

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:

- MAY 24, 25, 27: PHOTO DAYS AT FRANK RYAN PARK
- MAY 26 JUNE 13: SUMMER BALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
- MAY 30 JUNE 1: PETE LOYEN TOURNAMENT @ PINECREST, BRITANNIA, AND AINSLEY DIAMONDS
- MID-LATE JUNE: SORT OUTS FOR SUMMER BALL (DATES TBC)
- JUNE 21: TBALL FUN DAY AT FRANK RYAN
- LATE JUNE (AFTER END OF REGULAR SEASON) SPRING BALL PLAYOFFS!
- LATE JUNE END OF JULY: DISTRICT PLAY!



OULL News



Spring season midpoint report

Hard to believe that we are already approaching the midway point of our spring season for most levels. Despite a pretty overcast and sometimes rainy month, a lot of ball has already been played! Thanks to our amazing coaches, convenors, and volunteers for such a great start to the season. It's so nice to see so many players and their families out enjoying baseball!

The launch of the co-ed summer season is just around the corner. We have included some information on our summer programs in this issue. We anticipate being able to offer programs for all divisions, so there will be something for all levels of play. Registration opens on May 26th!! We are still looking for coaches for the summer teams, so please let us know if you are interested in coaching your player's team.

The month of June will be a busy one for OWLL and our teams. The spring season is ramping up towards playoffs and fun days, we will have sort outs for summer teams (dates to be confirmed), the all-star teams have been selected and will start playing matches against local teams, travelling to tournaments, getting ready for districts, and our girls and GOBL teams are rocking it on the diamonds!

CANTEEN @ PETE LOYEN

This year's Pete Loyen tournament will feature an onsite canteen at Pinecrest park on Saturday (from 11:00AM - 6:00PM) and Sunday (11:00AM - 2:00PM). Our friends and partners at the Ottawa Nepean Canadians Baseball Club and West Ottawa Pirates will be helping out at the canteen/bbq. This is a fundraiser for OWLL! The ONC Sports club, located at 1125 Cobden road will also be open for adult beverages (with great deals on pitchers!), sponsored by the Ottawa Pirates!

Details on the menu and costs will be posted on OWLL's website



REMINDER: Photo days are this week, May 24, 25, & 27 at FRANK RYAN PARK. – Rain or shine!! If your player's team is going as a group, your coach/manager will have signed you up for a specific time slot. If you have not heard from them, please reach out to the coach directly. Individual players who are unable to attend in your team's timeslot, please let your coach know you will need to have your photo taken on retake day (date TBC).

Players at Junior/Senior/GOBL generally do not elect to take photos as a team - If your team is not doing photos in a group slot, but you want individual photos, please let your coach know and they can connect you with the photographer to see about scheduling you on for individual photos on the retake day

Pete Loyen Tournament, May 30 – June 1

OWLL is thrilled to once again be hosting our annual minor and major spring tournament, the Pete Loyen Tournament. Pierre 'Pete' Loyen is a former President of Carlingwood Frank Ryan and Ottawa West Little Leagues. Pete was instrumental in merging the former Carlingwood Frank Ryan and Pinecrest Little Leagues in 2013 to form Ottawa West Little League.

Pete has been involved with baseball in the Ottawa West area for many years. After stepping down and leaving the organization in a terrific place, the OWLL Executive decided it was only fitting to name our annual spring tournament after someone who was a pillar in bringing this league to life. The tournament will kick off at 4:00pm on Friday, May 30, with games at Pinecrest and Britannia

The tournament participants are set and include teams from Ancaster, Carleton-Russell, Cornwall, East Nepean, Kingston, Montreal, Mississippi Mills, Oakville, Orleans, Perth, South Ottawa, Upper Ottawa Valley, and OWLL!

In general, target teams are All-Star, Select, Travel Team, A tier Little League for minor and major levels, however, all teams are welcome for this competitive weekend of baseball! We hope that that you and your families can come out to Pinecrest, Britannia, and Ainsley parks to cheer on the players. The full schedule, as well as all important information about the tournament is on OWLL's website!

We are still welcoming volunteers to move equipment between parks; scorekeep; prepare the fields and general set up and tear down, or help with other tasks (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 to sign up.



T-BALL FUN DAY

T-Ball Fun Day takes place on Saturday, June 21st at Frank Ryan park (all three diamonds). Players will take to the field for about 50 minutes and at the end of the game, they will receive medals.

We will have fun activities and a charity BBQ which will run from approx. 11:00am - 2:30pm. Instead of charging for food/drinks, we will be collecting cash donations/pay-what-you-can contributions. All money we collect will be donated to the Britannia Woods Food Pantry. OWLL will cover the cost of the food. We ask that parents bring cash since we won't have any way to process credit cards. Coaches will share the schedule closer to the date.



OWLL MERCHANDISE STORE

For your OWLL swag needs, we now have a permanent merchandise store offering many choices in the latest OWLL fashion. Please head over to the store and take a look! The store offers a wide selection of clothing items for youth and adults, items can be ordered at any time, and are not subject to deadlines, or minimum/team orders. It takes two - three weeks for your order to be prepared and shipped to your home.



FULL COLLECTION

In the coming days we will also be offering a seasonal selection of merchandise – these great items will be ordered through your player's team. Information will be shared through the team and our socials.

Summer ball!!

While it seems like the spring season has just started, we are already halfway through the season, and registration for co-ed summer ball is opening up on May 26! Look for general registration for players in t-ball, rookie, minor, major, junior, and senior open up on our website, with priority given to spring ball players. Registered players will be asked to attend sort outs to ensure that we have balanced teams. The date for these sessions is not yet confirmed, but expect that it will be the week after registration closes on June 13th.

Our ability to offer these summer programs depends on parent volunteers to coach and assist our coaches at all levels. **IMPORTANT**: If we don't have volunteers, we will not be able to offer teams at all ages. If you are available for summer, please <u>register as a coach</u> or contact <u>our VP of coach and player development</u>.

Co-ed summer ball is generally considered to be more competitive than spring, however, with 3 levels in most divisions, there are still opportunities for all skill levels to participate. Our summer season, for most age groups, starts after Canada Day and continues until late August (playoffs often run until the last week of August). For the most part, our summer teams interlock with other Little Leagues within the city of Ottawa and surrounding areas, playing on any day of the week. Some divisions may only play teams in the west end, but others play across the region.

This year in addition to interlock (against teams across the city), we will be offering house (local diamonds only, against other OWLL teams) at U10 – for current minor B and second year rookie players. It is advised that rookie players only consider this option if they have advanced development at rookie. U10 house is dependent on coach and player registration - we must have enough teams to ensure competitive play.

The girls season for rookie – junior continues until late July, and GOBL runs through to August.

Player placement on teams begins with the top-tier team, the all-star team, and cascades downward from there. The next level offered is placement on one Canadian (A) level team, followed by one or more national (B) level teams. There are 12 spots available on the all-star team. It is a tournament team and requires a significantly greater time and travel commitment than Canadian or national does. Like spring ball, the Canadian and national teams usually have 13-14 players.

The sort outs for the all-star teams and some Canadian level teams took place in late May. If players opted not to try out or were not selected for these teams but wish to play summer ball, there will be another round of sort outs in <u>mid-late June</u>. These will determine placement on the remaining Canadian or national/house teams.

NOTE: Players will receive a summer hat and dry fit (team uniform) with their registration so please make sure to update shirt sizes in your registration.