



South Ottawa Girls Baseball Select Program

Overview for Parents, Players, and Coaches

Introduction

Ottawa Girls Baseball (OGB) is establishing a Select Program, designed to provide dedicated athletes with increased opportunities for skill development, competitive play, and personal growth within a positive and supportive environment.

Each league or district will create opportunities consistent with the needs of its athletes and families based on factors such as athlete interest and calibre, geography, available coaching and volunteers.

Why OGB Is Offering This New Program

OGB identified a desire among some athletes for a higher level of competition and skill development, as well as more opportunities for practices and game play in addition to the regular house league program.

The goals of the Select Program are to:

- Provide additional skill development through higher-level coaching in game and practice situations
- Foster fun, teamwork, sportsmanship, and leadership in a more competitive setting
- Support athletes who aspire to play at higher levels, such as regional, provincial or national teams

House League Structure: Why It Is Not Tiered

OGB's house league remains intentionally non-tiered to maintain an inclusive and welcoming environment for players of all skill levels. By mixing abilities within teams, the league fosters mentorship, friendship, and enjoyment of the game, ensuring that all participants have a chance to play, learn, and succeed together. Tiering could limit opportunities for new or

developing players and might reduce the overall sense of community that is central to the OGB philosophy.

A tiered approach may be feasible in the future should numbers grow sufficiently in South Ottawa and across the city to make it a positive experience. In the meantime, the Select Program will respond to those who desire more baseball in a more competitive environment.

Divisions with Select Teams

Select teams will be established within specific age divisions where there is sufficient interest and player numbers.

For the current season, OGB will focus on:

Minor (League Ages 9–10) Major (League Ages 11–12) Junior (League Ages 13–14)

SOLL will assess interest and create up to one team in each division depending on interest, available coaching and volunteers. Athletes are only eligible to participate in their specific age group and may not play in a higher or lower category.

Commitment Level: Expectations for Players and Families

- Participation on a Select team requires a higher commitment than house league alone
- Teams will determine the appropriate cadence of activities, recognizing that house league team games and practices are the priority for athletes and coaches.
- Select team activities will be coordinated with the house league program to recognize the importance of both. Coaches will work together and with SOLL leaders to ensure a positive experience for all athletes.
- Participants on a Select team will maintain their obligations to the house league teams - barring any reasonable conflicts (ex. Out of town tournament on a house league game weekend)
- Participants can expect a mix of practices and exhibition games, approximately 1 per week which will be scheduled on weekdays to avoid conflict with weekend house league schedules and to support arm care principles
- Teams may participate in occasional weekend tournaments, one of which could be out of town
- A league registration fee (\$95.00) will cover diamond time, equipment, uniforms and umpires for up to five exhibition games. If applicable, additional umpire costs,

tournament registration and other miscellaneous costs will be paid for through collection of a team fee.

Families should be prepared for a busier schedule and increased time investment, but also for a rewarding experience that encourages camaraderie, athletic and personal growth.

Tryout Eligibility: House League Participation Requirement

To try out for a Select Team, players must be registered and actively participating in the house league program.

Player Selection: Tryout Process and Evaluation Criteria

All registered players are welcome to try out. A tryout will be held in mid to late May with the intention of forming teams by the end of May and commencing the program in early June.

Rosters will include 12 – 15 athletes. The tryout process will generally include:

- Assessment of fundamental baseball skills (hitting, fielding, pitching, base running)
- Observation of attitude, teamwork, and coachability
- Consideration of positional needs and roster balance

In the interest of fairness and transparency, evaluations will be conducted by capable assessors whose daughter is not trying out in the level. Only non parent coaches may be involved with assessments and team forming.

Coach Selection

The league will solicit interest for head coach and assistant coach roles in March with the intention of identifying head coaches in April. Assistant coaches will be confirmed once the roster is confirmed. Parent and nonparent coaches will be equally considered. Male and female coaches are encouraged to apply. South Ottawa has an objective to include at least one female coach on each bench. Teams are required to have a male or female manager who is not a coach.

Questions

South Ottawa is pleased to be participating in the Select Program in the inaugural year. We encourage all girls interested to try out for a spot.

For more information, please contact James Fraser - VP Girls Baseball

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