

Draft Night Step-by-Step

The following is a step-by-step list on how Polk County Parks and Recreation hold draft night for soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, and baseball. At each draft coaches select the players that are on their team. The recreation department at no time place children on teams unless we have to draft a team due to not having enough individuals volunteer to coach.

- I. Draft nights for any league could be scheduled on Monday-Thursday
 1. Drafts are held at least one month before the season to ensure enough practice time for teams
 2. If there are not enough coaches for a league, then draft night may be postpone until we find enough coaches
- II. Coaches attend the draft, where they are provided a list of available players before draft night
 1. Coaches are also provided any updated information pertaining to the list of players and rules
- III. Before player selection begin, the coach will automatically receive his/her kid; and if they have an assistant coach, they will also receive their kid as well
- IV. Coaches pick a number out of a hat or cup, and this determine the order in which coaches will select their players.
- V. Blind draft: this is where the coaches and athlete coordinator selected the top tier kids in the list and rank them. The blind draft is a way of ensuring that each team have at least two of the best kids in the league. The coach's child/children can also be a part of the blind draft even if they are automatically on the team already.
 1. Example: If there are 7 teams in a league, the top 14 players are selected to be a part of the blind draft and matched. Each team will receive two to the top 14 players.
 2. Players are then ranked 1-14 and matched
 - a. The matching order would be as follow: 1 & 14, 2 & 12, 3 & 12, 4 & 11, 5 & 10, 6 & 9, 7 & 8
 3. If the coach's child is a part of the blind draft, they automatically go to that coach with the matching number.
 - a. So if the coach kid is number 4 then the coach will automatically receive number 11 as well.
 - b. If the coach's child and the assistant's child is a part of the blind draft, then they are matched and given to the coach.
 - i. Example: If the coaches child is number 4 and the assistant's child is number 10, then 4 & 10 will now go together and 5 & 11 will go together.

4. After everyone is matched, the players are given to the coaches by the number that they previously selected.
 - a. Example: The coach that pulled #1 will receive match 1 & 14, the coach that pulled #2 will receive match 2 & 13, etc.

VI. Regular Draft: This is where the coaches go in order by number to select the remaining players on the list

1. First we calculate how many players each coach is starting off with. (Each coach must start off with same number of players)
 - a. Example: If coach 1 have 2 players, coaches 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 have 4 players, and coach 7 have 3 players. Then coaches 1 and 7 have to catch up to the other coaches with 4 players so everyone will have an equal amount of players. So coach 1 will select a player to catch up with coach 7 with 3 players. Then coach 7 will select a player to catch up with the coaches with 4 players, and then coach 1 will select another player to catch up with everyone else. After this all coaches will have the same amount of players, and the draft can continue.
2. Throughout the draft coaches will continue to go in order by the number selected before the draft begin.
 - a. Example: Number 1 will go first, then numbers 2,3,4,5,6, and 7. Once we get to #7, we will snake the draft and go back up to the top. So #7 will pick again and then we will go backwards all the way back to #1. #1 and #7 will always get to pick twice when it is their turn. This is known as the snake draft.
3. Once all of the players are selected, the coaches then have the opportunity to swap players based on parent request for carpooling, kids are best friends, family would like to be on the same team, etc.... Request are **NOT** guaranteed. All siblings will be on the same team!!!
4. If a swap is made, players **MUST** be compatible and both coaches have to agree.
5. Once all coaches are satisfied with their team, they are given a complete roster with player's information. Coaches are advised to contact parents within the next two days to inform parents/guardians that their child has been selected on their team. Coaches are also responsible for informing parents of practice locations, game dates, and times. All game dates, locations, and times can be found online as well.
6. Once the draft is finished, coaches are dismissed.

- VII. If all drafts are completed within the same week, coaches will be given the game schedule the following week.

Blind Draft Policy

Every Blind Draft will begin with all coaches and staff working together to make fair rankings of the players in that age group, through the pre-determined number of rounds. Any requests (coaching, carpool, etc) other than siblings will then be evaluated for fairness AFTER all blind draft rounds have been ranked. No requests will be guaranteed, but we will do our best to accommodate any requests, as long as the overall competitive balance of the league is not compromised.

Any trades for players that were drafted in the same rounds are eligible upon agreement from both coaches involved.

If there are any trade requests for players that are not drafted in the same round, the requesting coach must receive the player that was selected later in the draft.