

SMMA TEAM FORMATION GUIDELINES

These guidelines are to be used to provide consistency to the formation of all teams sponsored by the SMMA Athletic Association. Interpretation of this document will be incumbent upon the Executive Board, with input from the appropriate sport lay director and managers of the affected teams. As in all endeavors undertaken by the Athletic Association, the Christian, fair and impartial treatment of the children will be of the highest concern.

NUMBER OF TEAMS

At the close of registration, the Vice President-Sports and the appropriate lay director shall establish the number of teams in each age group. The number of teams will be determined so as to assure each coach that he/she has a manageable number of players and assure each player that he/she will be able to play a fair and reasonable amount of the time.

The general guidelines followed by the VP-Sports and lay director in establishing teams shall be based on the minimum/maximum number of players per team. The minimum number will be used to: (1) establish new teams at any time, or (2) to consolidate existing teams when registration declines.

This number will vary by sport and shall be:

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Basketball	7	10
Soccer Closed	13	18
Soccer Open	15	20
Baseball/Softball	12	18
Volleyball	7	9

For example, if 35 players of one age group register for soccer, 3 teams will be established - two with 12 players and one with 11. If a team does not reach the minimum number of players, the VP-Sports, lay director and managers will attempt to find additional players to reach the minimum number. The VP-Sports will establish a grace period during which additional players can register and be placed on a specific team.

ADDING/CONSOLIDATING TEAMS PROCESS

Adding Teams

- The lay director will determine who will be the manager.
- Existing teams will be able to protect a core number of players depending upon the sport. All unprotected players will go into a pool. Managers and coaches children are considered core players.
- The core numbers are:

- Basketball from existing team	4
- Soccer from existing team	7
- Baseball/Softball from existing team	7
- Volleyball	4
- The manager of the new team will choose from the pool until they reach the core number for that sport. The remaining players in the pool will be picked out of a hat by each manager alternating picks until all players have been selected.

Consolidating Teams

- The managers from the previous year along with the lay director will reach agreement who will manage the reduced number of teams. If agreement cannot be reached, the manager with the least number of remaining players from the preceding year’s roster, will lose his/her team. If an agreeable solution cannot be reached, the process will be arbitrated by the VP-Sports.

The players from the team being eliminated will be placed in a pool

- The remaining team managers will select from the pool by picking out of a hat until they reach the level of the highest remaining team. Example, if there are 4 teams consolidating to 3, and the 3 remaining teams have 7, 5, and 4 players; the teams with 5 and 4 players select from the pool until they have 7 each.
- Once all teams have an equal number, the remaining pool players will be selected as described in Adding Teams Paragraph 4 .

INITIAL FORMATION OF TEAMS

When new teams for a sport are created, such as the first year of a sport, new sports, or new grades for a sport, the initial rosters will be established by a random method whereby each child has an equal likelihood of being selected. This will be accomplished by picking names out of a hat or similar container. Once the rosters have been established, any changes must be approved by the managers involved, the lay director and the VP-Sports.

Managers will be able to pre-select two assistant coaches for baseball/softball and soccer and one assistant coach for basketball and volleyball. The manager’s and assistant coach’s children will make up the core of the initial team roster and will not be randomly selected.

Teams will be formed at the following grades:

Basketball	3 rd Grade
Soccer	1 st Grade
Baseball/Softball	3 rd Grade
Volleyball	3 rd Grade

SUBSEQUENT YEAR’S TEAM ROSTERS

Lay directors will keep the same rosters from year to year, unless additional teams need to be formed or consolidation of teams is necessary due to the number of participants. (See previous pages)

If additional players become available after team rosters have been established, they will be assigned to teams so as to keep all teams mathematically balanced. As previously stated, requests by late registrants to play with a specific team will be honored only if agreed to by all managers in that age group and all teams are as mathematically balanced as possible.

If a manager of an existing team can no longer manage, the lay director and VP-Sports will attempt to cultivate a manager from the existing coaches/parents of that team. If no candidates are available they should then look to other teams.

RE-ENTERING THE SMMA PROGRAM

If a player leaves the SMMA program in a particular sport for any reason, and then register again with SMMA in that sport, he/she will be assigned to their original team unless it would result in a team exceeding the maximum number of players. If a player is assigned to an open team because he/she is an open player and the player subsequently decides to play closed he/she will be reassigned to their original closed team unless they have played on the open team for more years than the original closed team. The managers of all the teams in the age group, the lay director and the VP-Sports will address other circumstances.

SOCCER FORMATION

Number of Players Per Team

	Minimum	Maximum
Soccer 1 st and 2 nd Grade	10	12
Soccer (Closed Teams)	13	18
Soccer (Open Teams)	15	20

For example, if 25 closed players of one age group register for soccer, two teams will be established - one with 13 players and one with 12 players. If a team does not reach the minimum of players the VP-Sports, lay director and managers will attempt to find additional players to reach the minimum number. The VP-Sports will establish a grace period during which additional players can register and be placed on a specific Team.

If there is disparity between a grade where there is both Open and Closed Teams and the Open Team has more kids and a new Open Player registers, the lay director for soccer must offer that child to the Closed Team Manager. If the Closed Team manager doesn't want the child and the Open Coach is willing to take the child then that child can play on the Open Team. Otherwise if the Open Player child exceeds the maximum then the coach doesn't have to take the additional child and the registration fee will be refunded to the parents.

Parochial Team Formation Policy

The purpose of the Parochial League is to allow the 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Soccer players an opportunity to participate at a higher level of competition.

Team Formation

- 2 Boys Teams are allowed as long as SMMA provides Field Times.
- 2 Girls Teams are allowed as long as SMMA provides Field Times.
- 1 Girls Open 1 Team if numbers allow.
- 1 Boys Open 1 Team if numbers allow.

Coaches

- The 8th Grade Managers will be given first opportunity to manage the Parochial I team.
- The 7th Grade Managers will be given first opportunity to manage the Parochial II team.
- If an agreement cannot be reached on one manager for each team, the Soccer Lay Director, South County Representative and Vice President of Sports will participate in the decision making process.
- The Athletic Association Board has final approval on any coaching selection.

Player Selection

Telephone call, mailed envelopes or e-mail will be sent as a notice for the Parochial I and Parochial II teams soccer tryouts. It is the responsibility of each coach to contact each player and ensure they are apprised of the try-out dates. Soccer Lay Director and Team Managers will determine try-out dates. The try-outs will occur after the soccer registration period.

The maximum number of practices needed to determine Team I and Team II will not exceed 4. No player can be selected to the Parochial I and Parochial II Teams unless they have attended at least one practice but preferably all. Only exception would be due to a medical condition such as broken arm, etc. Vacations are not excuses.

Parochial I Manager and coaching staff along with Parochial II Manager and coaching staff will select the Parochial players for Team I and Team II. If there is a discrepancy on player selection then the Lay Director and VP of Sports will be involved in the final decisions.

SMMA PAROCHIAL VOLLEYBALL TEAM FORMATION POLICY

The purpose of the Parochial League is to allow the 7th and 8th grade volleyball players an opportunity to participate at a higher level of competition. If there is not enough interest to form one team with 7th and 8th grade players, the Lay Director may decide to offer the try-outs to 6th, 7th and 8th grades on an as needed basis only.

Teams:

- 2 Girls Teams are allowed as long as SMMA provides Court Times.
- 1 Boys Team is allowed as long as SMMA provides Court Time.

Coaches:

- The 8th grade Managers will be given first opportunity to manage the Parochial I team.
- The 7th grade Managers will be given first opportunity to manage the Parochial II team.
- If an agreement cannot be reached on one manager for each team, the Volleyball Lay Director, South County Representative and Vice President Sports will participate in the decision making process.
- The Athletic Association Board has final approval on any coaching selection.

Team Formation:

- The Parochial team I will consist of the designated tier one players from 7th and 8th grades. Try-outs will be open to ALL 7th and 8th grade volleyball players.
- The Parochial Team II will consist of the designated tier two players from 7th and 8th grade. Try-outs will be open to ALL 7th and 8th grade volleyball players.

Player Selection:

- The try-outs for Parochial I and II will be held as one try-out. The Volleyball lay Director(s) and 7th and 8th grade Managers will determine try-out date(s). The try-out date(s) will occur after the volleyball registration period and will not conflict with any CYC game/tournament for the current sport season.
- The following will be completed as notice for the Parochial I and II Volleyball Try-out: 1) Lay Director will contact all 7th and 8th grade Managers, who will then contact each child on their team personally by telephone and/or email to inform them of the try-out date and encourage their participation; (2) advertisement in the Parish Bulletin; and (3) webpage notice, if available.
- The number of players per team will be nine (9) as recommended by the CYC Volleyball Chairperson.
- The 7th and 8th grade Managers are invited to participate in the try-out by rating the players for the Parochial I and II teams. Team selection(s) will be made by the 7th and 8th grade Managers rating, based on the players overall rating score.
- Notification of selected and non-selected players will be done respectively by an e-mail or standard letter mailed by the Lay Director within one (1) week of try-out date.
- The Athletic Association Board Members can alter player selections.

SUPPLEMENTAL SMMA SOCCER AND VOLLEYBALL PAROCHIAL POLICY

- Parochial Volleyball and Soccer Players must be registered and play for a current SMMA CYC team to be eligible for Parochial try-outs. Exceptions may be made if no SMMA CYC team has formed for their grade.
- Members are NOT allowed to play both Parochial Volleyball and Parochial Soccer at SMMA.
- Any circumstances that may arise that are not documented in this guideline will be mediated by the sport Lay Director, VP-Sports and Athletic Association Board as needed.

Revision History

June 4, 2007	Changed Volleyball maximum to 9 players
August 7, 2007	Added Supplemental Parochial Policy
March 8, 2010	General Membership approved numerous changes