



## Local Member Application

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### Introduction

This Local Member Application (“Application”) sets forth the terms and conditions of membership in the Ontario Baseball Association, Inc. (“Association”), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting baseball throughout the province of Ontario. By completing this Application, the undersigned baseball club, organization, or association (“Member Club”) agrees to abide by the policies, rules, and regulations for local members established by the Association.

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### Definitions

**Association:** Ontario Baseball Association, Inc. (OBA), the governing body for amateur baseball in Ontario.

**Member Club:** The club, organization, or association that has signed this Application and is recognized as a local member of the Association.

**In Good Standing:** A status indicating the Member Club has complied with all financial, reporting, and policy obligations as set out by the Association.

**Local Member:** has the meaning given that term in the By-laws of the Association

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### Purpose and Objectives of the Association

The primary purpose of the Association is to provide access to baseball for young athletes, foster sportsmanship, and encourage a positive and safe environment for all participants, regardless of background or ability.

Our objectives are as follows:

- a) To foster and improve baseball at all levels in the Province of Ontario.
- b) To protect and promote the mutual interests of the members.
- c) To institute and regulate competition for the Ontario championships.
- d) To institute and regulate competition for determining the Ontario representative(s) in the national or Canadian playoffs.

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## Member Benefits

Local Members deemed to be In Good Standing are eligible to attend and vote as provided in the Association's By-laws at member meetings of the Association. In addition, Local Members may participate in all of the Association's activities and benefit from a range of resources and supports, including but not limited to:

### Program Participation

- Eligibility to participate in Association sanctioned events, tournaments, and programs.
- Opportunity to bid for hosting OBA-sanctioned events, clinics, and championships.
- Eligible to apply for OBA insurance.

### Education & Training

- Access to training and professional development through OBA-hosted clinics and education sessions.
- Coach certification and development programs.
- Umpire training and accreditation.
- Access to Convention and workshops.

### Support Services

- Ongoing consultation and operational support from OBA staff regarding governance, compliance, and baseball program delivery.
- Access to Safe Sport resources, including dispute resolution and guidance on conduct policies.
- Insurance coverage for eligible activities under the Association's policies.
- Eligibility to be nominated for and receive recognition through OBA's Awards Programs.

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## Membership Requirements

### Safe Environment:

- Adopts and adheres to the Association's Safe Sport Policy Suite and all associated policies and protocols.
- Adopts and adheres to the OBA Volunteer Screening Policy.
- Applies for insurance annually by deadlines set by the OBA Board. The Local Member acknowledges that they are responsible for any deductible related to claims against the Local Member.

## Coaching Program:

- Supports the Coaches Association of Canada's Responsible Coaching Movement, including
  - Has a Rule of Two Policy on which it educates players, parents, coaches, and team personnel;
  - Conducts background screening; and
  - Provides ethics training.
- All coaches and team personnel have completed certification and training as per the OBA certification requirements.
- Facilities and equipment are safe, well-maintained, and in good condition.

## Umpires Development Program:

The Member Club shall implement and maintain an Umpire Development Program:

- Designates an Umpire In Chief (UIC) or Coordinator for umpires.
- All umpires at the Rep and Select levels must complete the Association's annual certification.
- Utilize only OBA-certified officials for all rep and select play.

In addition to these mandatory requirements, the Member Club is encouraged to implement a mentorship program:

- Pair junior umpires with certified mentors
- Utilize a mentor checklist.
- Encourage regular check-ins.
- Provide evaluation and feedback.

## Enjoyable:

- Committed to providing an enjoyable baseball experience for all participants.
- Focused on long-term participation.

## Accessible, Inclusive, and Welcoming:

- Does not discriminate in violation of the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- Has mechanisms to reduce barriers to participation.
- Appreciates diversity and promotes a safe, inclusive environment.
- Coaches are culturally sensitive.
- Facilities are accessible to participants of all abilities.

## Governing Organization Expectations:

- Remains a Local Member in Good Standing.
- Complies with OBA by-laws and policies.
- Registers all participants with OBA.

Member Club's are encouraged to incorporate as not-for-profit corporations.

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## Requirements

Each Member Club must provide the following to the Association:

- Fees or Dues: Annually as required by the level of participation by the Member Club, by the dates due as outlined by OBA.
- Bylaws/Policies: An up-to-date copy of the Local Member Club's bylaws and policies upon request
- Executive contacts (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Umpire-in-Chief) within 30 days of their Annual Meeting

Failure to submit the required items by the stated deadline may result in an inability to participate until all requirements are met.

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## Codes of Conduct

- All Member Clubs, and by extension their athletes, coaches, volunteers, and administrators, agree to adhere to the Association's Codes of Conduct. This includes maintaining standards of sportsmanship, respect, inclusion, and integrity in all sanctioned activities and communications.
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## Dispute Resolution and Discipline

- Complaints or disputes must be submitted in writing according to OBA Safe Sport Policy Suite.
  - Matters may be reviewed by an independent body or the OBA Safe Sport & Integrity Officer.
  - Sanctions may include warnings, suspensions, or expulsion.
  - All decisions will be communicated in writing.
  - Local Member will not take any action with respect to a complaint or dispute submitted under the OBA Safe Sport Policy Suite until hearing back from the OBA Safe Sport & Integrity Officer.
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## Local Membership Termination or Suspension

The Association reserves the right to suspend or revoke local membership for:

- Non-compliance with the provisions of this Application.
- Violations of the Association's policies or by-laws.
- Conduct detrimental to the Association.

Any determination to suspend or revoke membership shall be made by the OBA Board of Directors.

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### Limitation of Liability

The Association shall not be liable for injury, loss, or damages incurred by the Member Club or its registrants during participation in sanctioned activities. The Member Club agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Association and its representatives from any related claims.

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### Term of Membership

Membership shall be granted upon submission of a completed application. Subject to the termination or suspension provision noted above, Membership continues annually provided the Member Club remains In Good Standing.