

Hamilton Cardinals Tryout Policy – Draft 14

Tryout Registration and Schedule

All eligible players must register for the tryouts online at hamiltoncardinals.ca

Registration will close 24hrs in advance of the first scheduled tryout.

All participants must be residents of Hamilton or fit within the residency and eligibility requirements as per the Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) constitution Section P1.3

All players attending tryouts, who were not on a HCBA team the previous season, must provide proof of residency within the city limits. Proof of such residency would include but is not limited to a city tax bill or a utility receipt.

Eligible players not registering online and/or not paying the try-out fee at the venue will not be eligible to participate in try-outs

There will be a \$35 outdoor tryout fee for each player that must be paid online. If a player shows up at a tryout venue unregistered, the fee shall be \$45. All players not selected for Tier 1 will be eligible to try out for the Tier 2 of the same age division (if applicable), at no additional cost.

At the first tryout for divisions from Rookie to Major Peewee, each player will receive:

- 1) a tryout jersey
- 2) a randomly assigned Tryout Identification Number (TIN)
- 3) An electronic “Welcome to Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball” letter outlining the program’s goal and expectations and anticipated team costs for the season.

TIN (Tryout Identification Number)

The HCBA will be using the “TIN” (Tryout Identification Number) system to select and release players for Tier 1 and Tier 2 tryouts. Each player’s TIN will be listed on the ‘tryout player list’ at hamiltoncardinals.ca for the respective team the player is trying out for.

Players will receive their TIN prior to (or at) their first try-out, and will continue to be identified by this number throughout the Tier 1 tryouts, and the Tier 2 tryouts if applicable. TIN’s will be random numbers, and not based on the order of arrival at the first tryout or registration. It is very important to keep your TIN private and confidential.

Players who are selected to advance to the next tryout will be posted on the HCBA website (select your team under the Tryout List menu/tab) and identified by the age group and their TIN). If your TIN does not appear on the website, it means you have been released. The TIN system will be in effect until the last tryout.

Some reasons for this change:

- Impersonal – emotions aren't part of the message
- Private – players learn of the good news / bad news surrounded only by their support group rather than their peers
- Convenience – players don't have to wait in long lines after their tryout session
- Better Decisions – coaches / evaluators can use additional time after each session to more carefully make their selections

Upon conclusion of each tryout, players invited to attend the next try-out will have their TIN posted on the hamiltoncardinals.ca website for the team they are trying out for under the 'tryout player list'.

Players being released from the Tier 1 team are then eligible to try out for the Tier 2 team (if applicable).

The updated 'tryout player list' will be posted on hamiltoncardinals.ca approximately 24 hours following the most recent tryout.

All Players must arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to the first tryout to facilitate the aforementioned sign-in process.

All Hamilton Cardinal Rep team tryouts will begin following Labour Day. The complete schedule for tryouts will be posted on the hamiltoncardinals.ca website, and will be subject to change based on weather and/or diamond availability. The Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Association will make every attempt to have all tryouts concluded by October 1st (weather dependent).

Team Composition

The HCBA will field teams from Rookie Ball up to and including Midget age categories where talent and numbers warrant.

Hamilton Cardinals AAA (Tier 1)

The Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Association provides youth baseball players the opportunity to develop and compete in a baseball program at the elite level. At this elite level, player positions will be determined by the Coach to maximize player's capabilities and team success. Players selected for a Hamilton Cardinals Tier 1 team will be expected to commit to developing their individual and team baseball skills to the highest level attainable in a competitive environment.

Hamilton Cardinals AA /A (Tier 2)

At discretion of the Hamilton Cardinals Executive and in consultation with the Tier 1 coach, the Hamilton Cardinals may offer a AA (Tier 2) Hamilton Cardinals Rep team of the same age group. The approval of a Tier 2 team must satisfy all of the following criteria:

1. Talent identification for a Tier 2 team will be based on consultation between the Tier 1 coach and members of the Cardinals Executive before conclusion of the Tier 1 tryouts;
2. Greater than twelve potentially rep quality baseball players identified at Tier 1 tryouts not being selected for the Tier 1 team;
3. Qualified coach available

*****A Hamilton Cardinals Tier 2 team is not considered a second Tier 1 team. Players selected to play for a Tier 2 team will be provided the opportunity to play and develop. The coach of the Tier 2 team will determine the frequency of playing different positions and the amount of innings each player will experience at various positions. The Hamilton Cardinals Tier 2 baseball program provides players the opportunity to develop their baseball skills in a Rep environment, with the potential to earn a position on the Tier 1 team the following season.*****

All Hamilton Cardinal Rep players who played on any Tier I or Tier II team during the current season must attend fall try-outs for the Tier 1 team for their respective age group to be eligible for any Tier I or Tier II team Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball may offer the following season.

Any player who played on a house league or select team may begin their tryouts for the Tier 1 or Tier 2 team (if applicable); however, the Tier 1 coach can have the player workout for potential placement on the Tier 1 team.

Players being released from the Tier 1 team, who were previous players on the Tier 1 team from the just completed season, will be offered spots on the Tier 2 team the following season. This will allow these players the opportunity to improve their skills to be competitive for a Tier 1 spot the following season.

85% of a team's roster must be chosen at fall tryouts. Rosters are to be finalized by mid- April by the Head Coach.

Player Release Information

Non Resident Player (NRP)

As per the OBA Constitution Section P1.5(e), for any out of town player wishing to try out for a Hamilton Cardinals Rep team, releases are required from both their Local Association and Affiliated Association. These releases must then be sent to the HCBA Registrar at cardinalsregister@gmail.com prior to the first tryout. Releases will be accepted at the venue before the first tryout, but it is the player's responsibility to ensure that a copy is sent to cardinalsregister@gmail.com, not the Coach's.

As per the OBA Constitution Section P1.5(i), a player who is not offered a spot on their local Association's team is deemed released by that Association. The Association must provide a release upon request. Please send this release to cardinalsregister@gmail.com prior to the first tryout.

As per the OBA Constitution Section P1.5(k), releases are not valid until filed with the OBA office. Do not send releases to the OBA office, send them to cardinalsregister@gmail.com. The releases will be forwarded to the OBA by the Cardinals Registrar through a pre-determined process.

Requests for Releases

Players that wish to be released from the Hamilton Cardinals must email their request to cardinalsregister@gmail.com stating the reason for their request, the player's year of birth, and the player's home address. If granted, this release entitles the player to try out for any Hamilton and District Baseball Association (HDBA) Rep team.

Should the player wish to try out for a team outside of the HDBA, they must get a further release from the HDBA by contacting their Registrar at hdba@bell.net.

No releases will be granted between May 15th of the calendar and the completion of Cardinals tryouts, usually one week after Labour Day (weather permitting).

If a release is denied by the Hamilton Cardinals, the player / family has the right to appeal to the HDBA and must contact the HDBA Registrar to request an appeal. Questions regarding releases and required releases should be directed to the HDBA Registrar.

Offences

As per the OBA Constitution Section P1.7(a), a player who tries out without a release is subject to suspension by the OBA.

As per the OBA Constitution Section P1.7(b), a coach or manager who allows an unreleased player to try out without a release is subject to suspension by the OBA.

Player Movement

All players are required to play in their own age division. The Board of Directors may grant exceptions, in extraordinary situations.

Coach Selection

Hamilton Cardinals Baseball Association (HCBA) Coach and Player Development Committee will oversee the appointment of a Head Coach for each Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball team.

1. Coaching applications for the upcoming season will be solicited in the month of August. Interviews will be conducted at that time and coaches will be identified after the Labour Day Weekend, and posted on hamiltoncardinals.ca
2. The Coaching Selection Committee reserves the right to only interview candidates they see fit. Not all applicants will receive interviews.
3. Player evaluations shall be conducted by independent evaluators and no evaluators shall participate in the evaluation of a team in which their son is a part of (with the exception of the Head Coach).
4. Tier 2 coaches may not be identified until the Tier 1 tryouts have been completed.
5. Conditional applications must be approved by the President of Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball
6. The Coaching Selection committee will recommend a candidate for any position. The Board of Directors will approve these selections.
7. Both Head and Assistant Coaches must annually complete a Coaching Application Form and file it with the Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Association Secretary.

All Rep coaches will be approved and named no later than the Tuesday following Labour Day.

All coaches must attend a pre-tryouts meeting with the Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Coach and Development Committee

Tier 1 Rep coaches are permitted to name no more than one (1) assistant coach prior to tryouts. Lower Tiers cannot name coaches until after their tryouts.

All assigned coaches and the Tier 1 named assistant can be on the field to run the tryout sessions.

Only Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball scheduled/approved tryouts are permitted. Changes to the tryout schedule must be approved by the Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Player and Coach Development committee and will be communicated on the website

Try-out Information

The emphasis at the tryouts is on evaluating each player's fundamental baseball skills (i.e., hitting, throwing, fielding, pitching- if applicable, base running). It is important that the Head Coach retain a copy of the standardized Hamilton Cardinals Rep player evaluation used for all players that participated in try-outs.

All players not selected for the Tier 1 program will be eligible for the Tier 2 program (if applicable). The Tier 1 coach has the first selection right to choose a player.

Try-Out Schedule

Tryout #1 – All players trying out for the age appropriate group Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Team who played Tier 1 or Tier 2 (if applicable) the previous season must attend the Tier 1 tryouts to be eligible for the Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball for the upcoming season. After Tryout #1, Tier 1 Coaches may offer up to six (6) players a position on the team. These players must respond, to the offer within 24 hours of the end of this tryout unless more time is given at the discretion of the head coach.

Remaining players will have their TIN posted on the 'tryout player list' for the respective team they are trying out for on hamiltoncardinals.ca. Players being released will not see their TIN and are then eligible for the Tier 2 tryouts (if applicable) or to return to their home centre.

Tryout #2 - After Tryout #2, Tier 1 Coaches may offer up to three (3) players a place on the team. The Tier 1 coach may release more players after the second tryout.

Tryout #3 – Following this tryout, Tier 1 coaches will offer their final selections a place on the team. These players are to respond to the offer before the commencement of Tier 2 try-outs (if applicable). All remaining players will be released and invited to Tryout #4 for their age group, in an effort to finalize the Tier 2 team.

Tryout #4 – Following this tryout, Tier 2 coaches may offer up to six (6) players a position on the team. These players are to respond to the offer within 24 hours of the end of this tryout unless additional time is granted by the Head Coach. All remaining players will be asked to attend Tryout #5.

Tryout #5 – Following this tryout, Tier 2 coaches will offer their final selections a place on the team.

******The HCBA may add tryout sessions or exhibition games at their discretion or at the Head Coaches request. These sessions will be posted on the applicable teams' website. Players and families should check hamiltoncardinals.ca frequently for updates during the tryout process. ******

All Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball teams, where possible, will attempt to roster a minimum of 10 players following the completion of their tryouts. Any requests for exceptions to this rule must be made to the Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Executive.

Player Attendance at Try-outs

Exceptions may be made for situations such as temporary medical conditions (i.e. a broken ankle, please note that a Doctor's note may be requested by the head coach and/or the HCBA). If this situation arises,

the player may or may not be evaluated for a position on the team; this decision will be at the discretion of the Head Coach with consultation from the HCBA Coach and Player Development Committee.

If a player does not attend the minimum number of on-field evaluations but is awarded a position on the team, the Head Coach should communicate this to all of the players and parents at the conclusion of the tryout process. When such situations arise, the Head Coach should contact and advise the HCBA Board of directors and/or the Coach and Player Development Committee prior to making any roster decisions regarding the player.

Any new player being rostered by a HCBA team for the first time must supply a copy of their birth certificate to the HCBA registrar or designate.

Affiliated Players (AP's)

1. HCBA teams should always prepare AP players to supplement their roster as needed.
2. Where applicable, when a Tier 1 team requires an AP player they shall draw that player from the Tier 2 HCBA team.
3. Tier 2 AP's are not eligible to participate in Tier 1 team tournaments subject to exceptional circumstances and without written approval from the HCBA Board.
4. If an AP player from Tier 2 is not available, then and at large AP player may be called upon as long as he or she is in good standing within the HDBA.

HCBA Rep Roster import limit

Player import limits for each specific division are as follows:

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|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Rookie & Mosquito | 3 import player |
| 2. Pee Wee | 6 import players |
| 3. Bantam & Midget | 6 import players |

****ANY NUMBER OF IMPORT PLAYERS ABOVE 6 MUST BE FIRST DISCUSSED WITH AND APPROVED BY THE HCBA Board******