



OIWFA 2015 AGM Key Messages

The OIWFA membership recently held our league AGM at the University of Toronto to review both highlights of and ways to improve from the 2015 season, and to plan for the upcoming 2016 season that will be here before we know it. We're pleased to provide you with this update from our December 6, 2015 OIWFA AGM.

2015 Highlights

It was agreed upon by all that the 2015 season was one of our league's best in recent history. New this year were partnerships with On Spot Apparel, bringing clothing sales to our provincial championships, and SportsCanada.TV, providing premium live streaming services for our provincials. SportsCanada.TV is Canada's leading online network broadcasting amateur sports and is no stranger to the fastpitch world, having broadcast many international men's and women's softball events, including most recently the 2015 ISF Senior Men's Softball World Championships.

At the 2014 AGM, the membership voted to continue our partnership with the Softball Ontario Umpire Program, and this agreement was resigned in early 2015. We also renewed our partnership with Rawlings, through which we are proud to continue to recognize Worth softballs as "The Official and Exclusive Softball of the OIWFA."

The OIWFA launched a new awards program this year, highlighted by Scott Searle receiving the inaugural Outstanding Contribution Award:

<http://www.oiwfa.org/wb/pages/awards/outstanding-contribution-award/scott-searle.php>.

Also new to the 2015 OIWFA awards program was a Coach of the Year award, this year received by Tanya Vachonwood, head coach of Carleton University, as she led Carleton to their first appearance at Championships in her first season as head coach.

OIWFA Athlete of the Week was also introduced this season. Support for this award from Softball Canada and Shoeless Joe's allowed us to give each recognized athlete a Shoeless Joe's gift certificate and a Softball Canada 50th anniversary t-shirt. All 2015 OIWFA Athletes of the Week, along with a short recap of their exceptional weekend of play, can be found at this link:

<http://www.oiwfa.org/wb/pages/awards/athlete-of-the-week.php>.

In 2015 we continued to bring awareness to important causes that affect our student-athletes and coaches. Our continued efforts to reduce homophobia and educate our athletes on LGBT inclusion has been leading in the industry. This past spring, OIWFA President Matt Allen was invited to the Hockey Hall of Fame as an invited guest on behalf of the OIWFA to a Toronto



Chamber of Commerce gala with the You Can Play team. This year we also partnered for the first time with the Student-Athlete Mental Health Initiative (SAMHI), once again making us the first university league in Canada to take a stance in supporting the mental wellness of our student-athletes.

Congratulations to our 2015 OIWFA provincial championships medalists:

- Gold: Western University
- Silver: Laurier University
- Bronze: University of Toronto

Also congratulations go to Western University for their silver medal finish and to Laurier University for their 4th place finish at the CCSA National Championships hosted by Durham College over Thanksgiving weekend. 2016 Nationals will be held in Saskatchewan.

The 2015 OIWFA Championships were hosted by Queen's University and held in Napanee at the beautiful Napanee Fairgrounds, and once more we will extend a huge thank you to Amelia Keech, Queen's head coach, for an incredible job done in hosting the event. The host of the 2016 Provincial Championships will be announced early in the new year.

Membership

We are pleased to announce that at the AGM, the membership voted to accept Ryerson University as a full member of the OIWFA moving forward in 2016. This is the first addition of a new team since we grew to 12 teams in 2004.

League Executive

Matt Allen was re-elected into his 5th term as OIWFA President, joined by Steph Manson as Vice-President in her 3rd and Amelia Keech as Secretary in her 2nd.

We extend our immense gratitude to Kevin Fagg who stepped down as Treasurer after 10+ years of involvement with the OIWFA.

We're happy to welcome Lisa Ryerson, assistant coach and student-athlete alumni of University of Waterloo, to the Executive as our new Treasurer.

With the addition of Lisa to the Executive, we're very pleased to now have three former student-athletes involved in the governance of our league.



Upcoming in 2016

We have passed an OIWFA *Transgender Athlete Policy*, to ensure that the OIWFA remains an equal opportunity sport organization and is a welcoming and accepting league for all student-athletes.

At the AGM, the membership voted to introduce a new 'scattered' schedule, which will see different opponents facing off on different weekends of the season. This is a format never before used in the current OIWFA schedule system, which has always seen the same teams face off in week 1, week 2, etc. This will add some new dynamics of playing teams at different times of the season.

The schedule for the 2016 season will be available by April, and opening day of the season will be Saturday September 10, 2016. We are currently seeking a Presenting Sponsor for the 2016 Provincial Championships. For more information on this, please contact Matt Allen.

Applications for the Outstanding Contribution Award will be open until September 1, 2016. Awards criteria and submission information can be found here:

<http://www.oiwfa.org/wb/pages/awards/outstanding-contribution-award.php>

If you have any questions about our 2015 OIWFA Update or would like more information about the OIWFA, please contact Matt Allen at matt_allen44@hotmail.com.

2015 was a fantastic season for the OIWFA, and we hope you continue along with us into 2016 as we strive to find new ways to improve our league and make it an even better season and experience for our student-athletes.

Best wishes in 2016,

Matt Allen
President

Steph Manson
Vice-President

Lisa Ryerson
Treasurer

Amelia Keech
Secretary