

## Team Formation

OVFPS will form teams by having a draft by the BAJA rules. See below.

G. Specific Request Rule:

**1. 6U Division:** Players in the 6U division may select the teammates with whom they want to play (i.e., managers may recruit and form their own teams).

**2. 8U – 18U divisions:** Beginning at the 8U level, our philosophy is to establish balanced teams so that softball games will be competitive among teams in each division. Players in the 8U through 18U divisions may request to be teamed with a “team buddy” as described below, or they may request to play for their previous spring season coach or manager. It is not a guarantee that players will be placed with their team buddy or with their previous coach, but leagues should do their best to accommodate such requests. Beyond that, teams are created based on a process which strives for a balance of experience/skill on each team within a given division. The process considers age, years of experience, All-Star experience, experience at designated positions (pitcher, catcher), and other considerations that the Board deems necessary in order to achieve team balance. For this reason, not all “team buddies” may end up together on teams.

(a) Buddy Request: Any player may select one other player as a buddy, provided their buddy selects them also, and that the buddying does not pair up a returning age-level All-Star pitcher with another pitcher, unless the pairing up of the two pitchers has no effect on the competitive balance of the teams.

(b) Staffing Request: To encourage parent volunteerism and to promote harmony on the team staff, staff members may request to team up provided they bring no more than 3 players into the draw. The Board must evaluate and approve any staffing requests to ensure that competitive balance is maintained. Any players that the staff members bring are referred to as “reserved players”. Examples of this include three staff members with one player each, or two staff members - one with one player, and the other with two players (e.g. two sisters, or a daughter and her buddy). If it is at the league's discretion that staff members are placed together, the staff members' players would not be considered "reserved players" and those staff members would only be held to the buddy rule as stated in paragraph 2a.