



Oakville Little League February 2017 Update

President's Message

Hello Parents, Players, Coaches, Volunteers and Friends of Oakville Little League. I am excited about the upcoming season and everything we have planned for our House League division, Challenger division and our Whitecaps program. We produce this newsletter throughout the year to keep our membership informed about what's happening around the league including important dates such as Opening Day, Picture Day, Summer Camp schedules and lot's more. We hope that you find our newsletter exciting and informative. The league would appreciate your feedback on how we are doing so that we can focus on shaping and improving our program. Please do not hesitate to send any of the Executives your feedback at anytime throughout the season. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Scott Roberts to the Board of Directors. Scott has volunteered to take over the Treasurers role from Peter Hundeck. I am excited to welcome Scott to the Board. I hope that all of you enjoy the 2017 baseball season and once again, thanks so much for supporting our programs.

John Sweeney, President, Oakville Little League

president@ollb.org

1. 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, 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!

2. 2017 Ontario Minor Provincial Championships

The league is excited to announce that we will be hosting the 2017 Minor 10U Provincial Championships at Cornwall Park. The tournament will take place in late July with the specific dates to be confirmed by Little League Ontario. This All-Star tournament will see 8 teams including our very own Whitecaps team coming in from around the Province representing their District to compete for the title of 2017 Minor Provincial Champions. This tournament will require significant planning and volunteers to make it a success.

We will also be looking for community sponsors to support our tournament. If you know of any business that may be interested in getting involved, please have them reach out to John Sweeney at president@ollb.org or Michael O'Connor at communications@ollb.org.

3. OLL to host the 2017 Junior (14U) Provincials

The league will also be hosting the 2017 Junior 14U Provincial Championships which will be played at Glen Abbey Diamonds on Third Line. This significant tournament will have a number of Junior 14U Little League teams from across the Province including our very own host the 14U Whitecaps. This tournament will crown a Provincial Champion who will move on to the 2017 Junior Canadians in Lethbridge Alberta where they will compete for the right to represent Canada at the Junior League World Series in Taylor Michigan. The league is looking for volunteers to get involved with this tournament to help make it a great success. We will also be looking for community sponsors to support our tournament. If you know of any business that may be interested in getting involved, please have them reach out to John Sweeney at president@ollb.org or Michael O'Connor at communications@ollb.org.

4. "NEW" Oakville Little League Website www.oakvillelittleleague.com

Oakville Little League has launched our new web site. The URL is www.oakvillelittleleague.com. The web site is designed to be more informative and dynamic for our players, umpires, coaches and parents. Please change your bookmark from www.ollb.org to www.oakvillelittleleague.com

5. Registration for the 2017 Baseball Season

Oakville Little League has been accepting registrations for the 2017 season since the final pitch of the 2016 Season. As everyone knows, the Toronto Blue Jays had a great year and Oakville Little League also had a great season. Put those two successes together and you get a greater demand from kids to play baseball during the summer. For those of you that have already registered, welcome back to the league and thanks for your support.

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 or you can register online at www.oakvillelittleleague.com.

Registrations are filling up quickly as over 900 players have signed up already for the 2017 season with only limited space still available in some age categories, so we encourage you to drop in and register your child for the 2017 season to avoid disappointment.

6. Big League No Longer Offered

As a result of Little League International's decision to cancel its Big League program for players aged 17-20, Oakville Little League will no longer be offering this program. Players who's birth date falls between May 1, 1999 and April 30, 2000 will be eligible to play Senior house league in the 2017 season.

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
**NOTE: The Opening Day for Major AL and NL is our Annual Mother's Day Classic				
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 Al-East	Monday or Wednesday	Postridge, Our Lady of Peace, Cornwall
Minor Al-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 or Tuesday	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 Corbett's Source for Sports and National Sport, 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://www.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.

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 February 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 Major, Minor, Major and Junior Divisions as well as Senior players who are new to the league.

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. Police Checks for Coaches and Volunteers

A reminder for those intending to coach/volunteer to get your Police Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening completed early to avoid delays. It can take 4-6 weeks for Halton Regional Police to process. Police checks are valid with Oakville Little League for 2 years from the date of issue. They must be received prior to the start of the season and remain valid for the entire season. If you have any questions regarding the police check process, please email our Safety Officer, Scott Vail, at ollbsafety@gmail.com.

15. New Umpire Orientation Clinic

We will host a new umpire orientation clinic on Friday February 24, 2017 for all newly registered umpires at Oakville Little League. The session will be held at our 425 Cornwall Rd facility and each new umpire will be required to RSVP through a form that will be sent to them.

16. 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.

17. First Practices

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

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. Picture Day

Picture Day for the 2017 Season will be on Saturday, May 27 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.

21. 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 are available on the Oakville Little League website at www.oakvillelittleleague.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

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'Reilly

11U Major: Chris Fournier

12U Major: John Mooney

14U Junior: Nick Rigato

16U Senior: Vacant

These appointments continue the Leagues' 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.

24. Whitecaps All-Star/Select Information Session

Oakville Little League will be holding a Whitecaps All-Star/Select information session on March 26 from 12 noon until 4 P.M. at the Holiday Inn on Bronte Road.

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

Workouts 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 workouts 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