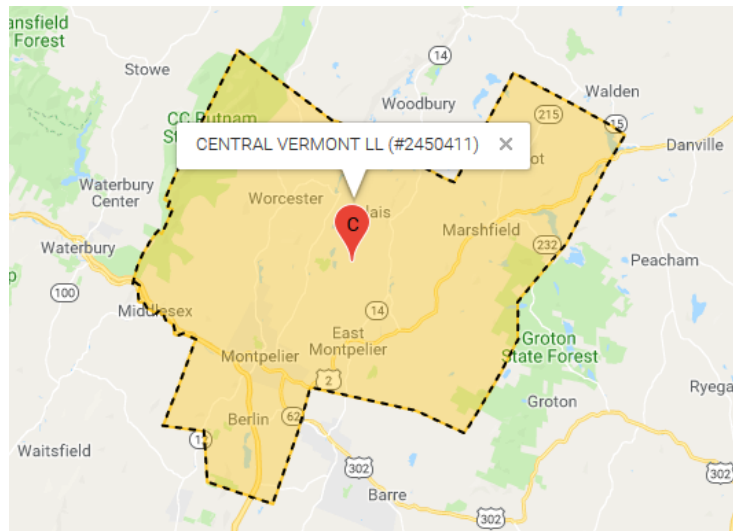




Central Vermont Little League Annual Report 2024- 10/21/2024

In December 2015, a group of volunteers got together with the idea of keeping Little League a high-quality and positive experience for youth in the Central Valley and Montpelier communities. The product of that effort was the Central Vermont Little League, a merger of two leagues from nine towns: Berlin, Cabot, Calais, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Middlesex, Montpelier, Plainfield, and Worcester. The merger had several goals:

Goal	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
A large pool of players, ages 5-12, to balance year-to-year variations in traditionally town-based baseball and softball rosters	378	373	375	389	124	288	385	363	313
A large pool of teams to make scheduling regular-season games easier	31	34	32	32	9	27	35	35	29
Sufficient fields available, and well utilized	9	9	9	9	4	9	9	9	8
A deep pool of volunteers	75+	85+	125+	110	88	88	94	94	75
Support for the post-season ("All-Star") Little League tournament	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	3



Map courtesy of the Little League Data Center

Thank you to all of the volunteers, players, and families that helped make the season a success and good luck to all players aging-out of Little League.

2024 Key Accomplishments

- In February of 2024, CVTLL provided two offseason clinics for all player pitch division participants that registered early. We booked the Shapiro Field House at Norwich University for two Sunday afternoons which included participation from the Norwich University baseball team. The offseason clinics promoted additional practice time for skills development, kept players and families in contact with CVTLL during the offseason, and promoted early registration for the season. The offseason clinics were provided at no additional cost to players/families.
- Summer 2024 marked the first year Central Vermont Little League (CVLL) hosted the District Majors All-Star Tournament, and it was a tremendous success. Bess Chamberlin stepped up as Tournament Director, running a tight ship by securing fair and professional umpires and coordinating an incredible group of volunteers. The tournament was hosted across the Berlin and Montpelier Little League fields, with most games broadcast by NSN Sports, bringing the action to an even broader audience. Special recognition goes to James Richardson for his outstanding leadership in managing the grounds crew volunteers, ensuring the fields were in top condition and providing players with an exceptional stage to compete, despite the challenge of multiple rain delays. Volunteers also managed the concessions, which not only covered operational costs but generated an overall profit.
- Umpire recruitment, led by Bo Moriath-Corson, continued on the gains made in 2023. Through the league organized umpire spreadsheet, at least one umpire signed-up for 51 of the 72 scheduled home games (70%), including the league tournament. Ten (10) different volunteers umpired at least one game. Berlin utilized alumni players with great success as Tristan Rogers and Finn Conner stepped up to cover many Berlin games. Bo

Moriath-Corson, Mark Campbell, Scott Taylor and Gordon Elms all umpired multiple games in great support of the league. Mark Campbell umpired the League Tournament Finals.

- The following bylaw changes were made for 2024:

Replacement player process for Minors/Majors was adopted(trialed in 2023)

Continuous batter order in all Divisions was adopted (trialed in 2023)

Post-season Tournament Volunteer interest requested during sign-up was adopted (was May 15th)

Post-season Player nominations due by May 15th was adopted (was ~June but not specified)

- The Player Agents for Baseball and Softball continued to actively participate in the roster creation process.
- The league continued to improve the condition of its equipment through the replacement of older catcher's gear and bats.
- The "Substitute Player List" process that was on trial run in 2023 was officially rolled out for 2024. Substitute player opportunities for 2024 included ten (10) players signed up, and there were three (3) opportunities for subs. One reason that there weren't more opportunities was because Minors and Majors rosters were generally "large".

Baseball Update

The Board of Directors designated two volunteers as Coaching Coordinators for "Tee Ball and Coach Pitch" and "Player Pitch" divisions.

Separate pre-season Coaches Meetings were conducted on April 10 (TB and CP) and April 11 (PP) in the U-32 cafeteria. The coaches' meetings were well attended.

The League successfully recruited volunteers to coach and support 5 Minors and 4 Majors player pitch teams in the regular season plus a CVTLL All Star team at both levels. CVTLL also recruited enough volunteers to staff 8 tee ball teams, 12 coach pitch teams and 2 fall baseball teams. The league also successfully staffed 2 softball teams (majors and minors), an All Star team, and a Fall season team.

Softball Update

Softball had another great year of two teams, with one majors division team and one minors division team. Both divisions had excellent turnout (majors 16, minors 14). We had a lot of great volunteers/coaches. CVTLL had a fall softball team for 10U this year and had a great season. 12U players combined with Northfield for the fall season.

Uniforms

CVTLL leveraged the new relationship established from the 2022-23 RFP process for the second straight year. 2024 focused on continuing to refine the uniform design and ordering process to further reduce costs while also considering new jersey types and fabrics. Uniform cost per player was at an all time high of \$53.51 in 2022. 2023 saw a large reduction in cost with a per player cost of \$33.45. The 2024 per player cost was \$31.86.

Scheduling

2024 league scheduling was once again benefited by great baseball weather for a majority of the season!

Scheduling for 2024 was a group effort headed up by Emily Mascitti, Kevin Avery, Ashley Demers, and Chris Austin. CVTLL once again hosted the annual out of league scheduling meeting where neighboring leagues gather to schedule games. The meeting was attended by Emily and Kevin. The season started on the 1st weekend in May as normal. The Majors and Minors Divisions were scheduled for 12 games each in accordance with Little League postseason requirements. 3 to 4 of these games were provided by out of league scheduling with neighboring leagues.

The annual league tournament was organized by Chris Austin and oversight by board members was achieved at each tournament game, similar to 2023. This approach continues to be a success as questions/concerns during the tournament have significantly decreased in comparison to previous seasons. Umpire coverage was provided for the tournament via the league umpire spreadsheet.

Tournament trophy pricing remained largely unchanged as per unit pricing was consistent with 2022 and 2023.

Equipment

Equipment has continued to be managed by Mike Vitti, with assistance from Kevin Avery. For the close out of the 2024 season, CVTLL equipment committee requests that all town reps check with coaches, and please also visit your respective field storage shed, to ensure all equipment, bags, and Tees are returned to the Montpelier Rec Center ASAP. Doing this in a timely fashion continues to allow for proper planning of the next upcoming season.

CVTLL continues to weed out the worst of the worst when it comes to helmets, bats, and bags. Feedback from volunteers is requested to help continue to improve the organization and updating of league equipment.

There were several double first base units that did not get installed last year. As we get closer to field prep in the spring, please include time for installation of these at your respective field, prior to the 2025 game season. As with many friction fit field related items, it's a 2 step process – Initial installation, followed by potential adjustment and re-stabilization after some use.

Town reps responsible for coordinating porto-let facilities at the fields, please contact the provider and have them note in the file that the 2025 season starts in Late April.

Please advise your town rep or the CVTLL board if there were any field specific concerns noted during the 2024 season. Many of the fields are town or school owned, so if concerns can be discussed during the offseason with the appropriate parties, it's more likely that issues can be planned for, scheduled, and potentially addressed prior to (or at) the start of spring.

Safety

2024 Safety initiatives included the implementation of abuse awareness training (as required by Little League), experimentation with installation of double 1st base safety bases, and provisions were made to equip umpires with proper safety gear. The annual safety plan was once again organized by Adam Hochschild.

2024 Goals | Update

- Provide additional resources for volunteer training.
Volunteers were encouraged to sign up for USA Baseball training, including additional safety and abuse awareness training.
- Increase the volunteer pool for all positions.
Volunteer pool has remained generally consistent but has not increased
- Continue to maintain reduced costs for uniforms and provide proper fitting uniforms prior to opening day
Uniform per player cost remained consistent with 2023 which continues to be a great success. It has been determined that softball uniforms need to be of the unisex variety to allow for proper fit
- Continue to build relationships with the local high school baseball/softball programs.
TBD
- Continue to develop a succession plan.
TBD
- Improve facilities in coordination with towns.
Volunteer efforts allowed for the Marshfield and Twinfield fields to be re-established and used for 2024 and into the future. The Calais field was scheduled to be improved but work did not happen. The Cabot field continues to be unusable due to 2023 flooding.
- Strengthen communication with other area youth baseball and softball programs.

Efforts were made to coordinate out of league games with other area leagues in the Fall Baseball/Softball seasons for the 1st time, with great success.

- Promote participation in CVTLL opening day activities and end-of-season tournaments. **Volunteer participation in the end-of-season tournament was strong again in 2024, picking up on success from 2023. Opening Day activities were not planned for 2024.**
- Promote awareness of and interest in post-season all-star tournaments to build on our recent success and winning a district championship in each of the last three seasons. **Efforts were made to launch registration early and request volunteers to sign up for the post season early. This included bylaw changes, allowing development of post season teams as soon as May 15th. The encouragement of early registration led to adoption of post season tournament teams as soon as practical and as close to the allowable date as possible. This led to successful post season tournament seasons that were well coached and organized by the volunteers.**

2025 Goals for Future Discussion

- Recruitment of younger division players- Tee Ball Division #'s were down in 2024
- Improve advertising the league via the schools and social media to promote player and volunteer recruitment
- Continue to provide additional resources for volunteer training.
- Increase the volunteer pool for all positions.
- Provide a proper-fitting jersey to all player participants before Opening Day.
- Continue to develop the offseason winter clinic offering
- Continue to develop out of league game schedule for Fall season (softball and baseball)
- Continue to build relationships with the local high school baseball/softball programs.
- Continue to develop a succession plan.
- Continue to Improve facilities in coordination with towns. Determine whether installation of "Double First Base" at all fields is appropriate and safe
- Continue to strengthen communication with other District 4 youth baseball and softball programs.
- Align Majors team size more closely with Little League Regulation III a. - *"The league shall ... establish the number of players on each team....The number of players on a roster in a particular division shall not vary by more than one (1).*
- Explore further softball opportunities as CVTLL saw an increase in softball participation in 2024. Consider developing an additional softball team to handle the expected number of player registrations.
- Continue to update the CVTLL board and town reps regarding field specific concerns noted during the season.
- Refinement of tracking abuse awareness training for volunteers