

Q: What is the draft?

A: The draft is an event held over two weekends about a month before our season starts in which interested team managers come to scout out individuals who are interested in joining the league. We will put you through some batting, infield and outfield drills so that the managers can match your strengths and abilities against the skill level and needs of their teams. At the end of the day players are “drafted” or informed as to which team has selected them. Players still interested in joining the league at that time will join the team that requested them. Given the size and complexity of the BASL, the draft is the most efficient and equitable way for our teams to add new players and for individuals interested in playing with us to join us.

Q: How should I prepare for the draft?

A: You do not need to do anything to prepare. If however, you have never played before you may want to go to a batting cage and get yourself comfortable with swinging a bat. Ask a friend to toss a ball around with you for a while to get comfortable with catching and throwing.

Q: If the weather looks “iffy” the morning of the draft, what should I do?

A: Check our website at www.bigapplesoftball.com. We will let you know for sure if we are holding the draft. We hate to cancel drafts due to weather almost as much as we hate to cancel games!

Q: What happens when I arrive?

A: You will be greeted by one of our volunteers who also is a player in our league. S/he will take your name, e-mail address and phone number and assign you a player number for the day that will be placed on your back while you are going through the drills. You will then be sent to warm up with other potential draftees.

Q: How long do I have to wait until I find out whether or not I am on a team?

A: About a half hour. After the drills are over, the league will go through its process with the managers to select players. We ask you to wait off to the side with the other potential draftees. Eventually we will start calling numbers and you will meet your manager who will give you details about the team. The entire draft takes no more than two hours.

Q: My (boyfriend, girlfriend, friend, brother, sister) and I want to play on the same team. Is that possible?

A: Yes. The league allows for **TWO** people to be drafted together. When you sign in you should both go to the same volunteer and tell that person that you are a pair. You will both get the same number to wear on your back but one of you will be, for example, 22A and the other 22B. Managers looking at either one of you will know that you are part of a pair and that they will be required to draft both of you. This works well if both of you have similar skill levels, but if one is much more skilled than the other, that

could be problematic and you may want to reconsider. Unfortunately, the league cannot accommodate more than two in this manner.

Q: I am a woman who wants to play on a team of just women. Is that possible?

A: Yes. We have an entire division of “women only” teams and teams in the Sachs Division that are made up only of women. Mention that to the volunteer when you arrive and s/he will put a “W” on your number so that managers of co-ed teams will not consider you.

Q: Does everyone get placed onto a team?

A: The purpose of the draft is not to “weed out” those with no talent, but to make sure that players are placed on teams appropriate to their ability. We make every attempt to place as many people as possible onto teams via the draft. Having said that, team managers have discretion as to how many players they want and who they want playing on their teams. We cannot guarantee that everyone will be drafted.

Q: If I do not get drafted at the first day of the draft, am I wasting my time going back for the second day?

A: Absolutely not!!! Not all managers make it to both days or you may play better the second day. Team membership is very fluid right up until the beginning of the season, and a manager may find out in between drafts that players are not returning or draftees from the first week have decided not to join. You should definitely come back the second week. Returning the second week also shows the league that you really want to join.

Q: What do I wear and bring to a draft?

A: Weather at the end of March/early April is very unpredictable. You should wear comfortable layered clothing. You should wear something warm enough to play in but not too warm that you will want to take it off halfway through (moving your number from one article of clothing to another is not easy!!!) If you have long hair, please put it up and do not wear a hoodie during the drills. Both long hair and hoodies interfere with managers’ ability to read the number on your back. Wear sneakers and bring a glove. Borrow one if you don’t own one. You should not wear cleats as our drafts are not always on grass.

Q: If I don’t get picked in the second day of the draft do I have to wait until the following season to play?

A: Not necessarily. We keep a waiting list of people who are still interested after the drafts. As I stated above, team membership is very fluid into the first week or so of the season. You may get a call or e-mail telling you that you have been assigned to a team and where to show up for a game.