



A department of MPS

POSSIBLE TEAM FORMATION METHODS

Sports Coordinators are tasked with forming sport teams at their schools. In many instances the roster size is dependent on the number of interested students, playing time rules, number of coaches available to coaches, practice space availability, student eligibility (academic and behavior), and finances. Below are four possible methods you can use to decide which players are on the team. Make sure you review the player eligibility regulations listed in the current edition of the Youth Sports Opportunity Handbook before moving forward with creating a sports team.

Contact the Youth Sports Office at 414-475-8410 or youthsports@mkerec.net if you have additional questions about forming your school sports teams. We are glad to help!

Option 1: Everyone Plays!!!

With this method you have enough coaches, facility space, equipment, and financial support to meet the needs of all students that are interested in playing a sport. Schools can decide to form their teams based on last year's team roster, school grade, skill level, a player draft, etc.

Option 2: First Come - First Served

This option entails simply choosing a desired number of players wanted for a team (Example: 15) and then signing up the first children who sign up for that team until the desired number is reached. Children who sign up after the roster limit has been reached can be placed on a waiting list should a roster spot become available and/or their parents can be instructed to reach out to the Youth Sports Office about the possibility of being placed on a community team or the free agent list.

Option 3: Lottery System

In this option all children who want to be on a team are allowed a preliminary registration following which those registrations are placed into a lottery system for final registration. For example: 26 children register for a basketball team, but the school only has space for 15. Using the lottery system, the children's names would be selected by a random method such as putting names on slips of paper and drawing them from a container. The first 15 names drawn would be allowed final registration for the team. This system can eliminate one issue with the First Come-First Served option which is a possible unfair advantage that someone might have in getting their registration in sooner than someone else. The remaining children can be placed on a waiting list should a roster spot become available and/or their parents can be instructed to reach out to the Youth Sports Office about the possibility of being placed on a community team or the free agent list.

Option 4: Tryouts and Cuts

This option is used most often by teams looking to field the most competitive roster possible. As the name states this method simply allows all interested children to participate in tryouts prior to the season and are then cut off from contention by the judgement of a coach or coaches until the desired number of players makes the final team roster. This is often a difficult option to be used particularly at the elementary school level and coaches should be mindful that when using this option, the decision to place someone on a team or cut someone from the team should not be based on ability alone. The remaining children can be placed on a waiting list should a roster spot become available and/or their parents can be instructed to reach out to the Youth Sports Office about the possibility of being placed on a community team or the free agent list.

The key to a successful team tryout process is TRANSPARENCY. When using this method an informational meeting with students and parents/guardians should take place prior to the start of tryouts to discuss expectations, tryout process, requirements, and what skills will be evaluated.