

## **Waukesha Catholic School System – Athletic Team Split Process**

The WCSS Athletic Board applies the following process to Volleyball/Basketball Splits:

### Even Splits: (Volleyball & Basketball, 5th and 6th grades)

It is the intent of splits process that each team has comparable skills and talent in the given sport until all student athletes are chosen. The total number of student athletes will be divided as evenly as possible for each grade and gender.

Each grade and gender will have a practice session, one and one-half (1 1/2) hours in length, at the beginning of each sport season that is attended by the head coaches for each team and two (2) board members. The coaches and board members will evaluate each student athlete.

Student Athletes will be assessed on their skill and ability in the sport and rated by each of the evaluators independently. At the conclusion of the practice session, the evaluators will meet privately. All student athletes will be given a skill level assessment based on the consensus of the evaluators.

Each head coaches' child will be placed on their respective teams. If the teams are not balanced after the coaches' children are split, an attempt to balance the teams shall be made with the next picks. Once balance is achieved, there will be a coin toss or lottery drawing to determine the picking order going forward.

In a two-team split the picking will go as follows. Coach #1 gets one pick to start. Then coach #2 gets next two picks. From here on, each coach will pick two players at each of their turns. With a three or more-team split, the first coach gets 1 pick then each coach picks one player in the order that was determined by lottery. The second round reverses the order in which picks are made. With each new round of picks the order of picking should be reversed from the previous round.

For those splits that have teams that will not have equal numbers of players on each team, the following guidelines apply. First, if coaches agree on who wants the extra player, that is fine. If there is no coach agreement, then a simple coin toss or lottery should take place to determine who gets the remaining athlete.

Final review of the teams by the board member evaluators is completed to ensure as equal teams as possible. Any issues will be resolved prior to conclusion of team selection. Agreed upon rosters will be completed by the Athletic Board Representative and sent to the Athletic Director. Coaches will be responsible for calling the players on their team to inform them of practice times.

### A/B Splits: (Volleyball & Basketball, 7th & 8th grades)

The total number of student athletes will be divided into teams as equal in number as possible for each grade and gender. For the case of uneven team numbers, the higher number will go to the A team up to a maximum of 10 players.

Each grade and gender will have a practice session, two (2) hours in length, at the beginning of each sport season. This practice session is to be attended by five (5) evaluators: the head coach for each team and two (2) or three (3) board members; two (2) teams will require three (3) board members, three (3) teams will require two (2) board members. At the discretion of and the approval by the athletic board, another qualified outside person may take the place of a board member. The coaches and board members will evaluate each student athlete.

- For A/B splits, the coach of the A team can meet with Athletic Director prior to splits to explain what type of team he or she would like to have. For example, basketball coach may prefer a guard oriented team or they may prefer a team built around size for more of a half-court offense. A volleyball coach may prefer to have at least x number of setters etc. This feedback will be provided to board members administering the split prior to the start of the session.
- Student Athletes will be assessed on their skill and ability in the sport and rated by each of the evaluators independently. It is important to recognize that volleyball and basketball may have different skill and ability criteria.
- At the conclusion of the practice session, the evaluators will meet privately.
- There will be an opportunity for the evaluators to have a general discussion of the athletes prior to their vote. The intent of such discussions is NOT for coaches to lobby other evaluators to place certain players on a specific team. Instead it is intended to ensure that each player is being provided a reasonable opportunity to be properly evaluated. It is permissible to discuss general team make-up as well.
- All evaluators will independently vote for the students equal to the number identified for the A team as the top student athletes that have best skills for the positions necessary to build a competitive team.
- The students with the most votes will be put on the A team. In a case where there are multiple students with the same number of votes, but not enough spots for them, the A team coach will choose from those students which player or players will be put on the A team.
- If only two teams for that class, then once the A team is picked, the remainder of the players are on the B team.
- If there will be two or more B teams, then the same process used at the 5th and 6th grade levels should be used to create the B teams from the remaining athletes.

## ATHLETE MISSING FROM SPLITS

If an athlete in the 5th or 6th grade is unable to attend splits, then whatever information about the student's skills will be gathered and they will be assigned to a team. If the athlete is in the 7th or 8th grade they will be given the opportunity to be evaluated at another time within one week from the original splits date. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the school Athletic Director. The process is as follows. If it is agreed upon between the athlete's family and the athletic director ahead of time, that the student will not make the A team, then the student will be assigned to a B team in the same way as at the 5th and 6th grade levels. If it is determined that the student has a chance of making the A team, or requests the chance, then a spot will be left open in order to give that student a chance. The student will have to be available at the earliest possible opportunity for an evaluation, but under no circumstance shall it be longer than one week from the date of splits.

At the original split, a full A team will be voted on and determined. For example, say that the A team will have 10 players and 1 athlete is missing. At the split, 10 athletes will be picked to be for the A team. The coach will notify the top 9 of those players, because they will be on that team for certain. The 10<sup>th</sup> player will be told that they are on a B team and need to show up at the first B team practice. The missing athlete will also be at this practice. All evaluators from the original split will be there also, if schedules permit. At the end of that practice session either the athlete that was missing or the one that had the 10<sup>th</sup> place originally will be moved up to the A team. Only those two athletes will be evaluated at this session. The athletes voted at the 10<sup>th</sup> spot should not be told ahead of time that they are the 10<sup>th</sup> pick. A challenge occurs as to how to place the missing athlete on a team at the time of splits. Hopefully there will have been two years of experience with this athlete and between the Athletic Board and the coaches an accurate judgment can be determined on the abilities of the student. Whichever B team picks the missing athlete needs to know that if that athlete gets moved up to the A team then the athlete picked at #10 will be on their team. It will just be a swap of players.

**TWINS-** At grades with even splits, twins of the same sex will be put on the same team unless otherwise requested by the family. At A/B splits, twins may be separated depending on talent level. One might be placed on the A team and not the other. If neither student makes the A team then they will be put on the same B team unless otherwise requested by the family.

**CONFLICTS** – Athletes should be asked if they have any other activities that would limit the times they are available for practice. Athletes should be placed on teams that avoid scheduling conflicts whenever possible. The best time to get this information is at the registration table when splits begin.