

Mountain Valley Little League Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Boiceville Inn, Boiceville, NY

Meeting Type: Regular

1. Roll Call and Attendance

- Present: Lisa Treasure, Keith Hernandez, Leslie Dornfeld, Michael Hochman, Adam O'Neal, Erica Mahlkuch, Ben Umanov, Kara Suddock, Thomas Sharon, Jacob Millman

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- A motion made by Keith Hernandez and seconded by Ben Umanov to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, held on November 19, 2025, as written.

3. Old Business

- Leslie Dornfeld was nominated as MVLL Board Member. A motion was made by Keith Hernandez and seconded by Ben Umanov to approve Leslie Dornfeld as a Board Member. **Motion:** all voted in favor.
- Mike Hochman was nominated as MVLL Board Member. A motion was made by Tom Sharon and seconded by Ben Umanov to approve Mike Hochman as a Board Member. **Motion:** all voted in favor.

4. New Business

Safety Procedures for 2026

Review of Little League International's safety protocols and requirements for leagues. Implementation of safety protocol for our league. To be discussed with volunteers at Safety and Planning Meeting. **Action item:** Jake to file safety plan with Little League International and make sure safety plan is available at each field.

- Planning for Emergencies
 - Emergencies – call 911 over local emergency services;
 - First Aid Awareness Training – discussion as to whether we should require all volunteers to watch free online first aid awareness training; our league offers first aid awareness training at ours safety meetings; decided to recommend online safety video.

- o Formal first aid certification – not currently offered, can discuss and demonstrate at safety meeting
- o CPR certification and AED use training – not currently offered, can discuss and demonstrate at safety meeting
- o Concussion Awareness and Protocols – we have a protocol in place that aligns with little league recommendations
- o AED – we have AEDs but we have not been trained on how to use them. The AEDs self instruct a use on how to operate them. Volunteers should call 911 upon beginning use of AED.
- Equipment
 - o Inspections – done by coach or manager, league ensures unsafe equipment is discarded and replaced
 - o Batting helmets – inspected and damaged helmets removed, must have USAA stickers on them
 - o Catcher’s gear – catcher’s gear regularly inspected for wear and tear
- Field
 - o Walk through – performed by safety manager at the beginning of the season and coaches before each game
 - o League Facility Survey to be completed by safety manager ahead of season
- Concession Stand Safety
 - o Day to day operations facilitated by concessions manager
 - o Minors should not be present and working at concessions
- Abuse Awareness Training
 - o Background checks and online course, which must be done annually
- League Required Training
 - o Safety Awareness Training – required for officers, board members, manager and coaches, umpires, and all other volunteers
 - o Fire Aid Awareness Training – not required for our league
 - o Diamond Leader Training (supporting officers and coaches in creating a positive environment for kids) – not required for our league
- Accident Reporting
 - o Alert safety officer and complete accident claim anytime a child requires first aid during sanctioned Little League activity (this applies when a kid is hit by a pitch and needs first aid or there are some serious injury concerns, let Jake know and he will assess whether we file accident claim)
- Little League Rules
 - o On deck batters are not permitted in Majors division and below
 - o Batters, base runners, player base coaches must wear helmets at all times;
 - o Catchers must have dangling throat guard even on hockey styles masks;
 - o No metal cleats
 - o Disengageable bases are used
 - o Head first sliding not permitted in Majors and below
 - o Pitch count limits and rest days are required and enforced
 - o All bats and balls meet little league standards and are in good

- Safety best practices
 - Dugout and field gates remain closed during play
 - Coaches and volunteers remind players not to throw equipment or swing bats inappropriately
 - Double first base not used
 - Weather and lightning protocols reviewed and implemented
 - Emergency contact info available
 - Warmup and stretching routines lead by coaches
 - Spectator areas are clearly marked and separated
 - Volunteers, parents, and players are reminded to model safe and respectful and sportsmanlike conduct at all times
 - Safety messaging shared with families
 - Additional safety signage posted at fields (no climbing, etc.)

Purchasing Supplies for 2026 Season

- Purchasing Procedures – lower cost items: if items are under \$100, board member can purchase without prior permission and obtain reimbursement from the Board.
- Once budget is approved, Board will purchase gear for the 2026 season.
- Additional things we need: new balls for softball; field maintenance items like rakes, etc.

Concessions

- Concession stand: discussion regarding getting an air fryer, new items to sell
- Reminder to ask the community for donations before purchasing items that could be donated
- Volunteer system: discussion on the difficulties of staffing the snack shacks, volunteers not showing up, volunteers not willing or able to cook certain foods, difficulties of keeping foods and drinks fresh, high need for snack shack to be available for our teams and visiting teams, not a money maker for MVLL.

Sponsorships

- Fee structure for sponsorships discussed. \$1000 for “Home Run” package; \$160 for 1 banner; \$250 for 2 banners; \$330 for 3 banners; \$700 for just a team name. No discount offered for returning sponsors. Last year’s sponsorship campaign was very successful.
- Motion made to retain last yers sponsorship fee structure. A motion was made by Ben Umanov and seconded by Keith Hernandez to approve retaining last year’s sponsorship fee structure for 2026. **Motion:** all voted in favor.
- **Action item:** obtain list of last year’s donors and ask each board member to reach out to one new business or individual to make a donation for this year’s season.

Uniforms

- Discussion: continue to use ICL Printing for jerseys; Tee ball – hat and t-shirt (coaches t-shirts as well); Softball – jersey and socks; Baseball – jersey and socks.
- Replicate uniform purchasing from 2025. A motion was made by Ben Umanov and seconded by Leslie Dornfield to purchase uniforms in line with last year's purchasing. **Motion:** all voted in favor.

Safety and Planning Meeting 2026

- Safety meeting for 2026 coaches to be held on Monday March 23, 2026, at 6-8:30 at Boiceville Inn. Include pizza and drinks. Part 1 will be first aid, Part 2 will include break out divisions and discuss expectations with coaches.

Opening Day and MVLL Day

- Opening day will be April 25, 2026 (may or may not have a Majors game this day based on scheduling of our team and visiting teams);
- MVLL will be a Saturday in May; this will be our league celebration with a parade, ceremony, food and activities for the kids.
- First day of practice will be April 6.

Pre Season Saturday Clinics

- February 21 and March 7, 2026 – 8 am to 1 pm at Onteora Middle School gym
 - February 21- 8:30 to 10:30 baseball and 11:00 to 1:00 softball (1 gym)
 - March 7 – 8:30 to 10:30 softball and 11:00 to 1:00 baseball (2 gyms)
- Evaluating players for team placement, required for all players above tee ball

5. Other Reports

- Field Reports – no new updates
- Lowe's Grant – opened in January, Elise applied. **Action plan** – Ben to follow up with Elise as to status.
- Shed for Davis Park for tee ball – Kayla asked Geno; need to discuss location at Davis Park; extra shed at Shokan that was donated as a possibility if it can be relocated. Action plan – attend Olive Rec meeting; side conversations with Geno to get a feel for his position. Tabled until next meeting.
- Grants discussion continued – Grant report given by Leslie. Many grant opportunities available for MVLL especially in terms of capital improvements. Plays Grant available (looking for regional opportunities, could align with other local towns) to update lighting to meet Little League standards; Environmental Protection Fund Grant available to update parks and rec facilities; Youth Development Program Grant available to support positive youth development and capital facilities; SMV Play Ball Grant for equipment; CSX Grant (community

service); Waste Management Grant; Hannaford Charitable Foundation; Dicks Foundation Grant; MLB Youth Development Fund. **Action Plan** – make list of areas that need improvement listed by priority and discuss with Leslie.

- MVLL Family Outing Day – Hudson Valley Renegades game. **Action Plan** – Keith to work on planning this and we will revisit at the next meeting.
- Pitching and Catching clinic – Keith planning pitching clinic for softball with Stacy Donald; Stacy quoted about \$10 per player. To be paid for by the league. Kid pitch majors and kid pitch minors. Players must RSVP. **Action plan** – get a final price from Stacy; schedule dates; find out the upper limit for player numbers. To be continued at next meeting.
- Coaching clinics for new softball and baseball coaches – resources, drills, etc. **Action plan** – Keith and Tom to discuss planning a coaches clinic.
- Baseball pitching and catching clinic – **Action plan:** Tom to look into prices.
- Next meeting: February 11, 2026, 6:00 pm, Boiceville Inn

6. Adjournment

- A motion was made by Ben Umanov to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Minutes Recorded By: Kara Suddock, Secretary

Approved By: Ben Umanov, President