

HALTON HILLS EAGLES MINOR BASEBALL

2024 TRAVEL TRYOUT GUIDELINES



Thank you for your interest in trying out for the Halton Hills Eagles 2024 season. We have created and shared this document to clearly outline the tryout process for all families as best we can. The tryout process described in this guideline was developed to ensure the highest level of fairness and transparency to all players involved in the tryouts. If you are new to rep baseball in Halton Hills, we suggest reading through the entire document in detail as there are answers to many of your questions in here and maybe some answers to things you don't know.

Due to weather and other reasons the tryout process is fluid so there may be changes to your designated tryout times. Please check out our tryout information page at the following link for the latest schedule and any updates from the HHMBA executive team.

<https://www.hhmba.ca/content/tryouts>

Tryout Registration and Schedule

- All players must register for the tryouts online in advance of the first scheduled tryout
 - Online registration will close after the final tryout is complete
 - Any player who is not a resident of Halton Hills requires a release from their current association in advance of the first tryout for that age group
- There will be a \$20.00 tryout fee for each player that must be paid online.
- The complete schedule for tryouts will be posted on <https://www.hhmba.ca/content/tryouts> as soon as possible and as noted above this schedule is subject to change.
- At the initial tryout session, each player/family will receive a “Welcome to Eagles Nation” letter. This letter allows the head coach for that level to communicate the program’s goal and expectations and outlines the anticipated team costs for the season.
- All rep and COBA select team tryouts will begin in early to mid-September.
 - The process for the 22U team will be determined and communicated in early September
- Tryouts for all 2024 rep and COBA select teams will be completed by September 30th (weather dependent)
- 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.
- 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

Team 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. If a team declares to play their regular season in Tier 1 they will then classify with the OBA for the purposes of annual championships as an “AAA” or “AA” team. If a team declares to play their regular season in Tier 2 they will then classify with the OBA for the purposes of annual championships as an “A” or “B” team.

Team 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. If a team declares to play their regular season in Tier 2 they will then classify with the OBA for the purposes of annual championships as an “A” or “B” team. (Note: For 2024 we are not expecting to have any Team 2 teams within a single age cohort)

Note: For 2024 we have determined that 18U Team 2 will be combined age group across 3 different ages assuming that there are enough players who register to play.

Team 2 / Team 3 – 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. This team will classify with Baseball Ontario Dedicated Select for the purposes of annual Championships.

Tryout Process and Player Selection Details

- All rep coaches will be approved and named no later than the first Tuesday following labour day
- All coaches must attend a pre-tryout meeting with the directors of Eagles rep baseball
- Team 1 Rep coaches are permitted to name no more than one (1) assistant coach prior to tryouts. Lower tiers (Team 2, Team 3) 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
 - Head coaches and assistants from other age groups are permitted and encouraged to help but there should be no additional parents on or around the field assisting with tryouts
- Only HHMBA scheduled and approved tryouts are permitted. Changes to the tryout schedule must be approved by a director of Eagles rep and will be communicated by the association to all families on the main tryout page.
- **NEW in 2023 - Any player who played the prior season in COBA select or House League may choose to start their tryout experience at the second round of tryouts if they wish. This is not required but is an option available to the player. We would ask you to inform the Team 1 coach of this decision in writing prior to the start of the first tryout so that they can plan their practice accordingly. Any player indicating this choice would be marked as “released to next tryout” by the Team 1 coach.**
- 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.
- If a player is injured, sick or missing for another reason they should inform the head coach at that level as soon as possible
- 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.
- All players should be given a fair and unbiased evaluation with the same amount of evaluation time being given to all players
- The complete tryout attendance List for each age level must be submitted by the head coach to the respective director of Eagles rep 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 Team 1 team will be eligible for the Team 2 / Team 3 teams.
- The Team 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 Team 1 or Team 2 team in order to play on the lower level team. A position offered must be accepted in order to play travel baseball.
- Respective head coaches will have the ability to determine what level their team will play in 2024 – Either COBA Tier 1 or COBA Tier 2 by the league deadline in January 2024.
 - The second team will play at least one level lower than the first team within COBA, subject to executive approval.
- At the conclusion of Team 2 (Multi year) the respective head coach will work with their HHMBA director to determine the correct classification but this team would generally classify as COBA Select.
- Each tryout moves the selection process along for both the Team 1 and Team 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 (Team 2, Team 3)
 - Coaches are required to adhere to the following guidelines when making selections and releases

Please review the following table for an overview of the selection process:

3 teams at an age level (Team 1, Team 2, Team 3 (Multi age))

Tier	Tryout #	Players selected after	Outcome for players not selected after tryout
Team 1	1	6	All players return to tryout #2
Team 1	2	3	Some return for tryout #3, remainder released to tryout #4
Team 1	3	Rest of team	All remaining players return for tryout #4
Team 2	4	6	Some return for tryout #5, remainder released to tryout #6
Team 2	5	Rest of team	All remaining players return for tryout #6
Team 3	6	0	All players return for tryout #7
Team 3	7	Rest of team	Remaining players released to HHMBA house league

2 teams at an age level (Team 1, Team 2 (Multi-age))

Tier	Tryout #	Players selected after	Outcome for players not selected after tryout
Team 1	1	6	All players return to tryout #2
Team 1	2	3	Some return for tryout #3, remainder released to tryout #4
Team 1	3	Rest of team	All remaining players return for tryout #4
Team 2	4	6	All remaining players return for tryout #5
Team 2	5	Rest of team	Remaining players released to HHMBA house league

1 team at an age level

Tier	Tryout #	Players selected after	Outcome for players not selected after tryout
Team 1	1	6	All players return to tryout #2
Team 1	2	3	All players return to tryout #3
Team 1	3	Rest of team	Remaining players released to HHMBA house league

- 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 an Eagles travel team (Team 1, Team 2 or Team 3 (Multi-age) 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.
- 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.

Eagles Travel 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 director of Eagles rep for consideration. Coaches are permitted (and encouraged) to take more than 12 players per team, especially at older age groups.

Player Imports

- Halton Hills Minor Baseball allows for imports for our rep teams based on the following guidelines
 - Both Team 1 and Team 2 teams are able to take imports if selected by the head coach
 - Import players can only tryout/practice with an Eagles team AFTER they have a release or permission to tryout letter from their local association
 - Players who have played the previous year in Halton Hills are exempt from this policy and are no longer considered an import player for the current year
 - EBLO or Elite teams are exempt from the import policy as per OBA rules
 - Please see the number of allowed import players per age level in the table below

3 teams at an age level (Team 1, Team 2, Team 3 (Multi age))

Age Group	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3
15U and Older	3 import players	3 import players provided there are 11 local players	1 import player

14U and younger	3 import players	2 import players provided there are 10 local players	1 import player
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2 teams at an age level (Team 1, Team 2 (Multi-age))

Age Group	Tier 1	Team 2 (Multi-age)
15U and Older	3 import players	3 import players provided there are 11 local players
14U and younger	3 import players	2 import players provided there are 10 local players

1 team at an age level

Age Group	
All age groups	2 import players provided there are 10 local players

Note: The above rules apply only if there are enough local players trying to complete a roster. If a roster can only be completed with additional import players than an exception can be made with approval from the appropriate Eagles rep director.

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 an HHMBA team. Release requests in these cases will not be considered.
 - This policy does 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 Eagles rep directors

Sr. Rep - Scott Stubberfield (scott.stubberfield@hhmba.ca)

Jr. Rep – Jeremy Brown (Jeremy.brown@hhmba.ca)