



AKBA COMPETITIVE TEAM POLICY

The AKBA will operate competitive teams (Rep and/or Select and/or Elite level) each year. The number of such teams in each division shall be determined by the Board, in its sole and unfettered discretion.

ATHLETE SELECTION AND TRYOUTS

Each competitive team must hold a minimum of two (2) tryouts. The first tryout shall be open. Any subsequent tryout may be held as invite only, but that must be clearly outlined and communicated as such by the Head Coach to the tryout participants and/or their parents/guardians and to the AKBA.

If there is more than one Rep team in an age division, the tryouts shall be organized as follows: the two (or more) Head Coaches are free to coordinate and conduct their tryouts simultaneously; however, parents/guardians 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 selection of players for each competitive team shall be completed at the sole and unfettered discretion of the applicable Head Coach.

Once a Head Coach has selected their players, they must provide each player with no more than 24 hours for them to register and pay the non-refundable competitive team fees to secure their spot on the roster. This timeframe avoids players “shopping” around and makes it easier for coaches to select their roster.

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. Decisions regarding the number of Rep teams for each age division should be made by September 21 of the applicable year, allowing time for select team(s) tryouts to commence.

If the AKBA is operating one or more Select teams, Select team tryouts will be conducted after the Rep team tryouts are completed for the respective age divisions. Select tryouts must be completed by September 30.

TEAM COMPOSITION

All competitive teams must have a minimum of twelve (12) rostered players. If a coach wishes to have a roster of less than twelve players, they must first seek approval from 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. In addition, 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 the 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 with adequate playing time for rostered players.

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. If a Select coach wishes to deviate from this general rule, they must seek approval from the VP Competitive and President.

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

Typically, 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. Those players who are playing for an older team as at the date of this policy (i.e. April, 2024) have been grandfathered and this aspect of this policy is no longer applicable to them. Future players may receive an exemption from this aspect of this policy, to be determined/approved by the President and VP Competitive on a case-by-case basis, in their sole and unfettered discretion.

HEAD COACHES

Each year, there will be an open call for applications for head coaching positions. The call for applications will be made no later than August 15. The selection committee for head coaches will be comprised by of three (3) individuals, two of which will be the VP Competitive and the President. The third individual shall be appointed by the President and VP Competitive. If they cannot agree, then the President shall have the final say on the matter, in their sole and unfettered discretion.

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

SUPPORT STAFF

Every competitive team must have a minimum of two (2) assistant coaches, one (1) trainer and one (1) team manager. These individuals shall be appointed by the Head Coach. To avoid conflicts of interest, the team manager shall not be the Head Coach.

CERTIFICATIONS

All Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Trainers and Manager shall meet the certification requirements set out by Baseball Ontario, and as prescribed in the AKBA Screening Policy.

TEAM FINANCES

Each competitive team shall have its own bank account with two authorized signing officers. The two signatories cannot be related each other or in a conjugal relationship. While the account may be set up with only one required signature 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 (i.e. the one submitted to and approved by the team parents) to the VP Finance & the VP Competitive by January 1, annually.

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

TEAM EQUIPMENT

Each team will be responsible for purchasing their own equipment, with the exception that the AKBA will provide each team with 2-3 dozen game balls annually (based on current AKBA stock). The AKBA will provide all diamond-related equipment, including pitching machines for 9U and below teams, which will be left at each relevant diamond in a locked box.

UNIFORMS

Each year, the AKBA will provide a uniform to each player registered on a competitive team's roster. The uniform design(s) and colour(s) will be determined annually by the Board, in its sole and unfettered discretion. The uniform pieces that will be provided annually to each registered and rostered competitive team player will be:

One [1] hat;

Two [2] 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, all of which are subject to change in the Board's sole and unfettered discretion.

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 AKAB-approved suppliers who have the authorization to use the AKBA's logos. If you are unsure about the current supplier, please contact akbboard@akba.ca and someone will respond with the correct answer.

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 AKBA. 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 game nights for competitive teams will be determined annually by the Board's schedule coordinator, who shall make such determinations in consultation with the VP Competitive.

Home game nights and practice times will be officially allocated 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 game night.

PLAYER REGISTRATION/ASSOCIATED FEES

Each year, competitive team players must register and pay the initial competitive team registration fee (set by the Board) to the AKBA by September 30.

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

UMPIRES AND UMPIRE PAYMENT

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

The AKBA will pay the umpire fees for all regular season home games. Individual teams will be responsible for paying umpire fees directly to the umpires of home exhibition games. 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 an away game in Aurora or King, the AKBA will not be responsible for paying the umpires for that game.

OBAs

The AKBA will reimburse all competitive teams the cost to enter the OBA's (assuming they have qualified). The AKBA will also cover the costs for 13U, 15U and 18U teams to participate in Eliminations.

TOURNAMENTS

All competitive teams must enter a minimum of three (3) Baseball Ontario sanctioned or out-of-province tournaments. This does not include the YSBAs, Eliminations and Provincials. Elite teams may be required to participate in additional tournaments to meet their OBA season requirements.

EXTRAPROVINCIAL TOURNAMENTS

Teams wishing to play in tournaments outside of Ontario, including the USA, shall first obtain approval from the VP Competitive and secure the necessary insurance coverage, or provide proof of declining this coverage. Upon confirmation of approval by the VP Competitive, teams will be responsible to meet the AKBA, YSBA and OBA requirements such as travel permits and insurance certifications. The VP Competitive will provide guidance and support to traveling teams as needed (i.e. requesting the travel permits, etc.).

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 by no later than October 1. The AKBA does not guarantee that any such requests will be approved by the Town of Aurora or Township of King.

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 AKBA's UIC tournament schedule as soon as the schedule is approved by the OBA so that umpires can be assigned to games.

The team will be invoiced by the AKBA 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, as the Association will be reaching out to them for house league or association sponsorships. Teams are not 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 its players to participate in more than one sport. That has been proven to be beneficial for the development of the whole athlete.

Competitive teams should not start off-season training until November 1; 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 1 and December 31. If teams start off-season training prior to January 1st, they are required to shut down coinciding with the Public and Catholic Holiday school closures.

After January 1, competitive teams are expected to practice 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 practices 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 disagreement between a Head Coach and the VP Competitive as to the classification of any given team, the decision will be passed to the Board for a classification decision on a team-by-team basis, in the Board's sole and unfettered discretion. The Board's decisions shall be final and binding.