Bonnyville Minor Ball Associations goal is to provide the highest level of coaching and development to athletes who are selected to play on a competitive Bonnyville Minor Baseball or Softball team. Through coaching and development our aim is to aid each athlete in reaching the next level of ball. All players will be continually evaluated throughout the season by BMB coaches. The goal is to carry over the core nucleus of the players who exhibit the highest performance and character traits on each team into the next ball season.

 **Tryout process is required;**

Whenever a “New Team” is formed, an open tryout will be held and any player eligible to participate in that age group may try out for that team. A “New Team” is defined as any team created and playing outside of BMB house Baseball or Softball divisions.

**Tryout Information;**

1. In order to be eligible the player trying out must be a member of BMBA or provide proof that their home association will release them prior to being accepted to tryout. A signed player release/transfer form may be required from their home baseball or softball association in order to comply with BBA or SBA transfer guidelines.
2. All players must be registered and tryout fee paid (if applicable) in full prior to participating in the tryout.
3. The head coach may implement a tryout fee to help cover costs associated with the tryout; this fee is to never exceed $40 per player and is non-refundable.
4. All players trying out will get a minimum of two evaluation sessions prior to being cut. The head coach will contact the player or his or her parent (in younger divisions) via email or phone call to inform them they have been cut and to not attend the next tryout session.
5. Any players who are a member of BMBA at the time tryouts are held and do not attend are no longer eligible to make the competitive team. Exceptions will be granted for family or medical emergencies if discussed with the head coach ahead of time, although the player MUST attend a minimum of two tryout sessions to be eligible to make the team. Exceptions may be made if team numbers are low with approval from BMB president.
6. No coach will alter or make exceptions to these policies without approval from the BMBA Board of Directors. Any coach doing so may be relieved of his or her coaching duties.
7. Tryouts must be advertised a minimum of two weeks prior to the tryouts including dates, times, location, and contact information of how to preregister for the tryout. This can be done via email to all eligible players within BMBA, social media sites, website, Baseball & Softball Alberta websites, and or local newspaper.
8. Parents are free to stay and watch providing space is not limited. If tryouts are taking place in a school gymnasium, parents may be asked to wait outside the gym. Parents are to remain off the gym floor/field of play at all times and not try coach their child during the tryout session from the viewing area.
9. BMBA will comply with all Baseball and Softball Alberta rules and guidelines unless decided differently by the BMBA Board of Directors.
10. All players, parents, and coaches must agree to follow all BMBA policies and Code of Conduct if entering from another association.
11. BMBA competitive team tryouts will be held with such timeline that all rosters can be submitted to meet Baseball Alberta and Softball deadlines and comply with BMBA tryout policy.
12. It will be the head coach’s responsibility to setup/organize a practice plan to showcase the player’s skills that he or she is being evaluated on.

**General information**

1. Players should arrive approximately 30 minutes before their scheduled tryout time to check in. Upon check-in, each registered player will receive a number or name tag that they will give to each of the evaluators at each of the stations.
2. About 10 minutes before each group is to start, a representative will give the players a short introduction to the process and may divide the players into smaller groups for the evaluation.
3. Parents will be permitted to stay and watch the tryouts. Please refrain from any coaching, cheering or communicating with the players during the tryout process.
	* If tryouts are held at a school gymnasium, due to space constraints, parents will be asked to stay off the practice field unless asked to help, and possibly asked to leave the gym if viewing space is limited.
	* If tryouts are held inside at the C2 field house, parents will be allowed to remain in the designated waiting area behind the barriers. Parents will not be allowed in the field house during the tryout session.
	* If tryouts are held outside at Kushnir or Rivard Diamonds, Parents will be permitted to watch from the bleachers.
4. Total tryout times will be determined by coaches hosting the tryout
5. Older players in the BMBA may be used to help out during the tryouts for younger players (older player may play 1st base during infield evaluations of younger players, for example).

**Equipment**

1. Players must provide their own glove.
2. Players may bring their own bat that meets the current Baseball/Softball Alberta/League rules for the age level for which they are trying out. Bats will be available, if needed.
3. Players may bring their own batting helmets. Batting helmets will be available, if needed contact the coach prior to the tryout starting.
4. Players must provide their own batting gloves, if desired.
5. Players should wear shoes appropriate to the tryout location (running shoes if inside, cleats if outside).
6. Players should wear baseball/softball appropriate clothing.
7. Catchers may use their own catching gear (helmet/mask, chest protector, shin guards, catcher’s mitt). Catching gear will be available, if needed.
8. Players are strongly encouraged to wear a protective cup; the Catcher MUST wear a protective cup.

**Player Tryout Attendance**

1. Players that want to tryout for a Competitive Team must attend the scheduled tryout for his/her age group.
	* Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each tryout session of registered and eligible Players.
	* A Player that is absent from the tryout without being excused may be disqualified or ineligible to continue without an excused absence.
2. Players must participate in all scheduled sessions for his/her age group unless an excused absence is approved by the Head Coach.
	* Injury/Illness
		+ Registered and eligible Players who cannot participate in the tryout due to an injury or illness will be excused, prior to the start of the appropriate tryout session.
		+ Registered and eligible Players who miss more than 50% of the scheduled tryout session due to injury or illness, may be granted a special evaluation, once he/she provides a doctor’s release to participate.
	* Family situations;
		+ Registered and eligible players that cannot participate due to a specific family situation must submit in advance a request for a specially scheduled tryout.
	* It is not the BMBA’s intent to prohibit players experiencing short term injury or illness or a family situation from playing in the competitive program. All reasonable accommodations will be made to determine an injured player’s skill level and place them on an appropriate team. These may include, but are not limited to:
		+ A modified tryout
		+ Special scheduled individual tryout
		+ Previous years tryout scores
		+ Previous years coach evaluation
3. All requests for excused absences from the tryouts must be communicated to the head coach prior to the evaluation session.
4. Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis but are not guaranteed of an excused absence.
5. BMBA will do everything possible to accommodate school functions but the player is ultimately responsible for attending the appropriate tryout session.