

OLL Hardball Meeting
March 26, 2026
High Plains Community Center Room #2

Attendees:

Joe Smeraglino	Alex Biro	Jeff Silverman	Adam Dinihanian
Jay Jaffer	Kevin McCarthy	Susan Mann	Brian Chaplik
Rakesh Gowrishetty	Kyle Laham	Timothy Wilson	Bryan Fulcher
Bobby Vinson	Thomas Munck		

Start of Meeting: 7:02pm

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

Notes for this meeting are on our website

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

Number of teams:

- T-Ball: 10 teams
- Coach Pitch: 6 teams
- Rookies: 4 teams
- Minors: 5 teams

- Majors: 6 teams

Uniforms/Equipment

- Hat and shirt orders for players and coaches have been submitted
 - Expect some time the week of Spring Break to receive
 - Additional shirts for each team were ordered
- Jeff Silverman distributed during clean up
 - Contact him if you need to pick up
 - Tball equipment will be in the bin near Clementine, lock box code will be shared with managers

Clean Up Day:

- 4 batting cage nets up and repaired holes, along with “L” screens
- Roche back stop net up
- Sound system check
- Business signs up on all fields
- “Park at your own risk” and “Be alert for foul balls” signs
- Cleaned out Plaskowitz meeting space
- Cleaned out scorebooths

2026 Season Timeline

- All teams have been formed and managers should have reached out
- April 1: Can book practices
 - Call park and rec office and book by field/location
 - 3 @ HPCC, 2 @ MLT, 1 @ Peck, 2 @ Racebrook
 - T-ball, Minors and Majors at Old Tavern
- 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
 - 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
 - 12pm ceremony
 - Line up by 11:45am
 - Games on lower levels before
 - Amity High School Baseball team expected
 - Apparel Sales
 - Chips & Dunkin

- Swag packs for each team
- May 9: Picture Day
 - Apparel sales and raffles
 - Games will be scheduled around your team pictures, so you don't have to come back twice
 - There will be a make up day for anyone that can't make it on 5/9
- GameChanger
 - Lower levels: schedule, practices, communication, attendance
 - Upper levels: schedule, practices, communication, attendance, stream games, stats and standings
 - If under 9 players for Majors and Minors, "call ups"/"call overs"
 - New scorekeepers have first training tomorrow
- Coaches/Spectator Expectations
 - Positivity!
 - No arguing with umpires or scorekeepers
 - Coaches are not babysitters. Expect parents to step in and help be respectful to your coaches/teammates. Explain expectations with players.
- Injury Prevention Workshop with Yale
 - Playing multiple sports helps with building additional muscles other than just baseball related
 - No more than 8 months, take 3-4 months off
 - Follow Little League guidelines for throwing/rest
 - When players throw when fatigued, they are at a greatest risk for injury
- Snack Stand Coverage – need to assign parents to work the snack stand
 - Home team is responsible for covering snack stand (6 games total)
 - Need coverage in the snack stand at all times
- Site Director Duties
 - Email will be coming out with site director responsibilities
 - Managers and coaches are expected to sign up for at least one night of coverage
 - Make sure to visit each field and make sure there is coverage for the snack stand

Meeting end time 7:45pm