

## **Answers to frequently asked questions about “Rep” baseball and how it compares to House League and “Select” programs**

The following info is general in nature. It is intended to answer some frequently asked questions. It may be useful but should be combined with info provided directly by the coach / manager / convener of a particular team or league.

Choosing a team:

Players will be chosen based on parental commitment, player attitude, behaviour, playing ability and potential for improvement.

House league participation:

One may play house league while in a rep program and some people do. Rep must be given priority. It differs from the “Select” program in this way because “Select” players are expected to play in the house league.

Baseball Ontario and Select Ontario Baseball Assn rules prohibit a rostered Rep player from participating on a Select team. The rules allow age appropriate Select players to fill in for league games, but not playoffs or OBA tournaments.

Ages:

House leagues and “Select” usually include 2 birth years in a division. i. e. the Mosquito House league and “Select” would include players who are 10 or 11 years old. “Rep” divisions include only one birth year. If there is no team in a player’s age group, that player may try out for an older team.

Time:

On average, “Rep” players will play or practice 3 – 4 times weekly. House league players play or practice once or twice weekly. Select players play or practice 2 – 3 times weekly and play in the house league once or twice weekly, too. The weekly time commitment is about the same for “Rep” and “Select” players. “Rep” players start earlier and practice or try out later into the season. “Rep” teams also participate in 3 – 4 tournaments. Some teams will practice inside once per week or so during the winter.

Tryouts:

“Rep” and “Select” teams are chosen on the basis of tryouts. Select tryouts are typically offered in the spring of the season. “Rep” tryouts are typically performed in the fall prior to the relevant season. Players that try out for “Rep” and don’t make it, or don’t like it, can try out for “Select”. Attending a tryout does not obligate a player to anything. If chosen for the team, parents will be asked for the appropriate commitment, at that time.

#### Season Duration:

The TP “rep” program begins with tryouts in mid to late September and continue until a team is chosen and beyond. “Rep” games typically begin in early to mid May. Pre – season practices usually start in April. Some “Rep” programs have indoor practices that start in late January or early February.

Most “Rep” players meet once or twice weekly to start tryouts and practices, in September and / or October, for next year’s season to begin forming and preparing a team for the next season. Tryouts / practices may continue for only a few weeks or continue longer if light and weather permit.

#### Travel:

There is no travel at the house league level. Travel for “Select” teams is usually within the city, except for tournaments.

The TP “Rep” team plays and practices at Christie Pits, Ravina Gardens, Dovercourt Park and other local parks. Away games are mostly against other Toronto teams (North Toronto, North York, Royal York, etc.). There are about 4 – 5 away games which are played in 905 areas like Bolton, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Aurora and Barrie. Typically rides are shared and arranged amongst the parent group for those without a vehicle.

#### Cost:

“Rep” baseball teams cost more to operate so the registration fees are higher. For instance, baseballs, chalk and umpires cost \$100 plus for a rep game and, typically, less than half the cost for Select games or House league games. The cost of uniforms is more than double at the “Rep” level and each team must buy its own equipment and field preparation tools. The “rep” program is completely self-supporting which requires a registration fee that will be in the approximate range of \$600 - \$700. Players will not be refused for financial reasons. Arrangements can be made through the contact person for your age group.

#### Coaches:

Coaches are unpaid volunteers at all levels. “Rep” coaches must be qualified through the National Coach Certification Program (NCCP). “Rep” coaches have, typically, have considerable coaching experience. Typically, there are more non parent coaches at the “Rep” level and more coaches per team. This allows practices to focus, more fully, player skill development. This, and a longer season, with more games, practices and tournaments, are the main reasons that players develop their skills faster and more fully in a “Rep” program.

#### Relationship between TP Baseball , Annette Baseball and Toronto Playgrounds Rep Baseball

Toronto Playgrounds Baseball, which operates from Christie Pits and Bickford Park, and Annette Baseball, which operates from Ravina Gardens Park have separate, but cooperative house leagues and select programs. The select teams compete against each other. Together, they are partners in Toronto

Playgrounds Rep Baseball. Toronto Playgrounds Rep Baseball is a member of the Toronto Baseball Assn which organizes and controls Rep level baseball in Toronto. Toronto Playgrounds Rep Baseball links both leagues to the Toronto Baseball Assn and provides the opportunity for players from both leagues to participate at the rep baseball level.