



2025 OBA HIGH PERFORMANCE PROPOSAL

Background Information

In 2024, two significant proposals were presented to membership for consideration at the Convention. Membership voted to table both proposals for one year and create a Committee of the Board to study both proposals, investigate other options, and present a final proposal to membership in 2025.

President Ed Quinlan struck this Committee, with membership as follows:

- Chris Wilhelm, Chair
- Doug Ouellette
- Scott Robinson
- Perry Scott
- Justin Snively
- Steve Watson

The committee met several times throughout the winter/spring of 2025, having very productive and cordial discussions about the 2024 proposals and other alternatives. At that time, members reached consensus on many matters of contention but felt that enough philosophical differences still existed to warrant two distinct proposals. As such, a proposal with Option A and Option B was submitted for consideration at Convention.

In October of 2025, the committee held a series of online information sessions with membership to outline the two proposals and seek input and feedback. Following those sessions, the committee incorporated feedback and reached consensus on most points of philosophical differences and is now able to submit one proposal for membership consideration. This proposal combines elements of both previous proposal and is reorganized for clarity. The essence of the proposal is to create an opportunity for programs declaring as High Performance to benefit from free release and early try-out opportunities, as well as to create an opportunity for competition between the various High Performance programs.

By adopting this proposal, the membership will authorize the Board of Directors to implement amendments incorporating the approved proposal into the Rep Procedures & Playing Rules as applicable.

As a result of what was passed by the membership in 2024, changes to the Rep Procedures & Playing Rules approved in 2023 to take effect in the 2025 season, including High Performance Programs RP1.13 and High Performance Partners RP1.14, were postponed for review. During the review period, the membership agreed to return to the previous OBA Recognition Policy subject to allowing 13U recognition for such interim period. Should the current proposal not be approved, this postponement would continue.



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Proposal Details

There shall be two types of High Performance programs recognized by OBA:

1. HP OBA PROGRAMS (HP-OBA)

Requirements - To register as an HP-OBA PROGRAM, the program must:

- be operated by an OBA Local or Affiliate Association
- adhere to the age categories approved by Baseball Canada
- ensure all coaches for each team obtain and maintain the minimum standard for AAA Coach Certification as published by the OBA and Baseball Canada.
- follow OBA Arm Care rules and use the OBA Pitch Count app in all games throughout the season

Opportunities - HP-OBA PROGRAMS may:

- compete in the OBA National Qualifier Tournament
- compete in the HP Provincial Championship, when implemented
- actively promote their try-outs on social media, websites, or other public advertisements at any time
- at 12U and above, sign players without release and hold early try-outs, subject to identified timelines below

Timelines - To take advantage of free release and early try-out opportunities for the **next season**, HP-OBA PROGRAMS must:

- declare their intention to classify as HP by May 1 annually, otherwise releases would be required for any players who try-out or play for the program outside their local geographic area
- not engage in recruitment¹ prior to May 1 annually
- not hold try-outs prior to:
 - 12U/13U – the Tuesday following Labour Day annually
 - 14U and above – **either June 1 or July 1 annually (to be determined by membership at Convention)**
- complete try-outs and announce their roster for next year's team by the HP ROSTER DEADLINE of:
 - 12U/13U - November 1 annually
 - 14U and above - the Wednesday following Labour Day annually

Releases and Playing Rights – Players who wish to sign with an HP-OBA program for the next season:

- do not require a release from their Local Association if included on the roster submitted by the HP Roster Deadline
- must secure a release from their Local Association if signing after the HP Roster Deadline
- have their playing rights for non-HPP remain with the Local Association within which the player resides or last played in prior to joining the HPP.

Classification and Competition - HP-OBA programs:

- shall be considered AAA for the purposes of classification
- may compete in any league they wish, with the EBLO being expanded to 14U

¹ Recruitment is defined as any solicitation of prospective athletes or their parents by a program staff member or authorized representative of the program for the purposes of securing a prospective athlete's position at a try-out or on a program.



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2. HP PARTNER PROGRAMS (HP-PARTNER)

To register as an HP PARTNER PROGRAM, the program must:

- not participate as part of a Local or Affiliated Association
- annually declare and pay the prescribed fees as determined by the OBA Board of Directors

HP Independent Programs may:

- have players drafted to the team representing Ontario at the National Championship
- have players included on the Ontario Youth Team
- compete in the anticipated HP Provincial Championship
- have access to the OBA Pitch Count app and OBA On Deck app at no cost
- have access to any level of OBA certified umpires
- choose to purchase OBA insurance

HP-INDPENEDENT PROGRAMS may not compete in AAA Championships (OBA Championships or National Qualifiers).

Once rostered to an HP-INDEPENDENT PROGRAM, a player may not appear on the roster of any OBA Team at any subsequent point during the same playing season.

NON-RECOGNIZED PROGRAMS

Any program that does not fall within one of the two above designations will be designated as a non-recognized program.

- Coaches and Executives of OBA programs may not participate in any capacity with a non-recognized program. This includes sitting on a board of directors, coaching a team, or umpiring a non-recognized baseball game. Violation of this rule is subject to immediate and indefinite suspension, pending review.
- OBA-carded umpires who also hold any recognized OBA leadership role are not permitted to umpire non-recognized baseball games. This includes Local UIC's, OBA Umpire Clinicians, all nationally certified (Level 4/5) umpires, any umpire who is also an OBA program coach, an umpire who sits on any local, affiliate, or OBA Board or committee, etc. For clarity, such umpires are always permitted to umpire any game that involves at least one OBA program. Umpires who violate this rule are subject to immediate and indefinite suspension, pending review.
- Non-recognized programs may not enter an OBA-sanctioned tournament.
- Players from non-recognized programs may not be rostered on an OBA team



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HIGH PERFORMANCE PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The intent within this proposal is that HP Provincial Championships be implemented alongside the current Provincial Championships for other classifications.

When such HP Provincial Championships occur, any High Performance Program (both HP-OBA and HP INDEPENDENT) that wishes to participate must:

- register their roster with the OBA using the OBA approved platform
- purchase insurance through the OBA. In the case of an HP-INDEPENDENT PROGRAM, proof of suitable third-party insurance is permissible in lieu of purchasing OBA insurance.
- adhere to the established OBA Rep roster and classification deadlines.
- follow the established OBA Arm Care Rules and use the Pitch Count app for all games throughout the season
- All participating teams are required to follow the established Arm Care Rules and use the Pitch Count app during the HP Ontario Championship.

IMPLEMENTATION

For 2026, any team that registers as HP following the guidelines in this proposal shall be considered a recognized program.

The only 2026 impacts will be around tryouts and roster construction for 2027 teams, for which the dates outlined in this proposal shall apply. Competition under this proposal is intended to come into effect for the 2027 season.