



# Newcastle Baseball Club League Team Formation Procedures

Last Update: December 8, 2012

Players are eligible for each division based on their age as of May 1:

<u>Ages</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Description</u>
5-6	Shetland	T-Ball
7-8	Pinto	Baseball (Machine or Coach pitch)
9-10	Mustang	Kid Pitch (44 feet)
11-12	Bronco	Kid Pitch (48 feet)
13-14	Pony	Kid Pitch (54 feet)

Players requesting to play out of age must register for their desired Division, fill out a playing out of age form, and be assessed. Additional details are found on the Newcastle Baseball website.

## Team Formation – Shetland

The Registrar will consider the following criteria in order listed when building Teams:

1. Parent or player Requests
2. Coach requests
3. Age and skill level of players
4. School the player attends

### Definition of Criteria

1. Parent or player request: A written request entered online during the registration process. Telephone or email requests will NOT be accepted, unless the Registrar wishes.
2. Coach request: During registration, coaches may submit a written list of players they would like to have on their team directly to the Registrar, by email.
3. Age and skill level of players: A good mix of ages and skill levels is essential to a fun baseball season. The registrar will not create a team of all same age, same grade, all male or all female players, unless meeting the earlier criteria allows it. Even then, it may be evaluated and not allowed by the coaches and Board Members.
4. School the player attends: Registrar can place kids that attend the same school on the same team if they wish.

Team rosters will not have more than 12 players on them without coach approval. If there are more than 12 requests for one particular team, the Registrar will honor those requests in the order they were received. Once all teams have been created with all available coaches, the Registrar may contact the coaches to get their approval to add players that have requested their team. Players can be added to a team, at the coach's pleasure, up to a maximum of 15. If there are additional unsatisfied requests after this process, the requestor will be contacted and placed on a best second choice team as determined by the Registrar and the requestor.



# Newcastle Baseball Club League Team Formation Procedures

Last Update: December 8, 2012

## Team Formation – Pinto

Coaches will select players through a draft to form their teams at a predetermined date in February. In order to maximize parity among the teams within the Pinto Division, players will be divided evenly based on their experience level:

- Level 1: No Pinto level experience (Ex: Coming from Shetland/T-Ball or has no baseball experience at all)
- Level 2: A year of pinto level play (either with Newcastle or another baseball league)

Once registration is closed, the Registrar will identify the quantity of teams, and the quantity of Level 1 and Level 2 players per team. Coaches will draft players based the reports provided by the Registrar, which will include experience level, school, and age. The intent is to maximize player requests while balancing experience level.

The children of the head coach and maximum two assistant coaches are automatically placed on the team and are not drafted. Those players count toward the allocation of experienced and inexperienced players (if the three children of coaches have a year of Pinto or related experience, the coach may only draft 4 more experienced players if the maximum allotment for that season is seven experienced players. Those players are listed at the bottom of the roster, so all teams draft in the first round (a team with one coach's child does not choose twice before a team with three coach's children).

During the registration process, players will be allowed to request to play with a friend. Based on requests, the Registrar will identify groups of players, with a maximum of three players per group (singles = no requests, duos or trios). Groups will be identified based on mutual selection and then the order of the date they were registered in the case of multiple people choosing the same buddy. As coaches draft players, they may draft singles, duos or trios (as identified by the Registrar). Coaches that select multiple players with a single pick skip the corresponding number of sections (if they choose a Trio, they skip their selections for the following 2 rounds).

- Teams can pick from the available pool – but must stay within the leagues defined ratio of Level 1 vs. Level 2 (+/- 1 player within the average).
- Team draft order is drawn randomly for each odd # round at the draft. The draft order reverses each even # round.
- Inexperienced 9 year old players are allowed to “play down” in Pinto instead of Mustang, provided they submit a Playing Out of Age Request form.
- Coaches are encouraged to build teams from schools / neighborhoods to maximize camaraderie.
- Coaches will be provided a list of players 48 hours prior to draft. If there are any discrepancies (players categorized incorrectly), Coaches must identify this prior to the start of the draft. They may not protest a formed team based on a miscategorized player.



# Newcastle Baseball Club League Team Formation Procedures

Last Update: December 8, 2012

- No formal or informal player evaluations will be administered by Newcastle Baseball.
- After teams are selected, Coaches may log an issue to the Draft Moderator for the Draft Review Panel to review. Following the selection of players, the League Draft Review Panel will have 24 hours to review the teams and identify any required changes to ensure maximum experience level balance. Drafted team rosters are considered final once the League confirms via email.
- Any player registering after the team selection draft will be assigned by the registrar to teams based primarily on balancing experience levels on each team, then based on player requests and school.

Next page – Mustang, Bronco and Pony Divisions



# Newcastle Baseball Club League Team Formation Procedures

Last Update: December 8, 2012

## Team Formation – Mustang, Bronco and Pony

Unlike Tee-ball and machine pitch, kid-pitch teams are formed by a skills-assessment clinic that occurs on a weekend afternoon after you've registered but before the baseball season begins. Newcastle Baseball will attempt to schedule assessment options over two weekends to accommodate Mid-Winter travel schedules (you only need to attend one).

Players desiring to "Play Up" must participate in the assessment for the upper age group. Players are not allowed to choose to play down. Players returning to the same division they played in the prior year are required to be assessed and will be placed into the draft and eligible to be chosen by any team (this is a change from previous years). The only exception: Children of the three coaches are not required to go through assessments and are not eligible to be drafted by other teams.

The coaches and volunteering board members will conduct some hitting and fielding drills so they can assess the players' skills and which type of baseball will be the most fun for them. Occasionally players are not drafted to their appropriate age level, either due to having too many kids for the number of teams, or due to safety reasons if the player is not ready to jump up a level. In this case, players will have the option to return to their former level and a refund will be issued for the difference in Division fees. Players also have the option for a full refund if they do not want to play Newcastle Baseball at the lower level.

The only limitation for players playing in a younger Division is that a player is allowed to pitch if they are no more than 1 year older for the corresponding Division, based on May 1 age. (Example: a player who is 12 on May 1 may not pitch for Mustang, since they are 2 years older than the appropriate Mustang age range of 9-10. A player who is 11 on May 1 is allowed to pitch). This is a new rule beginning 2013.

After the assessment, the coaches have a draft, where they choose the players for their teams. The following rules will guide the draft:

- Coaches are allowed to choose two assistant coaches. Coaches must inform the League of their selected assistant coaches 24 hours prior to the skills assessment. The children of the Head and Assistant Coaches are not required to participate in the skills assessment, and are automatically placed on the appropriate team (not drafted).
- All other players (new to division and returning to division) will go through skills assessments and will be eligible for the draft. THIS IS A CHANGE from prior years when returning players were slotted back to original teams.
- Coaches will be given a list of eligible players attending each skills assessment, with their age and previous year's experience (former team and Division).



# Newcastle Baseball Club League Team Formation Procedures

Last Update: December 8, 2012

- At the draft, coaches will be given a complete list of players that completed the assessment, as well as a list of players that were not drafted by the higher division. Coaches will receive the assessment notes for the undrafted players, but those players will not be required to try out for the lower division (i.e. players not drafted by Bronco teams will not attend Mustang assessments).
- At the draft, if the coaches unanimously identify players that are deemed unsafe to play at that Division, those players will be removed from draft consideration, and the total # of players per team will be revised. If only one coach believes a player safe to play, he may have to draft that player.
- Team draft order is drawn randomly for each odd # round at the draft. The draft order reverses each even # round.
- Regardless of the number of coaches and children already on the roster, all teams draft in the first round, in the order of the random draw. **This is a new draft procedure.**
- Teams continue to draft until their drafted players + coach's players = the team maximum. For example, if rosters are set at a maximum of 12, a team with three coach's sons will have 9 rounds of drafts. A team with only one coach's son will have two additional picks in rounds 10 and 11 until their roster reaches 12 players.
- Coaches must draft an available player when it is their turn. They are not allowed to pass in later rounds.
- Players registering after the draft will be assigned by the League Registrar in the order of the remaining draft order.