

Baseball Canada-Junior National Team Information

About /Selection Process

The Junior National Team is made up of some of the best high school aged (18 and under) baseball players in Canada. Since 1999 the program began a year-round selection process that leads to either an IBAF 18U World Cup or COPABE 18U World Cup Qualifier occurring in alternating years.

The selection process begins each year at the Baseball Canada Cup where players are identified and invited to the Fall Instructional League Camp each October in Orlando, Florida. Players can also be selected at other events throughout the year such as elite level tournaments and MLB Scouting Bureau Camps.

Age eligibility for the Junior National Team states that players must not be older than 18 years of age on December 31st of each calendar year.

Baseball Canada Cup

The Baseball Canada Cup takes place every August at a different location in Canada. The competition features some of the best 17 and under players from each of the 10 provinces in Canada competing for a national championship. Players are evaluated by JNT coaches and at the conclusion of this tournament some players are selected to attend the JNT Fall Instructional League camp at Disney's Wide World of Sports.

Fall Instructional League Camp

In October, the JNT heads to Orlando, FL and ESPN Wide World of Sports to compete in a series of games against MLB Fall Instructional League teams. The opportunity that the players have to compete against professional competition is a challenge that they would not normally see at this stage of their careers. This camp is an introduction to the JNT team for many but also serves as another opportunity to participate for the JNT for returning players. This unique opportunity also gives players insight as to what it is like being a professional baseball player and what it takes to become a professional player. Once again players are evaluated during games and at the same time exposed to playing in front of many MLB scouts and college baseball recruiters.

Spring Training Camp

The next step in the process occurs each spring again, in Florida at ESPN Wide World of Sports. Players are selected by the JNT coaching staff to participate in a spring training camp against MLB Extended Spring Training clubs. The majority of players selected for this camp participated in the Fall Instructional League with some additions and subtractions to the roster. Players are not only showcasing themselves to JNT coaches, but are performing in front of numerous MLB scouts in advance of the June MLB draft and college baseball recruiters.

Dominican Summer League

In May, the JNT will reconvene in the Dominican Republic for the annual tour through the Dominican Summer League. The Dominican Summer League provides an eye opening experience for players both on and off the baseball field. The exposure that the players receive during their time in the Dominican is crucial for those players who are draft eligible; it serves as a time for them to showcase their abilities mere days before the MLB Draft.

IBAF 18U World Cup/COPABE 18U World Cup Qualifier

The final stage of the process is the Final Selection Camp, which eventually leads to the IBAF 18U World Cup or COPABE 18U World Cup Qualifier taking place in alternating years. Final Selection Camps will generally occur in a geographic region close to the championship location. An exhibition schedule will be established to allow the coaching staff to evaluate players for final roster decisions in a highly competitive and challenging environment.

JNT Alumni

The JNT program has produced many players that have gone on to professional baseball, college baseball and players who have represented Canada at the World Baseball Classic, Olympics and other International baseball events. Some of these players include 1997 National League MVP Larry Walker, 2006 American League MVP Justin Morneau, 2004 National League Rookie of the Year Jason Bay, MLB All Star Russell Martin, 2002 4th overall pick Adam Loewen and current major league players Phillippe Aumont, John Axford, Ryan Dempster, Jeff Francis, Jim Henderson, Brett Lawrie and Michael Saunders.

