

Mountain Valley Little League Board Minutes

Date: September 15, 2025

Location: The Boiceville Inn

Start time: 6:05pm

Attendance:

Lisa Treasure, Amanda Longo, Ben Umanov, Jake Millman, Kayla Sharon, Howie Statland, Kristen Lobb

Fall Ball Update:

Fall ball is underway as of last week. The kid pitch division for baseball now has 27 registrations and softball kid pitch has 12. The coach pitch divisions are not doing as well for fall, with 3 and 2 kids signed up respectively. Softball is leaning towards combining with kid pitch while making sure to focus on safety for the younger kids. Baseball has a willing coach for coach pitch and expects to kick off later this week.

All fall ball divisions could use more coaches. Jake to email all of last season's coaches to see who may be interested.

Field conditions:

Discussed possibility of flattening the mound at the lower (baseball) field at Grant Avery and purchasing a removable turf mound so the field can be used for both baseball and softball. Pros: would give softball one extra field to work with, would allow better access to snack shack for softball. Cons: some folks may not like using a portable mound for baseball, and would increase scheduling competition for games and practices. Removable mounds are expensive, at least \$2,500 based on quick search. Discussed possible fundraiser. Jake will contact LJ and ask if Little League allows for portable mounds, and if so what the specifications and regulations are. Walter Brown has also discussed the possibility of a removable mound at Glenbrook Park with the Shandaken Parks Dept.

Glenbrook and Grant Avery both have piles of new dirt that has been delivered and needs to be applied to the infields. Heavy equipment is needed. Seeking volunteers.

Glenbrook: Kayla and Tom attended Shandaken town meeting in which spreading dirt was discussed. The town posted on Facebook soliciting volunteers with equipment and a few folks responded. Kayla will revisit the issue with the town and those volunteers now that we are ready to do the work.

Grant Avery: Ben will ask Geno if the crew that did the softball (upper) field in the spring can do the baseball (lower) field this fall and will ask about borrowing equipment.

Howie suggested we look into the possibility of renting Rick Volz to the Saugerties Prime team (or other teams in need of a field), who currently do not have a home field. Money could be used for field improvements, or we could ask the visiting team to purchase something (i.e. new dirt) in exchange for field use. MVLL scheduling needs must always take priority, in addition to other concerns (shed access key, field maintenance, etc.) but most board members were in agreement this could be an idea to at least explore further.

Board business:

Terry Speck, Chris Constant and Geordana Constant have resigned. Aaron Bennett, who has been on the board for 14 years, will be leaving after the October elections but is willing to help with the transition, setting up next season, and passing down institutional knowledge.

Will need new board roles at October meeting. Discussion of the Little League-mandated roles and their responsibilities as well as current members holding them and who may be interested. Discussion of which leagues District 16 includes.

Ben reports a parent, Kara Suddock, has expressed interest in becoming tee ball coordinator. Tee ball coordinator must be elected to board, and must come to the election meeting in October, but it is not necessary for them to be at all meetings, only the important ones related to tee ball.

Ben to draft email next week to be sent to all 2025 registered families soliciting interest in becoming a board member. Link to description of roles. Anyone interested will come to October meeting.

Discussion of "fields coordinator" as possible new board position.

Winter clinics:

Last year's winter program was successful. Ben will ask Tom to request gym time for weekly clinics for baseball and softball, as well as the two Saturday clinics we use for player evaluations (ideally February/March - last year's January clinic had lower attendance). Kristen needs coaching help with softball winter clinics.

Fall cleanup:

Sponsor banners need to come down at all three fields. We will do it around the same time we collect gear from coaches after fall ball. Make sure it happens before winter weather. Will decide exact dates and plan at October board meeting since fields are still being used for fall ball.

Banner storage: Discussion of improved banner storage system so banners don't get damaged in storage. Two big bicycle hooks, one on each side, and hang the banners from them on carabiners so they don't get all rolled up and crinkled. Carabiners can also be used for hanging banners on fences so we don't need to bother with zip ties. Ben will ask Elise to purchase 200 carabiners and 12 hooks (4 per field).

Concessions

No perishable goods left. Move remaining snacks and drinks from Rick Volz to Grant Avery and Glenbrook. Honor system table at fall ball games/practices with Venmo and cash bucket. Ben will collect remaining snacks and drinks from Rick Volz.

Lisa suggests charging extra registration fee for families who don't volunteer for snack shack in spring. Discussed troubles in coach pitch division getting snack shack volunteers. Idea: pass out a clipboard at first spring practice, or someone from board shows up to one of the first practices to get signups.

Amanda considers resigning as concessions coordinator but decides to stay on after positive feedback from board.

Venmo system initiated spring 2025 hailed as a huge success. Exact concessions financials not available with treasurer Elise absent. Discussed maybe adding credit card option in 2026.

Safety:

Jake reports that JDP, who provide background checks for coaches, has switched to a website-only system via SportsConnect. Volunteers must sign up on Mountain Valley website and complete background check there. Jake will no longer be able to enter manual background checks as of October 1, 2025. Abuse Awareness Training remains separate and must be entered manually.

On October 1 of this year every coach must resubmit for background check.

Miscellaneous:

Heather Longyear booster club athlete parade September 27 wants to invite MVLL players to participate. Homecoming. Parade at noon. Send out an email to the whole league. Lisa to draft email.

Next meeting scheduled for Friday, October 24, 6pm at Boiceville Inn. We will invite prospective new board members and vote on new positions. [NOTE: Next board meeting has since been changed to Sunday, October 19, 4pm at the Grant Avery Park pavillion.]

Vote to adjourn 8:04pm. Ben moves to end meeting. Jake seconds. All in favor.