



Wilbraham Baseball Committee

Evaluation and Draft Guidelines – July 2025

Evaluations

- 1) Evaluations will be administered by the WBC with support from independent evaluators chosen by the WBC. Current and prospective coaches will be able to support the evaluation activities and only be a part of the evaluation process for age groups within which they do not have a child playing. *WBC members exempt when necessary
- 2) Players will be ranked on their baseball abilities, including arm strength & accuracy, batting, and fielding. Scored on each from 1-10. Scores tallied to total their overall score.
- 3) The WBC evaluation lead will assemble the ranked list of the top 15 of eligible players for one team, the top 27 eligible players for two teams, or 39 eligible players for three teams, etc, in each age group. The goal is to form at least one "A" team in each league each season, with the option of adding additional teams based on number of participants and the evaluation results.
- 4) The list of eligible players could exceed the numbers listed above when there are multiple players tied for the last ranking spot for each respective team size. IE: players tied for #15, players tied for #27, players tied for #39. In this case, the coach during the draft process could choose any one of the tied ranked players to complete his roster.
EXCEPTION: if a player cannot participate in a tryout in the fall, (injury or other qualified exception approved by the WBC and Rec Dept) a tryout will be held and that player will be evaluated by all of the assigned head coaches in that age division. If a coach decides to take that player, the player will be added to a team, and no player will be dropped. Higher team in the division takes precedence.
- 5) WBC mandates that a player tryout at 1 tryout session. In the event they participate in both sessions, the higher tryout date evaluation score will be used to determine player's ranking.

Coaches

- 1) Coaches will be selected by the WBC with Recreation Department approval after the evaluations but prior to the team selection or draft. Evaluation will be based on prior years coaching or potential, knowledge, ability to communicate with players and parents and on his behavior as a coach, both on and off the field.
- 2) Our goal is for the selected head coach to remain the head coach for both years in one age group at any division level. That coach will reapply for a coach's position again every year (head/assistant/both)
In the event that there is more than 1 returning coach within the same age group AND division based on evaluation scores, the WBC will make the final determination who shall be the head coach.
* It is recommended that 1 person is not the Head Coach of more than one JLS competitive baseball team.
- 3) Assistant coach (one*) will also be selected by the head coach and WBC approved from a list of applicants and/or from the team that their child has been selected.
*Obviously, it is up to the discretion of the head coach to allow other parents/helpers to aid him in any capacity he sees fit, as the WBC does encourage parents to aid the coach whenever possible
- 4) If the WBC determines that there are no qualified head coaches within a particular age group or team, we reserve the right to choose a head coach from a different age group or team for the overall benefit of the original age group or team. The head coach's child will also move with the head coach, and no player will be dropped from that original team.

Draft / Selection

- 1) The WBC determines, based on evaluation scoring, whether there will be a Draft for two equal teams or a Selection process to form two teams for different competition levels within the same age group.
- 2) Selected coaches and assistant coaches, if known, will assemble and will be provided the names of the eligible players, and the Draft or Selection will take place. *The WBC age division lead or his representative will be at the draft for review, direction, and guidance.*
- 3) Team size will be as follows: 6-8 should carry 12 players; 8-10 should carry 12 or 13 players; 10-12 should carry 12 or 13 players; 12-14 should carry 12 to 14 players. Teams may carry more or less than these numbers at the discretion of the WBC.

** Team size for age 12-14 may increase, due to the eligibility of high school players. In such cases where there are too many total players at the 12-14 age level to fit within the above roster size guidelines for a single team or multiple teams, the WBC reserves the right to place 9th-grade players where they see fit, based on skill level, position needs, and overall roster sizes. The reason is the 9th-grade players have played freshman baseball and have other options for summer baseball, whereas 7th and 8th graders do not have other competitive baseball options in town, and they should not be moved or cut from competitive teams on which they belong, because age-eligible high school players are “playing down.” The WBC will work with the coaches at that level to determine the best possible outcome for inclusivity and to keep the teams competitive.*

- 4) **Draft for 2 equal “A” level (or “Top” level) teams only** - Coaches retaining players: If a coach is entering his/her second year at the “A” level, in the same age group, our goal is that the coach retains the “A” players from the previous year that are eligible to stay in that age group. The coach will retain the player from one year to the next. If a coach has a reason why not to retain, they must present that reason to the WBC). During the draft, the other “A” coach(es) in the same age group will choose their players, equivalent to the number of players retained by Coach #1, prior to Coach #1 beginning his selections. For example: at the draft, returning Coach #1 will retain 6 eligible players for his team from the previous season. Coach #2 will then select the first 6 players in the draft. Once each team has the same number of players, the draft will continue with a coin flip to determine who will restart the open draft. This draft will continue until full rosters and the top players are all selected.

Player retention only applies where we have 2 equal “A” or “top level” teams divided during a draft.

- 5) If a draft is determined to be necessary for 2 equal B level teams or lower, a draft will be conducted without any player retention.
- 6) **Team Selection process:**
Where the WBC sees the need for a “top players A team”, next set of players “B” team in any age group, we will allow for both the “A” team coach and “B” team coach to provide input in the final assembly of their team. The “A” team coach will be given his roster of 9 players. The coach will then be given the names of player’s ranked #10 - #15. All evaluation score ties are considered equal number and thus (6) could be more. The coach will complete his team of up to 3 players from the list of players given. If the coach has a valid reason to go outside the player list to complete his team, a meeting with the WBC must be requested. The WBC will then meet with the coach to determine player eligibility. The coach can ADD an extra or 13th player from the lower set of players if he chooses, **however** the lower set of player’s still contains the minimum number of players on the roster (11) to accommodate losing one.

The same applies to the “B” team coach, who will then complete his roster with 3 players, ranked from the next (6) evaluation spots. All evaluation score ties are considered equal number and thus (6) could be more.

- 7) All players will be evaluated and be placed on teams within their current school grade level only. *1E: 8U is grades 1-2. 10U is grades 3-4. 12U is grades 5-6. 14U is grades 7-8.* A player cannot play up or down (even if by league rules that player is eligible to play ‘down’ below his/her current grade) unless the WBC determines by majority vote to move a player up or down. Special circumstances include, but are not limited to: size, strength, skill, safety and previous baseball experience.
- 8) Players wishing to “play up” or “down” an age group must tryout and be evaluated in BOTH age groups (current school grade included)

Final Roster Selection/Approval

The WBC reserves the right to collectively, by majority vote, allow the move of a player from one team to another prior to final team formations based *ONLY* upon one or all of the following criteria:

1. The “Post Season Player Evaluation” results from the previous season, submitted by the head coach. *In the absence of a coach’s evaluation of a player outside of the WPRD program, this move will require a majority vote only after the WBC age group representative speaks with previous season’s coach.*
2. A deficit or surplus of position-specific or position-limited players on a single team.
3. At the specific request of parents/player, a player may be moved down a division within the same age group, or off a team.
4. Siblings who are in the same age division, and who may have been placed on separate teams based on evaluation scores, yet who are close enough in skill level to each other. Moving a sibling UP is permitted by majority vote, moving a sibling down must be either with parent consent OR #1 reason above.

WBC uses these as guidelines for all decisions in regards to competitive team formations, and also realizes that not every situation/scenario can be defined nor proceduralized. In the event that a situation encountered is not covered under our guidelines, we will use a majority vote to determine the outcome.

WBC members will review and approve draft results prior to public dissemination.

Change summary:

2019: "Final Roster Selection/Approval" addition (reason).

- We believe this better incorporates coaches recommendations and evaluations
- Is fair in that it requires a committee majority vote
- Will help each team to succeed
- Most importantly allow players to have more playing time at their best and/or chosen positions and ultimately develop more individually.

2025:

- Added *recommendation* to Coaches (2) *
- Added "WBC uses these as guidelines....."

Respectfully,

Wilbraham Baseball Committee, July 2025