

OLL Hardball Board Meeting
December 17, 2025
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Joe Smeraglino	Luciano Verdura	Adam Dinihanian	Jeff Sliverman
Alex Biro	Theresa DeGray	Kevin McCarthy	Josh Orlinsky
Mike Schimmel	Robert DeGray	Bryan Terlizzi	Corey Shoop
Jeremy Virgil			

Start of Meeting: 7:30 PM

Meeting led by VP of Baseball, Joe Smeraglino

Purpose of hardball board meetings:

- Discuss hardball division
- Bring forth suggestions and any concerns
- Ask questions to clarify format, rules, coaching responsibilities, etc.
- Pertinent discussions are brought to the Executive Board
 - Goal is to have hardball meeting 1 week before executive board meetings

Levels of hardball and District 4 Little League

- Tball, Coach Pitch, Rookies, Minors and Majors
- Age of player will be determined as of August 31, 2026
- Orange is in District 4. Two Bridgeport teams will be added this year to the district and Stratford as well

2025 Fall Season Recap

- We tried the district Majors/Minors program this year
 - 1 Orange team for Majors and 1 Orange team for Minors
 - Games were played Saturday and Sunday at Old Tavern and at other teams in our district
- Coach Pitch and Tball stayed in Orange as in previous years since registration is higher in the lower levels. Games on Saturday/Sunday.
 - Coach Pitch teams resulted in higher than normal of players per team. Our goal is to keep the teams between 7-10 players. A lot of late registrations came in resulting in higher numbers of players per team.

2026 Spring Season

- Start games: April 20th after Spring Break
 - 12 games over approximately 6-7 weeks – weather dependent
 - One game during the week and one on Saturday
 - Sunday stay open so kids can play other sports
 - Try not to have games past last day of school but school is ending on the 6/9 so may have to go over in the younger levels
- Opening Day Ceremonies: April 25th

- Looking for volunteers to help with opening day festivities
- Forms committee for volunteers to help coordinate the day
- Amity High School typically will volunteer to run stations for the kids
- T-ball was incorporated with one opening day rather than have separate one and it seemed to go well

Registration

- Registration opening end of December/early January
- Email blast will go out and posts on social media
- Looking to engage with Parks and Rec for basketball season so they can send out an email blast to register for the spring season
- Signs will be placed around town in high traffic areas and at schools
- Registration is open to Orange/Bethany/Woodbridge residents
- New Little League International rule last year that players aged 4-7 may play for any town
 - Might get registration from surrounding towns that might not have strong registration numbers
- Registration will close end of February
- Always looking for coaches/managers especially at the lower levels.
 - Encourage anyone thinking about managing to take a look at the videos posted on the OLL website or ask around for feedback on managing
 - Encourage requests for friends that would like to play together at the lower level
 - Can't do this at the upper levels since there is a draft process

Improvements

- Encourage volunteers to come out in the spring to help with field improvements to get everything ready for the spring
- Renovations done to the infield and mound on Roche
 - New clay and sod put down, field looks great
 - Last year updates included dugout renovations on Goldberg/Roche, new backstop on Roche, complex re keyed and fix fencing all around the complex
 - Will look for more improvements for the spring season

Business Sponsorships

- Sponsor information will be coming out soon for the spring season
- Always looking for new sponsorships, our league can't run without them
- Spread the word for any businesses that would like to be involved

Snack Stand

- Whoever is the home team is responsible for covering Plaskowitz and Roche snack stand
- Huge money maker for the league so managers be sure to assign parents to work shifts
- Rotary Club may be interested again to cover some Saturday games
- Split the time with multiple parents and cover 20 minutes each

Meeting end time: 8:05 PM