



Oakville Little League 2018 Season Update

Welcome back for another great season of Oakville Little League baseball! While it may seem like the start of the 2018 season is still months away, we are less than 2 months away from the start of the season. So just as we have done the past few years we wanted to provide you with an update on several key dates and changes for the 2018 season. Please read this email in its entirety and we recommend you retain a copy of it for reference through-out the season. In addition to new information on the 2018 season there is some information that has been previously emailed to you.

1. 2018 Season at a Glance

To help you plan for the **2018 season**, please find attached an early sneak peek of the "Season At A Glance" and "Game Days of the Week". We suggest you print off a copy of each as they contain important dates and events for the 2018 season.

To access '**Season at a Glance**' and '**Game Days of the Week**', please click on the following links:

'**Season at a Glance**': [2018 OLL - Season At A Glance](#)

'**Game Days of the Week**': [OLL - 2018 - Game Days of the Week](#)

2. 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 Seniors (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.

NEW USA Little League Bat Standard

The new USA Little League Bat standard will become effective for the 2018 Oakville Little League Season. This new standard will apply for divisions T-Ball to Junior. The Senior division will continue to use the BBCOR standard. This means that all bats used last year in these divisions are no longer legal. If your bat has a "USSSA BPF 1.15" stamp on it, you will need to replace it. In purchasing a new bat please make sure it has the following USA stamp on it (please see image below). If it does not have this mark, it is not a legal bat and can not be used in Oakville Little League.

The complete USA Bat Standard is highlighted below. Should you have any questions regarding it please contact administration@ollb.org.

USA Bat Standard

Effective January 1, 2018, USA Baseball, the national governing body for the sport of baseball in the United States, will adopt a new method for measuring bat performance for testing Baseball Bats. Since the new USA Bat Standard may affect your bat purchase I will break down every part of the new rule change, including what changes to expect, why a change is being made, and who this new standard will affect.

What are the key takeaways regarding these new youth baseball bat rules? To maintain the integrity of youth baseball, the USA Bat Standard will create wood-like performance in youth bats while allowing younger players

to use light-weight bats that could not be achieved with wood bats. AABC, Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken, Dixie, Little League, and PONY will all be affected by the USA Bat rule change. USA Baseball Stamped Bats will not have a drop weight limit. USA Baseball will allow the use of 2 5/8" big barrel bats for all age levels.

What will the USA Bat Standard change and why? Similar to the NCAA and NFHS BBCOR Standard that was implemented in 2011, the new USA Bat Standard will create wood-like performance in youth baseball bats. Or, as USA Baseball's Executive Director / CEO Paul Seiler stated, help "take another step forward in making our game more uniform at the youth level and ensuring the long-term integrity of the game." With the creation of the new standard, players within the affected organizations will also now be allowed to use bats with either a 2 1/4 inch or 2 5/8-inch barrel diameter, as long as they carry the new USA Stamp.

Here is where the logos will be placed on the bat, as well as what the logo will look like.



What about Tee Ball bats? Tee-Ball Bats must feature the USA Baseball mark and accompanying text that reads 'Only For Use With Approved Tee Balls'. Approved tee ball bats (26" and shorter) under USA Bat will feature the USA Baseball mark.

3. Player Medical and Contact Information

A reminder for parents to ensure all medical information and contact information on file with OLL is current and up to date. Coaches will have access to an Emergency Action Plan tool that requires this information in case of an emergency.

4. Registration

The League continues to accept registrations for the 2018 season. Spaces are still available in the Blastball (age 4), T-ball Instructional (age 5), T-ball Minor (ages 6 & 7), T-ball Major (ages 7 & 8) and Junior (ages 13 & 14) divisions. In the Minor (ages 9 & 10) and Senior (ages 15, 16 & 17) divisions there are limited spaces. And, in the Major (ages 11 & 12) division we have established a waiting list as the number of registered players has hit the maximum spots available.

5. Player Evaluations

Player evaluations for Minor, Major, Junior and new players in Senior will continue to take place on Saturday, March 24th at FieldHouse Athletics, [5230 Harvester Road Unit B, Burlington](https://www.google.com/maps/place/5230+Harvester+Road+Unit+B,+Burlington,+VT+05405). (Click this link for map of location: <https://goo.gl/maps/Hi9VKBE2KCG2>) NOTE: It is one building west of the building with the "TRC" sign, South Side.

Player evaluations for T-ball will take place on March 24th and 25th. Parents will be emailed with specific information on dates and times to bring your child out for evaluations.

6. Coaches Meetings

The 2018 Coaches meetings will be held on the following dates and times;

- **Minor, Major, Junior and Senior** coaches on **April 11** from 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the Holiday Inn, 2525 Wyecroft Road (Wyecroft & Bronte)
- **T-ball** coaches will be held Mid-April at the Oakville Little League Fieldhouse on Cornwall Road. Coaches will be notified of the specific dates and time via email.
- **Blastball** coaches on **April 22** at 7:00PM at the Oakville Little League Fieldhouse on Cornwall Road

Coaches wanted! The League is 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 Oakville Little League as a Coach, please send an email to administration@ollb.org or call 905-827-1831.

7. Police Checks for Coaches and Volunteers

All volunteers requiring a police check are required to provide the Safety Officer with a completed PVSC or proof the process has started by May 15th. Please note the processing of PVSC by HRPS can take a minimum of 4-6 weeks to complete.

Halton residents can visit any HRPS Station or go to <https://www.policiesolutions.ca/checks/services/halton> to complete their application. All costs associated with the PVSC will be reimbursed by OLL. To be reimbursed, volunteers must submit their receipt to the Safety Officer upon submission of the application and will be reimbursed after a valid PVSC is received by the Safety Officer. Please scan and email the receipt and PVSC to ollbpolichecks@gmail.com or drop them off at the Clubhouse on Cornwall.

If you have any questions regarding the police check process, please email our Safety Officer, Scott Vail, at ollbsafety@gmail.com.

8. Players Contacted by Coach

Players will be contacted by their coaches starting the **week of April 23** by phone and/or email. If your child has not heard from their coach by Monday, April 30, please contact OLL (administration@ollb.org).

9. First Practices

The first practices for **all divisions** will start on the weekend of **April 27-29**. You will be informed by your coach as to the date, time and location of your first practice when they contact you in April.

10. Opening Games/Start of the Season

The 2018 Oakville Little League Season will start on **May 2** with the Blastball Meet and Greet. T-ball Instructional and Minor will get their season underway on **May 7**. While, T-ball Major will start on **May 13**.

The opening weekend for the Junior and Senior divisions will take place May 4-6 at Glen Abbey.

Minor division players will start their season on May 12. Major teams will participate in the **Annual Mother's Day Classic on Sunday, May 13** at Cornwall.

11. 2018 Playoffs & Season Ending Galas

The **Blastball Final Gala**, the **T-ball Instructional Closing Gala** and the **T-ball Minor Closing Gala** will all take place on **July 28** at Cornwall.

T-ball Major's Final Playoff Weekend will take place **August 17-19** at Cornwall.

Minor and Major division playoffs will run from **August 21 to September 9** with the **Minor National League Final** on **August 26 or 27**, the **Major American League Final** on **September 6**, the **Minor American League final** on **September 9** and the **Major National League Final** on **September 9**.

Junior playoffs will start on **August 21** with the Championship game on **September 8** at Glen Abbey.

Senior playoffs will be held from **August 6-19** with the Championship game on **August 19** at Glen Abbey.

12. Picture Day

Picture Day will take place on **Saturday, May 26** (Rain or Shine) at Glen Abbey.

13. Blue Jays Day – Sunday, June 10 vs. Baltimore Orioles

The annual Oakville Little League Blue Jays Day will take place on **Sunday, June 10 @ 1:07 PM** with the Blue Jays taking on the Baltimore Orioles. Tickets are \$40. For information and order form please visit the website at www.oakvillelittleleague.com.

14. Umpires Corner

Treating Umpires with Respect: Baseball is an exciting sport to watch. The batter hits a hard ground ball, the infielder dives to make a great stop and throws to second base where the runner is sliding in, the tag is made, and all eyes turn to the umpire – is the runner safe or out?? The call is made, half the crowd cheers and the other half moans. Umpires are an integral part of the game, but few people ever think about who they are and where they come from. Each year, the league accepts new applications from individuals 13 years or older who want to join the ranks of Oakville Little Leagues umpiring crew comprising about 80 umpires in total. After receiving training on basic rules and on-field positioning and mechanics these, mostly young, umpires are willing to stand out on the diamond, on their own. There they will occasionally become the center of attention by adult coaches, and second guessing by adults in the stands. It's not an easy job to do and like the ball players on the field, these young umpires are also sensitive to comments they hear from those around them. Please give them the respect and encouragement you give the players and help them build up their self-confidence. Like the players on the field, the umpires too will develop and improve their officiating skills. And if you feel you could do a better job than they are doing, I'm sure we can find an umpire shirt size that will fit you.

15. Oakville Little League Summer Camp (conducted by Pro-Teach Baseball)

Oakville Little League will be running 3 Summer Baseball Camps this summer for players ages 7-10 years old. The camps will be held the weeks of **July 9-13**, **July 16-20** and **July 23-27**. All camps will take place at the Cornwall diamonds. For more information please visit www.oakvillelittleleague.com

16. Whitecaps All-Star/Select Coaches for the 2018 Season

In January, Oakville Little League reviewed applications for the 2018 All-Star/Select Managers. The League would like to thank all the candidates who put their names forward for these six positions. Once again, 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.

2018 Whitecaps Managers

9U Select Scott Roberts

10U All-Star Mark Manocchio

11U Select Derek O'Reilley

12U All-Star John Mooney

12U Select Rob Merwin (**see note below**)

14U All-Star Nick Rigato

**** Note: Due to the expanded cohort of in the Major (12U) year of sixteen months, we will be introducing a second team at the 12U level (12U Select) for the 2018 season only.**

We are still accepting applications for managers of the **7U (T-Ball)**, **8U (T-Ball)** and **16U (Senior)** Whitecap teams. If you are interested in managing these teams, please contact adminstration@ollb.org.

The Board of Directors of Oakville Little League would like to congratulate the new 2018 Whitecap Managers. We are confident that these Individuals will represent the Town of Oakville and Oakville Little League well at all levels and continue our long tradition of Community and Sportsmanship.

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 regarding this, please contact administration@ollb.org.

Here's to another exciting year of Whitecap baseball!

17. Whitecaps All-Star/Select Information Session

Oakville Little League held a Whitecaps All-Star/Select information session on Sunday, March 4th at the Holiday Inn. All parents and players interested in learning more about the Whitecaps program, its philosophy as well as player and parent commitments are encouraged visit our web site for all details.

18. 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 yet been finalized. As soon as they are confirmed the League will send an email to all players and parents.

- **U14 and U16** workouts will be held between **May 7-13**
- **U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, U11 and U12** workouts will be held between **May 11-21 (Please note that these workouts will continue into the May long weekend. Please keep this in mind as you make any plans)**

If your child makes a Whitecaps All-Star/Select team **Monday, May 21** will be the Uniform Fitting and Order day.

19. 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

20. Sponsor Spotlight

A **HUGE** thank you to all the sponsors who have stepped up to support the House and Challenger Leagues for the 2018 season. Without the support of our sponsors it would be tough to deliver these successful programs to so many girls and boys in Oakville.

Over the coming months we will be updating the “Sponsors” tab on the OLLB website with the 2018 sponsors. Once this information is posted I encourage all our OLLB membership families and sponsors to visit this website tab and familiarize yourself with the sponsors and consider supporting them and their businesses whenever you can.