



# Oakville Little League May 2017 Update

## President's Message

The long wait is finally over... It's baseball season in Oakville! With Opening Day, just around the corner and the League is working hard to make sure everything is in place for a wonderful start to the season. With record player registration numbers this year, putting teams together has taken a bit longer than usual. Players should hear from their coaches prior to Friday, April 28th. If you have not heard from your coach either by phone or email, by this date, please contact John Mooney at [administration@ollb.org](mailto:administration@ollb.org). Special thanks to everyone who came out to the evaluation sessions this spring as they were extremely valuable in helping us assess new and returning players.

Heading into May there are a lot of activities and events you should be aware of so please read this update in detail and we encourage you to retain a copy just in case. A couple of highlights include: Opening Games/Start of the Season dates; Whitecaps Selection Workouts; Picture Day; and Summer Camps.

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.

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 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! Let's Play Ball!

John Sweeney, President, Oakville Little League  
[president@ollb.org](mailto:president@ollb.org)

## 1. 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.

## 2. 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

## 3. Players Contacted by Coach or League

If you have not heard from a coach or the League at this point, please contact John Mooney at [administration@ollb.org](mailto:administration@ollb.org).

#### **4. First Practices**

The first practices for some teams were the weekend of April 29 & 30. All team will be on the diamond May 6 and 7 (weather permitting)

#### **5. Oakville Little League's Annual Mother's Day Classic**

Please join us at the Cornwall Diamond this coming Sunday, May 14th to celebrate the start of the Major Division's season and to honour our Mother's. The Annual Mother's Day Classic has quickly become a tradition within Oakville Little League and again this year we encourage everyone to come out to the Cornwall Diamond and help us celebrate the start of the baseball season.

#### **6. 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.

#### **7. 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.

#### **8. 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.

#### **9. "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.](#) 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 likely 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).**

#### **10. Treating Our 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.

## 11. 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.policesolutions.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 [ollbpolicechecks@gmail.com](mailto:ollbpolicechecks@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](mailto:ollbsafety@gmail.com).

## 12. Picture Day

Picture Day for the 2017 Season will be on Saturday, May 27 at the Glen Abbey baseball diamond. **This is a NEW location and a change from prior years.** The diamond 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.

## 13. 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](http://www.oakvillelittleleague.com).

## 14. 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)

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

Oakville Little League has launched our new web site. The URL is [www.oakvillelittleleague.com](http://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.olb.org](http://www.olb.org) to [www.oakvillelittleleague.com](http://www.oakvillelittleleague.com)

## **16. 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: Vacant  
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](mailto:whitecapsdirector@ollb.org).

## **17. 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.

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>

## **18. 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

## **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](http://www.ollb.org/ollb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=229&Itemid=141)

## **20. 2017 Canada Day Classic Welcomes Teams from Pakistan and the United States (June 30 to July 2)**

The League invites everyone to come out and watch some of the best U15 baseball in the country and help us celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Canada Day Classic Tournament which is being held from Friday, June 30th to Sunday, July 2nd with a fireworks display on Saturday night at the Glen Abbey Diamond to celebrate Canada Day and our country's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

The Canada Day Classic has quickly become one of the premiere baseball tournaments in Southern Ontario and is open to all LITTLE LEAGUE 'JUNIOR', OBA SELECT & REP 'A' Bantam teams or lower. Teams from across Ontario, Quebec and the United States have participated in the past and will be participating again this year.

Also, participating in this year's Canada Day Classic will be a team from the Pakistan Federation Baseball. Comprised of players ages 13-15, the team has competed in the Asian Championships and in previous years has travelled to compete in tournaments in British Columbia.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Canada Day Classic, please contact Nick Rigato at [nickrigato@cogeco.ca](mailto:nickrigato@cogeco.ca).

## **21. OLL to host the 2017 Junior (14U) Provincials (July 21 to 30)**

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 feature 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](mailto:president@ollb.org) or Michael O'Connor at [communications@ollb.org](mailto:communications@ollb.org).

## **22. 2017 Ontario Minor Provincial Championships (July 28 to Aug 4)**

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](mailto:president@ollb.org) or Michael O'Connor at [communications@ollb.org](mailto:communications@ollb.org).

## **23. 2017 Adam Fedoruk Memorial Tournament (August 11 to 13)**

The Adam Fedoruk Memorial CAN/AM Tournament was established in 1999 as a lasting tribute to Adam Fedoruk. Adam was a player in Oakville Little League and absolutely loved baseball. The Fedoruks' were a true

baseball family; Adam's dad not only sponsored the team, he was also their pitching coach, and while his mom typically kept the score sheets, his little sister Amanda cheered the team on from the bleachers. As a player Adam had two favourite positions - shortstop and pitcher, but he excelled in all aspects and his coaches were always impressed with his 'thinking game'.

Tragically, Adam died suddenly, along with his sister and mother, in a house fire on August 17, 1998. That year Adam's team was set to play their championship game and as difficult as it was to go on the field without him, the team did the only thing they could do, they played for Adam. This tournament is a celebration of all that this young player embodied; characteristics typically found in the young people who play in Little League - dedication, sportsmanship, teamwork and fair play.

And so, we invite you to take the field with us - play for fun, play for the love of the game, and play for Adam. If you are interested in volunteering at this year's Adam Fedoruk Memorial Tournament please contact John Sweeney at [president@ollb.org](mailto:president@ollb.org).