

## 11U Mosquito Rep Baseball

Parents and players,

Welcome to a new year of baseball! My name is Rob Mercer and I will be the Head Coach for the 11U Mosquito Rep team this year. I am excited to get things started for the season and would like to take the time to provide a brief overview of what to expect.

The 11U club will be formed with players from two age cohorts - 2009 and 2010. As a result, I am expecting to form a team that really wants to play ball, to have tonnes of fun and learn the great game of baseball all within a structured environment. The primary focus will be on player development and as such you can expect 2-3 practices a week lasting for 2 hours. Additionally, we'll have at least 2 games a week not including tournaments. Practices and games could take place on both weekdays and weekends.

I have been coaching baseball and hockey for over 11 years. This will be my 5<sup>th</sup> season coaching Rep ball and my second coaching at my youngest son's age. I will bring a positive atmosphere to the diamond every day and players will only be supported and encouraged at all times. Baseball can be a hard game to play at times and mistakes will be made on the field, but rest assured that the dugout will always be a positive place for every player.

The League operates under a fair play policy for the team and so will this team. This means that all players will have equal time on the field during all games. Players will have an opportunity to play all positions, but will not be forced to play a position they do not want to play. New this year for Baseball Ontario (OBA) are the arm care rules, found [here](#). These new rules closely monitor the number of pitches thrown to protect the arms of players. As such, this means more opportunity for players to try pitching.

With all of this in mind, this still is a competitive team and I will manage it accordingly.

**Tryouts:** Tryouts for the Mosquito division will be starting in January. Please check the KBA website for updates on this process. All sessions will take place at the Beckwith Fieldhouse.

I am looking for eagerness to play, hustle and a positive attitude and looking to extend offers to approximately 12-13 players for the upcoming season.

**Team Training:** Team training will start in February at Beckwith. We are tentatively scheduled to practice on Sunday afternoons. Once the official start date is confirmed I will forward it to everyone. These indoor training sessions are scheduled to last until the end of April, but the sooner we can get outside the better.

Players will be expected to wear full protective equipment, ball pants and a ball cap for all practices and be ready to work.

Practice is a time to hone in skills and to get better. So each practice will be designed to help improve the team as the year moves forward. Each practice will not always be identical but certain components will be the same every practice. We'll always start with stretches/warm-ups and arm strengthening. From there the team will start the necessary drills of the day and follow up with batting practice. This

year I also want to have a pitchers/catchers weekly practice. I haven't quite figured on the logistics of this yet but this will be time dedicated to pitching. More on that to follow.

**Regular Season Games:** Games are expected to start in May and run until August. At this level I expect that the players arrive ready to play 45 minute prior to first pitch. This would provide ample time for the players to get warm (stretches, throwing and BP) and to get ready for the game. After each game we will have a quick team meeting down the line!

Schedules and teams have yet to be determined, so more on that to follow.

**Tournaments:** The final determination of tournament participation will be concluded shortly after the team is formed. Our preliminary target is 4-5 tournaments which will be a combination of local and away tournaments throughout the season. Our team may also qualify for a spot in the Provincial Championships which will take place over the Labour Day Weekend and will likely be in Southern Ontario. Understandably, all families are busy over the summer so the team will move quickly to lock down dates to help with summer planning.

**Cost Expectations:** The following provides a guideline for what families could expect:

- Team Training – \$125-\$150
- Kanata Baseball Regular Season Registration - \$450-\$500
- Team Fees - we will collect team fees of approximately \$300-\$400 to cover tournament entry and other team and player development costs.

***Important to Note: Players are also responsible for uniforms.***

**Fundraising/Sponsorship:** Fundraising & sponsorship will be key to offset some of the costs and manage team fees for the competitive season. Final fundraising/sponsorship plans and ideas will be discussed at a later date.

**Parents Roles:** I will be looking for various team positions, once the dust settles, such as a manager and a treasure for team operations. For games, the team will also need someone to count pitches and to score the game. From experience this is best served by two people. So please keep these in mind. I will schedule a parents meeting once the team is formed.

**Expectations:** I expect players to show up on time and ready to play. I will not accept the throwing of equipment or poor conduct and unsportsmanlike behaviour towards teammates, opponents or umpires. However, I will promote an atmosphere of positivity, hard work and teamwork. We will have a great year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at [robmerc556@gmail.com](mailto:robmerc556@gmail.com). Looking forward to a great season in 2020!