

Policies and Procedures - Policy on Call Ups

The purpose of this document is to describe the policy of the Association regarding the use of call up players.

Guiding Principles

Maximize playing time for all players by setting the number of players per team only one or two players above the number that can play at one time. When deciding upon the number of teams to be created in a given league in a given season, a choice has to be made between ensuring that each team has enough players that it can field a team even with a few absences (e.g., due to vacations) or keeping the number of players per team low and using substitute (call up) players in the case of absences..

Provide opportunities for stronger players to be challenged by playing upon occasion in a higher league. There is always significant variation in talent among any set of players grouped strictly by age. Some of the better players (or their parents) may wish to play with older players in order to be more seriously challenged and to develop their skills more rapidly. If "playing up" is permitted, it requires a mechanism for deciding which players are permitted to do so. Those players who do play up may face a choice between excelling in their normal age group or being average or below average players in a higher age group. As an alternative, a call up system permits stronger players to play leadership roles on their regular teams and have occasional opportunities to experience stronger competition.

Maintain fairness in regular season and playoff games. Two systems can be used when arranging for call up players: managers may contact players on their own or players can be assigned to them by someone else. The drawback with allowing managers to choose their own call up players is that a few players will play many games and other strong players may get few or no opportunities. It is therefore preferable to have a league call up coordinator (or a set of coordinators) make the assignments. When this system is used, it is important not to allow managers to gain an advantage for their team over an opposing team by directly inviting a player to play for them.

Accept occasional forfeits due to last minute absences (e.g., due to illness). A necessary consequence of the fair administration of the call up policy described is the occasional forfeit by a team unable to obtain an assigned call up.

Minimize impositions upon Association volunteers involved in arranging call ups. Attempting to find last-minute call ups can be very demanding for call up coordinators. Call up parents should not be subjected to early morning or late night phone calls.

Give priority to regular games of call up players. Teams should not lose their better players so that they can play in call up games.

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Policies

Each league commissioner shall decide before the player draft which of two options to use for call ups. The first is the call up process described below. The second is to obtain a list of players interested in being call ups from the lower league and draft these onto teams as permanent call ups. The commissioner should inform the VP-Baseball or VP-Softball of which option will be used. No other options may be used. If the draft option is used, call ups may only be called when not enough players will be available.

League commissioners shall inform all managers of the call up policy before the first game of the season. Managers shall inform all coaches that may be called upon to substitute for the manager.

League commissioners shall select one or more call up coordinators for their league prior to the first game of the season.

League commissioners shall provide a list of call up players, along with the name of their team and a copy of the full league schedule, to the call up coordinator(s) from the higher league prior to the first game of the season.

Managers should attempt to give call up coordinators at least 24 hours notice when requesting call ups. If requests are made later than two hours prior to a game, or later than 9:00 PM the night before a game to be played at 9:00 AM or earlier, call up coordinators are under no obligation to attempt to find a call up player (they may do so at their discretion).

Call up coordinators should keep track of each call up assignment (date, time, field, team, player assigned) as well as the number of times that each player is offered the opportunity to play and that each player does play (a rained-out game does not count). They should attempt to equalize the number of opportunities that each player is offered and attempt to ensure that each player plays in at least one call up game. The attached forms are useful for this purpose.

Call up players who are offered assignments and do not choose to play on three consecutive occasions will be removed from the call up list.

If a game for which a call up has been assigned is rescheduled (e.g., due to rain), the call up player is NOT assigned to the rescheduled game UNLESS the player he was replacing will still be unavailable at the rescheduled time. If more than one call up has been assigned to a game and one or more of the missing players will be available for the reschedule game, the call ups to be assigned to the rescheduled game shall be determined by drawing straws. The call up coordinator shall be informed of any changes due to rescheduling.

Any manager may contact the call up coordinator to verify that an opposing team has used a properly assigned call up. A team using an unassigned call up will forfeit the game.

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Managers or coaches who contact call up players directly or use an unassigned call up will be removed from their position immediately upon verification of this fact by the league commissioner. The desire to avoid a forfeit due to an insufficient number of players is not an acceptable excuse for violating this policy.

When a team is unable to field the minimum required number of players, a forfeit will be recorded for that team. If both teams are unable to field the minimum number, the game may be rescheduled upon agreement of both managers. Failing such agreement, a forfeit will be recorded for both teams. When a forfeit is recorded, an unofficial game should be played if possible (e.g., using players loaned from the opposing team) but the outcome of this unofficial game is not to be recorded.

History

Written December 8, 1998. Adopted 1999. Modified 2000. Document updated Feb. 6, 2005.