

O.A.S.A.

High & Inside

The Official Newsletter of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association

Volume 2 Issue 7

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NOMINATIONS and AMENDMENTS

Nominations and Amendments **MUST** be in to the Secretary's office by September 20th 2011. Forms can be found at www.oasa.ca under information, then forms.

Notes from our Secretary

The Ontario Amateur Softball Association (OASA) invites you to attend its 89th Annual General Meeting in Markham

The O.A.S.A. is an organization dedicated to further the development of the game of Softball for males ranging in age from 7 years to adult. We offer coaching clinics, player skills clinics and a comprehensive Insurance package for the Softball community. Teams affiliated with the O.A.S.A. have the opportunity to compete against teams from other centres of similar size and against teams of similar age and skill levels. The elite teams and players of the O.A.S.A. have the opportunity to participate in Canadian and International Championships - worthwhile goals for young players just starting out in the game.

Come to the AGM, meet Softball oriented people, share your ideas and let us know how we can help you further develop the game in your community.

Saturday November 19th – Holiday Inn and Suites 7095 Woodbine Ave., Markham ON

Meet and Greet with our Athletes that won medals at Canadians and Eastern Canadians. 12 – 1 p.m.

AGM 1 – 4 p.m.

If you require further information call our Secretary, Christine Patenaude at 705-549-2485 or email at lat@love-a-tree.com. We look forward to seeing you there.

OASA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2011

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Who is eligible to attend the OASA AGM?

Every centre that affiliates with the OASA (puts in a team) has 3 votes at the Annual General Meeting. If a centre has more than 1 team, they still only get 3 votes. Example: Kitchener Waterloo has 3 minor teams and 2 men's teams. They still only get 3 votes and can decide amongst themselves who gets the votes.

2. Why should I attend the OASA AGM?

The Ontario Amateur Softball Association is a volunteer board that determine how the Association operates through your input and its Constitution and Bylaws. At the AGM, there are proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws that are voted on. **Your vote counts.** These become part of the C& B Rulebook immediately upon being passed.

The OASA also recognizes athletes that have pitched no hitters or perfect games. This year we are also honouring our teams that medalled at Canadians with a Meet and Greet from 12 – 1 p.m. prior to the AGM. What better way to celebrate our successes than by being honoured by your peers.

3. How long is the meeting?

Generally the meeting goes from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. although can go a bit longer depending on the issues.

4. Where can I find the Nominations and Amendments for 2011?

They are located on our website at www.oasa.ca under Information, then Forms.

5. Where can I get more information?

You can email Christine Patenaude, Secretary at lat@love-a-tree.com or call or email any Executive member.

This is your Association. Please come out and support our work.

Provincial Champion Banquet

The first annual Provincial champions banquet was held on September 11, 2011 at the Stanley Park Centre in Kitchener. Mike Goodrich was a most capable MC and commenced the afternoon by introducing the head table.

President Gary Wren introduced well known ball player and Coach Larry Lynch.

Larry gave a well-received talk on respect, commitment and discipline (see Larry's complete message in this issue of High and Inside). The coaches of the teams attending the banquet introduced their players and were presented with certificates of accomplishment.

Bruce Young, minor committee chair, addressed the audience on possible changes that will be implemented next year example change of date for the Midget Elimination.

Gary Wren discussed changes coming down from Softball Canada such as a different way of categorizing the age groups.

Everyone present was eligible to have their names drawn for door prizes.

Bill DeHaan led us in grace prior to a wonderful buffet catered by Grand Valley Golf & Country Club.

Thanks to all who helped in any way to make this first endeavor of this event so successful.

Larry's Address

Our first ever O.A.S.A. Provincial Award banquet on September 11th welcome guest speaker Larry Lynch.

Afterwards several parents and coaches asked for a copy of Larry's motivation talk. Larry has granted us permission to print it in our High and Inside newsletter.

Thanks to O.A.S.A. for the privilege of talking, softball is a lifelong passion of mine.

Been playing O.A.S.A. tournaments and play downs nearly 40 years. Won 1st O.A.S.A. Intermediate C Championships in 1980, current President Gary Wren as coach.

Learned a lot about the game by watching other players, playing under different coaching styles, and by experiencing a lot of highs and lows on the field, and off.

There is no greater feeling than being part of a team that achieves their season's goal. Winning is fantastic but there is also a great sense of accomplishment even being on the losing side. Some teams will never win a Provincial or National championship but there is still great success in the qualifying. In the coming together as a team and in the feeling that a group of individuals can become a team playing for each other. Win or Lose

2000 National Championship in Saskatoon 5 games in a row on Sunday only to face a dominant Owen Sound team in final. Battered beat up and worn out our misfit lineup gave up an early big lead. We

didn't quit even with nothing left to give. Their laughter turned dramatically when we started to claw back. We make it a one run game but could not find enough to win. That day is still the greatest single achievement in my career, despite going on to win 3 Nationals, 2 American Nationals and 2 ISC World Championships.

What carried all of us that day was something best summed up by Brian Paton, the great center fielder of the Canadian National team for years.

“Pick a teammate, keep it to yourself play your heart out, find a way to win for them.”

Find a way to win for them. That's what a team is all about.

There are 3 principles that I have built my softball career on and they are every bit as important as my job, my family and to life.

1. **RESPECT** ~ Coaches
 - ~ Team mates
 - ~ Opposition
 - ~ Umpires
 - ~ Fans
 - ~ Sponsors
2. **COMMITMENT** ~ Make games and practices on time
 - ~ Run out every ball
 - ~ Be a player the coach can count on
 - ~ Make the effort not an excuse
3. **DISCIPLINE** ~ Control your anger
 - ~ Look inside you do not blame someone else for failures
 - ~ Play with class, run on and off the field, and set a standard your team mates and your opposition will look up to

“WIN with DIGNITY, LOSS with PRIDE”

Finally, a few words about the state of the game. “The game is not dying, it is changing”.

We have all taken a lot from the game; it will always remain strong if we do the little things to give back.

- If you have an old bat, ball or gloves give it to a kid who can use it.
THE GAME WILL BE BETTER FOR IT!
- If you see a kid who needs someone to play catch with, take ground balls with, catch flies with.
Be that person.
THE GAME WILL BE BETTER FOR IT!
- If you have spare time, become a coach, become an umpires, help run a clinic.
THE GAME WILL BE BETTER FOR IT!
- If you have a business or you are in a good financial place in life. Sponsor a team.
THE GAME WILL BE BETTER FOR IT!

- IF you can volunteer at a tournament, help out at upgrading a diamond, do scorekeeping, cut the grass at your community park.
THE GAME WILL BE BETTER FOR IT!
- If you can sit in the stands and watch your children, your neighbours, or root for your home team do it.
THE GAME WILL BE BETTER FOR IT!

Softball to me is the **GREATEST GAME** in the **WORLD**, the creed I have always live by is this

"LOVE THE GAME LIKE A LITTLE BOY, AND PLAY IT LIKE A MAN"

Larry Lynch

Minor Committee News

With all the minor tournament play completed for 2011 congratulations go out to all our participants and champions plus a big thank you to the host centres. It was great to see a tournament back in the Niagara area. The Squirt Provincial was a huge success for all concerned. Ponsonby also held its first OA tournament in many years; the Peeewe Provincial "A". The OA is pleased to see these fastball tournaments come to new locales in our province.

The Minor Committee is looking at two areas of change during the off season. First is change and realignment of tournament weekend dates brought on by the extended school year lasting to the very final days of June and Softball Canada's move to the second week of August for the Midget Nationals' tournament week. A possible scenario would be this: First weekend of July - Midget and Peeewe Eliminations, second weekend of July - Bantam Eliminations. Last weekend of July - Midget "A" and "B, C" Provincials. First weekend in August - Junior Mite, Squirt and Bantam Provincials, second weekend of August - Mite and Peeewe Provincials.

A second area of change will be the trickle down effects of the Softball Canada's Long Term Player Development Plan. Already in 2012 the midgets will feel this effect as their division drops back to two years (18 and under as of January 1). If the OA adopts some of the other suggested changes for our tournament play it would at first mostly impact out Mite and Squirt Divisions. There are a wide variety of suggestions (round robin tournaments instead of double knock out, restrict number of innings to pitchers, regional jamborees as opposed to "A" and "B" provincials, skills game challenges as part of tournament weekend format). At this point these are suggested changes that the OA will be reviewing. We would like to attempt to initiate at least some of these if we have the support of our affiliated centres. Working together with our affiliated centres the OA hopes to take the best of the LTPD suggestions to enhance and help grow our tournament play weekends.

The OASA and the Minor Committee will continue to evaluate (and possibly incorporate some of) these LTPD ideas into our plans for the 2012 season. As always the OA and the Minor Committee welcome your input (and the Minor Committee is always ready to welcome new members willing to join our committee). Maybe we can see you at the AGM in November and the start of these discussions.

Till then; thanks for your support to the OA this summer. Enjoy your off season.

Yours in fastball,
Bruce Young, Minor Chair

Men's B and C

The Men's Intermediate B/C Provincial was played on the wet weekend of August 20 and 21. 6 Teams participated in a round robin format moving to an elimination format for the Championship round.

The C Championship pitted Pickering against Frankford. This game was well played although it was done so in the pouring rain. Pickering earned the Championship.

The B Championship game was to be played between Wiarton and Toanche. After 2 pitches, this game was called for rain and the diamonds remained under water for the entire day. On Tuesday, September 6, this game was played in Collingwood. Wiarton earned the victory over Toanche.

Despite the weather problems, there was great sportsmanship and some very good ball games. I would like to thank Stephen Hall, my co-convenor as well as the Blue Crew and the host for a great weekend.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Patenaude

Age Changes Effective in 2012

In 2012 the following age changes for each category will take effect within Softball Canada Rules
Players are assigned to categories by their ages prior to Jan 1st of the season of play

Junior Mite under 8

Mite under 10

Squirt under 12

Pee Wee under 14

Bantam under 16

Midget under 18 currently under 19

Junior under 21 currently under 23

Senior, Intermediate, Orthodox Open

Masters must be 40 in the year of the event although each team is allowed 3 players 35 to 39 who are not on a Senior or ISC roster and who will not pitch in the OASA Masters event

Respectively submitted
Thanks
George Ryder

Age Change Coming in 2012 Concerning Junior Men

This age change has created a lot of conversation this summer as to how this will impact our teams in Ontario.

I have received several e-mails and talks with great fastball people in the Province of Ontario voicing their concerns .especially from individuals involved with the two categories most affected by this change the Midgets and the Juniors

The Men's committee deals with issues faced by all of our Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Masters teams

At our last Men's committee meeting chaired by Brad Thomson this issue was heavily discussed.

Personally it was the best Men's committee meeting I have attended in the last 8 years

Several ideas were brought forth to help the Men's game in Ontario and promote positive growth and opportunities for our athletes.

The facts about the Junior age change issue and our response to this is as follows;

This rule change takes away 1 year of Midget eligibility and 2 years of Junior eligibility under the current Softball Canada rules

Our first recommendation is we try again at the Softball Canada A.G.M to keep Junior Men's at 23 and under.

We tried last year but our motion was defeated.

We are looking over the ages of all our Junior players and trying to prove the logistics of how this affects them, their teams and their communities.

It was recommended as a 1 year resolution from our Men's committee that at the November OASA AGM we create a new category for the 2012 season within the OASA if the Softball Canada vote does not go in our favor.

The Men's committee want to recommend that a new 23 and under category of play be created within the OASA in 2012.

I really believe that the majority of 21 and 22 year old Junior age athletes feel they are really missing out of 2 further years of Junior Fastball.

We realize the importance of these athletes and the situations they will face with this age change not being able to stay together as a team.

The Men's committee is also looking at possibilities for our OASA Provincial 23 and under Champions and potentially all of the teams that participate.

Our thoughts are if a Canadian Championship is no available to them perhaps a birth in the 23 and under ISC competition in Midland might be appealing to them

We have to negotiate this with the ISC and are in the process of exploring this possibility.

In closing I try to represent the views and voices of fastball people who tell me their thoughts.

The OASA convention in November is very important. It is our chance as affiliated members to help our game in Ontario progress as each and every one of us see it...

All of the proposed rule changes are open for debate and your voice and thoughts are needed.

Your players need your support and your thoughts are important to the game of fastball in Ontario.

Respectfully Submitted

Thanks

George Ryder

AGM

2011 O.A.S.A.

Annual General Meeting

Saturday November 19th

12:00 p.m. ~ 1:00 p.m. Meet and Greet

1:00 p.m. ~ 4:00 p.m. AGM

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Toronto Markham

7095 Woodbine Avenue

For more information, visit our website www.oasa.ca

AGM ~ Chair Paddy Fitzgerald~Nolan

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