



# OWLL News

## 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:

- JANUARY (VARIOUS DATES): WINTER BALL TRAINING STARTS
- FEBRUARY 4: SPRING BALL REGISTRATION OPENS
- APRIL: INDOOR SORTOUTS FOR ROOKIE AND HIGHER DIVISIONS FOR SPRING BALL
- APRIL (TBD): UMPIRE TRAINING
- APRIL (TBD): COACH TRAINING



## Welcome to Spring Ball (almost)!

Hello and welcome to our new and returning OWLL families! We hope that you have been enjoying this offseason. Our league is getting ready to open the 2024 Spring Season, so have devoted this issue of OWLL News to registration. We hope that you find lots of useful information to assist our new and returning families in preparation for the upcoming season. Registration will open on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 on our website [OWLLBA.CA](http://OWLLBA.CA).

Last year was a fantastic year for ball in Ottawa West, and we aim to build on those successes this year. There will be lots of opportunity for great baseball this spring, including our house league and interlock play for both our coed and girls programs, the annual Pete Loyen Minor/Major tournament hosted by OWLL and so much more!

This year we will continue to see growth in our league – many new players, from the youngest participants at T-Ball, all the way through to our oldest divisions. It is great to see kids of all ages wanting to join baseball, and thriving once they start! At OWLL we delight in seeing all players learning new skills and improving! 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.

Looking forward to seeing you at the diamond!

## 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 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.



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> this 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 coed 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 coed rookie through Major teams will play other OWLL teams, whereas junior to GOBL and girls will play interlock against other teams in the city.

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





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](mailto:owllfundraising@gmail.com) or [president@owll.ca](mailto:president@owll.ca).

**HELP WANTED!**

**OWLL IS LOOKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEER POSITION:**

**TREASURER**

THESE ARE KEY POSITIONS, AND WE PLAN TO HAVE THE CANDIDATES SHADOW OUR OUTGOING TREASURER AND FACILITIES ADVOCATE BEFORE THE END OF THEIR TERMS.

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

We are looking to add a new volunteer to our team!! Our treasurer is completing their term in 2024, and we are looking for a new volunteer to shadow them in this roll to ensure a smooth transition. If you are interested and want more information, please email our [President](mailto:President).

## 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

## 2024 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
2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019	2019	4
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	5
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2017	2017	2017	2017	6
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	7
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	8
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	9
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	10
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	11
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	12
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	13
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	14
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	15
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	16

**NOTE: This age chart is for BASEBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2024.**