



# 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:

- APRIL 5: INDOOR SORT OUTS FOR CO-ED JUNIOR AND SENIOR PLAYERS @ SENSPLEX
- APRIL 5: INDOOR SORT OUTS FOR ALL GIRLS PLAYERS @ SRB AND CO-ED MINOR PLAYERS (PART ONE) @ SENSPLEX
- APRIL 12: INDOOR SORT OUTS FOR CO-ED MAJOR PLAYERS @ SENSPLEX
- APRIL 12: UMPIRE TRAINING
- APRIL 13: INDOOR SORT OUTS FOR CO-ED MINOR PLAYERS (PART TWO) @ SENSPLEX AND CO-ED ROOKIE PLAYERS @ SRB
- FIRST WEEK IN MAY: BASEBALL STARTS! (DEPENDANT ON CITY OPENING DIMAONDS)



## Prepping for the season

Hello, and welcome to the March issue of OWLL News. While we can't get on the fields just yet, March is a very busy month for the OWLL team. We are getting ready for sort outs, recruiting and training umpires, and looking forward to putting together teams and coaches for spring, but also looking ahead to planning for summer ball and district and provincial tournaments. It's going to be a fantastic year for baseball!

The weather this month has been very up and down, but we are hoping for a May first start to our baseball season. We are, however, at the mercy of the City of Ottawa and when they have prepped and released the fields to sports teams. For now, please remember that Ottawa's ball fields are still closed and should not be used \*yet\*. As much as we may have great weather for going out and chucking a ball around some days, please stay off the ball diamonds/sports fields to protect them for baseball season!

Winterball seasons are wrapping up for some groups, and continuing into April for others. They have been a great success again this year. This training offers an opportunity for many of our players to work on their throwing, fielding, hitting, and other skills over the winter months. Thank you to all of our coaches and volunteers for making the sessions a fantastic experience for all involved.

Registration closes on March 31st. If you haven't already registered and want to get your player(s) in for spring ball, don't wait! Registration details are found at [https://owllba.ca/Pages/1366/2025\\_Spring\\_ball\\_registration/](https://owllba.ca/Pages/1366/2025_Spring_ball_registration/).

## 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.

## HELP WANTED!

OWLL IS LOOKING TO FILL THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEER POSITION:

## ASSISTANT GIRLS CONVENOR

THE ASSISTANT CONVENOR WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSISTING OUR GIRLS CONVENOR WITH THE ORGANIZATION FOR OUR GIRLS PROGRAMMING.

INTERESTED? WANT MORE INFORMATION??  
DROP A LINE TO OWLLGIRLS@GMAIL.COM

## April is sort out month!

The goal of spring ball is to provide a safe, fun, developmental environment for players and coaches. In order to do that, we want to make sure that kids are playing with and against players of a comparable skill level. All sort outs are held at an indoor facility (either the Kanata Sensplex Fieldhouse or Sir Robert Borden High School gym).

The goal of the sort outs is to create teams that are balanced with similarly skilled players so that the season is fun for everyone. To accomplish that, all players are asked to attend the sort out for their division, where they will be required to run through a series of drills to evaluate throwing, fielding, batting, and movement. After completing the drills, the evaluation data will be used to place each player in one of the two streams of play - A/Canadian or B/National, and then divide them onto teams. There may be several revisions to ensure balance.

The sort outs take place over two weekends, and players are divided by division and last name. The full sort out schedule can be seen below, but it will also be shared via e-mail, on our website, and our social media accounts. Sort outs will be completed by April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Players are asked to wear comfortable clothes (t-shirt and baseball pants/sweat pants), a jock/jill, running shoes or indoor cleats (no outdoor cleats permitted), and bring a helmet, glove, water, and a bat if they have one. Players should plan on arriving no more than 15 minutes before their time slot. They must sign in, collect their number or numbered pinnie and prepare for warm up and the evaluation activities.

After the teams are formed, coaches are given their rosters and will contact their players. The league tries to complete this process as quickly as possible to give the coaches as much lead time as they can before the season starts.

Date	Start time	End time	Level	Last names	Location
April 5	6:00pm	6:45pm	Co-ed senior	ALL PLAYERS	Sensplex
April 5	7:00pm	7:45pm	Co-ed junior	A-H	Sensplex
April 5	8:00pm	8:45pm	Co-ed junior	I-O	Sensplex
April 5	9:00pm	9:45pm	Co-ed junior	P-Z	Sensplex
April 6	9:00am	12:00pm	Girls - minor - senior	ALL PLAYERS	SRB
April 6	8:00am	8:45am	Co-ed minor	A-F	Sensplex
April 6	9:00am	9:45am	Co-ed minor	G-L	Sensplex
April 12	6:00pm	6:45pm	Co-ed major	A-F	Sensplex
April 12	7:00pm	7:45pm	Co-ed major	G-M	Sensplex
April 12	8:00pm	8:45pm	Co-ed major	N-R	Sensplex
April 12	9:00pm	9:45pm	Co-ed major	S-Z	Sensplex
April 13	8:00am	8:45am	Co-ed minor	M-R	Sensplex
April 13	9:00am	9:45am	Co-ed minor	S-Z	Sensplex
April 13	9:00am	9:45am	Co-ed rookie	A-C	SRB
April 13	10:00am	10:45am	Co-ed rookie	D-J	SRB
April 13	11:00am	11:45am	Co-ed rookie	K-P	SRB
April 13	2:00pm	2:45pm	Co-ed rookie	Q-Z	SRB
April 13	3:00pm	3:45pm	Co-ed rookie	late registration/overflow	SRB

## UMPIRE SIGN UP AND TRAINING

OWLL is recruiting new and experienced umpires for the 2025 season. Children (aged 12 by Aug 31, 2025) 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.

ALL umpires need to register to work in 2025. Please complete the [2025 Umpire Registration Form](#).

**TRAINING FOR 2025:** The in-person training for umpires takes place on Saturday, April 12 from 9:00am – 3:00pm at Sir Robert Borden High School, 131 Greenbank road in the Cafeteria. While attendance is mandatory for all umpires with fewer than three years experience, 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. Umpire training counts towards high school volunteer hours.

## SPONSORS WANTED!

OWLL is looking for local businesses who want to support our league through sponsorship of the co-ed divisions, our girls program, tournaments, 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 [SponsorshipOWLL@gmail.com](mailto:SponsorshipOWLL@gmail.com) for details. Sponsorship of OWLL is a wonderful way to show support for your community and the development of our young players.



## New volunteer responsibilities for families

Ottawa West Little League is a volunteer run organization that thrives with the participation of all of our families. We rely on families for a variety of roles including coaches, team managers, field maintenance, convenors, board of directors, special events, and more. 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.

If you have already committed to a coaching role on your child(ren)'s team(s), you are fulfilling your volunteer requirement for that team. If you are not yet sure how you can help out, there are a number of tasks that you can take on to help contribute the team (and the league's) success. These can include:

- 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

Families will be contacted by their coach, manager, or divisional convenor to help find a fit for their volunteer responsibilities. You should hear by the end of the second week of the season. Please reach out to our volunteer coordinator, Liz - [OWLLvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:OWLLvolunteers@gmail.com), if you have any questions!

Volunteering is fun, a great way to build the OWLL community, and is the best way to support your child / all the players participating in Little League have the best possible experience. Can't wait to see you at the diamond!

## SPONSOR SHOUT OUTS!!

OWLL would like to extend a GIANT thank you to the following sponsors of our spring ball teams. You are an integral part of providing little league in Ottawa West, and your sponsorship of OWLL is a fantastic way support to your community and the development of our players. Thank you for your support of our players and our league!

