

# Owen Sound Minor Baseball

## Rep Tryout and Team Selection Policy

### 1. Purpose

This policy establishes consistent procedures for Rep tryouts and team selection in Owen Sound Minor Baseball (OSMB). It ensures fairness, safety, transparency, and the long-term viability of OSMB programs, while aligning with Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) and Western Ontario Baseball Association (WOBA) rules.

### 2. Scope

- Applies to all OBA rep teams from 7U to 22U, unless otherwise noted.
- This policy does not apply to WOBA league (house league) teams.

### 3. Definitions

**Alternate Player** – An Alternate Player is a player designated by the Head Coach and approved by OSMB who practices and trains with a Rep team and may participate in games as permitted under OBA/WOBA rules. To be eligible for OBA-sanctioned tournaments, Alternates must be listed on the official roster. Alternate Players are intended to provide roster depth and may be used to backfill when selected players are unavailable.

**Call Up** – A temporary assignment allowing a player from a younger age rep division to play in games for a Rep team to address roster shortages that cannot be filled by selected or alternate players. Call-ups do not alter the player's permanent roster status and require approval of both head coaches and the VP of Rep.

**Head Coach** – The individual approved by the President and the VP of Rep to lead a Rep team for a given season. The Head Coach is responsible for team selection, the appointment of assistant coaches, player development, and in-season management, with input from evaluators and in alignment with OSMB policy.

**Play Up** – The process by which an underage player is rostered for the duration of a single season on a Rep team in the next higher age division, subject to the conditions outlined in Section 6 of this policy.

**Rep Team** – A competitive team registered with OSMB and sanctioned under OBA rules, formed through the annual tryout process.

**Selected Player** – A player formally assigned to a Rep team at the conclusion of tryouts and registered to that team for the season. Selected players are expected to attend all scheduled games and practices and are subject to OBA roster and eligibility rules.

#### 4. Tryout and Selection Standards

- Each rep team will hold a minimum of two tryouts (recommended: three) in September of each year.
- Tryout costs are included in OSMB registration fees
- Head Coaches will be confirmed before tryouts begin
- Two or more evaluators will be present at each tryout; evaluators should include at least one neutral evaluator not connected by family or coaching role to any of the players being assessed.
- Players must first try out for their natural age group before consideration elsewhere.
- All players wishing to be considered for a Rep team must participate in the evaluation process. No player may be rostered without being evaluated in accordance with this policy, except in cases where the Board approves an exception (e.g., injury, illness, documented absence)
- Players must attend at least two tryouts to be considered unless an exception is approved by the VP of Rep (e.g. injury or illness)
- The Head Coach makes selections with input from evaluators, which must be communicated anonymously.
- Rosters will typically include 10-12 selected players, with the option to add alternate players at the discretion of the Head Coach.
- Once final rosters are set and communicated at the conclusion of tryouts, no additional rostered players will be added for that season, unless approved by the Board in exceptional circumstances (e.g., injury replacement prior to roster submission deadlines)

#### 5. Communication and Transparency

- Tryout results will be posted or communicated anonymously
- Evaluations that influence decisions on roster spaces, play-up requests and releases will be documented, remain confidential and be retained in a secure manner should any player, parent or coach require clarification around decisions made.

## 6. Play Up Rules and Underage Player Considerations

*General Principle: OSMB generally does not permit players to play above their birth year. Exceptions will only be considered in rare and exceptional circumstances, through one of the following two pathways:*

### Option 1 – No Rep team at Natural Age group

No Rep team exists in the current year at the player's natural age group; AND

The player is identified as an exceptional talent such that they rank among the top three (3) players on the older Rep team, as determined by independent evaluators that exclude relatives and members of the older age group coaching staff.

### Option 2 – Roster Shortage

The older age group Rep team has a shortage of players such that play-ups are required to form a full roster of selected players; AND

The move does not undermine the viability of the player's natural age team. Viability requires that:

- At least 11 selected players remain on the younger division roster
- At least four (4) second-year players remain in the younger division for leadership and continuity. If fewer than four second-year players are present, play-ups will not be considered.
- Coverage of key positions (experienced pitchers, catcher and first base) is maintained as determined by the head coach of the natural age group team.

### Other Requirements

- Section 6 does not apply to players over the age of sixteen (16)
- Underage players may only advance one age division above their natural birth year.
- Underage players must be assessed for social maturity and readiness in addition to baseball skill
- For safety, underage players remain subject to their natural age pitching and rest restrictions
- All play-up approvals must meet the criteria above and be confirmed in writing by the VP of Rep.

## 7. Call Up Rules

While tryouts determine selected and alternate players for each Rep team, the ability to call up underage players remains available as a separate mechanism to address roster shortages during the season. The existence of a tryout process and finalized rosters does not prevent or limit call-ups, provided the conditions below are met.

Players may be called up one age division higher than their natural birth year to temporarily substitute for an older Rep team only when shortages exist that cannot be filled by a selected or alternate player. Call-ups must not interfere with the player's commitments to their rostered team, and their rostered team always takes priority.

Call-ups must be approved by both head coaches and reported to the VP of Rep. Pitch count and rest requirements follow the player's natural age. Call-ups are temporary and do not alter a player's permanent roster status.

## 8. Releases and Permissions to Play

- Players residing in the OSMB boundary must register and try out for OSMB Rep first before requesting a release or "Permission to Play" elsewhere.
- Releases will only be granted if OSMB does not field a team in the player's age group, or if the player attends OSMB tryouts and is not offered a roster spot.
- Ability, preference for another coach, or perceived competitiveness of another centre are not valid reasons for release.

## 9. Compliance and Exceptions

- OSMB is committed to ensuring that all team selections are conducted in accordance with this policy.
- If it is recognized by the Executive that the tryout and selection process has not been conducted in line with this policy, the following process will apply:
  1. The Executive will review the tryout and selection process to confirm the variance
  2. Where practical, the process will be corrected (re-evaluation, re-scoring or re-issuing selection notices) to align with policy objectives
  3. If correction is not practical, the Executive may impose conditions on the roster (e.g. adjustment of alternate players, limits on call-ups or additional oversight) to restore compliance as closely as possible.
  4. In extreme circumstances, correction may require changes to the roster, including the removal of a player who was improperly selected.
  5. Final decisions will be documented and communicated to all affected players
- No coach or parent may override this policy.