



Competitive Team Policy

General

With the discretion of the Board, the Association will annually operate competitive teams (Rep and/or Select and/or Elite). Through the application of the below policies, the Board is committed to ensuring that the selection and operation of all competitive teams are transparent and equitable.

Athlete selection

Each competitive team (team) must hold a minimum of two [2] tryouts with the first one being open. Any tryout after the first may be held as invite only but must be clearly outlined as such on the Association's website.

Elite team tryouts will be conducted in the timeframe permitted by the OBA and YSBA. AKBA rep team tryouts will not start any earlier than the first Thursday in September following Labour Day. Rep team decisions must be made by September 21st, allowing time for select team(s) tryouts to commence.

If the Association is operating Select teams, Select team tryouts will be conducted after the rep team tryouts are completed for the respective age divisions and must be completed by September 30th.

The tryout process and the selection of players is completed at the discretion of the head coach, within the permitted rules.

Team composition

All competitive teams must have a minimum of twelve [12] rostered players. A roster lower than twelve must be approved by the VP Competitive Teams.

While there is no maximum number of roster spots, coaches need to balance the size of the roster and adequate playing time for rostered players.

Unless an exception is approved by the Board, Select teams must have a minimum of four [4] players from each birth year on the team and all players must be residents of Aurora or King.

All competitive teams must follow the YSBA and AKBA Release & Import Policies.

Players must try out for the competitive team of their own birth year and may not play up to an older team.

Head coaches

All Head Coach positions are appointed on an annual basis, after an open call for application process. The call for applications will be made no later than August 15th, annually. The selection committee for head coaches will be a minimum of three [3] people, two of which will be the VP Competitive Teams and the President.

Applicants will be notified of selection as soon as reasonably possible, understanding that current year playoffs might delay announcements.

Support staff

Every competitive team must have a minimum of two [2] assistant coaches and one team manager. These positions are appointed by the head coach.

Coach and Manager requirements

All rostered coaches must comply with the Baseball Ontario coach certification policies. In addition, every coach must have a valid Vulnerable Sector Check completed. The VSC will be valid for two seasons (season being the start of the teams' indoor training and ending on September 30th annually). A VSC from another organization will not be accepted.

It will be the responsibility of the team to budget for VSC expenses for their team staff.

All coaches must be registered in the AKBA on-line registration system by September 30th, annually.

Team finances

Each team must have a separate bank account for the team with two authorized signing officers. The two signatories cannot be related or in a relationship. While the account may be set up with only one to sign for withdrawals, all withdrawals/payments from the team account must be supported through written approval by both signatories. Evidence of support must be provided subject to audit requests from the VP Finance.

Each team manager must submit the approved team budget, the one submitted to the team parents to the VP Finance & Admin & the VP Competitive Teams by January 1st, annually.

The team manager is required to submit financial updates to the team parents, the VP Finance & Admin and VP Competitive Teams as per the following schedule.

- April 1: pre-season update
- July 1: mid-season update
- Sept 15: final season spend

A team may not carry over more than \$250.00 from one season to another without written permission from the VP Competitive Teams and the VP Finance & Admin.

Team equipment

Each team will be responsible for purchasing their own equipment, with the exception that the Association will provide each team with 2 dozen game balls and 1 dozen practice balls annually. Teams 14U+ will be permitted to a 3rd dozen of game balls. The Association will provide all diamond-related equipment, including pitching machines for 9U and below teams, which will be left at each diamond in a locked box.

Uniforms

The Association will provide a uniform to each full-time roster competitive player annually. The uniform design & colour will be determined annually by the Board.

The uniform pieces that will be provided annually to each registered and rostered competitive team player will be;

- One [1] hat;
- Two [2] sublimated jerseys;
- One [1] short-sleeve dri-fit;
- One [1] long-sleeve dri-fit
- One [1] pair of pants or knickers;
- One [1] pair of socks; and
- One [1] belt.

The Board will review the style, design and list of items annually.

The Association will provide each competitive team with an allowance to purchase uniforms (or pieces thereof) for the coaching staff. The value of the allowance will be the full value of one full uniform set the players receive multiplied by a determined number of coaches (chart listed below). The allowance will only be able to be put towards items players receive or a coach's jacket.

8U Rep and 9U Select	4 coaches/team
All other competitive teams	2 coaches/team

If the team does not use the full coach uniform allowance, the team will forfeit the allowance. There is no cash value of the allowance.

Teams are permitted to purchase additional items, such as team bags, helmets, hoodies, jackets, practice shorts etc. using team dollars, through Association authorized suppliers who have the authorization to use the Association's logos.

The AKBA competitive teams may not adjust or alter the Board approved uniform in any way. Only the approved uniform may be worn in games when representing the

Association. The only exception to this rule is when a tournament permits a team to design a piece of apparel to wear during that tournament, for example a hat for the New Era tournament.

Diamond time allocation

Home nights for competitive teams will be determined annually by the Schedule Coordinator in consultation with the VP Competitive Teams and will be done by December 15th.

Practice time will be allocated closer to the season once there is a better understanding of house league diamond time requirements; however, teams shall expect to receive at least one regular practice night in addition to their home night.

Player Registration/Association Fees

Competitive team players must register and pay the initial competitive team registration fee (set by the Board) to the Association by September 30th, annually. The balance of the players registration fee shall be paid to the team and the team must submit the full payment to the AKBA by April 30th.

Umpires & Umpire payment

Each team is responsible for providing their home schedule, exhibition games and any changes to the Association's Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) as soon as possible so the UIC can assign umpires. In the event the UIC is not notified about a cancelation, the team will be responsible for the umpire fees for said game.

The Association will pay the umpire fees for all regular season home games and will pay for the umpire fees for one home exhibition game per team. If a team plays additional home exhibition games, the team will be responsible for paying the umpires at the diamond (in cash). If a team plays a road game in Aurora or King, the Association will not be responsible for paying the umpires for that game.

Provincial Championship Registration

For all teams that are required to qualify for the OBAs, if they qualify, the Association will reimburse the team for the entry fee to the OBAs. The AKBA will also cover the entry fee for teams that play in 13U, 15U or 18U Eliminations.

Hosting a tournament

Teams are responsible for running their own tournament. All profits earned from hosting a tournament are for the host team to retain; however, the team is also responsible for the hosting costs, including the cost of the diamond permits, umpire costs and baseballs for the tournament.

The host team is responsible for providing the Association's UIC tournament schedule as soon as the schedule is approved by the OBA so they can appoint umpires.

The host team need to place an order with the VP Baseball Operations for the baseballs they require for their tournament (sold by the dozen).

The team will be invoiced by the Association within 30 days after the tournament for the cost of the baseballs ordered, the diamond permits for the tournament and the umpire fees.

Team Sponsorship

Teams are responsible for conducting their own fundraising and sponsorship campaigns. Teams are not permitted to sell advertising space on any official uniform pieces. Advertising space can be sold on additional uniform pieces (e.g., hoodies, jackets, t-shirts, bags, banners etc.).

Off-season training

AKBA encourages all athletes to participate in more than one sport as being multisport athletes has been proven to be beneficial for the development of the whole athlete.

Competitive teams may not start off-season training until November 1st. While multiple days a week are not ideal for multisport athletes, teams may not hold more than two hours of off-season training between November 1st and December 31st. Competitive teams are expected to do a minimum of 1.5 hours a week from January to the start of the season.

If teams start off-season training prior to January 1st, teams are required to shut down on the same days that the school Christmas break is.

No player shall be punished for not being able to attend off-season workouts due to other sport or family commitments.

Team Classifications

The Head Coach, in consultation with their Assistant Coaches will assess their team through tryouts and submit a request to the VP Competitive Teams by October 15th as to what classification they wish to play the following season. The VP Competitive Teams must approve the request before the team can communicate their classification to the YSBA or OBA for scheduling purposes. Unless there are significant concerns the VP Competitive Teams may approve requests. If there is a significant question, the decision will be passed to the Board for a decision.

Tournament Entry

The goal of the season is to provide the competitive players with the opportunity to play baseball. The regular season provides the opportunity for approximately 20 games a year. The way to get more playing time for the players' development is through tournaments. All competitive teams are required to enter a minimum of three

[3] and a maximum of five [5] Baseball Ontario sanctioned or out of province tournament, not including YSBA's, Eliminations and Provincials.

Teams intending to play in USA tournaments are required to get the approval from the VP Competitive Teams in advance as required by Baseball Ontario.

Playing Time

The Head Coach has sole decision making on playing time and player positioning for their team. However, the Head Coach shall take into consideration when dividing up playing time, the Association's focus on athlete development. Winning shall be a by-product of strong athlete development, not prioritized over development.

Players do not get better without playing time. There are many opportunities throughout the season where balanced playing time and balanced batting orders should be used. There is also an understanding that playing in tournaments and playoffs there is a greater emphasis on winning; however, player development shall always remain at the forefront.

Last approved by the Board: March 20, 2023