

GUIDELINES FOR FORMATION OF BCSFYAO TEAMS

League Teams

Boys

All Taisho teams will follow the by laws of the Nikkei Youth Basketball Association (NYBA) which specify:

- 1) Boys and girls on a Varsity, Jr. Varsity or Frosh-Soph High School team or ninth Grade Junior High School Team whose season is concurrent with the NYBA will not be permitted to play in the NYBA either during or after the completion of the current school league play. Boys and girls may return to the NYBA the following season provided he/she meets all other requirements of the NYBA (Article IX.A.1.b.);
- 2) Players participating in other leagues of higher caliber may not participate in the NYBA (Article IX.A.1.c.);
- 3) The age cut-off shall be December 3rd of the current season (Article IX.A.1.d.);
- 4) Any player in the B and G1 divisions must have played in at least one year previously in the NYBA. Any exceptions will require a waiver. On all lower division teams, a player can enter with no previous NYBA experience (Article IX.A.1.e.);
- 5) Players on roster must play at least one (1) game prior to the beginning of the second half (or the game prior to one-half of the odd number of games) in their respective division to be eligible to play in the second half. Exceptions: Injury or illness provided statement of injury or illness is filed with both the NYBA chairperson and secretary at the time of said injury or illness (Article IX.A.1.f.);
- 6) Official team rosters must be turned in to the NYBA secretary by December 8 of the current season. After that date, no player can be added (Article IX.A.1.g.);
- 7) A majority of the team roster at the beginning of the season must be comprised of Nikkei youths (Article IX.A.1.h.);
- 8) Teams: Boys

E Instructional (Coed)	Under 8 years old	
D American Division	9-10 years old	
D National Division	11 years old	
C American Division	12 years old	
C National Division	13 years old	
B Junior American Division	14 years old	
B Junior National Division	15 years old	
B Senior Division	16 years old	(Article IX.A.2.a.)
- 9) If a participating organization has more than one (1) team in a division, the draft system will be used to select the team such that they are as equal in ability as possible (Article IX.A.2.b.); (see Team Split / Draft Procedure below)
- 10) If a sufficient number of teams are not fielded in the C and B Junior Divisions, the American and National teams will be combined. If an organization has more than one team in a combined division, the teams must be divided equally by ability as per Article IX.A.2.b.;
- 11) A player cannot play in a division below his age level without a waiver. All member organizations must submit written requests preferably at the second meeting but no later than the

third meeting of the NYBA. All waiver requests must include the name of the player, age, height, weight, reason, playing experience, and liability. A majority vote of members is required for approval. In case of ties, waiver request is rejected. Organization submitting waiver can also vote (Article IX.A.2.d.).

In cases where BCSFYAO has more than one team in a division, splitting of the teams will be done by the Boys' Commissioner, coaches and managers of the teams (See: Team Split / Draft Procedure" later in this document). The commissioner, coaches and managers will try to take into consideration the individual needs and wishes of the players but are not obligated to satisfy each player's individual desires. Requirements regarding NYBA rules will take precedence. Players from a lower division may be requested to play at a higher division should they be needed to meet the requirements of the NYBA (Article IX.A.1.h.). The decision to play at a higher division will be left up to the player and his parents. Volunteers will be requested for moves to higher divisions first. Should sufficient volunteers not be obtained, players will be requested to move to a higher division based on age. Every effort will be made to insure full participation by the members of the BCSFYAO. Should a dispute in the division of teams arise, the Boys Commissioner will make a decision as to the final division of teams. Should the commissioner not be able to fully resolve the dispute, it will be taken to the Arbitration Board of BCSFYAO for final decision.

The BCSFYAO will make every effort to limit the number of players on each team to ten players. This number of players will allow for sufficient playing time for all players.

I. GIRLS

All Ardenettes teams will follow the by laws of the East Bay Girls Athletic League (EBGAL) which specify:

- 1) All new players must be a participating member of the sponsoring organization and involved actively at least one year prior to submission of their names to the Board of Directors for anticipated participation (Article IX.A.);
- 2) A letter verifying her membership or active participation in the sponsoring organization or other Japanese-American organization must be submitted by the chairman of the participating organization or minister, if church, for approval by the Board of Directors of the EBGAL (Article IX.A.1.);
- 3) Any girl who is an active member of a Japanese-American organization or church other than the sponsoring organization for at least one year prior to submission of her name to the Board of Directors for anticipated participation shall be eligible to compete in EBGAL. Section A.1 to apply (Article IX.A.1.a.);
- 4) Any girl whose parent or parents are members of any established Japanese-American organization for a period of at least one year prior to submission of her name to the Board of Directors for anticipated participation shall be eligible to compete in EBGAL. Section A.1. to apply (Article IX.A.1.b.);
- 5) One year membership requirement prior to submission of names for participation shall not apply to C and D Divisions (Article IX.A.1.c.);
- 6) All participants are allowed to play on one (1) EBGAL team during the season and shall be disqualified if they participate (name appearing on roster constitutes participation) on any other basketball league team for the current EBGAL season; including High School (9-12) Varsity, JV or lightweight teams representing their schools. This will not include intramural teams (Article IX.B.);

- 7) Once the team roster has been submitted and approved, participants may not interchange teams and divisions. If there are extenuating circumstances, the Board will entertain exemptions (Article IX.C.);
- 8) Once the team roster has been submitted and approved by the Representatives, additional names to the team must be submitted to the Board of Directors in writing two (2) weeks prior to the anticipated date of participation and must be accompanied with a five dollar (\$5.00) fee for each name. Once the roster has been started, any additional names to the roster must be submitted prior to the third League game of that league season and be approved in the same manner and accompanied with a ten dollar (\$10.00) fee for each name. The new members may not participate until approval is granted by the Board of directors. There will be no additions after midnight of the third League game (Article IX.D.);
- 9) Participation brackets:
 - B Division -- 12th Grade and under as of December 1.
 - C Division -- 9th Grade and under as of December 1.
 - D Division -- 6th grade and under as of December 1 (Article IX.E.)
- 10) Waivers up or down in division status must be approved by the Board annually.

In cases where the BCSFYAO has more than one team in a division, the Girls' Commissioner and the team coaches and managers will decide splitting of the teams. Should there be sufficient teams in a division to divide in into a Gold, Silver and possibly Bronze level, teams will be split by age with the older team going into the Gold division and the younger team going into the Silver division. Should there be sufficient number of girls at one age level to make more than one team (i.e., 14-20 girls 12 years old), the coaches and managers will divide the players into teams of equal ability and play at the specific level (Gold/Silver/Bronze) within their division. Should there be an insufficient number of girls at one age level, they will be combined with the girls at the next age level upwards. Should this create a situation where there are enough girls to form two teams, the commissioner, coaches and managers will split the players into two teams of equal ability. Players at a lower level may be asked to move to a higher level should there not be sufficient girls to field a team at that level. The decision to move up will be left up to the player and her parents. Volunteers will be requested for a move to a higher division first. Should sufficient players still not be available, players will be selected based on age for a move to a higher level. Every effort will be made to provide maximum participation of the members of the BCSFYAO organization. The Commissioner, coaches and managers will try to take into consideration the individual needs and wishes of the players, but are not obligated to satisfy each individuals desires. Should a dispute in the division of teams arise, the Girls Commissioner will make a decision as to the final division of teams. Should the commissioner not be able to fully resolve the dispute, it will be taken to the Arbitration Board of BCSFYAO for final decision.

The BCSFYAO will make every effort to limit the number of players on each team to ten players. This number of players will allow for sufficient playing time for all players.

Tournament Teams

Boys and Girls

Every effort will be made to accommodate current members (current league roster players and High School players with at least one year of BCSFYAO experience) of the BCSFYAO in the formation of open tournament teams. The majority of the open tournaments (High School team players eligible) are for grade 8 through 12. Priority will be given to current year league players and returning High School players. Teams will be formed on a grade level basis with mixed grades only in cases where there are insufficient players at both grade levels (i.e., five 10th grade players and four 9th grade players). Players at a lower grade level can be asked to play at a higher grade level should there not be sufficient players at the higher level. *The coach of the lower level tournament team must also be consulted. The use of lower level players must not eliminate the lower level team from participation in the tournament.* The decision to play at a higher grade level will be left up to the player and their parents. Players can request to play at a higher grade level should there be sufficient space on the roster and with the team's and coach's approval.

Should there be sufficient players to form more than one tournament team at a specific grade level, the Commissioner, coaches and managers will determine an equitable split of the teams. Each team will be given equal opportunity to participate in tournaments, with the Commissioner, coaches and managers of the two teams determining which team will participate in a tournament should both teams not be provided with a slot.

Tournament teams must have a minimum of three current or returning (playing for a High School team during the current year) BCSFYAO players in order to be a sponsored tournament team of the BCSFYAO. Tournament teams must make every effort to accommodate current league players/members prior to bringing in any additional players from outside the organization. Any non-league players on the BCSFYAO tournament teams must fulfill the same organization requirements as league players. Any tournament team players that do not have prior BCSFYAO membership must submit an application to the BCSFYAO Membership Committee prior to playing in any tournament games. An effort will be made to limit tournament teams to ten players (to provide adequate playing time for all players and avoid the possibility that weaker players are "pushed off the end of the bench".)

The respective Commissioner will decide any disputes regarding the formation and/or rosters of the tournament team. Should the commissioner not be able to fully resolve the dispute, it can be brought to the Arbitration Board for final decision.

Team Split / Draft Procedure

- Teams in general should be even in height, age group, skill level and Nikkei mix. Siblings may be a consideration to be on the same team, but this is not necessary. "Friends" may NOT be a consideration, unless one is a 1st year player that was brought in by a teammate.
- Coaches and the commissioner should advise the group of players/parents that the split is not based on favorites of the coach, but the objective is to field two relatively equal teams where all players will grow and have fun during the season. Parents should be made aware of the process being used to form the teams.
- Teams should have at least 3 weeks of combined practices so that the coaches may determine/observe the skill level for each player and what combinations may work. Preliminary team rosters should be prepared in mid-October and presented to the commissioner.
- For teams that involve high school players, the process must consider which players are accepted to play for a high school team. The final YAO team rosters may not be accepted, by the commissioner, in mid-October, due to the dependence on the high schools finalizing their rosters first.

- Prior to the actual “draft”, both coaches should meet and pair up similar size and skilled players. Each team/pair should have at least 1 “big man” and 1 “ball handler”.
- During the draft, coaches should alternate selecting pairs from the pool of players. The player that is paired up with the 1st pick would go to the non-picking coach/team. After the draft is complete, coaches should look over the complete rosters and check for Nikkei mix and team skill mix. If a trade is needed, the 2 players that were “paired” together should be the players switched. Below is an example of the draft.

Coach A.

Coach B.

Pair A)	Player 1	Ht-5’2	Skill-8	Player 2	Ht-5’2	Skill-7
Pair B)	Player 3	Ht-5’5	Skill-9	Player 4	Ht-5’6	Skill-7
Pair C)	Player 5	Ht-5’0	Skill-7	Player 6	Ht-5’1	Skill-8
Pair D)	Player 7	Ht-5’3	Skill-3	Player 8	Ht-5’4	Skill-3
Pair E)	Player 9	Ht-5’3	Skill-5	Player 10	Ht-5’3	Skill-6

ROUND 1 (Coaches and Commissioner present)

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Coach A picks first and chooses Player 1 | Coach B automatically gets Player 2 |
| 2) Coach B picks next and chooses Player 3 | Coach A automatically gets Player 4 |
| 3) Coach A picks next and chooses Player 6 | Coach B automatically gets Player 5 |
| 4) Coach B picks next and chooses Player 7 | Coach A automatically gets Player 8 |
| 5) Coach A picks next and chooses Player 10 | Coach B automatically gets Player 9. |

ROUND 2 (Coaches and Commissioner present)

After the draft, Coach B doesn’t have enough Nikkei and/or age group players. Player 7 is a non-Nikkei/age group. Player 8 is a Nikkei/age group. Because they were “paired” together, both players would switch teams. If the pairs that switch do not help the situation, then a good trade between the 2 teams should be found.

ROUND 3 (Coaches, Manager and Commissioner input)

After the draft, it is recommended not to announce that teams are set immediately. A few scrimmages should be run first with the chosen teams to see if the chemistry is right for both teams. If the chemistry is not right, then trades may be made to balance teams. By not announcing that teams are set allows the flexibility to move players around without drama.

The commissioner has the responsibility to set the final team rosters and determines when the rosters are ready to be announced.

It is advisable to “mix” players so that players gain experience playing with different teammates and coaches.

If any parent is unhappy with the final makeup of the team their child is playing for, they should follow the standard procedure for raising issues. First, report their concerns to the team’s manager, then to the appropriate commissioner, and if it remains unresolved they can bring the issue to the vice-president for arbitration. Parents are not actively involved in the team forming procedure, but the coaches, managers and commissioner can consider their interests in round three of the process.