



AKBA Competitive Team Policy

1. Competitive Teams

The Aurora-King Baseball Association (“AKBA”) shall operate competitive teams (Elite/High Performance and/or Rep and/or Select) annually.

The number of competitive teams in each age division shall be determined by the Board, in its sole and unfettered discretion.

2. Athlete Selection and Tryouts

2.1 Tryout Requirements

Each competitive team must conduct a minimum of **two (2) tryouts**.

- The **first tryout shall be open**.
- Any subsequent tryout may be **invite-only**, provided this is clearly communicated in advance by the Head Coach to:
 - tryout participants and/or their parents/guardians; and
 - the AKBA.

2.2 Multiple Teams in an Age Division

Where more than one competitive team exists in an age division:

- Head Coaches may coordinate and conduct tryouts simultaneously.
- Players and parents/guardians **must be clearly informed**, after each tryout, whether the player:
 - has been invited back to a Tier 1 team tryout;
 - has been invited back to Tier 2 team tryouts; or
 - has been released from further consideration.

At no time should there be uncertainty regarding which team a player is trying out for.

Any deviation from this structure requires **prior approval from the VP Competitive**.

2.3 Player Selection

The selection of players for each competitive team shall be at the **sole and unfettered discretion of the Head Coach**, subject to AKBA, YSBA, and OBA policies.

Once selected, a player shall be given **no more than twenty-four (24) hours** to complete registration and remit the **non-refundable competitive team fee** to secure their roster spot.

2.4 Tryout Timelines

- Elite and High Performance (“HP”) team tryouts shall be conducted within the timelines permitted by the OBA and YSBA.

- AKBA competitive team tryouts shall not begin earlier than permitted by YSBA regulations.
- Select team tryouts (if applicable) shall commence only after Rep team tryouts are completed and must be finalized by **September 30**.

3. Imports

Notwithstanding YSBA rules, the following import limits shall apply unless otherwise approved by the VP Competitive:

Age Group Import Limit

8U	0
9U	1
10U	2
11U	3
12U	4
13U	5
14U-18U	Minimum 50% Auroura/King-based-rostered players
Elite/HP	Minimum 40% Aurora/King-based-rostered players

All competitive teams must comply with OBA, YSBA and AKBA Release & Import Policies.

4. Team Composition

- Competitive teams must roster a **minimum of twelve (12) players**.
- Rosters below twelve (12) require **prior written approval** from the VP Competitive and President.
- Teams operating below the minimum without approval may be subject to discipline and shall be financially responsible for registration costs (excluding uniforms) for each roster spot below twelve.
- There is no maximum roster size; however, coaches must balance roster size with meaningful playing time.

Select teams must roster a **minimum of four (4) players from each applicable birth year**. Import limits for Select teams should align with Rep standards unless otherwise approved by the VP Competitive.

5. Birth-Year Eligibility

Players must try out for and be rostered to teams of their **own birth year**, subject to OBA policies.

- Players currently playing up at the time of adoption of this policy are grandfathered.
- Future exemptions may be granted **only** by the President and VP Competitive on a case-by-case basis, in their sole discretion, for players deemed to have **exceptional player status**.

“Exceptional Player Status” means a designation granted **only in rare and extraordinary circumstances** to a player who demonstrates a combination of **advanced baseball ability, physical readiness, emotional maturity, and off-field conduct** that clearly and materially exceeds the standard expected of players within their birth-year division.

Exceptional Player Status may only be granted with the **joint written approval** of the President and the VP Competitive, in their sole and unfettered discretion. The decision shall be final and is not subject to appeal.

6. Head Coaches

- For all teams other than those designated as HP or Elite, an open call for Head Coach applications shall occur annually no later than **August 15**.
- For HP & Elite teams, coaching calls will be made as early as April 1 of the year preceding the playing season
- The selection committee shall consist of:
 - the President;
 - the VP Competitive; and
 - one additional appointee agreed upon by the President and VP Competitive.
- If consensus cannot be reached, the President shall have final authority.

7. Support Staff

Each competitive team must roster:

- two (2) or more Assistant Coaches;
- one (1) Trainer; and
- one (1) Team Manager (may also serve as Team Treasurer).
- one (1) Team Treasurer (if not the Team Manager)

The Team Manager shall not be the Head Coach.

8. Certifications

All team staff must meet Baseball Ontario certification requirements and AKBA Screening Policy standards.

9. Team Finances

- Each team shall maintain a dedicated AKBA-approved CIBC account.
- Two unrelated signing officers are required.
- All withdrawals must be supported by written approval from both signatories.
- Budgets must be submitted to the VP, Finance by **January 1**.
- Financial updates are required:
 - April 1 (pre-season)
 - July 1 (mid-season)
 - September 15 (final)
- Teams may not carry forward more than **\$50** at the end of the season without written approval.

10. Equipment

- Teams are responsible for their own equipment.
- AKBA will supply:
 - 2–3 dozen game balls annually (subject to availability); and
 - all diamond-related equipment.

11. Uniforms, Apparel, and Intellectual Property

11.1 Uniforms

Any item included in the AKBA annual uniform package shall not be altered, modified, or further customized in any manner whatsoever. Only the approved AKBA uniform may be worn during games when representing the Association.

The sole exception to this requirement is where a tournament explicitly permits teams to design a specific item of apparel for exclusive use during that tournament.

11.2 Additional Apparel and Swag

Individuals and teams may purchase additional apparel and swag items—including, but not limited to, team bags, helmets, hoodies, jackets, practice shorts, and similar items—using personal or team funds exclusively through Centretown Sports (<https://centretownsports.com/collections/aurora-king-jays>).

Centretown Sports is the official supplier of AKBA-licensed apparel.

11.3 Use of AKBA Intellectual Property

The unauthorized use of AKBA’s designs and artistic works, including logos and related marks (“AKBA IP”), by any individual or team, for any purpose whatsoever, is strictly prohibited.

Competitive teams that are *required or encouraged by a tournament* to create custom apparel (e.g., caps) and wish to incorporate AKBA IP into such designs must:

1. Request official logo files from the VP, Administration & League Operations at leagueoperations@akba.ca; and
2. Submit a complete design mock-up for prior written approval by AKBA.

All other fan wear, player apparel, and accessories displaying AKBA IP—or anything substantially similar—must be purchased through Centretown Sports.

11.4 Sponsorship Logos

Corporate sponsorship logos may only be applied to items purchased through **Centretown Sports**. Teams are required to exercise discretion in the selection of corporate sponsors. For clarity, organizations that provide products or services intended for individuals **19 years of age or older** are **strictly prohibited** from being advertised in any form, including but not limited to team banners, apparel, equipment, or related materials.

Teams are prohibited from creating any custom apparel except as expressly permitted above.

12. Diamond Time Allocation

Game nights and practice allocations are determined annually and subject to municipal permit approval. Each team will receive at least one regular practice night in addition to their home game night.

13. Registration Fees

All competitive players must register with AKBA and pay the full Board-approved competitive fee.

14. Umpires

- **AKBA** shall pay umpire fees for all **regular-season home games**.
- **Teams** are responsible for all umpire fees associated with **exhibition games**.
- Any **schedule change or game cancellation** must be communicated to the **Umpire-in-Chief (UIC)** **no later than forty-five (45) minutes prior** to the scheduled start time of the game.
- Failure to provide the required notice will result in the **full umpire fee being charged to the team**, regardless of whether the game is played.

15. OBAs and Tournaments

- AKBA will reimburse OBA entry fees for qualifying teams.
- AKBA will also cover the costs for 13U, 15U and 18U teams to participate in Eliminations
- Teams must attend a minimum of **three (3)** sanctioned tournaments annually, not including the ones mentioned above.

16. Extra-Provincial Travel

All out-of-province or U.S. travel requires VP Competitive approval and compliance with insurance and permit requirements.

17. Hosting Tournaments

- The **annual “Father’s Day Classic” Tournament** shall be hosted by the **9U division** on **Father’s Day weekend**.
- The **annual “Mid-Summer Classic” Tournament** shall be hosted by the **12U division** in **July**.
- AKBA also aims to host two YSBA tournaments and will expect coaches to host when asked.
- Host teams shall **retain all tournament profits** and **assume responsibility for all associated costs**, including but not limited to diamond permits, umpire fees, and related expenses.
- The host team is responsible for providing the **AKBA Umpire-in-Chief (UIC)** with the tournament schedule **promptly upon approval by the OBA**, to ensure that umpires can be properly assigned to all games.

18. Sponsorship and Fundraising

Fundraising is limited to team families and friends. Cold-calling community sponsors is prohibited as the Association reserves the right to fundraise from these organizations.

19. Off-Season Training

- Off-season training should begin no earlier than **November 1**.
- Training should pause while schools are closed for the winter and March breaks.
- No player may be penalized for conflicts due to family or multi-sport commitments.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring insurance coverage for all off-season training sites

20. Team Classification

Team classifications must be approved by the VP Competitive. Disputes are resolved by the Board, whose decision is final.

21. OBA Elite Insurance Bond

Elite teams must include the OBA insurance bond in their budgets and be prepared to deliver payment to the AKBA. The AKBA shall administer these payments and any refunds in accordance with OBA and EBLO requirements.

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