



# Kanata Cubs 11U Rep Baseball



My name is Brian Pettigrew and it is my great pleasure to take on the role of 11U Head Coach for the 2022 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 7 years at various levels within the KBA - including the last two years at the Rep OBA level as Head Coach of the 9U and 10U Kanata Cubs. My coaching portfolio also includes 17 years of basketball coaching at both the high school and community level (Goulbourn/West Ottawa 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 to this basic rule would be related to practice attendance where players who are absent for extended periods would be asked to fill the extra bench spots when situations present - there needs to be some accountability for absences as well as some reward for a commitment to learn.
- **All players at the 11U 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, everyone can throw the ball but not everyone will be a pitcher - the particular skill set required to pitch well and the accompanying ability to handle pressure is not suited for every 11 year old. We will begin the year developing all players for pitching, infield and outfield positions and players will be part of discussions about areas of growth and individual opportunities, but it is my experience that by the middle of the season there will be a natural settling with respect to the places on the field where players can be most successful. Once the two, three or sometimes four positions have been identified we will spend the rest of the year focusing on the skills required to succeed in those spots. The beauty of baseball is that there is a place on the field for everyone - all skill types have a position. The goal of the coaching staff is to nurture a healthy growth-mindset before transitioning to some of the finer details of each position.
- **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 the pandemic has taught us that forward planning can be a fools' game, the basic operating structure of the 11U season will be:

- **Indoor Training:** January to April - Beckwith - 1 (possibly 2) per week
- **Season: May-August** - 2-3 practices per week, 1-2 games per week (expect 4 total per week)
- **Tournaments:** 3-4 - one in Kanata, one local, and likely two out of town
- **Team Fees: Estimate \$400-\$450 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 10U model from last year which had a similar structure - though COVID restrictions severely reduced our actual costs this past season)

**As per team selection, I will be sending out offer letters by the end of the day on October 5th 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 6th.

The 2022 season promises to be wonderful. Thanks to everyone who registered! I look forward to seeing you on the field!

Brian Pettigrew.