

Hamilton Challenger

Baseball Association



Who we are

HCBA is a registered Canadian Charity, providing sports and social activities for players with special needs in the Greater Hamilton area



Who we are



Mission Statement

Provide exceptional sports and social activities for youth and adults with challenges in an engaging and supportive setting

Goals

- Provide sports and social activities for challenged athletes
- Develop skills, teamwork and sportsmanship to the maximum of each participant's ability
- Build self-esteem and confidence through participation and social interaction
- Create a fun atmosphere and playing environment
- Promote community awareness and participation



Who we are

Hamilton Challenger Baseball Association (HCBA) is a local chapter of Challenger Canada. With over 220 players and 70 dedicated volunteers. HCBA is the largest Challenger Baseball league in Canada.

We believe in the transformative power of sport; the Association provides the opportunity for those with developmental and physical disabilities to be empowered and assert their independence through high-quality programming.

Participation in the league provides players the opportunity to:

- Develop and improve their skills
- Build their self confidence and resiliency
- Improve their health and well being
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Create lasting friendships





Who we are

- Our priority is to provide social / recreational activities to persons with disabilities.
- Sports are an excuse to get together, develop relationships and to have fun.

What we do





Baseball



- Baseball played at 5 skill levels
- There are approx. 220 registered players, 80% play at a 'Recreational' skill level
- 4 games are held each Monday & Tues in June, July & August
- At the Recreational skill level, buddies may assist players during the game, however, the priority of the buddies is to encourage the player to participate to the maximum of their ability.
- Baseball rules are adapted as required to match players' abilities so that participation and teamwork are emphasized.



Monday Night Baseball

● 4 Divisions

- Junior - Recreational Level, Semi Competitive
 - Semi Competitive is a bit more advanced than Recreational
- Senior - Semi Competitive, Competitive
 - Sr Semi Competitive is played like slow pitch with modified rules
 - Competitive is roughly the same skill level as Seniors Slow Pitch
- Currently only 2 Teams per Division

Tuesday Night Baseball

● 1 Division

- Adult Recreational Level
- 8 Teams

Priority is participation, fun and social interaction







Off-Season Sports

- Started in 2004 to fill the need for additional recreation & leisure activities for our members.
- Recently up to 60 registered players participated, playing at a 'Recreational' skill level
- Activities are held at Westmount Rec Centre
- Participation, teamwork and fun are emphasized
- Starting Fall of 2021:
 - Para Sport Activities are being added
 - Program will run 6 months from October to March





Activities at a Recreational (Fun) Skill level

- Gymnasium Bowling
- Floor Curling
- Indoor Baseball
- 3 on 3 Basketball
- Recreational (fun) Bocchia



Boccia Skills and Fun



- New Activity - Hamilton Sports Challengers is merging their sports program with HCBA
- This program will feature Boccia skills training in a fun atmosphere for members who would enjoy learning the rules and the challenge of competition
- As Player's skills develop, they'll have the opportunity to go on to competitions at the Regional, Provincial levels and beyond



Social activities

- Halloween Party
- Christmas Party
- Summer Tournaments
- Summer 'Fun' days / BBQs
- Banquets
- Valentine's Dance



Feedback:

● Impact on members/players

- Players are there to have fun and to socialize
- Some players only have baseball to look forward to for the summer
- I believe that HCBA is a big impact on players because there are a lot of volunteers there that care about everyone
- Once the last game is played they look forward to the end of year Banquet

● What impressed me

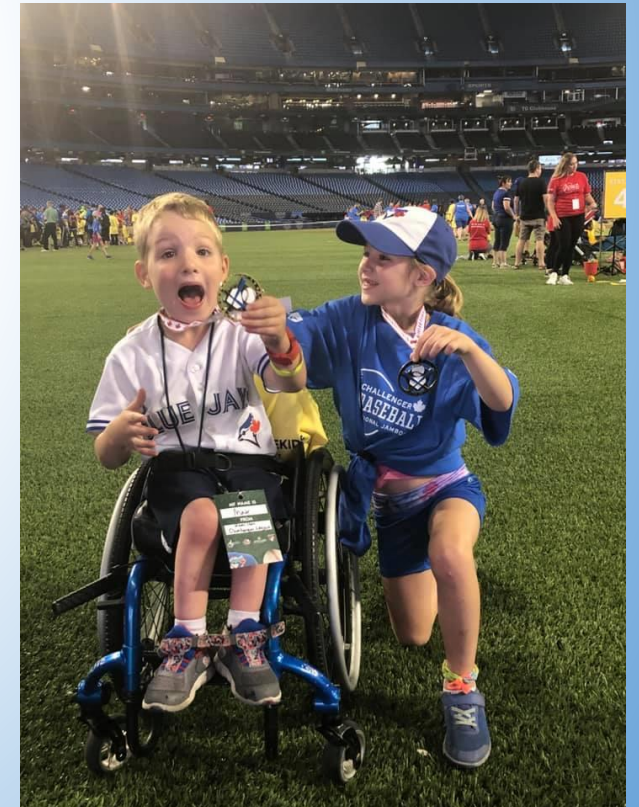
- Makes a huge impact on the players
- They have their own park where they can play baseball and are not left out of the community
- Great organization overall!



Impact Story - Max

Max has been part of the Challenger baseball family for 4 summers now. He's the biggest sports fan you'll ever meet. Because he was born with a rare neuromuscular disorder, we were always worried that Max wouldn't have any opportunities to participate in the activities he loves so much.

Through (Hamilton) Challenger Baseball, he has been able to be active and meet new friends - all while playing the game in a way that's meaningful and adapted to his own unique abilities. He loves being part of a team, and his baseball experience has given him the confidence and courage to continue to play sports all year round. We are so grateful to Jays Care and all the wonderful coaches and volunteers that make this league possible!



Impact Story - Rylie

Rylie DeWolfe is a beautiful, feisty 5 year old little girl in her rookie season with the Hamilton Challenger Baseball Association. Rylie is non verbal, autistic and has a genetic disorder called Angelman Syndrome. Life is not always easy, but Rylie always makes the best of it with her happy demeanor shining through.

HCBA and Jays Care have given the opportunity for Rylie to thrive this summer. It is physical, occupational and play therapy all rolled into one. She gets so excited to go every week and see everyone. She LOVES to hit the ball and run the bases. Most important is the friendships we are both making. Making friends isn't always easy when you're a little different or communicate in a different way. She has friends here. I have friends here. Her best baseball buddy, Max, is always excited to see her and play with her. His parents even negotiated a last minute trade so they could be on the same team together!

Thank you, Jays Care and HCBA for all you do for Rylie and others like her. Your support means more than words can say.



As an established charitable sports organization in Hamilton, we have demonstrated our:

- Commitment to increase youth participation in sports and to be inclusive in all areas of its program
- Ability to be self-sustaining operationally
- Build strong partnerships with other organizations, agencies, local business community and individuals
- Ability to manage and account for the use of grant funds, provide complete and meaningful quarterly and final reports and willingness to adhere to terms and conditions of any funding.



What's Next?

- Additional Renovations at Inch Park
 - Wheelchair Swing / Accessible Playground
- Business Plan
 - Re-invent leadership structure
 - Name Change
 - Para / Competitive Programs
 - Squad Fusion

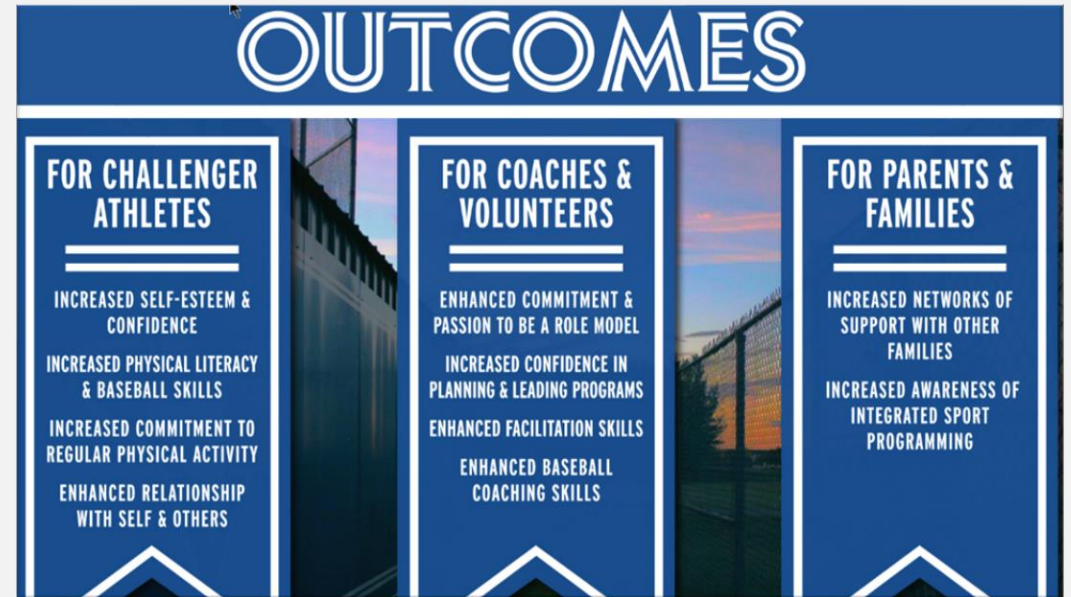




JAYS CARETM
FOUNDATION



Jays Care Foundation



Mission

- We use baseball to teach life skills and create lasting social change for children and youth in marginalized communities across Canada.

Vision:

- A level playing field for all children and youth across Canada.



Jays Care Foundation

• **Blue Jays Care Foundation's has already supported HCBA in many ways including:**

- Knowledge sharing
- Coaches training
- Jays Swag for players
- Opportunities for volunteers
- Donate hats and jerseys each year
- Substantial cash donation each year



Jays Care Foundation - Support Highlights

- Volunteer Training sessions across Canada each year, including travel and accommodation costs for volunteers
- Sponsored an HCBA volunteer – Developing the First Canadian Children's Charter in Ottawa
- Awarded 4 sizable college/university scholarships to HCBA volunteers
- Annual Challenger Jamboree at the Roger's Center
- Jay's games at Roger's Community Clubhouse for teams and families
- \$150,000 Field of Dreams grant for upgrades at Inch Park

