



Rep Team Tryout Guidelines

Head coaches are free to select players registered with St. Catharines Minor Baseball Association subject to each player meeting the residency, age restrictions and eligibility for the relevant age series. Players must be (a) residents of St. Catharines or an approved import, and (b) play at the level designated by their age in the calendar year of the baseball season.

Also, all players confirmed to a Cobras Rep roster may not play in, or be signed to, an alternate baseball program roster.

Rep Team Selection

All players will participate in a competitive tryout to be held in September of each calendar year. All players attending tryouts will receive a fair look for team selection.

Players must:

Tryout for the player's age series and fully participate in not less than 2 tryouts, with a notable exception: Head Coaches can make up to five (5) player offers after the first tryout.

Head Coaches will:

- Not make statements at the beginning of tryouts which infer that there are only a few spots open or that any player is assured a place on the team. In short, every spot on the team is open and must be earned.
- Select players based solely on a player's talent, dedication and coachability.
- Be sensitive to the player's self-esteem when cuts are made.
- Help players by being as specific as possible about the areas where improvement is needed.

When cutting or offering a roster spot to a player, St. Catharines Cobras uses the system of calling each player away from the broader group at the end of the tryout and speaking to both the player and their parent to either: (a) inform the player they have made the team; or (b) inform the player that they did not make the team, thanking the player for coming out to the tryout(s), and providing feedback regarding where the player needs to improve.

Running Tryouts

The Rep team tryouts are held in September each fall with the locations for such tryouts being posted on the St. Catharines Minor Baseball Association website. All participants must be residents of St. Catharines or fit within the published OBA residency and eligibility requirements. For the purposes of conducting tryouts for Rep team selections, baseball diamond locations are arranged yearly with St. Catharines Parks and Recreation.

The emphasis at the tryouts is on evaluating the player's core skills. It is important that the Head Coach retain a copy of the evaluation used for all player's that participated in try-outs. It is preferable to run tryouts with neutral coaches assisting where possible and to demonstrate neutrality when it comes to player selection.

Select team coaches are encouraged to participate in Rep team tryouts and work together with the Rep team Head Coach in selecting players.

Late Registrant

In the event a player seeks to play Rep baseball in St. Catharines following the completion of Rep team tryouts and wishes to be considered for an open spot on a Rep team, arrangements will be made by the VP of Rep and respective Rep team coaches to evaluate the player at an appropriate time and place.

Imports

St. Catharines Cobras will allow imports as set out below:

- Import players are for Rep teams ONLY
- St. Catharines Rep teams may take imports, if it makes their roster more competitive
- Imports can only tryout/practice with Cobras Rep teams AFTER they have a release or permission to tryout letter from their local association.
- There is no maximum number of imports allowed
- Once an import makes a Cobras Rep team, they will be treated the same as any other St. Catharines player and will be grandfathered in for future seasons.

Playing Up

Except in the rare case where a Rep team is not hosted at their age group, St. Catharines Cobras does NOT permit playing up above a player's birth year. Our goal is to provide teams at all ages which can develop players.

Requirements for Number of Players

Each Rep team, where possible, should carry a minimum of 20 players into their winter workout program.

St. Catharines Cobras roster deadline will mirror the OBA's, which may be amended from time to time.