

HAMILTON CARDINALS REP. BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



TRY-OUT POLICY

LAST REVISION: AUGUST 2023

TRYOUT REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULE

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

Registration **will remain open throughout the tryout process**

Participants are considered residents of Hamilton if they fit within the residency and eligibility requirements as per the Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) constitution Section P1.3

For any out of town player (non-residents) wishing to try out for a Hamilton Cardinals Rep team, all required releases or permission to tryout forms will be required to be sent to the HCBA Registrar **(through the file upload feature on the tryout registration page)** prior to the first tryout for a team or submitted at the venue before the first tryout.

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 will not be eligible to participate in try-outs.

In order to monitor the numbers of players trying out, all players **must** register for tryouts on-line. The cost to try out is listed on our website, under the Tryout Information tab. If a player shows up at a tryout venue unregistered, they must complete **the registration prior to being permitted on the diamond.**

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 **8U to 12U**, 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.

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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. Tryouts for all Hamilton Cardinals Rep teams will be completed by **the second Friday after Labour Day (10 days)**.

Any Hamilton Cardinals Rep player wishing to play in another centre must first secure a release from the Hamilton Cardinals Baseball Association. Please note that a release may not be provided if a player has committed and signed to a Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball roster.

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TEAM COMPOSITION

The HCBA will field teams from 8U to 18U age categories where talent and numbers warrant.

All Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball teams, where possible, will attempt to roster a minimum of 10 players following the completion of their tryouts.

Where there is a Tier 2 team at a specific age group, Tier 1 teams can have a maximum of 12 players rostered. Any requests for exceptions to this rule must be made to the Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Executive.

Hamilton Cardinals ELITE

The Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Association have been a part of the Elite Baseball League of Ontario (EBLO) for a number of years and plan to roster Teams at 15U, 16U and 18U age divisions. These tryouts start in August and run through September. Prior to the Second Sunday in September, there are no releases necessary to attend these tryouts. If a player registers after this date they are required to follow OBA boundaries and will require a release if not within the Hamilton Cardinals boundaries.

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 highest level. At _____ this 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 Tier 2 Hamilton Cardinals Rep Team of the same age group. Tier 2 teams will consist of rep caliber players that are able to compete at the AA or A level. 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

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. It is encouraged to have all players attend the T1 Team tryouts to provide the player with the best opportunity to be evaluated.

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Head Coaches must choose at least 85% of a team's roster at fall tryouts. Head Coaches must advise players who have not yet been rostered that they are still being considered. A Tier 2 Head Coach is not required to hold a vacant spot of any players who have not been officially selected by a Tier 1 team. They may finalize their roster if they see fit. All Rosters are to be finalized by mid- April by the Head Coach.

TRYOUT REGISTRATION, RELEASE INFORMATION, AND SCHEDULE

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 be sent to the HCBA Registrar at cardinalsregister@gmail.com through the file upload feature on the tryout registration page, 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.

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 and announced on the Hamilton Cardinals website in the month of July. Interviews will be conducted by HCBA Executive Board members. Coaches for the following season will be named and announced on the Hamilton Cardinals website by the end of August, in order to allow Head Coaches to scout or seek out players for try-outs.
2. The Coaching Selection Committee reserves the right to only interview candidates they see fit. Not all applicants will receive interviews.

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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 & 1 named Assistant Coach if applicable).
4. Conditional applications must be approved by the President of Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball
5. The Coaching Selection committee will recommend a candidate for any position. The Board of Directors will approve these selections; this approval can be done in person or via email with the members of the current Board.
6. Both Head and Assistant Coaches must annually complete a Coaching Application Form and file it with the Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Association Secretary.

All Tier 1 Head Coaches will be approved and named no later than the Tuesday following Labour Day. Tier 2 Head Coaches may also be announced, if the HCBA Board has determined the skill level and number of players trying-out at the various age group supports the need for a Tier 2 team.

All **T1 and T2 named** coaches must attend a pre-tryouts meeting with the Hamilton Cardinals Rep Baseball Coach and Development Committee

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 **start releasing** players after the second tryout.

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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.

All players offered a roster spot for the T1 or T2 Teams, must secure their spot by completing the Player Registration Form. At any time during the tryout process, if a player is released by the T1 Coach, the T2 Coach can offer a roster spot for their Team. The T1 and the T2 Coaches will be independently evaluating throughout the tryouts.

******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. ******

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)

Affiliated Players are those players registered within the Hamilton District Baseball Association (HDBA) and not on a rostered OBA Team. These players, after their local association is notified, can be used to call up if a shortage occurs on the Hamilton Cardinals Team. They must be added to your roster as AP players to be eligible to play in any game. The following criteria must be followed:

- The player does not miss a game with their local association to play for the Hamilton Cardinals Team.
- The player is in good standing with the HDBA

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Players called up from the T2 Team are not considered AP players but are eligible to play with the T1 Team at any time, as long as they are not missing their T2 game.

HCBA REP ROSTER IMPORT LIMIT

Player import limits for each specific division are as follows:

1. 8U to 11U 4 import player
2. 12U & 13U 6 import players
3. 14U to 18U 8 import players

*****ANY NUMBER OF IMPORT PLAYERS ABOVE 8 MUST BE FIRST DISCUSSED WITH AND APPROVED BY THE HCBA BOARD*****

PLAYER RELEASES

1. HCBA generally has a no-release policy. No releases will be granted prior to Tryouts
 - a. You must try out and play for the appropriate HCBA team if selected.
 - b. This release will be provided electronically to the email address that the request was received.
2. Any Hamilton resident/player wishing to play in another OBA centre must first meet criteria Listed in 1 (a) & (b) above.
3. A request for a release must be submitted in writing to cardinalsregister@gmail.com; this release may or may not be granted and will be subject to review by the applicable Head Coach in consultation with the HCBA Board of Directors/Registrar.
4. On the topic of player releases and affiliation, the HCBA defers to the Constitution & By-Laws of Baseball Ontario.