



# 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.



## Getting closer to ball!

As we look ahead to the end of winter, we continue to prepare for the coming baseball season. Registration is ongoing and we are happy to see so many new and returning families excited to play ball with OWLL. Thank you 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! These indoor skills and development sessions are for players in most ages of our coed and girls programs, as well as for our new travel ball program. They give players who are looking for some extra training the opportunity to work on their fundamental baseball skills over the winter. We will add to these offerings with skills clinics in pitching, catching, and hitting in late April. There are more details on these sessions in this issue.

Many parents have written to us with questions about travel ball, so we have an information night planned for March 12 in Mel Baker Hall at Dulude arena. Read on for more information about this and our new girls selects program!

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

## IMPORTANT DATES:

- EARLY MARCH: UMPIRE REGISTRATION OPENS
- APRIL 4-18: INDOOR SORTOUTS FOR COED AND GIRLS ROOKIE AND HIGHER DIVISIONS FOR SPRING BALL
- APRIL 11: UMPIRE TRAINING
- APRIL 19-26: SKILLS CLINICS, FOCUSING ON HITTING/PITCHING/CATCHING
- APRIL 26: T-BALL COACH TRAINING AT DULUDE
- APRIL 27: COACH TRAINING AT RON KOLBUS
- APRIL 29-30: EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORM PICKUP FOR COACHES AT FRANK RYAN



## LOOKING TO SPONSOR OWLL?



OWLL is looking for local businesses who want to support our league through sponsorship of the divisions, our girls program, the Pete Loyen tournament, and our newsletter. 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 our [VP, Coach and Player Development](#). If you are ready to sign up, 2026 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 will be hosting training sessions on April 26<sup>th</sup> (at Dulude) for our T-ball coaches and April 27 (at Ron Kolbus) for all coaches.

## Skills Development clinics

OWLL is hosting the following skills clinics/training sessions in the month of April. These sessions will focus on developing skills for pitchers, catchers, and hitters. Players must register in advance, and there will be a \$15.00 fee per clinic. Registration will open in mid-March (watch our social media for forms!) Unless otherwise noted, the sessions are open to all players, co-ed and girls, in the rookie - junior divisions. Note that the players will self-sort by experience, with beginner/intermediate players attending separate sessions from advanced players.

If you are looking for more information on these sessions or have questions about attending, please send an email to our [VP Coach and Player Development](#).



Date	Time	Location	Clinic
4/19/2026	1:00 - 2:00PM	Monarch Cricket Club	Catchers - Beginner/Intermediate
4/19/2026	2:00 - 3:00PM	Monarch Cricket Club	Catchers - Advanced
4/25/2026	6:00 - 7:30PM	Bell Sensplex	Hitters - Beginner/Intermediate
4/25/2026	7:30 - 9:00PM	Bell Sensplex	Pitchers - Beginner/Intermediate
4/26/2026	1:00 - 2:00PM	Monarch Cricket Club	Catchers - Beginner/Intermediate
4/26/2026	2:00 - 3:00PM	Monarch Cricket Club	Catchers - Advanced
4/26/2026	2:00 - 4:00PM	Bell Sensplex	Rookie players and coaches
4/26/2026	4:00 - 6:00PM	Bell Sensplex	Hitters - Advanced
4/26/2026	6:00 - 8:00PM	Bell Sensplex	Pitchers - Advanced

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

INTERESTED? WANT MORE INFORMATION?  
REACH OUT TO  
OWLLVOLUNTEERS@GMAIL.COM

OWLL is looking for volunteers to fill an important role within the operation of our league – Field Prep Supervisor. This individual will work with our maintenance volunteers to ensure that OWLL's fields are ready for our games, tournaments, and events, and that the bunkers have the tools necessary for game prep. Please reach out to [OWLLvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:OWLLvolunteers@gmail.com) if you are interested or need more information.

### 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:

### 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).

## Call for Umpires!

OWLL is recruiting new and experienced umpires for the 2026 season. Children (aged 12 by Aug 31, 2026) 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 2026. Registration will open the first week in March, so please complete the [2026 Umpire Registration Form](#). ([Sportsheadz account](#) required for registration).

**TRAINING FOR 2026:** The in-person training for umpires takes place on Saturday, April 11 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at Sir Robert Borden High School, 131 Greenbank road in the 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.

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.



## Spring registration update

We are roughly halfway through the spring ball registration period and it is clear that our players are excited to get back on the diamond!! Spaces in OWLL's programs have been in high demand in all divisions, so if you are thinking of registering, don't delay - once a division is full, we will not be able to add players.

While there are more spaces in the senior and GOBL divisions, we are filling up in the younger ages for both girls and co-ed programs.

To register, head to our [registration information page](#), and read our [January newsletter for tips and tricks](#).



### REGISTRATION UPDATE:

SPACES IN OWLL'S PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN IN HIGH DEMAND THIS SPRING! IF YOU ARE THINKING OF REGISTERING, DON'T DELAY - ONCE A DIVISION IS FULL, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ADD PLAYERS. CURRENTLY, REGISTRATION IS AT:

COED	GIRLS
T-BALL: 9/12 NIGHTS FULL	T-BALL: 39% FULL
ROOKIE: 92% FULL	ROOKIE: 46% FULL
MINOR: 77% FULL	MINOR: 62% FULL
MAJOR: 90% FULL	MAJOR: 73% FULL
JUNIOR: 88% FULL	JUNIOR: 85% FULL
SENIOR: 48% FULL	SENIOR: 25% FULL
GOBL: 19% FULL	GOBL: 19% FULL

## Important dates for 2026\*

Please *pencil* in the following dates for the 2026 season:

- February 4 – March 27: spring registration via Sportsheadz
- April 4 – 18th- sort outs: exact dates/times depend on player age
- April 11: Umpire training at Sir Robert Borden HS
- April 19 – 26: Skills clinics
- April 26: T-ball coach training at Dulude arena
- April 27: All coach training at Lakeside gardens
- April 29-30: equipment and uniform pick up FOR COACHES.
- ~May 4: City of Ottawa opens fields (weather permitting 🙌)
- Early May: district teams tryouts
- May 15: can name district/tournament teams
- June 5-7: Pete Loyen tournament (co-ed minor and major and girls junior)
- June 15 -26: playoffs for most HOUSE teams
- June 20-21: rookie playoffs
- June 20: T-ball fun day at Frank Ryan park
- Mid-late June: playoffs for junior and senior interlock
- June 23-27 (approx.) - senior districts (OWLL hosts)
- July 2-7 (approx.) - junior districts (ENLL hosts)
- July - intermediate districts TBD
- July 15-21 (approx.) - major districts (KLL hosts)
- July 23-29 (approx.) - Minor districts (OWLL hosts)

**\*note: all dates are approximate, based on available information. We will update as we get confirmation.**

## Introducing Girls Select Baseball

OWLL is pleased to announce that we will be launching a select program for our girls players in the minor, major, and junior divisions! Ottawa girls baseball is intentionally non-tiered to maintain an inclusive and welcoming environment for players of all skill levels, and while tiering may be explored in the future, the select program is an option for players seeking high level competition, extra skill development, and more practice and game opportunities. Select team activities will be scheduled around regular season play and players will be expected to maintain their responsibilities to their interlock teams, while participating in approximately one additional activity per week (practice or game). Save for occasional weekend tournaments, these events will be scheduled on weekdays to avoid regular season conflicts.



New for 2026 OWLL, will assess interest and form up to one team per division depending on player registration, coach availability and volunteer support. Players must be registered for girls interlock for the 2026 season. Tryouts will be held on March 29th, with team formation and program start in early April.

In addition to spring registration, there is a \$250 fee, which will cover additional diamond time, team equipment, uniforms including dry fits for practices, umpires for up to five exhibition games, and registration at the OMG tournament in late June. Questions? [Reach out to our Girls convenor.](#)

## Travel ball information night

Travel ball is a new co-ed program for OWLL, expanding and replacing our prospects program. This allows us to offer more training spots to players who want increased skill development year round, and the opportunity to play more competitive ball in the spring that continues into summer. Travel ball is a Little League designation that simply means that we can form the teams earlier, that they will be eligible to play exhibition games in the within the Kingston-Pembroke-Montreal area and in early tournaments in May, and will help us select players for our Canadian teams in summer ball at an earlier date.

Adopting this program reflects the growing size and strength of our league and is a direct response to feedback from parents who were looking to have teams formed earlier in the spring and opportunities to further their child's skill development. As we have implemented the program for the younger ages, we have heard from families looking for more information on the program and how it works within the established house and all-star frameworks. To answer those questions, **we will be hosting an information session for parents and players in the minor to senior divisions on March 12, from 7:00 – 9:00PM in Mel Baker hall, Dulude Arena.**

Coaches and league executives will be at the meeting to answer questions on the structure, the commitment level expected, team selection, additional costs... All are welcome, this is for travel ball families at minor – major ages, as well as those interested in joining from the intermediate – senior ages.

