

O.A.S.A. High & Inside

The Official Newsletter of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association

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Electronically sent by Jeff Geddes jeffgeddes@sympatico.ca

CONVENORS

Fastball season is fast approaching, due in a large part to the early arrival of spring this year. Almost all of the OA tournaments have been set, tournament hosts have been awarded, Softball Ontario Umpire Clinics have been held, and Directors/Conveners have been appointed to work the tournaments.

For the 2010 season we are attempting to appoint OASA executive members as directors of all our Qualifiers, Provincials, and Eliminations, and using local Conveners that are published in our Book as 'game Conveners'. Attempts are also being made to have OASA past presidents at all tournaments for trophy presentations at the conclusion of the weekend. We will be running about 22 tournaments, which will require approximately 65 to 70 people. Getting these is not always easy. Many people are working at two or three tournaments throughout the summer. In an effort to keep costs to a minimum we try to use Conveners that are centrally located, rather than having to drive for many hours.

A new policy, which has been adopted, is that all directors/conveners must have a current Police Check on file with the OASA. Many local Softball Associations, Service Clubs, and Churches already require these for their volunteers in contact with minors. We must provide a safe environment for our youthful athletes to play fastball, necessitating Police Checks. The deadline to get yours in to Jeff Geddes is May 31st. Most Police detachments require three weeks to do the check, which does not allow much time anymore.

Just a reminder to all the directors, those of you who have not already done so, please contact the Tournament Hosts at your earliest convenience introducing your selves to them, and informing them that you are there to assist them to ensure a successful tournament.

Have a great summer

Bill Dehaan

2010 O.A.S.A. TOURNAMENT UPDATE

ELIMINATIONS		
Pee Wee	June 25-27	Napanee
Bantam	July 2-4	Mitchell
Midget	June 25-27	Owen Sound
Provincials		
Junior A	July 9 -11	Cobourg
Men's A (GREAT LAKES)	July 31st Aug. 1st	Waterloo
Senior A	July 31st Aug. 1st	Waterloo
Jr. Mites	Aug. 7- 8	Belleville
Mites	Aug. 14-15	Palmerston
Squirt	Aug. 7-8	Toanche
Squirt	Aug. 7-8	New Hamburg
Pee Wee	Aug. 14-15	Port Perry
Pee Wee	Aug. 14-15	Springbrook
Bantam	Aug. 7-8	Kitchener/Waterloo

Bantam	Aug. 7-8	
Midget A	July 17-18	Sydenham
Midget B	Aug. 14-15	Colborne
Midget C		
Junior B/C	July 24th – 25th	Ponsonby
Men's B/C	Aug. 20-22	Colborne
Masters	July 17-19	Niagara Falls
Qualifiers		
Mite	July 24-25	Port Perry
Mite	July 24-25	Kitchener/Waterloo
Squirt	July 17-18	Port Perry
Squirt	July 17-18	Brantford

MINOR COMMITTEE

Springboard

We have now finished our East and West Springboard Sessions. I would like to thank everyone who helped out and made this a great success.

Thanks to Bruce Young in the west and Karen Mills in the east for putting this together with great facilities. To the entire executive for coming out to help, to all the instructors, to Softball Ontario and our corporate sponsors.

And lastly to all the players and coaches who came out and started their season of early. I hope we can continue this in the future.

**Thanks Again
Larry Sherwin**

Springboard West A Big Success!

One hundred minor fastball enthusiasts participated in the Western version of the OA Springboard Clinic in Kitchener on Saturday, April 24. The lead player instructors who had a wealth of national, world and international experiences under their belts were impressed with the skill level and work efforts of our next generation athletes.

All players received instruction and practice drills during specific pitching, fielding and hitting sessions. It was interesting to note the afternoon player clinics were supported by even greater numbers than the morning sessions. The three gyms were used to capacity by the players refining their softball skills. Adults also took advantage of the coaching and scorekeeping workshops as 35 participants attended the first and 20 the second throughout the day. Fastballers from as far away as Walkerton, Stouffville, Niagara on the Lake, Owen Sound and Glencoe made their way to Kitchener to support this OA initiative to jump start the upcoming fastball season.

Thanks go out to KWMSA for supplying all the indoor equipment, the local school board for the excellent facilities and the instructors, adults and participants for helping the day to work out so well for all parties concerned.

West Invitational Tournaments

It seems that weekend minor fastball invitational tournaments are becoming fewer and farther in between. There are a few exceptions. The Stratford Memorials have held weekend tournaments for a number of divisions over several dates in June and July for the past ten years. Waterloo has held a major Midget Invitational for 12 teams in early June for the past 15 summers. But the Invitational Crown would have to go to the Mitchell Association who has been holding the Mitchell Fastball fest for the past decade. They have welcomed up to 90 girls and boys teams in all five minor divisions, guaranteed a minimum three games and crammed it all into one weekend in Mitchell and surrounding community ball diamonds.

Hosting an invitational tournament can be lots of work, but gives good exposure to your community and helps build and foster the fastball spirit. The OA provides a site where any association is welcome to post and promote their local tournament.

Information on the above tournaments plus others in various locations across the province can be found on our website listed under invitational tournaments. Why not think of giving one a try this summer?

Bruce Young bruce_h_young@teksavvy.com 519-884-6960

AFFILIATIONS

It is that time again to affiliate you team. Affiliations forms are available on the web-site or you can contact me directly. The due dates for affiliation are:

Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget & Jr. Men – May 25

Intermediate Men, Senior Men & Masters – June 10

Jr. Mite, Mite and Squirt – June 15

Mary Myers OASA Registrar – mjnm@sympatico.ca 905-727-5139

NEWS RELEASE

. GET A FREE WEB SITE FOR YOUR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION!

NORTH YORK, ONTARIO- Many Softball Associations do not currently have their own web page, making it difficult for potential players – especially those new to the community – to find details about their local Association. Softball Ontario, with the assistance of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, is happy to provide free web sites to Softball Associations across Ontario!

Why does your Softball Association need a web site?

- ***Makes Your Information Accessible***
 - ***When people are looking to find information about your Association, the first place they look is the internet. Without a web site, your Softball Association is missing out on recruiting potential players and volunteers because information about your Association is not available online. Search engines are your friends!***
- ***Improve Communication***
 - ***Having a web site allows your Softball Association to improve your ability to communicate with your players, parents, coaches, officials, and fans. Through your web site, you will be able to provide visitors with copies of league schedules, park maps, and the latest news about your Association.***
- ***Improve and Promote the image of your Association***
 - ***Softball Associations who have a web site project a professional, organized and trustworthy image to the community. Web sites can be used to***

publicize the achievements of your Association and your Teams, and can be used to build a strong relationship with your members.

What does the FREE web site from Softball Ontario include?

Softball Associations who request a FREE web site from Softball Ontario will receive:

- ***One free custom domain name***
 - ***Choose your own custom domain name at www.YOURASSOCIATION.playsoftball.ca – simply replace ‘YOUR ASSOCIATION’ with the name of your own Softball Association***
- ***One free email address***
 - ***50 MB of space for your emails***
 - ***Get a professional email address ‘@playsoftball.ca’ for your Softball Association***
 - ***Your FREE email address features its own address book, basic and advanced e-mail filters, as well as multi-language e-mail support. You can view, compose, forward, save, and edit your messages, as well as set privacy options, and customize most other features.***
 - ***Featuring free SPAM protection and Anti-Virus Software***
- ***Free logo design***
 - ***Don’t have an official logo? Does your current logo need an update? We can help design one for you to use on your web page!***
 - ***Your logo will be provided to you in JPG, GIF and EPS formats so that you can also use them for signage, t-shirts and other promotional items***
- ***Free web site customization***
 - ***Choose your web site’s color scheme!***
 - ***Customize up to eight (8) main pages, with the ability to add even more sub-pages***
- ***Free use of the Softball Ontario Web Site Management System***
 - ***Featuring ‘What You See Is What You Get’ or WYSIWYG page editors that make updating your web site as easy as using Microsoft Word!***



- ***A free help manual is also included with your web site to make updating even easier!***
- ***Free Web Site Statistics***
 - ***You will be able to see just how many people are visiting your web site each month with free web site statistics!***
- ***Link to your web page on PlaySoftball.ca, SoftballatSchool.ca and SoftballOntario.ca***
 - ***Softball Ontario will help to drive traffic to your new web site by featuring your site on the following web sites:***
 - ***www.softballontario.ca***
 - ***www.playsoftball.ca***
 - ***www.softballatschool.ca***
 - ***Softball Ontario web sites get thousands of hits each month***
- ***Free Technical Support***
 - ***Having trouble with your site? Need assistance? Simply contact Softball Ontario for help!***

How to sign up for a FREE web site for your Softball Association

Any Softball Association in Ontario can sign up for a FREE web site! Simply follow these two easy steps to request your web site today:

1. Become a member of Softball Ontario's Play Softball Network

- ***It's FREE and easy to join! Contact Lisa Crompton at lcrompton@softballontario.ca or call 416-426-7150 for details.***
- ***Download the Play Softball Network Application Form***

2. Request a FREE web site

- ***Contact Lisa Crompton at lcrompton@softballontario.ca or call 416-426-7150 to request your FREE web site!***

A limited number of FREE Softball Association web sites are available, so make sure to request one for your Softball Association today! For more information on Softball Ontario's FREE web site offer, or to learn more about Softball Ontario's Participation Program initiatives, contact Lisa Crompton at lcrompton@softballontario.ca or call 416-426-7150.

Softball Ontario's website [Softball@School](#) Wants You to TRY to Get ACTIVE in Softball!

NORTH YORK, ONTARIO- The [Softball@School](#) website is an online resource centre created for elementary school teachers and their students. The website allows teachers and students to access a list of house league softball associations in Ontario, find “best practices,” and access additional resources for Softball Ontario school programs. Also, teachers and students can obtain assistance with skill development, learn softball terms, and download fun games.

[Softball@School](#)'s teacher section is designed to assist Ontario elementary school educators by providing resources that will help meet curriculum expectations for health and physical education while teaching students the sport of softball. Each teacher can log in and sign up for both of our Softball School Programs as well as educate themselves to better teach their classes the game of softball! The student section helps children find where they can sign up to play softball in their hometown as well as download free drills and games to play with their friends!!

Softball Ontario has TWO awesome school programs focused on teachers and students learning the basic fundamentals and movement concepts through the sport of softball!

The TRY Softball Program has been used in hundreds of schools across Ontario allowing thousands of students to play a modified version of softball. Schools are loaned free softball equipment and provided with manuals introducing Blast Ball and Softball Canada's Learn to Play Program. Try Softball is geared for Kindergarten to Grade 5 students.

The Try Softball Program includes:



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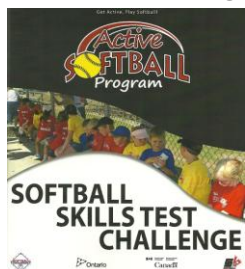
- **A Blast Ball Game**
 - o **Safety Bat**
 - o **Blast Ball Softballs**
 - o **Blast Ball Base (that honks when stepped on)**
- **A Batting-T**
- **A Blast Ball Manual**
- **A “Learn to Play” Manual (Yours to Keep!)**
- **FREE Pencils and Activity Books for your Students!**

The ACTIVE Softball Program focuses on developing softball skills and creating interest in the game of softball for grades 6 to 8. The program introduces combinations of loco-motor movements using different speeds, and direction in relation to using softball equipment and mini fitness drills. Active Softball picks up where Softball Ontario's Try Softball Program left off!

The Active Softball Kit consists of everything you will need to introduce your class to a modified version of softball.

Each Kit contains the following:

- An Oversized Active Softball Game Board (4' x 4')
- A Set of Six (6) Playing Pieces and Dice
- A "Rules and Skills" Guide (Yours to Keep!)
- Activity Cards
- An Equipment Set, including:
 - o 9 Softball Gloves
 - o 8 Softballs
 - o 4 Safety Bats
 - o 4 Throw-Down Base Sets
 - o 1 Batting-T



- FREE Rulers and Activity Books for your students!
- NEW Softball Skills Test Challenge Manual (Yours to Keep!)
 - o Result Sheets
 - o Certificates

New for Spring and Summer 2010 is the Softball Skills Test Challenge Manual, which is, now included in all Active Softball Kits!

The Manual will help teachers determine their students' skill level in softball. Teachers can also use the Softball Skills Test to evaluate students on their basic movement skills and concepts of healthy eating. Each of the skills evaluated in the Skills Test Challenge fit within the 2010 Health and Physical Education Curriculum!

Also included with the Kit are Skills Test Challenge Results sheets where you or your students can record achievements in each Skills Test, as well as a Certificate of Achievement that can be given to each student upon completion of their participation in the Skills Test Challenge.

To address any concerns, all of the equipment used is manufactured using child-safe materials; the bat and ball are made of a soft foam material, removing safety concerns that are created by aluminum bats and hard balls. There are no equipment requirements for the students, as all the required equipment is provided!

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

Please visit the Softball Ontario Softball@School website (www.softballatschool.ca) and click on our "Teacher Section" link- there you will find both TRY and ACTIVE

Softball Program information. Please fill out a Request Form for the School Program that you are interested in using and either email the completed form to claxton@softballontario.ca or fax it to Softball Ontario 416-426-7368.

Remember- the TRY Softball and ACTIVE Softball Kits are available on a first-come - first-served basis; contact Softball Ontario as soon as possible to book your FREE month. For further details on Softball Ontario's School Softball Programs, please contact Carly Laxton by phone at (416) 426-7150 or by email at claxton@softballontario.ca.

LOCAL TOURNAMENTS

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INSURANCE

O.A.S.A. team insurance is available by selecting the application on the O.A.S.A. website www.oasa.ca or by contacting Ron and Sharon Taylor srtaylor@heydon.com 705-778-2637

OUR SPONSORS

WORTH

HOME RUN SPORT

PEARSON DUNN

Please send your news article/stories/tournament information to Paddy Fitzgerald-Nolan fitznol@hotmail.com by the 25th of each month.

If you know of anyone interested in receiving the High & Inside electronically please send an email to jeffgeddes@sympatico.ca