

September 18th 2020

My name is Brian Pettigrew and it is my great pleasure to take on the role of U10 Head Coach for the 2021 season. It promises to be a wonderful year!



I have been passionate about the game of baseball throughout my entire life and have been involved in the sport in a variety of roles: as a youth I played Rep ball in my small community of Dunnville, ON; I played in the Men's Baseball League here in Ottawa (NCBL) for several seasons, I coached a high school baseball team at South Carleton for 9 years, and then have coached my two sons for the past 6 years at various levels within the KBA. My coaching portfolio also includes 16 years of basketball coaching at both the high school and community level (Goulbourn Hornets) as well as 6 years as a soccer coach. Suffice to say, I have a love of sport - particularly baseball - and a large chunk of my life has been dedicated to volunteering in the field.

Ultimately, I view sports as a means to learn some of life's most important lessons. This basic philosophy extends to a number of elements associated with my expectations of players:

- Regular attendance is an expectation; there are always exceptions and the summertime offers particular challenges (vacations, etc.) but there is no substitute for showing up
- Playing time will be equal and time on the bench will be spread out amongst members of the team evenly. The only exception would be related to practice attendance where players who are absent for extended periods would be asked to fill the extra bench spots in the case of odd numbers.
- All players at the 10U age-group require development and therefore need the opportunity to participate in different roles and positions on the team. That said, not all players desire nor are suited to play every single position. For example, we will begin the year offering all players the opportunity to try pitching as it is new to this age group but as the year progresses some players will naturally assume the role more than others. This basic principle applies to other positions on the field as well. Coaches will work with individual players throughout the season to establish the roles where players can achieve their greatest success.
- Baseball is fun. Competing is fun. Personal improvement is fun. Team success is fun. The expectation is that players will come to the field everyday with a positive mindset of being part of a team and having fun. We will ride the highs and lows of our season together.

While some of the details cannot be formalized due to COVID restrictions the basic operating structure of the 10U season will be:

- Indoor Training: February to April - Beckwith/Sensplex - 1 (possibly 2) per week
- Season: May-August - 1-2 practices per week, 1-2 games per week
- Tournaments: 3-4 - one in Kanata, one local, and at least one out of town
- Team Fees: Estimate \$400 per player (Note: this number is in addition to league fees and will vary as it includes uniform costs, tournament fees and some miscellaneous items which are difficult to know at this time. Still, it is based on the 9U model from last year which had a similar structure)

As per team selection, I will be sending out offer letters by the end of the day on October 11th and will require a response within 24 hours. Upon acceptance of all offers, the roster will be formalized and those who are not given an offer will be released and options will be provided in the release letter by the end of the day on October 12th.

The 2021 season promises to be wonderful. Thanks to everyone who registered! I look forward to seeing you on the field!

Brian Pettigrew.