



## North Toronto Baseball Association

### 8U AAA / Select (2013) Combined Program

### Host of the AAA OBA Championships! (9U)



**Mission Statement:** Our overall goal is to provide the opportunity and support to help players find out how good they can be as individuals and as a team at something they have chosen as one of their favourite extracurricular activities. We believe that by taking this approach, we will create an environment where all the participants in the program will be set up for success, as they learn that the real competition is not with other players or even other teams, but with themselves. We believe that by enabling the players to develop themselves into strong baseball athletes, they will learn important life lessons that can be replicated in other parts of their lives and in the future.

**Guiding Principles:** Our objective is to approach the program in a manner consistent with the following themes:

- Fun! Structured. Variety of activities.
- Long-term Athlete Development (LTAD) model ABC's + P + MT
  - o A = Agility; B = Balance; C = Coordination
  - o P = Power; MT = Mental Toughness
- AAA and Select to be viewed as part of the same competitive baseball program over the long-term
- Reinforcing values the players are learning at home: respect; hard work; cooperation with others; striving for excellence; the importance of having a good time!
- Transparency
- Total team effort: players; coaches; parents; fans; NTBA
- Baseball as #1 sporting priority during outdoor season
- [Note that baseball is not expected to be the players' #1 sporting priority during the winter season. This is consistent with the LTAD model.]
- Please watch our Intro Video! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEybzMiwCUo>



## North Toronto A's 8U AAA – 2019





- #1 LUCY
- #7 SHANE
- #9 ZAIN
- #11 BRYCE
- #19 BENNY
- #20 CLIVE

- #24 LUKE
- #26 COOPER
- #45 SAM
- #57 MAX
- #75 QUENTIN
- #88 JORY





# North Toronto Baseball Association

## 8U AAA / Select (2013)

### Combined Program



## SUMMARY NOTES

- I. AAA and Select as a combined program
  - Recognizing that players develop and grow at different rates
  - Ensuring long-term health and success of the program
  - Shared resources (coaching and professional instruction; facilities; practices) and equivalent training opportunities so there will be no structural development disadvantage at Select level
  - Select players will be called-up as frequently as possible and try-outs will remain open each year to allow for certain players to play their way onto the AAA team
  - AAA and Select try-outs held at the same time
    - Day 1: NHL-Combine style assessment
    - Day 2: Baseball skill assessments
    - Day 3: Final try-out: both teams finalized
    - Roster target: 12 players per team (moving to 13 in 9U)
- II. Estimated Short-term and Long-term Timeline
  - Sept: try-outs
  - Late Nov - Apr indoor training at Baseline and UCC dome
  - May: Outdoor baseball! Pure development approach – random positions and batting order
  - June: Transition to competitive approach
  - 8U and 9U seasons: 3 tournaments + TBA and OBA Championships
  - 10U: Pitching!
  - 11U / 12U: U.S. Tournaments, including Cooperstown!
  - 13U and beyond: Ontario Elimination Tournaments – which lead to Nationals
- III. Expectations
  - a. Volunteering
    - NTBA (North Toronto Baseball Association) is a volunteer organization (not pay-for-service), so this will only work properly if everyone chips in!
  - b. July Break
    - 8U/9U: 4 weeks starting in late June (after school ends)
  - c. 10U and above: 2 weeks.
  - d. Estimated fees and other expenses
    - Depending on sponsorship contributions ~\$2,000 per player
    - Note that there will be individual family expenses as well (uniforms; hotels; August baseball camp). See summary budget below.

**Thank you for your interest! Please register as per the instructions on the [ntbaseball.com](http://ntbaseball.com) Web site. If you are interested in further details, feel free to read the appendices of this note.**

Coach Tim ([timobrien99@gmail.com](mailto:timobrien99@gmail.com))

## Appendices

### I. AAA and Select as a Combined Program

The AAA and Select teams will function as part of the same program over the long-term, rather than two largely disconnected teams. Players do not develop and grow at the same rate, so there will be opportunities for kids to play their way onto the AAA team, and the AAA team will utilize Select players as call-ups as frequently as possible. To ensure that this relationship functions properly over the long-term, the Select development path and training opportunities will be roughly consistent with those of the AAA teams. The implications of this approach include:

- The AAA teams and Select teams will share facilities.
  - o For example, **our winter training from late November – April will consist of: (1) one weeknight session per week at Baseline Sports, a first-class indoor baseball training facility near Downsview Park (day/time TBD), and (2) practices in the Upper Canada College dome facility.**
    - These practices will be shared between the AAA and Select teams, with some of the activities being run together, and some of the activities being run separately, with each team using their half of the dome.
- Professional coaching resources will be shared between AAA and Select.
- Uniforms will be identical to facilitate call-ups. AAA players will choose preferred numbers first, then Select players will choose preferred numbers so there is no overlap.
- Note that the Select team players will be expected to play in the NT House League system during the 8U and 9U years.
  - o As of the 10U year, it is expected that the Select team will declare as an “A” or “AA” team, and would then no longer participate in House League.

### II. Estimated Short-term and Long-term Timeline

(This is the proposed AAA timeline; the Select timeline is expected to be largely consistent, but ultimately determined by their 3-person Parents’ Committee)

Sept	Try-outs and team selection	AAA and Select at same time
Oct/Nov	Parents’ meeting	Combined AAA and Select
Late Nov	Winter training begins	One night per week at Baseline; UCC dome practices [Note that baseball is not expected to be the players’ #1 sporting priority during the winter season. This is consistent with the Long-term Athlete Development model.]
Late April	Boardgames at seniors’ residence	Community outreach
May	OUTDOOR BASEBALL!	Typical 8U AAA schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Sun practice 9-11am</li><li>➤ Monday practice</li><li>➤ Tuesday home game</li><li>➤ Usually 1 away game per week; maybe a 2nd on the weekend</li><li>➤ 3 tournaments in May/June (1 overnight)</li><li>➤ Select schedule must incorporate House League games</li></ul>

May	PURE DEVELOPMENT APPROACH	In May, we will be using completely random batting orders and positioning. This should be a good learning experience for players and coaches as everyone gets a better sense of the players' skill sets and interests.
June	TRANSITION TO A COMPETITIVE APPROACH	<p>In June, we will transition to a more competitive approach of determining lineups and positioning. We will try to find a couple of positions where we feel the kids will be most likely to succeed and will take the kids' interests into consideration. Coaches will be given permanent roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Batting order will be organized to maximize our team strengths</li> <li>➤ Batting order will be fluid – hard work at practice and at home by players trying to develop the proper technique and an aggressive attitude at the plate will be rewarded. Coachability is extremely important for the kids to develop proper technique. They really need to listen and be willing to make adjustments.</li> <li>➤ Baserunning will be a consideration re: batting order. Players that are consistently alert and aggressive on the base paths will benefit in the batting order. Players need to run with 100% effort without slowing down and need to listen to and watch for base coaches.</li> <li>➤ Sliding technique and mentality also a factor.</li> <li>➤ Positioning will not be carved in stone, but repeated exposure to a couple of core positions will really help the kids to develop expertise and greatly increase their chances of making successful, and increasingly more complex plays in games</li> </ul> <p>As always, communication lines will always be open between coaches, players, and parents/guardians, so this process will be completely transparent.</p>
June/July	4-week break	Starting at end of school in late June
August	Baseline camp	One week
August	TBA's	(Toronto Baseball Association Championships). Usually two weekends before Labour Day. Results determine which teams go to OBA's.
Sept – Labour Day Weekend	OBA's	(Ontario Baseball Association Championships).
Sept – first week after Labour Day	Try-outs for next season	9U AAA and Select try-outs will again be held at the same time
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>And this annual cycle will repeat going forward (without the Development Approach month)</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Notable events planned for the years ahead are listed below</b></li> </ul>
Labour Day weekend (9U)	Hosting OBA's	NT hosts the 9U AAA OBA Championships each year! Note that at least one parent from each 9U AAA family needs to volunteer. We will also have student volunteers from older NT baseball teams.
10U season	Pitching!	No more pitching machine

Fall 11U season	U.S. tournament?	Possible U.S. tournament trip
11U season	U.S. tournament?	
12U season	Cooperstown, New York	Baseball Hall of Fame and tournament weekend; August long weekend?
13U season	Elimination tournament	The elimination tournament is a province-wide tournament at the beginning of August. The winner of the elimination tournament goes on to Nationals.
➤ <b>And this pattern continues beyond 13U...</b>		

North Toronto A's: 8U AAA  
Toronto Baseball Association Championship Finalists!!! (2019)



### III. Expectations

#### Volunteering

- NTBA is a volunteer-driven organization. The league President, Treasurer, Board and Committee Members, Coaches, and Team Managers are all volunteers. All fees are used for the enhancement of the baseball program.
- Therefore, it is important to distinguish this volunteer organization from a pay-for-service business. With this perspective in mind, please understand that parents/guardians are expected to be engaged in this program in some way beyond fee payment. There are plenty of important opportunities to fulfill these commitments:
  - o Team Manager
  - o Assistant Coach
  - o Away-tournament organizers
  - o Away-tournament food prep
  - o GameChanger data entry at games; preparing scouting reports for upcoming games based on data collected in GC on other teams through the season (and previous seasons!)
  - o Two convenors will be required in the 9U year when we host the Ontario Baseball Championships on Labour Day Weekend

#### Sample Budget

	2020 rough budget estimate		Comments
<b>Team Expenses</b>	<b>2017's</b>		
Baseline winter training	-\$6,500	24%	\$325 per session x 20 sessions Nov-Apr
North Toronto Assoc fees	-\$5,500	20%	Admin and Committee fees; groundskeeping; baseballs; First Aid kits; coaching clinics/certification; OBA/TBA fees; player pix; TeamSnap fees; insurance; permits
Professional coach fees	-\$5,000	18%	
UCC Dome training fees	-\$2,400	9%	\$600 per session / 2 teams x 8 session Nov-Mar; every other Sunday
Tournament fees (3)	-\$2,000	7%	3 x May/June tournaments; TBA's; OBA's
Coaches' uniforms (x5) and parents' meeting expenses	-\$1,500	5%	
Umpires' fees	-\$1,500	5%	
Misc (incl bank fees; obstacle course materials)	-\$1,000	4%	
Team equipment	-\$750	3%	
Team bats	-\$600	2%	2 high quality team bats
Team banner and posters	-\$400	1%	
BP equipment	-\$375	1%	
GameChanger	-\$133	0%	
<b>Total team expenses</b>	<b>-\$27,658</b>		
Sponsorship assumptions: [In 2019 we raised \$3,000 (before family rebates of 25% per donation; 75% net to the team)]			
Sponsor #1: Team equipment	\$1,000		Catcher's gear etc.
Sponsor #2: Team Banner and posters	\$550		Posted at all games
Sponsor #3: Tournament #1 entry fee	\$550		We will play in 3 tournaments in May/June
Sponsor #4: One team bat	\$500		1 high quality team bat
Sponsor #5: BP equipment	\$500		Soft toss machine; bownet; tee
Sponsor #6: GameChanger	\$200		
Sponsorship goal:	\$3,300		
Total team expenses excluding sponsored items	-\$25,200		
Estimated team fee per family (13 families)	-\$1,938	Just an estimate for now	
Additional individual family expenses			
Uniforms	-\$500		
Hotels (x2 nights)	-\$500		We will have one overnight tournament
August Baseline day camp	-\$200		Likely Mon-Thurs Aug 17-20, 2020

Thank you! Coach Tim