



## 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's Spring merch sale is on for a limited time - the sale closes on May 8th. Check out all the great offerings for players, parents, and fans - <https://goingyard.ca/order-twins>

# OWLL News



## Welcome to the Spring 2024 season!

Hello OWLL families! We are thrilled to have you joining us this year, and are excited that participation in our league has grown again this year, allowing us to field more teams than we ever have! What a season it is going to be!

Team lists are starting to be uploaded to TeamSnap, so you should hear from teams in the next few days, if you haven't already. 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!

We plan to be on the fields soon - depending on division and when you play, games are set to begin as early as this Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> for co-ed teams, and May 12 for the girls division. Players should expect to practice in groups before then. Start date is dependent the city releasing the fields, so please monitor your inbox and OWLL's social media for updates.

We'd also 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!

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>.

## 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.



## 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 TeamSnap for scheduling and team communication.



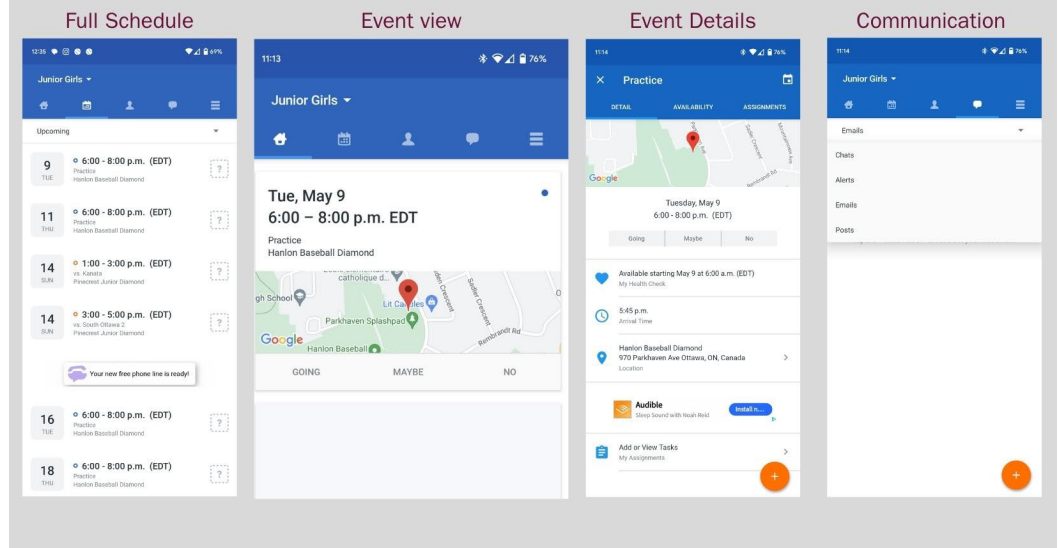
TeamSnap

TeamSnap 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 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. If it's not there, email your [convenor](#).

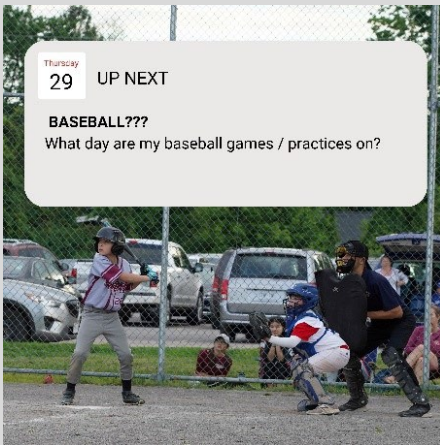
It is important that you update your player's availability for game and practice events. The sooner you do this, the better, as it allows your coach more time to craft the line-up or practice plan (and prevents scrambling at the field!).

## A look at Team Snap



\*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\*

## SAVE THE DATES



Thursday  
29 UP NEXT

### BASEBALL???

What day are my baseball games / practices on?

Please pencil in the following dates

- May 1 - Fields open?! 🙌
- May 15 - OWLL can name tournament teams.
- May 25&26 - Photo days at Pinecrest (details to follow)
- Late May - District team tryouts
- May 31-June 2 - Pete Loyen tournament (minor & major aged)
- Early June - Summer registration opens
- June 15 - T-ball fun day
- 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 19-21 - OWLL hosts rookie tournament at Frank Ryan
- July 19-22 (approx) - Minor districts (ENLL hosts)
- Late July to early August - Minor provincials (OWLL hosts)

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

## April recap

As we anxiously await the start of the baseball season, a brief look back at April, the first of many busy months through the summer...

**WINTERBALL TRAINING** - Our winterball training sessions continued through April for many groups, concluding late in the month.

**SORT OUTS** - between the April 13<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> we held 15 different sort out sessions where hundreds of players in our co-ed and girls programs, 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. Teams will be finalized by the first weekend in May.

**UMPIRE TRAINING** - Over 35 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 in several sessions 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!

## 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 to support your community and the development of our players. Thank you for your support of our players and our league!



For sponsoring our girls teams

**ERIC  
MACRAMALLA**  
For sponsoring our minor teams



Corporate sponsorship



# District coaches!

Ottawa West Little League is excited to announce...

**Jamie Kennedy**, coach of our junior district team! While this is Jamie's inaugural season as coach of an OWLL district team, he has considerable coaching experience. He first coached baseball in 2006 at the major level with his childhood Little League, and began coaching with OWLL at the T-ball level, starting in 2012. All three of his children have played with Ottawa West, and he has spent the last 3 spring and summer seasons as head coach of minor and major teams.

Outside of Little League, Jamie is a grade 7/8 teacher for the OCDSB with a specialist in Health and Physical Education. He has spent close to 20 years teaching and coaching all manner of sports. Within the Ottawa community, Jamie also coaches Flag Football, and was the head coach of the Ottawa Gaels Men's Gaelic Football Team from 2020 - 2022. He has played with the Gaels since 2016, and in 2019 he was selected to play for Team Canada at the World Games in Ireland.

**Randy Baker**, back to coach our minor district team! Randy started coaching 40 years ago in Brockville. His first coaching experience was with his dad for a year, then three years on his own, then another three years with his brother before he moved away from home. He coached for a year in Guelph and then Kingston for two more years. Randy then paused his coaching career until his youngest son joined OWLL (then Carlingwood - Frank Ryan) in 2008. He has been a part of OWLL/CFR ever since as both a coach and executive member. As you can imagine, there have been many highlights over this great coaching career, the most recent of which was taking the 2023 minor district team to the championship game of minor provincials!

**Ken Tom**, back to coach our Senior district team! Ken has coached our senior districts team for several years now, but he started coaching with OWLL when his son was in rookie. His son has aged out of OWLL now, but Ken continues to coach ALL the programs, Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter.

When asked why he continues to coach, Ken emphatically said that it is for the love of the game! His goal is to instill the confidence in the players to compete with the spirit of fair play, reminding them that success is not just about winning, but about giving 100% every time.

**Fern Lefebvre** and **Luc Hamel**, back to coach our major district team. This duo has been coaching our major team together since 2019, and have won back to back to back District 2 championships, gone on to provincials, and won at provincials to earn a trip to the Canadian championship in 2019 and 2023.

This is Fern's 20th year coaching baseball. In that time he has won six district championships with OWLL and advanced to the Canadian championships three times. He has also served as president of Pinecrest Little League and was Ottawa West's umpire-in-chief.

Luc is entering his tenth year coaching, his sixth with Ottawa West. In addition to earning berths at Canadians coaching with OWLL, as a youth he played in two Canadian championships for team British Columbia (we won't hold that against him). Luc is still playing ball in the NCBL tier 1 and won pitcher of the year in 2021 and 2022! When asked, Luc said his favorite part of coaching is seeing the love of baseball grow in kids throughout the season and watching the players thrive at competitive baseball.

**Thank you all for coaching, we can't wait to see where you take this year's district teams!!**

2024  
JUNIOR  
DISTRICT  
COACH  
*JAMIE KENNEDY*



2024  
MINOR  
DISTRICT  
COACH  
*RANDY BAKER*



2024 SENIOR DISTRICT COACH  
*KEN TOM*



2024 MAJOR DISTRICT COACHES  
*FERN LEFEBVRE &  
LUC HAMEL*



# VOLUNTEERING WITH OWLL

## HELP WANTED!

OWLL IS LOOKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEER POSITION:

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

THE COORDINATOR WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANIZING OUR POOL OF VOLUNTEERS TO FILL NEEDS, AND TO HELP WITH RECRUITMENT.

INTERESTED? WANT MORE INFORMATION?? DROP A LINE TO [PRESIDENT@OWLL.CA](mailto:PRESIDENT@OWLL.CA).

OWLL prides itself on being run entirely by dedicated volunteers and would not be able to exist without their help. This means that we are always looking for folks to help out with an assortment of tasks. We know that baseball families are often busy going to the diamond (or diamonds!) with their players, but we are hoping to bring some new volunteers onto our team. There are three areas in particular where parents (or players!) can help out, and most jobs require only a little time, but are essential for the special events and our league to run smoothly.

**Help with your player's team** – Your coach will let you know where they will be needing help, but teams typically need: scorekeepers, pitch counters, field prep crew, practice helpers, game coordinators and team administrator. If you have any questions, you can reach out to your child's coach.

**Pete Loyen Tournament (May 31 – June 2)** - We are still welcoming volunteers to move equipment between parks; scorekeep; prepare the fields and general set up and tear down, or helping with the barbeque (If you know any high school students looking for volunteer hours, please invite them to sign up as well). Please send an email to [OWLLVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:OWLLVolunteers@gmail.com) to sign up.



**Minor Provincials (late July/early August)** - A message from our Minor Provincials Hosting Coordinator:

Hi everyone. My name is Sara Krenosky, better known as Alex's (minor) and Ben's (major) mom. I am excited to be coordinator of this year's minor provincial championships, hosted by OWLL. The event will run at the end of July, and we're expecting 7-8 minor teams from across the province to participate. It is a huge undertaking but I'm sure it will be a success. My goal is for the kids to have fun and remember their time in Ottawa.



It is also great opportunity to showcase our club and community. Of course, none of this will be possible without volunteers. As such, if anyone would like to help out, in any capacity, big or small, please let me know. Tasks range from singing O Canada during our opening ceremony (yes, this happens!), to finding sponsors, to raking the field ahead of each game.

One important task is to help develop a website for the event. If there is any particular interest in this, that would be awesome. I should also note that this is a great opportunity for high school students to gain some volunteer hours over the summer. If you are interested in helping out or have any questions please let me know at: [OWLLMerchandise@gmail.com](mailto:OWLLMerchandise@gmail.com).

## WANTED SAFETY OFFICER

OWLL IS LOOKING FOR A SAFETY OFFICER WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING SAFETY PROCEDURES AND PROMOTING A CULTURE OF SAFETY WITHIN THE LEAGUE.

INTERESTED? DROP A LINE TO [PRESIDENT@OWLL.CA](mailto:PRESIDENT@OWLL.CA)

DO YOU FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

