**2014 Senior Division  
Draft Guidelines***Last Updated: 3/3/2014*

**GOAL**

Milton Girls Softball is committed to providing all girls with an experience that fosters positive self-esteem, team spirit and individual growth through personal achievement and team play. As part of this effort, we want to make sure the teams playing in the Senior Division are balanced by grade and by ability. The structure of the draft helps achieve this goal.

**TEAM ROSTERS**

For the 2014 season, the division will have 5 teams. Each team will have either 12 or 13 players for a total of 62 players.

**PLAYER EVALUATION**

Prior to the actual draft, the league works to pull together data points that help us and the Senior coaches understand the talent level of the girls. The information collected includes:

* Coach evaluations from the previous season
* Notation if they played Summer Travel
* Inning Pitched in the previous season (incoming 7th graders only)
* Designation of a pitcher and/or catcher

These metrics are used to calculate a rating value for each player. Each girl is then ranked in order. On the night of the draft, the coaches and the executive board will review the rankings and make any necessary adjustments. The goal is to come to an agreement on the ranking order prior to the start of the draft.

**ASSISTANT COACHES**

For the 2014 season, as we strive to maintain competitive balance, coaches have inquired about selecting assistant coaches. This request was not taken lightly as the Executive Board spent many hours reviewing and evaluating the impact of these requests. After careful consideration and confidence that we can preserve competitive balance, the earlier requests for a specific assistant coach will be honored. We also have parents who have indicated an interest in assisting or “helping out.” This information will be provided post-draft.

**PITCHING**

Pitching is a key component of a team at this level. The 1st round of the draft will be used to draft one of the designated best pitchers. The designated best pitchers will be ranked and the top tier will be part of the first round. If a team already has one of the top pitchers because she is the daughter of the head coach or an assistant coach or is a returning 8th grader, that team shall not select a player in the first round. All pitchers will be part of the 3rd round when a second pitcher is selected.

**CATCHING**

Catching may be the single most important position at the Senior level. The 2nd round of the draft will be used to draft one of the designated best catchers. The designated best catchers will be ranked and the top six will be part of the second round. If a team already has one of those best catchers because she is the daughter of either the head coach or assistant coach or is a returning 8th grader, that team shall not select a player in the second round. *If a player is both a top five catcher and a top tier pitcher, the Executive Board will designate the player to one of the first two rounds.*

**POSITION PLAYERS**

Pitchers and catchers not ranked in the top 15 as well as all remaining players will be part of remaining draft pool. Players are selected round by round until all players have been drafted. The position player portion of the draft begins with the 4th round and concludes after the 8th round (if necessary).

**DRAFT ORDER**

For 2014, the 1st (Pitcher) and 2nd (Catching) will be in the reverse order of the final regular season standings. For the rest of the rounds, each head coach will draw a number out of a hat. The number drawn by each coach will represent his/her selection number. The 3rd round will follow the typical drafting order:

1. Team 1
2. Team 2
3. Team 3
4. Team 4
5. Team 5

The 4th round will be the reverse order of the third round:

1. Team 5
2. Team 4
3. Team 3
4. Team 2
5. Team 1

Each subsequent round will continue to alternate using the 1 through 5 and 5 through 1 draft order.

**DRAFT GUIDELINES**

The following drafting guidelines will be in place for 2014:

* For 2014, the daughter of a head coach and an assistant coach not previously on the team is automatically assigned to the team and counts as a draft pick
* Siblings in the draft must stay together. The MGS Board decides round of the second player.
* 8th Graders - For 2014, a team may have a maximum of (7) 8th graders
* 7th Graders - For 2014, a team may have a maximum of (7) 7th graders
* Coaches may discuss a “trade” at the conclusion of the draft and must be approved by the Executive Board

The only thing that this process does not take into consideration is that the teams do not start off with the same number of players. So the teams with the least amount of players to start will by default end up as the weakest teams because they will be adding the most amount of weakest players (those players not chosen early). I know this doesn’t necessarily mean that the team with the most amount of players is the strongest but they have much better odds of having a stronger team. Am I missing something? It doesn’t seem fair.

There are also only 31 8th graders so if we’re trying to make the teams balanced with 7th and 8th graders only 1 team can have 7 8th graders, all the other teams should only be able to have 6 8th graders. There is already 1 team with 7 8th graders (Rays) and there is 1 team with 6 8th graders (Dbacks).

Kevin…call me if this is confusing and you want me to explain. Last year was also the first draft experience I have ever had (I don’t want pro drafts and don’t understand them) so maybe I am missing something.