

OLL Hardball Meeting
January 22, 2026
Hybrid Meeting
High Plains Community Center Cafeteria & Zoom

Attendees:

Joe Smeraglino	Adam Dinihanian	Alex Biro	Bryan Terlizzi
Justin Berlepsh	Luciano Verdura	Craig Yannes	Steve Zabielski
Jay Jaffer	Eric Lehrer	Theresa DeGray	Jeff Silverman
Bob DeGray			

Start of Meeting: 8:00pm

Meeting led by VP of Baseball, Joe Smeraglino

The purpose of our hardball meetings is to share information about the upcoming season, provide a place for families to ask questions about their players or levels, and explain volunteer opportunities. OLL is entirely volunteer-run. Our Executive Board meets monthly, and ideas or feedback raised during hardball meetings may be brought forward at those sessions.

Introduction of any Executive Board Members

Levels of hardball

League age is age that player is/will be on August 31, 2026

- "Lower Levels" - no scoring, umpires, standing or stats.
 - T-ball (coed): 4yo-5yo
 - Coach pitch: 6yo-7yo
 - Rookies: 8yo
- "Upper Levels" - scoring, umpires, standings, stats, playoffs
 - Minors: 9yo-10yo
 - Majors: 11yo-12yo

District 4

- Annex (New Haven), Branford, Cheshire, East Haven, Hamden, Max Sinoway (North Haven), Milford, Walter Pop Smith (New Haven), West Haven
 - Added this year: Black Rock (Bridgeport), North End (Bridgeport), Stratford

Complex Improvements

- Roche Field infield and mound were completely re-done through grant money
- New infield with sod and new dirt. Field was cut out and looks great

2026 Season Timeline

- Registration is open until 2/28. Early bird discount until 1/31.

- Open to Orange, Bethany, Woodbridge or to any surrounding town that has players 7yo or younger
- By 2/28: Manager selections Majors/Minors
- 3/1: Majors/Minors evaluations at The Grind
- Week of 3/1: Majors/Minors Drafts
- Weeks of 3/1 & 3/8: Assemble Rookies, Coach Pitch & T-Ball Teams
 - Request can be put in for lower level teams for friends/coaches
- March 21: Clean Up Day
- April 20: Games Start
 - 1 game during the week and 1 game on Saturday (pending the amount of teams per level)
 - 5:30pm/5:45pm games during week
 - Make up games at 8pm on Fridays as needed
 - 8:45am, 11:00am, 1:15pm, 3:30pm on Saturdays
 - T-ball, every 90 minutes
 - No Sunday games
 - Try to avoid school events that would impact participation like band concert, Orange Olympics (5th/6th)...anything else?
 - Through first or second week of June
 - “Postseason” baseball EOD June through 2nd/3rd week of July
- April 25: Opening Day Ceremonies
- Lawn signs around town/distribution of flyers in schools soon
 - Help spread the word at basketball and hockey!
- Managers and coaches needed!
 - For anyone that is new, OLL website has great resources for how to run practices/games
 - Background checks and Abuse Awareness is required for all levels
- Business sponsorships
 - Flyer is on the OLL website if anyone is interested
 - Many different levels to sponsor
- District spring travel program
 - Changing the format this year to anyone can play games on Sunday’s with your age group if available
 - No cost to participate, umpire fees and baseballs will need to be provided if playing a home game
 - These games will count towards the 8 game minimum district rule
 - Need to start gauging interest for anyone that may be willing to play

End of meeting: 8:30pm