



L.J.A.L. Basketball Guidelines for Basketball Draft

The goal for any LJAL Basketball Draft, whether for the Silver or Gold Leagues, should be to ensure an enjoyable experience for our players and parents. Ideally, this should be accomplished by attaining a balance of talent among the teams in any given league, to reduce the number of lopsided scores and ensure competitive games and a competitive season. Additionally, we should attempt to place players with the appropriate level of talent and experience in the more competitive Gold leagues, where available, to give all players the best chance to develop additional skills and to ensure competitive balance. Lastly, when possible we should give players the opportunity to play with others from their schools and neighborhoods, when we are able to do so and maintain competitive balance.

The following guidelines are provided as a means to accomplish these goals as fairly as possible. In all cases, any disputes shall be settled by the LJAL Basketball Directors, who also reserve the right to make exceptions or changes to these guidelines as required, in the interest of the league, individual teams, or individual players.

1. Upon registration, league officials shall collect information from each player including the age, school year grade, closest (elementary) school to the player's residence, and any one player the individual wishes to play along with. Any falsification of this information by a player or parent may result in disqualification from the league.
2. For both Gold and Silver leagues, all players should be encouraged to attend the Skill Sessions, as a means of not only ensuring the proper individuals are placed in the Gold League, but to assist in team assignment of both Gold and Silver teams.
3. When a Gold League will exist for a particular age bracket, the Basketball Directors shall direct an initial Skill Session, for the purpose of determining which players will be in the Gold League and which will be in Silver. At this time the overall talent level will be reviewed to determine how many teams and players will be at the Gold Level. All players in attendance who do not

make the *Gold League* will be assigned to the *Silver level*. If any players do not attend the *Skill Session*, the Directors will decide their placement based on previous experience, demonstrated ability, and the recommendation of previous coaches. If an additional *Gold Skill Session/draft* will be held, these players should be encouraged to attend to allow league officials to properly evaluate the players and assign them fairly to teams.

4. Once the eligible players are established for a particular draft, the Directors will compile a list of all players along with age, grade, school, and the name of any one individual requested to play along with.
5. When a *Skill Session* is held for the purpose of a draft, whether for *Silver* or *Gold*, each team should be represented by at least one, but not more than two, coaches and/or assistants. A coach may use a player of former player during the session and draft, but no team should have more than two representatives.
6. Two or more Directors should be designated to coordinate and conduct the *Skill Session* and *Draft* according to league rules. These Directors are responsible for ensuring all draft guidelines are followed, and for deciding any unique situations which may occur (including circumstances which may not be directly addressed in these guidelines), as well as exceptions when such exceptions are consistent with the intents and purposes of these guidelines, and in the best interest of the league. If any Director is to be a *Coach* (*Head Coach* or *Assistant*) in the specific *Division* (*B/G; F/JV/V/SV*), whether *Gold* or *Silver*, that Director shall not participate as a Director in conducting the *skill Session* and *draft*, but shall assume the role of *Coach*. This policy extends to any discussions and decisions made after the *skill session* and/or *draft* relating to player eligibility and the assignment of players to teams/levels. This policy precludes even the appearance of favoritism or impropriety, and ensures team selection is kept "above board" to our parents and other coaches.
7. The *Skill Session* shall be conducted according to a schedule of drills put together by the Directors, to ensure each coach gets the chance to see each player in the various drills. The Directors will supply a sheet suitable for noting each player's performance in the individual areas, but each coach may use any means they see fit to record their evaluations.
8. The Directors shall attempt to ensure the coaches have every opportunity to observe each player, both in drills and game situations. Coaches are encouraged to ask if they need any drills continued or need to take a further look at any particular player.
9. Following the *Skill Session*, the Directors should evaluate any situations where siblings are trying out for a *Gold league*. If one sibling may likely be drafted and not the other, discussions should be held with the parents, and

possibly players, to determine if they would rather "stay together" if the situation arises. Whenever possible, the desire of the parents should be accommodated.

10. Once the Skill Session has been completed, the Directors will determine the Draft position of any automatic members of each coach's team, including the coach's child (or coaches' children), and any returning players allowed to be retained. The Directors shall determine how many returning players shall be allowed in each league. Any retained player(s) shall automatically occupy the highest available draft position on the individual team's roster, unless the Directors determine special circumstances exist. Slotting of the Coaches' players will be decided by the Directors, with input from all the coaches present. The decision of the Directors is final.
11. Prior to the Draft, the Directors should provide the list of all eligible players to each team, along with a sheet to record the draft results by round. Any situations involving siblings should be reviewed with the coaches. The Directors shall have sole discretion, with input from the coaches, on "slotting" siblings to ensure they are not "split up", depending on the parents' wishes.
12. Once returning players have been slotted and entered on the teams' draft sheets, the Draft order for each team shall be determined by the Directors. The Directors shall have sole responsibility for determining draft order, and may use relative strength of the returning/coach's player(s), and/or random selection to determine draft order if teams are very close in strength.
13. Once the draft order is set, teams will draft in a "Back and Forth" (or Snake) order, meaning the team drafting first in the first round will draft last in the second, and the team drafting last in the first round will draft first in the second. This pattern will continue through rounds 3&4, 5&6, etc.
14. Prior to the beginning of the Draft, the Directors shall review with the coaches the list of eligible players who did not attend the skill session. Any player who did not attend the Skill Session must be drafted within the first three rounds, or they may not be drafted. At the completion of the third round, the Directors shall review with the coaches the list of those players who are now not eligible to be selected. If there are more (total) players available for the league than there are roster spots, the Directors should determine, using input from the coaches, if any of these players (who did not attend) definitely belong in the Gold League. The Directors shall have sole authority and discretion to determine these "designated" players, and to decide on any special circumstances.
15. Random selections will be utilized when a) all players attending the Skill Session have been selected, there are remaining players who did not attend, and there are roster spots remaining open, OR b) there are players who did

not attend the skill session, were not drafted in the first five rounds, and were determined by the Directors to definitely belong in the *Gold League* ("designated").

16. In the case of 15-a, once the last attending player has been selected, the names of all remaining non-attending players will be placed in a container, and will be selected at random by rounds, picking up after the last drafted player, continuing the same pattern. Teams may not pass a draft pick or random selection.
17. In the case of 15-b, at the beginning of the last round (or rounds, depending on the number of players and teams involved), the names of the eligible, designated non-attending players will be placed in a container. Additional slips of paper, indicating the word "Pick", will be added to the container, ensuring one name/slip for each team for each remaining round. The teams will then select from the container, picking up after the last selection made, following the same pattern. Any team selecting "Pick" will then select from the remaining attending players - if no attending players remain, they will make a random selection from the non-designated, non-attending players. Teams may not pass a draft pick or random selection.
18. The draft will continue until all eligible players are drafted, and all random selections have been made, or until all rosters have been filled. If any players remain unassigned from a *Gold* draft, they shall immediately be assigned to the *Silver* league for team assignment or draft.