

Kanata Baseball players and parents,

My name is Mark Wilson and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as the head coach of the Major Midget 18U Competitive baseball team. My wife Carol and I have been together for 25 years and happily married for 20 years. We have two sons who both play competitive baseball for the Kanata Cubs. My oldest plays 18U and my youngest plays 16U. I started coaching my oldest son in tee ball in 2006 with Stittsville and switched to Kanata Little league a few years later. I have been either an assistant coach or a head coach every year since my boys started playing ball. I have also been an assistant coach for many years with Stittsville house league hockey. My main reason for coaching is that I love the game and love watching the players develop baseball skills and more importantly life skills! Everyone deserves the same respect and I am always there to mentor and help them prepare for life after baseball. My hope is that they will continue to play a high level of baseball well into their adult life. I played competitive hockey and baseball growing up out west and moved to Ottawa in 1986 with my family. I played ball with the Nepean Canadians from 1986 to 1989 but my playing career was cut short due to several injuries.

As a competitive team, the expectation is to try to win every game we play and to try to win tournaments and ultimately the Baseball Ontario Rep Play-offs (Provincials).

This means there is not always going to be equal playing time in tournaments and Provincials. I will do my best in the regular season to make sure everyone plays the same amount of innings. I am also a strong believer that you need to earn playing time by working hard and having a positive attitude. With the new arm care rules instituted by Baseball Ontario ([Baseball Ontario Arm Care Rules 2020](#)), we may need to take a larger roster which will mean a little less playing time for all players. Although my goal is to be

a winning team, at the end of the day, the priority is for everyone to have fun and be a very tight knit group. A team that supports one another will always be successful!

The parents who already know me can tell you I will never yell or scream at players for making mistakes but will take them aside and explain respectfully what the mistake was, as mistakes are part of the game! I will demand that the boys are mentally focused for every game and practice. I will not tolerate behaviour such as throwing equipment, having a negative attitude or negative comments to other players after making a bad play or striking out. Players will be removed from the game immediately regardless of how important the game is, as this is a team game and not about one individual player. By emphasizing the TEAM aspect, I strongly believe this will create a winning team!! I want to teach these young players how to play the game of baseball the right way, be a positive impact on them and do it all with class. We may not win every game but we will be the classiest coaches, players and parents in every game we play. The boys are going to play with a respect for their teammates, opposing teams, umpires and the game no matter what.

Ater the team is formed, training will begin in early February and go until the end of April at Beckwith. The regular season will start sometime in May when the fields are available, and there will be two practices per week with the expectation of four games on the weekends. (two double-headers). The plan is to register for four to five tournaments: late May (Toronto area), beginning of June (Muskoka area), July (Kanata) and other tournament(s) to be confirmed at a later date. . Should we qualify, this will also include the Provincial Championships which are scheduled August 14 to 16, 2020 (location tbd based on classification).

All practices will be two hours long. Players will be expected to arrive at least 15 minutes early and be ready to start on time. If a player will be late for any reason it will be his responsibility to contact the team captain who will relay the message to me. I understand that many players have jobs but they will need to try and schedule around games and practices whenever possible. It is anticipated that on any given week, practices will almost always be on the same times and days. During exam week, all practices will be optional but I will still need to know if you will attend! For away games, arrival is at least one hour before game time and ready to go. This means cleats on! Players must arrive for home games an hour and a half before the scheduled time to warm up and are responsible to prepare the field. This will be a group effort!

Once the team is selected formal offers will be sent by the end of the day on January 28th. A response will be required within 24 hours. Upon acceptance from all offers the roster will be formalized and those who are not given an offer will be released. Other playing options will be provided in a release letter by the end of the day January 29th.

I am looking forward to a fun and successful season. If there are any questions please feel free to email me at markwilson70@hotmail.com

Thanks!!

Mark