



18U Kanata Cubs Introduction Letter

Players and parents,

Welcome to a new year of baseball! My name is Rob Mercer and I will be the Head Coach for the 18U Kanata Cubs team this year. I am excited to get things started for the season and would like to take the time to provide a brief overview of what to expect for the year.

I have been coaching baseball and hockey for well over 15 years. This will be my 9th season coaching baseball at the Ontario Baseball Association level as both a head coach and assistant coach. I have also coached for the Stittsville Girls Hockey Association and continue to coach with the Stittsville Minor Hockey Association. Needless to say, coaching is truly a passion of mine. I will bring a positive atmosphere to the diamond every day and players will only be supported and encouraged at all times, while still being challenged for improvement.

Baseball can be a hard game to play and mistakes will be made on the field, but rest assured that the dugout will always be a positive place for every player. This will be a policy followed by the coaching staff and the players themselves. I take this coaching position extremely seriously knowing that not only am I passing on my knowledge and fondness for the game, I am also helping to develop young men. There will be known standards and expectations for all players, but they will be fair for everyone. Players positions throughout the season will be set and therefore their development will be tracked and targeted around their primary position. However, depending on situations, this could be adjusted periodically, depending on the situation and roster availability.

My expectations as head coach is for full attendance at all team related events once the season officially starts. However, I am very cognizant that players, especially at this age group, have multiple commitments. I will certainly take that into consideration and will have a process in place that benefits both the player and the team.

The 18U season will be organized according to the following structure:

- **Indoor Training:** January to April - Sooner Dome - 1 per week
- **Season:** May-August - 2 practices (potentially 1 of those in Arnprior) and 2-3 games per week
- **Tournaments:** 3 or 4 - our Kanata tournament, one local (likely Seaway), and possibly 2 out of town (Note: as of now, we will remain in Canada)
- **Team Fees: Estimate \$300 per player:**
 - This is in addition to league fees and uniform costs.
 - This fee will cover tournament fees and operating expenses (if applicable).
 - I plan to hold a fundraising event during the winter, which has been extremely success in past. The team will also raise funds from the running of our tournament.
 - Given this, there is potential for the team fee to be adjusted at the end of the season.

Tryouts will conclude on September 20th, and I'll be sending out offer letters the following week. You can expect to hear from me during that time. Once received, offers will require a response within 24 hours. Upon completion of this process the roster for the 2026 team will be finalized. Players that did not receive an offer will be informed shortly after and will be will be released and provided with secondary options.

I am looking forward to an exciting 2026 season. Thank you to everyone who registered for tryouts and I look forward to meeting you on the diamond.

Rob Mercer