



WHO WE ARE:

Ottawa West Little League (OWLL), is a community-based, volunteer-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to providing both House and Competitive level baseball for boys and girls (aged 4 to 19), as well as coaching, umpiring, and other volunteer opportunities for community members of all ages. We focus on developing in our players the qualities of citizenship, discipline, teamwork and physical well-being through the game of baseball.

OWLL is part of the Little League program governed by Little League International. Little League Canada is one of its regions. OWLL plays in Ontario District 2, with teams from Kanata and East Nepean.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- MARCH 31: SPRING BALL REGISTRATION CLOSES!
- END OF MARCH: WINTERBALL SEASON ENDS
- MARCH: UMPIRE REGISTRATION OPENS
- SPRING SORT OUTS:
 - ROOKIE APRIL 23, 1-4:50PM
 - MINOR APRIL 15, 6-9:30PM
 - MAJOR APRIL 1, 6-9:30PM
 - JUNIOR-SENIOR APRIL 8, 6-9PM
 - GIRLS FROM ROOKIE TO JUNIOR - APRIL 22, 6-7PM
- APRIL 22: UMPIRE TRAINING SESSION
- MAY 1 (APPROXIMATELY) SPRING BALL STARTS AS SOON AS THE FIELDS ARE DRY ENOUGH!!
- JUNE 17: TBALL FUN DAY / LAST DAY OF TBALL

**WE THE
WEST**
BASEBALL

OWLL News



Welcome to Spring Ball!

Hello and welcome to our new and returning OWLL families! We are getting ready to open the 2023 Spring Season, so have devoted this inaugural issue of OWLL News to registration. We hope that you find lots of useful information to assist our new and old families in preparing for the new season.

Last year was our first “normal” season after several years of delayed and shortened seasons – and baseball was back!! Over the course of the summer we saw many successes, highlighted by appearances for our Minor, Junior, and Senior teams at Districts, our Major team going to Provincials, and our Intermediates winning Provincials and representing Ontario at Nationals! We closed out the summer season with the GOBL team winning the championship!

We also hosted the annual Pete Loyen tournament for Minor and Major teams. This event was combined with a special celebration honouring the 65th anniversary of Little League baseball in Ottawa West. OWLL also held a very successful Rookie tournament.

This year we will continue to see growth in our league – many new players, a new T-Ball night at Williams Park in Bell’s Corners, and continued expansion of the All Girls program (now to Junior!) We are looking forward to the coming year, where we hope to continue to foster a love of the game in our players, and enjoyment for our OWLL families.

ALL ABOUT GEAR

One of the most common questions that we get at the beginning of any season is: "what gear does my player need?!" OWLL does provide the following equipment to all teams:

- Bats
- Baseballs
- Catcher's equipment (glove, chest protector mask, & shin guards)

For players in t-ball and rookie, a t-shirt will be given to the player. For minor and up, an OWLL jersey is loaned to the player for the season.

At all levels, players are REQUIRED to provide the following items:

- An athletic protector (jock/jill)
- Batting helmet
- Glove
- Long pants

Players may also wish to provide the following OPTIONAL items:

- Grey baseball pants (they are more durable than track pants)
- Batting gloves
- Water bottle
- Bat (must be *USABat Standard*)
- Rubber cleats/soccer cleats (Rookie and up)

If parents have any questions, they can reach out to their child's coach.

MASCOT CONTEST!!

OWLL is looking to adopt a mascot and is asking for your help in choosing them. Please submit a drawing or photo of what you think our mascot should look like! PRIZES of OWLL SWAG for top entries!! Entries can be submitted via email to OWLLsocialmedia@gmail.com. The winning entry will be introduced in our April newsletter.



How do I know what age/level my child is?

The level of play is determined by your child's **Little League age** as determined by the Little League Age Chart. To use the chart below, find the month and year of your child's birth and match it with their Little League age (in blue, on the right).

These rules, set by OWLL, in accordance with Little League rules, ensure that players learn the game safely with their peers.

LITTLE LEAGUE AGE	LEVEL
4-6	T-Ball
7-8	Rookie
9-10	Minor
11-12	Major
13-14	Junior
15-16	Senior
17-19	GOBL

2023 Little League® Age Chart



Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	4
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2017	2017	2017	2017	5
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	6
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	7
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	8
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	9
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	10
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	11
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	12
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	13
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	14
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	15
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	16

2023 PETE LOYEN TOURNAMENT

DATES: JUNE 2-4, 2023

LOCATION: PINECREST BASEBALL COMPLEX

3 GAME GUARANTEE (WEATHER PERMITTING)

FEE: \$475.00

FOR MINOR AND MAJOR AGED TEAMS

SEE OWLL.CA FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS

WE THE WEST
BASEBALL



"Baseball was, is, and always will be the best game in the world

to me."

Babe Ruth



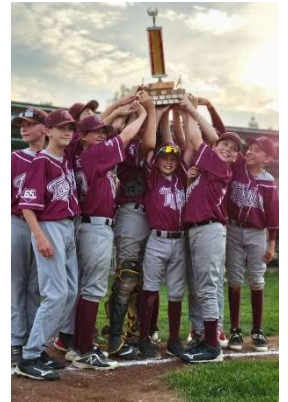
OWLL has a number of opportunities available for local businesses looking to support our league. In exchange, we will proudly promote your business to a wide audience on our website, social media channels and at events. Sponsorship of OWLL is a wonderful way to show support for your community and the development of our young players.

Please send an email to owllfundraising@gmail.com or president@owll.ca.

How does Spring Ball work??

We often get questions about how spring ball works – from registration to the games to the end of the season. We hope that this section will help to explain how it all works for the spring season, for new and returning families!

Register – The first step is to register your child. Registration opens on February 1st each year, and the link to the registration form is shared on our website and social media. Players are placed programs based on their Little League age (see page two), and the form will let you know which section they belong in. Registration is typically open until March 31st, but some sections fill up quickly, especially in T-Ball. Payment is due with registration. If a family needs to discuss payment options or sponsorship, we can help!



Sort outs – The next step is sort outs. These are held in April, at an indoor facility. The goal of Spring Ball is to provide a safe, fun, developmental environment for players, coaches, umpires, and parents. In order to do that, we want to make sure that kids are playing with and against players of a similar skill level. It's an important step in ensuring that the players have a successful season.



Team placement / contact by coaches – Once the sort outs are completed, the convenors draft the teams based on the evaluations. We strive to have teams that are as balanced as possible, and it generally works out pretty well because of the evaluation process. There are tiers in the Co-ed division so players are placed on teams at the National (B) or Canadian (A) level within their age group. Coaches will contact all players once the teams are set.

Practices and games – We are able to use the fields as soon as they are dry enough after May 1. Coaches set practices based on their availability and teams should count on a minimum of one game and one practice per week (some levels will have more). The spring season is a "House League", so Co-ed Rookie through Major teams will play other OWLL teams, whereas Junior to GOBL and All Girls will play interlock against other teams in the city.

Most seasons run til late June, save for All Girls, which runs until late July, and GOBL, which runs til mid-August.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

FIELDS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

UNIFORM MANAGER

SAFETY OFFICER

OWLL IS LOOKING TO FILL THESE THREE ROLES - PLEASE CONTACT OUR PRESIDENT FOR MORE INFORMATION - PRESIDENT@OWLL.CA



ALL GIRLS PROGRAM

Part of OWLL's commitment to increasing participation and the enjoyment of baseball in our community has been the growth of our All Girls program. We are proud to offer programming specific to girls and players that identify as a girl to encourage fun, participation, and skill development in an inclusive environment.

OWLL was thrilled to have been selected to partner with Jays Care to offer Engaging and Retaining Girls in Sport – a free workshop for coaches, in 2021. Many of our coaches and league executive participated in the program, and continue to implement the tools in our All Girls program.

We offer programs at the following levels (age based on Little League age):

T-Ball – For 4-6 years olds. All Girls T-Ball is once a week on Sundays. We will introduce baseball fundamentals, including hitting, catching, throwing, running and fielding. The emphasis is on fun!

Rookie - For 7-8 year olds. Players are introduced to hitting against live pitching (coach pitched).

Minor - For girls aged 9-10 years olds, players are introduced to player pitching and complete Little League rules.

Major - For 11-12 year olds. Players continue to develop their passion and skill for the game, experiencing more hitting and fielding (especially in the outfield!).

Junior – For girls aged 13-14 years old. *New this year!* Players will continue to build on the skills they have developed, on a larger diamond.

All Girls teams will play games on Sunday afternoons and will interlock with other Ottawa Little League All Girls teams, depending on registration. *For Rookie and up*, free flowing and fun practices twice a week are an important part of this program.



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