



Hopkins Baseball Association

2026 Tryout Information

Location

URW Sports Dome on U of MN Campus

March 7 and March 8

Address:

600 25th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

HBA has made a significant investment to ensure all players receive a fair tryout with the URW sports dome. Please plan to attend both days of tryouts. If you have conflicts, contact VP of Player Development Chris Vogtman immediately at 612-720-6331.

NOTE: Tryouts are closed to parents/guardians



Logistics

DROP OFF

During drop-off, **DO NOT** enter fenced parking lot due to congestion. Use the Cul de Sac turnaround to drop off your player.

Drop off in highlighted area ONLY.



CHECK IN (timing on next slide)

Your son will check in at front lobby. They will receive a random tryout number to pin to their shirt. They will keep this number both days.

They will not be allowed to enter the dome airlock until they have:

1. Provided us their top 3 preferred positions excluding pitcher (these positions will help us make a line-up for the scrimmage)
2. Tried on a jersey / hat and given us appropriate sizing. They are stuck with the sizing all season. There will be no extra jerseys should they pick the wrong sizing (we will be helping fit them)
3. They can pin their number on inside the dome airlock after 1 and 2 are completed



Schedule

13U

Saturday:

Check in starts at 9:40 am!

Tryouts: 10 am – 12:30 pm

Sunday:

Split scrimmage. **Parents will be informed by no later than 8 pm what time to arrive Sunday. Posted on website and emailed to 13U parents**

Silver scrimmage*: 9 – 10:20 am (Check in at 8:40)

Blue scrimmage: 10:20 – 11:35 am (Check in at 10 am)

** Players from silver scrimmage may be asked to stay for blue scrimmage*

14U

Saturday:

Check in starts at 12:20 pm!

Tryouts: 12:45 pm – 3 pm

Sunday:

Check in starts at 11:15 am.

Scrimmage: 11:35 am – 2 pm*

** Select players may end earlier if we have determined their team placement to ensure we get enough looks at players on bubble.*

Equipment

Molded cleats, tennis shoes or turf shoes only. **NO METAL CLEATS**

Do NOT Wear: jerseys or hats from previous associations NOR club baseball teams

13U

Equipment:

Gloves, bat, batting helmet, catchers gear if they use their own. *NOTE: We will provide catchers gear if the do not have their own.*

Bat (We will check to ensure compliance):

BBCOR / USA Baseball / USSSA stamped ...
Barrell: 2 1/4" or less with UNLIMITED weight differential or
Barrell: 2 3/4" or less / Weight differential: -10 or less

Clothing:

NO SHORTS ... look the part

14U

Equipment:

Gloves, bat, batting helmet, catchers gear if they use their own. *NOTE: We will provide catchers gear if the do not have their own.*

Bat (We will check to ensure compliance):

BBCOR / USA Baseball / USSSA stamped ...
Barrell: 2 3/4" or less / Weight differential: -5 or less

Clothing:

NO SHORTS ... look the part

Player Placement & Evaluation Process

Purpose

HBA is committed to a fair, objective, and development-focused player placement process. Our evaluation system ensures consistency, transparency, and competitive integrity while prioritizing long-term player growth.

Independent Evaluator Process

- Each player is evaluated by multiple independent evaluators.
- Evaluators score players independently and do not consult one another during scoring.
- Scores are collected and compiled centrally.
- Composite scores are calculated by averaging evaluator results.

Final Placement Determination

Composite scores are a primary factor in roster formation. Final decisions also consider:

- Positional needs
- Pitching and catching depth
- Roster balance
- Competitive balance across teams
- Developmental considerations

HBA's objective is to place players at an appropriate level where they will be challenged and supported. Placement does not define a player's long-term trajectory within the program. All placement decisions are final.

Scoring Criteria

Scoring criteria is not in priority order. Tryouts start the second your player enters the lobby, not during drills!

- A. Hitting → Mechanics, Contact, Bat Speed, Confidence / Control of Bat, Exit Velo
- B. Fielding → Glove work, foot work, range and instincts, defensive presence and control, baseball IQ. Scrimmage will be key indicator on baseball IQ (cut-offs, back-ups, holding runners, COMMUNICATION)
- C. Throwing → Arm strength, accuracy, ability to carry throws on target / in-air, precision
- D. Speed / Athleticism → mobility, speed, coordination, agility. We will be running a 40-yards dash and a footwork speed drill
- E. Pitching (if applicable) → control and command, velocity, mound presence, ability to work with catcher
- F. Catching (if applicable) → receiving skills (i.e. net gain strike calls), blocking / mechanics, control of game, baseball IQ
- G. Intangibles → focus / effort, engagement, coachability, competitiveness, exceptional leadership / presence

The Sunday scrimmages will help your player demonstrate these skills in a simulated live game environment. There will be bench coaches and umpires who will be evaluating your players as well. Scrimmages will be coach pitch to ensure fairness while hitting and to prevent early season arm injuries.