



SIMCOE MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



REP POLICY



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SECTION 1.0- REP TEAM POLICY

1. Simcoe Minor Baseball Association (SMBA) has a mission as an organization to offer the youth of Simcoe and surrounding area, a quality baseball program for their recreation and athletic development. Further, we maintain an objective to match the level of competition to what their individual skills warrant. Consistent with this objective, the SMBA offers Rep baseball programs to facilitate a higher level of competition for players with advanced skill sets and a desire for increased competitive opportunities beyond our normal house league play.
2. The SMBA is an Association governed by the Southern Counties Baseball Association (SCBA), an Affiliate of Baseball Ontario (OBA).
3. Rep teams may participate in the Inter County Baseball Association (ICBA) or SCBA league play and normally participate in additional OBA sanctioned tournaments throughout the season. The Rep seasons are focused on **development** to qualify for OBA provincial championship tournaments held at the end of the summer.
4. SMBA is eligible for OBA Provincial play at B or C levels but **may** qualify from time-to-time for higher level play depending on the competitive level of individual teams. To qualify at a higher series (e.g. "A", "AA") the team in question would need to get approval from the SMBA Executive to do so.
5. ICBA league play is divided into two divisions or Tiers (Tier I & Tier II) based on competitive level. In general, SMBA will strive to play at the **Tier I level**. Any decision for a team not to play Tier I will need to be approved by the SMBA Executive.
6. Wherever possible, the SMBA Executive will strive to form Minor and Major teams for each Division of play where the number of players allows for this. Where this is not possible, the SMBA Executive will create a Major division team (i.e. combined Minor / Major aged players).
7. In general, the SMBA does not support players playing above their own age group or age series. An exception to the playing up rule will apply for players seeking to play up due to no SMBA rep team being available to them at their own age division. If there is not a Tier 1 team available for their age group, for a player to try out for, that player may try out for the next highest division Tier 1 team (e.g. if there is no 13U Tier 1 team, a 13U aged player may try out for the 14U or 15U Tier 1 team). If a player has been playing at a higher age level for two or more years, and a team at their own age group is formed, that player may continue to try out with the current team they have been with.

If a player has been playing at a higher age level for at least two consecutive years and a new Tier 1 team at their own age group is formed, that player may continue to try out with the team they had been previously playing with. Independent evaluators will review the tryouts, and if the player scores in the top 3 overall on the upper age team, that player may choose to stay with that team.
8. If a Minor team is formed, players must try out for their appropriate age group being either the Major or Minor team.



SECTION 2.0- REP TEAM TRY OUTS

1. In order to be eligible for a SMBA Rep team, a player must attend the scheduled tryouts for the appropriate team for that player's age category and be in adherence with the policies and procedures outlined.
2. A player must attend Tier 1 tryouts in order to be eligible for a Tier 2 or Southern Counties Rep team. If the player has attended and been released from the Tier 1 tryouts he or she may then tryout for any other team SMBA may be hosting at that player's age division. The only players eligible to bypass trying out for the higher level team are those that have been cut from Tier 1 tryouts at their age group for the previous two seasons.
3. Any player, who resides within the SMBA boundaries at the time of Tier 1 tryouts are held but does not attend tryouts, is NOT eligible for a SMBA Rep team. Release requests in these cases will not be considered. An exception to this will only apply to a new SMBA area resident who moved into the area after tryouts have been completed. These exceptions must be reviewed and approved by the SMBA Executive.
4. Players must attend tryouts as scheduled. Exceptions may be granted if medical issues prevent a player from attending. Exceptions must be reviewed and approved by the SMBA Executive. In cases where a player is injured and unable to participate in the tryouts, every effort should be made to attend the tryouts and assist in any way possible. Medical documentation may be requested by the SMBA Executive.
5. Prior to tryouts, "non-resident" SCBA players must provide a current "Permission to Practice form" supplied to them by the baseball association where they reside or they will be excluded from SMBA tryouts until a valid "Permission to Practice" is presented. This applies to any player from the Major Peewee age group and higher who wishes to try out for a Tier 1 SMBA team.
6. "Non-resident" players of 8U, 9U, or 10U age cannot try out for a SMBA Tier 1 team if their home centre is fielding a Rep team. In a case where no team will be available in the "non-resident's" home centre or if there is concern of a team not being established in that centre, the player will be allowed to tryout after securing a "Permission to Practice" from their home centre. The following year all "Non-resident" players must return and register with their original home centre.
7. A player not meeting the above criteria and found to be included on a SMBA Rep team's roster without the consent of the SMBA Executive will be immediately removed from that roster. Release requests in these cases will not be considered.
8. No coach will alter or make exception to these policies alone. These exceptions must be brought to the SMBA Executive for consideration and ruling.
9. No decision on whether a player has made the team or not will occur before the end of the third scheduled tryout. This allows all players a fair opportunity to fully demonstrate their abilities. At 14U and above, no decision on whether a player has made the team or not will occur before the end of the second scheduled tryout.



10. Following the first three tryouts, (or 2 for 14U and above) the head coach may notify players whether they have been selected or not for the team, in person. A SMBA executive member **must** be present when releasing Players from tryouts. This Executive member should not have any affiliation with this team if possible. For player counts above 18, this process can also be completed using the SMBA website, and each player being assigned a number, if a coach is given approval by the SMBA executive.

11. SMBA will hold September tryouts for **Tier I** teams. This will be done to accommodate other SCBA member associations and their “non-resident” players that are eligible to try out for a Tier 1 team in Simcoe. At the end of the September tryouts, coaches will need to decide whether these “non-resident” players will make the team or not. If a “non-resident” player does not make the team, they must return to their home centre. This is done so that the SCBA teams will know what players are available for their own centre when they start their tryouts in the New Year or spring. Any additional tryouts for non-Tier 1 teams in the fall must be approved by the SMBA Executive.

12. Carrying extra “non-resident” players past the fall tryouts for the purposes of selecting the team at a later date will need to be approved by the SMBA Executive.

13. All Rep tryouts will be coordinated and scheduled jointly by the SMBA Executive and selected Rep team coaches.

14. Rep teams that do not hold fall tryouts will have their tryouts indoors/outdoors in the New Year or spring, with approval from the SMBA Executive.

15. SMBA Executive members may visit tryouts to ensure compliance by all.

16. Any exceptions to the above rules must be reviewed and approved by the SMBA Executive Committee

SECTION 3.0- RELEASES

1. It is SMBA policy that players tryout for SMBA Rep teams. As mentioned in the SMBA Mission Statement, the SMBA strives to host Tier 1 teams that will compete in the ICBA which will offer a high level of competition and development.

2. SMBA players must attend the appropriate SMBA Rep team tryouts. If they do not attend, release requests will not be considered.

3. A player that is selected for a SMBA Rep team after trying out, who refuses to play with that team, will then be assigned to a SMBA House League team for that year and no release requests will be considered.

4. If, after tryouts, a player is not selected for a SMBA Tier 1 Rep team, he or she will then have the opportunity to try out for a lower level SMBA Rep team (Tier 2 or SCBA team) if available. If no other SMBA Rep team is available, the player then may try out for the closest SCBA Rep team.



5. When trying out for another SCBA team the player's rights will remain with SMBA as the player will be provided a "Permission to Practice" form. If the player makes the SCBA team he or she will not require a release (as per the SCBA Residency and Release Policy) and will be classified as a player on loan to that SCBA centre. The next year, the player will return and register with SMBA.

SECTION 4.0- EXTERNAL RELEASES

Process

If an SMBA player wishes to play for a Local Association in an OBA Affiliate other than SCBA, a written release is required from SMBA and SCBA.

The player must first request a release from the SMBA which holds the players playing rights. If it is granted, then a request for release must be made to SCBA. If a release request is denied by SMBA, the decision may be appealed to the SCBA. If it is denied by the SCBA, then it may be appealed to the OBA.

SECTION 5.0- REP UNIFORMS

1. All SMBA rep team uniforms and apparel that are worn in the park at any OBA, ICBA or SCBA sanctioned game must be the uniforms issued by the SMBA. Any additional apparel must be approved and ordered through the SMBA Executive and must be of SMBA colors: royal blue, white, and grey.

SECTION 6.0- FINANCIALS

1. All players on a SMBA rep team will be charged the current years Rep Fee in addition to the current year's registration fee, as determined by the SMBA Executive.

2. For a Rep team to qualify for the SMBA to pay their ICBA League Championship Tournament and OBA Provincial Tournament entry fee or award money from the SMBA, the following conditions must be met.

A) All players on the team have fully paid for registration and rep fees.

B) A team must not have any outstanding fines against the team from the OBA, ICBA or SCBA.

C) A team must fulfill all fundraising obligations established by the Association for the current baseball year (September to September). This includes participation in Association-wide fundraising initiatives, assisting with Association-hosted tournaments, and supporting other fundraising projects as directed by the Director of Fundraising and the SMBA Executive. All team fundraising activities must be coordinated through and approved by the Director of Fundraising and the SMBA Executive to ensure consistency with Association policies and accurate financial reporting.



SECTION 7.0- REP TOURNAMENTS

- 1: SMBA will strive to host a tournament for each of the current season's rep teams. SMBA may also host tournaments for specific age groups that SMBA may not be fielding a team for that season. Decisions on which tournaments to host and the dates for these tournaments will be decided on by the SMBA Executive.
- 2: For each tournament hosted, if SMBA is fielding a rep team at that level, it is expected of that rep team to participate in the tournament. Any exception for a rep team to not participate in the tournament must be granted by the SMBA executive.
- 3: SMBA will not charge the Rep team participating in their age specific tournament an Entry Fee for the SMBA hosted tournament. For each tournament hosted the Tournament Convener will provide a volunteer schedule for the tournament to the participating SMBA rep team. It is expected that the team will have all volunteer positions that are required, filled for the tournament. If the volunteer schedule is not filled the SMBA Executive will review and determine if Section 6 of the Rep Policy is violated and determine the appropriate penalty.
- 4: If a tournament is in need of an additional team to make it an even number of teams, the SMBA Executive has the right to offer a spot in the tournament to a SMBA Rep team who would not normally be participating. If the team is asked to participate, they would not be required to pay an entry fee for the tournament but would be expected to help fill the volunteer schedule for the tournament. This situation will most likely occur where we are hosting a Major aged tournament, but field both a Major and Minor team, with the minor team being asked to participate.

SECTION 8.0- FAIR PLAY POLICY

SMBA aims to foster and enhance mutual respect between players and coaches, increasing each player's understanding and passion for the game. A key metric in evaluating this, is the return rate of players to SMBA teams.

It is the position of SMBA that in order to achieve this for all players, SMBA coaches must operate with the intent of fair playing time for everyone. During exhibition games and regular season play, defensive playing innings and offensive at-bats will be kept close for all players. While pitch counts will not be kept equal, any player with an interest in pitching will be given opportunities to pitch throughout the year. Coaches should endeavor to get all players into every game. Where not possible, it is expected that coaches find a way to compensate a missed player in a subsequent game.

To achieve the desired outcome in playoff and tournament games, defensive innings and at-bats may be more out-of-line. SMBA coaches will still have the intent to get every player into each game if conditions allow.



Simcoe Minor Baseball Association

SMBA believes that this gives the broadest group of rep players a chance to improve their skills and return to play in subsequent years.

SECTION 9.0- JUNIOR BASEBALL

1. The SMBA will strive to field Junior aged teams whenever possible. These teams will be a part of the SMBA as part of the Rep program and will follow all rules and regulations of the SMBA Rep Policy.

SECTION 10.0- SENIOR BASEBALL

1. When and where interest is sufficient to field a Senior baseball team, such a team wanting to be affiliated through SMBA must follow all rules and regulations of the SMBA Rep Policy, save and except Financials (6.0). A Senior team will incur all costs for said team and will not be assigned any fundraising obligations. Any Senior team must be financially self-sufficient and will receive no monies from the SMBA Executive. If there are outstanding monies owed for diamonds, etc., the SMBA Executive will no longer allow the team to affiliate through SMBA and the OBA.

2. Any fundraising done by the Senior team must explicitly state 'Simcoe Senior Baseball', 'Simcoe Men's Baseball', or something to that effect. No reference to Simcoe Minor Baseball, including the use of the SMBA Simcoe Giants logo will be allowed for Senior team fundraising. The SMBA executive must be informed of any fundraising to ensure this requirement is met.