

Halton Hills Minor Baseball

2021 Travel (Rep and COBA Select) Tryout Guidelines

Tryout Registration and Schedule

* All players must register for the tryouts online at <https://hhmba.sportngin.com/register/form/549441184#_ga=2.135376825.96686360.1600190428-90717988.1597324190> in advance of the first scheduled tryout.
  + Online registration will close on Tuesday September 15th
  + For any out of town player wishing to try out for an Eagles rep team, all required releases or permission to tryout will be required to be handed in at the appropriate tryout venue before you will be allowed to participate
* There will be a $15.00 outdoor tryout fee for each player that must be paid online.
* At the initial tryout session, each player]/family will receive “Welcome to Eagles Nation” letter. The Letter allows the Head Coach to communicate the program’s goal and expectations and outlines the anticipated team costs for the season.

* The Rep team tryouts begin in mid-September.
  + With the exception of Junior, MEL or BEL (if necessary), which will be scheduled and communicated separately.
* Tryouts for 2021 Rep and COBA Select and will be completed by September 30th(weather dependent).
  + Tryouts for the House League All-Star will be completed in the Spring of 2021.
* Players are encouraged to arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to the first tryout to facilitate the sign-in process and be fully warmed up by the tryout starting time.
* The complete schedule for tryouts will be posted on the Halton Hills Minor Baseball website immediately as soon as possible. *Schedule is subject to change.*
* All participants must be residents of Halton Hills or fit within the residency and eligibility requirements as per the Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) constitution Section P1.3
* Any Halton Hills player wishing to play in another centre must first secure a release from HHMBA through the Directors of Eagles of Travel Team. Releases will not be given once a player has committed and signed a HHMBA roster. Please refer to the Player Releases section for more information.

Team Definition and Structures

Tier 1 – this is the first Representative team selected at an age cohort and will be the able to classify within our regular season COBA league as either “Tier 1” or “Tier 2” for the purposes of regular season division placement, with the alignment of the Head Coaches and Directors of Eagles Travel. This team will classify with the OBA for the purposes of annual Championships.

Tier 2 - this is the second Representative team selected at an age cohort and will be the able to classify within our regular season COBA league as either “Tier 2” or “COBA Select” for the purposes of regular season division placement with the alignment of the Head Coaches and Director of Eagles Travel.. This team will classify with the OBA for the purposes of annual Championships.

COBA Select – this is the third team selected at an age cohort and will be the able to classify within our regular season COBA league as only “COBA Select” for the purposes of regular season division placement with the alignment of the Head Coaches and Director of Rep. This team will classify with SOBA for the purposes of annual Championships.

House League All Star (previously House League Select) - this is the third or fourth team selected at an age cohort. These players must register and participate in the HHMBA House League program and will get additional baseball opportunities within the Select program through a series of practices, tournaments and potentially a formed House League Select league (where available). These players must make the HHMBA house league games and practices their priority throughout the course of the season. This team has the option to classify with SOBA for the purposes of annual Championships. All House League Select teams must contain at least three (3) players from each age cohort at that level. Tryouts for these teams will take place after January 1st, 2021 and could include a combination of indoor and outdoor tryouts)

Tryout Process and Player Selection Details

* All Rep coaches will be approved and named no later than the Tuesday following Labour Day.
* All coaches must attend a pre-tryouts meeting with the Directors of Eagles Travel.
* Tier 1 Rep coaches are permitted to name no more than one (1) assistant coach prior to tryouts. Lower tiers (Tier 2, COBA Select) cannot name their one (1) assistant coach until after the completion of the tryouts one level higher.
  + All assigned head coaches and the assistant can be on the field to run the tryout sessions.
* Only HHMBA scheduled/approved tryouts are permitted. Changes to the tryout schedule must be approved by a Director of Eagles Travel and will be communicated by the Association.
* All players trying out for an age level must attend all tryouts until selected for that team or released. There are no invitation only tryouts allowed.
* During tryouts, no players are permitted to wear Halton Hills Eagles rep or select uniforms / hats / spirit wear / gear. A numbered tryout t-shirt is expected to be the top layer of visible clothing for each player (players can wear one from a past season). Only the coaches and assistant coaches may wear Eagles gear. Rep or Select baseball pants are exempted from this policy and may be worn.
* 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 players that participated in try-outs.
* The complete tryout attendance List for each age level must be submitted by the head coach to the respective Director of Eagles Travel within 7 days of the conclusion of the tryouts and a copy to be kept on file at the HHMBA office.
* All players not selected for the Tier 1 program will be eligible for the Tier 2/Select program. The Tier 1 coach has the first selection right to choose a player looking for a spot on an HHMBA rep team.
* Players may not decline a spot on the Tier 1 or Tier 2 team in order to play on the lower level team. A position offered must be accepted in order to play Rep baseball.
* Respective head coaches will have the ability to determine what level their team will play in 2021 – Either COBA Tier 1 or COBA Tier 2 by the league deadline in January 2021.
  + The second team will play at least one level lower than the first team within COBA, subject to executive approval.
* At the conclusion of COBA Select tryouts, the respective head coach will only be able to classify as COBA Select.

* Each tryout moves the selection process along for both the Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams at the respective age group
* After each tryout, all players will receive an email sent to the address provided within the online registration written notification indicating:

* + An offer to join that team
  + An invitation to return to the next tryout for that level within the age group
  + Be released to the next level down (Tier 2, COBA Select, House League)

* Tryout #1 – All players trying out for the age group are expected to attend. After Tryout #1, Tier 1 Coaches may offer up to six (6) players a position on the team. These players must respond, to the offer within 24 hours of the end of this tryout. All remaining players will be asked to attend Tryout #2
  + Tryout #2 - After Tryout #2, Tier 1 Coaches may offer up to three (3) players a place on the team. These players are to respond to the offer within 24 hours of the end of this tryout. The Tier 1 coach may release players after the second tryout. All players released will be invited to Tryout #4 to continue their tryout for the Tier 2 team.
  + Tryout #3 – Following this tryout, Tier 1 coaches will offer their final selections a place on the team. These players are to respond to the offer within 24 hours of the end of this tryout roster. All remaining players will be released and invited to Tryout #4 for the age group, in an effort to finalize the Tier 2 team.
  + Tryout #4 – Following this tryout, Tier 2 coaches may offer up to six (6) players a position on the team. These players are to respond to the offer within 24 hours of the end of this tryout roster. All remaining players will be asked to attend Tryout #5
  + Tryout #5 – Following this tryout, Tier 2 coaches will offer their final selections a place on the team. These players are to respond to the offer within 24 hours of the end of this tryout roster. All remaining players will be released and invited to Tryout #6 for the age group, in an effort to finalize the COBA Select team.
  + Tryout #6 and #7 – These tryouts will be for COBA Select teams at the respective levels. No releases or offers may be made after tryout #6. Following these tryouts, coaches will offer all of their selections a place on the team. These players are to respond to the offer within 24 hours of the end of this tryout roster. All other players will be released to the HHMBA house league program.
  + The association may add tryout sessions and will publish them accordingly due to coaches’ requests or weather related issues. Players and families should keep an eye on the website for details.
* Players interested in playing for a rep or COBA Select team must attend all tryouts as scheduled. Exceptions may be granted if medical or other issues prevent a player from attending. Exceptions must be reviewed and approved by a rep director and coach.
* Players who are interested in House League All Star must attend the Spring 2021 tryouts, but are encouraged to attend the Rep and COBA Select level tryouts to provide coaches an opportunity to observe their skills and suitability for the program.
* 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.
* A player not meeting the above criteria and found to be included on a HHMBA Rep team's roster without the consent of the rep committee will be immediately removed from that roster. Release requests in these cases will not be considered.
  + No coach will alter or make exception to these policies. Any coach doing so will be immediately suspended until a review can be completed and other sanctions may be imposed.

Rep and Select Team Structure and Players

Team Rosters

* As the policies and procedures of the Halton Hills Minor Baseball Association, all rep and select level teams must roster a minimum of 12 players following the completion of their tryouts. Any requests for exceptions to this rule must be made to the respective Direction of Eagles Rep for consideration.

Player Imports

* Halton Hills Minor Baseball will allow imports for Rep teams as set out below:
* Both Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams are able to take imports if selected by the head coach.
* Imports can only tryout/practice with an Eagles team AFTER they have a release or permission to tryout letter from their local association.
  + Major Bantam (u15) and up – Team 1 (regardless of tier, including COBA Select) may carry up to three (3) imports. Team 2, playing only in Tier 2, can roster up to 3 import players on the condition that there are 11 “local” players. Grandfathered players are exempt from this policy.
  + Minor Bantam (u14) and lower – Tier 1 teams may carry up to three (3) import players. Tier 2 teams may have one (1) import. Grandfathered players are exempt from this policy.
* MEL and BEL are exempt from the import policy as per OBA rules

Playing Up

* Except in the case where a HHMBA Rep is not hosted at their age group, the HHMBA does NOT permit playing up above a player's birth year. Our goal is to provide teams at all ages, which can develop players for their own cohort.

Player Releases

* Any player who is a resident of Halton Hills at the time tryouts are held but does not attend tryouts, is not eligible for a HHMBA team. Release requests in these cases will not be considered. This would not apply to new Halton Hills residents who move into Halton Hills after tryouts have been completed.
* Players who are offered a spot on a Halton Hills team, but do not wish to accept it in order to play for the lower level team will not be granted a release to tryout for another association.
* Each release request will be dealt with on an individual basis
* No releases will be given until HHMBA’s tryouts are complete

* All of these tryout policies and procedures can be reviewed. Exceptions may be granted by the executive of the HHMBA for the betterment of baseball in Halton Hills.

Any questions or concerns should be brought to the attention of the Rep Directors –Bob DeZeeuw bob.dezeeuw@hhmba.ca