

TORONTO PLAYGROUNDS

2025 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



JULY 2025

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. We recognize that this territory is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and that it is part of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant. This covenant is an agreement between the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee nations to peaceably share and care for the lands around the Great Lakes. We are thankful for the opportunity to be on this land and we are committed to working towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

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HOUSE LEAGUE UPDATE

Summer Baseball – More Games, More Fun!

As summer rolls on, we're keeping the 2025 House League season in full swing (even with many families away on holidays). July and August give players a great chance to jump in as "fill-ins" in their current division or get "called up" to the next age group for a preview of the 2026 season.

Thanks to all the players who've stepped up so far—you're helping us keep the action going strong! Please continue updating TeamSnap with player availability, and if your player is interested in filling in or being called up, let us know at info@tpbaseball.ca.



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September Madness is Back!

Our much-loved End-of-Season House League Tournament—"September Madness", returns this year for 11U (Mosquito), 13U (Peewee), 15U (Bantam), and 18U (Varsity) teams! Games begin Tuesday, September 2 and run through the weekend of September 6-7, with some divisions continuing the week after. Schedules won't follow regular season nights (games can happen on any weekday evening or over the weekend). Varsity games will be scheduled based on player availability (due to some of our players heading off to school).

Each team will play 4-5 round robin games, followed by elimination rounds. We'll also host a full BBQ that weekend—free lunch for players and coaches, food for sale for fans, and trophies after each team's final game. Mark your calendars and get ready for the fun! Questions? Email info@tpbaseball.ca



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2025 BASEBALL SUMMER CAMPS

2025 TP Baseball Camps: Summer's Still Swinging!

We're now in Week 3 of our Summer Baseball Camp and Week 1 of the Intensive Skills Camp—and the diamonds are buzzing!

The Summer Baseball Camp is a fun, fundamentals-focused program ideal for house league and recreational players. *The Intensive Skills Camp* is for those with more experience who are ready for a faster pace and deeper skills work.

Here's what's still to come:

- Both camps will run the weeks of:
- July 28 – Aug 1, Aug 18 – 22, and Aug 25 – 29
- Summer Camp only: Aug 5 – 8 (four-day week)
- No camps: Aug 11 – 15

New to baseball? The weeks when both camps are running are ideal for beginners in the Summer Camp, we're able to give even more attention to building skills and confidence.

Financial assistance is available—don't hesitate to ask.

For details and to register, head to: tpba.teamsnapsites.com Questions? Email us anytime at info@tpbaseball.ca

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Father's Day Fun at the MLB Youth Clinic!

On Father's Day morning, 200 baseball players aged 8 to 12 took part in a fun and rewarding three-hour experience at the annual MLB Youth Instructional Clinic, hosted by Toronto Playgrounds Baseball Association at Christie Pits.

It was all smiles and hustle as participants rotated through high energy stations focused on hitting, throwing, baserunning, agility, and fielding. The free clinic, run by expert NCCP-certified instructors from the Blue Jays Baseball Academy, gave young players top-tier coaching and an unforgettable morning of baseball, fun, and skill-building at Christie Pits.



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REP/SELECT UPDATE



Elite Baseball – 2026 Season Announcement!

Elite Baseball is the highest level of competitive baseball offered through Baseball Ontario for players between the ages of 15U and 18U.

For the first time in our league's history, Toronto Playgrounds Baseball Association (**TPBA**) has been accepted into the Elite Baseball League of Ontario (**EBLO**) for the upcoming 2026 season – an incredible milestone for our program!

We are thrilled to share that TP will be entering teams in the EBLO at both the 15U and 18U age levels next season. This is a testament to the growing strength of our program, the dedication of our coaches, and the talent of our players. We're proud to continue building pathways for our players to grow, compete, and succeed at every level of the game.

2025 REP/SELECT TOURNAMENT UPDATES

As the competitive season begins to wind down, we want to recognize the incredible efforts of our Rep and Select teams this summer.

From tournaments across Ontario to matchups south of the border, TP teams have represented our community with skill, determination, and sportsmanship – leaving it all out on the diamond.

Below are just three standout highlights from a season full of memorable tournament moments.

Best of luck to all our Rep and Select teams as they gear up for playoffs this August!



15U Select at the Canada Day Classic, where three players were named game MVPs: Christian Jensen, Brady Davidson, and Jack Ungerman.

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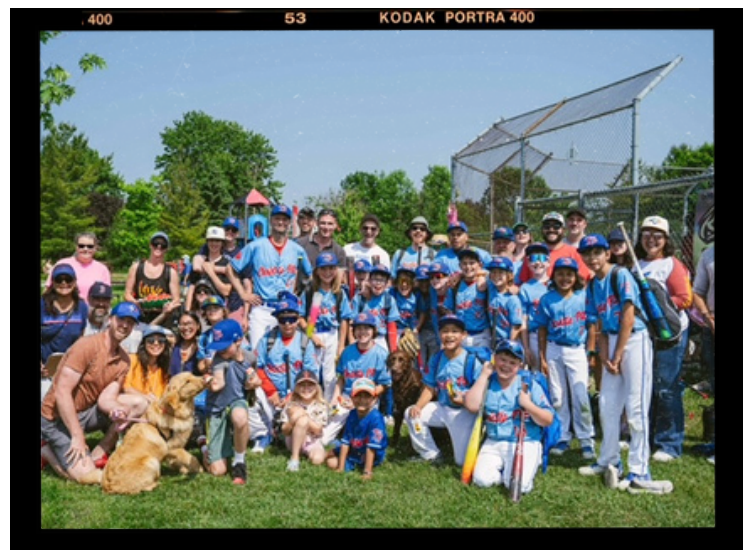
2025 REP/SELECT TOURNAMENT UPDATES

11U Select Battles to Semi-Finals Finish over Father's Day Weekend in London

The 11U Select team had a strong showing at their tournament, finishing the round robin with a 2-1 record and advancing to the semi-finals thanks to a head-to-head tiebreaker.

- Friday: The team opened against the Richmond Hill Phoenix, falling 14-8 in a high-scoring matchup.
- Saturday Morning: They bounced back with a solid 8-5 win over the London Tin Caps.
- Saturday Afternoon: Momentum continued with an 11-8 victory against the Strathroy Royals.
- Sunday Semi-Final: The run came to an end with an 18-9 loss to the Southwest London Scorpions.

A great weekend of baseball filled with grit, teamwork, and determination!



11U Select team, led by Head Coach - Tom Gingras in London with their families and fans!

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2025 REP/SELECT TOURNAMENT UPDATES

18U A brings home the gold!

The 18U A team, led by Head Coach Josh Platz, delivered a standout performance during the Mississauga tournament and brought home the gold on July 20th.

Tournament Highlights:

- Started strong with a 6-0 win over Ajax in Game 1
- Continued the streak with a 5-0 win against Markham in Game 2
- Faced a tough 14-2 loss to Kitchener to close out Saturday
- Bounced back Sunday with an 11-10 win over Vaughan
- Defeated Kitchener 13-4 in the finals, proving the comeback is greater than the setback

Special shout-outs go to William for four clutch hits; Russell and Freelon for strong pitching performances; Robbie for a crucial Saturday shutout; Devon, Owen, Liam, and Eamon for timely offensive contributions; Guillermo for a key defensive play at first; Elliot for leading the team in batting average; Ben for speed and valuable innings; Kesh for leading the team in on-base percentage; and team captain Graham for incredible pitching, hitting and catching & earning MVP honours with his leadership and all-around impact.

Congratulations to the entire team on an exceptional tournament!



18U A post win in Mississauga July 20th

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2025 REP/SELECT TOURNAMENT UPDATES

18U AAA heads south to Buffalo for the 2025 Cap Classic!

The Cap Classic Buffalo is one of the premier youth baseball tournaments in North America, drawing top-tier talent from across the U.S. and Canada. Our 18U AAA team, led by Head Coach Tim Lawrence, had an impressive showing—bringing home the bronze! Congratulations to the team on a strong performance and great representation of TP on the big stage!



18U AAA at the Cap Classic Buffalo

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GET A KID IN THE GAME

At Toronto Playgrounds Baseball, we believe every child deserves the chance to play, regardless of financial circumstances. Each season, our *Help a Kid Get in the Game Fund* supports families in need by covering the cost of registration.

For the 2025 season, we're proud to have helped kids participate in both House League and Summer Camp programs.

New this year: donations can be made through a separate form to help us reach even more supporters. If you'd like to contribute, visit the "Donate" tab on our website (tpba.teamsnapsites.com).

Every dollar counts—and every donation helps a kid play ball.

Questions? Email us at info@tpbaseball.ca

Thank you in advance!



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STAFF CORNER

TP has welcomed 12 amazing new hires to our crew of Field Supervisors and Camp Staff! Our Field Supervisors have been out on the diamonds since May, keeping things running smoothly, while our Camp Staff have been bringing the energy and fun since early July. Big thanks to this enthusiastic group for jumping right in and making summer baseball even better!

We'd also like to introduce you to three familiar faces you may recognize from Christie Pits—key members of our team who help bring the ballpark to life.



Steve Smith - TP Coordinator
Sadie Whitfield - Smith - TP Assistant Coordinator



Tim Lawrence - TP Competitive Coordinator

Read more about Steve, Sadie and Tim on the next page!

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STAFF CORNER CONTINUED

Steve Smith:

Steve first became involved with Toronto Playgrounds in 1994 by helping to coach Tee Ball. From there he continued to coach and after a few years he began to help out with various other league activities. For a number of years, he coached all four of his children, some years on four different teams. In 2002 Steve took on the job of League Coordinator and has filled that role since...this is his 24th season! He also continued to coach until 2015 when his youngest child played her last year of house league baseball.

As you can imagine, over that many years Steve has seen a huge number of players and parents, many of whom became good friends, and he has seen a number of players grow up from 4 or 5 year old children to young adults (which always unfortunately reminds him of how old he has become!).

The "Community Baseball" approach that Toronto Playgrounds has promoted is perhaps the thing that Steve is proudest of having helped develop and build over the years, along with the efforts to help young people become more responsible and respectful as well as better baseball players while making new friends and having a LOT OF FUN!

Sadie Whitfield - Smith:

Sadie played all the way through TP's house league program (14 years!) and has now been working for TPBA for almost 10 years. As assistant coordinator, she is responsible for scheduling staff and umpires for all TP teams, supervising the house league and camp programs, and managing the day-to-day activities of the league. Her favourite thing about her job with TP is getting to watch the participants learn and grow not only as baseball players but as people too.

Tim Lawrence:

Tim Lawrence has been a member of the TPBA Community for over 30 years - as a player, umpire, coach, board member, and currently as the Competitive Coordinator. In his role as Competitive Coordinator, Tim supports the 14 competitive coaches/teams with scheduling, rostering, budgeting, and day to day operations, as well as representing TPBA at the TBA Board of Executives. Tim is the head coach of the 2026 TP 18U Elite team which will be competing in the EBLO.