



# Frequently Asked Questions

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## What does SAMBA stand for?

SAMBA stands for **St. Albert Minor Baseball Association**

## What is the cut-off date for the various division age categories?

The player's age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the registration year is used to determine their age category

## Can girls play baseball & does SAMBA support “all girl teams”?

Yes, SAMBA is actively promoting “Girls in Baseball” as part of our House League, Community and Rep Level Programs. In addition & pending player registration numbers the “SAMBA Angels” all girl teams play in the House League at the Rally Cap (T-Ball) to PeeWee level. SAMBA also encourages all girl teams at the Mosquito and PeeWee level to play post season in the Alberta Baseball Community Provincials during the month of July.

Additional information is posted on SAMBA's website [Girls Baseball](#) page

## What does it cost to play baseball?

All costs associated with playing in the House League Program are covered by SAMBA Registration Fees. In the Rep Program, additional funding is required either directly from the families or through team fund raising

initiatives to cover added Association Expenses, League Fees, Tournaments, Travel and other related expenses.

Refer to SAMBA's website [Registration](#) page and respective [Rep Division](#) pages for more information

### **What is the Rally Cap program?**

The Rally Cap program formally known as T-Ball, targets kids at the same "Grassroots" level ages 5 to 7 years old. The goals are similar to T-Ball, to create an environment in which children and adults can have fun together, learn baseball skills, rules and strategies, model and teach competitiveness with an emphasis on good sportsmanship and promote increased self-esteem among the children and adults. Implementing Rally Cap days (2 to 3 days) into the regular league play program provides the players an opportunity to further develop their skills and earn a different color hat based on the skill level achieved through the various drills that are setup.

Additional information is posted on SAMBA's website [Rally Cap \(T-Ball\)](#) Division page

### **When can I register my children & how do I register them?**

SAMBA's registration period begins the first week of January and ends the first week of April. Additional late fees are applied and player waiting lists are implemented following the close of our registration period. SAMBA utilizes an on-line application (QuickEnrollment) to facilitate all player and program registrations.

Refer to SAMBA's website [Registration](#) page for more information or contact our [Registrar](#)

### **When does the league play begin & end?**

Depending on field conditions, play usually begins during the first week of May and ends during the last week of June for House League teams. Rep teams also play during July and August, the length of time depends on the success of the team as it advances through to Provincial Championships and/or post Provincial Championships such as the Westerns and Nationals (where applicable)

### **What days of the week does the House League play & where do they play?**

The House League teams in Rally Cap (T-Ball) to PeeWee Division play on weeknights, either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday (player's choice during registration). Bantam and Midget Divisions play in the Edmonton and Rural Recreational League (ERRBL), their schedule involves both weeknight (no specific night) and weekend play and usually consists of two games per week. The Rally Cap (T-Ball) Division plays in St. Albert, the Rookie to PeeWee Divisions play in the St. Albert and Morinville area and the Bantam to Midget Divisions play in the Greater Edmonton area.

Refer to [SAMBA's](#) website under the respective Division pages and/or [Diamond Locations](#) page for a complete listing of locations

### **What if my child wishes to play beyond the end of June?**

SAMBA actively promotes House League "All-Star" teams at the Mosquito, PeeWee and Bantam level to play post season in the Alberta Baseball Community Provincials during the month of July. Typically at the beginning of June notifications are sent out to all players in these respective divisions, tryouts, team selections and practices are then held throughout the month in preparation for play in July. Games are usually played during the weekends and are hosted in numerous communities across Alberta.

For more information, please contact our [House League Director](#)

### **Can my child play on the same team as his/her friend?**

As of 2010, SAMBA no longer supports or will accept any player pairing requests. Siblings who wish to play on the same team will be the only exception. SAMBA has changed it's practice in this regard, over the past few years many have utilized this offering to take advantage of the system for which it was not intended and/or their increasing abusive behavior towards those who volunteer many hours to coordinate and provide a truly

great program and safe environment for your children. Rather than deeming this change as a deterrent, SAMBA see's this as a great opportunity for both family members and players to meet other friends and neighbors of our community and establish new teammates/friendships which may last for years to come

### **What if my child wants to play at a higher/lower division or more competitive level?**

At the House League level, SAMBA supports players requesting to play either underage in a higher division of ball or overage in a lower division of ball pending their level of skill/experience or specific circumstances such as playing with a sibling. Each player must attend the evaluations to ensure an assessment is completed and the level of play is deemed appropriate. As part of the on-line league registration process, please identify your request in the "Special Requests" area then contact the [House League Director](#) to ensure your request is noted and further details are provided

SAMBA also offers a Rep Program comprised of Competitive (AA) and Performance (AAA) level teams for those players who wish to play at a higher level of competition. Refer to the Rep Program section on the [SAMBA](#) website for more information or contact the respective [Rep Director](#)

### **What do I have to supply my child to play & what does SAMBA supply?**

SAMBA provides all teams with the basic equipment to play baseball. This includes Bats, Balls, Batting Helmets, Catcher's Equipment and Bases. In addition, each House League registrant is provided a Jersey c/w Team Logo and Ball Cap c/w the STA/Cardinals Logo which they keep at the end of season. Refer to SAMBA's website [House League Apparel/Equipment](#) or [Rep Apparel/Equipment](#) pages for more details and a complete listing of additional requirements

### **Is there an evaluation or tryout process my child must participate in?**

Yes, all players Rookie Division through to Midget Division at the House League level participate in a basic skill assessment/evaluation during the first week of April in order that SAMBA may provide a level of balance in the selection of teams, all registrants will ultimately be placed on a team. Rep players must participate in the tryout process and be selected to qualify for a team, this process starts during the same time frame and continues through to the end of April. The St. Albert Tigers engage in the evaluation process at all levels to assist SAMBA coaches as independent/neutral evaluators. Evaluations and tryouts are held at multiple venues including Servus Place, Athletes Nation and Legion Memorial Ball Park (pending weather), additional information will be posted on [SAMBA's](#) website under the respective division pages

### **How & when will I be contacted for team assignments & league start dates?**

At the House League level, following player evaluations team rosters are determined by the House League Director and/or in conjunction with designated division coordinators. Usually this process is completed 1.5 to 2 weeks prior to the start of season, the completed rosters are then forwarded (emailed) to each of the assigned coaches. The coaches in turn will notify each team member either by phone or via email at least one week prior to the posted season start date. Final Rep team rosters are determined and communicated to the players by the selected coaching staff members, then forwarded to the respective Rep Director's at least 1 week prior to the end of April. A list of those players who do not qualify for a Rep team is then forwarded to the House League Director who in turn assigns them to a House League team and contacts the respective coach. League start dates and game schedules will be posted well in advance on [SAMBA's](#) website under the respective division pages

### **Does SAMBA host tournaments?**

Yes, SAMBA hosts a House League mid-season tournament prior to the end of May for Rally Cap (T-Ball) to Mosquito Divisions, PeeWee Division enter into the North East Zone (NEZ) mid-season tournament hosted during the first week of June at Rundle Park. In addition, SAMBA also hosts a House League year end

tournament following completion of regular season play, prior to the end of June for Rally Cap (T-Ball) to PeeWee Divisions. For House League Bantam/Midget teams playing in the ERRBL league, only a year end championship tournament is hosted prior to the end of June

At the Rep level, SAMBA hosts the annual Early Bird Tournament during the long weekend in May, with the exception of Midget performance, all SAMBA rep teams along with many other teams from across Western Canada participate.

Refer to [SAMBA's](#) website under the respective Division and Tournaments pages for schedules and additional information

### **Does SAMBA host baseball camps & how do I register?**

Yes, SAMBA annually hosts a Winter Camp during the month of February, a Spring Camp during the month of March, a Girls Skills Camp during the first part of May and the St. Albert Tigers Camp during the first part of June. These camps are structured to further develop the skills and knowledge of the game for players at all levels of baseball. Registration for all camps is conducted on-line utilizing QuickEnrollment. All camps are held at either Servus Place, Athletes Nation and Legion Memorial Ball Park.

Refer to SAMBA's website [Camps](#) and [Registration](#) pages for additional information

### **Can I be a Coach, do I need to be certified & does SAMBA host Coaching clinics**

Yes, SAMBA is continually looking for enthusiastic and committed volunteer's to coach at all levels for both the House League and Rep League programs. SAMBA offers a tremendous amount of support to our coaches and hosts numerous coaching clinics each year, in addition to those programs offered on-line through Baseball Alberta/Canada. Various levels of certification are required at the Rep level and SAMBA encourages all House League coaches to at least complete the on-line initiation coach module and participate in the pre-season clinic(s) we offer, some of which are mandatory.

Refer to SAMBA's website [Coaches](#) page for additional information or contact the respective [Technical and/or Program Director](#)

### **Does SAMBA perform an evaluation of their coaches?**

Yes, SAMBA performs a coach assessment prior to the end of each season for both the House League and Rep League coaching staff members assigned to each and every team. The respective Division Director's will send out notifications to each players family, based on the evaluations and input (both positive & negative) provided by the respective parent groups, SAMBA Executive then utilize it to review how our coaches performed throughout the season and focus in on key areas where improvement may be needed to ensure our children are continually provided with the best experiences possible. SAMBA's coach assessment form is hosted on-line and all replies are kept strictly confidential.

Refer to SAMBA's website [Coach Assessment](#) page for more information

### **Can I be an Umpire, do I need to be certified & does SAMBA host Umpire clinics?**

Yes, if you are 13 years or older, looking for a good summer job and want to be part of the "game", SAMBA offers above average pay, work incentives and rewards, umpire gear, free training and mentoring. All umpires regardless of level they intend to officiate must be trained and certified, each spring SAMBA through Baseball Alberta hosts a Level 1 and 2 clinic in addition to an umpire-coach clinic.

Refer to SAMBA's website [Umpires](#) page for additional details and contact information

### **I want to volunteer, how do I get involved?**

SAMBA continually encourages and promotes opportunities to our membership, other family members and/or friends to volunteer and get involved in various aspects of our program. Our entire Association is based on committed volunteer's who together deliver a quality and fun filled program that ensures our children realize lasting experiences, opportunities to establish new friendships, abilities to enhance their skill set and be provided the very best facilities, equipment and resources. When registering your child, various volunteer

opportunities are identified in the form, as well there are many other roles and requirements available, please consider these and contact any [Board Member](#) to enquire about the other roles and how you may be able to assist us

If there is only one thing you can offer, let it be your attendance at your child's game

**Can any member work a Bingo/Casino to receive a discount towards their registration fees?**

Yes, any member of SAMBA from either the House League or Rep League programs can participate in our Bingo/Casino programs to receive discount credits towards their registration fees. Refer to SAMBA's website [Bingo/Casino](#) page for additional details and contact information

**If I have a concern or grievance to bring forward, what is the process to follow?**

If the occasion arises for a player, a parent, coach or spectator to ask for information, seek clarification on a situation, give positive input or to voice their concerns, please go through the proper channels as listed below:

House League

- First speak to the coach; if not satisfied,
- Go to the Division Co-ordinator; if not satisfied,
- Go to the House League Director; if not satisfied,
- Go to the SAMBA Executive

Rep League

- First speak to the Rep Coach; if not satisfied,
- Go to the respective Rep Director; if not satisfied,
- Go to the SAMBA Executive