

Davidsonville Athletic Association

Philosophy Regarding Dividing Players into Teams in County Sports

With a keen interest in both transparency and fairness for all of our Davidsonville Athletic Association (DAA) families and athletes, the DAA Board of Directors has agreed on the following statement of DAA's philosophy regarding the process for assigning players to teams within an age group for county sports. It is important to note that this is a philosophy and not a policy, by which we mean it is a set of guiding principles and not an inflexible set of rules that must be adhered to slavishly when a more reasonable and equitable outcome is possible with some modest deviations. It should also be noted that this philosophy only pertains to COUNTY sports, which means that youth development sports (i.e., youth soccer, scoopers, K-2 basketball, JDL football) and travel teams will continue to operate as they have in the past. Youth development will still attempt to divide teams as evenly as possible from a readiness and ability perspective to create as much healthy competition as possible, and travel sports will continue to have tryouts for their teams in accordance with the rules set forth by that particular sport.

With regard to COUNTY sports in any age division that has enough players to form more than one team, DAA's philosophy shall be to hold evaluations in which all players are evaluated by evaluators who are not parents of any of the players being evaluated and not coaching any of the teams at that age division. Evaluators should be selected who have a reasonable competency with and understanding of the sport and in sufficient numbers so that players can be fairly and accurately evaluated. Players should be evaluated to determine (i) at what level of County play should DAA submit teams (for example, Division A, B and/or C) and (ii) what level of play is appropriate for each player.

If the determination is to enroll more than one team at any single level (i.e., 2 teams in Division B), then those teams should be divided as equally, in terms of evaluated readiness and ability, as possible using the evaluations from that season's evaluation process as well as their prior year coach's end-of-year summary evaluation (if one exists).

If the determination is to enroll teams at multiple levels (i.e., 1 team in Division B and 1 team in Division C), then the players should be divided by evaluated readiness/ability, including evaluations from that season's evaluation process as well as their prior year coach's end-of-year summary evaluation (if one exists), ensuring that each team has enough players to field a team and conduct reasonable practices.

Any player unable to attend the evaluations should be placed on a team based on that player's prior year coach's end-of-year evaluation summary. This means that all county coaches (and, if possible, coaches in the final year of youth development) will be expected to submit short end-of-year summary evaluations of each player on their team to the commissioner of that sport for the subsequent year's team assignment purposes. DAA will provide the end-of-year summary evaluation forms to coaches.