

## LMBA Twins Program FAQ's

Each year we receive a few questions about our Twins A & AA Program, so we thought it may be a good idea to shed some light on what the Twins are about. If you have any questions on the Twins Program, please contact [info@lloydminsterminorball.ca](mailto:info@lloydminsterminorball.ca)

### **Why do we have the Twins?**

The Twins program was established to enable kids to play more baseball. The idea is to include players who want to play weekends and continue past the City League and into the first part of summer. This would involve practices, games, and tournaments to enhance their skills and play at a higher level. LMBA follows Sport Canada's Long Term Athlete Development model where we expose the kids to a higher level of skill development and a chance to perform in a higher stakes game situation.

We try to field two teams per division (A & AA) if we have enough interest. Evaluation sessions are completed to ensure the players are placed on the appropriate teams (Not all players may be placed on a team if we do not have enough interest for two teams or if more than enough players for two teams attend tryouts). Our AA team will partake in provincials in July (locations and date vary from year-to-year). The AA team generally plays more than our A team, thus there is a greater commitment for those players and families. Our A teams can and often do enter provincials as well. This is not mandatory; however, it is a great stage for the kids to showcase the work they have put in during the year.

### **How much time do I need to commit?**

Generally, during the City League Season, the Twins will practice once a week, play some games and a tournament or two on the weekends. Once the City League ends, the teams will generally practice 2 – 3 times per week. There aren't as many tournaments in the beginning of July, so most teams will play exhibition games to prepare for Provincials (if they attend). The number of games is totally team dependent and will vary. Provincial tournaments are generally held on the third and fourth weekends of July. This tournament is an exciting and fun filled weekend for the players. They see teams from across the province and play a high level of ball.

### **Are the Twins for players who have a lot of baseball experience?**

No, the Twins program is open to anyone registered within the LMBA City League. We strongly encourage players to come to the evaluations and see if the Twins program suits them. We generally find that once players start in the program, they continue on.

### **Is there a significant cost?**

LMBA pays for the team registration fee into provincials as well as supply the teams with equipment and jerseys (we do have a small jersey fee). Tournament fees and other costs are the responsibility of each team; however, most teams do some fundraising to offset these costs.

### **Who are the coaches?**

Coaches are selected from people who are interested and meet the coaching qualifications at the various levels. Coaching selections are usually completed after we know the core of the teams so that the head coach will be able to complete his/her roster. It is overseen by the Division Director and LMBA . People who do not have children playing at the specific age level complete the evaluations. Generally, we use people who have been or are currently with the Twins program so that the criteria are consistently applied.

Coaches are provided with LMBA guidelines for the program, indicating such things as philosophy and purpose.

### **Is there a lot of pressure on the kids at this level?**

The Twins have had a great run of success over the past few years winning many Provincial championships and a Western Canadian title. Though these are all great for our kids and program, it is not what we are striving for. We believe that the model put in place and supports provided to teams and coaches, results in players being able to do what they do best, play ball. The success from year to year is not measured in championships, but the fun and learning the

kids gain by playing a sport. We want their experience as a Twin to be positive and one they will remember for years.

**How does my son/daughter get involved?**

Tryout times and locations will be provided to all registered players. The players just need to attend and have fun. We have two guaranteed workouts and possibly others that may be scheduled to help the evaluators and coaches to make decisions (as per the LMBA Twins Guidelines Document). Players and parents will be notified in regards to their placement once final decisions have been made.