



Mascoutah Little Indians Youth Football Program  
PO Box 314  
Mascoutah, IL 62258

### **Football Player Assignment Policy**

*Whereas* the purpose of the Mascoutah Little Indians is to promote the game of football in the area; to inspire children to practice good health, citizenship, and character; to bring area children together through the means of a common interest in sportsmanship, fair play, and fellowship; to impart the game elements of safety, sanity, intelligent supervision; and to keep the welfare of the children first and entirely free of adult lust and glory;

*Whereas* the Little Indians has a commitment to provide an equal opportunity to participate in youth sports in a supervised, organized and safety-oriented manner; to keep the welfare of the participants free of any adult ambition and personal glory; to emphasize fun, teamwork, charity and sportsmanship;

*Whereas* the Little Indians compete in the Southwestern Illinois Youth Football Conference (SWILYFC), an organization that shares the same purpose and goals stated above and emphasizes a need to field teams of similar competition levels;

*Whereas* the SWILYFC sets rules for player and team eligibility, including age and weight restrictions, with the intent to make all teams as even as possible;

The Mascoutah Little Indians Youth Football Program hereby adopts the following

#### **Football Player Assignment Policy for the 2011 Season**

Purpose: to produce evenly balanced teams in each division considering age, talent, skill, and experience. The desired outcome is for teams in each division to have an equal number of players (25 being the ideal number), an equal number of players of each age (SWILYFC requirement within +/-3), and an equal balance of talent, skill and experience.

The measure of success of this policy will be apparent in head-to-head competition between the teams and their overall records in SWILYFC play. Whether teams compete head-to-head during the regular season will depend upon the number of teams in each division and overall SWILYFC scheduling policy.

The Football Director is responsible for assigning players to teams, consistent with the purpose and intent of the Mascoutah Little Indians Youth Football Program, and in compliance with SWILYFC regulations.

Coaches are prohibited from recruiting either inside or outside the organization for the sole purpose of benefiting their individual team. Promises made by individual coaches to either parents or players *will not be honored* unless the promise fulfills the intent of this policy and benefits the organization as a whole.

This policy will be reviewed annually based on lessons learned during the season:

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1. A coach's child or children will be assigned to the same team as the coach.
2. A player assigned to a Head Coach in 2010 has the right to return to that same Head Coach in 2011, if the player and Head Coach are in the same division and if the parent makes an election on the registration form to do so. If the parent does not elect to return to a Head Coach, the player will be placed in a draft pool for selection by any Head Coach in that division.
  - a. An Assistant Coach who becomes a Head Coach has the same right to retain players from the 2010 team, provided:
    - 1) He becomes the Head Coach of the team for which he was an assistant in 2010.
    - 2) He becomes Head Coach of a team that is in a different division than the Head Coach he worked with in 2010.
  - b. Parent requests to NOT return to a 2010 Head Coach will be honored if possible, consistent with the procedures below. If it is not possible to honor such a request, the Football Director will discuss assignment options with the parent.
3. A player will be placed in the Draft pool for selection in the appropriate age division under the following circumstances:
  - a. Remaining in the same division without the same Head Coach from 2010.
  - b. Changing divisions without the same Head Coach from 2010.
  - c. Parental election to be placed on a different team.
  - d. Players who did not play for the Little Indians in 2010.
  - e. Returning players who register after July 15, 2011.
4. All players not assigned to a Head Coach will be evaluated by all coaches within that division on the Saturday before the first day of practice. The purpose of the evaluation is to balance the talent amongst the teams as evenly as possible. Each Head Coach participating in the Draft will determine his own evaluation process and will be given a set period of time to evaluate each player before the Draft begins.
  - a. Players not participating in the evaluation process are NOT eligible to be drafted. They will be assigned to a team after the draft at the sole discretion of the Football Director.
  - b. No special requests will be considered from parents of players who are absent from the evaluation process or who sign up after the draft.
5. Play-downs: Prior to the draft, the Football Director will consult with the parent of any player eligible to participate in a lower division because of weight before a final decision is made. Any player joining after the draft will be considered for play-down prior to team assignment. However, because of the "+/-3" rule and intent to divide teams as evenly as possible, the Football Director is not obligated to move *any* player down after the draft is complete.

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6. Play-ups: For safety and liability purposes, players will not be allowed to play up to an older age group. It is in the best interest of the player, the organization, and the SWILYFC for players to remain in appropriate age divisions.

7. Siblings in the same division will be assigned to the same team and drafted together.

8. A parent may make a special request for a specific coach or for convenience (carpooling, etc.), but the Little Indians are not obligated to grant the request. Drafting a player based upon a special request from a parent is at the discretion of the Head Coach. Before the draft, all Head Coaches will be made aware of all such special requests on their draft roster.

9. Draft Process: The traditional draft process has been adapted to prevent stacking of teams and to meet the SWILYFC mandate to balance teams according to the “+/-3” rule. The first step in the process is to balance teams according to age.

a. The team with the lowest number of players of a given age group will draft players until the numbers are even amongst all teams in that division to comply with the “+/-3” rule.

1) For example, consider the number of 8 year olds on the three teams in the Sophomore Division. If Purple starts with 5, White with 9, and Black with 10, then Purple would draft first and select 8 year-old players until it has 7 (seven) 8 year-old players to comply with the “+/-3” rule. The goal is that all teams have an equal number of players per age group whenever possible.

b. Once each age group is balanced, the teams will alternate selecting single players until all players have been drafted. If a team makes a selection that results in an age group being out of balance, the team(s) with the lowest numbers in that age group may select players from ONLY that group until the “+/-3” rule is met.

c. It must be noted that before the draft begins, in the event that it would not be possible to meet the “+/-3” rule (i.e., there are no players of that age in the Draft); a non-drafted returning player(s) would have to be moved to another team to meet league requirements.

10. After the Draft, Head Coaches will have the opportunity to trade players in order to honor parent requests. The trading of players is not a mandatory requirement and may not even be possible considering the SWILYFC age split requirements. Thus, no promises or guarantees can be made. The intent, however, is for the Head Coaches to work together to make a fair exchange of players that meets the integrity of the policy set forth. The Football Director will make the final determination (approval or disapproval) for ALL trades and will settle all disagreements between Head Coaches and/or parents. *Special requests from parents (noted on their registration forms) are the only valid reason for a trade.*

11. Exceptions to Policy: All requests for exceptions to the policy will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Parents will need to justify their request in writing to the Football Director. All requests for exceptions to policy will be evaluated and considered by the Executive Board. The Executive Board has the final authority in all such decisions.