



Kanata Cubs 12U Rep Baseball



Welcome to the 2024 Kanata Cubs 12U tryouts. My name is Jason Taggart, and I have the honor of leading this team next season. I'd like to take this opportunity to provide a quick snapshot of my background, and what players can expect of me in the coming months.

Being in my late forties, baseball has been a constant in my life. I played many years of competitive ball, and countless hours of unorganized baseball in my youth. Coaching has become the focus of my summers, having spent time as a head coach and most recently, assistant coach to the 11U AA Cubs team. While winning is a high priority on any competitive team, we will place a high focus on developing players overall abilities in a wide range of baseball related skills. Baseball provides players with a unique chance to build their individual skills in a team environment.

The 12U season will bring about new rules that will continue to bring them closer to the game they watch on TV. We will use the winter season to work on the specialized skills all players will need to adapt to these rules. Because this year will be another jump forward, I'd like to schedule 2 sessions a week for the winter. One being our skill development day, and the other being batting practice time slots that players can sign up for. Only four can use the cage at once, so we will work this out as we get closer to the training block.

Players selected to this team can expect to receive fair opportunity to develop and play. Again, the rules will change this year, so if you aren't in the lineup, you won't be in the batting order either. And when you go into the lineup, you will be replacing another player, who then be out for the remainder of the game. This may be the single hardest part of coaching, and we will provide players with an equal share of playing time. The evaluation process never stops, and players must remember to always give their best, not only in games, but practices as well. With that in mind, players will earn their opportunities to play in critical situations throughout the year.

Winter season will run from January until the end of April. As mentioned, we will aim to have players attend two sessions per week. During this period, attendance is not mandatory, as many players have other commitments. Keeping in mind that you get out what you put in, attending as much as possible will be beneficial to individual players and the team.

Our outdoor season will begin once fields are open in May. Families should expect to be on the field 4-5 times per week in the outdoor portion of our season. We will work hard with local associations to provide league play that will further our development. It is too early to speculate how many teams will be in our league, but I'm hopeful we will have a challenging regular season. During this portion of the season, players will be expected to prioritize and attend all team events.

For tournaments, I would like to register us in 2-3 away tournaments, along with our annual Cubs classic. It will be our intention to look at a tournament in western New York this year, so valid passports will be necessary for all members of the team. Early in the spring we will vote as a team if we intend to qualify and play in the provincial tournament typically held on Labor Day weekend each year.

I will provide a more comprehensive document to all players leading up to the first tryout date on the 24th of September. This document will include estimated team fees, possible tournament dates, and a questionnaire that will need to be filled out prior to tryouts. Players are of the age where they should have a good idea of where they would like to play, and where they think their

skills best fit on the field. We will be asking that players to select two positions that they would like to tryout for. Players will be evaluated at the positions selected in the form. I am excited to get started with what I anticipate will be a very strong 12U team. Continuing to help players grow in their abilities is the most rewarding part of coaching, and I look forward to seeing each one of them continue their journey.

Thank You,

Jason Taggart