



## 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:

- **FIRST OR SECOND WEEK IN MAY: BASEBALL STARTS! (DEPENDENT ON CITY OPENING DIAMONDS)**
- **MID-MAY: ALL STAR TRYOUTS FOR CO-ED MINOR, MAJOR, INTERMEDIATE, & JUNIOR**
- **MID TO LATE MAY: PHOTO DAYS (EXACT DATES TBC)**
- **MAY 30 - JUNE 1: PETE LOYEN TOURNAMENT @ PINECREST AND BRITANNIA DIAMONDS**
- **EARLY JUNE: SUMMER BALL REGISTRATION OPEN**
- **JUNE 21: TBALL FUN DAY**



# OWLL News



## Welcome to the Spring 2025 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 will begin being uploaded to Sportsheadz in the coming days, so you should hear from teams soon, if you haven't already. The best part of the year is almost here - 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 hope to be on the fields soon BUT the start date is dependent the city opening the fields, so please monitor your inbox and OWLL's social media for updates. While we hope that all teams will get to have a practice (or two!) before their first game, this may not be possible. You may want to encourage your player to start throwing a ball to prep for the start of the season.

We'd also like to take a moment to thank all of our volunteers (especially our convenors and those who 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! (Special thanks to Tyler Cox for many of the photos in this month's OWLL News!!)

As always reach out to your convenor or executive if you have any questions – their contact information can be found at <https://owllba.ca/Staff/1113/>.

## 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.



Photo days will likely be mid-May

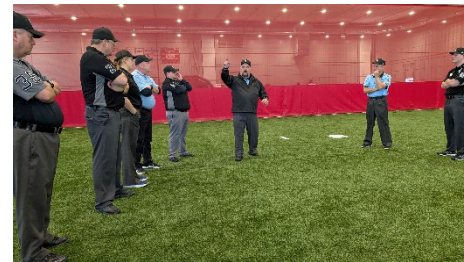
## March and April recap

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

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

**SORT OUTS** – between April 5<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup> we held 20 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** – OWLL umpires attended three different training sessions in March/April – advanced for some of our senior umpires, a development clinic for intermediate umpires, and the OWLL training for over 50 of our newest umpires - a one day course designed to provide (or review) the basics for umpiring.

**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.

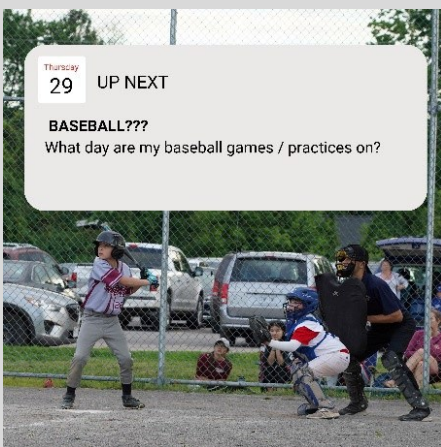
**PLAYER AND COACH DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS** – New this year, we hosted several development sessions for coaches and players together, where an experienced coach led the players in workshops specific to pitching, hitting, or catching, and helped the coaches to understand how to better teach their players these skills.

**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 Sportsheadz, and the thousand other details!





## SAVE THE (APPROX) DATES



Please pencil in the following dates

- Early May - Fields open?! 🍌
- May 15 - OWLL can name tournament teams.
- Mid May - Photo days at Pinecrest (details to follow)
- Mid May - District team tryouts
- May 30-June 1 - Pete Loyen tournament (minor & major aged)
- Early June - Summer registration opens
- June 21 - T-ball fun day
- June 22-27 (approx.) - senior districts (KLL hosts) approx.
- July 3-9 (approx.) - junior districts (OWLL hosts)
- July, date TBD - intermediate districts
- July 9-15 (approx.) - major districts (ENLL hosts)
- July 17 - 23 (approx.) - minor districts (KLL hosts)

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



Special thanks to Tyler Cox for many of the photos in this month's OWLL News

## Volunteering with OWLL



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** - You may have noticed, while registering this spring, that we have added a volunteer requirement for all families. The volunteer requirement is designed improve flexibility for families, as well as to ensure we have adequate coverage. Your coach or manager will let you know where they will be needing help. If nothing fits, there are some roles at the league level that need filling!



In general, the teams and league are looking for:

- Team manager
- Field prep and teardown for games and tournaments
- Scorekeeping
- Pitch counting
- Umpiring (we are especially looking for adult umpires)
- Helping organize special events for the league
- Convenor for a division (we are looking for an assistant convenor for the Girls program!)
- Acting as game coordinator in games where there are two youth umpires
- Helping at practices
- Assuming a role on our board of directors or one of our committees
- Helping to make sure the bunkers at all of our fields stocked

If you have any questions, you can reach out to your child's coach, or [OWLLVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:OWLLVolunteers@gmail.com).

**Pete Loyen Tournament (May 30 – June 1)** - 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.

