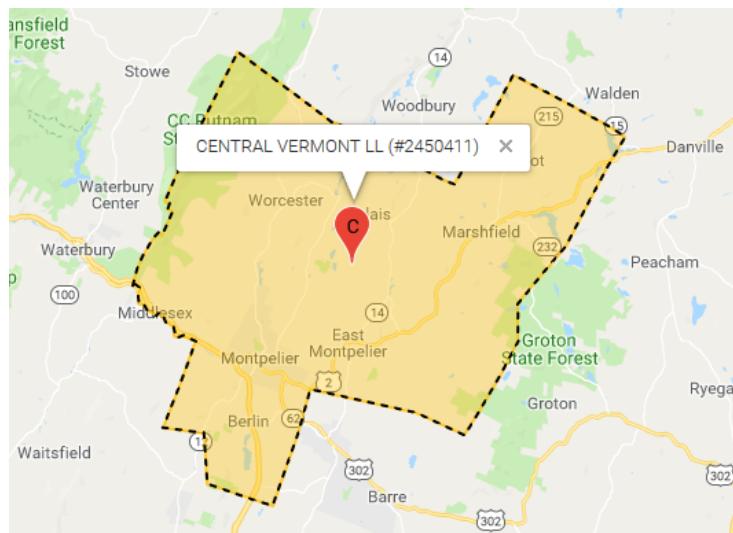




Central Vermont Little League Annual Report 2025- 10/20/2025

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	2025
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	340
A large pool of teams to make scheduling regular-season games easier	31	34	32	32	9	27	35	35	29	34
Sufficient fields available, and well utilized	9	9	9	9	4	9	9	9	8	9
A deep pool of volunteers	75+	85+	125+	110	88	88	94	94	75	87
Support for the post-season ("All-Star") Little League tournament	2	2	2	3	2	3	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.

2025 Key Accomplishments

- In March of 2025, CVTLL provided 4 offseason clinics for all player pitch division participants that registered early. We booked the Shapiro Field House at Norwich University for Sunday afternoons. 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. For the second consecutive season, the offseason clinics were provided at no additional cost to players/families.
- Player and volunteer registrations rebounded in 2025, returning to near 2022 and 2023 levels.
- Printed league advertising fliers were distributed for use in the local schools and Front Porch Forum was utilized
- Softball field in East Montpelier was re-surfaced, supported by CVTLL with a majority of the fronted funds returned to CVTLL via fundraising done by softball.
- 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 (large upgrade to stock of catcher's mitts) and bats.
- The "Substitute Player List" process that started in 2023, continued again in 2025. Rosters were fairly large and opportunities for substitute players were limited as a result. Substitute player opportunities for 2025 included six (6) players signed up, and there were six (6) opportunities for subs.
- The following bylaw changes were made for 2025: Minors Rules changes-
- Modified the number of walks issued prior to a coach replacing the child pitcher. Reduced from 3 walks to 2 walks for 2025.

- Restricted baserunners from being allowed to advance on catchers' overthrows. This promotes catchers practicing throwing to 2nd and 3rd base without risk of baserunners advancing.

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 9th (TB and CP) and April 10th (PP) in the U-32 cafeteria. The coaches' meetings were well attended.

The League successfully recruited volunteers to coach and support 6 Minors and 5 Majors player pitch teams in the regular season plus a CVTLL All Star team at both levels. CVTLL also recruited enough volunteers to staff 11 tee ball teams, 11 coach pitch teams and 2 fall baseball teams.

Softball Update

Softball had another great year of two teams, with one majors division team and one minors division team. Both divisions had great turnout (majors 12, minors 15). We had a lot of great volunteers/coaches. CVTLL also had a fall softball team.

CVTLL Softball also sent 5 All Star players to combine with Paine Mountain, Waterbury, and Barre for Minors All Stars. After winning Districts and States, they qualified to play in the Regional Tournament! CVTLL helped contribute funds to the effort.

Uniforms

CVTLL leveraged the new relationship established from the 2022-23 RFP process for the third straight year. 2025 focused on continuing to refine the uniform design and ordering process to further reduce costs while also considering new jersey types and fabrics. The player pitch division uniforms were sublimated style. This led to improved graphics, printing schedule, and style. General reviews across the league were outstanding. Hats also utilized an improved graphic. 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. The 2025 per player cost was \$36.27.

Scheduling

Scheduling for 2025 was a group effort headed up by 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 Kevin and Ashley. The season started during the week prior to the 1st weekend in May in an effort to maximize the calendar. 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 and 2024. 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 through 2024 years.

Equipment

After many years of dedicated service, Mike Vitti has announced he is stepping down from the CVTLL board. Thank you Mike!!

For the close out of the 2025 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.

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 2025 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.

Fields/Facilities

Fields and facilities were also headed up by Mike Vitti who is leaving the board this year as noted above. Fields continue to see improvement over the years. Specifically, CVTLL assisted with a repair to the league softball field in East Montpelier. Being the only softball field in the league, it was prioritized for work.

Special thanks to the Sare family for their hard work and dedication to work on the Marshfield field. Due to Cabot losing their field in previous flood events, the Sare family committed to provide baseball in the area by making Marshfield playable. Great work!

Worcester Rec Dept is making gains on improvement to fencing. Middlesex is in process of adding a batting cage (via donation by the Lowden Family). Berlin is advancing with a plan to replace dugouts. Calais field was worked on over the summer and hope is for it to be playable for 2026.

Safety

2025 Safety initiatives included the continuation of implementing the abuse awareness training (as required by Little League) and provisions were made to equip umpires with proper safety gear. The annual safety plan was organized by Greg Fox.

2025 Goals/Updates

- Recruitment of younger division players- Tee Ball Division #'s were down in 2024
Tee ball numbers returned to near previous levels with 95 players (75 in 2024).
- Improve advertising the league via the schools and social media to promote player and volunteer recruitment
Paper advertising fliers were distributed to area schools- using provided Little League template
Front Porch Forum was utilized for advertising league registration for the 1st time (paid advertising)
- Continue to provide additional resources for volunteer training.
Abuse awareness is now provided directly by Little League, making tracking and signing up for it easier
- Increase the volunteer pool for all positions
Volunteer pool increased to near previous levels with 87 volunteers (75 in 2024)
- Provide a proper-fitting jersey to all player participants before Opening Day.
Jersey ordering continues to be a success overall. Efforts were made to improve softball jersey fit
- Continue to develop the offseason winter clinic offering
Winter clinic training at Shapiro field house increased to 4 sessions
- Continue to develop out of league game schedule for Fall season (softball and baseball)
Fall baseball out of league scheduling was a big success for 2025, building on 2024.
Association with area leagues is building good relationships to foster inter league play into the future
- Continue to build relationships with the local high school baseball/softball programs.
- Continue to develop a succession plan.

Still somewhat informal, but recruiting new members is ongoing and successful as we plan to transition some veteran members

- Continue to Improve facilities in coordination with towns. Determine whether installation of “Double First Base” at all fields is appropriate and safe

Town reps continue to work with area towns and Rec associations

- Continue to strengthen communication with other District 4 youth baseball and softball programs.

Through all star play and fall baseball, these relationships continue to grow

- 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).”*

Player agent worked to provide substitute opportunities. Most teams were balanced roster sizes while continuing to provide playing opportunities with classmates and within towns.

- 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.

Softball continues to grow strongly. New improved field conditions were a goal realized in 2025.

- Continue to update the CVTLL board and town reps regarding field specific concerns noted during the season.

Board continues to work on process to entertain and approve appropriately organized field fixes across the league. Development of a dedicated spreadsheet with dates and types of improvements is a goal for 2026

- Refinement of tracking abuse awareness training for volunteers

Little League provided better tracking for this in 2025 and we hope that setup continues.

2026 Goals

- Continue to grow league registration numbers with focus on recruiting at the tee ball level
- Continue to improve league advertising via existing methods and with new concepts
- Work on Umpire Recruitment and Training
- Continue to develop succession plan to replace outgoing board members-recruit new board members
- Continue to grow the Fall Baseball-Softball program. Expand to Minors and Majors division teams?

- Continue to refine process for fixing fields-providing necessary assistance to do so in support of town reps
- Continue to align roster sizes at the player pitch level
- Provide sponsorship opportunities for league events like the Winter Clinics, league tournament, fall leagues. "CVTL Winter Clinic brought to you by _____"