



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:

- MAY 1 (APPROXIMATELY) SPRING BALL STARTS AS SOON AS THE FIELDS ARE DRY ENOUGH!!
- MAY 13: PHOTO DAY FOR T-BALL, PRE-ROOKIE AND CO-ED ROOKIE
- JUNE 2-4: PETE LOYEN TOURNAMENT
- JUNE 17: TBALL FUN DAY

**WE THE
WEST**
BASEBALL

OWLL News



Message from our President, Sarah Futterer

Hello OWLL families!

Welcome to the Spring 2023 season!!!

We are so happy to have you joining us this year, and are pumped that participation in our league has grown by 15%. What a season it is going to be! We will soon be on the fields and I'd like to take a moment to thank all of our volunteers (especially our convenors and those that helped out during sort outs). Our admins, executives, convenors, coaches, and assistants all work so hard before and during the season, and we are incredibly fortunate to have these amazing people working and playing in our organization. When you see them out on the ball diamond, don't forget to give them a big thank you!

The best part of the year is almost here and soon you'll be meeting new families on your teams and reconnecting with others, learning more about baseball, being good teammates and supporters, and best of all having fun!

As always reach out to your convenor or executive if you have any questions – their contact information can be found at <http://owllba.ca/exec.php>.

S. Futterer

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

As we get set to start the season, you will soon be hearing from your player's coach. They will likely share a wealth of information about what to expect in the coming season, and will outline some volunteer roles where the team and coach need help from parents! In anticipation of that, please consider if you would be able to help as:

- Scorekeepers
- Pitch counters
- Field prep crew (helping with raking, chalk lines, etc)
- Practice helpers (to shag balls, set up cones for drills, etc. No prior baseball knowledge needed for this one)
- Game coordinators - this is a new position for games to be a liaison in the rare case that a parent/spectator is unruly/abusive towards youth umpires.
- Team Administrator - This is to help organize things like, but not limited to, volunteers, scheduling parents for snacks, end of season party, etc.

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

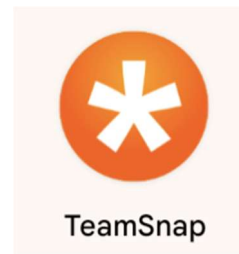
MASCOT CONTEST EXTENDED!!

WE HAVE EXTENDED THE MASCOT CONTEST INTO MAY!! 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, by May 15th. The winning entry will be introduced in our May newsletter.



Team communication

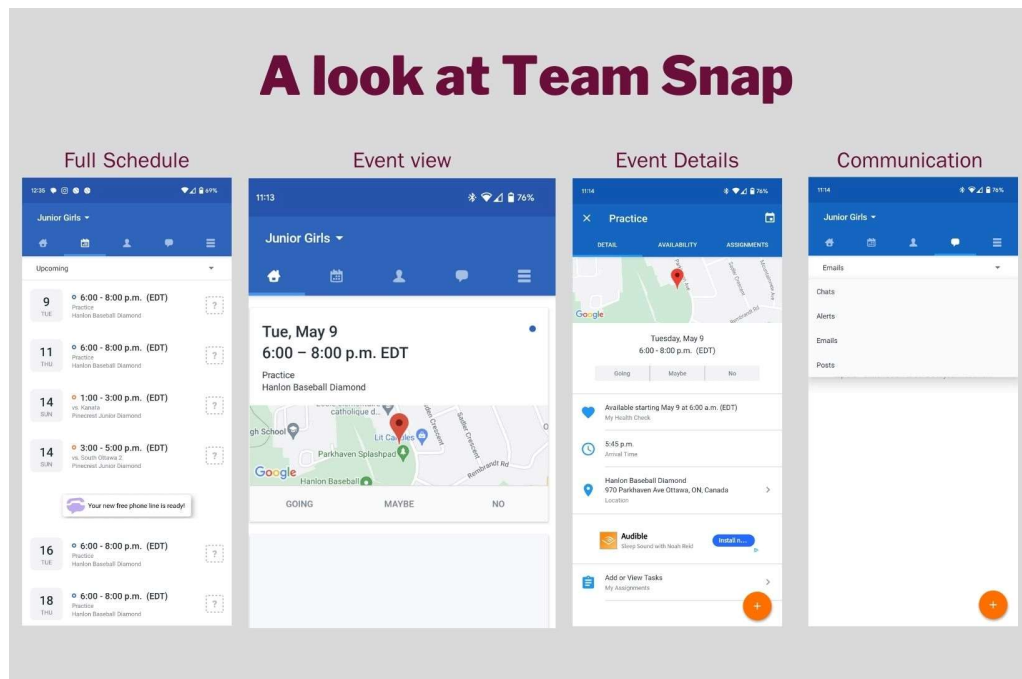
Very early in the season, you can expect that the communication you receive from the convenors and coaches will be sent by email. Once the teams are formed, most teams (Rookie - GOBL) will use Team Snap for scheduling and team communication.



Team Snap is available in a browser* or on mobile (for Android and iOS) and allows parents to stay on top of when and where their player's events are, receive communication from coaches, inform coaches of the player's availability for team events, and connect with other parents on their child's team.

Parents do need to sign up for an account (using the email address that was supplied to OWLL with registration), but once you have an account, all you need to do is accept the invite to your child's team once it is sent (late April/Early May). You will then be able to see the roster, the schedule, and other useful information. If you haven't seen the invite by the end of the first week in May - check that it wasn't sent to your child's email address - as sometimes happens with older players.

It is important that you update your player's availability for game and practice events. The sooner you do this, the better, as it allows your coach more time to craft the line-up or practice plan (and prevents scrambling at the field!)



Note that users who view Team Snap in a browser will not be able to view the Chat messages - they are only available on mobile



2023 OWLL HOSTED TOURNAMENTS

JUNE 2-4 - Pete Loyen
tournament for Minor and Major
teams

EARLY JULY - Intermediate
Provincials involving 5-6 teams

LATE JULY - Major Provincials
involving 7-9 teams



OWLL is thrilled to be hosting three tournaments in the coming months!! The Pete Loyen, Intermediate Provincials, and Major Provincials will not only showcase the talent on OWLL's teams, they will bring teams from across the region and province to our diamonds!



OWLL is looking for local businesses looking to support our league through sponsorship of the Pete Loyen, Intermediate provincials, or Major provincials. In exchange, we will proudly promote your business to a wide audience on our website, social media channels and the events for the corresponding tournament. Please send an email to president@owll.ca or owllfundraising@gmail.com for details.

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

April Recap

Even though we have yet to set foot on a field this spring (soon, we hope – but we are still waiting for the official go ahead from the City of Ottawa), April was the first of many busy months through the summer...

SORT OUTS – between the April 1st and April 23rd we held 16 different sort out sessions where over 420 players from rookie to senior divisions were evaluated for team placement.

TEAM PLACEMENT – This process started immediately after each sort out session and is ongoing. Convenors are reviewing evaluations to draft balanced teams.



UMPIRE TRAINING – Over fifty of our newest umpires took part in a one day course designed to provide (or review) the basics for umpiring. The session consisted of both classroom and practical training.

COACH TRAINING – Many of our new and experienced coaches came together to talk about the tips and tools that help with coaching little league baseball.

DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS – All of our behind the scenes volunteers are working together to ensure that the uniforms are ready, the equipment is purchased, the tools for field maintenance are prepped for day one, schedules are built, umpires are ready to be assigned, teams and players are added to Team Snap, and the thousand other details!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

SAFETY OFFICER

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

Where should a baseball player never wear red?

In the bull pen!

Which takes longer to run: from first to second base or from second to third base?

From second to third base, because there is a shortstop in the middle.

DO YOU FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL??

 @OWLL.CA

 @OWLLTWINS

 @OWLLD2

T-Ball, Pre Rookie, and Co-ed Rookie picture day

We are working on the details for picture days and can confirm the following for players in the t-ball, pre rookie, and co-ed rookie divisions (all girls rookie date TBD). Photo day for these teams will be Saturday, May 13 at Frank Ryan Park, 950 Alpine Ave. Shortly before this date, players will be provided with information on pricing options for the various photo sizes and choices (including the ever popular baseball cards!). All players will be provided with a copy of the team photo, regardless of whether they choose to purchase additional photos. All players should arrive in uniform. Reminders and any further details will be shared in Team Snap just before May 13.

PHOTO DAY SCHEDULE

TEAM	TIME
<u>Pre Rookie</u>	9:00 AM
Frank Ryan Saturday T-Ball	9:30 AM
Frank Ryan Monday T-Ball	10:00 AM
Frank Ryan Tuesday T-Ball	10:30 AM
Williams Wednesday T-Ball	11:00 AM
Pinecrest Wednesday T-Ball	11:30 AM
Pinecrest Thursday T-Ball	12:00 PM
McKellar Monday T-Ball	12:30 PM
McKellar Wednesday T-Ball	1:00 PM
Rookie B5	1:30 PM
Girls Pinecrest Sunday T-Ball	2:00 PM
Rookie B1	2:30 PM
Rookie B2	2:50 PM
Rookie B3	3:10 PM
Rookie B4	3:30 PM
Pinecrest Saturday T-Ball	3:50 PM
Rookie B6	4:10 PM
Rookie A1	4:30 PM
Rookie A2	4:50 PM
Rookie A3	5:10 PM

More details to follow other team's picture days.

