



February 2021

First of all, thank you for your past support of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association through participation in our tournaments and / or through our insurance program. We look forward to your continued support in the future.

2020 was a year I'm sure that most of us would like to forget. The COVID-19 pandemic that took over just about everything in March is still with us as we turned the calendar over into 2021. With vaccines starting to roll out, hope is on the way that we will be able to get things under control. The fight is far from over, but we need to keep moving forward based on the best information we have, always looking to follow guidance from our public health units to stay healthy and safe.

Brad and Emily Thomson have taken over as our Insurance Coordinators and will be happy to work with you to arrange appropriate coverage for your team or your league executive.

Bill 218 was passed in Ontario in November 2020 protecting organizations from civil liability as long as they operated with reasonable care in looking to prevent COVID-19. This in our opinion means having waivers and declarations and Return to Play Guidelines in place that are followed to protect the health and safety of all participants.

While we don't really know what to expect in 2021 regarding mass gathering limits or being able to practice or play games or tournaments, we will be making plans to potentially run a full slate of activities. We will be planning on continuing to hold our popular Springboard program to support development at the grass roots levels in at least a couple of centres across the province. We look forward to running a full suite of Elimination and Qualifier and Provincial tournaments and sending strong representatives to compete at all Softball Canada championships across the country, if interprovincial travel and conditions allow.

To support our coaches in reaching and maintaining their NCCP certification levels the OASA hopes that NCCP coaching clinics will be able to take place either in person or virtually. Watch for details to be announced in the near future. In 2021 the following NCCP levels will be required at Canadian championships, as decided by Softball Canada at their February meeting. All on field coaches at any age must have completed a minimum of Foundations of Coaching Softball – Part I and Part II and passed the Make Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation, or be Competition Introduction – Trained (with MED Evaluation) or be Competition Introduction – Certified. At our AGM coaching requirements for OASA tournaments in 2021 were revised as well to be more gradual as players move up in age categories. In light of the Softball Canada announcement OASA will be looking to follow suit for this year and not implement our revised criteria until 2022. Coaches are eligible for reimbursement of up to 75% or 90% of the NCCP courses they take to upgrade their certification levels. Additional info can be found on the Coaches Association of Ontario website at <https://www.coachesontario.ca/programs-resources/funding-for-coaches/>.

We are excited to be returning to the Ontario Summer Games (they were postponed in 2020) that will be taking place in London at the end of July where we will be declaring our U16 Provincial A champions.



Ontario will be the host province for the U14 Boys Canadian Championships to be held in Wilmot. Ontario will be the host province for the U19 Boys Eastern Canadian championships as well.

Rowan's Law phase 1 became law in July of 2019 and phase 2 in July 2020 requiring all sport organizations in Ontario to provide concussion awareness for all athletes, parents, coaches and officials and to develop a process for identifying and removing potentially concussed athletes from play. Phase 2 requires return to play protocols and reporting of concussions to be tracked and reported on. OASA has the required information and policies posted on our website to adhere to these requirements.

In conjunction with Softball Canada and Softball Ontario we are looking at updating several of our current policies under the Safe Sport umbrella that incorporates enhanced safety and reporting for all involved in our sport. Watch for further updates over the next few months.

The OASA has updated our Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2024 that is aligned with the updated versions recently completed by Softball Ontario and Softball Canada. This is posted on our website on the Policies page.

If you would like to help out in any way with the activities of the OASA please reach out to anyone on the current executive. We welcome additional resources to keep delivering the best possible softball program that we can.

Below are brief descriptions of the rule changes adopted at the OASA AGM as well as the Softball Canada AGM that both took place last November.

OASA Rule Changes

- (to be delayed until 2022 as a result of the Softball Canada revised NCCP level requirements announced in February 2021) All OASA affiliated teams must have at least one coach (U8 to U16) or two coaches (U19, U23, Senior Men) with NCCP coaching certification (or equivalent as recognized by Softball Canada) as listed below:
 - i) U8 – Learn to Coach Trained or Competition-Introduction Weekend One
 - ii) U10 – Community Coach Trained or Competition-Introduction Weekend One
 - iii) U12 – Community Coach Trained or Competition-Introduction Weekends One and Two
 - iv) U14, U16 – Competition-Introduction Certified (Weekends One, Two and On Field Evaluation)
 - v) U19, U23, Senior Men – Competition-Introduction Certified (Weekends One, Two and On Field Evaluation)
- Any Senior Men, Intermediate A or Masters team indicating that they wish to compete at a Canadian Championship must pay a \$2000 bond fee in advance of the Softball Canada deadline for OASA to confirm participation numbers.



Softball Canada Rule Changes

- The 2019 – 2020 Rule Book will be used for 2021 and a new one that more closely follows the WBSC Rule Book, while still including all of our existing rules, will be published for the 2022 – 2023 seasons.
- Rule changes approved moving forward will be in force for 3 years (vs 2 years previously).
- A Special General Meeting will be taking place in April 2021 that will include motions that consider revised age groupings, ball sizes, pitching distances as well as other related rules.

The Ontario Amateur Softball Association is recognized as a pre-eminent developmental body for Softball in Canada.

The objectives of the OASA are:

- a) To co-ordinate, to organize and to give structure to the game of softball for participants of all ages in Ontario through:
 - i) Provision of locations and hosts for competitions
 - ii) Provision of guidelines for competition
 - iii) Provision of a learning environment for players, coaches, officials and other individuals and groups in the softball community.
 - iv) Promoting accessibility of the game to any who wish to play, coach or officiate.
 - v) Provision of a forum for dialogue among its members and the larger softball community.
 - vi) Representation of its members at the local, provincial, national and international levels.
 - vii) Creation of opportunities for groups and individuals in Ontario to:
 - 1) Compete on a fair basis
 - 2) Participate in the game, locally, provincially, nationally and internationally
 - 3) Develop skills
- b) To recognize excellence through:
 - i) Provision of awards for individual, team and member organization achievements.
 - ii) Publication of achievements of individuals, teams and member organizations.
- c) To promote the game of softball year long.
- d) To encourage communities to develop their own minor system and discourage the practice of players moving from team to team at the expense of other communities.



Insurance

The Ontario Amateur Softball Association is pleased to offer liability and accident insurance to softball teams, leagues and associations throughout Ontario.

In order to activate insurance coverage for the 2021 season the contact person, on behalf of the association or teams to be covered, agrees to either follow the OASA Return to Play Guidelines (as posted on www.oasa.ca) or submit their own Return to Play Guidelines to the OASA Insurance Coordinator. Local government approval of the Return to Play Guidelines, if required by them, is the responsibility of each association or team.

For the 2021 season OASA will be offering 2 types of insurance packages.

One, is an Association Executive liability only package that will cover all of the executives that oversee the league.

Two, a Team package that includes either just liability or liability and sport accident coverage for all players, managers, coaches and personnel associated with that team. Your insurance covers all games, practices, tournaments and events that are associated with your team.

The OASA also offers liquor liability insurance for your tournaments or banquets where alcohol is served.

Out of country insurance is available directly through Gallagher Insurance.

You may view or download the forms by following the link below.

We look forward to serving your insurance needs.

Brad and Emily Thomson
Insurance Coordinators
Phone: (519) 390-0558
Email: insurance.oasasoftball@gmail.com

Application forms and information are available on our website through the following link –

<https://oasa.ca/insurance/>



2021 Tournaments

Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 the OASA anticipates making initial decisions regarding host bids in March and working with all centres as we get closer to each date. If you are interested in potentially hosting please submit a host bid application.

U8

This is a coach pitch program giving the participants a chance to play the game to learn the skills of hitting, catching and throwing without pressure.

We are looking to host an east and west event again this year on July 24th – 25th. Each team will be guaranteed 3 games and there will be competition on an individual basis, (i.e. running of the bases fastest time, longest throw). All teams will receive medals / awards.

Currently we are still looking for hosts in the east and the west. If you are interested in hosting, please let us know.

U10

There are two qualifiers scheduled (depending on the number of teams): one in the east and one in the west, locations are tbd. The qualifiers will be held the weekend of July 17th. Effective 2019, if there is a qualifier all teams must participate or they will not be eligible for the provincials.

The provincials will be held on the weekend of August 14th in a location tbd.

U12

There are two qualifiers scheduled (depending on the number of teams): one in the east and one in the west, location are still tbd. The qualifiers will be held the weekend of July 10th. Effective 2019, if there is a qualifier all teams must participate or they will not be eligible for the provincials.

The provincials will be held the weekend of August 7th in a location tbd.

U14

The eliminations for the U 14 will be held July 3rd, location tbd. The winner of the eliminations and a select number of teams will be eligible to participate in the Canadians being held in Wilmot, ON starting on Aug 4th. Other teams will be selected on ranking to potentially participate in the Eastern and Western Canadian softball championships. The Eastern Canadians will be starting on August 19th in NS. The Western Canadians are still tbd.

The provincial championships will be held the weekend of July 24th in a location tbd.



U16

The eliminations for U16 will be held the weekend of July 10th in a location tbd. The winner of the eliminations and a select number of other teams will be eligible to participate in the Canadians in Fredericton, NB starting on Aug 11th. The teams not participating in the Canadians will be selected for the Eastern Canadian championships starting August 19th in NB and the Western Canadians that are still tbd.

The top 7 teams from the eliminations will also qualify for the Ontario Summer Games in London, ON starting on July 29th. The 8th team that will participate will come from the ORSA. That tournament will also double as the U16 A Provincials.

The rest of the provincials will be held the weekend of July 31st in a location tbd.

U19

The eliminations will be held the weekend of July 2nd in a location tbd. The winner and a select number of teams will be eligible for the Canadians to be held in Carbonear, NFLD starting August 3rd. Ontario is currently scheduled to host the Eastern Canadians starting on August 19th. We are currently looking for a host.

The provincial championships will be held the weekend of July 24th.

U23

The elimination / provincial championships will be held on the weekend of July 9th in Owen Sound.

The winner and a select number of teams will be eligible for the Canadians starting on August 4th in Saskatoon, SK.

Intermediate Men's A/B/C

The Intermediate A tournament is an open men's tournament with no restrictions on pitchers or position players, for Ontario residents. The date and location for this tournament have not been finalized yet.

The Intermediate B/C tournament is a men's tournament where there is a restricted pitchers list and positional players on ISC rosters are not permitted to participate. Recently we have held an East and a West regional tournament with the top 2 teams being invited to participate in a Provincial Grand Championship. For 2021 we are looking to go back to 1 tournament where all teams will participate. The weekend we are looking at is August 20th. No host has currently been determined.



Senior Men

If we have enough teams interested in attending the Senior Men's Canadian Championships starting on September 1st in St John's, NFLD we will consider holding a tournament or play down to determine seeding.

Master's / Legends

We are looking to hold these tournaments the weekend of July 23rd. We are looking for a host currently. Teams made up of Ontario only players are eligible to participate in the Canadians to be held starting on September 1st in St John's, NFLD.

If your teams or associations are interested in any of our programs, please go to our website for more information. www.oasa.ca

Affiliation Chart

Teams are required to affiliate with Mary Myers, OASA Registrar prior to the following dates for each classification.

U8 (2013, 2014).....	June 1st
U10 (2011, 2012).....	June 1st
U12 (2009, 2010).....	June 1st
U14 (2007, 2008).....	May 15th
U16 (2005, 2006).....	May 15th
U19 (2002, 2003, 2004)	May 15th
U23 (1998, 1999, 2000, 2001).....	May 15th
Intermediate A.....	May 15th
Intermediate B / C (<2004).....	July 15th
Senior.....	May 15th
Masters / Legends (<1981; <1971).....	May 15th



Awards

OASA Scholarship Application

The Ontario Amateur Softball Association has a scholarship program rewarding the scholastic and academic excellence of players at the U19 Midget and U23 Junior level enrolled in either a community college or university.

Applications must be submitted by September 1st of the year in which the scholarship is to be awarded.

<https://oasa.ca/apply-for-a-scholarship/>

The Frank R. Feaver Memorial Award

The Feaver Memorial Trophy was introduced in 1972 and is awarded annually in memory of Frank Feaver who was the Secretary of the Ontario Amateur Softball Association from 1943 to 1956. Frank's dedication, service and devotion played a major role in the expansion and development of the game of softball. The award is presented to a player, official or officer of any league or association who, in the opinion of the Feaver Award Committee, has made an outstanding contribution to the game of softball. The names of the individuals nominated are kept on file for four years. Nominations, with a supporting resume, must annually be received by the chair by June 15th.

<https://oasa.ca/f-r-feaver-memorial-trophy-nomination-form/>

OASA Hall of Fame

In 2016 we created a virtual Ontario Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame which is located on our website. The nominees include players, coaches, builders, and teams. Inductions are announced at the OASA AGM that is held during the Ontario Softball Summit each year in November.

General Provisions:

- All applications approved by the Selection Committee shall be forwarded for final approval to the Executive of the OASA with a recommendation for enrollment in the Hall of Fame.
- Nominations may originate with a club, an association or individual. No more than two nominations may be presented per year.
- No more than five candidates (no more than three in one category) each year shall be selected.
- Written nominations must be accompanied by documents covering as great detail as possible, the athletic accomplishments or the service record or both, of the person(s) nominated. One or more photographs of the nominee (s) must accompany nominations.
- Nominations must be in the hands of the Committee by September 1st for consideration that year.

<https://oasa.ca/hall-of-fame-application-form/>



Gil Read Coaches Honour Roll

The Ontario Amateur Softball Association annually presents an award to an outstanding coach in memory of Gil Read. Gil Read was an outstanding coach, instructor and leader who made innumerable contributions to the game of softball at the community, provincial and national levels.

Submissions are due before August 15th of the current year, along with any additional letters of support.

<https://oasa.ca/gil-read-coaches-honour-roll-nomination-form/>

Association/ League Merit Award

Nominations are open to any local Ontario softball association or league that is in good standing with OASA. Nominations will be accepted from any interested person(s).

Submissions are to be in before August 15th of the current year, along with any additional letters of support.

<https://oasa.ca/association-league-merit-award-nomination-form/>