



# Oakville Little League 2017 Season Update



**Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas!** Welcome back for another great season of Oakville Little League baseball. With this past weekend's snow, we are sure it seems like the start of the 2017 season is still months away, but planning for another exciting summer of baseball is well underway. So as we have done the past few years we wanted to provide you with an update on

several key dates and changes for the 2017 season. Please read this email in its entirety as there is a lot of information contained. We also recommend you print and retain a copy of this newsletter for reference through-out the season.

Once again on behalf of the League, we want to wish everyone a very Happy Holidays and our very best wishes for a prosperous and successful New Year!

## 1. Annual General Meeting Re-cap

The league hosted the Annual General meeting on Sunday, November 20th at the Holiday Inn & Suite Bronte. We had 14 members came out to the meeting and had an opportunity to listen to the various Board members. There were many topics reviewed including the history of the league, our philosophy, growth if the league since 2006, an overview of the 2016 season by division, Whitecaps program, Volunteers and Executive Committee positions available to the membership. The meeting was well received and the membership was appreciative of the work the board members put into making such a large organization successful.

## 2. Executive Committee Members

The League would like to thank several returning and new Executive Committee Members for volunteering their time and energy for the 2017 Season:

- Lina Mooney, Concession Manager
- Wade Loder, Awards-Trophy Coordinator
- Paul Doherty, Challenger Convenor
- Susan Shaver, Registrar
- Scott Vail, Safety Officer
- Kathleen Nicholson, Secretary to the Board "New"
- Dawn Keith, Office Manager "New"
- Chuck MacGregor, co-Umpire in Chief "New"

The league has many Executive Committee positions that have not been filled and the league would like to ask the membership to consider taking on one of the open positions. The positions range form Sponsorship Director to Division Convenor. These positions do not require a lot of time to fulfill and the term for these positions is one year.

If you are interested in a position on the Executive Committee, please reach out to John Sweeney via email at [president@ollb.org](mailto:president@ollb.org). Available positions are as follows: Player & Coach Development, Volunteer Director, Umpire Scheduler, Equipment Manager, Sponsorship Director, Tournament Director, Uniform Coordinator & Division Convenors.

### **3. Volunteers Needed**

Oakville Little League prides itself on running the league solely on volunteers who are committed to making a difference for our young athletes. Throughout the summer, we run many events that require adult and teenage volunteers. For high school students, this is a great opportunity to accumulate community hours, so why not come down to the diamonds and volunteer for a couple of hours and then watch some great baseball at the same time.

Coaches: We are always looking for people who enjoy working with kids and teaching them the game of baseball, and imparting the life skills of the game to our players. Perhaps you have been out of the game for a while and want to get back into it, or you are someone who has just finished playing baseball and you want to give back to baseball. Let us know if you want to be a part of OLL as a Coach. If you are interested in becoming a part of Oakville Little League, please send an email to [administration@ollb.org](mailto:administration@ollb.org), or call us at 905-827-1831.

Finally, we are also looking for interested adults who want to offer their skills and experience to our league. Without adult and parent volunteers, we would not have the program that your children have experienced and will continue to experience for years to come. So I challenge all of the parents in the league to find a way to make a difference for your child by stepping up and volunteering just a bit of your time. It could be as simple as raking a field during Championship Day, taking on a simple role that requires very little time throughout the season or off-season. It's up to you!

### **4. 2017 Ontario Minor Provincial Championships**

Oakville Little League is proud to be the host organization for the 2017 Ontario Minor Provincial Championships in mid-July. The tournament will feature some of the best 9 and 10-year old players in the province and the League is excited to be the tournament host as well as the defending Provincial Champions. Hosting a tournament of this nature requires strong volunteer and financial support, so if you are interested in volunteering or being a tournament sponsor please contact John Sweeney at [president@ollb.org](mailto:president@ollb.org). Stay tuned for additional information on the tournament in the New Year.

### **5. "NEW" Oakville Little League Website [www.oakvillelittleleague.com](http://www.oakvillelittleleague.com)**

Oakville Little League will be launching a new web site in early 2017 under a new URL to be announced. The web site is expected to be more informative and dynamic for our players, umpires, coaches and parents. Please stay tuned for more information on our new web site as we get closer to the official launch. An email will go out to the membership complete with the new web site URL.

## 6. Registration for the 2017 Baseball Season

Oakville Little League's player registration is well underway for the 2017 Season with over 600 returning and new players already registered. Which is well ahead of where we were at this time last year. **If you have not registered for next year we strongly encourage you to do so as anticipate several age divisions will reach enrollment capacity.**

Your early registration also helps us with planning and organizing for the upcoming season; ordering player uniforms, equipment, arranging for baseball diamond/field permits, and recruiting umpires and coaches.

To register for the 2017 Oakville Little League season please drop by the Oakville Little League Fieldhouse at 425 Cornwall Road on Tuesday evenings between 7:00 – 9:00 PM or Saturday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12 noon. A member of the Executive Committee will be more than happy to help you.

Alternatively, you can also register by Mail by completing a 2017 Registration Form and mailing it with payment to Oakville Little League, 425 Cornwall Rd., Oakville, ON L6J 7S4.

## 7. The 2017 Baseball Season at a Glance

Please see below for an outline of the season for each division. **\*\*NOTE: \*\*** This is subject to change

Division	First Practices	Opening Day	Closing Gala
Blastball	N/A	May 3	July 22
T-Ball Instructional	April 28 or 29	May 8 or 9	July 22
T-Ball Minor	April 28 or 29	May 10 Or 11	July 22

Division	First Practices	Opening Day	Playoffs Start	Championship Day
Major T-Ball Red	April 28 or 29	May 13	August 14	August 20
Major T-Ball White	April 28 or 29	May 13	August 14	August 20
Minor NL	April 28 or 29	May 13	August 21	August 27
Minor AL	April 28 or 29	May 13	August 21	September 9
Major NL	April 28 or 29	May 14 (*)	August 21	September 9
Major AL	April 28 or 29	May 14 (*)	August 21	September 6
<b>**NOTE: The Opening Day for Major AL and NL is our Annual Mother's Day Classic</b>				
Junior	April 28 or 29	May 5/6 (*)	August 21	September 7
Senior	April 28 or 29	May 7 (*)	August 8	August 20

**Pre-season Games:** All teams on Major T-Ball, Minor, Major, and Junior will play up to 2 pre-season games starting the week of May 2. The purpose of the pre-season games is to provide the league with an opportunity to ensure the teams are equally and competitively balanced.

## 8. Days of Play and Field

The chart below shows the typical days of play for each division and the fields they will play at. As with the 2017 Baseball Season at a Glance these have the potential to change depending on field availability and player registration numbers.

Division	Typical Game Day	Fields
Blastball	Wednesday	Oakwood and Neyagawa
T-Ball Instructional	Monday or Tuesday	Munns School and St. John School
T-Ball Minor	Wednesday or Thursday	Munns School and St. John School
Major T-Ball Red	Monday or Tuesday	Wallace, Heritage, Lindsay
Major T-Ball White	Wednesday or Thursday	Wallace, Heritage, Lindsay
Minor NL East	Monday or Wednesday	Wallace, Heritage, Cornwall
Minor NL West	Monday or Wednesday	Wallace, Heritage, Cornwall
Minor AI-East	Monday or Wednesday	Postridge, Our Lady of Peace, Cornwall
Minor AI-West	Monday or Wednesday	Postridge, Our Lady of Peace, Cornwall
Major AL	Tuesday or Thursday	Cornwall, Postridge, Our Lady of Peace
Major NL	Tuesday or Thursday	Cornwall, Postridge, Our Lady of Peace
Junior NL	Monday	River Oaks or Glen Abbey
Junior AL	Thursday	River Oaks or Glen Abbey
Senior	Tuesday	Glen Abbey or Neyagawa North

## 9. Equipment Required

Oakville Little League supplies all players with a uniform (jersey, pants, socks, and cap). The League also provides bats, balls and catcher's equipment. All Players are required to supply their own gloves and players from T-ball (age 5) to Senior (age 17) are also required to have their own batting helmet. Batting helmets can be purchased at any major sporting goods store including National Sport and Corbett's Source for Sports, both of whom have a wide selection of helmets to choose from. Baseball cleats are optional but highly recommended.

## 10. "NEW" Baseball Bat Policy in 2018

With the Little League® International Board of Directors formally adopting USA Baseball's new standard for bat performance testing, Little League International fully supports this program. Developed by a USA Baseball committee of scientific experts, Little League Baseball® has decided to adopt the **new bat standard for mandated use effective January 1, 2018**. Little League-approved bats can be used through December 31, 2017, and our current bat regulations will be in effect until then. [Visit LittleLeague.org for detailed information](http://LittleLeague.org). Little League looks forward to working with USA Baseball, and will begin educating our local leagues, and the parents of our 2.1 million baseball players, preparing them for the important change coming in 2018. To learn more about Little League's new baseball bat policy please [Click here to read the full release from USA Baseball](#).

Oakville Little League wants to ensure all parents are aware that with the introduction of this "New" policy, any baseball bat purchased for the 2017 season will in all likelihood will not be eligible for use in 2018. If you have any questions concerning the purchase of a baseball bat for your child this season, please contact Nick Rigato at [nickrigato@cogeco.ca](mailto:nickrigato@cogeco.ca).

## **11. Player Evaluations**

Player evaluations for all ages will be conducted this year at **Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School (2420 Sixth Line, Oakville)** and **St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School (1550 Nottinghill Gate, Oakville,)** The table below lists the dates and times for evaluations. The League will be sending emails to all players in January confirming their evaluation date and time. The League would appreciate it if players can do their best to attend the evaluation session they are invited to as they are very important in assisting the League in setting up and balancing the House League teams and divisions.

Note: These evaluations are for T-Ball, Minor, Major, and Junior.

Saturday, February 25, 2017	8:00 am	6:00 pm	Holy Trinity
Saturday, March 4, 2017	8:00 am	6:00 pm	Loyola
Saturday, March 25, 2017	8:00 am	6:00 pm	Loyola
** April Dates To Be Set **	TBA	TBA	TBA

\* The April dates will be set as they are needed.

## **12. General Coaches Meetings**

The general coaches meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12 at the Holiday Inn on Bronte Road.

Divisional coaches meetings will be held at the Oakville Little League Fieldhouse on Cornwall Road the week of April 17.

## **13. Coaches and Player Spring Clinics**

Again this year, Oakville Little League will be holding coaches and player clinics the weekend of April 22 & 23 (weather depending). Please stay tuned for additional information on times and field locations in the New Year.

## **14. Umpire Orientation and Clinics**

As communicated earlier this Fall, the League has appointed two new Umpires in Chief (UIC) for the 2017 Season. The League is very excited to have both Chuck McGregor and Alain Armstrong in this very important role.

In preparation for the upcoming season all returning and new umpires will be required to attend 3 orientation and training sessions:

- Rules orientation in early April
- Field clinics in late April
- Pre-season meeting with the new Umpires in Chiefs a week prior to the start of the season

In addition to the orientation sessions, all new umpires will need to attend a mandatory orientation session that will be held at the end of February.

## **15. Players Contacted by Coach**

Players can expect to be contacted by their 2017 coach prior to Tuesday, April 25. If you have not heard from a coach or the League by that date, please contact John Mooney at [administration@ollb.org](mailto:administration@ollb.org).

## **16. First Practices**

Weather permitting the first practices of the 2017 Season will be on the weekend of April 29 & 30.

## **17. Opening Games/Start of the Season**

For information on the Opening Games and Start of the Season please see the chart in the 2017 Baseball Season at a Glance above.

## **18. 2017 Playoffs & Season Ending Galas**

For information on the Opening Games and Start of the Season please see the chart in the 2017 Baseball Season at a Glance above.

## **19. Picture Day**

Picture Day for the 2017 Season will be on Saturday, May 27 (I check my calendar and May 26 is a Friday) at the Glen Abbey baseball diamond which is located directly behind the Glen Abbey Community Centre at Third Line and Glen Abbey Gate. Times for teams and leagues will be announced as we get closer to the May date.

## **20. Blue Jays Day**



Oakville Little League's 2017 Blue Jays Day will be on Sunday, June 18 at the Rogers Centre as the Blue Jays take on the Chicago White Sox. First pitch is at 1:07 PM. More information and ticket registration forms will be available at the start of the season.

## **21. Winter Training Options**

Other than the Fall/Winter training program announced for the Junior age players in August, Oakville Little League does not run its own winter training programs. If you are interested in a winter training program for your son or daughter, there are quite a few organizations in the Oakville area who offer different levels of programming from full winter training to Christmas and March Break camps to one-on-one coaching. The following links are for several of these organizations:

- Pro Teach Baseball - <https://proteach.net>
- The Baseball Zone - <http://www.thebaseballzone.ca>

- FieldHouse Athletics - <http://www.fieldhouseathletics.ca>
- Ontario Royals - <http://www.ontarioroyals.com>

## **22. Oakville Little League Summer Camp (conducted by Pro-Teach Baseball)**

Once again this summer Oakville Little League will be running our annual Summer Baseball Camps. There will be three weeks of camp:

- Week 1: July 3-7
- Week 2: July 10-14
- Week 3: August 14-18

For information or to registration please click on the following link:

[http://www.ollb.org/ollb/images/2017\\_Baseball\\_Summer\\_Baseball\\_Camp.pdf](http://www.ollb.org/ollb/images/2017_Baseball_Summer_Baseball_Camp.pdf)

## **23. Whitecaps All-Star/Select Coaches for the 2017 Season**



Oakville Little League is pleased to announce the appointment of the following Whitecaps' Managers for the 2016 baseball season;

- 7U T-ball Minor: Vacant
- 8U T-ball Major: Scott Roberts
- 9U Minor: Mark Manocchio
- 10U Minor: Derek O'Reilley
- 11U Major: Chris Fournier
- 12U Major: John Mooney
- 14U Junior: Nick Rigato
- 16U Senior: Vacant

The League would like to thank all of the candidates who put their names forward for these three positions. Once again this year the quality and character of the applicants was exemplary. As a League we are very fortunate to have such strong candidates who are willing to volunteer their time and effort.

These appointments continue the League's efforts to select Managers who will reinforce the principles of the Whitecaps program; instilling in their teams the attitudes of team work, positive experiences, and respect of coaches, umpires, peers and players. Their selection followed the process outlined in the Oakville Little League All-Star Selection Process document which is accessible on the website under Whitecaps Information. If you have any questions, please contact AJ Johnson at [whitecapsdirector@ollb.org](mailto:whitecapsdirector@ollb.org).

## **24. Whitecaps All-Star/Select Information Session (AJ)**

Oakville Little League will be holding a Whitecaps All-Star/Select information session in February 2017, date/time is TBD. All parents and players interested in learning more about the Whitecaps program, its philosophy as well as player and parent commitments are encouraged to attend. The Whitecap Managers will also be in attendance and will be available to answer any of your questions. The Managers will also have the tournament dates set out in

advance of the season so players interested in becoming a Whitecap will know if they can accommodate the schedule in advance of trying out.

## **25. Whitecaps All-Star/Select Team Workouts**

Tryouts for Oakville Little League's Whitecaps All-Star/Select teams will take place on the following dates weather permitting. Please note that times and locations for the tryouts have not as yet been finalized. As soon as they are confirmed the League will send an email to all players and parents.

- 7U – Friday, May 26, Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28
- 8U – Friday, May 26, Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28
- 9U – Friday, May 12, Friday, May 19, Saturday, May 20 & Sunday, May 21
- 10U – Friday, May 12, Friday, May 19, Saturday, May 20 & Sunday, May 21
- 11U – Friday, May 12, Friday, May 19, Saturday, May 20 & Sunday, May 21
- 12U – Friday, May 12, Saturday, May 13, Saturday, May 20 & Sunday, May 21
- 14U – Monday, May 8, Wednesday, May 10 & Friday, May 12
- 16U – Tuesday, May 9, Thursday, May 11 & Saturday, May 13

If your child makes a Whitecaps All-Star/Select team **Monday, May 22** will be the Uniform Fitting and Order day.

Age determination for the Whitecaps teams will be based on the new age determination guidelines as set out in the first item in this email. The age determination chart can also be viewed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.littleleague.org/media/llnewsarchive/2015/September-December/llb-age-determination-date.htm>

## **26. Whitecaps All-Star/Select Under Age Player Eligibility**

In 2016 the League announced a change in the practice of selecting under age players for Whitecaps teams. As of the 2017 season, underage players are no longer eligible for selection to play up. The intent of this change is to re-enforce the Whitecaps program's core objective of player development.

**\*Special note that Junior is combined 13 & 14 years of age and Senior is combined 15 & 16 years of age**

## **27. Whitecaps All-Star/Select Documentation**

We encourage all parents to read the information on All-Star Selection Process, Parent Communication, and Player Commitment to the Whitecaps Program contained in the link below. This document will outline what the philosophy of the Whitecaps Program is, and the commitment level required from families. Please read the document carefully. Everyone is encouraged to be familiar with the process before the tryouts start. Link to Whitecaps Selection Process:

[http://www.ollb.org/ollb/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=229&Itemid=141](http://www.ollb.org/ollb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=229&Itemid=141)