



## 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.



# OWLL News



## Prepping for the season

Hello, and welcome to the March issue of OWLL News. While we can't get on the fields just yet, March is a very busy month for the OWLL team. We are getting ready for sort outs, recruiting and training umpires, and looking forward to putting together teams and coaches for spring, but also looking ahead to planning for summer ball and district and provincial tournaments. It's going to be a terrific year for baseball!

The weather this year has been very promising for a May first start to our baseball season. We are, however, at the mercy of the City of Ottawa and when they have prepped and released the fields to sports teams. For now, please remember that Ottawa's ball fields are still closed and should not be used \*yet\*. As much as this weather is great for going out and chucking a ball around, please stay off the ball diamonds/sports fields to protect them for baseball season!

Winterball seasons are continuing through April for most groups. They have been a great success again this year. The training offers an opportunity for many of our players to work on their throwing, fielding, hitting, and other skills over the winter months. Thank you to all of our coaches and volunteers for making the sessions a fantastic experience for all involved.

Registration is winding down. If you haven't already registered and want to get your player(s) in for spring ball, don't wait! Registration closes on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Details at [http://owllba.ca/page.php?page\\_id=127015](http://owllba.ca/page.php?page_id=127015).

## 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 coed junior and up, an OWLL jersey is loaned to the player for the season (rookie to major & all girls teams receive a dryfit to keep).

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:

- Baseball pants
- Batting gloves
- Water bottle
- Bat ([must meet little league standards](#))
- Rubber cleats/soccer cleats (Rookie and up)

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

## HELP WANTED!

OWLL IS LOOKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEER POSITION:

### TREASURER

THIS IS A KEY POSITION AND WE PLAN TO HAVE THE CANDIDATE SHADOW OUR OUTGOING TREASURER BEFORE THE END OF THEIR TERM.

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

## April is sort out month!

The goal of spring ball is to provide a safe, fun, developmental environment for players and coaches. In order to do that, we want to make sure that kids are playing with and against players of a comparable skill level. Due to the unpredictability of the weather at this time of year, all sort outs are held at an indoor facility (either the Kanata Sensplex Fieldhouse or Sir Robert Borden High School gym).

The goal of the sort outs is to create teams that are balanced with similarly skilled players so that the season is fun for everyone. To accomplish that, all players are asked to attend the sort out for their division, where they will be required to run through a series of drills to evaluate throwing, fielding, batting, and movement.

The sort outs take place over several weeks, and players are divided by division and last name. The full sort out schedule cannot be made up until registration is closed. It will be shared via email, on our website and our social media accounts, but we can let you know that our coed junior and seniors sort outs are on April 13<sup>th</sup>, our coed minor and major and all our girls will be on April 20<sup>th</sup>, and coed rookie on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Players are asked to wear comfortable clothes (t-shirt and baseball pants/sweat pants), a jock/jill, running shoes or indoor cleats (no outdoor cleats permitted), and bring a helmet, glove, water, and a bat if they have one.

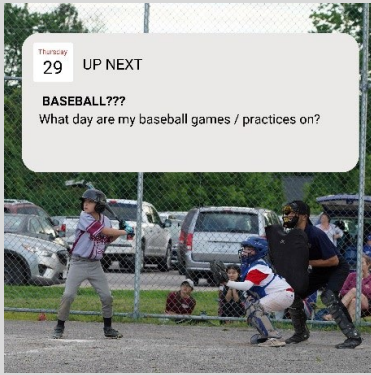


Players should plan on arriving no more than 15 minutes before their time slot. They must sign in, collect their number or numbered pinnie and prepare for warm up and the evaluation activities.

After completing the drills, the evaluation data will be used to place each player in one of the two streams of play - A/Canadian or B/National, and then divide them onto teams. There may be several revisions to ensure balance.

Coaches are then given their rosters and asked to contact their players. The league tries to complete the team drafts as quickly as possible to give the coaches as much lead time as they can before the season starts but often players will only find out their teams in the week before the start of the season.

## SAVE THE DATES



Please pencil in the following dates

- April 4, Spring player and umpire registration CLOSES
- April 13, Umpire training, SRB
- April 13, Junior/senior coed sort outs
- April 20, Coed minor/major and all girls sort outs
- April 28, Coed rookie sort outs
- April 27, Teaching for Tomorrow for coaches, Nepean Sportsplex
- May 1, Fields open?! 🙌
- May 15, OWLL can name tournament teams.
- May 31-June 2, Pete Loyen tournament (minor & major aged)
- June 26-30 (approx), Senior districts (ENLL hosts)
- July 11-15 (approx), Junior districts (KLL hosts)
- July 12-15 (approx), Major districts (OWLL hosts)
- July 19-22 (approx), Minor districts (ENLL hosts)
- Late July to early August, Minor provincials (OWLL hosts)
- July 19-21, Rookie Tournament

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



## 2024 Photo day has been set!

OWLL is pleased to welcome [Shane Francescut Photography](#) as our official photographer for the 2024 spring ball season. We're thrilled to offer a custom, magazine-style experience that is only seen by the pros to all players and teams.

Photos will be taken on May 25 & 26 at Pinecrest park.

Following your team's photo session, you will receive a private online gallery for your player where you can select and purchase as many poses as you like. Individual prints, trading cards, and combo packs will be available to suit every budget.

More photo day details including dates and times will be shared with you through your coaches. Please watch for more information, to be communicated via Team Snap (once your player is added to their team) and on OWLL's social media.



## SPONSOR SHOUT OUTS!!

OWLL would like to extend a GIANT thank you to the following sponsors of our spring season. You are an integral part of providing little league in Ottawa West, and your sponsorship of OWLL is a fantastic way support to your community and the development of our players. Thank you for your support of our players and our league!



**GOING YARD**  
custom apparel & promo co.

For sponsoring our t-ball teams

