



U9 and Older
MYS House Team Formation Procedures
(Last Updated 8/25/10)

I. Background & Purpose

The open team formation process is designed to serve several purposes. First, it is a way to transfer players fairly who remain in the House League but have lost a coach and/or key players after the first round of travel teams are selected, or for any other reason. And second, it is an equitable way to allocate new players to teams and to rebalance teams as necessary. A key part of the mission of MYS is to maximize the experience for all players in an enjoyable and supportive environment. One way to do that is by maintaining some level of parity among the teams.

The best method to achieve this goal is to use the extensive knowledge that the House League coaches have about their players. The coaches are to work together to formulate teams that will create some form of league parity. This is the major change from the U6 to U8 years where the Age Group Coordinator (AGC) has the primary responsibility of assigning players to teams. The AGC will facilitate the team reformation process by enabling the coaches to share their information about the players.

This table summarizes the team sizes and team formation process which are further discussed in the remainder of this document.

Age Group	Target Roster Size	Format Played	Travel Teams	Draft Status
U-6	9	3 x 3	No	No Draft
U-7	10	4 x 4	No	No Draft
U-8	10	4 x 4	No	No Draft
U-9	11	7 x 7	Yes	Full draft required
U-10	11	7 x 7	Yes	Coaches to vote on full or modified draft
U-11	12-13	8 x 8	Yes	Full draft is required
U-12	12-14	8 x 8	Yes	Coaches to vote on full or modified draft
U-13 and older	18+	11 x 11	Yes/SFL	Modified draft only with emphasis on teams staying together

II. Full Team Formation

The Full Draft process is as follows.

- 1) All registered/eligible players are thoroughly evaluated during the spring season before the start of a new soccer year in the fall by their current coach.
- 2) Evaluations must remain confidential and all coaches must respect the sensitivity of the information.



- a. Each coach evaluates his or her players on a scale of 1-5. In making the evaluation, the coach would consider a player's athleticism, dribbling, passing, shooting, stamina, speed, competitiveness, attitude and basic skills on the field.
- b. The goal is for after the draft is for most teams to have a normal distribution of players with one or two level 5 players, two level 4 players, four-five level 3 players, one or two level 2 and/or two level 1 players. However going into the draft coaches may feel they have a high proportion of strong players (if the team had a strong record) and vise-versa.
- c. All coaches, regardless if they are returning in the fall, are required to submit the player evaluations to the AGC before the end of season tournament in June.

Level	Description
5	An impact player with strong command of the basic skills, with good judgment and leadership on the field. This level player would have the ability to play travel soccer but may have decided not to move up. If they tried out for All-stars they would have been selected
4	A strong player who is just below the top player in basic skills. Perhaps their skills are not as balanced as the level 5 player. If they tried out for All-stars they would have been selected.
3	A developing player who would be the average player on this scale. Skills would vary with most having one or two good or above average basic skills but being weaker in others. Some on this category would be selected for All-stars if they tried out.
2	Slightly below average. Some athletic ability but not a strong skill player in any category.
1	A player who is new to the game or has only limited soccer skills and athletic ability.

- 3) Every attempt will be made to get evaluation information on all new players.
- 4) The full list of players with ratings, indicating All-stars players and other pertinent player information (including conflicts and/or requests) will be distributed to coaches at least 48 hours before the Coaches Meeting.
- 5) The son or daughter of the Coach and Assistant Coach must be selected at the first opportunity to select a player of their ability level.
- 6) The team formation process may take 2-3 hours to implement. If necessary, the first 30 minutes or so might be used to challenge or correct individual evaluations.
- 7) Draft Methodology - Although each coach is selecting players for their own team the common good of the group will be served by cooperation between the coaches in establishing through their knowledge of the players the best possible combinations of players given the constraints of the team formation process. Coaches who intimidate other coaches (by yelling, for example.) may be asked to leave the room, and the remaining coaches and AGC will cooperatively select the rest of that team.
 - a) A Staff member or volunteer will assist each group.



- b) The AGC will generate a list of all the players in the age group, ordered by rating, and will include their school, previous coach, and any comment about practice conflicts. The goal is to email the list 1-2 days before the meeting, but the AGC will also bring copies to the meeting. The ratings run from 5 (best) to 1 (needs development). If there are players who are unrated they will form the 6th group.
 - c) Each age group has their own room to do the draft. First, the coaches will review and discuss the ratings. Free discussion is encouraged, as it is in everyone's interest to get the ratings right. Remember - anything said in the room stays in the room. This is where coaches may challenge each other's assessments. Coaches should also have a look at the unrated players, as often they may be able to share some info about them (other sports they play, general athletic ability, etc).
 - d) Only one coach per team may be in the room. This is to keep things moving. Coaches should feel free to discuss their potential picks with their assistant coach, but not with anyone else. Remember, coaches and other MYS officials are not to share player ratings with anyone outside of the other coaches at the draft.
 - e) Each group is free to determine their own way of ordering the draft. However a fair way is to pick numbers from a hat (same number as number of teams). Number 1 goes first, then 2, etc. After the last coach picks, he/she picks again. Then the second to last coach picks, etc. The process continues back and forth that way till all the players are picked. (e.g., if there are 6 teams, picks go 1,2,3,4,5,6,6,5,4,3,2,1,1,2 . . .)
 - f) Coaches can only protect 2 players, their own child and one assistant coach's child. Coaches must pick these kids first when their rating group starts, as no-one else can have them.
 - g) Try not to create a team from only one school. This will create difficulties in later seasons as other players from that school are unable to play for "the school team." In addition, a reasonable geographic decision is to select players so that they will not have to cross Rte 123 to attend practice. This should reduce the number of practice conflicts.
 - h) Once the drafting begins there can be no further discussion about ratings. The pick order is 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, unrated, and every player in the rating group has to be picked before going to the next ratings group.
 - i) Each coach should record his/her own picks, and the AGC does the same. The coaches are responsible for emailing the AGC his/her list and the AGC will confirm that he/she recorded the same thing. The AGC will then send each coach his/her official roster.
 - j) The AGC will coordinate the draft (run votes, encourage consensus, keep the draft on time).
 - k) If there is time, the coaches and the AGC can verify the official list by reading it aloud and having each coach check his/her own list. This can also be done once each coach has verified that his/her roster from the age group coordinator is correct.
- 8) Switching players after the draft only will be done to accommodate practice conflicts. If a player cannot attend practice with a team, then the player will be placed in the unassigned player pool. Once the majority of the coaches have reported their player conflicts the age group coordinator will place players from the unassigned pool onto teams that the players can practice



with. All the switches will be made by the AGC. The AGC will inform the coaches about these swaps. For example:

Boy 1 (rating 3) from team A to team B

Boy 2 (rating 3) from team B to team C

Boy 3 (rating 3) from team C to team A

This is a simple example as it may not always be possible to have players of the same ability switch teams. The AGC should try to maintain league parity with the switches. The AGCs' decisions about switching players are final.

9) Coaches should contact their players within 24 hours after they receive their rosters. Once the AGC has input the data into the database, each coach will receive a roster with contact information via email. Coaches are to determine if there is a practice conflict for any of their players and notify the AGC. All efforts should be focused on resolving all player swaps by the first game. Any requests for team changes, for whatever reason, must be sent to the AGC.

10) Coach and parent feedback on the team formation should be sent to the AGC and the House Commissioner and U9-U12 Deputy Commissioner so further improvements can be made.

III. Modified Team Formation.

1) The modified team formation is best suited for age groups that are not experiencing roster size or play format changes (i.e., U10 and U12). However, if a majority of the coaches prefer a full draft at these age groups then a full draft will be held

2) The procedure for ranking, dissemination of information and selection follows one of two approaches. First, the AGC can put non-assigned players onto existing teams according to the teams' won-loss records, returning players, and any player practice constraints. Alternatively the coaches can decide to get together and allocate the non-assigned players in a mini-draft. If the second option is chosen by the coaches, a full list of players with rating, indicating all stars players and other pertinent player information (including conflicts and/or requests) will be sent to the coaches prior to the coaches.

Full team formations are required for the U9 and U11 groups, where there are changes in the format of play. It is not currently a requirement for U-12 when the teams enter the Suburban Friendship League (SFL).