



## 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 [Tryouts]

Each competitive 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 and communicated as such by the Head Coach to the tryout participants and submitted for addition to the Association's website.

If there is more than one Rep team in an age division, the tryouts shall be organized as follows: the two Head Coaches are free to coordinate and conduct their tryouts simultaneously; however, parents and players must be notified whether they have been invited back for the second Tier 1 team tryout, invited back or released to the Tier 2 team tryouts, or cut from both teams. There should be no uncertainty as to what team a player is trying out for at each tryout.

If coaches wish to deviate from the above tryout structure, they must seek approval from the VP Competitive. The alternate plan should be prompted by the number of registered tryout participants for the team/age group.

The selection of players is completed at the discretion of the Head Coach, within these and YSBA/OBA permitted rules.

Coaches must roster a minimum of twelve [12] players (see Team Composition for more information).

Coaches must give no longer than a 24-hour window for players to register and pay the non-refundable fees to secure their spot on the roster. This timeframe avoids players "shopping" around and makes it easier for coaches to select their roster, ensuring it meets the 12 player minimum (above).

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 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **\*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 and President. If not approved, and the Head Coach's roster remains below 12, the Head Coach may face discipline by the Board Disciplinary Committee. On top of this, teams with less than 12 rostered players must pay for the cost of registration (less uniform fees) for each player under the minimum of 12 – this is because AKBA and team budgets are based on 12 players per team.

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 VP Competitive, Select teams must have a minimum of four [4] players from each birth year on the team and the maximum number of import players should reflect the Rep maximums per age group.

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 tryout for, nor be rostered to, an older team.

### **Head Coaches**

All Head Coach positions are appointed on an annual basis, after an open call application process. The call for applications will be made no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>, annually. The selection committee for head coaches will be a minimum of three [3] people, two of which will be the VP Competitive 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 [1] team manager. These positions are appointed by the Head Coach. To avoid conflicts of interest, the team manager cannot be the Head Coach, nor a family member of the Head Coach.

### **Coach and Manager Requirements**

All rostered coaches and managers 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 and Registrations.

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

The team manager is required to submit financial updates to the team parents, the VP Finance and Registrations and the VP Competitive 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 and the VP Finance and Registrations.

### **\*Team Equipment**

Each team will be responsible for purchasing their own equipment, with the exception that the Association will provide each team with 2-3 dozen game balls annually (based on current Association stock). 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
- Two [2] pairs 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.

As each team has a different number of coaches, teams are responsible for budgeting for their own coaches' uniforms annually. Coaches must wear proper coaching attire as per YSBA rules.

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. If you are unsure about the current supplier, please contact [akbboard@akba.ca](mailto:akbboard@akba.ca) and someone will respond with the correct answer.

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.

#### **\*Diamond Time Allocation**

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

Home nights and practice times will be allocated closer to the season once the requested permits are approved by the Town of Aurora and Township of King; 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 30<sup>th</sup>, annually.

The balance of the player registration fee shall be paid no later than April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year.

#### **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 cancellation, 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.

### **Tournaments**

All competitive teams are required to enter a minimum of three [3] Baseball Ontario sanctioned or out of province tournaments, not including YSBA's, Eliminations and Provincials. Elite teams may be required to participate in more tournaments to meet their OBA season requirements.

### **Tournament Entry Outside Ontario**

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

### **Hosting a Tournament**

Apart from the annually run 9U Father's Day Tournament, it is up to each team whether they wish to **request** to host a tournament. Permit requests for desired tournament dates must be submitted to the President and VP Competitive, no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Association cannot guarantee requests as permits are decided by the Town of Aurora and Township of King. Requests made after October 1<sup>st</sup> will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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, baseballs for the tournament and any other incidental fees that are incurred. Teams must also plan, setup and run their own 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 team will be invoiced by the Association within 30 days after the tournament for the cost of the diamond permits for the tournament and the umpire fees.

### **\*Team Sponsorship**

Teams are responsible for conducting their own fundraising and sponsorship campaigns. These sponsorship and fundraising ventures need to be limited to families and friends of rostered players. Teams are not permitted to cold call community companies or 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 should not start off-season training until November 1st; however,

AKBA understands that in order to secure certain facilities, earlier start times may be required. While multiple days a week are not ideal for multisport athletes, teams are encouraged not to hold more than two hours of off-season training between November 1st and December 31<sup>st</sup>. If teams start off-season training prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, they are required to shut down coinciding with the Public and Catholic Holiday school closures.

After January 1<sup>st</sup>, competitive teams are expected to do a minimum of 2 hours a week up until the start of the season.

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 their team classification to the VP Competitive as required by the YSBA/OBA. The VP Competitive must approve the request before the team can communicate their classification to the YSBA or OBA for scheduling purposes. If there is a significant question, the decision will be passed to the Board for a classification decision on a team-by-team basis.

#### **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.

**\*Starred items have been updated for the 2023-2024 season and beyond.**

Last approved by the Board: October XX, 2023