasons for the exemption, must be submitted in writing to the Player Agent. Exemptions are typically only approved based on skill level of the player (not because a player wishes to play on a certain team or for a certain coach). Exemptions may be granted to have siblings play together on a team. All exemption requests are evaluated by the Player Agent and the Managers, who make recommendations to the Board for approval.

The list of Major-eligible players (i.e. they earned the minimum required rating which indicates that they have the skills necessary to play in the Majors) is presented to the Board of Directors at a special meeting. Once the Board approves that list, only the players on it are eligible to be drafted into the Majors. **Typically, there are more players on the Majors-eligible players list than there are available positions on Majors teams. If so, not every child on the list will be drafted to the Majors and will be drafted onto a AAA team.** In cases where there are not enough players to completely fill the Major's teams rosters, the Managers and Player Agent may elect to draft a player who is registered for AAA into Majors if they have shown they have the minimum skills to play at this level during the assessment. In such a case, the Player Agent will contact the parents/guardian of that player for approval. The remaining players are included in the AAA draft and are available to be called up to the Majors to fill vacancies that may occur during the season. Once the Majors teams have completed their draft, a list of AAA-eligible players is prepared for that level's draft.

For AA, A, and T ball Divisions, a player's parents/guardians may request the team for which he/she plays. If no request is made, players are assigned by the Player Agent and Division Managers, keeping in

mind a player's home/school area and previous year's team affiliation. Every attempt is made for each team to have a similar number of players on its roster and a similar number of each age group to balance the competitiveness of teams.

Once teams have been assigned, the Manager will contact each player's family with the practice schedule. Note that, in the past, there has been cases where parents will request their child play on a team that practices on certain evenings due to other activities. Approval of such a request cannot be guaranteed. Although MDLL wants to accommodate parents' request as often as possible, the league's priority is to have players playing at appropriate levels based on their individual skills, and to have well-rounded team rosters that ensure competitive division play.

Other Draft Questions

How does the draft work?

Majors:

- MDLL has a complete redraft approach to Majors for the Spring Season.
- All league age 12 players will be drafted, unless a waiver to stay in AAA has been requested and approved.
- Coaches/assistants are assigned following the draft; a Manager wishing a specific coach must select or trade for that player.
- Little League rules establish the round in the draft the manager's players are 'drafted'. No other players can be 'reserved'.
- The Majors managers (no coaches or assistants allowed) will meet at the conclusion of tryouts to draft eligible players to complete their rosters.
- Majors managers and coaches are forbidden by Little League International regulations to discuss any aspects of the draft process outside of the meeting. Please do not ask, "Who was drafted first" or "What round was my child drafted in", etc.

AAA:

The selection process for AAA is similar to Majors:

- As with Majors teams, AAA teams are reformed each year from the pool of all eligible players, utilizing the same rules outlined for the Major's draft process (above).

How are Brothers/Sisters Allocated in the Draft?

Per the *Little League Operating Manual* rules governing the drafting of siblings, a Manager who drafts the first brother/sister automatically has the option of drafting the other brother/sister on their next turn. The MDLL will encourage Managers to exercise this option, unless the Player's Parents indicate they will allow their children to play on different teams.

How are Manager's Children Allocated in the Draft?

If a Manager has children in the draft and wishes to draft them, they must indicate that they are

exercising that option prior to the start of the draft. Pursuant to the *Little League Operating Manual*, a Manager in the Majors draft must select their children by the specific round specified for their League Age.

Draft Round	League Age
5	9-10
4	11
3	12

For the AAA Draft, the Player Agent, after consulting with the Managers participating in that Division, will assign Manager's children to a Round.

"Hat Picks"

Majors

After all eligible 12 year-olds have been drafted, the registered and paid 12 year-olds who did not attend the Player Assessment but, by Little League Rules, must play in the Majors are assigned teams. This is completed by use of "Hat Picks." As the name implies, each of the remaining 12 year-olds' names are placed in a hat, and continuing in the same draft order each manager picks a player until all 12-year-old players have been assigned a team. (Injured players who attended tryouts but could not physically tryout are part of the group eligible to be drafted and are not part of the Hat Pick group.) Please note that if you signed up your player for Majors Division and that player is under 12-years-old AND DID NOT ATTEND THE PLAYER ASSESSMENT, they will not be considered in the eligible Majors draft list and will be playing AAA, as Managers will have drafted their teams from the eligible list, including those under 12 who did attend the Player Assessment.

AAA

After all eligible 9-11 year-olds have been drafted, the registered and paid players who did not attend the Player Assessment are assigned teams. This is completed by use of "Hat Picks." As the name implies, each of the remaining 9-11 year-olds' names are placed in a hat, and continuing in the same draft order each manager picks a player until all players have been assigned a team. (Injured players who attended tryouts but could not physically tryout are part of the group eligible to be drafted and are not part of the Hat Pick group.)

What is a "Call-up"?

Little League regulations require Majors Division teams to play with the same number of players on each roster. This means that if any Majors team loses a player during the season for any reason the local Little League must have a process in place to replace that player in a timely manner. The Player Call-up Process will be used. There are two types of "Call-ups." The first is in the case where a Majors team loses a player for the season due to injury, a move, etc. In this case, a Manager will notify the Player Agent and they will work together to determine the best player to be reassigned from AAA to that Majors team. Obviously, the Player Agent will work with that player's parents for approval and to ensure a smooth transition. The second type of "Call-up" relates to a situation whereby the Manager has a temporary vacancy for a specific game and needs to backfill his roster. In this case, he will notify the Player Agent who will contact a player on the "Call-up" list to see whether they can fill the Majors team's roster for that specific game. Note that the Player Agent will contact the players in order of the "Call-up" list and will not consider a Manager's request for a specific player, except in extreme or extenuating circumstances. Managers should NEVER contact a player to request that they be called up except when told to do so by the Player Agent.

What are a player's choices if he or she is "Called Up?"

Mason District Little League considers a "Call Up" an extremely positive experience. The player is acknowledged for a skill level considered appropriate for the next higher division. Players are typically only eligible for a Call Up if the Managers in their current Division have judged them capable of the physical and mental demands of playing at a higher level. In every way possible, managers, coaches

and parents should promote this to players, especially the younger players who may be uncomfortable at the thought of moving to a new team and playing, developing a new set of friends.

You may elect before the draft to restrict upward movement for your player, but this must be done before teams are selected. If you have any concerns about the Call Up Process, please contact the Player Agent at: PlayerAgent@mdl.org.

I'm not happy with my child's team assignment. What can I do?

Once the teams have been assigned, there are no opportunities for movement of players. Little League does not allow 'trades' between teams once rosters are established. If there are extenuating circumstances before the teams are formed, contact the Player Agent with the details and we will consider them.