1) BALANCING PLAYER TALENT

To establish an equitable distribution of player talent, a devised draft selection system has been modified from the national little league and has proven to be very successful. The player selection system, or the draft, requires careful evaluation of all of the eligible players wishing to play that calendar year by the established coaching staff of all teams to be represented.

2) DRAFT SUPERVISION

The Area Vice-President (Area VP) acts as a director for the players in the draft process with the league president, or a designee of the president, confirming that all draft rules are followed. The president along with the Area VP, or designee, governs the draft to ensure that the talent is distributed as evenly as possible within the very simple draft rules. The Area VP cannot be a coach that is involved in the draft of the team that they are coaching. In the event of a problem that cannot be solved by the Area VP and President at the draft, that problem will be brought to the board for a decision. If no one tries to manipulate the system, then it works great.

3) RULES

Rule 1: The Draft will start fresh each year with no player necessarily returning to the same team (the only exception will be coaches' children).

Rule 2: The maximum number of predetermined draft choices will be three (3). One (1) for the Head Coach's child, and up to two (2), one (1) for each assistant Coach.

Rule 3: A coin flip determines the order of picks. A full list of players will be given to the Area Rep and to each head coach of the teams represented. The number of players on the list for that area shall determine the number of teams that will be required for that season for that area.

Rule 4: The winner of the coin flip will pick first. The loser of the coin flip will pick second. The loser of the losers of the coin flip will pick third if there are enough players on the list to require three teams. The rest of the rounds of the draft will occur in the same order until all players on the list are assigned to a team. If the number of players is not a multiple of the number of teams, then any add-on players after the draft will be taken in the same order as the original draft pick order.

Rule 5: The drafting of coaches' children shall be done beginning in the 3rd round of picks. If there is more than one coach with children on the team, those players will be picked in the next consecutive rounds until all of the coach's sons or daughters have been chosen. The next round of the draft for that team will then proceed with a non-related 1st degree of kindred player.

Rule 6: There will be a time limit at the draft for picking of the players. This will be determined by the Area VP at the time of the draft.

Rule 7: At no time will a player be told by the coaching staff what round that player was picked.

Rule 8: There will be no more than three coaches from any one team represented at the draft session.

Rule 9: All players are subject to the draft for a given area if there are enough players for more than one team. The number of teams will be a joint decision by the Area VP and the President, along with board approval.

Rule 10: When the draft is completed, a final roster of players for a given team will be given to the Area VP for their approval and signature. This roster will then be submitted to the board for league records.

Rule 11: It will be the responsibility of the coaches to contact the players on their teams.

4) TRADES

Trades are possible, but should be avoided at all costs. If a situation arises in which a trade is in the best interest of a player or players, all trades must be one player for one player. Trades involving a player for a draft choice are not allowed. The area rep must monitor any attempt by coaches or parents to manipulate the system and thus create an imbalance in the teams within an area. ALL TRADES MUST BE FOR EXTREME, JUSTIFIABLE REASONS AND WILL BE APPROVED BY ALL HEAD COACHES OF THE TEAMS WITHIN THAT DIVISION IN THAT AREA IN WRITING. THE PARENTS OF THE PLAYERS WHO ARE INVOLVED MUST APPROVE THE TRADE IN WRITING, AND THE PLAYERS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THE TRADE MUST APPROVE THE TRADE IN WRITING. This will then be submitted to the board for approval. Coaches are reminded to pick their teams carefully and wisely to avoid problems that may occur before they happen. Trades are a last resort.

5) CONCLUSION

The object of the draft is to make the teams as equal as possible. The objective of this league should always be the priority, so as to make the teams the best for the kids who are playing and not the adults of the area.