



The Outlaws Baseball Experience

The Outlaws Baseball program is committed to providing players and parents of the Foothills Minor Baseball Association (FMBA) an avenue to play competitive ball at a high level. As an association, it is very important that we foster an environment that strives for excellence through hard work and positive competitive spirit. Outlaws players, coaches and parents represent this and should always portray themselves as positive role models within the community.

As Outlaws players, your children will not only work to improve upon the skill set necessary to play the game at a competitive level but also learn and experience the benefits of dealing with adversity, improving one's physical fitness, and having dedicated focus on achieving goals in sport.

Playing Outlaws baseball suggests that certain commitments must be made. These major commitments are time, travel, and financial (which can be reduced via fundraising efforts by individual teams). With only 14 players per team players are expected to attend all practices, games, and team functions as reasonably possible. If families are taking extended vacations or have high commitment levels in other sports or activities this should be discussed prior to evaluations. We do not want to take away a roster spot from a full-time player for a player that can only play part of the time. Failure to fulfill commitments by any player or parent will result in a review of that players privilege to play in the Outlaws Baseball program.

What are you Committing to?

- A.** 2 to 3 weekday Practices weekly.
- B.** Weekend games and tournaments.
 - a. Usually 2 to 3 weekends per month.
 - b. Season runs from May through to July and possibly August Long weekend.
- C.** Independent Tournament Play.
 - a. Typically, teams will play in two additional tournaments outside of the scheduled league play.
 - b. These tournaments are normally held over May long weekend and a weekend in June/July (dependant on league schedule). Your team will be notified of the weekends of play for these tournaments when the team selection is complete.
- D.** Travel throughout the province.
 - a. Schedule and location is determined by Baseball Alberta.
 - b. As the season progresses you will likely have to travel farther because your team will be placed in a specific tier (tiers are used to even out the talent pool in order for you to play teams of equal talent).
 - c. Distances can range as provincials could be held anywhere in the province but most travel is usually to towns between Okotoks and the Edmonton area.
- E.** Fundraising
 - a. As a member of the Outlaws Baseball program it is expected that team players and parents raise funds to offset costs in the season.
 - b. The level of fundraising is determined by the team manager based on the interest by parents.
 - c. Ideas and opportunities for fundraising will be listed in the managers manual that is given to the team manager once the team has been formed.
 - d. If you wish to forgo fundraising activities all money issued to the team will not be refunded to you but instead will be divided among those player/parents that took part.



Cost

Your initial FMBA registration fee (taken at time of registration) will cover basic expenses related to Baseball Alberta, insurance, basic equipment, etc. Once placed on an Outlaws team (after evaluations) an additional Outlaws fee is collected by FMBA. These fees are utilized to offset the cost of additional facility rentals, umpires, Baseball Alberta "AA" team fees and specific team costs.

Outlaws teams are also required to prepare their own team budgets to cover expenses related to additional tournaments, equipment, indoor field/batting practice, etc. This is most commonly done through a cash call from the team treasurer to parents. Cash call amounts can vary from team to team. This charge is reduced over the course of the year through fundraising.

There will also be an opportunity to purchase Outlaws branded apparel prior to the season. The cost for these items are not included in estimates and there is a portion of the apparel lineup that is mandatory.

The amount of fundraising activity will have a direct impact on the final cost per player to the families

Initial FMBA Registration Fee: \$200 - Collected by FMBA

Outlaws Fee: \$325 - Collected by Team Treasurer and Given to FMBA

Team Cash Call: \$200 to \$300 - (estimate only) Collected by Team Treasurer

The Player Evaluation Process

An Evaluation Fee of \$25 is required and should be paid at the first evaluation session

In March, players who have registered for Outlaws Baseball and are willing to make the commitment necessary will be required to attend the evaluation sessions for their registered division. The evaluations (tryouts) are conducted under the direction of the Outlaws Director and FMBA Technical Director and by Coaches of the Okotoks Dawgs baseball club as independent evaluators. The evaluations are based on the players age category, skill, development potential, and perceived dedication. This enables the player to be placed at the skill level that is appropriate for them.

Evaluations will consist of two **mandatory** open sessions where all players will be evaluated. Once the second session is completed the top 16 players in each division will be invited back for a final session that will include a full infield practice as well as live pitching and hitting to better understand their skill when placed in those situations. The players not invited to the final session will round out the other teams in the division or be cut and asked to play house league baseball.



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In an effort to prepare your child for evaluations the following criteria will be utilized when evaluating the players. All criteria will be graded on a 5-point scale. Each station will consist of 5/6 reps per player.

1. Pitching
 - a. Mechanics, Accuracy, Velocity, Arm Action
2. Hitting
 - a. Mechanics, Contact, Athleticism, Power
3. Fielding
 - a. Mechanics/Positioning, Athleticism, Fielding Ability, Arm Action
4. Running
 - a. 2 timed attempts at running 50/55 ft distances

Coaching

Once players have been placed on their respective team's coaches will be chosen for them based on the applications submitted to FMBA prior to the season. We strongly encourage parents to take an interest in coaching as it is an integral part of our ability to field teams.

All Outlaws coaches are required to meet FMBA requirements which are in alignment with Baseball Alberta. Coaching certification courses will be made available in April prior to the start of the season. For more information regarding coaching certification you can find it at:

<http://www.baseballalberta.com/content/nccp-requirements>