

St. Gabriel Athletic Association – Team Formation Policy

The goal of the SGAA is to promote the participation and enjoyment of youth athletics for the children in our parish. The construction of individual teams shall be done in a manner which maximizes participant playing time. The following team formation policy and guideline shall be used by the SGAA Committee in the formation of teams for all sports, Kindergarten – 8th grade. This policy will be interpreted and enforced by the SGAA Executive Committee and Sports Director of the individual sports.

Number of Teams per Grade Level

Following the closing of registration for a sport, the Sport Director will determine the number of teams per grade level and gender based on the registered participants and coaches.

The number of teams should be determined based on a minimum and maximum number of players per team to ensure that the players get a reasonable amount of playing. Consideration should also be given to the number of players per coach to ensure that there is enough adult supervision to effectively run practices and games as well as periods of individual instruction.

If there are not enough players to meet the minimum threshold or too many for one team but not enough for two, the SGAA Sports Director shall consider options such as:

- Utilizing CYC options
 - o Dual Rostering of players on multiple teams (If Available)
 - o Playing a 1.5x or 2x season schedule (If Available)
- Blending grade levels
- Finding additional available players from other parishes with the assistance of the CYC Sport Director

Below are target numbers for players per team. If the numbers do not fall into the ideal range, the SGAA Sports Director will consider the options above and work with the coaches to determine the final roster numbers. The SGAA Sports Director with the guidance of the SGAA Executive Committee will make the final determination.

	Minimum	Maximum
Soccer		
Judge Dowd	9	12
8 v 8	10	13
11 v 11	13	18
Volleyball	7	10

Basketball	7	10
Baseball/Softball	10	16

Players should be assigned to teams at their grade level. Consideration for assignment to a roster above a player's grade level requires approval of the SGAA Sports Director and SGAA Executive Committee. Utilizing additional players from younger grades in tournaments is acceptable to achieve necessary numbers to play. Younger players should not play in place of rostered players or other players of that grade level.

Team Development – Kindergarten – 4th Grade

At the levels of kindergarten thru 4th Grade, all teams will be reselected each year. Teams will not carry over from year to year.

With the guidance of the Sports Director, coaches from the previous year or individuals familiar with the players will group the players who registered into three categories based on skill level: advanced, average, developmental. Players will be separated into the groups based on the rankings received to create three pools. By blind draw, the players in each pool will be distributed across the number of teams in the goal of generating relatively even and balanced teams. The draw shall be performed with a member of the SGAA Executive Committee present.

Only the child of the determined head coaches will not be subject to the random distribution. They will be assigned to play on their parent's team. On that team's first selection at that skill level, the team will be skipped in favor of the coach's child.

Coaches may be consulted prior to the final assembly of the team rosters to confirm that the teams are relatively balanced and that there are not any obvious discipline or personality problems on the roster.

The intent of this annual redistribution is to allow the participants to play with a wide variety of classmates and to get instruction from multiple coaches during the instructional levels of kindergarten thru 4th grade.

Team Development – 5th – 8th Grade

Starting in 5th grade when the CYC allows for participation in the City/County Championship, the SGAA will utilize a restructuring process to develop teams based on like skill levels. By developing teams based on like skill levels, the SGAA's goal is to allow athletes to fully develop and build confidence in the respective sport with players of a similar skill level. The annual process allows players who have developed their skills and physical abilities to be re-evaluated and considered for the higher-level team.

The restructuring process is only relevant when there are enough registered players to form two or more teams. All team-based sports with the numbers to form two or more teams based on the minimum and maximum number of participants are eligible for restructuring.

Attendance is always optional for the restructuring sessions and all registered players are guaranteed to make a team. Attendance is required for consideration on the upper-level team. If schedule conflicts arise, it is the responsibility of the player/parents to contact the Sports Director and discuss potential alternative times for evaluation whether it be with another grade level or a separately scheduled evaluation session with others who had conflicts or illness. Evaluation sessions will not be scheduled for individuals.

Restructuring Process

Following the registration period and when the number of participants can be determined, the Sports Director will determine the number of teams based on the criteria of the Team Formation Policy.

The Sports Director will schedule restructuring sessions for each grade level and gender with the following requirements:

- Create a panel of at least three independent and non-affiliated evaluators for each session.
- Develop an evaluation sheet the evaluators will utilize to score the individuals during the evaluation session that is specific to the skills of the sport.
- Minimum evaluation sessions per grade:
 - o 5th and 6th grade – 2 one-hour sessions.
 - o 7th and 8th grade – 1 one and half hour sessions.
- The Sports Director shall collect the evaluation sheets following the sessions and pool the scores in a master sheet detailing the evaluation results and total scores.
- The Sports Director will divide the teams based on the evaluated scores and the pre-determined number of teams. The top scores will populate the upper team.
 - o Example: Volleyball with 16 players. The top 8 would be on the first team and the next 8 would be on the second team.
- In the event of tied evaluation scores, the Sports Director may seek coach's input as a potential tie break. Other tie break options would be which player had more top scores or positional needs.
- If there are enough registered players to consider a 2nd and 3rd team:
 - o The standard method for subdivision of the 2nd and 3rd team shall be an even split of the remaining players using the evaluation scores as a guide. The Sports Director shall make the initial splitting of the teams and can seek input of the coaches as needed.
 - o At the discretion of the Sports Director and with approval of the SGAA President, an alternate splitting of the 2nd and 3rd teams following the order of the evaluation scores is permitted.

League Selection

The Sports Director is required to submit league requests prior to the start of the CYC scheduling period. The Sports Director should use information from the previous years results along with coach's input to determine the right league level for each team. The goal is select a league that the team can compete in

that does not result in a high number of lop-sided games, either in winning or losing. Our teams should be challenged to compete and work hard to achieve a goal.

League placement is ultimately at the discretion of the CYC and not controlled by the SGAA.

Team Notifications

The Sports Director shall notify the respective coaches of teams via email or text message to inform them of the team roster.

The Sports Director will determine and establish a time for coaches to notify their players. The goal is to have information disseminated to all teams in a controlled and simultaneous manner if possible.

The coach shall communicate the roster to the parents of the players at the pre-determined time. If contact information for player's parents is needed, the Sports Director and Registrar can assist.

Evaluation scoresheets will not be made available for public consumption. If requested by a parent, a summary of their child's scores can be verbally conveyed as a developmental tool.

Coach Selection

Coach selection at all levels is at the discretion of Sports Director and SGAA Committee. Coaches are not determined by a collective decision of the player's parents. If there are multiple coaching candidates for a team, the Sports Director shall engage a subcommittee of the SGAA President, Vice President, and Outgoing President for discussion and determination.

All potential coaches who want consideration to be assigned as a coach are required to register as a coach in TeamSideline. All potential coaches must be in good standing with the parish and training requirements of the CYC. Prior poor sportsmanship or poor attitude may eliminate a coach from consideration. Coaches may be parents of players, interested parish volunteers, or independent volunteers. All coaching candidates should have a knowledge of the sport rules and playing concepts.

For Kindergarten – 4th grade, coaches should be determined prior to the team formation as it directly influences player placement on the teams. Head coach candidates may request up to one assistant coach to work with the team prior to team formation. This request should not be based on pooling talent. The Sports Director shall have final approval of all assistant coach requests. The primary goal of coaches at the instructional level should be educate players on fundamentals and basic game strategy. It should not be only about winning.

For 5th – 8th grade, coaches should be confirmed following the restructuring process and after initial first team rosters are known. The assumption is that if the coach is a parent of a player, it needs to be confirmed that the player has scored high enough to be assigned to the first team. A request for an assistant coach will not lead to the assignment of their child to the first team. Only evaluation scores will determine first team participation.

Once a coach has been established with a team at the instructional level, a legacy consideration should be given to that coach provided they still want to participate as a coach and are remain good standing with the parish and CYC.

In the transition to 5th grade, the Sports Director will re-evaluate the coaching pool for assignment to teams. At this time, there is traditionally a reduction in number of teams as kids determine which sports they like or as the sport adds kids to the playing field like in soccer.

Non-parent coaching candidates are eligible for coaching assignments as determined by the Sport Director.

The goal of the Sports Director is to assign the best available coach to promote education, good sportsmanship, and a team environment.

Late Registration

The SGAA Goal remains to maximized participation in youth sports by our parishioners. However, late registrations can cause issues in the team formation process at the SGAA level and CYC level and impact the player experience for those whose registered within the registration period.

The SGAA Registrar and Sports Director will collaborate and establish the dates for opening and closing registration for each sport once the CYC Office has authorized registration.

Notification for registration will be sent out to the parishioners via:

- Email via the Registrar and President
- Social Media via the SGAA Social Media Director
- School Announcements via the Principal
- Church Bulletin via the Rectory.
- The SGAA Website via the SGAA Social Media Director.

Players/Parents who attempt to register after the closing of the registration period are not guaranteed placement on a team.

At the discretion of the Sports Director and SGAA President, a late registration request can be considered for placement on a team based on the number of teams and players with consideration of the team minimums and maximums. Consideration should be given to new families to the parish.