

Oll Hardball Meeting
February 24, 2026
High Plains Community Center Cafeteria

Attendees:

Joe Smeraglino	Adam Dinihanian	Jay Jaffer	Mark Kyer
Alex Biro	Tom Pelliccia	Garrick Fearon	Ishaan Gowrishetty
Carl Tonnucci	Kay Yanagisawa	Thomas Munck	Bob DeGray
Luciano Verdura	Thomas Hurley	Jesse Plude	Kevin McCarthy

Start of meeting: 7:30 PM

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 and all previous meetings 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

2026 Season Timeline

- Registration is open until 2/28.
 - 2/25: Manager interviews for Majors/Minors – more interest at the higher levels so interviews need to take place
 - 3/1: Majors/Minors evaluations at The Grind – lower levels do not attend. For Majors/Minors to evaluate players and build fair teams

- Week of 3/1: Majors/Minors Drafts
 - Weeks of 3/1 & 3/8: Assemble Rookies, Coach Pitch & T-Ball Teams
 - Managers get notified to reach out to their teams
 - March 16: Order uniforms
 - Go by sizing added during registration
 - Minors/Majors get to pick numbers
 - March 21: Clean Up Day – communication will be going out, encourage as many volunteers to come clean up fields etc.
 - April 1: Can book practices – teams can have practice before but first come first serve basis through Park & Rec.
 - 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
 - Any suggestions?
 - Last year was cancelled due to rain which was unfortunate
 - High school team will join and hold sessions on the fields
 - Teams will be announced on Roche
 - May 9: Picture Day
 - Apparel sales and raffles.
 - Blocks of times for teams to come. Whole team does not need to be there at the same time, photos will be compiled and put together for team photo
- Proposed amount of teams:
 - T-Ball: 10 teams
 - Coach Pitch: 6 teams
 - Rookies: 4 teams
 - Minors: 4-5 teams
 - Majors: 5-6 teams
 - How teams are formed:
 - Majors/Minors: “s” draft similar to fantasy football
 - Rookies: Divide up managers and coaches and then “s” draft

- Coach Pitch: Divide up managers and coaches, look at player requests, age levels, and randomize the rest
- T-Ball: Divide up managers and coaches, look at player requests, age levels, assign more than 1 female to a team, and randomize the rest

- GameChanger
 - Lower levels: schedule, practices, communication
 - Upper levels: schedule, practices, communication, stream games, stats and standings
 - Majors/Minors have scorekeepers

- Business sponsorships
 - Try to assign player to sponsorship, if possible

- Equipment swap day – was successful last year so will run it again on March 21 – same day as clean up day
- Snack stand coverage – every family needs to cover the snack stand at least 1-2 times per spring season

Meeting end time: 8:10 PM