



## Major League Baseball European Academy 2011 Try-out Sessions

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This spring, the Major League Baseball Scouting Bureau will run try-out sessions for players interested in attending the 2011 MLB European Academy in Tirrenia. The try-out sessions will take place at four venues in Europe between April 27 and May 5. To ensure that every player is evaluated thoroughly, sessions will be limited to a maximum of 60 players.

Players attending the try-outs must fulfill at least two of the following three criteria:

- Be between 15 – 19 years old,
- Be members of their nation's cadet, junior or senior national teams,
- Have been participants in the 2008, 2009 or 2010 MLB European Academy in Tirrenia.

Players who attended the MLB European Academy in previous years will be strongly considered for the 2011 Academy if they will be under 20 years old on August 31, 2011 and if they have shown continued improvement from last year. However, these players will not be guaranteed a place at the Academy and will have to try out for a roster spot like the other players.

Players must be pre-registered with Major League Baseball to attend one of the try-out sessions listed below. To nominate a player, send their information – including birth date, positions played and email address – to the Major League Baseball office in London (attn. Jason Holowaty).

### 2011 MLB Academy Try-out Schedule

Date	Time	City	Venue
27 April	16:00	Haarlem, Netherlands	Pim Mulier Stadium
28 April	15:00	Tirrenia, Italy	CONI Olympic Training Center
3 May	15:00	Prague, Czech Republic	Eagles Praha Baseball Club
4 May	15:00	Prague, Czech Republic	Eagles Praha Baseball Club
5 May	16:00	Bonn, Germany	Bonn Capitals Baseball Club

*\* The May 4<sup>th</sup> session in Prague will be for Czech players only. The session on May 3<sup>rd</sup> will be open to players of all nations.*



## **Major League Baseball Scouting Bureau Invitational Try-out Session Procedures**

Try-out sessions will be run by members of the Major League Baseball Scouting Bureau with assistance from MLBI staff. Representatives from individual MLB clubs will also be on hand to evaluate players for their own organizations. The schedule at each venue may vary based on the time available and the conditions during each session.

Players who have been officially invited to the try-out session should show up one hour before the scheduled starting time. Players who have not been officially invited and thus do not appear on the pre-registration list will not be allowed to participate in the session. All invited players must bring a signed MLBSB Try-out Waiver form to the session – players under 18 must have this form signed by a parent or guardian.

Major League Baseball will provide all baseballs and some wood bats (32 – 34 inches) necessary for the session, as well as a number to be worn on the field. Each player will be responsible for bringing the following to their session:

- Glove
- Spikes or cleats
- Running shoes
- Catchers must bring their own catchers gear
- Batting gloves, if necessary
- Baseball uniform pants
- Baseball hat

A player should feel free to bring his own helmet and wood bat to use in the try-out if he prefers. Aluminum bats will not be permitted.

Try-outs will run for between 2 – 3 hours. The primary purpose of the session is to evaluate the players in the basic skills (throwing, batting and running) and instruction will be limited. If weather and space allow, intra-squad games may be played after skill testing has been completed.

Federation and club coaches will be permitted on the field during the session and may be required to act as a translator if players require one. MLB scouts and staff will run the sessions in English and it is essential that every player is clearly communicated with at all times.



Each session will be a player's sole chance to be evaluated for the Academy, and as such each player should prepare themselves to give their best performance during the day. Pitchers who have pitched within 24 hours prior to the try-out will not be allowed to throw during the session. Therefore, pitchers interested in attending the Academy should have an off day before the try-out.

After the try-out schedule has been completed, a selection committee will meet to determine the top 45 – 50 European players who have been selected to attend the Academy. In addition, a short list of reserves will be chosen at this time. Players and their corresponding federations will be notified about their selection to the European Academy or the reserve list by May 31, 2011.

### **Try-out Session Outline**

1. Upon arrival, each player must complete a Registration Card. Players will be assigned a number for the try-out. Each player will read and sign a waiver (a coach should sign when necessary).
2. MLBSB scouts will then collect all cards and waivers, reminding each player to remember their number.
3. After registration, MLBSB staff will welcome all players and coaches on the field. The basics of the try-out session and the MLB Academy will be introduced.
4. Players will line up numerically according to their preferred position. Players will be grouped by the following position groups: 3B, SS, 2B, 1B, C, OF and P.
5. All players will then loosen up their legs to run the 60 yard sprint (55 meters).
6. Players will run two at a time in numerical order. There will be two timers at the finish line. All runners must start with their right foot on the line and then use a cross-over step to begin running.
7. Once each player has been timed, the fastest players may be asked to run again. In this case, the best runners will be paired up for a head-to-head match.



8. Following the timed sprint, all outfielders will loosen up their arms. Outfielders will then throw from right field, approximately 260 – 280 feet from home plate, in numerical order. Each player will throw two balls to 3B and two balls to home plate. A scout may ask certain players to make additional throws. Each player will finish their four throws before moving on to the next player. Balls will be hit to each outfielder by a scout in order to see each player's approach to the ball.
9. All infielders will then loosen up their arms. Infielders will field ground balls from a deep shortstop position, progressing in numerical order. Each fielder will get at least four ground balls: one to each side, one straight to them and one slow roller. After fielding each ground ball, infielders will make a throw across the diamond to 1B. All first basemen will then field four ground balls and throw to 3B.
10. Next, all catchers will loosen up their arms. Catchers will throw four balls to 2B while wearing full gear. A scout will pitch to each catcher.
11. While outfielders and infielders are being evaluated in the field, pitchers will be in the bullpen area. Each pitcher will loosen up their arm before throwing 6 – 8 pitches off the mound. Catchers will be asked to catch the pitching sessions in the bullpen. Pitchers who wish to try out at other positions (outfield, shortstop, etc) must ensure that they take part in those evaluation sections as well.
12. After their fielding evaluations, hitters will be evaluated during batting practice on the field (weather permitting). Scouts and local coaches will throw batting practice and each player will get 6 – 8 swings. When not hitting, position players should field at their primary positions.
13. After the evaluation sections are completed, players will cool down and MLB staff will speak to the group as the session officially ends.