



The Grand Slam Program is Baseball Canada's official program for the pursuit of physical literacy in young athletes. Grand Slam is the follow-up program for Rally Cap, is meant for players aged 8 and 9, and has replaced the Rookie Program that was used in previous years. It was developed by Baseball Canada and is designed to develop skills in young players by reducing team sizes and encouraging touches of the baseball through practice and game situations. Grand Slam incentives, which are baseball stickers depicting famous Canadian baseball players, are awarded to athletes for successfully completing skill categories.

St. James Baseball introduced the Grand Slam Program in 2015. A coach's drill book is provided for each team and players each get a sticker book to track their own progress. The focus is on skill development, participation and fun for the players. Baseball Manitoba has already implemented Grand Slam in various parts of the province and is finding that this new program is competing with the popularity of soccer, as kids are kept busy, and see more repetitions.

The goals of Grand Slam are:

1. Create a healthy environment in which children of various levels of ability find pleasure in learning baseball.
2. Initiate or pursue the development of basic baseball skills and strategies for players.
3. Teach and develop sportsmanship in a context of healthy competition.
4. Develop and promote self-esteem in children.

This will be an exciting year for our 8-9 year olds as they develop their baseball skill proficiency. With the smaller team sizes, there will be more teams formed and more need for coaches. Please consider joining alongside your child and being an integral part of their development. No experience is necessary and training will be provided and paid for by your club.