



## Ingersoll Minor Baseball Association (IMBA)

### Ironbirds Rep/Select Policy

---

#### Purpose:

IMBA has established this policy to address procedures and timelines for the Ironbirds Rep and Select Teams. It is the goal of IMBA to field one rep competitive team at each age group (e.g., 11U and 13U) and a Select team annually, if the numbers and talent warrant this. IMBA however reserves the right to adjust policies to reflect changes in participation/registration or other factors that may influence the viability of multiple teams at each age group.

#### Policy:

Prior to team tryouts, head coach interviews and selections will be made and announced.

1. All players attending tryouts must first register and pay the fee on the IMBA website registration page prior to participation. For the protection of IMBA and players, anyone not registered for tryouts through the online tryout registration form will not be able to participate until the form is completed.
2. Players from other centres must supply a release from their local association as well as their affiliate association before being allowed to participate in tryouts. Adding a player from another centre must follow the Player Imports Rules. (This does not apply to Select teams)
3. Coaching staff will consist of a Head Coach and up to 3 Assistant Coaches. Assistant Coaches selected by the Head Coach must be approved by the Board.
4. Only IMBA scheduled/approved tryouts are permitted. Each team will hold **three tryouts** in September/October. Changes to the tryout schedule are subject to diamond availability and must be approved by the Board of Directors. If a coach wishes to hold more tryouts they must have that approved by the rep/select convenor.
5. It is recommended that players attend all three tryouts, but must attend a minimum of 2 tryouts to be considered for the team. Exceptions may be granted if medical or other issues prevent a player from attending. Exceptions must be reviewed and approved by the Rep/Select Convenor and coach.
6. In the event a player is injured (or other extenuating circumstances) and unable to participate in the tryouts, every effort should be made to attend the tryouts and assist in any way possible.

A future date may be accommodated on a case-by-case basis as approved by the coach/rep/select convenor.

7. Tryouts will consist of a warm up and general baseball drills. Tryouts should consist of throwing, batting, catching, recovery and positional drills. Players will be chosen based on player attitude, behaviour, playing ability and potential for improvement. Teams are made up of a wide range of individuals with differing capabilities and talents. Each player is selected because of a particular contribution which they can make to the team.
8. Coaches will be provided an evaluation form that must be completed for each player trying out.
9. In general, the IMBA does not support players playing above their own age group. An exception to the playing up rule will apply for players seeking to play up due to no IMBA rep team being available to them at their own age division.
10. Coaches may roster up to 6 selections players who have attended 2 tryouts. Final selections cannot be made until the last tryout is completed.
11. A minimum of 11 players will be rostered on each team unless the IMBA Board of Directors specify differently.
12. Final Rep team player selections must be made within 72 hours following the final tryout and submitted to the Rep Convenor and Registrar prior to the start of Select tryouts. Final rep rosters will be posted on the website.
13. Select tryouts will take place immediately after Rep Team decisions are finalized and a head coach has been appointed. There will be three team tryouts. Final Select rosters will be submitted to the Select Convenor and Registrar.
14. After the Roster has been submitted to IMBA, any roster additions or deletions need to be approved by the Rep/Select convenor. In the event player circumstances change, in consultation with the Rep/Select convenor, coaches may make player demotions and additions up to the final SCBA roster submission date. After the final SCBA roster submission date players can be added up to the final Baseball Ontario Roster date.
15. Any player being called-up during the season must meet all the requirements from OBA (RP1.8) and be registered with a team that plays for IMBA.

## **Player Import Rule:**

IMBA allows for imports for rep and select teams based on the following guidelines:

Rep teams may not exceed 25% of their team being imports (for example if the team is 12 players 9 must be from IMBA boundaries and 3 can be from other associations). Once a player has played for IMBA for 3 consecutive years they are grandfathered and no longer considered an import. If a coach wishes they may apply to the Executive for an exception to this rule.

Select teams as per the OBA requirements must have 50% within boundaries, but IMBA encourages teams to aim for the same requirements as the rep teams.

Tier 1 teams may not exceed 35% of their team being imports (for example if the team is 12 players 8 must be from SCBA boundaries and 4 can be from other associations). Once a player has played for IMBA for 3 consecutive years they are grandfathered and no longer considered an import. If a coach wishes they may apply to the Executive for an exception to this rule.

**Note:** The above rules apply only if there are enough local players trying out to complete a roster. If a roster can only be completed with additional import players then an exception can be made with approval from the IMBA Executive.

## **Releases:**

It is IMBA policy that players tryout for IMBA rep teams. IMBA players must attend the appropriate IMBA Rep team tryouts. If they do not attend sufficient tryouts, release requests will not be considered. This does not apply to new IMBA residents who move into IMBA after tryouts have been completed.

A player that is selected for an IMBA Rep team after trying out, who refuses to play with that team will not have a release request considered.

If after tryouts, a player is not selected for an IMBA Rep team, he or she will then have the opportunity to try out for a Select team, if available. If no other IMBA Rep/Select team is offered the player/parent may request a "Permission to Practice" form to tryout for the closest SCBA Rep team. When trying out for another SCBA team the player's rights will remain with IMBA. If the player makes the SCBA team he or she will be classified as a player on loan to the SCBA centre. The following year, the player will return and register with IMBA.

## **External Releases:**

### Process

If an IMBA player wishes to play for a Local Association in an OBA Affiliate other than IMBA that is outside of SCBA, a written release is required from IMBA and SCBA.

The player must first request a release from IMBA which holds the players playing rights. This request needs to be sent to the REP convenor. Release decisions will be made within 14 days of the written request. If it is granted then a request for release must be made to SCBA. If a release request is denied by IMBA, the decision may be appealed to the SCBA. If it is denied by the SCBA, then it may be appealed to the OBA.

### Policy

IMBA will NOT grant an external release to a player 10U and younger, unless there are exceptional circumstances. NOTE: a player's ability is NOT considered exceptional circumstances.

If no Tier 1 is offered in IMBA for the players division:

For players 11U or older, who wish to try out for a recognized Tier 1 within SCBA will be given a permission to tryout. If a player wishes to try out for a tier 1 team outside of SCBA, they may request a release. Each release request will be reviewed and considered on an individual basis. (External 5km rule is applied).

### **Coaches**

Refer to section 13 of the Constitution of IMBA

### Certification Requirements

All coaches must have all the necessary coaching certifications for their specific division prior to the first game of the season. IMBA will compensate the fee of the courses at the original cost, they will not pay for any extra fees due to the courses not being completed on time. Coaches that do not have the required courses will not be allowed to coach until they are completed.

All coaches must also provide IMBA with a current Vulnerable Sector Check/Offence Declaration.

### **Fundraising**

All team fundraising must receive approval from the rep/select convenors.

### **Cancelling a Game/Practice**

The Town will make the call if diamonds are closed due to diamond condition/weather by 4:30 pm after that point it is the association or coach that will make the call. Please note there is not a lot of diamond time available (except on weekends), so we do our best to maintain all scheduled games.

If a game needs to be cancelled due to weather or other reasons::

1. Be sure the other team's coach knows (be sure to give them time to get the word out to their team)
2. Let IMBA know by contacting the rep/select convenor. We will need enough notice to cancel the liners and umpires
3. If you are cancelling a game or practice for reasons other than weather (such as not enough players) we will need at least 10 days notice in order to not incur a fee from the town for cancelling the diamond without sufficient notice.

## **Rescheduling Cancelled Games**

If a game has to be postponed due to weather etc for an SCBA team..

1. When a game is postponed, the Home Team must advise the SCBA Series Convenor within 48 hours of the reason for the postponement. If the home team is not an SCBA team, the visiting team must notify the Series Convenor.
2. Within 7 days, the home team must propose a suitable date for the game to be played. Once a rescheduled date is agreed on, the SCBA Series Convenor must be notified.
3. If, within 2 weeks from the scheduled date of the postponed game, the teams have not set a rescheduled date, then the Series Convenor will at his/her sole discretion determine the time and place for the game to be played. This timing may be compressed at the end of the season and during playoffs.
4. Violation of this section or failure to comply with the SCBA Series Convenor will result in a forfeiture by the offending team or teams. Also see (6) below.
5. Each team must fulfill as much of its regular season commitment as possible to qualify for Classification in the OBA Championship and to qualify for the SCBA Championship. Questionable situations will be reviewed by the Series Convenor and the SCBA Executive. A team completing less than 80% of its regular season commitment, including Interlock games, will be automatically reviewed at the Classification meeting and at the end of the regular season. Both forfeits and games not played will be considered.
6. If a team forfeits 3 games in a season, it shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and forfeit \$100 bond. The Local Association has 7 days to replace the bond. Failure to field a team at the beginning of the game is the forfeiture that will be used to calculate the 3-forfeiture rule.

What to do to get a game a home game rescheduled within IMBA

1. Contact the other coach and get approximately 3 dates that work for both of you. Please note the best dates for diamond availability would be the weekend (Friday-Sunday) or your practice time. Tools that may help you see diamond availability in town would be the IMBA website and the town website (<https://app.univerusrec.com/ingersollcspub/calendars/facilities/index.asp>).

2. Once you have some dates contact the scheduler and chief umpire to find out if there is a diamond to accommodate your game and umpires available.
3. Once you have ensured you have a diamond and umpires you can let the other coach know when the game will be played and complete the requirements listed above for SCBA.

\*In all case by case scenarios that can not be agreed upon by the convenor and the coach the final decisions will be made by the executive.

\*All of these tryout policies and procedures can be reviewed. Exceptions may be granted by the executive of the IMBA for the betterment of baseball in Ingersoll.

## Sample Letter to Notify Players of Successful Acceptance to a Team

Ingersoll Ironbirds  
(Enter Division) Ironbirds Team

(Enter Date)

### 2026 Tryouts

(Enter Player's First Name),

I thank you for trying out for a position on the Ironbirds (Enter Division) Ball Team. I look forward to coaching this team and enjoying a great summer of baseball.

A number of official tryouts were held and based on these tryouts, I have formed a team for 2026. My evaluation of each player was based on skills (batting, catching, throwing and running), coachability (listening/understanding), attitude (respect for others/team player) and potential (baseball sense/improvement).

(Include Coach's Personal Comments here)

I am pleased to inform you that you have made the team and will be a (Enter Division) Ironbird player for 2026. I expect you to work hard at practices, have a positive attitude and dedicate yourself to this team's goals.

I look forward to an exciting year and together we can enjoy success, satisfaction and have fun.

(Enter Coach's Name)

Ingersoll Ironbirds (Enter Division) Head Coach

(Enter coach's contact phone number or email)

## **Sample Letter to Notify Players of Unsuccessful Acceptance to a Team**

Ingersoll Ironbirds  
(Enter Division) Ironbirds Team

(Enter Date)

### 2026 Tryouts

(Enter Player's First Name),

I thank you for trying out for a position on the Ironbirds (Enter Division) Ball Team.

After watching tryouts and based on these tryouts tough decisions had to be made in order to bring our roster to the appropriate number of players. My evaluation of each player was based on skills (batting, catching, throwing and running), coachability (listening/understanding), attitude (respect for others/team player) and potential (baseball sense/improvement).

(Include Coach's Personal Comments here)

I regret to inform you that you are being released from the (Enter Division) Ironbirds at this time. You showed good overall skills, a great attitude and a desire to play baseball. I encourage you to continue developing your skills and continue to play baseball. Ingersoll Minor Baseball offers other great programs that will help you to develop and still enjoy the game of baseball.

I wish you the best this summer and hope to see you again in the near future. If you wish to discuss this further including options to remain in baseball, do not hesitate to contact me.

(Enter Coach's Name)

Ingersoll Ironbirds (Enter Division) Head Coach

(Enter coach's contact phone number or email)