

Draft & Freeze Rules

Draft

- Draft order will be determined at the conclusion of the combine by drawing numbered slips from a hat/container.
- Trading of draft positions is permitted, but must occur immediately after the hat draw and with the Division Commissioner present
- The draft will follow a snake format:
 - If there are 10 teams and you draw the 1st pick, you will select 1st in Round 1 and 10th in Round 2 (1st and 20th overall pick)
 - If you draw the 10th pick, you will select 10th in Round 1 and 1st in Round 2 (10th & 11th overall pick) and so on
- Do not send draft results to parents, players, other coaches, etc., until after the draft has completely concluded (and all, if any, trades have been completed)

Freezes

- Each Head Coach may freeze their own child, and one Assistant Coach's child.
- A coach (and his ast. coach) must freeze their own children unless it is explicitly conveyed that their child does not want to play on their team, and in that case, they are not allowed to draft them
- If a Head Coach or Assistant Coach has more than one child, all of their children may be frozen, this is the only exception that allows more than two freezes
- All frozen players must be the coach's or ast. coach's children or relatives living in the same household under the coach's care
- Relatives (cousins, etc.) not living in the same household under the coach's care may not be frozen

Freezes Evaluation/Rating

- Each freeze will be evaluated and assigned a draft-round value by the opposing Head Coaches (coaches do not evaluate their own freezes)
- Coaches evaluate freezes at the combine with all other draftable players
- Ratings occur before the start of the draft
- Any frozen player who does not attend the combine will automatically be assigned as a 1st-round freeze

Freeze Rating Process

Primary Freeze Rating Approach

- A board member will announce the player and team name
- A board member will then state a round starting with 1, then 2, 3, etc.
- Coaches will raise their hand during the round in which they believe they would draft that player if he were not frozen
 - **Example (10 teams = 10 picks per round):**
 - If all the players were in the draft (including freezes), you consider that player in the top 10 best players, and if you had the opportunity, you would draft them in the 1st round → raise your hand in Round 1...
 - If you consider the player in the top 11-20 and would draft them in the 2nd round → raise your hand in Round 2, and so on...
 - If you consider them somewhere between 50-60, don't raise your hand until Round 5
- Coaches keep their hands raised until voting for that player is complete
- Once more than 50% of opposing coaches have their hands up, that round becomes the assigned freeze round for that player
 - **Example (10 teams = 9 opposing coaches, 5 hands = majority):**
 - Round 1: 0 hands
 - Round 2: 1 hand
 - Round 3: 2 hands
 - Round 4: 3 hands (total of 6 hands, which is >50%)
 - The player is frozen in Round 4, and the coach forfeits their 4th-round pick.
- *Raise your hand where you truly believe that player should go, and try not to “follow the pack”. The main goal here is to be fair and thoughtful in assigning a freeze, not to penalize a coach for having one. This process helps weed out outlier votes that “might” be too high or too low to capture an accurate majority.*

Alternate Freeze Rating Approach

- If all coaches agree, a blind rating process (post-combine but prior to the draft) can be utilized
- Each coach sends the division commissioner a list of the freezes and the rounds they believe each should be frozen
- The commissioner then consolidates those ratings and provides the final result by player
- The details behind the results are never shared, each coach's submission is kept anonymous by the commissioner
- If a coach does not agree with the final results, they can contest, make a case, and ask for a re-rating of their freeze in person prior to the draft
- Reasons to possibly use this approach over the standard in-person approach:
 - Save time on draft night by having the freeze ratings done (in the larger divisions, the freeze process is very time-consuming)
 - Removes the urge to “follow the pack.” If you don't see what other coaches are rating, you don't have the urge to lower/raise your rating; rather, you stick to your approach and gut
 - The anonymous, remote voting nature of this approach eliminates the "contentious situations" often sparked by the public approach

Gentleman's Agreement

- There is **no “gentleman’s agreement”** rule allowing additional freezes
- Coaches may communicate plans to draft a neighbor or friend in a later round; however, any coach may draft that player earlier if they believe the player’s skill level warrants it

Hat Picks

- Any player who does not attend the combine becomes an automatic hat pick.
- Hat picks are not draftable during the standard draft
- Hat pick selection occurs after all draftable players have been selected
- Once the draft is complete, hat pick names will be placed in a hat and selected by coaches in draft order until all are assigned
- If there is more than one full round of hat picks, the Division Commissioner—assisted by coaches and board members—will review the picks to identify **“known”** high-impact players. These players will be placed in the same hat-pick round to prevent any team from selecting more than 1 of these players. While this does not account for unknown players who may later emerge, it helps ensure no team receives two or more of the **“known”** high-impact players.

Siblings & Carpool Pairing Requests

- Siblings in the same division must be drafted together unless a parent explicitly requests otherwise
 - Example: If Jimmy and Johnny are brothers and Jimmy is drafted to a team in the 4th round, Johnny automatically becomes that team’s 5th-round pick
- Each year, the league receives a handful of carpool requests due to transportation limitations
 - Similar to siblings, if Jackie and Jennie are designated as a carpool pair, drafting Jennie in the 5th round automatically assigns Jackie as your 6th-round pick
 - **Carpool requests are not accepted if either player involved is a freeze**

Trades

- 5 minutes is allotted at the end of the draft for trades
- Trades must be approved by the commissioner (or a board member)
- No trades between coaches are permitted post the draft night trade window
 - Post-draft night trades might be initiated by the Board due to extenuating situations, but they are extremely rare