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| Teacher Guidelines for Selecting Teams |

In traditional physical education classes it is not uncommon for a student to be part of Team X one day and then be on Team Y the next day. The ever-changing composition of groups prevents any effort toward getting players to truly work together for a sustained period of time. Moreover, without the structure of a true formal sport season teachers will end up losing valuable class time to picking so-called “teams.”

One of Sport Education’s key characteristics is the formation of set teams. With balanced and fair competition as a central goal in Sport Education, it is critical that team selection is handled with care. By care we mean that whoever is involved in the selection process (you yourself or you with your students) consider factors beyond just the students’ skill level.

They include:

* ***Skill level***

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* ***Height***
* ***Weight***
* ***Is (s)he a leader or a follower?***
* ***Gender***
* ***Ethnicity***
* ***Overall personality***
* ***Is (s) he absent often?***
* ***Any friendship(s) with classmates***

In Chapter 9 we highlighted three approaches for how teams can be selected. They include:

* The teacher selects teams independently.
* The teacher works with teacher assigned Team Coaches. When using this approach, once the Team Coaches have formed teams the teacher assigns the Team Coaches to a team.
* An elected (or teacher selected) Sport Board made up of students in the class selects the teams. Here too, once the teams have been formed, the teacher would assign the Council members to a team.

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| *ASSESSMENT OF PLAYERS’ GAME PERFORMANCE FOR TEAM SELECTION PURPOSES* |

In the accompanying subfolder (PLAYER ASSESSMENT FOR TEAM SELECTION) you will find templates that can be used for assessing players’ game performance on selected skills for the purpose of selecting fair and balanced teams. The templates are presented on three different Excel® worksheets and can accommodate the three approaches to team selection listed above and include both “Print” and “Electronic” versions.

“Print” versions should be used when you have either no access to the use of Notebook computers or PDAs that accept MS Excel®, or your students have not yet gain sufficient experience in using this equipment. If such hardware is available and your students do have the basic working knowledge of both hardware and the Excel software we strongly recommend you use the “Electronic” versions of the templates.

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| *USING ALL STUDENT INFORMATION FOR TEAM SELECTION PURPOSES* |

Once the skill assessments have been completed, those responsible for selecting teams, should use this information along with other student characteristics (i.e., rate of absenteeism, gender, ethnicity, etc.). To help ensure that such background information is considered, provide them with the chart that is provided in the file titled “Student Guidelines for Selecting Teams.docx”.

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***& van der Mars, 2020, Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.***