

10U Kanata Cubs Introduction Letter

(September 2025)

My name is Brad Richardson, and it is my great pleasure to take on the role of 10U Head Coach for the 2026 season. It promises to be a wonderful year!

As a bit about me, I have been passionate about baseball my entire life. As a youth, I played competitive fastball for the Kanata Pirates until I was 13 when I made the switch to baseball and played for the Kanata Selects until I was 20. After Selects, I joined the National Capital Baseball League, a league where I still play to this day (albeit on a reduced role now that coaching is my priority). As for my coaching portfolio, I co-coached my son two years of Kanata house league ball (ages 6 & 7) and was Assistant Coach for the 9U Designated Select Kanata Cubs team (age 8) and 9U Rep Kanata Cubs team (age 9). Suffice to say, I have a strong passion for baseball, having played the game for nearly 40 years and now coaching for 4 years.

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, hockey training commitments, etc.), but there is no substitute for showing up. The nuances of baseball are such that repetitions make a difference.
- Playing time will be as equal as possible and time on the bench will be spread out amongst members of the team. The one exception to this basic rule would be related to practice attendance where players who are absent for extended periods might 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 will have legitimate opportunities to develop multiple positions. Players at the 10U age-group will need the opportunity to participate in different roles and positions on the team - particularly early in the season. We will begin the year developing all players at multiple positions and players will be part of discussions about areas of growth and individual opportunities. In my experience, 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. Ultimately, not all players desire nor are suited to play every position and there is value in earning specific roles. Once the three or four positions have been identified, we will spend the remainder of the year focusing on the particular 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.

The basic operating structure of the 10U season will be:

- **Indoor Training:** January to April - once or twice per week at Ottawa Megadome
- **Season:** May to August - roughly 2 practices and 2 games per week (expect 4 total)
- **Tournaments (4-5):** May to August - one in Kanata (that we host), one local (likely Seaway), and 2 or 3 out of town
- **Playoffs & Provincial Playdowns:** Mid-August
- **Provincials (if we qualify):** September Labour Day Weekend

Parent Volunteering: As with any organization, our team will rely on volunteers to assist in the year running smoothly. An example of roles that will need to be filled include Assistant Coach(s), Helper Coach(s), Treasurer, Home Tournament Coordinator, Fundraising Organizer, DJ for Walk-Up Songs, Game Changer / Scorekeeper, etc.

Fees: Indoor training (estimate \$350-\$550), league fees (estimate \$400), uniform fees (estimate \$200) and team fees (estimate \$350), for a total estimate of **\$1,300 - \$1,500 per player.**

- Note: travel and accommodation expenses for tournaments are additional to the per player fees above. Also, fees can be reduced by fundraising, corporate sponsorship and donations. We also make money by hosting our KBA tournament. Last season we were very successful with fundraising and sponsorship to help offset some of these costs.

Team Selection: I will be sending out offer letters following a process that concludes with the end of tryouts on September 21st (expect communication at some point the following week). Offers will require a response within 24 hours once received. Upon acceptance of all offers, the roster will be formalized and those who are not given an offer will be released and secondary options will be provided in the release letter shortly thereafter.

The 2026 season promises to be wonderful. Thanks to everyone who registered! I look forward to seeing you on the field!

Sincerely,

Brad Richardson, Head Coach
10U Kanata Cubs Rep Team