



Kanata Cubs

15U Bantam Rep Baseball



Welcome to the 2021 Baseball season!

My name is Jim Bonner and I am excited to welcome all players from the 2006 birth year to try out for this year's **15U Bantam Rep** team. I would like to present a general plan for the upcoming season along with some coaching philosophies, strategies, and expectations for the team.

My goal this year is to create a fun, hardworking learning environment, with high paced practices that focus on a combination of athletic conditioning, intensity, individual skills and team skills. Our coaching staff and technical advisors will focus on the values of respect, teamwork and putting team success ahead of personal gain.

For this age group, Canada's long-term athletic development model recommends that players have fair playing time on the field across regular season games and that players play multiple positions that settle down to 1 or 2 key roles by season's end. Since our goals are primarily about learning and continuous improvement, my plan is to abide by these recommendations as much as possible. However, during highly competitive situations such as tournament playoff games and regular season playoff games, players may see some unequal playing time.

Tryouts:

There will be 2 sessions at Kanata Baseball's Upper Kinsmen diamond: Saturday October 3rd and Sunday October 4th – both from 2:30pm to 4:00pm. There will be non-parent evaluators from different age levels assessing at our tryouts to ensure a fair and objective process. I am looking for players who demonstrate enthusiasm for the game, a positive attitude, athleticism and a variety of baseball skills.

Spring Training:

Spring training will start in mid-January and go until the start of the season in May. By mid-March I am hoping to have two practices per week through to May. The primary location for training will be the Beckwith fieldhouse and some additional gym time will be booked to work more team focused drills and conditioning. Much of this is will be contingent upon availability of facilities considering the current pandemic.

Regular Season:

- **Games:** There will be on average 2 games a week from May through early August. We are still finalizing our season schedule between the EOBA and NCOBA loops. We hope to also have exhibition games against teams in NCOBA, teams from ABEO and other associations. We will look to play the best competition available in our region to foster our development as a team.
- **Practices:** The team will have a maximum 1-2 practices a week, depending on game schedule. On field practices will be organized by a variety of drills. A mix of station-based drills as well as game situation strategies are the general plan for our on-field practices. I plan to run team-oriented drills to have players pushing their teammates to drive for more success. Now that players are getting older, we will have fewer practices that are more intense with more focus on strategy.

Player Development:

In addition to our team coaches, I plan to bring in outside resources to assist further with the development of our players. Hitting, pitching and catching are areas of focus where specific experts can be hired to address technical development goals.

I also plan to seek opportunities for our team and its players to mentor some of the younger teams within Kanata Baseball. Helping others is a great way to learn more about the game and to give back to the association.

Tournaments:

Tournament participation will be determined in early Spring. Our target is 3-5 tournaments which will be a combination of local and out of town tournaments throughout the season. We do take into consideration the location/distance, but our priority is finding opportunities where we can be competitive and challenge to win.

Our team may also earn a spot in the Provincial Championships which will take place over the Labour Day Weekend and will be Guelph (A) or Kemptville (AA). As in previous years, we are required to declare our intent for classification in June and we will not classify without consulting families regarding availability. Participation at provincials will be a team decision.

Cost Expectations:

Fees for the upcoming season are broken down as follows (please note that fees are still being finalized and this provides a guide only as to what fees could be):

- Spring Training – \$150-\$175 – cost recovery for indoor time at Beckwith
- Kanata Baseball Association Regular Season Registration - \$450-\$500
- Team Fees - \$300-\$350 (covers tournament entry and other team and player development costs). Team fees may increase or decrease based on any fundraising or sponsorship taken on by the team
- Uniforms – \$125-\$150. KBA has standardized its uniform package so returning players may be able to re-use last year's uniform or components.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at jimbonner@yahoo.ca. I am looking forward to a great season in 2021 and hope to see you at tryouts!

