

SMHA – Bantam BB & House League Draft Protection Rules

SMHA recognizes the benefits of player protection and allows returning teams to protect an unlimited number of returning players each year.

Accommodating teams' desires to protect players from the previous season, however, cannot come at the expense of maintaining competitive balance in SMHA leagues. The Protection Rules below have been put in place to discourage players from participating in leagues that are not suited to their talent level.

In addition to the official SMHA Draft Rules, the following rules apply to 'BB' and House League Bantam teams for the 2009/10 season.

1. Teams returning to the same division from the prior season will be entitled to protect players from the prior season.
2. Teams may protect an unlimited number of eligible players.
3. Each eligible protected player moves up 5 draft positions in the 2009/10 draft from his 2008/09 draft position. If that draft position is already occupied by another protection, the player is assigned to the next available round.
4. All protections must be submitted to SMHA prior to the protected player participating in a tryout session.
5. Players who were drafted by their 2008/09 team in **rounds 1 through 10** of the 2008/09 draft can only be protected by their 2008/09 team if they, (a) participate in the next highest division's tryouts, and (b) are not selected by a team in the next highest division.
6. Players who were drafted by their 2008/09 team in **rounds 1 through 10** of the 2008/09 draft, who do not participate in the next highest division's tryouts, or declare themselves ineligible for the next highest division's draft, cannot be protected by their 2008/09 team.
7. Teams may apply to the SMHA Executive, in writing, for consideration of circumstances related to #6 above.
8. Players who were drafted by their 2008/09 team in rounds 11 through 18 of the 2008/09 draft can be protected by their 2008/09 team without participating in the next highest division's tryouts.

