



## 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:

- FEBRUARY 4 - APRIL 4: SPRING BALL REGISTRATION OPEN!
- FEBRUARY 21 - APRIL 4: UMPIRE REGISTRATION OPEN
- MARCH 26: COACH TRAINING, FOCUS ON PITCHING (VIA ZOOM)
- APRIL: INDOOR SORTOUTS FOR ROOKIE AND HIGHER DIVISIONS FOR SPRING BALL
- APRIL 13: UMPIRE TRAINING, 9:00AM - 3:00PM AT SRB

**WE THE  
WEST**  
BASEBALL

# OWLL News



## Getting closer to ball!

As the weather turns decidedly spring-like, we continue to prepare for the coming baseball season. Registration is ongoing and we are happy to see an excellent mix of new and returning families. Thanks to all our families who helped to spread the word about the baseball programs offered with OWLL. One of the many great aspects of little league baseball is that children of all ages can join and thrive, regardless of skill level or experience!

Winterball sessions continue to be a great success! We offer these indoor skills and development sessions for players in both our coed and girls programs. They give players who are looking for some extra training the opportunity to work on their fundamental baseball skills over the winter months.

We are also recruiting and planning training for both umpires and coaches. We rely on coaches and umpires to keep the games running smoothly, so are always looking for additional volunteers. There is more information on both of these roles within this issue.

We look forward to a great season of baseball!

## LOOKING TO SPONSOR OWLL?



OWLL is looking for local businesses who want to support our league through sponsorship of the Pete Loyer tournament, Minor provincials, and as divisional sponsors. In exchange, we will proudly promote your business to a wide audience on our website, social media channels, the events for the sponsored tournament, and jerseys for divisional sponsors. Please send an email to [president@owll.ca](mailto:president@owll.ca) for details.

Sponsorship of OWLL is a wonderful way to show support for your community and the development of our young players.

## THINKING ABOUT GEAR?

Regardless of whether you are new to Little League or an experienced parent, now is the perfect time to start thinking about your child's equipment for the season! There is a [detailed breakdown by playing level on our website](#).

If you haven't already joined, check out our Buy/Sell/Trade/Re-Home group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/276607730465973>.



## Coaching with OWLL

Volunteer coaches are a critical component of any successful league. Coaching Little League is about more than developing players and baseball talent, it's about fostering a love of the game and providing a fun and meaningful baseball experience. We are always looking for people who want to help coach and are grateful to those who invest their time to help children learn to play baseball!

Coaching is also a great way to stay involved while your child plays the game. If you are interested in being a coach, assistant coach or t-ball helper for the upcoming season, this information is for you! Experience is not necessary to coach, but these are some of the skills that are beneficial to coaches: knowledge of baseball through experience, leadership, teaching abilities, understanding of children, organizational skills, and time. If you want to know more about how you can be involved with coaching your child's team, please reach out to [Mike McLean, VP, Coach and Player Development](#). If you are ready to sign up, 2024 Coach registration is ongoing. Please complete the [online registration form](#) as well as apply for a [police records check](#).

We provide the training and mentoring that you need to succeed as a coach. As part of our ongoing commitment to improving our coach development programs and tools, we are pleased to offer these sessions to our returning and prospective coaches.

Online & In-person training sessions

### COACH TRAINING FOR 2024

Focus on pitching, Mon, March 25th, 8:00pm - via ZOOM  
*Recommended that all coaches attend this session.*

TBALL coaching night, date and time TBC - in person

FULL COACHING CLINIC, late April, details TBC - in person

Teaching for tomorrow, April 27th, Nepean Sportsplex.  
2 sessions. Sign up details TBC

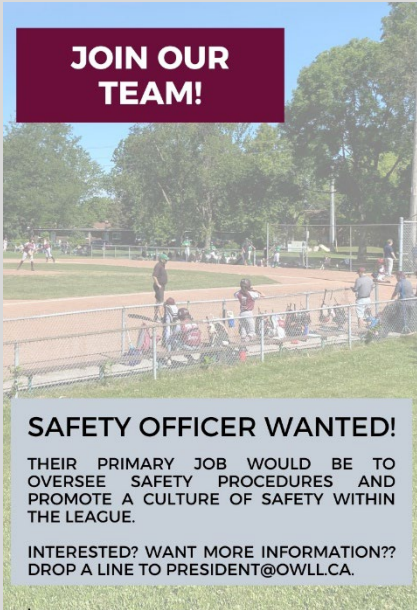
ROOKIE coaches only, May 5th @ SRB, time TBC - in person

OWLL is pleased to offer these coaching sessions as part of our ongoing commitment to improve our coach development programs and tools. If you have questions or want more information, please reach out to Mike McLean, [ottawawestdev@gmail.com](mailto:ottawawestdev@gmail.com).

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP [OTTAWAWESTDEV@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OTTAWAWESTDEV@GMAIL.COM)

If you have questions or want more information, please reach out to [Mike McLean](#).

**JOIN OUR TEAM!**



**SAFETY OFFICER WANTED!**

THEIR PRIMARY JOB WOULD BE TO OVERSEE SAFETY PROCEDURES AND PROMOTE A CULTURE OF SAFETY WITHIN THE LEAGUE.

INTERESTED? WANT MORE INFORMATION?? DROP A LINE TO PRESIDENT@OWLL.CA.

OWLL is looking for volunteers to fill two important roles within the operation of our league – a Safety Officer, and a Field Prep Supervisor. The Safety Officer is primarily an administrative role, with the candidate being responsible for safety procedures and promoting a culture of safety within the league. The Field Prep Supervisor will liaise with the city and our maintenance volunteers to ensure that OWLL’s fields are ready for our games, tournaments, and events.

# Call for Umpires!

OWLL is recruiting new and experienced umpires for the 2024 season. Children (aged 12 by Aug 31, 2024) and adults are welcome, no experience needed - we provide the training. This is a great way for parents to stay involved in OWLL while their child plays. For more information on what it is involved with umpiring, please see the [‘Umpires’ section of our website](#).

ALL umpires need to register to work in 2024. Please complete the [2024 Umpire Registration Form](#).

**TRAINING FOR 2024:** The in-person training for umpires takes place on Saturday, April 13 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at Sir Robert Borden High School, 131 Greenbank road - Room 264 (Cafeteria). Attendance is *mandatory* for all first- and second-year umpires, however, we would like **ALL** OWLL umpires to attend the clinic as an opportunity to brush up on rules and mechanics. Please bring a pen and paper along with your running shoes as we will be doing some mechanics work outside (weather permitting).




Pizza lunch will be provided half-way through the clinic. You must register on OWLL.ca prior to attending the training. Umpire training counts towards high school volunteer hours.

## Game/Practice nights

One of the most common questions that we get in the lead-up to spring ball is "when will my player's games and practices be?" The short answer is that we can't say definitively until we confirm teams, coaches, and field availability. What we plan to do is keep the games for different divisions on the same nights each week, but practices are at the coach's discretion. Those nights are summarized here:

**WANTED**  
FIELD PREP SUPERVISOR



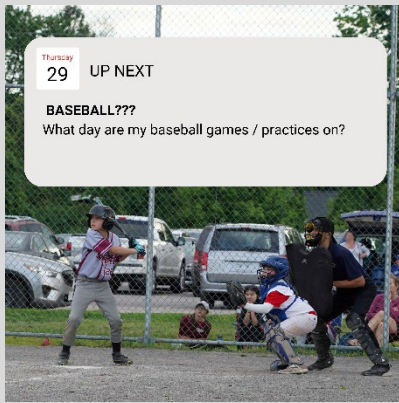
OWLL IS LOOKING FOR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING THE MAINTENANCE NEEDS OF OWLL'S FIELDS TO ENSURE THAT THEY ARE IN GAME SHAPE FOR GAMES, TOURNAMENTS, AND EVENTS.

INTERESTED? DROP A LINE TO PRESIDENT@OWLL.CA

**GAME/PRACTICE NIGHTS**

**T-BALL:** Once a week at day/time/park specified at sign-up.  
**ROOKIE:** Mon/Wed and possibly Sunday, may have an additional practice scheduled by coach.  
**MINOR:** Games Tues/Thurs and possibly Sunday, plus practice scheduled by coach.  
**MAJOR:** Games typically Mon/Wed, possibly any night Sunday - Thursday, plus practice scheduled by coach.  
**JUNIOR/SENIOR/GOBL:** Generally two games, plus practice, can be any night Sun-Thurs.  
**GIRLS:** Games are generally Sun, practice any night Mon-Thu (all levels).

## Mark your calendars for 2024\*



Please pencil in the following dates

- Spring Registration February 4 - April 4 2024 via website
- Umpire Registration February 21 - April 4 via website
- March 26 - Pitching session for coaches via zoom
- April 13, Umpire training, SRB
- Saturdays and Sundays in April - sort outs for rookie and higher for spring ball - details to follow
- April 27 Teaching for Tomorrow sessions for coaches, Nepean Sportsplex
- May 1st city of Ottawa opens fields 🙌
- May 15th, OWLL can name tournament teams.
- Pete Loyen tournament (minor and major aged) May 31 - June 2, 2024
- Senior districts (ENLL hosts) approx. June 26-30, 2024
- Junior districts (KLL hosts) approx. July 11-15, 2024
- Major districts (OWLL hosts) approx. July 12-15, 2024
- Minor districts (ENLL hosts) approx.. July 19-22, 2024
- Minor provincials (OWLL hosts) approx. end July to early August, 2024
- Rookie Tournament July 19-21, 2024 (Frank Ryan Park)

\*note: all dates are approximate, based on available information.

# GIRLS BASEBALL

Part of OWLL's commitment to increasing participation and the enjoyment of baseball in our community has been the growth of our Girls Baseball 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. 2023 was another fantastic year for our girls program. We saw growth in the number of participants, and in the levels and number of teams offered. The spring and summer programs were merged and extended into late July, and the fall and winter development programs offered a great foundation for the coming season.



Over the course of year we saw many individual and team successes, hosted a junior girls tournament, travelled to play and hosted teams from other regions, and showcased our program at the Ontario Major Championship.

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

**T-Ball** - For 4-6 years olds. 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.

**Junior/Senior** - For girls aged 13-16 years old. As we look to grow our program to include senior teams, this year's teams will feature junior and senior aged players. Players will continue to build on the skills they have developed, on a larger diamond.

Girls teams will play games on Sunday (any time) and will interlock with other Ottawa Girls teams, and the season will end with playoffs. For rookie and up, practices twice a week are an important part of this program.

