



## **COMMITTEE ON TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES**

### **February 2024**

The Committee on Team Selection (CTS) is the SaddleBrooke Senior Softball Association (SSSA) standing committee that evaluates and assigns players to teams, assuring balance among teams in each league while promoting player safety. To accomplish this the CTS evaluates new players, reevaluates existing players, and conducts a disciplined team-selection process for each season. The CTS is comprised of the Head Commissioner, who is the CTS Chair, and the League Commissioners.

### **New Player Evaluation**

Once a new player completes the *Membership Data* and *Release of Liability* forms a CTS member will evaluate the player's hitting, fielding, running, throwing and pitching skills. Additional CTS members may assist in the evaluation.

Upon completion of the evaluation, the CTS member will discuss with the new player the appropriate league(s) matched to his skills, the player's availability during the week, and the SSSA's skill-development opportunities. The CTS member will then share their evaluation with the appropriate League Commissioner(s), who will then identify roster vacancies for immediate player placement. If no vacancies are available, the player will be added to the substitute list(s) until a vacancy becomes available. Once a new season is scheduled, new players may sign up for leagues designed for their skill levels.

### **Team Selection**

Once a new season is scheduled, the SSSA will conduct signups for all leagues. After receiving a list of players who signed up for their league, the League Commissioners will:

1. Verify that all players on their list have appropriate skills for their league.
2. Assess the players according to their hitting, running, fielding and throwing skills. This process may involve reevaluation of some existing players.
3. Assign players to teams to achieve competitive balance, while striving to maximize the number of teams in their league and making every effort to ensure that players are assigned to rosters in the leagues they signed up for.
4. Build rosters of 10-13 players in the Sidewinder, Coyote, Community and Competitive leagues. The Recreation league can have rosters of 10-15 players.
5. Reassign players to a lower-level league with Board approval if there are excess registrations in a league. Players may accept or decline the reassignment. They will be offered the opportunity to play as substitute/replacement players in the league(s) they signed up for until roster positions become available.



6. Discuss and adjudicate any player safety issues with the CTS.

Once the League Commissioners obtain their list of players for the season, they will follow the CTS Team Selection process.

### CTS Team Selection

Commissioners will obtain a list of players for the season. The Commissioners will put together first cut teams and assign volunteer or recruited managers. The Commissioners have the option to review the makeup of the teams with 2 or 3 players.

The CTS meets and agrees to teams in each league. Managers for each team will be shared with the CTS unless they are to be randomly assigned.

Each Commissioner will share that league's teams with the appropriate managers. The managers will offer their input to the Commissioner. If no changes are warranted the teams will be considered finalized.

If after discussion with the managers the Commissioner decides changes are warranted, those changes are shared with the head Commissioner and the teams will be considered finalized. The finalized rosters will be forwarded to the website manager, who will send the rosters to the managers and the teams will be posted on the website.

A third of the way through the season the league Commissioners and managers will discuss if rebalancing is needed. If so, all parties must agree to the changes. If they cannot come to an agreement, the head Commissioner will make the final decision. If any changes are made, those changes should be sent to the appropriate managers, players, and the website manager.

**Alternate Team Selection Method.** Managers may elect to form teams via a player draft with the agreement and participation of their League Commissioner as moderator.



## **Manager Selection**

The CTS determines the manager-readiness of players who volunteer to manage. To develop managers, the CTS may select an inexperienced, but promising, player to manage provided an appropriate mentor is assigned to the player. Commissioners may not manage a team in a league for which they are the Commissioner. Each season the League Commissioners select managers for the teams in their league. Managers are selected before the Team Selection process commences.

## **Rebalancing Teams**

League Commissioners may elect to re-balance teams after one-third of the season's games have been played. This is accomplished by adding players to teams or via trades between teams.

## **Assigning Replacement and Substitute Players**

Replacement and substitute players are defined in Definitions 1.9 and 1.12, respectively, in the *SaddleBrooke Softball Rules of Play*.

Replacement players are required whenever a team expects to lose a player for three or more consecutive weeks. When managers request a replacement player from the appropriate Commissioner, the Commissioner will try to assign a player equal to the player being replaced. If the player that has been replaced does not return, the manager can request the replacement player to be added to their roster for the remainder of the season. This can only be done with the Commissioner's approval.

## **Player Safety**

Player safety is the first priority of the CTS. The CTS may restrict players from playing in certain leagues, assign/reassign players to appropriate leagues, and make final adjudications based on player circumstances. League Commissioners, in consultation with the CTS, may restrict certain players in all leagues, except the Competitive League, from using League-approved bats.

## **Player Skill Development**

The CTS coordinates with the Skills Development Commissioner to stay current on individual player skill improvements. The Commissioner schedules and conducts various skill-building clinics throughout the year to help members develop their softball skills. Additional less-formal development sessions are also held throughout the year.